

# LJP seeks NGT chairman's ouster, says support to BJP issue-based

But Paswan says he won't walk out of NDA like the TDP

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan-led LJP on Friday turned up the heat on the Modi government, saying its support to the BJP is issue-based as it sought a law to restore the stringent measures of an Act on atrocities against Dalits and removal of NGT Chairman A K Goel by August 9.

Party MP and Paswan's son Chirag Paswan said patience of many within the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) is running thin as circumstances raising concerns of the Dalits and tribals have emerged of late.

Protecting interests of these communities was at the root of the LJP's tie up with the BJP in 2014, he told a press conference here.

His party has been demanding for over four months now an ordinance to restore the original provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act but the government has not

done so.

He, however, stayed away from issuing any direct threat to the BJP and said the LJP has faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi as his government had done a lot for Dalits.

"We will cross the bridge when it comes," he said when asked if his party would consider walking out of the BJP-led NDA if its demands are not met by the August 9 deadline.

The LJP will not walk out of the NDA like the TDP, he added.

Various Dalit and tribal groups have called for a 'Bharat bandh' on August 10 to press their demands, including restoration of the Act. They have said a Supreme Court order in March weakened the law.

Chirag Paswan said incidents of atrocities against the community have risen following the verdict and FIRs were not being registered by police.

Goel was one of the two top court judges who delivered the verdict and he was appointed the National Green Tribunal



chairperson earlier this month immediately after his retirement from the Supreme Court.

The LJP has criticised his appointment with Chirag Paswan writing to Modi seeking his removal, saying it has sent a wrong message. Dalits believe that he has been rewarded for his judgement, he said.

His father has also written to Home Minister Rajnath Singh on the issue.

Chirag Paswan expressed

carry out its Dalit agenda.

He noted that it was the Modi government which had made the Act more stringent by expanding its ambit.

Chirag Paswan said if the demands are not met, then the protests during 'Bharat bandh' could be much worse than what happened on April 2, when Dalit outcasts had given a similar call. More than 10 persons had died during the protest.

He was joined by Ram Chandra Paswan, an LJP MP and the chief of the 'Dalit Sena', an outfit affiliated to the party. The Dalit Sena will be forced to join the protests on August 10 if the government does not take appropriate action, he said.

The LJP, which has six MPs in the Lok Sabha, draws its core support from the Dalits in Bihar and has often switched sides between rival alliances ahead of elections.

The party was in the UPA before it joined hands with the BJP in 2014.

# Cong proved wrong on Rafale, making allegations in frustration, says BJP

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** The BJP on Friday dismissed the Congress' fresh attack on the Modi government over the Rafale deal, saying it is repeating same claims in frustration after its allegations were "proved" wrong by Union ministers and also the French government.

BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi also took potshots at the Congress over its attempt to build an alliance against the ruling bloc, saying its president Rahul Gandhi first claimed to be prime ministerial candidate and is now willing to support any candidate for the negative agenda of defeating Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The BJP wants a 'majboor' (strong) government under Modi while opposition parties like Mayawati-led BSP want a 'majboor' (helpless) government, he told reporters.

Hitting out at the Congress over the Rafale fighter aircraft deal, he said it never allowed defence production in India so that it could strike "deals" with foreign suppliers and now levelling baseless allegations after the Modi government has worked to start domestic



production.

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad have given point-by-point rebuttal to the Congress' allegations, he said.

Trivedi also claimed that the BJP never levelled allegations against defence deals, saying it was members of Congress government or foreign countries which first alleged corruption in cases like Bofors deal or AgustaWestland chopper purchase.

Those levelling allegation should first hear defence experts and refrain from politicising such deals, he said.

Taking a dig at Gandhi, he said the country saw his "entertainment" in Parliament, which was "full of action with childish behaviour in accordance with his political maturity".

People want a mature, talented and capable leader, he said.

What they (opposition) are doing is "betrayal" to the country as their single point agenda is removing Modi.

All Congress prime ministers were recognised as leaders only after they occupied the top post while the BJP gave prime ministers after the masses accepted them as their leaders, he claimed.

Asked about the BJP ally Lok Janshakti Party escalating pressure on the government over Dalit issues, he said the government is sensitive to concerns of its allies and has been working to address them.

To a question about demand of removal NGT chair A K Goel, he said the government would have taken a decision after considering all aspects but it is sensitive to alliance's concerns.

Earlier, the Congress accused the government of "deceiving" the country and promoting crony capitalism in awarding a private entity the contract for the multi-crore Rafale aircraft deal, which it described as the "mother of all deals".

Modi must give answers to the nation, the party's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said.

# BJP MLA backs statehood demand for N. Karnataka but later retracts

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**BENGALURU:** Hours after backing those demanding separate statehood for North Karnataka leaving his party embarrassed, BJP MLA B Srimamulu on Friday retracted his statement, saying he never supported division of the state.

Much to the state BJP leadership's embarrassment, Srimamulu told reporters earlier that he would support those who gave a bandh call on August 2 demanding separate statehood for the region.

"We will not keep quiet if injustice is meted out to North Karnataka. We the MLAs from North Karnataka are holding discussions. Just wait and watch, what we will do next.

Like separate Telangana, this (movement) will also become a big revolution.

The coalition government has ignored North Karnataka. Chief Minister Kumaraswamy is practising the politics of partiality," Srimamulu said at Ballari. As the party disapproved of his stand, he retracted, saying he actually meant that it was unfortunate that demand for separate statehood to north Karnataka has been made.

"It is unfortunate that the struggle for separate statehood has begun due to the step-motherly attitude of the coalition government," Srimamulu said in a statement.

He said present day Karnataka was unified due to the sacrifices of people like Chen-

nabasappa, Haraginadoni Sanna Basavanagouda and Ramzan Saab from Ballari.

"It is far from truth that I, the one who belongs to the same district (Ballari), would support a separate state.

I have huge respect for unified Karnataka. Without discriminating between east, west, north and south, I believe in one Karnataka."

The coalition government should also respect undivided Karnataka by giving due preference to North Karnataka, Srimamulu said in his statement.

BJP state president B S Yeddyurappa had earlier flayed those demanding separate statehood, saying such a demand will not lead to any solution.

# Arunachal Speaker accepts switching over of seven PPA MLAs to NPP

**ITANAGAR:** The Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Friday accepted switching over of seven MLAs of the People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) to the Nationalist People Party (NPP).

Assembly Speaker T Norbu Thongdok accepted the joining of the PPA MLAs to NPP as required under Rule 4 of the members of Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on Ground of Defection) Rules, 1987 and issued a notification regarding it.

Out of nine PPA members in the 60-member House, seven changed their allegiance to the NPP on July 16 this year.

# Justice Joseph urges Centre to raise retirement age of judges in HCs

**NEW DELHI:** Supreme Court Justice Kurian Joseph on Friday urged the government to not delay the appointment of judges and urged it to raise the retirement age of judges in the apex court and the high courts to 70 years.

The statement comes a day after Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that he is set to send by this weekend remaining of the 126 names shortlisted for appointment as high court judges to the Supreme Court collegium, as the government seeks to fill gaps in higher judiciary and meet a target of maximum number of appointments.

The SC collegium had reiterated the name of Uttarakhanda Chief Justice K M Joseph for appointment as apex court judge after the gov-



ernment asked it to reconsider its recommendation. The five-member collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, said that there was "nothing adverse" regarding the suitability of Justice Joseph as has been pointed out in the letters of the Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. A reiteration

by the Collegium would make it incumbent upon the government to issue a warrant for the appointment of Justice Joseph to the Supreme Court. With the superannuation of Justice Chelameswar last month, Justice A K Sikri, has become part of the five-member collegium, necessitating the need of a fresh reconsideration and decision to reiterate Justice Joseph's name back to the Centre.

The Centre on April 26 had returned Joseph's file back to the collegium for it to reconsider the recommendation on grounds including that the proposal was not in accordance with the top court's parameters and there was the adequate representation of his native state Kerala in the apex court.

# Dhangar leader demands ST status, warns stir

**NAGPUR:** Rajya Sabha MP and Dhangar community leader Vikas Mahatme on Friday warned of an agitation by his community members if they are not granted the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status in Maharashtra. The Dhangar (shepherd) community has been for long demanding the ST status which will allow them to avail reservation in government jobs and education.

The community is currently classified as a Nomadic Tribe (NT) in the state and Mahatme's comments come in the backdrop of the ongoing protests by the Marathas over their demand for reservation in government jobs and education.

Mahatme said he raised the ST status issue in the Rajya Sabha yesterday. Mahatme said, "The issue of granting ST status to the Dhangar community has been pending since the last 70 years. The BJP, in its election manifesto, had promised ST status to the Dhangar community."

The government should recommend to the Centre to include the Dhangars in the list of STs, said Mahatme.

# I have reservations about reservation: NCW chief

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** National Commission for Women Chairperson Rekha Sharma on Friday said she has "reservations" about the reservation system, arguing that women should make their own way in politics as quotas would only help the daughters and wives of some politicians.

Her remarks come at a time opposition parties are urging the government to ensure that the women's reservation bill, which calls for reserving 33 per cent of seats in the Lok Sabha and all state legislative assemblies for women, is passed in the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament.

"If you ask me, I have reservations about reservation, actually. It will be difficult for people like me and you to enter politics with the help of reservation. We have to pave our own path... (It will help only) daughters or wife of some politicians," she said at a discussion on "Political participation and representation of women in India" organised by the NCW.

Sharma also stressed on the need to empower women, "the other 50 per cent of the population".

"How can we grow if 50 per cent of the population is not empowered politically? It is not possible at all. It is the right of women to elect and get elected," she said.

The women panel chief rued that "women still discuss with their husband before exercising their franchise".

**ON WOMEN IN POLITICS**

"They are generally oblivious to the candidates contesting the elections. They do not know on what basis a person should be elected. If we do not know how to elect the right person, who will we ensure that we get our rights?" she asked.

According to Sharma, many women who have been elected at the panchayat level "have no clue about their work".

"They do not know how much money the government gives to a panchayat and what it is meant for. In many cases,

their husbands, brothers or fathers put stamps on papers and attend meetings on their behalf," Sharma said.

The NCW chief appealed to women to keep their family concerns aside if they want to make a foray into politics.

She also stressed the need to change the mindset that husbands are not supposed to help women in their daily work.

"Power is needed to bring about a change" and it comes from politics, Sharma said.

"I understood this point when I was very young. To bring a significant, important change, you need power and it comes from politics. If you want to make new laws, you have to enter Parliament," she said.

The NCW chief said many educated people, especially the younger generation, are averse to joining politics, but "you have to get your hands dirty if you want to clean the sewer".

Sharma urged the women to "go beyond writing about social issues on Facebook" and become part of the system.

# Would order intellectuals to be shot if I were home minister: BJP MLA

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

**BENGALURU:** In controversial comments, former Union minister and BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has dubbed intellectuals in the country as "dangerous" and said he would have ordered them shot, if he was the Home Minister.

"Thousands of crores of Indian money paid by people of India as tax goes for the sake of development. They eat what is given by us and they shout slogans against our soldiers and India," Yatnal said, without elaborating.

Addressing a Kargil Vijay Diwas event at Vijayapura yesterday, he said, "Tragedy is that the intellectuals and seculars within our country are more dangerous than them.

What kind of statements they give...if I was the Home Minister, I would have asked to make them stand and shoot them."

Referring to an alleged statement by a senior congress leader, Yatnal questioned human rights activists and groups on their silence about human rights violations when soldiers are killed.



"A leader of opposition in this country says Indian soldiers are harassing women and innocent youths," he said. "People in this country speak about human rights, no one comes forward and speak about human rights when a soldier is killed, they don't con-

demn it.

But if there is action against someone who is involved in anti-national activity, they speak about human rights violation from soldiers and police," he added.

Yatnal is not new to making such controversial remarks. Earlier he was in the news for instructing corporatorsto work only for Hindus, who have voted for him, and not for Muslims.

Yatnal has served as an MP and as minister of state in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

# 'Need to ponder over voters' role post polls'

**GANDHINAGAR:** BJP MP Varun Gandhi on Friday said there was a need to ponder over what should be the role of voters once elections were over, while pointing out that the provision of "Right to Recall" the elected representatives was prevalent in over 60 countries.

Maintaining that he was neither in favour nor against the introduction of the "Right to Recall" system, which empowered the voters to

remove mid-way a lawmaker who had failed to deliver, in India, Gandhi, however, said the big question was should the people remain just spectators (after an election) or bring in change.

Addressing a gathering of students at the Karnavati University here, the MP from Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh rued that his appeal to the rich MPs and MLAs to forgo their salaries had not elicited any posi-

tive response.

He said an MP or MLA faced disqualification if found guilty of involvement in serious crimes, but nothing much happened to those who were accused of criminal offences but not convicted by courts.

"If you have an MP or MLA who is convicted of serious crimes, he will be disqualified. What if they are accused of crimes like land-grabbing, arson or rioting..." he said.

## Towards India's Energy Abundance

Extract of Unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 (₹ in Lac)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended
		30-Jun-18	31-Mar-18	30-Jun-17	31-Mar-18
		Un-audited	Audited	Un-audited	Audited
1	Total income from operations (net)	9,16,915	8,63,623	6,43,511	30,59,862
2	Net Profit from ordinary activities before tax	90,118	79,077	66,576	3,05,511
3	Net Profit from ordinary activities after tax	58,697	52,269	43,758	2,07,785
4	Total Comprehensive Income	58,697	52,276	43,758	2,07,792
5	Equity share capital	1,50,000	1,50,000	75,000	1,50,000
6	Other Equity (excluding revaluation reserve)	8,80,743	8,22,047	7,78,147	8,22,047
7	Earnings per share (Face value of Rs. 10/- each)				
	a) Basic (Rs)	3.91	3.48	2.92	13.85
	b) Diluted (Rs)	3.91	3.48	2.92	13.85
		(not annualised)			(annualised)

**Notes:**

- The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (listing and other disclosure requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results are available on the websites of National Stock Exchange, the Bombay Stock Exchange and the website of the company (www.petronetlng.com).

By order of the Board  
Sd/-  
V K Mishra  
Director (Finance)  
DIN - 08125144

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2018

Highest ever  
**PBT ₹ 901 cr.**

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higher by over the corresponding quarter

LNG volumes processed  
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higher by 14% over the corresponding quarter

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