

# NCP leader Ajit Pawar to launch 'Jansanvad Yatra' ahead of assembly polls

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NASHIK: Smarting under the embarrassing defeat in the recent Lok Sabha elections, NCP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar is set to launch a mass outreach programme to prepare the ground for the upcoming Maharashtra assembly polls.

"Jansanvad Yatra to be led by Ajit Pawar will be rolled out from Nashik," Nationalist Congress Party's Maharashtra unit president Sunil Tatkare, who is leading 'Jan Samman Yatra', said on Sunday.

Addressing NCP workers in Nashik, Tatkare credited Ajit Pawar for introducing welfare projects of Rs 1 lakh crore covering women, youths, and farmers in the state.



Interestingly, Tatkare said senior NCP leaders Chhagan Bhujbal, a state cabinet minister, and Praful Patel will get huge success in the forthcoming assembly elections.

"Ajitdada (as Ajit Pawar is popularly known in Maharashtra) has been doing effective political work for the last 35 years. His opponents are trying to defame

him and other leaders of the NCP. We should work to defeat these attempts. It was Ajit Pawar who brought the Maha Vikas Aghadi government to the ground by announcing various projects," the NCP state president added.

Being a finance minister, Ajit Pawar has struck a balance between fiscal prudence

and welfare schemes, he said. "Various projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore have been started for farmers, women, students, youths and other sections," Tatkare said and asked NCP workers to make people aware of these initiatives.

The Ajit Pawar-led Yatra will traverse all 288 assembly constituencies commencing from Nashik, he added.

In recently-held Lok Sabha polls, the NCP led by Ajit Pawar could win only one of the four seats it had contested in contrast to rival NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) faction bagging 8 of 10 constituencies. NCP is one of the constituents of the Mahayuti alliance apart from the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the BJP. Senior Mahayuti or grand

alliance leaders had said that the assembly polls, due in October, will be fought jointly. However, accommodating the concerns of every constituent is likely to be a tightrope walk.

The Jansanvad Yatra comes against the backdrop of a row around the 'Mukhyamantri Mazi Ladki Bahin Yojana' announced in the state budget by Pawar.

Under the scheme, women in the 21-65 age group with a family income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh will get Rs 1,500 monthly.

Amid questions over the huge financial burden on the state exchequer, Ajit Pawar clarified that the scheme had the approval of the finance and planning as well as other concerned departments apart from the state Cabinet.

## Will work together, says Punjab CM Mann after Kataria appointed as new guv

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday said he will welcome Gulab Chand Kataria, the new governor of the state, and will work in coordination with him.

Kataria replaced Banwarilal Purohit as the Governor of Punjab as part of major gubernatorial appointments announced on Saturday night.

President Droupadi Murmu accepted the resignation of Purohit as the Governor of Punjab and the administrator of Chandigarh. Purohit had tendered his resignation in February this year.

Responding to a question on the new incumbent, Mann said that on Sunday morning, he spoke to Kataria, who told him that he would take oath on July 31. "The president has appointed the new governor. We will welcome the new governor. We will work together," Mann told reporters here after flagging off 58 new ambulances.

The CM said he respected Purohit but was not happy with his visits to the border districts. Purohit tried to create an "atmosphere of conflict," he said. He also took exception to Purohit's not granting sanction for a budget session earlier and declaring the session illegitimate. Referring to his recent two-day visit to Jalandhar, Mann said the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police could not go with him as they were accompanying the Governor to his visits to the border districts.

"How could he run a parallel (government)," Mann said. He also said he had no role in Purohit's resignation.

On Friday, when Purohit was asked why he resigned, he said, "Maybe I thought that the CM did not like me." Mann on Thursday had hit out at Purohit over his visits to border areas, saying that he should refrain from creating an "atmosphere of conflict" and instead inaugurate a seminar at a university.

Purohit during his visits to the border districts had held meetings with villagers and officials of police and central

agencies.

He had visited Gurdaspur and Pathankot districts on Tuesday and Amritsar on Wednesday. It was his seventh such visit as governor.

Purohit and Mann earlier had been at loggerheads over various issues including the summing of Assembly Session and appointments of vice-chancellors of state-run universities. Replying to a question about pending funds national health mission, Mann said a sum of around Rs 1,000 crore has been withheld by the Centre under the NHM to "stall" the pro-people initiatives of the state government.

He said that the state government has already moved the Supreme Court over the issue.

"What kind of democracy is it where the non-BJP-ruled states are approaching the SC for getting their rights," he said, targeting the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. "We will fight to get our rights."

Mann accused the BJP of misusing central agencies like ED, CBI and Income tax to target the opposition parties and filing fake FIRs against them.

Mann said the INDIA bloc will hold a protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Tuesday to raise the issue of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's declining health inside the Tihar Jail.

He said alliance leaders from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh will participate in it.

Asked whether his wife Gurpreet Kaur, who campaigned for the AAP in the Jalandhar West bypoll, may fight an election, Mann said participating in an election campaign does not mean that she will fight the poll. The CM criticised the Union Budget presented last week, saying, "Punjab was not even mentioned in the budget." He said tax incentives for the industrial sector should be announced for Punjab, just as it has been done for Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

He also demanded the Centre give Punjab a special economic package.

## Armstrong murder: Three more arrested

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENNAI: Three more persons have been arrested in connection with BSP leader K Armstrong's killing, police said on Sunday.

The arrested were identified as 21-year-old N Vijayakumar, V Mukilan (32) and N Vignesh, aged 27 years, police said.

They were produced before a local court on Sunday and remanded to 15 days custody.

The latest arrest takes the number of persons under police custody in the high-profile murder case to 20. K Thiruvengadam, an accused in the case, was shot dead here on July 14 by police.

Following his arrest, Thiruvengadam was taken to a spot in the city, as part of the investigation to recover weapons.

A key accused in the case,

he allegedly opened fire at police personnel and attempted to flee from their custody.

Police had said that in an act of self-defence they fired at him and he was dead.

On July 5, Armstrong, the state president of the Bahujan Samaj Party was hacked to death here by a gang and the murder led to widespread outrage.

Opposition parties, including the AIADMK, alleged there has been a deterioration of law and order in the state.

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami had battled for a CBI investigation into the Armstrong murder case. BSP supreme and former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mayawati, among many other leaders, had also made a similar plea.

## Valmiki scam: Is it 'Nyay' to siphon of SC/ST money, asks FM Nirmala Sitharaman

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BENGALURU: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lashed out at Chief

Minister Siddaramaiah asking him whether it was 'Nyay' (justice) to siphon off money belonging to the tribal Valmiki community.

Referring to the Rs 187 crore scam in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Corporation including the illegal transfer of Rs 88 crore, Sitharaman, speaking to reporters at the BJP office here, accused Siddaramaiah of concealing facts and trying to pass the blame on to the central government because bank officials of a nationalised bank were involved.

On Siddaramaiah's charge that the union finance minister should be held accountable because banks were involved, Sitharaman said, "He can say that because he is used to talking like this... That's so irresponsible. You have your minister resigned. You have your people saying that the money has been siphoned into private accounts."

The minister said that action has already been taken as a first step against the conniving bank officials and further action will be taken against them. "No protection will be offered to them for sure."

She, however, sought to know, "A minister had to resign under whose oversight? Attempt to deny, attempt to shift blame, or to say that no scandal has taken place. It's SC/ST money. Whose money was taken away - Valmiki community's. Is there no sense of outrage?"

"They (Congress) talk about 'Nyay' (justice) during election campaign. Is this Nyay for the SC/ST communities?" Sitharaman said.

During the Lok Sabha election, the Congress had the slogan 'Ab Hoga Nyay' to do justice for downtrodden communities and to enact policies for their upliftment.

Stating that the bank is already on the job of taking action against the erring officials, the FM asked Siddaramaiah how the minister involved in the scam and the chief minister who holds finance portfolio did not stop the bank from illegally transferring money.

"You denied the whole thing, your minister did not even resign. And regarding the money which has gone into the private accounts, you go to the assembly to say it's not Rs 180 crore or Rs 140 crore, it's only some Rs 80 crore. You are concealing it, sir. This is the outrageous thing that is happening particularly with the SC/ST money," the FM said.

Rs 187.33 crore of the Valmiki Corporation kept in different accounts, including Rs 40 crore in the government treasury, is said to have been diverted towards the Union Bank of India's MG Road branch in the scam.

Of the Rs 187.33 crore, Rs 88.63 crore was illegally transferred to at least 217 bank accounts in Telangana including that of 18 firms.

Former Karnataka minister B Nagendra, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, is in judicial custody in connection with the case.

The scam came to light after the Accounts Superintendent of Valmiki Corporation Chandrasekharan P died by suicide.

In his suicide note, he explained in detail how the money was transferred and what role the corporation and the bank officials had played in the scam.

The opposition BJP has accused the ruling Congress of being involved in the scam. It has alleged that the transfer of money could not have happened without the knowledge of Siddaramaiah, who heads the finance ministry.

The chief minister has rubbished the allegation and said he had no information about it.

## Culture Ministry to host State Museum Conclave from Aug 1-3 in Delhi



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Curators, administrators of museums and domain experts will gather next week in Delhi for a three-day conclave to foster collaboration between the Centre and states in pursuance of the proposed 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum' project.

The State Museum Conclave, to be hosted by the Ministry of Culture, will be held from August 1-3 at the Bharat Mandapam where the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) is currently underway.

The upcoming 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum', billed to be the largest museum in the world, will have eight thematic segments telling the story of India spanning over 5,000 years.

The new museum, to be housed in the North Block and South Block in the heart of the country's capital, will be spread over 1,54,000 sqm, making it the largest museum in the world.

"This three-day gathering aims to foster collaboration among state museums and the central government in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for

the 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum' that aims to exemplify global best practices," the ministry said in a statement.

"To foster a comprehensive understanding of India's artefact wealth for the 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum', the states have been invited to provide detailed insights into their respective state's collections at the forthcoming state conclave," it said.

Master classes will also be held with experts from India and abroad spanning various topics such as the architecture and materiality of the North and South Block, global best practices in conservation, fine arts handling, collections management, curation and museum management, officials said.

The conclave will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including resident commissioners, directors of museums, superintendents, curators and researchers from across the country.

Senior officials of the ministry, including joint secretary of the GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) Division of the ministry as well as the Union Culture Secretary, will also be in attending the event, the officials said.

## Bihar govt directs officials to expedite process of land transfer for AIIMS Darbhanga



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PATNA: Two days after the Centre's nod for the construction of AIIMS in Bihar's Darbhanga district, the state government has directed officials concerned to complete the process of transfer and hand over the identified land on an urgent basis.

Senior officials of all concerned departments have been asked to complete all required work, including transfer and hand over of the identified land to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for construction of Darbhanga AIIMS on an urgent basis, Bihar Health minister, Mangal Pandey told PTI on Sunday.

"The Centre has given its approval for the construction of Darbhanga AIIMS. It's a great gift by the Centre to Bihar: We thank PM Narendra Modi Ji and Union Health Minister J P Nadda Ji, for giving the nod for the construction of Darbhanga AIIMS. Under the leadership of our PM and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the work of improving medical facilities in the state has progressed at a rapid pace and it will continue further...", said Pandey.

"The state health department received a letter from the Centre on July 25 in this regard. Darbhanga AIIMS will be the second in the state after Patna AIIMS. This will lead to a massive expansion of Darbhanga town and its surrounding districts and will also create a lot of employment opportunities", said the state health minister.

The Director of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) of the Union Health ministry in a letter dated July 25 to the Additional Chief Secretary, Bihar Health

department, said, "This is to inform that on the recommendation of the central technical team, the competent authority has approved the establishment of AIIMS at Shobhan in Darbhanga. The team visited Darbhanga on March 18-19, 2024 to assess the feasibility and suitability of the site at Eknai Shobhan in Darbhanga for the establishment of AIIMS there".

The state government is requested to transfer and hand over the required encumbrance-free land to this ministry and initiate necessary action for the provision of permanent electricity connection of 20 MVA from two alternate sources. Besides, four-lane road connectivity and potable water supply of 1.5 MLD required for the establishment of Darbhanga AIIMS, according to the letter.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), NDA alliance partner expressed its happiness over the Centre's permission for the construction of Darbhanga AIIMS.

In a post on X, JD(U) national working president, Sanjay Kumar Jha, wrote, "Darbhanga AIIMS will be built in Shobhan itself, construction will start soon. For this approval, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the respected PM, Union Health Minister and CM Nitish Kumar, on my behalf and on behalf of all the people of Mithila region. The state government will soon transfer the entire land (more than 150 acres) to the Centre free of cost".

"Along with this, the state government will also take necessary steps to arrange electricity and water supply at the site from its own resources and will provide four-lane connectivity to it. This will create employment opportunities in the area. The state government is also redeveloping the Darbhanga Medical College Hospital. A plan of Rs 2,742.04 crore is underway to build a new 2500-bed hospital there.

"After the construction of both the super specialty hospitals, Darbhanga will become a major medical centre not only for North Bihar but also for Nepal", wrote Jha, who also shared the Center's letter on the micro-blogging site.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION REASI

CORRIGENDUM

Subject:- Restoration of various roads in PWD [R&B] sub Division Arnas by way of providing and laying of Bitumen penetration Macadam

Reference:- This office e-NIT No. 08 of 2024-25 Dated 06-06-2024

Due to poor response the above noted work is Retendered on the dates mentioned as below:-	
1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents
4	Bid submission Start Date
5	Bid Submission End Date
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)

All terms & Conditions remain same as already advertised vide above said e-NIT.

No:- 2439-43

Dated: 26/07/2024

DIP/J-3481/24

Date:26-07-2024

SD/-

(Er. Bhopinder Kumar Banotra)

Executive Engineer

PWD(R&B) Division

Reasi.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANS. LINE

MAINTT DIV-V, JKPTCL, JAMMU

Email ID: xengcdjimu@gmail.comTele/FAX: 0191-2437028

No: TLMD/V/J/824-26

Dated-26-07-2024

Subject: 1st Extension of e- NIT No:-TLMD-V/J/ 06 of 2024-25 Dated:- 03-07-2024 for the work "OVERHAULING OF 50 MVA, 132/33 KV (VIJAI MAKE) POWER TRANSFORMER AT GRID STATION GANGYAL"

TENDER EXTENSION NOTICE

In view of poor response to e-NIT No.: TLMD-V/J/06 of 2024-25 dated: 03-07-2023 for the works "OVERHAULING OF 50 MVA, 132/33 KV (VIJAI MAKE) POWER TRANSFORMER AT GRID STATION GANGYAL". The last date for submission of e-bid and opening of techno-commercial bids are hereby extended as under for healthy competition:-

1. Last date for e-bid submission: 01-08-2023 upto 1400Hrs.

2. Date of opening of techno-commercial e-bids : 05-08-2023 at 1400Hrs.

DIP/J-1333-P/24

Date:28-07-2024

SD/-

Executive Engineer,

TLMD-V, JKPTCL

Jammu

JDA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

JAMMU DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DIVISION NO. I RHC, JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. JDA-1/2024-25/e-NIT/28 Dated 25.07.2024

Executive Engineer, JDA Division No. I, Jammu on behalf of Vice Chairman, JDA, invites tenders by e-

tendering on item Rate from REGISTERED FIRMS, for the works whose particulars are given below:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Quantity	Estimated cost	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Cost of document (in Rs )	Contract Time	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Maintenance of Green strip in stretches around Rail Head Complex including Bahu Plaza shopping complex	JDA Div No. I	Mali : 04 Nos.	To be quoted by the contractor as per Minimum Wages Act	30,000/-	Rs.500/-	One Year	Any Appropriate Class

1. Date of Publishing 25.07.2024

2. The Bidding documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 25.07.2024 (1800 Hrs) to 14.08.2024 (1300 Hrs.).

3. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 25.07.2024 (1800 Hrs) to 14.08.2024 (1300 Hrs.).

a. The bids received will be opened on 16.08.2024 (1400 Hrs).

b. The complete bidding process will be on line.

4. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

5. The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding. NO:-290-300

Dated :25-07-2024

DIP/J-1324-P/24

Date: 28-07-2024

SD/-

Executive Engineer

JDA Division No.1

Jammu