

# ‘PM raking up Ayodhya issue to hide failures’

TNN | Dec 5, 2018, 12.05 AM IST



THRISSUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sangh Parivar are trying to divert attention from their failures by raking up communal issues such as Ram Janmabhoomi, said activist Swami Agnivesh. “After four-and-a-half years, Modi is unable to deliver his promises. Now elections are approaching, so PM and Sangh want to rake up emotional issues,” he said, while inaugurating Janabhimana Sangamam organized by various activist groups on Tuesday.

He alleged that Modi regime could not fulfil the promises made to farmers, small traders and workers. Modi could not implement the Bill to earmark 33% reservation for women in state assemblies and Parliament, he said.

“They are trying to enact the Ram temple drama as a last resort. There is

absolutely no evidence to establish that Ram was born at the same place where the masjid was constructed,” he said.

Emphasizing that gender equality is not negotiable, Agnivesh said the Supreme Court order on Sabarimala temple was in accordance with the spirit of equality enshrined in the Constitution. “Women should be allowed to offer prayers at all places men can go,” he said.

Agnivesh also chided Ramesh Chennithala for ‘siding with obscurantists’ and trying to block women entry at Sabarimala. Chennithala should revisit his position on Sabarimala if he genuinely belongs to Congress party led by Rahul Gandhi, who welcomed the SC judgement. He had directed Chennithala not to use the party (Congress) flag for Sabarimala agitations. It is a clear message to Chennithala, Agnivesh said.

Protest against Rehana's arrest: Activist-writer Sarah Joseph, who presided over the meeting, said there must be protests against the arrest of Rehana Fathima for trying to enter the hill shrine. The SC order gave permission for women entry, irrespective of caste, religion or age. Government should implement order despite pressure from communal groups, she said.