

## Tuticorin firing: HC raps TN for promoting indicted IPS officer

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Chennai: Madras high court has rapped Tamil Nadu government for having promoted senior IPS officer Sailesh Kumar Yadav as DGP, though he was among three IPS officers indicted by Justice Aruna Jagadessan Commission that investigated the May 2018 Tuticorin police firing against anti-Sterlite protestors.

A division bench of Justice S S Sundar and Justice N Senthilkumar directed a public interest writ petition to implead all the 17 police officers who had been named by the commission.

“We will hear them before passing orders in the plea,” the bench said on Wednesday, and adjourned the hearing to January 19.

The court made the observations on the plea moved by human rights activist Henri Tiphagne challenging the decision of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to close its suo motu investigation into the police firing.

When the plea came up for hearing, the petitioner informed the court that the then IG of South Zone Sailesh Kumar Yadav was promoted as additional DGP and recently made DGP.

Pointing out the recommendation of the commission to take disciplinary action against 17 police officers and revenue officials for dereliction of duty and negligence in preventing the firing on the protestors, the bench directed the petitioner to implead all such officials who were named by the commission.

This apart, the bench wondered how the NHRC closed the probe that had been initiated suo motu. The duty of the commission would not end just with a recommendation of compensation for the victims, the court observed.

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