RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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Religious Double Standards · From the reporting archive

Why Iran's Hijab Laws Cannot Be Equated With Sabarimala

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma**

The author argues that Iran's compulsory hijab law is not comparable to an entry restriction at a single Hindu temple. She contrasts Iran's public dress penalties with the Supreme Court ruling lifting the temple restriction and notes that school uniforms in India also exclude saffron shawls.



(Left) A protesters cutting her hair in Iran. (Right) A woman devotee at Sabrimala

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Iran's hijab requirement applied across public places and religious identities, making state compulsion central to the comparison Sharma rejects.
- The Sabarimala petitioners invoked India's Constitution and Kerala's public worship rules when challenging the restriction on women of reproductive age.
- After the Supreme Court lifted the entry restriction, the temple board and state government accepted the judgment without proposing a challenge.
- Sharma challenges the claim that school uniforms specifically target Muslim headscarves by pointing to restrictions on Hindu students wearing saffron shawls.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in October 2022. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.