

## Tuticorin firing: CBI failed to unearth truth, says HC

Jul 30, 2024, 10.54 AM IST

Chennai: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has shockingly failed to unearth the truth relating to the Tuticorin police firing killing 13 anti-Sterlite protesters in 2018, Madras high court said, adding, “its report is unrealistic and unreliable.”

A division bench of Justice S S Sundar and Justice N Senthilkumar then granted three months for state’s directorate of vigilance and anti-corruption (DVAC) to hold a fair, transparent, and independent investigation into the assets of police and revenue officers and their family members suspected to have been involved in the firing, and to file a report.

The court’s directive comes two weeks after it observed that the firing was a predetermined act carried out at the behest of an industrialist. “He (industrialist) wanted to teach the protesters a lesson and the authorities facilitated it,” it said. It then directed DVAC to investigate the assets of all the officers, including IPS and IAS officers, who had been posted in Tuticorin at the relevant point of time.

When the case was taken up for further hearing on Monday, the bench said it is on a mission to probe into the human rights violation perpetrated against unarmed anti-Sterlite protestors by the armed police. The court said it wanted to ensure that such an incident doesn’t recur in future.

“Monetary aid will not compensate for the loss of lives; the attitude of compensating human lives with money should go; one individual was able to do all these things, that’s why we have taken up this mission,” the division bench said.

The court passed the order on a plea moved by human rights activist Henri Tiphange seeking direction to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to reopen the probe into the 2018 police firing which was suo motu closed by the commission.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/tuticorin-police-firing-investigation-by-hc/articleshowprint/112126144.cms>