

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 12.9.2016 of **Selvi J Jayalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to Thiru Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

"I write to bring to your urgent attention the need to ensure the safety and security of many lakhs of Tamil speaking people residing in Karnataka and of their properties in the light of the escalating incidents of violence taking place in many parts of Karnataka.

I have also received your letter dated 12.9.2016, regarding certain incidents in Tamil Nadu. As soon as the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court were received on 6.9.2016, and reports regarding violent protests in different parts of Karnataka were telecast by the media, directions were given to the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, to instruct all field formations to ensure that law and order is maintained and adequate protection provided to all Kannada speaking people and their properties in Tamil Nadu. The protests by some sections in Tamil Nadu, including by farmers, have been peaceful and lawful. Despite very provocative incidents that are taking place in Karnataka, absolute restraint has been observed in Tamil Nadu by all sections. We have ensured that no major incidents of any kind targeting Kannada speaking people or their properties have occurred.

The two minor incidents in Chennai and Ramanathapuram that have been referred to in the letter received from the Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Karnataka, addressed to the Principal Secretaries, Home and Public, Tamil Nadu, have already been acted on very promptly and cases registered and the miscreants arrested. In any event, all precautionary measures have been taken and law and order continues to be well maintained in Tamil Nadu.

I am concerned that the situation in Karnataka is serious with several instances of mob violence targeting Tamil speaking persons and their property. As per the reports received, the violence has escalated and a large number of vehicles, including more than 40 buses, 45 lorries and many other vehicles bearing Tamil Nadu number plates have been burnt and damaged. Groups of protesters from Karnataka are regularly assembling at the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border near Hosur and threatening vehicles and commuters from Tamil Nadu. Hotels and properties belonging to Tamils in Karnataka are being attacked and damaged. This is an alarming situation and is causing considerable anxiety.

I request you to take immediate and effective action to provide all necessary protection and security to ensure that no harm is caused to the person and property of Tamil speaking people in Karnataka.”

Issued by: Director of Information and Public Relations, Chennai – 9
Dated : 12.9.2016