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Human rights panel issues notice over EB staff's death

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THE State Human Rights Commission have issued a notice to the director of TANGEDCO over the incident of two of his workers being electrocuted to death near Sowcarpet while repairing a transformer on January 1. Taking cognisance of the issue based on a report that appeared in a Tamil daily, the SHRC in has asked the chairman and managing director of TANGEDCO to file a report on the action taken against the officers responsible for the workers' death. Vincent (40) and Udaya (45) had climbed up a transformer on Ayudai Naicken Street in Kothawal Chavadi after a power outage was reported in the locality. Minutes later, both the men were thrown to the ground after receiving an electric shock. Both succumbed to the injuries.

NHRC to Take Suo Motu Action

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Protests also took place at the Film and Television Institute of India and universities in Pune, Patna, Delhi, Chennai, Punjab, Puducherry, Kerala and Hyderabad. Some students linked the demonstrations to the ongoing protests against CAA and NRC.

"In the light of the recent clampdown on voices of dissent, from the NRC-CAA protest taking place all over the country to the fee hike taking place in JNU and all other public funded institutions, we extend our complete solidarity to the JNUSU (Jawahar Lal Nehru University Students' Union) and the JNU students in this fight against the fascist regime," said a representative of the TISS union, calling upon students across campuses to stand together in solidarity.

A group of masked men and women armed with sledgehammers, iron rods and stones attacked students and teachers on Sunday evening, resulting in more than 30 being injured. They included JNU-SU president Aishe Ghosh, who was discharged after treatment.



TISS and IIT Bombay students joined members of the public gathered at the Gateway of India in Mumbai to protest. IIM Ahmedabad held a candlelight march on Sunday night. IIM Bangalore students held a vigil on Monday. IIM Calcutta students held a discussion and condemned the violence.

The IIMs of Ahmedabad, Bengaluru and Kozhikode and the IITs of Mumbai, Kharagpur, Delhi and Chennai declined to offer any official comment.

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"A university stands for tolerance, dialogue and an agreement to disagree," Errol D'Souza, director of IIM-A, said on Twitter. "Violence is anathema to the idea of a university and violates the foundations of a civilisation. The incidents yesterday on the JNU campus are a very low point in our post-independence history."

Rajendra Shinde, principal, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, said:

"Whatever happened is very bad. I think we should keep politics and education separate."

Delhi University assistant professor and former JNU alumnus Syed Areesh Ahmad said those with political differences knew "how to agree to disagree" when he had been a student there 15 years ago. Endless debates would end with a shared meal or a cigarette.

"What is happening at JNU today is the crushing of dissent by brute force by the current political regime where the police is just a mute spectator," said Ahmad.

The TISS Teachers Association said it will write to the Supreme Court and the National Human Rights Commission to take suo motu action against the attack. "This is a brutal attack on unarmed students. The police inaction is sad," said TISS Teachers Association president Bal Rakhase.

"These kinds of attacks have continuously been happening with students and teachers. The central government should provide a safe environment for students and teachers."