

Caste conflict pushing Maharashtra towards chaos: Sena

*Law and order in state quite good, claims CM Fadnavis

MUMBAI, JAN 6 /-/- Maharashtra is moving towards 'chaos and destruction' due to caste conflict, the Shiv Sena said today as it continued its attack on the Devendra Fadnavis ministry over the violence at Bhima Koregaon village.

The party, a junior ally in the BJP-led government, bemoaned large-scale damage to property by protesters during the January 3 bandh in Maharashtra called by Dalit outfits to denounce the violence at Bhima Koregaon in the district. "Dalits are calling for bandh and Hindutva groups are taking out marches. It looks like Maharashtra is moving towards chaos and destruction due to caste conflict instead of prosperity," read an editorial in the Sena mouth-piece 'Saamantana'. "The Sena organ says if the Shiv Sena called for caste conflict as it wanted to protect Maharashtra's 'asmita' (pride) and ensure law and order. None of the Dalit leaders tried to calm tempers of the community members, who, anyway, were in no mood to listen to them, the BJP's bickering ally lamented. Violence erupted in loss of property. This follows have become directionless. In Kolhapur, a statue of Chhatrapati



Shivaji Maharaj was decried, the Marathi daily said.

The editorial pointed out that the party was showing solidarity with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at the time of caste conflict as it wanted to protect Maharashtra's 'asmita' (pride) and ensure law and order. None of the Dalit leaders tried to calm tempers of the community members, who, anyway, were in no mood to listen to them, the BJP's bickering ally lamented. Violence erupted in loss of property. This follows have become directionless. In Kolhapur, a statue of Chhatrapati

The events reflected poorly on the state's home department, headed by Fadnavis. As is known, the violence erupted when Dalit groups were celebrating the bicentenary of the Bhima Koregaon battle in which the British defeated the Peshwas of Maharashtra.

Dalit leaders commemorated the British victory as it is believed soldiers from the Mahar community were part of the East India Company's forces. The Peshwas were Brahmins and the victory is seen as a symbol of Dalit assertiveness. The Congress in the state went a step further by demanding the resignation of chief minister Fadnavis at the time of the Ashok Chavan said the chief minister should resign owning moral responsibility for the unfortunate incidents. All Congress leaders in Maharashtra were unanimous in their view that the state government had failed to tackle the situation. Chavan added. Appearances of violence and charges of failure leveled by the Shiv Sena and the Congress, chief minister

Fadnavis asserted while talking to reporters that the law and order situation in the state was "absolutely good". The chief minister made the claim regarding the law and order situation while addressing a curtain raiser event for a forthcoming investment summit to be held from February 18.

Meanwhile, BSP supremo Mayawati termed the Centre and the Maharashtra government casteist. In a statement issued in Lucknow today, Mayawati said, "Non-acceptance of holding a discussion on Bhima-Koregaon incident in the Rajya Sabha (as demanded by the BSP), shows the casteist attitude of both the Centre and Maharashtra government. If the Maharashtra government failed in giving protection to Dalits, the Centre failed to fix responsibility," she added. She claimed that people in Gujarat had given a befitting reply to the BJP in the recently-concluded Assembly elections, and people in Maharashtra were fed-up with their government.



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu poses for a photograph with NCC cadets after inaugurating the NCC National Republic Day Camp at Delhi cantonment in New Delhi.

Maken seeks rejection of AAP RS candidate's nomination; objection frivolous, says party

NEW DELHI, JAN 6 /-/- Delhi Congress president Ajay Maken today filed an objection to nomination of AAP's Raja Sabha candidate N D Gupta for allegedly holding an office of profit. In his objection filed with the returning officer, Maken claimed that Gupta is "currently holding the office of a Trustee of the National Pension System Trust. He was appointed on March 30". Gupta, along with two other Raja Sabha candidates of the Aam Admi Party Samaj Party, had filed nomination papers on January 4. The scrutiny of the nominations is today. "N D Gupta's nomination is liable to be rejected under Section

36 of Representation of Peoples Act, 1951 read with Article 102 of the Constitution," Maken claimed. Meanwhile, the AAP said that Maken was trying to gain "cheap publicity" through "frivolous" objections as the law does not forbid trustees from contesting "Section 3 clause (L) of Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, gives exemption to trustee from disqualification under office of profit," AAP leader Raghu Chadha tweeted. "Also, RO (returning officer) is not competent authority to adjudicate on OoP EC is. Frivolous objections to gain cheap publicity by Congress," he added.

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CISF takes over security of ISRO centre in Dehradun

NEW DELHI, JAN 6 /-/- An armed squad of over 60 CISF personnel has taken over security duty at the sensitive Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) in Uttarakhand's capital Dehradun, to protect it against any possible terror strike or threat.

The centre functions under the command of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and is the premier training and educational facility for developing trained professionals in the field of remote sensing, geoinformatics and GPS technology for natural resources, environmental and disaster management. "A contingent of 63 CISF personnel has been sanctioned to be deployed at the facility by the government. The squad took charge of the task yesterday," Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) spokesperson and Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Hemendra Singh said.

The paramilitary force will provide round-the-clock armed security cover to the facility and special vehicle-borne quick-reaction teams (QRTs) will be stationed at vantage points in case of an attack or sabotage-like activity at the facility.

The campus also houses the headquarters of the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific and is affiliated to the United Nations (UN). The headquarters of the India Society of Remote Sensing (ISRS), the largest non-governmental scientific society in the country, is also located in this campus. "The height increased threat perception to Department of Space (DoS) installations situated across the country, IIRS is inherently vulnerable to threats from anti-nationalists and may be a potential target," the spokesperson said.

Ishrat Jahan case: Court reserves order on IB officers' plea

AHMEDABAD, JAN 6 /-/- A special CBI court here is likely to pronounce its order on January 23 on a plea by two Intelligence Bureau officials challenging the summons issued to them by a magistrate in the Ishrat Jahan alleged fake encounter case.

Rajeev Wankhede and T S Mittal, assistant central intelligence officers at the time of the alleged fake encounter, have challenged the summons issued by a metropolitan magistrate's court here. Judge K Pandya reserved his order on their plea till January 23. The lower court issued the summons to them and two others - Central IB's special director Rajinder Kumar and officer M S Sinha - on the basis of a supplementary charge sheet filed against them by the CBI in the Ishrat case. The CBI has charged them with murder, criminal conspiracy, illegal detention and kidnapping.

The lawyers of Wankhede and Mittal argued today that the summons was not maintainable, as the court has not taken cognizance of the CBI charge sheet. No summons can be issued as the Union government has not given sanction for their prosecution as required under the Code of Criminal Procedure, the lawyers said. The CBI, however, contended that a court can use its discretion to issue a summons even when the competent authority hasn't given sanction. The magistrate last month issued summons to the four IB officers and the court had earlier denied denial of sanction by the Union government.

Ishrat Jahan, a 19-year-old college girl from Mumbai near Mumbai, her friend Javed Sheikh alias Pransh, Amzad Ali Rana and Zeeshan Johar were killed in an alleged fake encounter at the Ahmedabad police on the outskirts of the city in June 2004. The police had then claimed that they were terrorists affiliated to the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The first charge sheet filed by the CBI named seven Gujarat policemen, including IPS officers P P Pandey, D G Vanzara and G L Singhal, for carrying out a fake encounter. All of them are out on bail.

Ryan case: Order on plea of accused teenager on Jan 8

NEW DELHI, JAN 6 /-/- A Gurgaon court will pronounce on Monday its order on the bail application of a 16-year-old student, accused of killing 7-year-old Pradhuman Thakur at Ryan International School.

Additional sessions judge Jasbir Singh Kundru reserved the order after hearing arguments of the counsel for the accused, the CBI and the complainant. The defence counsel claimed the chargesheet in the matter was not filed within one month, as prescribed by the Juvenile Justice Act, and he was not given required documents. Opposing the contention, the CBI said the mandatory period for filing a charge sheet is 90 days under CrPC provisions. The counsel for the CBI said that "circumstances have changed" as the accused had been declared an adult by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB). Therefore, the chargesheet needed to be filed within three months.

Seeking dismissal of the bail plea, the CBI said the JJB order to the accused as an adult spoke about his mental status and the fact that he committed a heinous crime. Advocate Sushil Tekriwal, appearing for Pradhuman's father Bhanu Thakur, questioned the maintainability of the application and said the accused should file a fresh bail plea before the court due to the changed circumstances. On the contention of the accused that necessary documents were not provided to him, the CBI said the records had already been produced before the court and the accused never demanded any paper, nor any direction was passed by the court in this regard. Pradhuman was found with his throat cut in the school's playground on September 8 last year. The Gurgaon Police had claimed the crime was committed by a school bus conductor, which was later refuted by the CBI. The probe agency had claimed the teenager had killed Pradhuman in a bid to get the school closed so that a parent-teacher meeting and an examination could be held.

The court was hearing an appeal filed by the accused against an order of the JJB denying him bail. Tekriwal had said the appeal for bail was a "prematre stage" as the investigation was yet to be concluded. The JJB had on December 20 held that the teenager would be tried as an adult and directed that he be produced before the Gurgaon sessions court.

The JJB had noted that the accused was mature enough to recognise the consequences of his actions. If convicted, the accused will stay in a correctional home till he is 21 years old after which the court can shift him to a jail or grant him bail, it had said. The court had earlier rejected the bail plea of the Class 11 Ryan International School student.

It had set up a committee which included a psychologist from the PGI, Rohtak, for an expert opinion on the accused, who was taken into custody by the CBI in November 2017. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 lowers the age of juveniles from 16 years to 16 years for heinous crimes such as rape, murder and 18-year-old-cum-murder, which warrant at least seven years of imprisonment.

However, the JJB first decides whether the crime was "child-like" or was it committed in an "adult frame of mind", following which it orders the accused to be tried as juvenile or adult.

Nearly 1,000 flights to be hit by airspace closure for R Day

NEW DELHI, JAN 6 /-/- Nearly 1,000 flights to and from Indra Gandhi International (IGI) will be cancelled or rescheduled in the run-up to Republic Day parade as airspace over Delhi will remain closed for about two weeks.

An estimated 500 domestic flights could be cancelled and as many international flights will be rescheduled due to the restrictions, an airport official said, adding it was being done due to increased traffic and capacity constraints this year. The airspace over Delhi remains shut for commercial flights due to rehearsals in the days leading to the Republic Day on January 26. The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has issued a NOTAM or Notice to Airmen informing the airlines that no take-offs or landings would be allowed from or to Delhi airport from 10.35 am to 12.15 pm for nine days between January 18-26, according to airport sources.

IGI witnesses 67 air traffic movements (both take offs and landings) per hour between 8 am to 11 pm everyday. With airspace shut for 100 minutes for nine days, an estimated 1,000 flights will either be cancelled or rescheduled.

"On an average 100 flights will be affected every day. We will accommodate 40 international flights before or after the closure hours. Out of the remaining 60, we will try to reschedule some of the flights. So, we could see roughly 50 flights being cancelled each day," said an airport official. The Delhi International Airport Ltd, which operates IGI, says no international flights will be cancelled. "Keeping in consideration the capacity constraints and to minimise inconvenience to the passengers, Airports Authority of India-Air Navigation Services, several major airlines and DIAL have consulted on various options and jointly agreed that the best and safest course of action is to cancel domestic flights scheduled during the NOTAM period."

"International carriers have been requested to re-schedule and not cancel their flights," said a DIAL spokesperson.

MoEF seeks improved air connectivity for Gir

NEW DELHI, JAN 6 /-/- The issue of poor air connectivity with Gir National Park in Gujarat has been taken up with the ministry of civil aviation, the Union environment ministry has also been asked to take action regarding the recommendation of the committee to remove encroachments from around the Park. "Encroachments and construction around the national parks and sanctuaries are in purview of the states. In so far as Gir National Park is concerned, state government's action has been taken according to the recommendation of the committee. The ministry has also taken up the matter with Ministry of Civil Aviation regarding poor air connectivity of Gir National Park and requested for improving air connectivity," the ministry told the panel chaired by Congress leader Anand Sharma. The panel in its 308th report has said that although encroachments and construction around national parks and sanctuaries is in the purview of the states, the ministry can always impress upon the concerned state governments to comply with the law in this regard.

North India reels under intense cold; fog disrupts rail, air traffic

NEW DELHI, JAN 6 /-/- Cold waves swept parts of north India with snowfall in the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley, and Delhi recording its lowest minimum temperature of the season at 4.2 degrees Celsius, while dense fog continued to disrupt rail and air traffic. Punjab and Haryana reeled under intense cold wave while dense fog engulfed most parts of both the states delaying some trains and affecting flight operations. In Delhi, due to poor visibility, the Railways had to cancel 36 trains, rescheduled 10 and 85 trains were running late. High-altitude areas of Jammu region experienced light snowfall over the past few days as a result of which several parts, including Baderwah and Banihal, were reeling under sub-zero night temperature. Meanwhile, 11 bodies have been recovered from a spot in north Kashmir's Kupwara district where a passenger vehicle was hit by a huge avalanche of snow yesterday. Three people were pulled

out alive from the avalanche site. In Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, re-

grip of 'Chillai-Kalan', the 40-day harsh winter period in Kashmir, when the

normal. Chandigarh airport recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 1.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Bathinda in Punjab which shivered at 1.9 degrees Celsius. Adampur in Jalandhar district, Patankot and Halwar recorded minimum temperatures of 2.3 degrees Celsius, 4 degrees Celsius and 4.3 degrees Celsius respectively.

Uttar Pradesh witnessed dense to very dense fog at many places as cold wave swept some parts of the state, with Pusa Nagar being the warmest recorded place at 1.9 degrees Celsius. Cold wave conditions prevailed in north-eastern parts of Rajasthan with Sriranganagar being the warmest recorded place at 1.9 degrees Celsius. While dense to very dense fog occurred at isolated parts of the state. Bikaner, Dabok, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur recorded minimum temperatures of 4.6 degrees Celsius, 6.5 degrees Celsius, 7.2 degrees Celsius and 7.9 degrees Celsius respectively.

corded a low of minus 15.6 degrees Celsius while a few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir Valley received fresh snowfall. There was light snowfall in Gulmarg, Pahalgam and few other areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir on Friday night. Sriranganagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius while Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 9.4 degrees Celsius. Kashmir is currently under

chances of snowfall are maximum and the temperature drops considerably. In high-altitude areas of the Himalach Pradesh, the mercury stayed between minus 15 and minus 22 degrees Celsius while lakes, springs and rivulets there have frozen. In Haryana Ambala braved bone-chilling weather at 5.6 degrees Celsius while Hisar registered a low of 2.6 degrees Celsius, four notches below

Govt. Of MIZORAM State Lotteries Result Sheet (05/01/2018)			
MADUR Weekly Lottery		NITL Weekly Lottery	
Ticket Price Rs. 2/- 07:00 PM		Ticket Price Rs. 1000/- 02:30 PM	
1st Prize Rs. 10000/- 0702112	2nd Prize Rs. 1000/- 0702112	1st Prize Rs. 10000/- 0234342	2nd Prize Rs. 1000/- 0234342
0162 0849 5124 4082 6419	1139 4005 5348 5067 7810	2313 7025 2921 6152 7162	0665 0755 4831 6640 4152
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9228 9912 6291 8727 2481	3286 8555 341 9454 4861	6015 4555 6131 2741 7024	9877 8371 5044 1798 6038
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