TN Government Withdraws Order Exempting Law & Order Department from RTI Act

The Tamil Nadu government withdrew its Government Order exempting the Public (Law and Order) Department from the purview of the RTI Act, 2005, following public criticism.

It refers to the state government's decision to revoke an order that excluded sensitive law-and-order reports and police inquiry findings from public disclosure under RTI.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The Tamil Nadu government issued a Government Order on **September 21, 2026**, exempting the Public (Law and Order) Department from the **RTI Act, 2005**.
- The order sought to exclude information on **police firing** inquiries, **custodial deaths**, and communal clashes from public disclosure.
- Details regarding handling of student and farmer agitations and **National Security Act** (NSA) detentions were also placed under exemption.
- The state government initially justified the exemption by citing **intelligence status** and the sensitivity of law-and-order information.
- Following strong opposition from activists and political leaders over **administrative transparency**, the **Tamil Nadu government** announced the withdrawal of the order.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The **Right to Information (RTI) Act** was passed by the Indian Parliament in **2005** to promote transparency and accountability in governance.

Section 24 of the RTI Act, 2005 empowers government authorities to exempt specific intelligence and security organizations from disclosing routine information.

Proviso to Section 24 mandates that information relating to allegations of corruption and **human rights violations** cannot be withheld under any exemption.

Tamil Nadu was among the earliest states in India to enact a state-level Right to Information Act in **1997**.

Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution guarantees Freedom of Speech and Expression, which implicitly encompasses the Right to Information as affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Section 8 of the RTI Act lists categories of information that are exempt from disclosure, including national security, sovereignty, and trade secrets.

REVISION FLASHCARD

TN government withdrew G.O. exempting Public (Law & Order) Department from RTI Act, 2005 under Section 24.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Unit 5 (Indian Polity - RTI Act 2005 & Constitutional Rights) and Unit 9 (TN Administration - Governance & Transparency).

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