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HC's dismissal of butcher's PIL plea welcome: Activists

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Mumbai: People for Animals (PFA) and other animal rights groups have welcomed the high court's decision to dispose a PIL filed by Shabad Patel demanding 24-hour police protection, licence to keep a weapon among others. PFA and others had intervened to oppose these demands for butchers.

Chetan Sharma of PFA said that there are many laws pertaining to illegal transportation of animals, which are neglected by the butchers and law enforcers.

"The high court has disposed the petition and are satisfied with the law and order during festivals like Bakri Eid," said advocate and animal welfare worker, Siddh Vidya.

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Beef ban law: Activists urge Maha CM to approach apex court

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Mumbai, Jun 15 () A month after Bombay High Court struck down two sections of Maharashtra Animals Preservation (Amendment) Act which criminalised possession of beef of animals slaughtered outside the state, some activists here have urged Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to challenge the decision in the apex court.

The high court had last month struck down two sections -- 5D and 9B -- of the Act, which criminalised possession of beef of animals slaughtered outside Maharashtra, while upholding the ban on slaughter of bulls and bullocks in the state.

Soon after the court order, Fadnavis had said that if required, the government will approach Supreme Court against the high court decision of striking down the "unconstitutional sections" of the Act.

Animal rights activist Siddh Vidya, in an email to the CM, today urged him to move the apex court.

"Please take a very serious note of the fact that with the removal of the said two sections from the statute book, the entire Act has become toothless," she said in the email.

"Removal of section 5D from the statute would provide cover to offenders who would slaughter cow progeny in Maharashtra and defend themselves with an excuse that it was slaughtered outside the state," she said.

She pointed out that when the onus to prove the offence is on the state, it would be difficult for prosecutionto ascertain as to when and in which part of the country, a cow and its progeny were slaughtered and all the