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CIRCULAR No.17/2009

Sub:- Security of Places of Public Religious Worship – Regarding

Security of places of public religious worship is a very serious concern. In view of the increasing threat perceptions and security scenario in the country, places of worship present naturally vulnerable and easy targets to both terrorists and communal trouble-makers. Additionally, they can also be targeted for deliberate defilement to trigger communal back clash. They are also natural targets for theft, particularly when large amounts of cash are kept as offerings or when idols and properties which are extremely valuable are available in the premises.

02. For all these reasons, Police have to adopt a proactive approach towards the security of places of public religious worship.

03. Therefore, the every SHO shall maintain a "Register of Places of Public Worship". Two pages each will be allotted to each such place and the following details entered in respect of each place of Worship.

- (1) Name and address.
- (2) The details of Fairs/Festivals/Processions associated with the place.
- (3) The size of crowd participating in such Fair/ Festival/ Processions.
- (4) Any dispute that exists in relation to the place of worship.
- (5) Name and address of persons in charge of the place of worship.
- (6) Phone numbers of the concerned persons.
- (7) Contact phone numbers in emergency.
- (8) Contact phone numbers of neighbours / neighbouring premises
- (9) Cost of valuables of a movable nature in the premises.
- (10) Dates on which SHO has visited the place.

04. Every SHO shall also contact the person in charge of the place of worship and ascertain details listed in the next paragraph. The CI having jurisdiction and the SI may discuss the security steps required at the place with those in charge and advise them accordingly.

05. Matters to be discussed with the person in charge of a place of Worship shall cover at least the following aspects:-

- (1) The current state of security at the premises.
- (2) The existing security system at the place.
- (3) Is there a watchman or somebody who sleeps in the premises?
- (4) What are the perimeter lighting and internal lighting arrangements?
- (5) Is there a power back up in case the miscreants disconnect power supply or if there is power failure?
- (6) Does the watchman have some system of raising alarm? Does he have a mobile phone or a land line at the premises?
- (7) Is there a burglar alarm?
- (8) Any means of contacting the nearest police station?
- (9) How well equipped is the watchman? Does he have a torch, whistle and lathi? Is he able bodied?
- (10) How are the premises secured? Are there padlocks everywhere?
- (11) If so, who keeps the key? Are the keys kept with the watchman only? Can some one get the keys after overpowering the watchman?
- (12) Is there a list of all the valuables / things of antique value in the Premises? Are records kept of such valuables with their photographs and physical descriptions?
- (13) Is there a 'Neighbourhood Watch Scheme' for the premises?
- (14) Who opens the premises in the morning? And when is anybody likely to know that a theft or mischief has taken place in the night?
- (15) What precautions are taken to protect the premises against theft or vandalism?

06. Every effort must be made to work out some security system with the co-operation of the management and the local people. Regular police patrolling and beat checking procedures must also be evolved.

07. The Circle Inspector of Police shall visit every place of public worship in his jurisdiction at least once in a year. The SHO shall visit every such place once in three months.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
KERALA