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Rights panel sends a notice to the govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Taking suo motu cognisance of the assault on cabbies and hawkers by workers of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, the State Human Rights Commission has issued notices to the government and the police. Justice (retd) Kshitij Vyas, chairperson of the SHRC has asked the government to explain the action it plans to take against the offenders, including political leaders, who break the law.

"In a democratic country where rule of law prevails, every citizen is entitled to the freedom to live and pursue a profession in any part of the country," said Justice Vyas, adding, "Promoting enmity between two groups on the ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence and language cannot be tolerated." The commission said its notices were in response to reports on the attacks by the MNS on cabbies and hawkers. "This happened in the presence of public, including the police," noted the commission.

The commission in its notice has asked for answers to four queries:

- i) the steps taken by the police to prevent incidents that occurred in Mumbai and various parts of the state;
- ii) the action taken against the law breakers including leaders who were involved in beating, instigating and damaging properties of the victims;
- iii) steps the government plans to take to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.



CAMPAIGN OF HATE: MNS workers vent their anger on a poster of Big B

SP MOVES EC SEEKING DERECOGNITION OF MNS

New Delhi: The Samajwadi Party on Monday asked the Election Commission to derecognise the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) as a political party for violation of the Constitution and the Representation of Peoples Act. The demand came in a petition filed by SP general secretary Amar Singh who has been at the receiving end of MNS leader Raj Thackeray's diatribe against North Indians, especially since he questioned the

loyalty to Maharashtra of cine star Amitabh Bachchan.

In his petition, Singh alleged that Thackeray has been publicly mocking the 'Chhath pooja' observed by people of Bihar and urging partymen to indulge in violence against non-Maharashtrians living in Maharashtra. Besides urging the EC to bar the MNS from contesting elections, Singh sought action against the partymen involved in unconstitutional acts.

