

'POLICE FOLLOWING POLITICAL CUES WILL HARM FEDERALISM'

Relevant for: Indian Polity | Topic: Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure, Dispute Redressal Mechanisms, and the Centre-State Relations

P. Chidambaram

The police serving their respective political masters will lead to the ultimate breakdown of federalism, former Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram said on Saturday, a day after conflict between the police forces of Punjab, Delhi and Haryana over the arrest of BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga.

Mr. Chidambaram said that this confrontation was waiting to happen, since the police in each State were following political cues.

The arrest of Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani in Assam for a tweet he posted from his home State gave a clue to what lay ahead, he said.

"This was bound to happen someday. Punjab, Delhi, and Haryana police confrontation is an example of what lies in store in the future. Police serving their respective political masters will lead to the ultimate breakdown of federalism that is already in peril," Mr. Chidambaram tweeted.

The former Home Minister argued that the "autonomy" of a State police force must stop at the border of another State and the police of the first State must take the consent of the other State. "Otherwise, federalism will be dead and buried," he added in his social media post.

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