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Sabarimala: SC refuses order on entry of women

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday declined to pass any order on allowing entry of women to Kerala's Sabarimala temple. It said since the issue has now been referred to a larger bench of seven judges, the 2018 judgment, letting women of all ages enter the shrine, is not the final word on it.

"No doubt there is a 2018 judgment but there is no doubt about the fact that the issue has been referred to a larger bench. Balance of convenience is that no order on women's entry is passed today," the bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA



Bobde said.

The bench added that it will not pass any directions, including ordering police protection to facilitate the entry of women into the temple for the time being, as it is an emotive issue which could trigger tensions

Apex court seeks patience

Taking note of the possibility of violence, Chief Justice of India SA Bobde said that the issue is an emotive one and petitioner should wait till the larger bench of seven judges decides on whether to grant entry to women to the hill shrine

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in the state.

"The practice has been going on for thousands of years. Balance of convenience requires that such an order should not be passed in your favour today," CJI said while hearing petitions filed by two Kerala women seek-

ing police protection to enter the temple.

The two women, Bindu Amini and Rehna Fathima, had approached the court after they were attacked while trying to enter the hill shrine.

Taking note of the possibility of violence, the CJI said that the issue is an emotive one and petitioner should wait till the larger bench decides on it.

He also advised the petitioners to exercise a little more patience.

"If the matter is decided in your favour, then we will certainly pass an order. Be a little patient," the apex court bench further said.