

Maharashtra security bill will help take strong action against ‘urban Naxalism’: Fadnavis

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGPUR: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill, 2024, passed by the state legislature recently, will help in taking strong action against "urban Naxalism".

Those speaking against the bill are "in a way trying to take forward the Left Wing Extremism ideology". This bill has not taken anyone's right to protest or speak against the government, Fadnavis told reporters here.

The key features of the bill, aimed at curbing activities of Left-wing extremist organisations, include imprisonment of up to seven years, a fine of up to Rs 5 lakh, and classification of offences registered under it as cognisable and non-bailable.

The bill was passed by the

state assembly on Thursday and by the council on Friday. It will come into force on receiving the governor's assent.

Asked about BJP MLA Sumit Wankhede's claim of "urban Naxalism" creeping into Gandhian institutions in Wardha district, Fadnavis said "urban Naxalism" was promoted in a very planned manner in the last few years.

"They (Maoists) made a strategic change, when it came to their notice that their cadres in jungles were diminishing. They decided to enter educational institutions, universities or various other organisations to finish off the constitutional rule there and create anarchy through these urban cadres," he said.

"We can see those fighting against us with guns, but these urban (Naxal) cadres are invisible and slowly cor-

rupting our systems. Hence, this new law will help us in taking big action against urban Naxalism," the CM said.

To another query on the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill, 2024, Fadnavis said he was happy that both houses of the state legislature have passed it.

"We had gone through a big democratic process in introducing this bill," he said.

"The bill was placed before all party leaders and discussed clause by clause. We incorporated all suggestions by the committee (joint select panel of both houses of the state legislature). There was not a single dissent note to the committee report," he said.

Fadnavis said 12,000 suggestions had been received which were taken into consideration and necessary

changes were made, and the bill was approved after discussions into both the houses.

"Hence, now we will get to take action against the powers not accepting the Indian Constitution and working against it. Some people are speaking against the bill without even going through it. They will never speak against the bill if they read it," he said.

"Those speaking against the bill are in a way trying to take forward the Left Wing Extremism ideology. This bill has not taken anyone's right to protest or speak or write against the government," the CM asserted.

Asked about Chief Justice of India Bhushan Gavai's recent statement about the country's legal system facing unique challenges and badly in need of fixing, Fadnavis said the CJT's comments were

absolutely correct.

"There is a need to make our criminal justice system faster," he said.

Accordingly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have brought three new laws-- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 -- which have tried to completely change the criminal justice system after a gap of 100 years, he said.

These laws will bring transparency in the criminal justice system and make it faster, he said.

"I think on one side there is law, on the other side there is system, and the third side is court. The criminal justice system will become fast once the courts embrace it slowly," he added.

Cong-ruled states unable to fill job vacancies due to precarious financial condition: Pralhad Joshi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HUBBALLI: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Sunday alleged that precarious financial conditions in Congress-ruled states like Karnataka have led to governments being unable to fill up job vacancies.

He, however, defended the measures taken by the BJP-led government at the Centre, to increase the employment rate in the country.

Responding to a question related to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reportedly targeting the BJP government at the Centre on the issue of unemployment, Joshi hit out at the former, accusing him of making statements based on what his advisers tell him, instead of himself going into details.

"Mr Rahul Gandhi doesn't always go into details. He will just give a reaction based on some feedback that his advisers give him. He doesn't go personally into details. Actually,



post Covid, especially if I can say, employment rate has increased like anything, EPFO numbers itself show that," Joshi said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said as far as filling up vacancies in the central government are concerned, from 2022 to till date, every month there is Rozgar Mela, and every month 50,000 to one lakh people are being absorbed into the government.

"So far, in the last two-and-half years, more than seven-

and-half lakh people have been recruited into various government departments and institutions," he added.

Noting that the ruling Congress in Karnataka has not filled more than 2 lakh vacancies in the state, the union minister said these vacancies have not been filled as the government is unable to pay the serving employees itself on time.

"They (Karnataka government) are not able to pay the serving employees on time. The payment of salary is delayed by ten to fifteen days to twenty days. Their (government) financial condition is precarious, so they are not filling up the vacancies," he claimed.

"Before talking about something else, I will ask Mr Rahul Gandhi to look at what is happening in Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh. They have governments in three states and they are in very bad shape," he added.

Plea filed in SC against UP govt's QR code directive for eateries along 'kanwar' route

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court will hear a plea on July 15 challenging the Uttar Pradesh government's directive mandating the display of QR codes on all eateries along the 'kanwar' route, which reveal the names and identities of the owners.

A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and N Kotiswar Singh is set to hear the PIL filed by academician Apoorvanand Jha and others.

The top court had last year stayed similar directives issued by BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh, asking eateries along the Kanwar Yatra routes to display the names of their owners, staff and other details.

Referring to a press release issued by the UP administration on June 25, Jha, said, "The new measures mandate the display of QR codes on all eateries along the Kanwar route, which reveal the names and identities of the owners, thereby achieving the same discriminatory profiling that was previously stayed by this court." The petition said the UP government's directive asking stall owners to reveal religious and caste identities under "lawful license requirements" breaches the right to privacy of the shop, dhaba, and restaurant owners. A large number of devotees travel from various places with 'kanwars' carrying holy water from the Ganga to perform 'jalabhishek' of Shivalings during the Hindu calendar month of 'Shravan'. Many believers shun consumption of meat during the month. Many don't even consume meals containing onions and garlic.

Local train bombing survivor misses Mumbai's lifeline, seeks empathy not sympathy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: A survivor of the 2006 Mumbai train blasts, Chirag Chauhan, remembers the local train not with a heavy heart of a victim, but with the fond nostalgia of a Mumbaier who simply misses his city's lifeline.

On July 11, 2006, as a 21-year-old Chartered Accountancy student, Chauhan was on his way home when a bomb ripped through his train, forever changing his life as the blast left him with a spinal cord injury, confining him to a wheelchair.

While many of his friends and family members saw this as a monumental tragedy, Chauhan, now a successful Chartered Accountant having his own firm, saw it as the beginning of a different, and

in many ways, more fulfilling journey.

"I used to wish that I had missed the train that day, but then I realised whatever destiny has in store is going to happen," he told PTI, with a calm that belies the horror he survived.

He had left work early that day, something he didn't usually do. It was an unusual decision that placed him on a train with a bomb just two to three feet away from him.

The bomb exploded between Khar and Santacruz stations. While many on the train that day didn't survive, Chauhan somehow did.

Seven blasts occurred at different locations in the Western line of the city's local trains within a span of 15 minutes, killing over 180 persons and injuring several others

on July 11, 2006.

The familiar rhythm of a Mumbai local train is a song for Chauhan which he hasn't heard in nearly two decades.

One can visualise the shine in his eyes when he spoke of how much he misses traveling by the local trains.

The screech of the brakes, the slam of the doors, and the collective rush of thousands of lives moving in unison -- these are the memories that today seem to him of a different time, a different life.

"I wish I could travel in the local," says Chauhan as for him getting back on a train won't be about conquering a fear, it will be about reclaiming a small piece of his life and participating in a shared experience -- a simple, human desire for a connection with the city he loves.

He wishes to travel one day on the Vande Bharat Express, which he's heard is more accessible.

"I heard it's more accessible, but I'm just figuring out if I get a chance, I will definitely go to Vande Bharat. They even have an accessible coach, which is wheelchair friendly and accessible. That's what I heard. But I want to try it out," he said.

For Chauhan, getting back on a train won't be about conquering a fear. It will be about reclaiming a small piece of his life and participating in a shared experience -- a simple, human desire for a connection with the city he loves.

Today, at 40, Chauhan is a successful CA with his own practice and staff of 10. He admits to the "systematic handicap" that remains in

India for the disabled, from inaccessible buildings to old-school attitudes, but he refuses to let it define his journey.

"But one should not find fault with the system. If you have to achieve, you have to find ways to cross over," he says.

Chauhan has learned to navigate a life that he had not dreamt of, and he's not bitter about it. When people sympathise with him, he accepts the sentiment and moves on.

"You cannot continue to explain to everybody that we need empathy and not sympathy," Chauhan, who identifies himself as a survivor of a tragedy and a man who remade his life from scratch, said.

He explained that he knows that people are attempting to

support him, but what he really seeks is a greater connection -- a comprehension of his experience rather than sympathy for his situation.

In 2009, after passing his CA exams, Chauhan was invited to attend a rally in Mumbai to be honoured for his success by the then Chief Minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi, who subsequently became the country's prime minister.

"It was an honour to be recognised," he said, adding, "after that I focused on my personal life, juggling with my own world."

For Chauhan, who worked in a multi-national and a bank, focus remained on his new journey -- building a practice, launching a startup and managing other ventures.

Asia's tallest Murugan statue to come up at Thindal temple in Erode: TN minister

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ERODE (TAMIL NADU): Tamil Nadu Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) P K Sekarbabu on Sunday announced that Asia's tallest Murugan statue-measuring 186 feet-will be installed at the Thindal Murugan temple in Erode.

Accompanied by State Housing and Urban Development Minister S Muthusamy, Sekarbabu visited the Velayuthasamy temple in Thindal, located about 7 km from Erode, to inspect the proposed site for the installation.

Addressing the press, Sekarbabu said the full-scale statue, made of cement and costing Rs 30 crore, was announced in the recent Tamil Nadu budget session. Construction work has already commenced, he added.

"This will be the tallest Murugan statue in Asia," the minister said.

Sekarbabu also highlighted that under the DMK government's four-year tenure,

Kumbabishekams (consecration ceremonies) were conducted in 3,225 temples, including 124 Murugan temples. On Monday, 46 more temples across the state will undergo Kumbabishekam, he said.

The minister noted that the state government has sanctioned Rs 1,120 crore as grants to the HR&CE Department and thanked donors for their contributions.

"So far, we have received Rs 1,400 crore in donations from devotees across Tamil Nadu," he said. Further, Muthusamy announced that two kalyana mandapams (marriage halls) will be constructed at the Thindal Velayuthasamy temple, and that consecration work at the Sivan temple in Thindal will begin soon.

Among those present at the site were Rajya Sabha MP Anithiyur P Selvaraj, MP K E Prakash, MLA V C Chandhirakumar, Erode Mayor Nagarathinam, HR&CE Commissioner P N Sridhar, and other officials.

New Punjab BJP working president slams CM Mann over remarks on PM Modi's foreign visits

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: Newly appointed Punjab BJP working president Ashwani Sharma on Sunday hit out at Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for his remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign visits, saying the kind of language used by him does not behove the post he holds.

Addressing a gathering of party leaders and workers after taking over the charge, Sharma said, if the chief minister speaks "street language" then he will get a reply in the same coin.

"We know how to speak in a courteous way, but if that's

the kind of language he speaks, then he will get the reply in the same coin," Sharma, the Pathankot MLA, said. On the occasion of assuming charge, several prominent party leaders including Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar, Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu, other leaders Manpreet Badal, Manoranjan Kalia and Preneet Kaur, were present.

Sharma thanked his party leadership for entrusting him with the responsibility as the working president.

Attacking the AAP government in Punjab, he alleged, "for over the past three years, not a government but a circus

is running in the state. The chief minister does not have control over his words."

In politics, every party, every individual keeps their views before the people, he said, said adding that politics is a fight of ideologies, not of personal rivalry or enmity.

Criticising Mann, he said said "such language" comes from a man who is the chief minister of a state and whose father had been a teacher. Such a language does not behove the post which Mann holds, he added.

He is the chief minister, but he neither has etiquette, nor control over the words he uses or any respect for constitu-

tional institutions, Sharma alleged.

"A country's prime minister is not just an individual, but the pride of the country. I also condemn what the chief minister said about the Home Minister," he said.

Several BJP leaders have criticised Mann for his recent remarks against Modi's foreign visits. The Ministry of External Affairs too had disapproved of the comments, terming them "irresponsible" and "unwarranted".

Without naming Mann, the MEA had said the govern-

ment of India "disassociates" itself from remarks made by a "high state authority" that undermined India's ties with friendly countries.

On Thursday, Mann had criticised Modi for celebrating an honour from a country with a population of just 10,000 while "neglecting" issues faced by 140 crore Indians.

Despite the MEA's disapproval, Mann on Friday again raised the issue in the Punjab Assembly and said he had the right to question foreign policy.

Phase-3 clinical trial enrolment for India's first dengue vaccine to be completed by October: ICMR

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Enrolment of about 10,500 participants in the phase III clinical trial of the indigenous one-shot Panacea Biotec developed dengue vaccine, DengiAll, is likely to be completed by October across 20 centres in India, according to ICMR scientists.

So far, 8,000 participants in various centres at Pune, Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi and Bhubaneswar among others have received either the vaccine or a placebo as part of the trial sponsored by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotec.

The trial is co-led by ICMR-National Institute of Translational Virology and AIDS research in Pune, National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), Chennai and National Institute of Virology, Pune.

Currently, there is no antiviral treatment or licensed vaccine against dengue in India.

The results of the Phase-1/2 trial has shown no safety concerns for the one-shot vaccine, NIE Director Dr Manoj Murhekar said.

"The participants enrolled in the Phase- III trial will be followed up for two-years. This trial will evaluate the efficacy of this tetravalent dengue vac-

cine," Dr Murhekar said.

The multi-centre, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled phase-III trial was launched in August last year to evaluate the jab's efficacy, safety and, long-term immunogenicity.

The first participant in this trial was vaccinated at the Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS), Rohtak last year.

"The development of an effective vaccine is complex due to the need to achieve good efficacy for all four serotypes. The dengue virus has four serotypes, 1-4, with low cross-protection against each other, meaning individuals can experience repeated infections, Dr Murhekar said.

In India, all four serotypes of dengue virus are known to circulate or co-circulate in many regions. The Union Health Ministry in a statement earlier had said that the tetravalent dengue vaccine strain (TV003/TV005), originally developed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA, has shown promising results in clinical trials in Brazil.

Panacea Biotec, one of three Indian companies to receive the strain, is at the most advanced stage of develop-

ment. The company has worked extensively on these strains to develop a full-fledged vaccine formulation and holds a process patent for this work.

Dengue is a major public health concern in India, ranking among the top 30 countries with the highest incidence of the disease.

The global incidence of dengue has been steadily increasing over the past two decades, with more than 129 countries reporting dengue viral disease by the end of 2023, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

In India, approximately 75-80 per cent of infections are asymptomatic, yet these individuals can still transmit the infection through the bite of Aedes mosquitoes.

Among the 20-25 per cent of cases where symptoms are clinically apparent, children are at a significantly higher risk of hospitalisation and mortality. In adults, the disease can escalate into severe conditions like dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome.

According to the government data, around 12,043 dengue cases were reported till March this year. In 2024, 2.3 lakh cases and 297 deaths had been recorded.

Harikrishnan A Ra becomes 87th GM; coach wants him to compete in big events

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The first thing Grandmaster Shyam Sundar Mohanraj noticed about Harikrishnan A Ra was his calculation skills when he joined his academy, Chess Thulir in Chennai, as an early bird in 2022.

Harikrishnan, 24, on Friday earned his third GM-norm at the La Plagne International Chess Festival in France to become the country's 87th Grandmaster and bring joy to his coach Mohanraj, who has seen two players from his academy become GMs in a span of months.

The Chennai-based Harikrishnan earned his first GM norm some years back. He then gained his second one at Andujar Open in Spain.

Srihari L R became the 86th GM and now Harikrishnan has also achieved the feat.

"In a matter of two months, the academy has produced two Grandmasters. It feels great because of back-to-back GMs whom I have been training for last 2-3 years," said Moharaj, as he reflected on the lean phase lasting more than a year when he could not produce a GM.

"It's a big relief for both me and Harikrishnan. Because he lost two GM norms in a row."

Though he cannot recollect the exact date, Mohanraj remembers the month Harikrishnan, already an International Master by then, came to his academy seeking guidance to become a GM. "He came to me in 2022, end of October; I suppose. He was quite a strong IM. That's when my academy had also started to get more IMs in regular camps. Harikrishnan was one of the early ones to come. Then slowly other people of similar level like nearly 10-15 joined," recollected Mohanraj.

"His strong point, I would say, was his calculation. But when I was training him, I made sure he was quite good at dynamics. Then he slowly became good at strategy also," said Mohanraj adding that Harikrishnan's determination and

dedication was behind his success.

"Actually before the trip (to Europe to play in 10 consecutive tournaments) he told me, he will come back to India only if he becomes a GM."

Mohanraj believes Harikrishnan got inspired to take up the sport as his mother is a chess arbiter.

"Actually, his mother is also a (chess) arbiter. She also trains beginners. She used to do arbiter stuff in many Indian tournaments," said Mohanraj, while adding that Harikrishnan himself does a bit of coaching, which helps him polish his game as well.

"Being an IM, he was also co-learning quite well by doing training or by training others in my academy as well as privately."

While the coach doesn't know too much about Harikrishnan's academic qualifications, he says the newest GM has 2-3 degrees under his belt.

"I think he just finished his third one some two months ago. He doesn't go to college... he just writes exams and comes back and spends most of his time on chess and some fitness."

Mohanraj believes Harikrishnan should now aim for the 2550-2600 rating.

"His immediate future, I hope he crosses 2550 and 2600. And then, based on the motivation factor, let's see how he does. Because motivation is the key factor (at this age)."

The coach feels that Harikrishnan should also play in a couple of big tournaments to gauge his potential.

"For his level, I recommend he plays at least two strong tournaments and 5-6 relatively weaker events where you have the probability of winning top-three (positions). This way you get the confidence and get some money also."

"From now on he should strive to beat the 2600s and 2650s GMs. Events like the Qatar Open and all those kinds of super-strong Opens. So that's what I would recommend."

IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL MOBILE MAGISTRATE, ELECTRICITY, JAMMU

Case/No : /2025
CNR No. : JKJM030072762025
D.O.I. : 08.07.2025
D.O.O. : 08.07.2025

State through SHO, P/S Bus Stand, Jammu
V/S
Nemo

In the matter of:- **Complaint u/s 503 BNSS**
CORAM: Arti Devi Koushal.
JO Code: JK00214

PROCLAMATION
Whereas, police of P/S, Bus Stand, Jammu seized vehicle Motorcycle bearing registration No. JK02BX-3008, Chassis No. MBLHA10A30MH105, black in colour, in terms of Section 106 BNSS in suspicious circumstances.

Now it is for the information of public in general that any person/s who has any objection in disposal of the aforesaid vehicle may approach this court for filing his/her claim, either personally or through authorized agent within a period of six months from the date of publication of this notice after that no claim will be entertained.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on this 8th day of July, 2025.

Announced: 08-07-2025

Sd/-
DIP/J-3398/25 Spl. Electricity Magistrate,
Dated: 12-07-2025 Jammu

