

T.N. rescinds G.O. exempting Public Dept. from RTI Act

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

After facing severe backlash from political parties and activists, the Tamil Nadu government on Sunday decided to withdraw a controversial order exempting the Public (Law and Order) Department from the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, on the ground that it was an intelligence and security organisation.

A Government Order (dated September 21, 2026) to this effect was issued by the Human Resources Management Department under Section 24(4) of the RTI Act and then notified in the Government Gazette.

Minister for Energy Resources and Law C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar wrote on X that the G.O. had been withdrawn. Speaking to reporters earlier in the day in Madurai, he had defended the order, saying that only certain provisions, including details of communal clashes, were kept out of the ambit of the RTI Act, given the sensitivity of the information.

Criticism of the order

Earlier, AMMK founder T.T.V. Dhinakaran, environmental activist G. Sundarajan of Poovulagin Nambargal, and Arappor Iyakkam convener Jayaram Venkatesan opposed the G.O.

The Public (Law and Order) Department deals with subjects such as communal and caste clashes; the appointment of Commissions of Inquiry into law and order matters and follow-up action on their

The G.O., issued by the Department of Human Resources Management, drew severe backlash from political parties and activists

recommendations; all matters relating to COFEPOSA and NSA detentions, including representations by detenus and *habeas corpus* petitions filed by detenus or on their behalf in the High Court and the Supreme Court; and the conduct of monthly law and order review meetings and special law and order meetings under the instructions of the Chief Secretary.

G.O.'s ambit

It also includes examining inquiry reports into the opening of fire by the police and inquiry reports into deaths in police custody, police torture and deaths of remand prisoners; NHRC references relating to matters dealt with by the law and order wing; furnishing monthly reports on law and order and communal incidents to the Government of India; furnishing replies to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha questions relating to law and order matters; dealing with agitations by students, agricultural labourers and political parties; requests for withdrawal of cases registered on political grounds, communal/caste clashes, political agitations and student agitations; and matters relating to sanction of prosecution for defamatory articles, news items and speeches.

मानवाधिकार सदस्य ने थाने का निरीक्षण किया

जासं • लखनऊ: राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य प्रियंक कानूनगो ने रविवार दोपहर में हजरतगंज थाने का निरीक्षण किया। उन्होंने फरियादी रजिस्टर, महिला हेल्प डेस्क, दस्तावेजों का रखरखाव और हवालात की स्थिति देखी। उन्होंने पुलिसकर्मियों से पूछा कि थाने में फरियादियों के कितने प्रार्थनापत्र आए हैं। कितने मामलों का निस्तारण किया गया है। फरियादियों से निस्तारण के बाद क्या फीडबैक मिला है।

महिला को निर्वस्त्र कर पीटने के मामले में मानवाधिकार आयोग ने मांगा जवाब

बांसवाड़ा। अरधूना क्षेत्र में पिछली 1 सितंबर को महिला के बाल काटने, निर्वस्त्र कर मारपीट करने के मामले में राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग ने प्रदेश के मुख्य सचिव और बांसवाड़ा एसपी को नोटिस देकर दो सप्ताह में विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है। आयोग ने अब तक की जांच और पीड़िता को मुआवजा मिला या नहीं, उसकी जानकारी मांगी है। मामले में आयोग ने 15 सितंबर को स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए नोटिस जारी किया था। आयोग ने दो सप्ताह की समय सीमा दी थी, जो 29 सितंबर को पूरी हो रही है। बता दें कि महिला के साथ उसके पति व अन्य लोगों ने बर्बरता की थी। उसका सिर मूंडा, भीड़ में शामिल महिलाओं ने उसके कपड़े फाड़े और बुरी तरह मारपीट की थी। भीड़ में शामिल लोग उसे बचाने के बजाय वीडियो बनाते

नजर आए थे। घटना के वीडियो सोशल मीडिया पर वायरल होने के बाद मामले का खुलासा हुआ था। आयोग ने इसे महिला के जीवन और गरिमा के अधिकार के उल्लंघन का गंभीर मामला माना है। इधर, मामला सामने आने के बाद अरधूना पुलिस ने एफआईआर दर्ज कर पति सहित 7 आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार किया। इसके बाद वायरल वीडियो और जांच के आधार पर अन्य लोगों की पहचान की गई। पिछली 6 सितंबर तक पुलिस 20 आरोपियों को गिरफ्तार कर चुकी थी। हालांकि वायरल वीडियो में काफी भीड़ नजर आ रही थी। आयोग ने पीड़िता को मुआवजा देने के बारे में पूछा है जबकि सूत्रों की मानें तो पीड़ित प्रतिकर योजना के तहत पीड़िता को अब तक राशि नहीं मिली है।

महिला को निर्वस्त्र कर पीटने के मामले में मानवाधिकार आयोग ने मांगा जवाब

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Source: <https://newskarnataka.com/india/tamil-nadu-withdraws-law-and-order-rti-exemption/27092026/>

Tamil Nadu withdraws Law and Order RTI exemption

By News Karnataka 27 September 2026 5:30 pm

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government on Sunday withdrew its order exempting the Public (Law and Order) Department from the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, hours after the move triggered criticism from opposition parties, allies and transparency advocates.

The government revoked Government Order Ms No. 57 issued by the Human Resources Management (R) Department on September 21, 2026. The order had invoked Section 24(4) of the RTI Act to classify the Public (Law and Order) Department as an Intelligence and Security Organisation, thereby placing it under the exemption framework provided by the law.

The rollback means the department will no longer have the specific exemption introduced through the September 21 government order. The original notification had raised concerns because the Public (Law and Order) Department handles a wide range of matters involving policing, public order, protests and reports concerning police action.

Government revokes September 21 order

The state government confirmed the withdrawal in a brief order, stating that Government Order Ms No. 57 of the Human Resources Management (R) Department dated September 21, 2026, relating to the exemption of the Public (Law and Order) Department under sub-section (4) of Section 24 of the RTI Act, 2005, "stands revoked".

The original order had been notified in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette. Under Section 24(4), a state government can specify an intelligence or security organisation established by it for exemption from the RTI Act.

The decision attracted attention because the department's responsibilities extend beyond intelligence-related matters. Its functions include dealing with law-and-order reviews, communal and caste clashes, political agitations and certain preventive detention matters.

What information was covered by the original order?

The Public (Law and Order) Department deals with several subjects that can involve questions of public accountability.

These include inquiry reports into police firing, deaths in police custody, allegations of police torture and deaths of remand prisoners. The department also handles references concerning law-and-order matters from the National Human Rights Commission.

Other responsibilities include matters relating to communal and caste clashes, political agitations, student and agricultural labourers' protests, and requests for withdrawal of cases registered in connection with political grounds or such clashes and agitations.

The department also handles preventive detention matters under laws including the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act and the National Security Act. Its responsibilities include representations from detainees and habeas corpus petitions before the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court.

The original exemption therefore had implications for the availability of information concerning several law-and-order and police-related matters through RTI.

Minister had said move could be reconsidered

TVK Minister CTR Nirmal Kumar had defended the original decision, saying only certain portions of the Law and Order Department's work were intended to be kept outside the RTI framework.

He said information relating to community clashes was among the matters for which RTI requests had frequently been made. According to his explanation, the Law and Order Department has around 20 sections and only some were intended to come under the exemption.

Nirmal Kumar had also said that if members of the public were uncomfortable with the decision, the matter could be taken up with Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay for further action.

The subsequent revocation came on September 27, the same day the order drew wider public and political attention.

Opposition parties criticised the exemption

The original notification faced criticism from political parties and other groups.

CPI(M) MP Su Venkatesan urged the government to withdraw the order, arguing that the move would restrict access to information relating to law-and-order matters. The Indian Express also reported criticism from VCK president and MP Thol Thirumavalavan, whose party supports the government.

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram also criticised the decision. He said the RTI Act was intended to strengthen democratic accountability and argued that information relating to police firing, custodial deaths, torture, communal and caste clashes and politically sensitive cases should remain accessible through the transparency framework.

Transparency advocates also questioned the classification of the entire Public (Law and Order) wing within the intelligence and security exemption. The Indian Express reported that Arappor Iyakkam criticised the move and called for its withdrawal.

Government had defended freedom of expression

While defending the original order, TVK Minister Raj Mohan said the move would not affect freedom of expression. He also said information required by the media would continue to be provided by the government.

The minister stressed that freedom of expression also comes with limits and alleged that information should not be deliberately distorted for political benefit. His comments came amid the criticism surrounding the RTI exemption.

However, the government has now revoked the specific September 21 order, removing the exemption that had been created for the Public (Law and Order) Department under Section 24(4).

What the rollback means

The withdrawal restores the position that existed before the September 21 notification with regard to this particular exemption. Requests for information concerning the Public (Law and Order) Department will no longer face the additional blanket exemption introduced by that order.

However, the RTI Act itself contains exemptions and procedural safeguards. Section 24 provides a framework for

specified intelligence and security organisations, while the law also contains provisions concerning information related to allegations of corruption and human-rights violations.

The latest decision marks a rapid reversal of the September 21 notification after political and public criticism. The government has not publicly stated that the original order was withdrawn because of any particular individual's criticism; it has simply issued the revocation of the notification.

The episode has brought renewed attention to the balance between confidentiality in sensitive law-and-order matters and citizens' access to information concerning the functioning of public authorities.

Source: <https://businessupturn.com/nation/politics/tamil-nadu-rolls-back-rti-exemption-for-law-order-department-after-backlash/>

Tamil Nadu rolls back RTI exemption for law & order department after backlash

By Sneha Sharma

Published on Sep 27, 2026 · 3:23 PM IST

The Tamil Nadu government on Sunday rolled back its controversial decision to exempt the Public (Law and Order) Department from the Right to Information (RTI) Act after facing widespread criticism from opposition parties, allies and transparency activists.

In a government order issued late Sunday, the Human Resources Management Department stated: "Government Order Ms.No 57 of Human Resources Management (R) department dated 21st September, 2026, relating to exemption of the Public (Law and Order) Department under sub section (4) of section 24 of the RTI Act, 2005, stands revoked."

The original notification, dated September 21 and published in the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette, had classified the Public (Law and Order) Department as an "Intelligence and Security Organisation" under Section 24(4) of the RTI Act, effectively placing it outside the law's purview. The department handles sensitive matters including communal and caste clashes, police firing inquiries, custodial deaths, preventive detentions under the National Security Act, and references from the National Human Rights Commission.

The move drew immediate backlash. Congress MP Karti Chidambaram said restricting RTI "sets a bad precedent" and argued that the Act should be expanded, not narrowed. CPI(M) MP Su Venkatesan accused the government of trying to turn Tamil Nadu into a "police state" and demanded an immediate rollback. The AIADMK and other opposition parties also criticised the timing and intent of the notification.

Even allies of the ruling Tamilaga Vетtri Kazhagam (TVK), including Congress and CPM, publicly called for the exemption to be withdrawn, intensifying pressure on Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay's government.

Under the RTI Act, intelligence and security organisations can be exempted from disclosure obligations, but information relating to allegations of corruption and human rights violations cannot be excluded. Critics argued that the Tamil Nadu order would have severely curtailed public scrutiny of law enforcement actions at a time when the state has seen multiple reports of custodial deaths and police misconduct.

With the rollback, the Public (Law and Order) Department will once again be subject to RTI queries, restoring citizens' ability to seek information on key law-and-order issues through the transparency law.

Source: <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/india/vijay-govt-withdraws-rti-exemption-law-order-department-xwfbr4es>

Vijay govt withdraws Law and Order RTI exemption after backlash: What did it mean?

Edited By: Deepak Rajeev

Last Updated: 27 September 2026, 06:56 PM IST

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu government on Sunday revoked its decision to exempt the Public (Law and Order) Department from the Right to Information Act, 2005, hours after the move drew criticism from political allies, opposition leaders and transparency activists.

The Human Resources Management (R) Department issued a fresh order revoking GO Ms No. 57, dated September 21, which had brought the Public (Law and Order) Department under the exemption provided by Section 24(4) of the RTI Act.

The government's withdrawal order said the September 21 notification "stands revoked", effectively bringing the department back within the RTI framework.

What did the original RTI order say?

The September 21 order classified the Public (Law and Order) Department as an "Intelligence and Security Organisation" established by the Tamil Nadu government, making it exempt from the RTI Act under Section 24(4).

The notification had triggered questions because the department deals with a wide range of matters beyond intelligence and security, including police conduct, custodial deaths, allegations of torture, communal and caste clashes, political protests and preventive detention.

Its responsibilities also include examining police-firing and custodial-death inquiry reports, handling references from the National Human Rights Commission and dealing with requests related to cases registered during political agitations and communal or caste conflicts.

Why did the government issue the exemption?

TVK Minister C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar had said the exemption was primarily intended to keep information relating to community clashes outside the RTI framework.

He said the Law and Order Department has around 20 sections but only a few were intended to be exempted. He had also said the government could take the matter up with Chief Minister Vijay if the public expressed concern.

Another TVK Minister, Raj Mohan, said the move would not affect freedom of expression and maintained that the government would continue to provide necessary information to the media.

Opposition and allies object

The original notification faced criticism from several political quarters, including parties supporting the government.

VCK (Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi) president and MP Thol Thirumavalavan called the move "highly shocking" and said it could affect human rights, while CPM MP Su Venkatesan demanded its withdrawal and criticised the exemption. Congress MP Karti Chidambaram also said the move would set a poor precedent and argued that the RTI framework should be strengthened rather than restricted.

Transparency group Arappor Iyakkam also criticised the notification, questioning the classification of all information held by the Law and Order wing as intelligence-related.

Under Section 24 of the RTI Act, notified intelligence and security organisations are generally exempt, although the law retains exceptions relating to allegations of corruption and human-rights violations.

Government rolls back decision

With the latest order, the Tamil Nadu government has cancelled the September 21 notification and withdrawn the proposed RTI exemption for the Public (Law and Order) Department.

The rollback came after the exemption became public and faced criticism from members of the government's wider political support base as well as activists and opposition leaders.

Published: 27 Sept 2026, 06:56 pm IST

Source: <https://thesouthfirst.com/tamilnadu/tn-government-withdraws-order-exempting-public-law-and-order-department-from-rti-act-after-backlash/>

TVK government exempts Public (Law and Order) Department from RTI Act; sparks criticism

Several key law-and-order-related details will no longer be accessible under the RTI Act. This includes details regarding sensitive matters such as communal and caste clashes, political agitations and preventive detention cases under the NSA.

South First Desk

Published Sep 27, 2026 | 12:26 PM □ Updated Sep 27, 2026 | 12:28 PM

Synopsis: Tamil Nadu's TVK-led government has exempted the Public (Law and Order) Department from the RTI Act by classifying it as an "Intelligence and Security Organisation." The move restricts public access to information on sensitive law-and-order matters, including communal clashes, preventive detention and custodial deaths, drawing criticism from Congress and CPI(M).

Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government in Tamil Nadu has issued an order exempting the Public (Law and Order) Department from the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, by declaring it an "Intelligence and Security Organisation."

The order was issued under Section 24(4) of the RTI Act, 2005. The order was issued by the Human Resources Management Department and notified in the Government Gazette.

According to the Gazette notification, the provisions of the RTI Act will no longer apply to the department, subject to the exceptions provided under the Act.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (4) of section 24 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (Central Act 22 of 2005), the Governor of Tamil Nadu hereby specifies the Public (Law and Order) Department being an Intelligence and Security Organization established by the Government of Tamil Nadu for which the said Act shall not apply," the order said.

Sensitive law and order matters

The government action means several key law-and-order-related details will no longer be accessible under the RTI Act. This includes details regarding sensitive matters such as communal and caste clashes, political agitations and preventive detention cases under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA) and the National Security Act (NSA).

The Public (Law and Order) Department also deals with representations and habeas corpus petitions filed by the detenus or on their behalf in the High Court and Supreme Court.

It also examines enquiry reports into police firing incidents, custodial deaths, custodial torture and deaths of remand prisoners. It also looks into references made by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

concerning matters dealt with by the Law and Order wing.

The department conducts monthly law and order review meetings and special law and order meetings as per the instructions of the Chief Secretary. It is responsible for monthly reports sent to the Centre regarding law and order and communal incidents in the state and furnishing responses to questions raised in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. It also deals with agitations by students, agricultural labourers and political parties.

It handles requests for withdrawal of cases registered on political grounds and matters relating to sanction of prosecution for defamatory articles, news items, and speeches.

Attempt to turn TN into police state'

The TVK-led government's move has invited criticism, even from its own ally Congress.

In a post on X, Congress MP Karti P. Chidambaram described the RTI Act as a "landmark decision" brought in by the UPA government to strengthen democratic accountability across India and argued that the TN government's move "does not set a good precedent."

"The Law and Order Department handles crucial matters such as examining inquiry reports on police firing, custodial deaths, torture, and deaths of remand prisoners, security-related detention cases, communal and caste clash reports, requests for withdrawal of politically sensitive cases and matters relating to sanction of prosecution for defamatory articles, news items, and speeches. This crucial information is now being shielded from the public," he wrote.

"Such rollbacks are not in line with transparent governance. RTI must be expanded, not restricted," he added.

Coming down heavily on the Vijay-led government, Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and Madurai MP Su. Venkatesan said the move deserves severe condemnation. He claimed it was part of an "overt attempt to turn Tamil Nadu into a police state" and called for the immediate withdrawal of the decision.

"Government officials are ordering surveillance of leftist organizations. Custodial deaths are occurring. The education department has been ordered to suppress student protests. The police are entering college campuses and arresting students. Struggles for legitimate rights are being suppressed through violence. In this context, exempting law and order matters from the Right to Information Act is deserving of severe condemnation," he wrote in a post on X.

"This is an overt attempt to turn Tamil Nadu into a 'police state'. The government must immediately withdraw this order," he said.

(Edited by Fayisa CA)

Source: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/video/karur-stampede-anniversary-observed-tn-govt-exempts-law-and-order-from-rti-ytvd-3003990-2026-09-27>

Karur Stampede Anniversary Observed; TN Govt Exempts Law And Order From RTI

India Today Video Desk

UPDATED: Sep 27, 2026 11:03 IST

The Tamil Nadu government has exempted law and order matters from the Right to Information (RTI) Act, sparking criticism amid existing scrutiny over state security. Under the new move, the public law and order wing, which handles communal and caste clashes, police torture, remand deaths, and commission of inquiry matters, has been rebranded as an intelligence and security wing. The department also addresses political, student, agricultural, and labour agitations, alongside National Human Rights Commission references and preventive detentions under the National Security Act. Opposition parties and RTI activists are expected to challenge the decision, which was issued via a government gazette order approved by the Governor. Meanwhile, the first anniversary of the Karur stampede tragedy was marked, recalling the incident during an election campaign roadshow that claimed 41 lives.

Source: <https://www.dtnext.in/news/tamilnadu/tn-govt-revokes-rti-exemption-for-public-law-and-order-department>

Tamil Nadu government revokes RTI exemption for public (Law and Order) department

The department deals with references from the National Human Rights Commission, reports on law-and-order and communal incidents sent to the Centre, and replies to questions raised in Parliament.

DT NEXT Bureau

Updated on: 27 Sep 2026, 2:20 pm

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government on Sunday revoked its order exempting the Public (Law and Order) Department from the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, hours after the move drew criticism from various quarters, including the CPM, an ally of the ruling dispensation.

The Human Resources Management (R) Department issued a fresh order revoking GO Ms No. 57, dated September 21, which had exempted the Public (Law and Order) Department under sub-section (4) of Section 24 of the RTI Act.

GO Ms.No.57 of Human Resources Management (R) Department dated 21st September, 2026, relating to exemption of the Public (Law and Order) Department under sub-section (4) of Section 24 of the RTI Act, 2005, stands revoked," the government said.

The September 21 order had specified the Public (Law and Order) Department as an intelligence and security organisation established by the Tamil Nadu government, thereby bringing it within the exemption provided under Section 24 of the RTI Act.

The move had faced criticism, with questions being raised over the decision to classify the department as an intelligence and security organisation and keep it outside the ambit of the transparency law. CPM MP S Venkatesan was among those who opposed the exemption.

The Public (Law and Order) Department deals with sensitive matters relating to communal and caste clashes, political agitations and preventive detention under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA) and the National Security Act (NSA).

It also handles representations from detainees and habeas corpus petitions before the High Court and the Supreme Court, besides examining police enquiry reports concerning custodial deaths, allegations of police torture and deaths of remand prisoners.

The department deals with references from the National Human Rights Commission, reports on law-and-order and communal incidents sent to the Centre, and replies to questions raised in Parliament.

It also processes matters relating to student and agricultural labourers' agitations, requests for withdrawal of cases registered on political grounds and proposals seeking sanction for prosecution in cases involving articles,

news reports and speeches.

With the latest order, the government has withdrawn the September 21 notification and ended the proposed exemption of the Public (Law and Order) Department from the RTI Act.

Source: <https://www.thenewsminute.com/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-exempts-law-and-order-department-from-rti-curbing-public-scrutiny>

Tamil Nadu exempts Law and Order department from RTI, curbing public scrutiny

The Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam government has issued an order seeking to exempt Tamil Nadu's Public (Law and Order) Department from the RTI Act.

Written by:TNM Staff

Published on: 27 Sep 2026, 12:20 pm

Even as Tamil Nadu is witnessing a series of custodial deaths, Chief Minister Vijay-led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government has issued an extraordinary order seeking to exempt the Public (Law and Order) Department from the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. The Department deals with, among other matters, police custodial deaths, custodial torture, and the deaths of remand prisoners.

The order, dated September 29, directs the Human Resources Department to exempt the Public (Law and Order) Department under Section 24(4) of the RTI Act, which permits state governments to exempt intelligence and security organisations from the Act through a notification. The provision, however, specifically states that information relating to allegations of corruption and human rights violations cannot be excluded from the exemption.

Vijay had previously joined protests against custodial deaths during the tenure of former chief minister MK Stalin.

According to the government's description of Public (Law and Order) Department's functions, it handles communal and caste clashes; the appointment of Commissions of Inquiry into law-and-order matters and follow-up action on their recommendations; COFEPOSA and National Security Act detentions; and monthly and special law-and-order review meetings.

Crucially, its functions also include examining inquiry reports into police firing and reports on deaths in police custody, police torture, and the deaths of remand prisoners. It deals with references from the National Human Rights Commission relating to matters handled by the Law and Order wing, besides furnishing monthly reports on law-and-order and communal incidents to the Union government.

The Department also handles replies to questions raised in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on law-and-order matters, agitations by students, agricultural labourers and political parties, requests for the withdrawal of cases arising from political, communal and caste clashes, and matters relating to sanction for prosecution over defamatory articles, news reports and speeches.

Condemning the government's decision, CPI(M) leader Su Venkatesan described it as an "overt attempt to turn Tamil Nadu into a police state."

"Government officials are ordering surveillance of leftist organisations. Custodial deaths are occurring. The Education Department has been ordered to suppress student protests. The police are entering college campuses

and arresting students. Struggles for legitimate rights are being suppressed through violence. In this context, exempting law and order matters from the Right to Information Act is deserving of severe condemnation,” the Su Venkatesan said. He demanded the government immediately revoke the order.

Arappor Iyakkam, an anti-corruption organisation, questioned the claims of the TVK government that had promised transparency in governance. “It is shocking that the Tamil Nadu government has exempted the Law and Order wing under the Public Department from the Right to Information Act. It is absurd to classify all information handled by the Law and Order wing of the Public Department as being related to intelligence. The Tamil Nadu government should immediately withdraw this order. Claiming that it is bringing transparency while acting in exactly the opposite manner is condemnable,” the organisation said in a statement.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-government-exempts-public-law-and-order-department-from-rti-act/article71515196.ece/amp/>

After backlash, Tamil Nadu government withdraws G.O. exempting Public (Law and Order) Department from RTI Act

According to the Government Order dated September 21, 2026, information on communal and caste clashes, inquiry reports on police firing, custodial deaths, details on handling of agitations by students and farmers; and matters relating to National Security Act detentions, were excluded from the ambit of RTI Act

Updated - September 27, 2026 05:27 pm IST - CHENNAI
The Hindu Bureau

After facing severe backlash from political parties and activists, the Tamil Nadu government on Sunday (September 27, 2026) decided to withdraw a controversial order exempting the Public (Law and Order) Department from the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, on the ground that it was an Intelligence and Security Organisation.

A Government Order (dated September 21, 2026) to this effect was issued by the Human Resources Management Department and notified in the Government Gazette. The order was issued under Section 24 (4) of the RTI Act, 2005. After strong criticism from various civil society organisations, the order was later withdrawn.

Minister for Energy Resources and Law C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar said in a post on X that the Government Order (G.O.) had been withdrawn. Earlier in the day, while speaking to reporters in Madurai, the Minister had defended the G.O., claiming that only certain provisions including information related to communal clashes were kept under the ambit of the RTI Act, 2005, considering the sensitivity of the information.

What were the subjects initially excluded from RTI's ambit?

The Public (Law and Order) Department deals with subjects such as communal and caste clashes; the appointment of Commissions of Inquiry on law and order-related matters and follow-up action on their recommendations; all matters relating to COFEPOSA and NSA detentions, including representations by detenus and habeas corpus petitions filed by detenus or on their behalf in the High Court and Supreme Court; and the conduct of monthly law and order review meetings and special law and order meetings as per the instructions of the Chief Secretary.

It also includes examining inquiry reports into the opening of fire by the police and inquiry reports into deaths in police custody, police torture and deaths of remand prisoners; NHRC references relating to matters dealt with by the Law and Order wing; furnishing monthly reports on law and order and communal incidents to the Government of India; furnishing replies to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha questions relating to law and order matters; dealing with agitations by students, agricultural labourers and political parties; requests for withdrawal of cases registered on political grounds, communal/caste clashes, political agitations and student agitations; and matters relating to sanction of prosecution for defamatory articles, news items and speeches.

Censure

AMMK founder T.T.V. Dhinakaran on Sunday (September 27) opposed the G.O. He criticised the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam-led government of having assured transparency in governance only to decide later to exempt sensitive subjects pertaining to the law and order from the ambit of the RTI Act. Seeking an explanation in this regard from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, Mr. Dhinakaran called for revoking the decision exempting subjects pertaining to the law and order, from the ambit of the RTI Act.

Environmental activist G. Sundarrajan of Poovulagin Nanbargal said the timing of the order was deeply concerning. The earlier controversy over a law and order meeting chaired by Chief Secretary M. Sai Kumar had already raised serious questions after the minutes of the meeting became public and drew strong opposition from the Left parties. The government had subsequently withdrawn a controversial circular on collegiate education that had followed the directions issued at the meeting.

Arappor Iyakkam convener Jayaram Venkatesan condemned the G.O. and demanded its immediate withdrawal. He said the entire Law and Order section of the Public Department could not be kept outside the purview of the RTI Act.

Published - September 27, 2026 09:53 am IST

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-chief-urges-students-to-embrace-values-compassion/articleshow/134520690.cms>

NHRC chief urges students to embrace values, compassion

Diana Sahu Sep 27, 2026, 06.30 PM IST

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairperson and former Supreme Court judge Justice V Ramasubramanian stressed the importance of values and ethics while addressing the sixth convocation of ASBM University on its Shiksha Vihar campus in Bhubaneswar recently.

Degrees were conferred on doctoral and graduating students across management, law, commerce, information technology and liberal arts during the ceremony.

Justice Ramasubramanian said success without reflection and victory without compassion are “rootless and fruitless”. Appreciating the leadership of university founder-president Prof Biswajeet Pattanayak, he said the institution had placed Odisha firmly on the national higher-education map and built a reputation for academic excellence beyond the state.

The guest of honour, TRL Krosaki Refractories Ltd managing director Prasant Kumar Naik, spoke about the changing workplace culture and need for employees to build long-term associations with organisations while nurturing a culture of learning. He lauded the university’s efforts to produce industry-ready professionals across disciplines.

Three students received gold medals for academic excellence. Anamika Tripathy won the Infinity gold medal for MBA, Sannidhya P Swain received the Maithree gold medal, and Anushka Agarwal was awarded the gold medal in law.

Postdoctoral fellowship

Odisha researcher Dr Sneha Senapati has been selected for the prestigious MIT-Novo Nordisk Artificial Intelligence Postdoctoral Fellows Programme and appointed as a postdoctoral associate in the department of mechanical engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, Massachusetts.

A native of Bhadrak district, Senapati was educated in Balasore before pursuing her PhD in biophysics at IIT Delhi’s School of Interdisciplinary Research. She defended her doctoral thesis in 2025 under Prof J P Singh of IIT-Delhi and Dr Smita S Kulkarni, former head of the department of virology at ICMR-NITVAR, Pune.

The highly selective fellowship supports up to 10 researchers globally each year to undertake research at the intersection of artificial intelligence and life sciences. According to details of the 2026 cohort, Senapati is the only fellow selected from India and Asia and the only cohort member to have completed her PhD in India.

Her research at MIT will focus on applying artificial intelligence and advanced technologies to healthcare. She had earlier joined Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel for postdoctoral research but returned to India after being selected for the MIT fellowship. Senapati is scheduled to join MIT in Oct this year.

Entrepreneurship lessons

A six-day faculty mentor development programme for 40 faculty members from Odisha’s govt colleges and

universities concluded at Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Gandhinagar, on Saturday. Conducted from Sept 21 to 26, the programme was aimed at strengthening the startup ecosystem in higher education institutions. Launched by higher education minister Suryabanshi Suraj on Sept 5, it covered entrepreneurship pedagogy, business idea generation, business model canvas, startup mentoring, incubation centres, funding, innovation and IPR.

On the final day, participants presented action plans proposing entrepreneurship cells/clubs and startup bootcamps on their campuses. EDII director general Sunil Shukla also addressed the participants.

Discourse on social protection

Fakir Mohan University (FMU), Balasore, hosted an academic discourse on 'Inclusive Social Welfare in India' under its Purbasuri Bakrutamala on Thursday, focusing on changing dimensions of welfare policy, social protection and participatory governance.

Prof Prakash Chandra Sarangi, who was the chief speaker, discussed the evolution of welfare strategies in the country and the need to align policies with changing social needs. He said welfare should go beyond the distribution of benefits and encompass social inclusion, dignity, participation, protection and justice.

Addressing the gathering, FMU vice-chancellor Prof Santosh Kumar Tripathy said the understanding of vulnerability had undergone significant changes, necessitating a broader assessment of emerging challenges faced by different sections of society. He stressed the need for sustained attention to social protection and social justice for inclusive and equitable development.

Tripathy also highlighted the importance of communication between govt and citizens, referring to the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme as a platform for listening to people's views, problems and questions and understanding issues at the grassroots.

The lecture was followed by an interactive session with students, who discussed contemporary social realities and welfare concerns.

The lecture was followed by an interactive session with students, who discussed contemporary social realities and welfare concerns.

Source: <https://www.patrika.com/national-news/tamil-nadu-government-withdraws-order-exempting-law-and-order-department-from-rti-20940842>

तमिलनाडु सरकार का यू-टर्न, कानून-व्यवस्था विभाग को RTI से बाहर रखने का आदेश कुछ घंटों में रद्द

तमिलनाडु सरकार ने कानून-व्यवस्था विभाग को RTI अधिनियम की धारा 24 के तहत सूचना देने से छूट देने वाला आदेश कुछ घंटों में वापस ले लिया। सरकार के फैसले का राजनीतिक दलों और पारदर्शिता समर्थकों ने विरोध किया था। माकपा सांसद एस. वेंकटेशन समेत कई नेताओं ने निर्णय पर सवाल उठाए थे।

भारत Anurag Animesh Sep 27, 2026

Tamil Nadu RTI: तमिलनाडु सरकार ने सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआइ) अधिनियम, 2005 के दायरे से लोक (कानून-व्यवस्था) विभाग को बाहर रखने संबंधी अपना विवादास्पद आदेश जारी होने के कुछ ही घंटों बाद वापस ले लिया। सरकार के इस फैसले की विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों और पारदर्शिता समर्थकों ने तीखी आलोचना की थी। सत्तारूढ़ गठबंधन की सहयोगी माकपा ने भी इसका विरोध किया था। मानव संसाधन प्रबंधन (आर) विभाग ने रविवार को नया आदेश जारी करते हुए 21 सितंबर 2026 के जीओ संख्या 57 को निरस्त कर दिया। इस आदेश के तहत लोक (कानून-व्यवस्था) विभाग को आरटीआइ अधिनियम की धारा 24 के तहत खुफिया और सुरक्षा संगठन की श्रेणी में रखकर सूचना देने की बाध्यता से छूट प्रदान की गई थी।

जानें डिटेल्स

सरकार के इस कदम पर सवाल उठाए गए थे कि आखिर कानून-व्यवस्था विभाग को खुफिया एवं सुरक्षा संगठन घोषित कर पारदर्शिता कानून के दायरे से बाहर क्यों किया जा रहा है। माकपा सांसद एस. वेंकटेशन समेत कई नेताओं ने इस निर्णय का विरोध किया था। उल्लेखनीय है कि लोक (कानून-व्यवस्था) विभाग सांप्रदायिक एवं जातीय तनाव, राजनीतिक आंदोलनों, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा कानून (एनएसए) तथा कोफेपोसा के तहत निरोधात्मक कार्रवाई जैसे संवेदनशील मामलों को देखता है। इसके अलावा यह विभाग हिरासत में मौत, पुलिस यातना के आरोप, रिमांड कैदियों की मौत, राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के संदर्भ, केंद्र सरकार को भेजी जाने वाली कानून-व्यवस्था संबंधी रिपोर्टें तथा संसद में उठाए गए सवालों से जुड़े मामलों का भी निपटारा करता है। सरकार के फैसले पर सवाल उठे कि कानून-व्यवस्था विभाग को खुफिया एवं सुरक्षा संगठन घोषित कर RTI से बाहर क्यों किया जा रहा है।

आरटीआइ अधिनियम से बाहर

विभाग छात्र आंदोलनों, कृषि मजदूरों के विरोध प्रदर्शनों, राजनीतिक मामलों में दर्ज मुकदमों को वापस लेने के अनुरोधों और लेखों, समाचार रिपोर्टों तथा भाषणों से जुड़े अभियोजन स्वीकृति प्रस्तावों पर भी काम करता है। सरकार के ताजा आदेश के साथ ही कानून-व्यवस्था विभाग को आरटीआइ अधिनियम से बाहर रखने की योजना समाप्त हो गई है और यह विभाग पहले की तरह सूचना के अधिकार कानून के दायरे में बना रहेगा। नए आदेश के बाद विभाग को RTI से बाहर रखने की योजना खत्म हो गई है। अब यह पहले की तरह RTI के दायरे में रहेगा।

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Source: <https://www.livehindustan.com/national/story-national-human-rights-commission-member-pryank-kanungo-inspects-hazratganj-police-station-201790516837107.amp.html>

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग सदस्य ने किया निरीक्षण

Sep 27, 2026 07:17 pm IST

By Hindustan | Bureau

हिन्दुस्तान, लखनऊ

नोट : फोटो है -महिला हेल्प डेस्क और फरियादी रजिस्टर देखा, बोले सब ठीक

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य प्रियंक कानूनगो और उनका काफिला रविवार दोपहर पौने 12 बजे हजरतगंज कोतवाली पहुंचा। करीब पौने घंटे तक थाने में निरीक्षण किया। महिला हेल्प डेस्क, फरियादी रजिस्टर और दस्तावेजों के रखरखाव को देखा। इसके बाद संतुष्ट होकर चले गए। जानकारी के मुताबिक, राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य प्रियंक कानूनगो एक कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने के लिए दिल्ली से लखनऊ आए थे। करीब 11:15 बजे वह चौधरी चरण सिंह अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर पहुंचे। इसके बाद एकाएक उनका कार्यक्रम हजरतगंज कोतवाली के निरीक्षण का बन गया। वह काफिले के साथ कोतवाली पहुंच गए। वहां उन्हें इंस्पेक्टर विक्रम सिंह मिले।

इंस्पेक्टर ने आयोग के सदस्य प्रियंक कानूनगो को रिसीव किया। कक्ष में लेकर पहुंचे। इसके बाद मुंशी कक्ष में दस्तावेजों के रखरखाव को देखा। महिला हेल्प डेस्क और डे-अफसर के कक्ष में पहुंचे। वहां फिर्यादियों के प्रार्थनापत्र कितने आए? कितने प्रार्थनापत्र का पुलिस ने निस्तारण किया? फरियादी की फीडबैक क्या रही? इन सभी बिंदुओं की पड़ताल की। थाने परिसर में घूमे। इंस्पेक्टर से बातचीत की। थाने में दर्ज होने वाले मुकदमों और मानवाधिकारों के संबंध में जानकारी ली। इसके बाद निरीक्षण कर 1230 बजे चले गए। मीडिया से मुखातिब होते उन्होंने कहा कि वह एक कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने आए थे। इस दौरान कोतवाली पहुंचे। महिला हेल्प डेस्क बनी है। फरियादियों के बैठने और पीने के लिए पानी आदि की व्यवस्था है। फरियादियों की शिकायत पर यहां सुनवाई हो रही है। निरीक्षण में उन्हें सब ठीक मिला।

Source: <https://www.amarujala.com/lucknow/members-of-the-national-human-rights-commission-visited-hazratganj-police-station-and-sought-feedback-from-complainants-lucknow-news-c-13-lko1070-1939842-2026-09-28>

Hindi News › Uttar Pradesh › Lucknow News › Members of the National Human Rights Commission visited Hazratganj Police Station and sought feedback from complainants.

Lucknow News: हजरतगंज थाने पहुंचे राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य, जानी फरियादियों की प्रतिक्रिया
लखनऊ ब्यूरो

Updated Mon, 28 Sep 2026 03:03 AM IST

लखनऊ। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य प्रियंक कानूनगो रविवार दोपहर हजरतगंज थाने पहुंचे। यहां उन्होंने थाने की व्यवस्था देखी। साथ ही फरियादियों की प्रतिक्रिया भी जानी। उन्होंने महिला हेल्प डेस्क, फरियादी रजिस्टर और दस्तावेजों के रखरखाव का अवलोकन किया। इसके अतिरिक्त, उन्होंने डे अफसर के कक्ष में जाकर देखा कि फरियादियों के कितने प्रार्थना पत्र प्राप्त हुए, पुलिस ने कितनी फरियादों का निस्तारण किया गया और फरियादियों की प्रतिक्रिया क्या रही। उन्होंने इंस्पेक्टर विक्रम सिंह से भी बातचीत की। प्रियंक एक कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने के लिए दिल्ली से लखनऊ आए थे।

Source: <https://www.bhaskar.com/local/uttar-pradesh/lucknow/news/lucknow-hazratganj-police-station-nhrc-priyank-kanungo-visit-139170393.html>

Hindi NewsLocalUttar pradeshLucknowNHRC Member Priyank Kanungo Visits Lucknow Hazratganj Police Station

हजरतगंज थाने पहुंचे राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य:45 मिनट किया निरीक्षण, काफिला पहुंचते ही पुलिसकर्मियों में मची हलचल
लखनऊ12 घंटे पहले

लखनऊ में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य रविवार दोपहर अचानक हजरतगंज थाने पहुंच गए। उनका काफिला थाने पहुंचा तो पुलिसकर्मियों में हलचल मच गई। थाना प्रभारी विक्रम सिंह समेत अन्य पुलिसकर्मी उन्हें रिसीव करने पहुंचे। प्रियंक कानूनगो ने करीब 45 मिनट तक थाने का निरीक्षण किया। इस दौरान उन्होंने महिला हेल्प डेस्क, फरियादी रजिस्टर और दस्तावेजों के रखरखाव समेत थाने की अन्य व्यवस्थाओं को देखा।

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के सदस्य प्रियंक कानूनगो एक कार्यक्रम में शामिल होने के लिए दिल्ली से लखनऊ आए थे। वह दोपहर के वक्त चौधरी चरण सिंह अंतरराष्ट्रीय एयरपोर्ट पहुंचे। इसके बाद अचानक हजरतगंज थाने के निरीक्षण का कार्यक्रम बना। उनका काफिला एक घंटे में थाने पहुंचा।

मुंशी कक्ष से शुरू किया निरीक्षण

थाना प्रभारी विक्रम सिंह उन्हें रिसीव कर सीधे मुंशी कक्ष ले गए। यहां प्रियंक कानूनगो ने दस्तावेजों के रखरखाव और अभिलेखों की स्थिति देखी। इसके बाद महिला हेल्प डेस्क और डे अफसर के कक्ष का निरीक्षण किया।

उन्होंने पुलिसकर्मियों से पूछा कि थाने में फरियादियों के कितने प्रार्थनापत्र आए हैं, उनमें से कितने मामलों का निस्तारण किया गया और फरियादियों से निस्तारण के बाद क्या फीडबैक मिला। उन्होंने फरियादियों की शिकायतों के निस्तारण की प्रक्रिया की भी जानकारी ली।

थाना प्रभारी से करीब 10 मिनट बातचीत

निरीक्षण के बाद प्रियंक कानूनगो थाना प्रभारी के कक्ष में पहुंचे। यहां उन्होंने विक्रम सिंह से करीब 10 मिनट तक बातचीत की। इस दौरान फरियादियों की समस्याओं का निस्तारण किस तरह किया जाता है और शिकायतों के निस्तारण के दौरान किन बिंदुओं का ध्यान रखा जाता है, इसकी जानकारी ली।

थाने की व्यवस्थाओं और पुलिस की कार्यप्रणाली से संतुष्ट नजर आए प्रियंक कानूनगो ने थाना प्रभारी विक्रम सिंह की सराहना की। इसके बाद वह अपने काफिले के साथ थाने से रवाना हो गए।