

# Don't believe in fake narratives on Constitution: Ajit Pawar to NCP workers

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**BARAMATI (MAHARASHTRA):** Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Sunday asked NCP workers to trust him and not to believe in fake narratives, including about attempts to change the Constitution, spread by opponents.

"Till we are alive no one will dare to change the Constitution," he said addressing workers of his Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) at Baramati in Pune district.



Pawar said he believes in using power for the welfare of the poor, farmers and women and the state budget presented by him (last month during the

monsoon session of the legislature highlights this objective.

"Poverty alleviation and development is my party's agenda while my opponents have focused on spreading fake narratives," he said and asked his supporters to trust him.

The deputy CM said he has asked Union minister Amit Shah to increase the MSP (minimum support price) of sugar, and added that one should not believe the "fake propaganda" that milk powder and onion were being imported.

He said the NCP and the ruling Mahayuti allies (which also comprises BJP and Shiv Sena led by CM Eknath Shinde) will ensure no injustice is meted to anyone from any caste or religion.

"Being emotional will not ensure development but we have to work tirelessly," he said adding that as national president of the NCP, he will be touring the state till the assembly polls, which are due in October.

Pawar said the Ladki Bahin scheme (for financial assistance to women), and measures like three free LPG cylinders, free college education for girls, free electricity for farmers and skilled entrepreneurship for youth were included in the budget with an aim to ensure the welfare of all sections of the society.

Speaking on the occasion, senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal claimed that on the day (July 9) an all-party meeting was convened by CM Shinde to discuss the reservation issue, there was a call from Baramati at 5 pm and all opposition leaders boycotted the meet.

Baramati is the bastion of opposition NCP (SP) head Sharad Pawar.

Bhujbal said, "Shouldn't senior leaders take a stand on resolving caste tensions. We are witnessing caste divisions among Marathas and OBCs (Other Backward Classes). We want Marathas to get reservations but not at the cost of OBCs."

The all-party meeting on the Maratha reservation issue was convened by the government ahead of the assembly polls due in October to discuss the community's demands, including quota under the OBC category.

Last month, OBC activists Laxman Hake and Navnath Waghmare went on a hunger strike demanding that the draft notification that gives Kumbi certificates to Marathas to avail quota benefits under the OBC category be scrapped.

# BJP alone capable of fulfilling aspirations of people: Kavinder



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, today emphasized that the BJP is uniquely poised to fulfill the aspirations of the people in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rekha Mahajan, in her welcome address, highlighted the future programmes of the party in view of the upcoming Assembly elections. She outlined key initiatives aimed at addressing local issues, enhancing development, and promoting social welfare. The upcoming campaigns will focus on grassroots engagement, leveraging technology for outreach, and mobilizing volunteers to maximize voter turnout and support, she added.

that the party alone possesses the potential to satisfy the long-held aspirations of the people. He contended that the party's triumph is not only desirable but essential for the realization of these aspirations.

Kavinder Gupta called upon senior party workers and former Corporators of Bahu Constituency to disseminate BJP's policies and programmes at the grassroots level in their respective areas, ensuring that every citizen is aware of the party's vision and commitment.

He was speaking while addressing a meeting of office bearers and former Corporators of Bahu Constituency here today in connection with the upcoming elections. The meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Rekha Mahajan, District President of Jammu Women Wing and Incharge of Bahu Constituency. Prominent among those who were present include Surjit Pappu Chowdhary, Ajay Kumar Gupta, Neeraj Lucky Puri, Sharda Kumari, Bharat Bhushan, Raj Kumar former Chairman JMC, Pushpinder Charak, Rachit Khosla, Vivek Patyal, Rohin Chandan, Divya Jain, Jatinder, Monu Salathia, Rampaul, Shalu Gupta, Meetu Sharma, and Munna.

Addressing the meeting, Kavinder Gupta articulated the pivotal role that grassroots party workers play in ensuring a resounding victory for the BJP in the upcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He hailed them as the party's esteemed ambassadors, entrusted with the task of galvanizing public support and championing the BJP's cause at the grassroots level. Highlighting the significance of BJP's success in the imminent elections, he underscored

The former deputy Chief Minister also stressed the need for unity and collaboration among party members, highlighting that only through a concerted effort can the party meet its goals and effectively address the needs and aspirations of the electorate.

Vinay Gupta, senior BJP leader, in his address, emphasized the importance of collective effort in achieving electoral success and fulfilling the promises made to the people.

# Ramakrishna Mission Jammu organizes plantation drive

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu organized a massive plantation drive on 12 July in its premises, in association with Urban Forestry Division, Jammu as part of its ongoing efforts to promote environmental sustainability and community service.

more than 160 saplings in the mission's grounds. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of tree plantation, conservation, and environmental protection. The saplings were mainly Amaltas, Panchatara, Neem, Ashoka and Bougainville etc.

Swami Yajnanandananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu, inaugurated the drive and emphasized the need for collective action to protect the environment. "Planting trees is a small step towards making our planet a better place. We must work together to ensure

a sustainable future," he said.

DFO Ashwini Mittal said that under the Urban Forestry Division, Jammu, Green J&K drive started in the Talab Tillo area to promote environmental sustainability and protection.

Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu has been actively involved in various community service initiatives, including education, healthcare, and relief. This plantation drive is another step towards fulfilling its commitment to serving the society and the environment.

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# Heroin worth Rs 17.5 crore seized in Assam, four arrested

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**GUWAHATI:** Heroin worth nearly Rs 17.5 crore has been seized from different parts of Assam and four peddlers have been arrested, police said on Sunday.

Assam Police Chief Public Relations Officer Pranabjyoti Goswami, in a statement, said that 1.732 kg of heroin has been seized from two different places in Golaghat district.

Acting on a tip-off, a Special Task Force team conducted a raid at a house in Rajapukuri area under the jurisdiction of Uriamghat police station on Sunday, he said.

A soap box containing 13 gm of heroin was seized and two persons were arrested from the house, Goswami said. "During spot interrogation, the two apprehended

persons revealed that more heroin was concealed in their sister's house nearby, following which that house was also raided and 140 soap boxes containing 1.72 kg of heroin were seized," he said.

The total weight of the heroin seized in the operation was around 1.73 kg, valued at around Rs 15 crore, he said. In another incident, an STF team conducted a raid in Katabhari area of Guwahati and nabbed two peddlers on Saturday night, seizing around 308 gm of heroin from their possession, Goswami said, adding necessary legal measures are being initiated. Another senior official said that the total value of the seized drugs in Guwahati will be around Rs 2.46 crore as per Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) estimates.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**PURI:** Ratna Bhandar, the revered treasury of the 12th-century Jagannath temple in Puri, was reopened on Sunday after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure, officials said.

The members of a committee set up by the state government for the purpose entered the temple around 12 pm, and after performing rituals, the treasury was reopened, they said.

The reopening of the Ratna Bhandar became a major political issue during the recently held assembly elections in the state. Targetting the then-ruling BJP over its missing keys, the BJP had promised that it would make efforts to reopen the treasury if it won the polls.

"On the wish of Lord

Jagannath, the Odia community, with the identity of 'Odia Asmita', has started making efforts to move forward," the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said in a post on X in Odia.

"On your wish, the four gates of the Jagannath temples were earlier opened. Today, on your wish, the Ratna Bhandar was opened after 46 years for a greater purpose," it said in the post, which was shared at 1.28 pm, the auspicious moment decided to reopen the treasury.

Among the 11 people present when the treasury was reopened were former Orissa HC judge Biswanath Rath, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Arabinda Padhee, ASI Superintendent DB Gadaniyag and a representative



of Puri's titular king 'Gajapati Maharaja', officials said.

Also among them were four servitors, Patjoshi Mohapatra, Bhandar Mekap, Chadhaukarana and Deulikanar, who took care of the rituals, they said.

Though the treasury was reopened, the inventory of valuables will not be carried out immediately, Padhee said before

entering the temple.

The ornaments and other valuables kept in the inner and outer chambers of the treasury would be moved to a temporary strong room in wooden chests, he said.

The temporary strong room has been identified and all required arrangements, including installation of CCTV cameras, have been ensured, he said.

"The inventory work will not start today. It will be done after

getting approval of the government on the engagement of valuers, goldsmiths and other experts. Our first priority will be to ensure the safety of the structure of the treasury. After the completion of the repair works, the valuables will be brought back and then, the process for inventory will be carried out," he added.

Padhee said three keys of the outer chamber were available - one was with the Gajapati Maharaj, another one was with the SJTA and the third one was with a servitor.

After the opening of the inner chamber, the original key of which was missing, it will be sealed and the new key will be kept in the district treasury under the supervision of the collector, he said.

Six wooden chests with brass interiors were brought to the temple for moving the valu-

# Assam flood situation continues to improve; water receding fast

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**GUWAHATI:** The flood situation in Assam continued to improve on Sunday as water level is receding fast across the state, officials said.

The India Meteorological Department's Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Guwahati has also not issued any warning except predicting some rains in Barak valley and a few districts of central Assam.

Meanwhile, a report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) on Saturday night said that one person died at Gogamukh revenue circle of

Dhemaji district.

With this, the total number of people losing their lives in this year's flood, landslide, storm and lightning has increased to 107.

The report said more than 8,40,000 people are hit due to the floods in Barpeta, Cachar, Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Jorhat, Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Karimganj, Majuli, Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, Sivasagar and South Salmara districts.

Cachar is the worst hit with nearly 1.5 lakh people suffering, followed by Dhubri with



almost 1.27 lakh people and Nagaon with more than 88,500 people reeling under flood waters, it added.

The administration has been operating 221 relief camps and relief distribution centres across 13 districts, taking care of 72,046 displaced people at present.

The authority has distributed 616.49 quintals of rice, 111.65

quintals of dal, 32.16 quintals of salt and 2,956.25 litres of mustard oil among the flood victims of the state during the last 24 hours.

At present, 1,705 villages are under water and 39,898.92 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, the ASDMA said.

Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastruc-

# NMC urges PM to appoint Ashok Lavasa as Chairman of 8th Pay Commission

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** President, National Mazdoor Conference (NMC), Subash Shastri, on Sunday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately appoint Ashok Lavasa as chairman and other members of the 8th Pay Commission, with an announcement to be made by the Union Finance Minister during the presentation of the union budget in Parliament on July 23, 2024. Shastri emphasized that establishing the pay commission would resolve the confusion and uncertainty among employees and pensioners on this issue once and for all.

Other demands included clearing all pending GP fund and gratuity cases, setting up a Labor Welfare Board, implementing all Central Labour Laws in UT J&K, and granting a medical allowance of Rs. 1000 per month to pensioners, on par with the Central Government.

Prominent attendees at the meeting included Rajan Babu Khajuria, B.S. Jamwal, Surinder Kumar, Bhushan Anand, Anil Gupta, Ramesh Sharma, Chaman Lal, Birbal, Raman Sharma, Vinod Kumar, ex-Sarpanch Sukhdev Singh, Ram Singh, Subash Sharma and Ram Lal Sharma.

ture have been damaged by flood waters in Barpeta, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Cachar, Charaideo, Golaghat, Morigaon, Nagaon and Sivasagar.

At present, the mighty Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger mark at Nimatighat, Tezpur and Dhubri.

Its tributaries Burhidihing at Chenimari and Disang at Nanglamuraghat are flowing above the danger levels.

The Barak river's tributary Kushiya is also flowing above the danger marks at Karimganj town, ASDMA said.

On account of widespread flooding, over 5,03,400 domestic animals and poultry are affected across the state.

# Strengthen VDCs to bolster security grid against Pak designs: DDC Chairman

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**AKHNOOR:** DDC Chairman, Jammu, Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, accompanied by senior BJP leaders, visited the Gurha Pattan area of Akhnoor to address concerns raised by local residents following reports of some suspicious elements in the region. During his visit, he noted a palpable sense of panic among the community.

Interacting with local community members, the DDC Chairman learned that local youth had received weapon training from the Army. However, they have not been equipped with the necessary resources following their training. He remarked, "This is the ideal time to harness this trained manpower to counter the nefarious designs of anti-national elements. These individuals are best positioned to provide security to our vulnerable communities."

He said that VDCs were established during the peak of militancy in the 1990s as

a means of self-defense and to assist security forces in combating terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. They played a vital role in safeguarding remote and border areas, particularly in regions where the presence of security forces was limited, he added.

The DDC Chairman emphasized the urgent need to strengthen Village Defence Committees (VDCs) in light of the recent rise in terrorist activities across the Jammu region. In addition to strengthening VDCs, he also urged the government to increase the movement of the Army in areas identified as suspicious, thereby enhancing overall security measures.

The DDC Chairman reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of the residents, asserting that a collaborative approach between the community and security forces is crucial in these challenging times.

# India's tradition is Hindus and Muslims living, working together: Amartya Sen

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**KOLKATA:** Nobel laureate Amartya Sen on Saturday said India has the tradition of Hindus and Muslims working and living together in cohesion.

Sen, a noted economist, was speaking at a programme at the Alipore Jail Museum to foster book-reading habits among underprivileged youth.

"Going by the history of our country, Hindus and Muslims have been working together in harmony in perfect coordination and synergy for ages. This is 'Juktosadhana' as underscored by Kshitimohan Sen in his book. We need to stress on this idea of 'Juktosadhana' in our present times," he said.

In this context, he flagged the word "religious tolerance", saying that should not be the sole emphasis.

"It is not merely like allowing the other community to live and not beat up anybody. Perhaps that has become a necessity in the present situation as people are being beaten up. But most crucial is to work together," he added.

Sen, who is known for his liberal views, said that children need not be inculcated with the values of tolerance as they are not affected by any "divisive toxicity" and grow as friends because they are not impacted "bad education" which can poison their minds.

Elaborating on 'Juktosadhana', he said it is manifested in politics, social work, and art.

"Can you differentiate between Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and Pandit Ravi Shankar on their religious identities? They can be differentiated for their own genre

of classical music," he said.

Cautioning against any attempt to subvert the pluralistic character of India, he said Mumtaj's son Dara Shikoh was one of the few who had translated the Upanishads into Farsi.

"This shows he was well-versed in Hindu scriptures and Sanskrit language. And now there are two schools of thought who are making certain comments against our pride and treasure Taj Mahal, which is a magnificent structure and built in memory of Mumtaj Begum," Sen said.

"While one school of opinion is against the Taj Mahal looking so beautiful and having so much grandeur, there is another school which wants the name of the monument changed so that it is not associated with a Muslim ruler," he said.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**RAVI CANAL CONSTRUCTION UPPER**  
**DIVISION KATHUA.**

**Corrigendum No 1 of e-NIT No 04 of 2024-25**

**Subject:-** Change in E-Nit condition.

**Reference:-** This office e- NIT NO: 04 of 2024-25 issued vide No;-RCU/939-951 Dated: 10-07-2024.

Please read five Years instead of seven years against NIT condition no.39 eligibility criteria for bidders pre qualifying requirement 01 General Experience for successfully completed Civil works and also read dispatched no. RCU/939-951 instead of RCU/939-251.

**No:RCU/1004-1008.** **Sd/-**

**Dated: 12-07-24** **Executive Engineer,**

**DIP/J-2856/24** **Ravi Canal Const. Upper Divn.,**

**Dated: 14-07-2024** **Kathua**