

Regarding alleged disputes over prayer and worshipping rights between two sects of Jain community in Antariksh Parshwanath Mandir at Shirpur, Maharashtra.-laid

SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL (SANGLI): I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the ongoing disputes over prayer and pooja rights at the Antariksh Parshwanath Mandir in Shirpur, Washim, Maharashtra, between the Digambar and Shwetambar sects of the Jain community. These longstanding differences have intensified into physical altercations in recent years. The Digambar Jain community has reported hardships in visiting the temple and performing prayers, alleging harassment by non-Jain armed personnel sponsored by the Shwetambar Jain community. The Supreme Court's interim order, which divides prayer time between the two sects, is being interpreted as pertaining to only one deity, causing implementation challenges. Additionally, there are allegations of administrative bias, including externment orders against Digambar priests and devotees, restricting their access to the temple. I urge the Government to facilitate dialogue between the communities to restore peace and sanctity at the temple, establish a Jain Tirth Sthal Protection Board to safeguard holy sites and cultural practices, enforce the Places of Worship Act and take strict action against disruptive elements, and ensure fair representation of all factions in temple trusts to prevent further disputes. These measures are essential to uphold religious harmony, cultural preservation and constitutional values.