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**INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

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**SABARIMALA PRESS RELEASE- 1**

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### ***Squad check: irregularities found, stale food items seized***

*Sabarimala: Squad inspections carried out by various department officials led by duty magistrate S.L. Sajikumar at Sannidhanam at various hotels and other business establishments have found rampant irregularities.*

*An inspection at ten hotels found that most of them did not have a health card. They were strictly warned. The used oil, rotten fruit, and stale food items were seized and destroyed by the squad.*

*Duty magistrate said that shops that cheated the buyers in quality and quantity were found and fined.*

*In the wake of the huge crowd at Sabarimala, the squad inspected the Viri laying centers and toilets and made arrangements to ensure the services of the cleaning supervisors and the Sanitation Society.*

*Revenue Inspector Biju said that the squad comprising of Revenue, Legal Metrology, Health, Rationing and Excise officers under the leadership of the duty magistrate would continue their raids at hotels and business establishments for the next few days.*

*(PR-160)*

## ***This Malikappuram is coming to Sabarimala for the last 24 years***

*Sabarimala: The 74-year-old Malikapuram from Tamil Nadu prayed for the first time 24 years ago that: 'Bless me Lord Ayyappa to visit you again the next year'. The prayer was paid off. She then visited the Sabarimala 24 years continuously without any break.*

*Seethalakshmi, who lives in Jawaharnagar, Jyothinagar in Tamil Nadu's Arkkonam district, has been coming to Sabarimala for 24 years from the age of 50 years.*

*During the Sabarimala Pilgrimage in 1994-95, the pendant wearing ceremony was held for Gopalakrishnan, the son of Seethalakshmi at her home. The power went off suddenly, as darkness spread around, Guru Swamy threw the pendant. But the pendant did not fall on the neck of Gopalakrishnan, but on the neck of her mother Seethalakshmi. Seethalakshmi believed that it is Lord Ayyappa who made this happen.*

*Since then she is coming to Sabarimala for 24 years and is expecting to complete the silver jubilee next year.*

*She is happy with the current pilgrimage season. She is in all praise for the police who are looking after the devotees and guiding them with great care. Drinking water, food, and toilet facilities are quite satisfactory, she said.*

(PR-161)

## ***New Year: Huge crowds gather at Sabarimala***

*Sabarimala: Devotees rush to Sabarimala on New Year's Eve. According to preliminary estimates, as of 7:00 pm on the last day of 2019, a total of 63,803 people climbed the mountain. According to police, 62753 people reached Pampa through road and 1050 through Pullumedu.*

*The temple is opened for the Makara Vilakku festival. On Monday, 22009 people arrived from Pampa and 989 through Pullumedu. On Tuesday morning, the rush increased steadily. There was a huge crowd of devotees during the deeparadhana.*

*As the rush grew, the police security arrangements made stronger. Devotees from the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have reached the temple after the temple was opened for Makara Vilakku festival. Tamil Nadu Revenue Minister RB Udayakumar reached the Sabarimala darshan on Tuesday evening.*

(PR-162)

