

All in the name of rights and faith

Dozens of policemen, who are paid out of tax payers money and who are supposed to be concentrating on issues concerning the public at large are seen escorting one or two women devotees in Sabarimala. Such a colossal waste of public money.

Should women enter the temple or not, is not the point. The point is the amount of time and public money wasted, added to that the law and order crisis created inconveniencing ordinary man who has gone there on his pilgrimage.

Does not allowing women into a temple amount to violation of their constitutional rights?, may be may not be. Religion is a private affair.

The rights we enjoy are not absolute, unqualified rights. They come with a corresponding duty to take care. If one has a right to freedom, it does not mean One can walk in the middle of a road in peak time of traffic nor one can ask the traffic police to honour my right to freedom and stop others thereby violating their fundamental rights. If one has an interest in visiting a shrine armed with the court order, they should do so at their personal risk and expense. They have no right to violate the right to faith of multitude who come there on a pilgrimage with great hardship, nor burden State exchequer by misusing the police force who are expected to engage in much bigger issues concerning the public at large. Visiting or not visiting a temple may not convince an average Indian woman of gender equality or otherwise. Probably, she would appreciate and want our activism to be channelised towards:

1. innocent and unaware girls and infants being subject to rape.
2. eldest daughter in the house denied right to education just to take care of her younger siblings, when the parents go out to earn a livelihood. Here there is a violation of a constitutional

right. But nobody feels like diverting their attention to this.

3. Ticket collectors rubbing past young girls on the pretext of issuing tickets on overcrowded city buses.

4. Atrocities committed on young girls in social welfare hostels.

There are many more areas which need urgent attention, but unfortunately they don't stand a chance because, they don't get that kind of publicity.

what is happening in a State which has not yet recuperated from an unprecedented natural calamity and ensuing damage, is indeed shameful. High time we understand our priorities or allow Lord Ayyappa to decide whom he wants to allow or ban , as he is a juristic person and has every right to decide what he wants, like you and me.