

## News

### Chinnaswamy Stampede: Senior Advocate S Susheela is appointed as an amicus curiae by the Karnataka High Court



*The Court also asked the senior attorney to help it decide whether to make the State's report public or keep it in a sealed cover.*

**Senior Advocate S Susheela** was named as an amicus curiae by the Karnataka High Court on Monday to support the Court in the suo motu case that was recently started in relation to the stampede that occurred at Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4 [**Suo Moto v. State of Karnataka**].

Today, a bench consisting of Justice **CM Joshi** and Acting **Chief Justice V Kameswar Rao** ordered that Senior Advocate Susheela be given a copy of all pertinent papers, including the State's status reports, which are now sealed in a cover.

The Court also requested the senior attorney's opinion on whether the State's report should be shared with other pertinent parties to the case or kept in a sealed cover.

According to the State, these reports should be kept under a sealed cover for the time being, at least until the conclusion of the ongoing investigations by the judicial and magisterial commissions.

The State, represented by Advocate General (AG) **Shashi Kiran Shetty**, had earlier pointed out that the status reports in some paragraphs may contain the State's preliminary findings. If made public, these sections of the report could have an impact on the investigations the judicial commission and magistrate are conducting.

The AG had also asked the Court to refrain from allowing the parties to argue over who should be held accountable for the stampede during earlier hearings.

Nonetheless, as part of the suo motu case, intervention applications have also been filed, and other attorneys have pushed the Court to make the report public. The amicus was asked today to offer her assistance in reaching a decision, as the Court has not yet made a decision on this matter. It has posted the case for further hearing on July 1, Tuesday.

The other key question that the Court noted that it will prioritise in the approaching sessions would be the appeals made to improve the compensation owed to victims or their families.

Senior Advocate **SS Naganand** today urged the Court to add an observation in its order that those who have undertaken to pay compensation to victims do the same. The Court said it is not commenting on the issue today after noting that these were voluntary offers to pay compensation. The Court added that since the senior counsel had raised the issue in court today, those concerned could take note of the same and take necessary steps.

After the RCB cricket team's first Indian Premier League (IPL) victory on June 4, a sizable throng gathered at the stadium in the hopes of meeting them, which led to the Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede.

Although the stadium was only designed to hold about 33,000 people, it is reported that about 5 lakh people flocked there to participate in the event.

The resulting stampede left 56 people injured and 11 dead.

The State accused the event organizers of not properly informing the State authorities about the event, and the organizers accused the State authorities of failing to take adequate action to control the expected audience.

Officials from the RCB, the event management firm DNA, and the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), which decides stadium rentals, are the targets of a criminal prosecution.

On June 6, Sosale and DNA Vice-President Sunil Mathew, its Manager of Operations Kiran Kumar S and one Shamant NP Mavinakere were detained in the matter.

In the end, the accused who had been arrested were freed on temporary bond. Additionally, the police were just ordered by the High Court not to arrest RCB and DNA representees.

The suo motu case in the matter will be heard next on July 1. Following their recent formal inclusion as parties to the suo motu case by the court, RCB and KSCA were represented in court today by their attorneys. They have also been asked to submit their responses. DNA has also been impleaded as an extra respondent.