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**TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
SABARIMALA**

PRESS RELEASE

Plastic-free Poonkavanam at Sabarimala

The Government and the Devaswom Board has been struggling intensely to turn the holy land of Sabarimala into a plastic free zone by reminding the pilgrims of the Legend of Lord Ayyappan. The volunteers of “Punyam Poonkaavanam” has been meeting each and every group of devotees and has been giving instructions, requesting them to cooperate with the mission. The team has been sourcing the service of special councilors to bring awareness about the adverse effects of plastic among the devotees from other states. What prompted the mission to take up such an initiative is the fact that senior devotees have the power to influence the younger ones and can set the right path to follow. It is not a good sign that wild animals are being destroyed, wild trees are falling down and wild brooks are drying up. For nature, for the holiness of Sannidhanam, and for the equity and fraternity between the devotees, it is necessary to follow up this mission. The devotees return from Sannidhanam every year taking up the pledge that they would go to any extreme for the blessings of Lord Ayyappa. This year they would also be taking up the pledge that they would stop young devotees in bringing plastic in the coming years.