

## BJP ally LJP seeks dismissal of NGT chairman

**NEW DELHI, JUL 24** /-/ The Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), a key BJP ally in Bihar, asked the government today to dismiss National Green Tribunal (NGT) Chairman Adarsh Kumar Goel, who was part of a Supreme Court bench that "diluted" the provisions of a law on atrocities against Dalits and tribals. LJP leader Chirag Paswan, whose father Ram Vilas Paswan is a cabinet minister in the Narendra Modi government, said Goel should immediately be sacked and the original provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act restored. He warned that if this was not done,

the nationwide protests announced by Dalit organisations on August 9 could turn out to be more intense than the April 2 agitation. The protests during the April 2 "Bharat Bandh" had turned violent in various parts of the country, leaving several people dead and causing massive damage to properties. Paswan said Goel's appointment as the NGT chairman after he retired from the apex court had sent out a wrong message and agitated the Dalit community. Expressing his concern over the misuse of the SC/ST Act, the Supreme Court, in an order in March, had introduced several safeguards, which according to

Dalit organisations and major political parties had rendered the law weak and ineffective. Paswan said the government must take steps to restore the original provision of the act by bringing a new bill in Parliament or through an ordinance before August 9 to pacify the Dalit organisations. At a meeting of the Dalit MPs here yesterday, Ram Vilas Paswan, who is also the LJP president, had said Goel's appointment had sent out a wrong message. A large chunk of the Dalits is a loyal vote-bank of the LJP in Bihar and the party has been strongly taking up issues related to the backward community (PTT)

## West Bengal to Bangla: Some say good riddance, others call it exercise in futility

**NEW DELHI, JUL 27** /-/ The West Bengal government's decision to change the state's name to Bangla drew mixed reactions from experts, with majority calling the axing of 'west' as a "good riddance" while some thought that the use of localised nomenclature may lead to "linguistic confusion". Historians, architects, authors and art aficionados, all concurred that the word 'west' in the state's name had been "superfluous" and an "alphabetical liability" for the past 70 years. "In all public meetings, and government conferences, the 'W' set us down in the pecking order. By the time the state's turn came, it

would be either lunch time or rag end of the event. So, it is good if we lose that 'W' from our name," said Jawhar Sircar, former chief of Prasar Bharati, who was born and raised in Kolkata. He termed the move as a "very good step", saying Bengal and Calcutta were "Europhile" names. The West Bengal Assembly passed a resolution to rename the state to Bangla yesterday. The state will now have to wait for a nod from the Union Home Ministry for the resolution's final approval. Noted historian Irfan Habib, said, "The 'West' in West Bengal had really become irrelevant as there is no

'East Bengal' now. But I feel Bengal would have made much more sense, and have had historical relevance. But politicians try to appeal to local sentiments." "But, anyway, people continue to use Calcutta, Bombay, Bangalore, Mysore despite their rechristenings, so I guess, Bengal would also not fade away even though it may be inked out officially," he told PTT.

Author, poet and musician Amit Chaudhuri, who has been fighting to save the built heritage of Kolkata, termed the decision an "exercise in futility" to "score political points". "It is a waste of time. Had it been accom-

panied with real work in reviving of the industry and art and culture of Bengal, I would have understood, but is the real work happening. Look at the plight of heritage in our city (Kolkata)," he raved. "Did renaming of Calcutta to Kolkata achieve anything? Did we become a better city? Did the living standards and quality of life of people improve? Did our institutions become better, on the other hand they became more politicised."

And, I personally feel, old names should not be changed. Bengal is fine," he said. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told the West Bengal Assembly that the name Bangla was chosen as "it is the identity of Bengal".

Artist Subharpriya said she is also the chairman of the West Bengal Heritage Commission (WBHC), claimed the renaming of the state to Bangla has been a "long-standing demand" of the people, and it will reflect our "Bengali pride". "Once approved, the WBHC will recommend 'Bangla Heritage Commission' and other government institutions would change names accordingly. Just like Kolkata, people will start using Bangla for the state name. Only a snobbish English daily and a few people use 'Calcutta' which was used by the British," he said. Chaudhuri, author of 'Two Years in the City' however, countered that "Bengali pride, does not come from merely changing names of streets, parks and cities, and erecting giant statues, but actual concrete work." "Politicians would do well to focus on actual work than renaming exercise," he said.

A Mumbai-based conservation architect, who did not wish to be named, said, "I am a Bengali, and yet I feel a sense of loss of identity when I think of losing Bengal from our state's name." (PTT)

## Mock drill, exhibition by DDM at Haddo School



**PORT BLAIR, JULY 27** /-/ The Directorate of Disaster Management (DDM) in association with the Department of Education, Health, A&N Police Fire Services and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conducted the second Disaster Management Exhibition and Mock Drill at Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Haddo (Telugu Medium) on Friday. The programme was aimed at enhancing the capacity of school community and to generate awareness amongst the children and youths on the basics of disaster management. Mr Gyan Singh, Asst. Director (Log.), DDM detailed the objectives of organizing DM Exhibition and Mock Drill in Port Blair (AMRUT City). Mr Janik Ram, Asst. Director (Admn.) and Mr Deen Mohammed, Safety Officer described the necessity of learning disaster management activities in each school and take maximum benefits by school children from this DM Exhibition and Mock Drill.

The mock drill started with the blasting of school siren and all the students carried out "DUCK COVER and HOLD" position for few minutes in their respective classes for earthquake safety and then safely evacuated and assembled at identified safe places. The SAR teams rescued the missing/injured students using search and rescue techniques from the classes and provided medical first aid by MFR Teams. The Mock drill has been conducted as per School Disaster Management Plan to test and check the efficacy and readiness of School Response System during any catastrophe and observed all the activities of Mock Drill which was appreciated by the present officers.

In the Disaster Management Exhibition, exhibits viz IEC materials, SAR Equipment, Fire Extinguishers, MFR Kits were briefed to the students by DM Officials, NDRF Team, Police Fire personnel and Medical officer. Mr Abhishek Salim, President, GSSS, Haddo (Telugu), welcomed the officers and officials of above departments present on the occasion before substantiating the facts that the mock drill started with the blasting of school siren and all the students carried out "DUCK COVER and HOLD" position for few minutes in their respective classes for earthquake safety and then safely evacuated and assembled at identified safe places.

## Female student enrolment lowest in institutes of national importance: AISHE

**NEW DELHI, JUL 27** /-/ The enrolment of female students is lowest in the institutes of national importance, followed by state private open universities and government deemed universities, according to the All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE). The report, which was released by Union Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar today, said the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in the country is 25.8 per cent, which is calculated for 18-23 years of age group. "Share of female students is lowest in Institutes of National Importance, followed by state private open universities and deemed universities (government). The total enrolment in higher education has been estimated to be 36.6 million with 19.2 million boys and 17.4 million girls. The girls constitute 47.6 per cent of the enrolment," the survey report for 2017-18 said. The GER for male population is 26.3 per cent and for females it is 25.4 per cent. For Scheduled Castes, it is 21.8 per cent and for Scheduled Tribes it is 15.9 per cent as compared to the national GER of 25.8 per cent, it said. More males were awarded PhD degrees during 2017, maximum of them being in science stream. "34000 students were awarded PhD-level degrees during 2017, with 20,179 males and 14,221 females. At PhD-level, maximum number of students turn out is in science stream, followed by Engineering and Technology. On the other hand, at PG-level maximum students turn out is observed in social science followed by management stream," the survey report said. Uttar Pradesh comes at number one with the highest student enrolments, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The total number of foreign students enrolled in higher education is 46,114 and top 10 countries constitute 63.4 per cent of the total foreign students enrolled. The AISHE was initiated in the year 2011 to prepare a robust database on higher education. Since then, seeing the usefulness of data collected during the first year of survey, the government decided to make this survey an annual exercise of data collection in the higher education sector. (PTT)

## I have reservations about reservation: NCW chief on women in politics

**NEW DELHI, JUL 27** /-/ National Commission for Women Chairperson Rekha Sharma today 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 legislatures 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 raved that "women still discuss with their husband before exercising their franchisees." "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 to elect the right person, who will 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. The 108th Constitution Amendment Bill, or the women's reservation bill, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha and awaits the nod of the Lok Sabha. The seats are to be reserved for women on a par with India. Seats would be determined by draw of lots, in such a way that a seat would be reserved only once in three consecutive general elections.

**TENDER NOTICE**  
**FOR SUPPLY OF STREETLIGHT ELECTRICAL ITEM UNDER GRAM PANCHAYAT SWADESHNAGAR**

TENDER NOTICE NO. 2-G/SPNS/QT/ELECT/ITEM/2018/214 DATED 16.07.2018

Sealed tender signed duly super scribbed with Quotation No. and due date and addressed to Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Swadeshnagar is invited from the authorized dealers, reputed firms/registered co-operative Societies for **Supply of Electrical Items for Gram Panchayat Swadeshnagar.**

The Application for Tender documents along with the copy of registration of the firm/shop can be submitted to the office of the Gram Panchayat Swadeshnagar on all working days between 10.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m from 26-07-2018 to 06-08-2018.

The Tender document will be issued from 07-08-2018 to 13-08-2018 from 10.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m at the Office of the Gram Panchayat Swadeshnagar on payment of **Rs 500.00 (Rupees Five hundred Only).**

The Tender along with EMD of **Rs 10,000.00 (Rupees Ten thousand only)** complete in all respect should be submitted to the Office of Gram Panchayat Swadeshnagar latest by **10.00 A.M on dt 16-08-2018.**

Tenders thus received shall be opened on dated on **16-08-2018 at 01.30 P.M** in presence of the Quotationers if any, and the Quotation opening committee of Gram Panchayat Swadeshnagar. The Pradhan, Gram Panchayat Swadeshnagar reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the Quotations without assigning any reasons thereof.

**Pradhan  
Gram Panchayat  
Swadeshnagar**

2734/18

**KIDS CORNER**

I can - I will - I have!

**Cornered**

"They offered me a severance package. I looked suspicious, so I called the authorities and had my boss arrested."

**WordWheel**

No.335

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or anticlockwise. Solution No.334. RESIDENT

**5x5**

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

No.236

A	P	P	C	
E	S	S		
T	I	L		
G	E	S		
R	S	S		

OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE 235 (Other combinations may be possible.)

Reference: C.O.D. 1995

**WORD-BUILDER**

236

E	O	S
C	N	

How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or ones beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word.

**TODAY'S GOALS:**  
Good - 6 Excellent - 10 Amazing - 14

**SOLUTION 235:** ante, ante, ante, eat, eat, ante, late, tea, learn, learn, least, let, let, neat, net, tale, tan, tea, teal, ten

**Dr APJ Abdul Kalam remembered**

From page-1  
Lion S. Subramanian, president, Lions Club of Port Blair praised APJ Abdul Kalam for his humanitarian service, great wisdom and his people-friendly approach. He assured the Principal that the Lions Club would assist future programmes for the leadership development of youth through Home science Department. He asked students to emulate the life of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Lion Shri. T.Rajaguru, Secretary said Dr Kalam was a great scientist and his efforts to develop the nation are praiseworthy. He was the real Peoples President in all times in meeting the children and youth.

Dr N Francis Xavier, Principal, JNRM, recalled his brief association with APJ Abdul Kalam soon after the tsunami. He called him a great visionary and who wanted to solve the energy problem of A & N Islands by utilising the thermal power from Barren Island. Dr Kalam wanted to develop Andaman on par with Iceland. K Venkatesh, HoD, Home Science and convener of the programme recollect his association and work experience on PURA with Dr Kalam and shared his love towards island and its people. He informed the gathering about Dr Kalam mini library for the students in which Kalam's books would play vital role in moulding the character the young and ignited minds. The Lions club came forward to support for Dr Kalam Books Library in Home Science Department. Mr K Venkatesan administered "ten point oath" of Dr Kalam to the students. The Lions Club office-bearers Mr D R Murugesan (zone chairperson), Mr T.Kannan, (treasurer), Mr B.V.Karunaganar (ex-secretary), Mr R Murugesan (past zone chairperson), Mr Thiruselvam (ex-treasurer) were also present on the occasion. Smt.Nidhi Shekhawat Assistant Professor of Home science proposed vote of thanks. Smt.Poonam Singh, Resource Person of Home Science moderated the programme.