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Don't know why cops pulled trigger, says Yediyurappa

CM to visit trouble-hit Mangaluru today

BENGALURU, DHNS

Mid outrage against police firing that killed two people in Mangaluru, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Friday said he was unaware of why the police pulled the trigger.

He said he will visit Mangaluru on Saturday to find out "what exactly happened."

On Thursday, in a shocking turn of events, the police opened fire at protesters in Mangaluru, which killed Jalcel and Nauseen. The Mangaluru police said they fired in "self-defence."

When asked about claims by Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah that the government might have permitted the police to open fire, Yediyurappa rhetorically told reporters: "Who gave them permission? Siddaramaiah was also a chief minister. He should understand."

Yediyurappa went on to allege that it was the Congress that had incited violence. "I am visiting Mangaluru along with Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai. I'll find out what ex-



Yediyurappa

actly happened and what the circumstances were. Without knowing the details, I don't want to comment," he said.

Throughout the day, a video showing police personnel discussing how none was killed "despite bullets fired", went viral on social media.

Later in the evening, Yediyurappa held a meeting with top police officials and asked them to ensure a peaceful situation in the state. "We discussed with officials for two hours and asked them to ensure peace prevails. I will hold talks with officials in Mangaluru as well," he said.

Also, it was said that many journalists from Kerala had been detained in Mangaluru where they were covering the ground situation. Yediyurappa clarified that there were 7-8 people and not 40 or 50 as was reported in a section of the media. "Initially, the police were un-

Deve Gowda demands action

JD(S) supremo and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda has demanded action against the officials responsible for firing at two protesters in Mangaluru, which took their lives reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

Deve Gowda condemned police action in a tweet.

"The 'Golibar' in Mangaluru is unfortunate.

What is worse is that ministers representing the government are

issuing provocative statements. Our party national leader BM Farooq is in Mangaluru, interacting with local people. He has sent me updates. People should maintain peace," he appealed.

Deve Gowda urged the State government to clarify doubts that people have

in their minds. "Police using force to silence the protests is wrong.

The police should identify those causing riots and take them into custody. It is not right to open fire on innocent

civilians. The State government should take action against the officials concerned," he stated in a series of tweets.

Meanwhile, JD(S) legislature party leader HD Kumaraswamy

demanding that Yediyurappa apologise to the victims' families. "During his previous stint, his government killed farmers, and this time, it has targeted innocent protesters. BSY must take moral responsibility and apologise to the victims," he stated.



Deve Gowda

ble to ascertain their identities. Hence, they were detained. However, once it was clear that they were journalists, they were escorted back to Kerala

border," he said. Earlier in the day, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had written to Yediyurappa, seeking safety and release of the journalists.