



Padi pooja booked till 2025

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SABARIMALAI: ♦ The devotees have to wait till January 2025 for the conduct ♦ of Padi pooja, one of the important rituals, at Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple.

Though the amount for the conduct of the Padi pooja was raised recently by the Travancore Devaswom Board to Rs 40,000 from Rs 30,000, the booking by the devotees is on the increase, Sabarimala Devaswom executive officer M Satheeshkumar said.

Since Padi pooja could not be held during the Mandalam-Makaravilaku seasons, ♦ the devotees could not offer the special pooja for the two months, Satheeshkumar said.

Udayasthamana pooja

Satheeshkumar said that the booking by the devotees for Udayasthamana pooja at Lord Ayyappa temple ♦ was complete till 2017.

Hence, the devotees would be forced to wait for the conduct of Udayasthamana pooja during the monthly pooja for the Malayalam month of Kumbham, which falls in February, 2018, he said.

The increase in the tariff for the ritual from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 has ♦ not made any impact on the bookings, Satheeshkumar ♦ said.

Ayyappa ♦ Chakram sale

Satheeshkumar said the inquiries for the 4-gm gold coins having the emblem of Lord Ayyappa was good.

The sale of the gold coin of 916 purity on the first day of the launch was overwhelming, he said.