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Tuticorin police firing: 'Why no action taken?'

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Chennai: The Madras high court on Friday wondered why no action has been taken against officials involved in the May 22, 2018 Tuticorin police firing, in which 13 people were gunned down.

Referring to the damning findings and recommendations by Justice Aruna Jagadeesan Commission appointed by the state government, a division bench of Justice

Nisha Banu and Justice N Mala questioned the government:

“CBI has filed a chargesheet only against one official. What about others? Whether the probe against them has been dropped?”

Ticking off Tamil Nadu government for inaction despite the lapse of more than five years, the bench directed the authorities to explain the delay by December 11.

The court made the observations on a plea moved by human rights activist Henri Tiphagne seeking re-investigation by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) into the incident, in which 13 anti-Sterlite protestors were killed in police firing.

Representing the state government, advocate-general R Shunmugasundaram filed an action taken report and submitted that disciplinary action has been initiated against the then district collector N Venkatesh.

Though the IAS officer has denied the lapses pointed out by the commission, senior IAS officer Deeraj Kumar has been appointed as an inquiring authority, he said.

Similarly, explanations have been sought from IPS officers Shailesh Kumar Yadav (the then IGP South Zone), Kapil Kumar C Saratkar (the then DIG, Tirunelveli range), and P Mahendran (the then SP, district).

One inspector of police and three constables, including the prime shooter A Sudalaikannu, have been placed under suspension with effect from October 21, 2022, he added.

He further added that departmental action has been initiated against three revenue officials.

Recording the submissions, the court directed the appearance of the state public prosecutor and the CBI prosecutor on the next date of hearing to give a clear picture on the action taken against the officials.

“We were particularly concerned about the allegations against then IGP Shailesh Kumar Yadav. He was a fine officer. He helped a lot for proper functioning of the Madurai bench of the high court. We wanted to know the allegations against him,” the court said.

We also published the following articles recently

'Why no action taken?' Madras high court asks Tamil Nadu government on 2018 Tuticorin police firing
The Madras High Court has asked why no action has been taken against officials involved in the 2018 Tuticorin police firing, in which 13 people were killed. The court referred to the findings of a commission appointed by the state government and questioned why only one official has been charged by the CBI. The court directed the authorities to explain the delay by December 11. A human rights activist had filed a plea seeking reinvestigation into the incident. The state government stated that disciplinary action has been initiated against the then district collector.[105302629](#)

PSIC calls for disciplinary action against official not fit to be PIO for misconduct
The Punjab State Information Commission (PSIC) has recommended disciplinary action against an official who was found unfit to be a public information officer (PIO). The PSIC has also barred the official from appearing before the commission. The commission has asked the deputy commissioner and the sub-divisional magistrate to ensure compliance and submit an action taken report. The directions were passed while hearing an appeal filed by a Mohali resident who had sought information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The bench noted the official's conduct and misbehavior and concluded that she is not fit to appear before the commission.[105138508](#)

As air worsens, action against visibly polluting vehicles in reverse direction
According to a study by IIT-Kanpur, vehicles are the main contributors to pollution in Delhi. While action has been taken against overage vehicles and those without pollution certificates, overloaded and visibly polluting vehicles have faced less scrutiny this year. The number of overloaded vehicles prosecuted for violating pollution norms has decreased from 6,779 in 2022 to 2,791 this year. Similarly, the number of visibly polluting vehicles booked has decreased from 187 to 57. The decrease in prosecutions is attributed to concentrated action on overage vehicles and compliance with the Graded Response Action Plan.[105303610](#)

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