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Kerala CM rules out legislation on Sabarimala

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With only a few days left for the annual Sabarimala pilgrimage season to commence, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that it was not possible to bring in a legislation to overturn the Supreme Court's order allowing entry of women of all ages to the Ayyappa shrine.

The Supreme Court order on Sabarimala issue pertained to gender equality and fundamental rights. Hence it can't be compared with Tamilnadu government bringing in a legislation on Jallikattu. A section was trying to mislead the devotees by hiding these facts. The Centre also maintained that legislation was not possible, the chief minister told the Assembly in reply to the Opposition Congress's demand for bringing in a legislation to protect the customs that banned entry of women in 10-50 age group to Sabarimala.

As the SC is expected to de-

liver a judgment on the review petitions on Sabarimala issue shortly, the chief minister reiterated that the government would be bound to implement the court order, but it won't make any woman enter the temple on its own. Necessary steps would be initiated to maintain law and order, he said. The Sabarimala pilgrimage season will be from November 16 to January 20. The Makaravilakku will be on Janu-

ary 15. The police have already finalised the security plans for Sabarimala.

Police sources said that unlike the previous pilgrimage season, the chances for tension at Sabarimala during this pilgrimage was feeble this time. However, the Supreme Court's final order on the matter, which is expected soon, might have its repercussions. Hence sufficient force would be deployed to ensure law and order.

Renaming of temple prasadam kicks up row

A move to rename a much-famed temple offering in Kerala has triggered a row. A Padmakumar, president of the Travancore Devaswom Board that manages the Sri Krishna Temple at Ambalappuzha, told a section of media recently that the 'Ambalappuzha Palpayasam', the kheer-type offering made of milk, rice and sugar was being renamed in order to get patent for the offering.

Kerala PCC former president MM Hassan said on Monday that Padmakumar was trying to make a remembrance for communist leader A K Gopalan by renaming it as 'Gopala Kashayam'. Padmakumar later maintained that the patent would be obtained in the name 'Ambalappuzha Palpayasam' and the name 'Gopala Kashayam' would be also mentioned.