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Arrest NEET protesters: SC

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Tamil Nadu government to take action against persons, organisations and political parties resorting to agitation and creating law and order situations during protests against the NEET, following the death of MBBS aspirant S Anitha.

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Maintain law during NEET protests: SC

Book those disturbing peace, TN told

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday said the peaceful protest is the fundamental right of citizens, but they cannot disrupt normal life.

It directed the Tamil Nadu government to take action against anyone, any organisations and political parties resorting to agitation and creating law and order situation while protesting against the NEET and the death of NEET challenger S Anitha.

The court also ordered the state chief secretary to ensure that those disturbing normal life are booked accordingly.

It noted that the NEET had been approved by a five-judge Constitution bench.

"We may clearly state here that a peaceful protest or criticism or dissent is different than the creation of a law and order situation. Every citizen of this country has a fundamental right to peacefully protest and

demonstrate, but not to cause a situation that results in violence and paralyse the law and order situation," a three-judge bench presided over by Chief Justice Dipak Misra said.

The court passed its interim order on a PIL filed by advocate G S Mani.

The advocates sought restraint order against the political parties from launching agitations against the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) as the Supreme Court had allowed only one examination for admission to the MBBS and BDS courses in medical colleges across the country.

Students provoked

After Anitha's suicide on September 1, Mani contended that the political parties and other groups provoked students and the general public in holding protest, dharna and rail roko, disrupting normal life.

On hearing the petitioner,

the bench, also comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud ordered, "It shall be the obligation of the chief secretary and the principal secretary, Ministry of Home, Tamil Nadu to ensure that the law and order is maintained throughout the state in the wake of the present situation in respect of NEET."

'Take action'

"The chief secretary shall see to it that anyone involved in any kind of bandh or activity that disrupts the normal life and detrimentally affects law and order in Tamil Nadu, shall be booked under the appropriate law," the bench added.

The court issued a notice to the Tamil Nadu's chief secretary on the PIL and put it for further consideration on September 15.

The apex court also asked the advocate general to assist it on the next date of hearing.

DH News Service

Venting ire



Coimbatore Bar Association members protest against NEET and seek justice for student Anitha, who killed herself over the exam, in Coimbatore on Friday. PTI

Speaker's notice to 19 rebel AIADMK MLAs

CHENNAI, DHNS: Tamil Nadu Assembly speaker P Dhanapal on Friday ordered 19 AIADMK legislators supporting "ousted" leader TTV Dhinakaran to appear before him on September 14 as show-cause notices have been issued to them.

Dhanapal on August 24 issued notices to the rebel MLAs, asking why action should not be taken against them under

the anti-defection law.

The show cause notice came after AIADMK chief whip S Rajendran wrote a letter to the speaker, seeking disqualification of the legislators as they had handed over letters to Governor Ch Vidyasagar Rao withdrawing their support to the Edappadi K Palaniswami government.

Rajendran said, "Since they

have subjected themselves to lose their legislators' posts, they attracted the provisions under this law (anti-defection act) as per the 10th schedule of the Constitution".

The AIADMK chief whip sought action against them under the rule of the Assembly that disqualifies a member for anti-party activities under the anti-defection law.

SC: Ensure law and order during anti-NEET stir

Orders State govt. to book those disrupting normal life

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Tamil Nadu government to maintain the law and order situation in the light of the tense atmosphere in the State over the protests against the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET).

"As an interim measure, it is directed that it shall be the obligation of the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, and the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Home, Government of Tamil Nadu, to ensure that law and order is maintained throughout the State in the wake of the present situation in respect of the NEET," a Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, said.

The court directed that the Chief Secretary "shall see to it that anyone involved in any kind of 'bandh' or activity that disrupts the normal life and detrimentally affects law and order... shall be booked under the appropriate law."

The order came on a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer G.S. Mani, asking the court to intervene and direct the State to maintain law and order following the suicide of a 17-year-old State Board student, S. Anitha, who had moved the court against admissions through the NEET in the State. Her death has led to widespread protests and road blocks by

students all over the State.

"The agitations and road blocks create a law and order situation which is very dangerous. The State authority unable to keep the situation under control," the petition said.

Peaceful dissent

The court clearly distinguished between the right to peaceful dissent and creation of violence in the name of protest.

"We may clearly state here that a peaceful protest or criticism or dissent is different than creation of a law and order situation. Every citizen of this country has a fundamental right to peacefully protest and demonstrate, but not to cause a situation that results in violence and paralyzes the law and order situation," the Supreme Court held.

During the hearing, the court observed that NEET was upheld as the sole basis for admission to MBBS and BDS courses. It was the State's liability to protect the public from violence in the name of protests in the State. It issued notice to the Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary and the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Home, Tamil Nadu.

The court summoned the State Advocate General on September 18 to explain the apparent failure of law and order authorities to control the protests.

Book violent NEET protesters in TN: SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Disapproving people attempting to paralyse life in Tamil Nadu while protesting against implementation of NEET for admission to MBBS and BDS courses, the Supreme Court on Friday ordered the state to take action against those blocking rail and road traffic during agitation.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud directed the state chief secretary and principal secretary to act tough against protesters indulging in violence and breaching peace in the state. It issued notice to the state government on a plea

“We may clearly state here that a peaceful protest or criticism or dissent is different than creation of a law and order situation. Every citizen has a fundamental right to peacefully protest, but not to cause a situation that results in violence...”

—Supreme Court



seeking to restrain political parties from holding protests against the SC's constitution bench verdict directing enforcement of NEET, the common medical entrance test.

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NEET petitioner seeks judicial inquiry into death of student

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The court passed the order on a petition filed by advocate GS Mani seeking its direction to the state government to maintain law and order in the state. He alleged that the issue is being politicised after 17-year old medical aspirant S Anitha committed suicide for having failed to get

admission in a medical college through NEET.

“As an interim measure, it is directed that it shall be the obligation of the chief secretary and the principal secretary (home department) to ensure that law and order is maintained throughout the state in the wake of the present situation in respect of the NEET examination. The

chief secretary shall see to it that anyone involved in any kind of 'bandh' or activity that disrupts life and detrimentally affects law and order in the state shall be booked under the appropriate law,” the bench said.

The petitioner also sought a judicial inquiry, headed by a retired high court judge, into the death of the student.