

SummitTIMES

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O N T O P O F T H E N E W S

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West Bengal administration cancels permission for GMCC rally

SUMMIT REPORT

KALIMPONG, 07 SEPT:

The West Bengal administration has cancelled the permission granted to the Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee for a rally that was slated to be held in Darjeeling today. The last minute cancellation was reportedly 'due to law and order problem' as per the administration.

GMCC coordinator, Kalyan Dewan said that the administration cancelled their permission on 06 Sept.

"People who are observing the indefinite strike have the right to know about our stand, future plans and what is happening in the Committee and the rally was supposed to do that for us," he added.

He informed that the GMCC would talk to the administration and seek permission to hold the rally soon.

According to Mr Kalyan the GMCC will hold a meet on 10 Sept to discuss the bipartite meeting with West Bengal Government at Siliguri which is scheduled to be held on 12 Sept.

SIT begins probe into Gauri Lankesh killing case

BENGALURU, SEP 7 (PTI):

The Special Investigating Team (SIT) has started its probe into the murder of journalist- activist Gauri Lankesh with the Karnataka government saying today it was hopeful of nabbing the assailants 'as soon as possible.'

The state government yesterday announced the formation of a 21-member SIT team headed by IGP (Intelligence) B K Singh with DCP (West) M N Anucheth as the Investigating Officer to probe the killing of Gauri that led to a wave of country-wide protests and condemnation across the political spectrum.

"SIT members have started their investigation into the Gauri Lankesh murder case and the state government is hopeful of nabbing the assailants as soon as possible," state Home Minister Ramalinga Reddy told reporters here.

Replying to a query, Reddy said the Inquiry Officer has been given full freedom to probe the matter and make public information as and when required.

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WB Govt plants stories, Sikkim Police tries to uproot them

ADGP CONDEMNS ALLEGATIONS OF SIKKIM POLICE 'GUARDING' WANTED DARJ LEADERS

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:

After the recent Namchi fiasco which saw a clash between the police administrations of Sikkim and West Bengal, another controversy has erupted fueled by some media outlets and social media pages

about the Sikkim Police providing security to wanted GJM leaders from Darjeeling supposedly in hiding in Sikkim.

On Wednesday, TV News Channel ETV Bangla had reported that Gorkha Janmukti Morcha chief Bimal Gurung along with some other leaders was in hiding at a guesthouse near "Rangeet river" guarded by Sikkim Police personnel.

The report was also widely shared on social media.

Today, the Additional Director General of Police, Special Branch, A. Sudhakar Rao, issued a press statement con-

demning the news as 'completely malicious and baseless'.

Mr Rao has underlined that Sikkim Police was a professional organization and that 'it acts as per the Constitution and Law.'

The ADGP has further stated that 'never in 120 years in the history of Sikkim Police, such allegations have been made by anyone.'

It may be recalled that on 01 Sept, West Bengal police attempted to effect arrests of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha leaders in Sikkim without adequate documentation and

are also alleged to have shot dead a GJM supporter in an encounter carried out near Bhanjyang in South Sikkim.

All this was allegedly done without informing Sikkim Police therefore resulting in an FIR being registered at Namchi Police Station against the Kalimpong Superintendent of Police on charges of murder. Several WB police personnel were also detained in Namchi while some of them, including the Kalimpong SP, fled the State after abandoning their vehicles near Melli check-post.

Following the incident, the

West Bengal police claimed that the Sikkim Police was informed about the raid but were feigning ignorance while allegations were also made that Sikkim Police helped Bimal Gurung escape from Namchi.

The WB Police has since then issued a "lookout notice" against Bimal Gurung and some other GJM leaders and yesterday also took out arrests warrants for them.

Meanwhile, media reports also quoted the WB Tourism Minister, Gautam Deb, who has been fast and free with his allegations against Sikkim, its gov-

ernment and its police, as passing comments against the bail granted by the District & Sessions Court at Namchi to Sabitri Chamling, a GTA Sabhasad whom the WB Police had attempted to arrest on 01 Sept, allegedly on gun-point, in Namchi.

This attitude has not gone down well in Sikkim, and Yanzi Pinasha, the lawyer who had successful secure bail for Sabitri Ghising today announced that she was considering to file contempt charges against the WB Minister for his comments against the Sikkim judiciary.



KITCHEN ESSENTIALS BEFORE THE HARVEST ARRIVES: With some time on their hands before the harvest season begins, rural folk get busy this time of the year weaving 'dokos' and 'nanglos'. As everything plastic finds its way into our homes and kitchens, there still seems to be space for these kitchen and farm tools made of bamboo. The 'nanglo' especially, many say, cannot be replaced by its plastic version which is too springy for sorting rice - its main purpose. Seen here are two men carrying dokos and nanglos for sale near DC Office, Gangtok. [Tshering Eden]



U-17 national football team kit launched

NEW DELHI, SEP 7 (PTI): The Under-17 national football team kit from the stables of apparel giant Nike was today launched, a month before the kick-off the prestigious FIFA event.

The new Nike national team kit for India boasts of Nike's proprietary Dri-FIT technology that helps draw sweat away from the body to the exterior of the kits.

In a new shade of blue, the kit features an

orange stripe that runs the length of the kit and these expand when the players are in motion. These innovations help maximise ventilation and allow the players to perform at their best by remaining cooler, drier, and more comfortable.

India senior national team captain Sunil Chhetri said, "Over the years, I have witnessed the India national team kits evolve as the game has. As we continue our jour-

ney in the world of football, Nike's new innovations in the kit will certainly help the team on the field. The material is much lighter and the air truly flows through the jersey to keep us dry on the pitch."

All India Football Federation General Secretary Kushal Das said, "We are extremely happy that both the senior and the U-17 team will be wearing kits that include some of Nike's most pin-

nacle innovations in football. The new blue look for the team will complement our fearless brand of football well."

Nike leverages sustainable innovation for its football kits through the use of recycled polyester to lower environmental impact. The kit's shirt and shorts are constructed with recycled polyester fabric, which is made from recycled plastic bottles melted down to produce a fine yarn.

GLA claims responsibility for Mirik blast

DARJEELING (WB), SEP 7 (PTI):

The Gorkhaland Liberation Army (GLA) today claimed responsibility for the IED explosion which occurred near the gate of the PWD bungalow in Darjeeling's Mirik sub-division last night.

GLA posters too surfaced for the first time today in the hills since the indefinite shutdown was announced by the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM). The shutdown over the demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland entered its 85th day today.

The blast occurred last night, two days after shops and markets opened in the Mirik and Kurseong sub-divisions. A few shops in Mirik were opened in the morning, but they downed shutters by afternoon.

Subsequently, the GLA claimed responsibility for the blast and warned of an "armed struggle" if the political parties settled for "anything less than Gorkhaland".

Posters of GLA saying "Gorkhaland Birodhi

Hoshiyar" (Those opposed to Gorkhaland, be careful) were pasted on houses and shops at Mirik.

The GLA, the posters said, could go to "any extent" to achieve its "dream" of a separate state and claimed that the outfit was not affiliated to any political party.

"We will spare no traitors, be it the GNLF, JAP, TMC or GJM. We will be forced to bomb the house of any politician who attempts to compromise on Gorkhaland," the posters said.

"The posters were hand-written in Nepalese. They claimed that the GLA was responsible for last night's blast in Mirik. We are looking into the matter," Inspector General of Police, Darjeeling range, Manoj Verma, told PTI.

Meanwhile, absconding GJM supremo Bimal Gurung today released an audio clip from an undisclosed location.

"The GJM will not take part in the September 12 talks with the state government if the issue of Gorkhaland is not dis-

cussed. We have already sent a delegation to Delhi to talk to the Union home minister regarding our demands," he said in the audio clip.

The search operation to trace Gurung, against whom cases have been lodged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), continued in the Darjeeling hills and adjoining areas.

An arrest warrant was yesterday issued by the Darjeeling chief judicial magistrate against the GJM chief and seven others for their alleged involvement in violence and arson in Darjeeling on June 8.

Peace rallies were taken out at certain parts of the hills during the day, but they failed to convince the shopkeepers to open their shops and business establishments.

Picketing by GJM supporters was strengthened in some areas and posters and leaflets were distributed in support of the strike.

Internet services remained suspended in the hills since June 18.

Peddler flees leaving stash behind at Rangpo

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT: Rangpo Police on 06 Sept booked a 26-year-old man from Amaley Bermiok, South Sikkim under Sikkim Anti Drugs Act, 2006 for being in possession of contraband substances. The accused, who was reportedly a known drug peddler, tried to cross the police check post located in Rangpo without the authorization of the police on patrol duty. He reportedly jumped from the moving vehicle and escaped. The police then conducted a thorough inspection of the vehicle and recovered 1,043 bottles of illegal cough syrup and 4,320 Spas-moproxyvon capsules and 200 N-10 tablets. A case was registered against the accused and efforts are being made to trace him.

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Training on sequential vegetable cultivation under poly tunnel system

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT [PIB]: Krishi Vigyan Kendra-East Sikkim, Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Organic Farming Research Institute-Ranipool in convergence with Agriculture Technology Management Agency-East Sikkim organized a three-day training-cum-demonstration programme on sequential vegetable cultivation under low cost poly tunnel system on 06 Sept at Thanka-Yangtang in East Sikkim.

The programme which will conclude on 09 Sept had the participation of around 52 vegetable growers, representatives of SHG and individual progressive farmers in the presence of Assistant Technology Manager, Martam Block-ATMA, East Sikkim, Amit Chettri.

Joint Director-ICAR NOFRI, Tadong, Dr RK Avasthe, encouraged the farmers to undertake poly tunnel system with good agricultural practices to increase the pro-



duction and productivity of commercial vegetable crops under organic cultivation practices throughout the year. He urged the farming community for adoption of the Government of India schemes viz., Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana [PMFBY], Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana [PMKSY], Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yo-

jana [PKVY], soil health card, etc.

Senior Scientist cum Head [In-charge], KVK-Ranipool, Dr Raghavendra Singh, appreciated the gathering and also detailed about the different technologies of ICAR-NOFRI as well as different agricultural schemes. He emphasized that the inclusion of pulses in cropping system

for better soil health is a good option.

Subject Matter Specialist-Horticulture, Boniface Lepcha, discussed about the low cost poly tunnel for year round vegetable production in Sikkim. At the end of the programme, he demonstrated the preparation of low cost poly tunnel at farmer's field.

Subject Matter Spe-

cialists, Dr PK Pathak [Animal Science], Dr NJ Singh [Plant Protection] and Pallabi Phukan [Agriculture Extension], interacted with the farmers and briefed about insect pest and diseases of vegetables as well as the role of different groups in scientific cultivation technologies of different commercial crops.



Jennifer Luwagun becomes Voice of Zion

**SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:**

Jennifer Luwagun emerged as the winner of the Voice of Zion, a state-level solo singing competition. In the grand finale of the event here at Sikkim Government College, Tadong auditorium on 06 Sept, Jennifer stood on the first position followed by Bibesh Rai from Namchi in second position and Isaac Berdewa from Singtam in third position.

Out of the five finalists, Jeena Rai of Gangtok finished fourth with James Rai from Mangalbaria in fifth position.

The event was presented by Zion Music Ministries and supported by the United Christian Welfare Society of Sikkim [UCWSS]. The grand finale had Dr Lobzang Lama from Namchi as chief guest. The event had Samuel Lepcha from Darjeeling and Rev Jonah Gurung from Gangtok as judges.

21-year-old Jennifer from Ranipool received a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh along with trophy and certificate. The organisers have presented cash prizes of Rs 50,000 to second, Rs 32,000 to third, Rs 28,000 to fourth and Rs 25,000 to fifth position holders. The five finalists will also be featured in a music and video album of Zion Music Ministries.

Jennifer is the daughter of Aron and Neeru Luwagun of Ranipool in East Sikkim. She recently graduated in Zoology from Sikkim Government College, Tadong.

Addressing a press conference here today,

Jennifer expressed her happiness on winning the state-level solo song competition. She added that the whole journey of the Voice of Zion has boosted her self-confidence and helped her further hone her talent.

"I would like to express deep gratitude to Zion Music Ministries for providing such a platform to us. I would like to thank my mentor, Santosh Baraily, for guiding me throughout the auditions and the grand finale," she added.

Jennifer expressed her desire to keep moving forward in the field of singing and mentor upcoming young singers of the State.

Voice of Zion Director, John Bhutia, expressed his gratitude to all churches and well wishers for supporting the event. He also thanked the UCWSS for supporting the event. He mentioned that the main objective of the event was to provide a bigger and better platform to local talents and to encourage young generation towards a productive path.

He further informed that more than 260 contestants participated in auditions held in all four district headquarters. The event had LB Baraily, Santosh Baraily, Marina Rai and Nitin Bagdas as mentors for participants.

Mr Bhutia mentioned that next year, 'Zion Got Talent' will also be organised at the regional level which will include solo song, group song and dance competitions for talents from Sikkim and neighbouring hills.

Media workshop on effective communication held

GANGTOK, 07 SEPT [IPR]: A media workshop themed 'Building Effective Communication Engagement Pathways for Public Health in the North-East' was organised by the Public Health Foundation of India [PHFI] in consonance with STNM Hospital today in Gangtok.

It is informed that the Swasth Uttar Purv [Healthy North-East] media workshop was a prelude to the two-day North-East Healthcare Summit 2017 to be held in the capital on 08-09 Sept, 2017.

The inaugural session of the workshop was attended by Member of Parliament-Lok Sabha, PD Rai, as chief guest and had Director General-cum-Secretary [Health Department, Government of Sikkim, Dr K Bhandari, Director-Regional Resource Centre, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for North-East States, Dr Bamin Tada, and Professor of Public Health & In-



fectedious Diseases-PHFI, Dr Subash Hira, as the keynote speakers.

The workshop aimed to deliberate on the role of political will and media in shaping the health policy in India with special reference to the North-eastern States and to bring key stakeholders - the media and public health experts under one platform to help understand the challenges in highlighting key public health issues and scenario in the North-East while sharing key research on various communicable and non-communicable diseases affecting the region.

Addressing the session, MP Mr Rai main-

tained that health is the least debated topic in Parliament as well as in media discourses. He, however, stated that this trend needs to change through active collaborations, convergence of public health programs and the need to work towards a concrete Policy on Public Health.

He added that the media should focus on telling stories of human interest to highlight the good practices of the Health fraternity in each of the North-eastern States. He extended a warm welcome to the delegates and thanked PHFI for choosing Sikkim as the venue for the 2nd

North-East Healthcare Summit slated to commence on 08 Sept.

Director General-cum-Secretary [Health], Dr Bhandari, in his keynote address, stated that Sikkim is one of the better performing states in the country in terms of key health indicators. He attributed the success to the prevailing peace, good governance and political will to address health care services in the State.

He briefed about the health care system in the State and the good practices of the State. He also informed about the steps being taken by the government to address pressing challenges in

health care services.

Professor of Public Health & Infectious Diseases-PHFI, Dr Hira, highlighted the healthcare scenario in each of the North-Eastern States in terms of key health indicators.

Director-Regional Resource Centre, MoH&FW for North-East States, Dr Tada, elucidated the critical issues, challenges and opportunities in healthcare in the North-east.

Likewise, In Charge North East Region [Special Projects], PHFI, Dr Priscilla C Ngaihte, presented an overview of Public Health in India with special reference to North-Eastern States. A short film on Swasth Uttar Purv was also screened on the occasion.

Earlier, Head-Media Relations, PHFI, Rajiv Chhibber, in his welcome address, gave a brief introduction about the workshop.

The inaugural session was followed by a panel discussion comprising of distinguished media panel namely Consulting Editor-CNN News 18, Karma Paljor, Associate Edi-

tor-Network 18, Subhojit Sengupta and Editor-Sikkim Express, Amit Patro.

The session was chaired by Dr Tada and mediated by Gina Sharma from PHFI. The session deliberated on topics concerning reporting of health issues, ways to improve the quality and frequency of media reporting on public health and the need for reporting beyond hospitals to highlight public health. Media representatives from the North Eastern States also participated in the discussions.

It may be mentioned here, the objective of this year's Healthcare Summit is to strengthen its focus on key health issues in the North-East region, explore emergent avenues for collaboration and provide a platform for interaction between various agencies and stakeholders such as healthcare provider, policy maker, researchers, government officials, private sector and non-governmental organizations.

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ASSOCHAM and MoFPI promotes World Food 2017 and Kisan Sampada Yojana



GANGTOK, 07 SEPT [IPR]: The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India [ASSOCHAM] along with Ministry of Food Processing Industries [MoFPI], Government of India, and Department of Industries, Government of Sikkim, organized an interactive session in a local hotel today to promote the MoFPI show 'World Food 2017' and Kisan Sampada Yojana, the scheme by MoFPI to promote and support entrepreneurs from North East Region.

Member of Parliament-Lok Sabha, PD Rai, inaugurated the programme which also had the presence of Mayor, Shakti Singh Chaudhary, Economic Advisor-MoFPI, Dr B K Behera, Advisor Agriculture-GOI, Padma Shankar, and ASSOCHAM officials.

Mr Rai, in his address, congratulated the gathering present for hosting such a beneficial programme. He encouraged all the potential entrepreneurs present to make the best use of such programmes and further the achievement of the State.

While talking about the Start Up Policy of the state government, he said that the government is doing

everything for the youth to empower and make them self reliant. He also added that the State will be hosting

a Start Up Festival on 11-12 Nov which will guide young people and accelerate them towards venture

capital world.

Economic Advisor, Dr Behera, shared the vision of the MoFPI and

said that the purpose of World Food India 2017 is to showcase India's strength in the food sector as India offers the largest diversified production base. He further informed that Kisan Sampada Yojana is an umbrella programme 'SAMPADA' for food processing sector with Rs 6,000 crore outlay to integrate current and new schemes aimed at reducing food wastage and doubling farmers' income. The Yojana thus will help entrepreneurs to take up projects at lower financial outlay.

Regional Director East and North East of ASSOCHAM, Perminder Jeet Kaur, opened the programme and said that the scheme will help young upcoming entrepreneurs and will support forward and backward linkage. With strengthening of agriculture, food processing there will be strengthening of rural economy.

The programme was then followed by an interactive session with entrepreneurs on the scheme wherein Ms Kaur hoped that all related queries of entrepreneurs, FPOs, NGOs, Research scholar were answered.

Gangtok on Friday, 08 Sept
Temp: 26°C / 16°C
Forecast: Clouds and sunshine with a shower or thunderstorm around; not as warm.
Sunrise: 05:17 AM
Sunset: 05:49 PM

Cong labels "derailment sarkar" tag on Centre after 3 accidents

NEW DELHI, SEP 7 (PTI): The Congress today attacked the government over back-to-back train derailments, and said the Modi dispensation should be renamed as "derailment sarkar".

Congress communications in-charge Randeep Surjewala said railway safety was in shambles in the country as daily train accidents pose a grave threat to passenger safety.

"Third derailment in 24 hours. Who is accountable? 'How many derailments will it take for the Railway Ministry to sit up and take notice?' asked the Congress on its official Twitter handle.

Three trains jumped off the tracks in Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi and Maharashtra within a span of nine hours today, the latest in a string of such incidents which saw the exit of Suresh Prabhu as railway minister in the Cabinet reshuffle last Sunday.

Luckily, barring injury to a passenger in the accident in the national capital, no casualties were reported in other incidents. Surjewala said, "3rd train derailment today. Safety in shambles. Modi Sarkar should be renamed as 'Derailment Sarkar'!"

After the second derailment, he said daily train accidents exposed the grave threat to passenger safety as the Railway Ministry remained in "deep slumber".

"Another train accident caused by derailment in U.P. Post reshuffling of cards, when will we have passenger safety measures in place?" he asked on Twitter.

Surjewala also accused the Railways of "criminal negligence".

National Conference of Indian Academy of Tropical Parasitology at SMIS

REBYNA RANA
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:

The 11th National Conference of Indian Academy of Tropical Parasitology-TROPACON 2017 [IATP-TROPACON 2017], organized by the Department of Microbiology-Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Science [SMIS] with the theme 'Food Hygiene, Safe Environment and Sanitation towards Freedom from Parasitic Disease', was held today here at the SMIS auditorium hall.

The event had Secretary of Development Planning, Economic Reforms & North East Council Affairs, Sonam Y Lepcha, as chief guest along with Vice Chancellor of Sikkim Manipal University, Lieutenant Colonel Dr MD Venkatesh, and Dean-SMIS [officiating], VK Mehta, as guests of honor.

The programme also featured a pre-conference workshop and CME wherein discussions were conducted on respiratory parasitic infection especially those which are prevalent in the North East like paragonimiasis which should be considered in the differential diagnosis of tuberculosis and malignancy.

Discussions were also held on geohelminthiasis [soil transmitted helminthes] which is a major health problem in developing countries like India and is a major cause of morbidity in school going children leading to malnutrition, growth retardation, anaemia and Vitamin A deficiency.

While addressing the gathering, Secretary for Development and Planning, Economic Reforms



and North East Council Affairs Department, Sonam Y Lepcha, assured support in academic activities of SMU since the state government and SMU share an important relationship for the development of medical facilities in the State.

Vice Chancellor-SMU, Lt Gen [Dr] Venkatesh, said, "Most parasitic diseases [except malaria] prevalent in the developing world are categorized under neglected tropical diseases since they suffer from lack of attention by the scientific

community as well as policy makers with very little investment made towards the expansion of knowledge base, prevention and control of these diseases."

The Health Department needs to be dynamic in spreading awareness and take preventive measures for the same, he added.

It may be mentioned here, the three-day conference will provide medical faculties, researchers, practitioners and public health professionals an opportunity to present research

findings, experiences and views to a wider audience and also facilitate knowledge sharing and interaction.

The scientific sessions will include updates, oral and poster presentations and pre-conference workshop wherein resource persons from reputed institutions like AIIMS, ICMR, JIPMER, etc, will provide an update on important parasitic disease.

The programme will also have a workshop on molecular characterization of trematodes with special reference 'paragonimus spp', which is an important respiratory parasitic infection in the North East. This workshop will be conducted by scientists from Indian Council of Medical Research, Dibrugarh.

President-IATP, Dr SC Parija, spoke and provided an in depth analysis on the theme 'Food Hygiene, Safe Environment and Sanitation towards Freedom from Parasitic Disease'.

The organizer said that the conference will cover a wide range of tropical diseases including continuous medical education on respiratory parasitic infection, geohelminthiasis and symposium on vector borne parasitic diseases.

During the conference, the Dr SC Parija Presidential Oration Award and IATP Fellowship Award 2017 were given to Dr TKS Singh and Sunita Khurana. The souvenir of TROPACON-2017 was also released by the chief guest.

Death for 2, Salem gets life sentence

MUMBAI, SEP 7 (PTI): A Special TADA court today awarded death sentence to Tahir Merchant and Firoz Abdul Rashid Khan in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case but gangster Abu Salem escaped the noose and handed down life imprisonment due to a provision in the Extradition Act.

Besides Salem, the court sentenced Karimullah Khan to life imprisonment, while awarding 10 years in jail to the fifth convict, Riyaz Siddiqui.

The court also imposed a fine on the five accused totalling Rs 27.09 lakh. Firoz Khan was fined Rs 4.75 lakh, Karimullah Khan Rs 8.88 lakh, Tahir Merchant Rs 4.85 lakh, Abu Salem Rs 8.51 lakh and Riyaz Siddiqui Rs 10,000.

The court had in June convicted six persons, including a prime accused Mustafa Dossa and Salem, 24 years after the blasts left 257 people dead.

It, however, let off accused Abdul Quayyum for want of evidence.

Salem, a notorious

gangster considered close to fugitive mob boss Dawood Ibrahim, escaped death sentence at the Extradition Act bars India from seeking capital punishment for an accused extradited from a country where the practice is not in force.

Before Salem's extradition in 2004 following his arrest in 2002 in Portugal, India had assured Lisbon that he would not be awarded capital punishment, if convicted in the case.

This was the second set of trial in the case.

All the seven accused were facing multiple charges which included criminal conspiracy, waging war against the Government of India and murder.

The court, in its June 16 ruling convicting six accused, held that the prosecution had proved that Salem was one of the main conspirators, and he delivered three AK-56 rifles and ammunition and hand grenades to actor Sanjay Dutt (convicted under Arms Act in the earlier phase of the trial).

India refuses to be part of...

contd from pg01
countries based on cooperative and collaborative approach to achieve the 2030 Agenda for the world," the press release said.

India said, "Never before country-specific issues have been included in the declaration as these dilute the objective of these Forums which require unity and focussed efforts of all the countries," the release said.

India reiterated its

stance that the purpose of convening the Parliamentary Forum is to arrive at mutual consensus for implementation of SDGs which requires inclusive and broad-based development processes, it said.

"Therefore, the proposed reference to the violence in Rakhine state in the declaration was considered as not consensus-based and inappropriate," the release said.

SIT begins probe into Gauri...

contd from pg01

Asked whether police had given some hints on the ideological identity of the assailant based on prima facie evidence gathered by them, Reddy said, "The duty of SIT members is to investigate and nab the assailants. They may have some prima facie evidence, but they have the prerogative of not making it public."

He said police are screening footage of the seized CCTV which was fixed at the location where the 55-year-old outspoken journalist was gunned down.

Asked if there was any political compulsion for deciding against a

CBI probe into the murder of Gauri Lankesh, Reddy said, "Who said this? We are open minded, and that is what Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said. If we feel the case is needed to be probed by CBI, we will hand over the case to it."

Gauri Lankesh, who is known to be an anti-establishment voice with strident anti-right wing views, was shot dead at close range by unknown assailants at her home here on the night of September 5.

Reddy said senior police officials are working on getting some more leads into the killing of progressive Kannada writer and ra-

tionalist Dr M M Kalburgi, 77, and that the government is hopeful of cracking this case as well.

"The Kalburgi case has come to a certain stage, but we still need to gather evidence. Senior officials are working on it. I am hopeful that the government will solve this case as well as 99 per cent of such cases across the country have been solved and this will be no exception either," he said.

Gauri's murder comes just days after the second anniversary of the killing of Kalburgi, who fell to bullets fired by two unidentified men at his residence at Dharwad in north Karnataka on August 30, 2015.

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Gender Empowerment from the Grassroots

Aim to leapfrog from Panchayats to the Assembly and Parliament

Panchayat elections are round the corner and this will be the second time that fifty percent of the representatives from rural Sikkim will necessarily be women. Women's reservation in panchayat elections started tentatively with 33% quota which was then hike to 40% and has now arrived at 50. Sikkim accords more seats to women in rural and urban bodies than are prescribed elsewhere in the country, and while it is easy to dismiss this as inconsequential as many would be wont to do, it has been a huge step forward towards securing an empowered future for the State's ladies. It was always also a very brave move by State Government and the party in office since politics is essentially a male-dominated domain and finding the around 400 women candidates required to meet the quota continues to remain a challenging ask. Agreed, the party has an organised cheli morcha, but contesting elections and holding office, even at the gram panchayat unit level, requires consistent commitment which is not easy to find or all that common. Even if the party in office enjoys better organizational depth in the State, these remain difficult numbers to deliver. For political outfits which limit engagements to the capital and the occasional public meeting, this is an impossible figure to conjure which is why so many of the parties make only a token participation or boycott the panchayat elections all together.

Nevertheless, Panchayati Raj Institutions are split 50/50 between the sexes and it will now essentially be up to the women themselves on how far they can stretch this increased involvement in decision-making. The concept of reservations to deliver empowerment is not perfect, it has many flaws but most of its limitations are imposed by the benefited sections themselves. The reservation for women in Panchayats all over the country, for instance, fails to deliver the required results because many women Panchayats from the reserved wards are stand-ins for their more powerful and politically savvy husbands. Instead of delivering empowerment, this willingness of the womenfolk to allow such subversion only reinforces subjugation. A similar pattern can be spied in Sikkim as well but is not as entrenched as it is elsewhere. Here, the State has a chance to play the reservation concept to deliver real empowerment. The moment panchayat elections are announced, the womenfolk of the ear-marked wards should come together and agree on a candidate. The ruling party is already on record assuring that panchayat candidates will be chosen on people's recommendations. Given the numbers, this is going to be a difficult task, but if the womenfolk were to ignore party considerations and loyalties and think only about themselves for a while and select only the most deserving lady candidate and not the lady with the most influential husband or family. Unfortunately, as mentioned, the practice of token women Panchayats is very much prevalent in Sikkim too. If the women were to demolish this practise and consciously ignore candidates who have been propped up by the male side of their families, Sikkim could be looking at real empowerment. The future should deliver even more than just 50% women panchayats; when there are 986 women for every thousand males in Sikkim, why should the elected representation not reflect similar figures at all levels – from the Legislative Assembly to the Parliament? Someone needs to ask, for instance, why Sikkim has never sent a woman to the Rajya Sabha. The next leap however will have to be for the women to take themselves. They have been provided the stepping stool to reach there with the panchayat reservations and through their performance and increased political presence, they can secure increased representation at all levels if they so desire.

WRITE US: Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence.

Mail us at: letters@summittimes.com

Why universities must fight the new wave of authoritarianism

HENRY GIROUX
theconversation.com

The march in Charlottesville, Va., earlier this summer by white supremacists, neo-Nazis and other right-wing extremists illuminated the growing danger of authoritarian movements both in the United States and across the globe.

It's signalling a danger that mimics the increasingly forgotten horrors of the 1930s.

Neo-Nazis in the United States, and possibly those worldwide, appear especially emboldened because they've found a comfortable, if not supportive, place at the highest levels of the U.S. government.

President Donald Trump's administration has included white supremacist sympathizers like Steve Bannon, Jeff Sessions and Stephen Miller. All three embrace elements of the nefarious racist ideology that was on full display in Charlottesville.

Trump's refusal to denounce their Nazi slogans and violence in strong political and ethical terms has suggested his own complicity with such movements.

It should surprise no one that David Duke, a former imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, told the media in the midst of the violence in Charlottesville that white supremacists were "going to fulfil the promises of Donald Trump ... to take our country back."

'God bless him'

Nor should it surprise anyone that Trump's silence delighted the far right.

The Daily Stormer, a white supremacist website, even had this to say: "No condemnation at all. When asked to condemn, he just walked out of the room. Really, really good. God bless him."

It appears that the presence of Nazi and Confederate flags celebrating a horrendous history of millions lost to the Holocaust and slavery, of lynchings and church bombings, and the assassinations of Black civil rights leaders like Medgar Evers and Martin Luther King Jr., did little to move Trump.

Charlottesville has resurrected elements of a past that resulted in some of the worst crimes in human history. The ideology, values and institutions of a liberal democracy are once again under assault by those who don't believe in equality, justice and democracy.

All of these alarming developments raise serious questions about the role of higher education in a democracy.

What role, if not responsibility, do universities have in the face of a new wave of authoritarianism?

What purpose should education serve when rigorous knowledge is replaced by opinions, the truth is labelled "fake news" by the president of the United States and his devotees, unbridled self-interest replaces the social good and language operates in the service of fear, violence and a culture of cruelty?

Universities must hold up democratic ideals

Surely, institutions of higher education cannot limit their role to training at a time when democracy is under assault around the world.

Colleges and universities must define themselves anew as a public good, a protective space for the promotion of democratic ideals, of the social imagination, civic values and a critically engaged citizenship.

Renowned education professor Jon Nixon argues that education must be developed as "a protected space within which to think against the grain of received opinion: a space to question and challenge, to imagine the world from different standpoints and perspectives, to reflect upon ourselves



in relation to others and, in so doing, to understand what it means to assume responsibility."

Given the ongoing attack on civic literacy, truth, historical memory and justice, surely it's all the more imperative for colleges and universities to teach students to do more than master work-based skills.

Instead, we must educate them to become intelligent, compassionate, critically engaged adults fully aware of the fact that without informed citizens, there is no democracy.

There's much more at stake here than protecting and opening the boundaries of free speech. There is the more crucial necessity to deepen and expand the formative cultures and public spheres that make democracy possible.

Educators cannot forget that the struggle over democracy is about much more than the struggle over economic resources and power. It's also about language, agency, desire, identity and imagining a future without injustice.

Return to authoritarianism not far-fetched

As the historian Timothy Snyder has observed, it's crucial to remember that the success of authoritarian regimes in Germany and other places succeeded, in part, because they were not stopped in the early stages of their development.

The events in Charlottesville provide a glimpse of authoritarianism on the rise and shine a spotlight upon the forces that are trying usher in a new and dangerous era, both in the United States and worldwide.

While it may seem far-fetched to assume American-style totalitarianism will soon become the norm in the United States, a return to authoritarianism is clearly no longer the stuff of fantasy or hysterical paranoia.

That's especially since its core elements of hatred, exclusion, racism and white supremacy have been incorporated into both the highest echelons of political power and throughout the mainstream right-wing media, especially Fox News and Breitbart.

The authoritarian drama unfolding in the United States includes the use of state force against immigrants, right-wing populist violence against mosques and synagogues and attacks on Muslims, young Blacks and others who do not fit into the vile script of white nationalism.

Charlottesville was just part of a larger trend of domestic terrorism and homegrown fascism that is on the upswing in the United States.

Trump's administration, after all, has announced it will no longer "investigate white nationalists, who have been responsible for a large share

of violent hate crimes in the United States."

Trump has also lifted restrictions imposed by the Obama administration in order to provide local police departments with military surplus equipment such as armed vehicles, bullet-proof vests and grenade launchers.

These actions accelerate Trump's law-and-order agenda, escalate racial tensions in cities that are often treated like combat zones and reinforce a warrior mentality among police officers.

Equally telling is Trump's presidential pardon of Joe Arpaio, the notorious white supremacist and disgraced former sheriff of Maricopa County, Arizona. Not only did Arpaio engage in racial profiling, despite being ordered by the court to desist, he also had a notorious reputation for abusing prisoners in his Tent City, which he once called "a concentration camp."

A nod to domestic terrorism

There is more at work here than Trump's endorsement of white nationalism; he's also sending a clear message of support for a culture of violence that both legitimizes and gives meaning to acts of domestic terrorism.

What's more, there's a clear contempt for the rule of law. And there's also an endorsement not just for racist ideology, but for institutional racism and consequently the primacy of the race-based incarceration state.

In his various comments, tweets and policies, Trump has made clear that he does not see himself as the leader of the country, but as the head of a right-wing movement fuelled by rage, isolation, social atomization and communal disintegration, galvanized by a culture of fear and bigotry. He preys upon a populist hatred of democracy.

At the moment we're seeing a looming collapse of civic culture.

A healthy democracy always struggles to preserve its ideals, values and practices. When taken for granted, justice dies, social responsibility becomes a burden and the seeds of authoritarianism flourish.

We may be in the midst of dark times, but resistance is no longer an option but a necessity.

And educators have a particular responsibility to address this growing assault on democracy. Any other option is an act of complicity, and a negation of what it means for education to matter in a democratic society.

[The writer is Chaired professor for Scholarship in the Public Interest in the Department of English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University]

'Instant divorce' ban: the end result or the first step in reforming Islamic law?

JUSTIN JONES
theconversation.com

"UN-ISLAMIC, arbitrary, unconstitutional." That was the judgement of the Indian Supreme Court as it announced a ban on the contentious practice of instant "triple-talaq".

Triple-talaq is a form of Islamic divorce which allows a husband to dissolve his marriage instantly and unilaterally, simply through pronouncing "talaq" (divorce) three times to his wife.

While it has long existed in customary practice, it carries little formal sanction within Islamic law itself. It receives no endorsement in the Qur'an, which stresses unambiguously that all divorces should work through a staggered process which allows space for reconciliation. And authoritative works of jurisprudence uniformly declare instant-talaq to be "sinful", if not always technically "forbidden".

It is on these grounds that, especially over the last century, a large majority of Muslim countries have banned instant-talaq, including neighbours Pakistan and Bangladesh. Sri Lanka has also banned it. Nevertheless, instant-talaq had remained legal in India. Delivered either in per-

son, or increasingly via text message, email or WhatsApp, it led to countless women suffering the fates of instant abandonment, homelessness or destitution.

This is why this decision is being hailed as one of the most important moments in India's history for the emancipation of women. In a year notable for the erosion of women's rights across the globe, it is something to be celebrated.

Yet, this historic ban raises the question of how much further it may go. Will it lead to a wholesale reform of Muslim laws in India? Or, will the intervention stop here? To answer this, we need to explore the complex place that Muslim family laws have occupied in India's constitutional and legal landscape.

A PATCHWORK OF PERSONAL LAWS

It can be difficult to understand how India, with its religious pluralism and secular constitution, has become one of the final refuges for such reviled practices as instant-talaq. The answer lies in the complex relationship between the Indian state and its often beleaguered minorities.

Ever since India's independence,

and following the traumatic effects of partition, politicians have pledged to protect religious freedoms by allowing minorities to live according to their own laws, in all family matters.

This means that, in Indian law and politics, the ability of minorities to live freely has become merged with the idea that the state must not intervene in community-specific practices, such as matrimonial regulations.

So while judges or politicians elsewhere across the Muslim world, from Morocco to Indonesia, have managed to reform Islamic laws, bringing them under their own courts or codifying them, this never happened in India.

India has never installed a uniform set of family laws for all citizens. And most Muslim laws themselves have remained stubbornly uncoded. They often function in an unregulated space at the community level, with religious marriages remaining unregistered, and divorces happening outside of court.

India's commitment to the protection of minorities is admirable and necessary, and is something to be cherished. But it has carried some unintended by-products.

The historic reluctance of the courts and politicians to intervene

too boldly in minority laws has allowed controversial fringe customs to survive. These include not only instant-talaq, but polygamy and nikah-halala, a practice by which an ex-wife is compelled to take out and consummate an interim marriage before remarriage by her first husband.

Too often, women have been the main victims of these "religious" practices – their individual rights sacrificed to the supposed rights of the community.

THE END OF NON-INTERVENTION? So does the Supreme Court's ban mark a broader departure from this long-term strategy of non-intervention?

On the one hand, the court's own announcement of the ban differs from its past failures to implement its verdicts in Muslim laws. In the famous Shah Bano case of 1985, the court attempted to amend Muslim laws on alimony, but the government, under political pressure, overturned its decision.

That will not happen this time. Instead, the current BJP government is on the court's side on this issue. It has long expressed its opposition to

turn to pg05

Students strike in Mizo varsity on, PM urged to appoint VC

AIZAWL, SEP 7 (PTI): As students' strike in Mizoram University demanding appointment of a regular vice-chancellor entered second day, state Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla today appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to appoint the VC quickly in the central university.

Lal Thanhawla said he had already written to Modi on May 6, 2016 and the HRD minister informed him then that the process of VC selection was taken up afresh.

"It is now more than a year since then and I am given to understand that the file is currently lying with the present Union HRD Minister for a couple of months at his desk," he said to the prime minister in a letter.

Since yesterday, the students were were boycotting classes and preventing teachers and non-teaching staff from entering the campus, the chief minister said.

It being the only central university in the state, prolonged delay in the appointment of VC would jeopardise the future of many students, he said.

Meanwhile, the Mizoram University Student Council (MZUSC) continued boycotting classes and all the academic and non-academic activities.

The Mizoram University had been without a regular VC for almost two years and repeated appeal to the Union Minister Prakash Javedekar and officials of the Ministry of Human Resources Development bore no fruits till date, the MZUSC said.

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Republic of Macedonia opens Consulate in Kolkata

KOLKATA, SEP 7 (PTI): St Teresa's birth place Skopje came closer to her place of work Kolkata today with the Republic of Macedonia opening its Consulate in this city to boost economic and cultural ties.

The Republic of Macedonia's capital city Skopje is the birth place of St Teresa, better known as Mother Teresa.

Namit Bajoria, Director of kitchen appliances brand Kutchina, has been appointed as the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Macedonia in Kolkata.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia Dr Toni Atanasovski today formally inaugurated the Consulate bureau in Kolkata on the eve of the 26th National Day in the presence of Ambassadors from Bosnia, Ecuador, Jordan, Libya and two women entrepreneurs from the United Arab Emirates.

The Republic of Macedonia is a small Balkan nation with one fourth the size of Kolkata's population.

"The two cities of Skopje and Kolkata are like two soulmates,

as they mutually share the heritage of Mother Teresa. The opening of our Honorary Consulate Bureau in Kolkata is expected to boost cultural exchanges, tourism and trade between Skopje and Kolkata.

"Our mission is to initiate, promote and assist in any possible way to these initiatives and projects," said Dr Toni Atanasovski, Ambassador of The Republic of Macedonia in India.

The Republic of Macedonia would approach the West Bengal government with a proposal to

mutually promote and support foreign direct investments in trade between India and Macedonia.

Besides cultural and social linkages, the Kolkata Consulate would work towards expanding trade and business opportunities between West Bengal and the Republic of Macedonia," said Namit Bajoria, Honorary Consul, The Republic of Macedonia in Kolkata.

According to a World Bank report for 2017, the Republic of Macedonia has been ranked the 10th best country in the world in terms of Ease of Doing Business.



Monsoon rains claimed 164 lives in Pakistan: NDMA

ISLAMABAD, SEP 7 (PTI): Heavy rains and related flooding in Pakistan have killed 164 people, including 39 children, during the current monsoon season, weather officials said.

The torrential rains have also left hundreds of people homeless. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and provincial government teams are carrying out rescue and relief operation in the affected areas.

Sindh and Punjab provinces were the worst hit with 38 fatalities in each province since the advent of the monsoon season, the NDMA said yesterday.

"From June 26 till September 6, a total of

164 people have been reported killed, including 39 children, while 167 people injured in rain-related incidents and 440 houses damaged," it said.

Monsoon hits Pakistan every year in June and the season normally ends in September. During this period, the country receives heavy rains which cause severe flooding in many areas.

The most destructive floods caused by heavy rains hit the country in 2010 in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh, leaving over 1,500 people dead.

According to a UN report, 557,226 houses were destroyed and over six million people were displaced.



GUWAHATI, SEP 7 (PTI): The flood situation in Assam marginally improved today, even as one person lost his life and 56,000 people remained affected across four districts, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said today.

One person was killed by the flood waters in Dhemaji district, according to a report by ASDMA.

The third wave of the devastating flood has so far claimed the lives of 75 people across the state, the report said.

Flood-related incidents in Assam has so far claimed a total of 159 lives in the state, including eight deaths in Guwahati.

ASDMA said 56,000 people are affected at present in Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Morigaon and Nagaon districts.

Till yesterday, over a total of 62,000 people were impacted by the latest wave of floods across six districts in Assam.

As per the report issued today, Nagaon is the worst hit with over 25,500 affected, followed

by Morigaon with nearly 23,000 bearing the brunt of the deluge.

Currently, 151 villages are under water and over 6,500 hectares of crop areas are inundated, the report said.

Authorities are running

40 relief camps and distribution centres in five districts, where 7,842 people are taking shelter.

River Brahmaputra is currently flowing above the red mark at Nimatighat in Jorhat.

Other rivers like Dhansiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat, Jia Bharali at N T Road Crossing in Sonitpur and Kushiyara at Karimganj town are also flowing above the danger mark, the report added.

In wake of Gauri's assassination, journalists denounce trolling on social media

NEW DELHI, SEP 7 (PTI):

Online abuse heaped on a dead Gauri Lankesh lays bare the "hostile atmosphere" people are facing today on social media where an army of trolls is either "intimidating dissenters" or fomenting tension, according to leading journalists.

Shocked at the gunning down of the 55-year-old journalist -activist, an outspoken critic of Hindutva politics, many journalists and activists concurred that a "climate of fear" was being built by "paid trolls" on Facebook and Twitter to silence those holding divergent views or to "spread disinformation".

Senior TV journalist Ravish Kumar said that he felt like he was a "dead man walking" ever since he heard about the chilling murder of Lankesh at the entrance of her home in Bengaluru, an eerie reminder of the killings

of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar and former vice-chancellor of Hampi University M M Kalburgi.

"Gauri Lankesh's killing is not a one-off case. She was silenced because she bravely and fearlessly aired her views.

People have been killed in the last few years just because they had a divergent opinion or dissented against an idea.

"Even after her (Lankesh's) death, many on social media are using abusive language to describe her. Look at your timelines (on Facebook and Twitter), there are people watching, what you are writing. She was killed to send out a message to all of us that if you dissent, you will meet this fate," Kumar said at a gathering yesterday.

Senior journalist Paranjay Guha Thakurta, who was trolled for an article recently, shared how the world over peo-



ple were fighting an "organised army of trolls, paid for by those with vested interest, either political or corporate".

"And, especially the extreme-right-wing people are using the techniques and the tactics in a Goebbels-like manner to spread disinformation, which is a propaganda, for a purpose, which is extremely pernicious. Fake news is being spread through WhatsApp and other media to foment hatred and tension, like in the Muzaffarnagar riot case," he said.

Facebook has more users than the population of China and it's only growing. "So, it cannot be ignored or wished away," Thakurta said.

"It (social media) is like a surgeon's scalpel. It is sharp and can be used to remove a disease part of the body and the same tool can be used to injure, maim or even kill somebody. Facebook and Twitter are becoming a difficult terrain, especially for journalists and outspoken people," he added.

Amid an outrage over the cold-blooded murder of Lankesh, scores of fellow journalists from various media houses yesterday gathered at the Press Club of India here, and also expressed concern over tasteless jibes being hurled on social media, for the political views she held.

JNU student leader Kanhaiya Kumar said,

hours after her death, there were people on social media, who described her with demeaning epithets.

"It is a tough time for journalists. And, even RTI activists and environmental activists have been killed in the past. Now, social media is being used to intimidate and threaten people. If you have a different opinion or if you dissent and air your view on Facebook or Twitter, you will be trolled and harassed,"

he said.

General Secretary of Broadcast Editors Association Ajit Anjum said it was a difficult time for journalists and people expressing divergent views, especially on social media.

"People are being killed on social media first," he said.

Noted Supreme Court lawyer Vrinda Grover, who was present at the protest meet, expressed her horror over the killing, and said, "We are

living in very dangerous times."

"This was not a one-off, random case. Lankesh was killed because she stood and fought for ideas of justice and values enshrined in our Constitution -- liberty, equality. And, even after her death, people are using abusive language for her on social media. People being abused or intimidated on social media to silence them, is a very dangerous trend," she added.

'Instant divorce' ban: the end result...

Contd from pg04

instant-talaq, and is planning to draft a new Muslim matrimony law to replace it. And one section of opinion, now emboldened within the party, has long sought the wider reform of Muslim family laws.

But on the other hand, the court's verdict has managed to ban instant-talaq in a way that does not demand further reforms.

This case had threatened to turn into a gloves-off battle, between the constitutional rights to equality and freedom of religion. Any decision that confronted this question would have had deep implications both for Muslim laws, and the legal codes applied to other communities.

Perhaps intentionally, the court has deftly managed to dodge this question. By allowing each of its justices to apply different lines of reasoning, some constitutional and some Qur'anic, the bench managed to argue that instant-talaq infringes both Islamic and constitutional standards alike. "What is bad

in theology is bad in law also," claimed Justice Kurian Joseph. The ban implies no conflict of values.

With feelings running high, this decision shows considerable pragmatism. Some commentators have praised it for its balancing of divergent opinions, while others have shown more regret at its caution. Some have suggested that the verdict, by declaring instant-talaq un-Islamic while placing the system of personal laws itself beyond scrutiny, actually leaves the foundations of this system even stronger. It reinforces Muslim family laws, even as it restricts some among them.

REFORM FROM WITHIN

So, this ban could realistically be a one-off decision, rather than a first step.

But what may be different this time is that there has been vocal demand for further changes from among Indian Muslims themselves.

The internal call for change from com-

munity voices during this case has been decisive. This includes the petitioners themselves, an array of Islamic feminist groups, and a range of Muslim public intellectuals and lawyers. Together, all have also provoked huge grassroots interest and a sizeable campaign of social activism.

Emboldened by the current decision, many of these people are now pursuing the next steps. Some want polygamy and nikah-halala, questions which the Supreme Court refused to consider this time, to be addressed. Some are even asking for a comprehensive codification of Muslim laws.

If wider reforms to Muslim laws do come, they may be initiated not on the whims of the courts or parliament, but in response to pressure from community voices. And such changes always carry more legitimacy if they are driven from within.

[the writer is Associate Professor in the Study of Modern Islam, University of Oxford]



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD GANGTOK – 737101

No: 21/SSTRB

Dated:07/09/2017

NOTICE

The written Examination for selection to the post of Headmaster/Headmistress Sec. School will be held on 22nd of September, 2017 at TNSS School, Development Area, Gangtok.

The Admit Card of the eligible candidates will be issued from 18th of Sept.2017 from the office of Sikkim State Teachers' Recruitment Board, Upper Syari during office hours.

The application of those candidates who have applied with cumulative service as Graduate Teacher and Post Graduate Teacher and the application of those candidates who are currently on deputation to other non teaching posts are rejected in accordance to Office Memorandum No. 984/HRDD/Adm. Dated 24/07/2017 read with Corrigendum No.1265/Adm./HRDD dated 26/08/2017 issued by the HRDD.

Further, the applications of those candidates who have selected for the post of Headmaster of Junior High School and have joined their duties as HM/JHS are also rejected in accordance to the letter No. 1221/HRDD dated. 23/08/2017.

Sd/-

CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATION,
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GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

R.O. No. 294/ipr/pub/classi./17-18 dt. 7.9.2017



Sukanta Das is Team Manager of Indian Super Series

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 07 SEPT:**

General secretary of Badminton Association of Sikkim [BAS], Sukanta Das, who is also the Executive Member of Badminton Association of India [BAI], will be leading the Indian team as Team Manager for the Super Series to be held with regard to Korean Open [12-17 Sept] and Japan Open [19-24 Sept], informs a BAS press release.

It may be mentioned here, Mr Das had also led the victorious Indian Badminton team contingent in the South Asian Games 2016.

Badminton Association of Sikkim has said that the experience will be beneficial while hosting the upcoming Senior Ranking Badminton Championship which is being held for the very first time in Sikkim. The best National and International players will be competing for the coveted title.

The association has extended best wishes to Mr Das and the Indian team for the Super Series.

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Summit TIMES

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India U17 Boys Rugby team to compete in 2018 Youth Olympic qualifiers

MUMBAI, SEP 7 (PTI): The India U-17 Rugby team will compete at the 'Asia Rugby U17 Rugby Sevens Championship' to be held at the Tainan Municipal Rugby Stadium, Tainan in Taiwan on September 9 and 10.

This tournament will serve as a qualifier for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games to be held in Argentina, a media release issued here said. The team is led by Narasing Marndi and coached by Rehamuddin Shaikh.

A total of ten countries from across Asia, including Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, UAE, Uzbekistan, India and hosts Chinese Taipei will vie for top honours at the championships, it said.

The players shortlisted to join the Indian National Train-



ing Camp were selected during the Societe Generale Junior National Rugby Sevens Championship, held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai on June 10 and 11.

Mahesh Mathai, Secretary

General, Rugby India said, "This is the first time an Indian U17 boys rugby team is participating in the qualifiers for the Youth Olympic Games.

It is very encouraging to see that the interest for rugby is

growing within India, especially at the age-grade level."

The team is supported by Societe Generale, the financial partner of Rugby India, and is participating under the aegis of the Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU), the governing body for the sport of Rugby in India.

The team: Narasing Marndi (Odisha)- (Captain), Vikas Dhuriya, Abhishek Yadav, Pankaj Singh, Chaitanya Motwane, Daryush Kapadia, Siddhant Mehta (all from Maharashtra) Sagar Biswas, Nikesh Kumar (both West Bengal), Pankaj Dagar, Raman Kumar and Amit Gautam (all Delhi).

Coach- Rehamuddin Shaikh, manager- Minnal Pastala and physio- Abdul Wahid Khan Pathan.



Alam puts rivals in shade at JNUSU presidential debate

NEW DELHI, SEPT 7 (PTI): Ahead of the JNU-SU polls, independent candidate MD Farooque Alam stole the show at the night-long presidential debate as he kept the audience hooked with his witty speech and hit out at student political outfits for indulging in ideological wars.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Student Union (JNUSU) elections will take place tomorrow. Seven candidates in the fray for the post of the student's union president, which is currently held by the AISA in alliance with the SFI.

Alam's turn came around 11 pm after speeches by BAPSA's (Birsa Ambedkar Phule Students' Association) Shabana Ali, ABVP's Nidhi Tripathi and NSUI's Vrishnika Singh.

Though he did not offer any solution to the issues being faced by the students, he hit out the outfits for "failing at various levels" and attacked the left groups for "ignoring the cause of the differently-abled".

"All their movements would start with a 'Lal Saalam', but ends with a selfie," he said, leaving the crowd in fits of laughter.

"Left showed me a dream of aazadi, but later told I was wrong to dream about it. BAPSA played 'Shakuni' in JNUSU movements. The ABVP is known for its goon culture and imposition of nationalism," Alam said.

The speech's satirical approach, dotted with one-liners, witty remarks and frequent jibes at the parties, drew tremendous response from the crowd which gave him a standing ovation.

The debate began at 9 pm yesterday and went on till 2 am at the Jhelum Lawn of the university.

Geeta Kumari, the presidential candidate of AISA which has entered an alliance with the SFI and the DSF, promised to keep fighting for Najeeb, a student of the university who went missing from his hostel on October 16, 2016, and other student-related issues.

BAPSA candidate Shabana Ali attacked the united left outfits of being "fake" and "casteist".

The ABVP was the point of attack for all the candidates for allegedly indulging in violence over the Najeeb issue.

The candidates also hit out at the RSS, accusing it of indulging in violence across the country in the name of cow protection and nationalism.

ABVP candidate Nidhi Tripathi, however, spoke about the "ineffectiveness" of the placement cell of the university and assured to "bring it to life". She also promised to get sanitary pad vending machines installed, ensure gynaecologist's visit everyday and commencing of metro feeder bus services.

Congress-affiliated NSUI candidate Vrishnika Singh promised to fight for unity and for setting up a hospital in the campus.

CPI leader D Raja's daughter Aparajitha, who is the AISF candidate for the student's union president post, spoke about global and national issues including Tamil Nadu farmers protests in the capital and the killing of senior journalist Gauri Lankesh in Bengaluru.

AISF is not a part of the left alliance.

Del Potro shatters Federer's dream of Nadal US Open showdown

NEW YORK, SEP 7 (AFP): Juan Martin del Potro sensationally gatecrashed the US Open again, stunning five-champion Roger Federer and shattering hopes of a first New York showdown between the Swiss legend and Rafael Nadal.

The Argentine giant, who won his only Grand Slam title in the city in 2009 by beating Federer in the final after seeing off Nadal in the semis, triumphed 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (10/8), 6-4 in front of a spellbound Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd.

The 28-year-old will once again face world number one Nadal in the semi-finals on Friday, a stunning achievement for a man who had saved two match points to beat sixth seed Dominic Thiem in the last 16.

Nadal, who will keep his world number one status following third seed Federer's exit, had earlier defeated Russian teenager Andrey Rublev 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 in just 97 minutes.

It will be a sixth US Open semi-final for Nadal and 26th at the majors while Del Potro, the 24th seed, will be playing in just his fourth last-four match at the Slams.

For 36-year-old Federer, it was a first Slam loss of 2017 after he had captured the Australian Open and Wimbledon titles to take his career tally to 19.

"I served really good. I hit my forehand as hard as I could and I played a great match. I deserved to win," said Del Potro who will be in his first Slam semi-final since Wimbledon in 2013.

"This feels like my home court. I played Rafa here in 2009 too. Hopefully I can get the same result on Friday."

Del Potro, whose career was almost ended last year after un-



dergoing four wrist surgeries, wrapped up the first set thanks to a break in the 11th game secured with a blistering cross-court pass.

Federer, who had a 16-5 winning record over Del Potro ahead of the quarter-final, levelled the tie after breaking for a 3-1 lead in the second.

However, the match turned in the third set tiebreak when Del Potro saved four set points before a weary and error-riddled Federer dropped serve again to trail 3-2 in the fourth.

Victory was Del Potro's eight minutes short of three hours with a deep forehand as Federer was left to survey the wreckage of 41 unforced errors.

"It's hard to explain, I didn't play that badly," said Federer.

"I just ran into a guy who was better on the bigger points. I don't deserve to still be in the tournament."

Nadal will take an 8-5 record over Del Potro into the semi-final where the winner will face either Kevin Anderson or Pablo

Carreno Busta for the title.

"Juan Martin is a top player. When he's playing well, it's difficult to stop him. Probably the forehand is maybe the fastest on the tour," said Nadal, who is chasing his second major of the year to add to his French Open.

Rublev, bidding to be the youngest man in 17 years to reach the semi-finals, had no complaints over his loss to Nadal.

"He gave me a lesson: 1, 2, and 2," said the Russian, who lost 16 of the last 19 points of the opening set and finished with 43 unforced errors.

The women's semi-finals will be an all-American affair after CoCo Vandeweghe and Madison Keys set-up a last-four duel.

Thursday's other tie will see seven-time major champion Venus Williams face Sloane Stephens. American 20th seed Vandeweghe claimed a 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 win over the Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova, whose brief eight-week stay as world

number one ended with Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza taking over.

Vandeweghe's victory means that the US Open will have an all-American semi-final line-up for the first time since 1981 after Keys defeated Estonian qualifier Kaia Kanepi 6-3, 6-3.

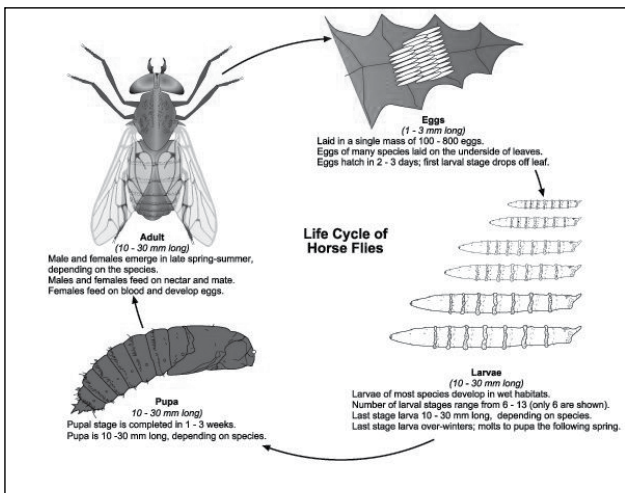
"I won the juniors here when I was 16 and dreamed of playing on the real stage," said 25-year-old Vandeweghe, who also made the semi-finals at the Australian Open, beating then-world number one Angelique Kerber in the process.

The last time four US women were in the semis was 36 years ago when eventual champion Tracy Austin, Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova and Barbara Potter all made it.

Keys, the 15th seed, will be playing in her second Slam semi-final after the 2015 Australian Open.

"It means the world to me," said Keys, who underwent wrist surgery earlier this season.

Israeli firm develops attractant that kills Oriental fruit fly



Harinder Mishra
Jerusalem, Sep 7 (PTI): An Israeli company says it has developed a no-spray, environment-friendly solution that can protect Indian farmers from the deadly Oriental fruit fly which has destroyed 300 fruit species in India.

The Oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) is considered to be the most destructive, invasive and widespread of all fruit flies and is also a menace in 65 other countries in Asia, Africa and the Americas.

The agri-tech company Biofeed's "lures" hung on trees, contain an organic customised mix of food and feeding stimulants and control or therapeutic agents delivered by a patented gravity-controlled fluid release platform.

Attracted by the odour, the fruit fly takes a sip and soon dies, without any chemicals reaching the fruit, air or soil.

"We were hoping to bring a solution that will replace spraying and increase

productivity by 50 per cent. I am excited by the results, demonstrating the future potential for some farmers to bring about 900 times more marketable produce to market," said the company's CEO Nimrod Israely.

"We don't have the Oriental fruit fly in Israel. However, until now there was no solution for this problem. So we took the challenge and chose to focus on India," Israely told Israel21c, an online news magazine.

Biofeed was one of the six innovative Israeli companies invited to give a demonstration in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu during the Indian leader's visit to here in July.

The launch of the company's attractant for female Oriental fruit flies is a result of 15 years of development of the core platform and more than a year of development and testing in Israel and Karnataka.

Mango farmers on four Indian orchards

saw an overall decrease of fruit-fly infestation from 95 per cent to less than 5 per cent, the report said.

The company worked with Kempmann Bio-organics in Bangalore to carry out the trial, it said.

"*Bactrocera zonata* is the number 2 pest in India. There are three main pests in India, so now we've given, within two years, a solution for the two most devastating fruit flies in India and in other parts of the world," Israely said.

"We estimate the annual market potential of these two pest segments to be well over a billion US dollars," he said.

"We want to bring something that is extremely easy to use; you don't need tractors, you don't need to remember to spray once a week, you don't need to put yourself in danger with sprays, there's no safety equipment. This is something that can make a dramatic change in agriculture and human health," Israely added.

Pak must change approach towards terror groups: US

WASHINGTON, SEP 7 (PTI): Pakistan must "change its approach" towards terror groups operating from its soil and take a decisive action against them, the US has said.

The remarks from the US came after for the first time the BRICS Summit in their joint declaration named Pakistan-based terrorist groups as a concern for regional security and called for action against them.

"As the administration has said, Pakistan must change its approach," a State Department spokesperson told PTI in response to a question on the BRICS statement that named Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed among the terror groups that create problems in the region.

"We look to the Pakistan government to take decisive action against militant groups based in Pakistan that are a threat to the region," the spokesperson said.

Pakistan has denied allegations it harbours these groups.

The BRICS declaration in the Chinese city Xiamen was significant given that China previously repeatedly stonewalled any reference to Pakistan or terrorist groups based there.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif has told a news channel that BRICS concerns about the militant groups should not be considered as China's official stance.

India, Indonesia far behind in measles vaccination: WHO

SHAKOOR RATHER MALE, SEP 7 (PTI): India and Indonesia are far behind in their battle against measles and account for over 90 per cent of the unvaccinated children in the Southeast Asia, the WHO said here today, asserting that the vaccination drive was hampered due to misconceptions and misinformation.

According to the Southeast Asia Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO SEARO), 3.1 million children in India and 1.1 million in Indonesia did not get measles vaccination in 2016.

Together they account for 91 per cent of unvaccinated children in the region, with India alone accounting for 67 per cent of the children missing immunisation.

Health officials have expressed concern about the situation as measles still kills an estimated 134,200 children worldwide every year, which



includes more than 54,500 in Southeast Asia.

"There is no global goal or big fund to eradicate measles, so countries should allocate funds for it, especially India and Indonesia, where the largest numbers of unimmunized children reside," Pem Namgyal, the WHO SEARO director of family health, gender and life course, told PTI on the

India and Indonesia, home to 1.3 billion and 261 million people respectively, are Southeast Asia region's most-populous countries.

One of the largest misconceptions about the measles vaccination, usually called MMR or MR vaccines, is that it can cause autism. During phase 1 of the MR campaign in India, some negative messages were floated through social media (whatsapp and Facebook) in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. There was some coverage of these negative social messages on local television channels as well.

"This leads to some hesitancy to accept MR vaccine in these states," Namgyals said.

"Since the campaign was still ongoing and the state governments realised that this could negatively affect the coverage, they took immediate actions which included editorials in newspaper stat-

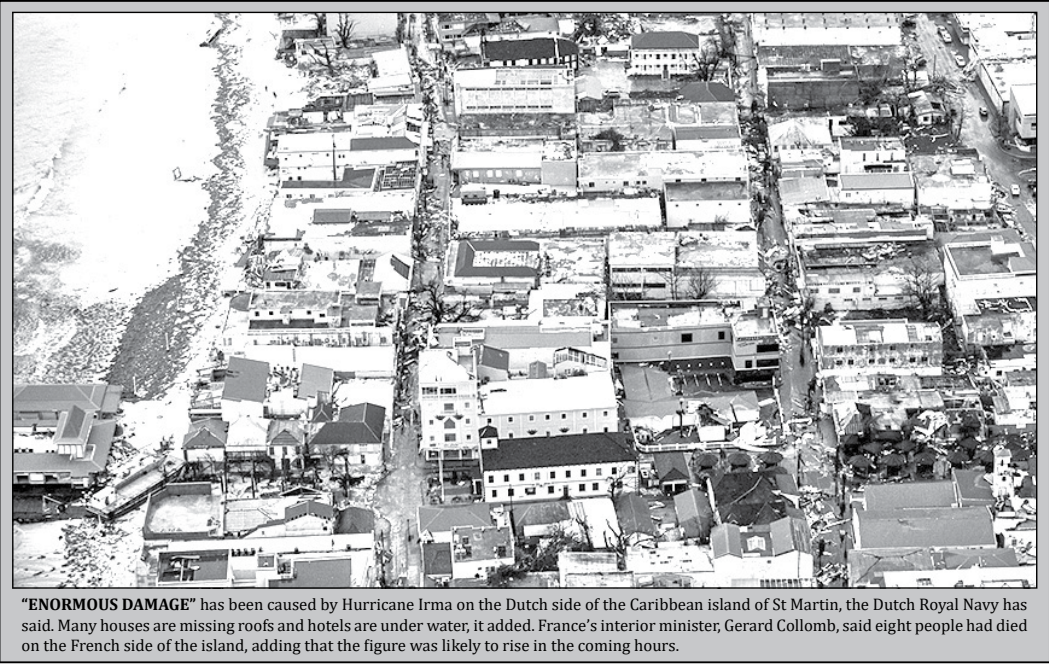
ing benefits of MR vaccination campaign advocacy campaign, involvement of local celebrities to counter the wrong messages and social media messaging targeting negative rumours," he said.

"The state governments also decided to extend the duration of the MR campaign in states. As a result of all these actions, high coverage was achieved in all the states.

Learning from this experience, India has put together a communication strategy for the next phase of MR campaign which is currently under implementation," he said.

In a predominantly Muslim country like Indonesia, there is also resistance due to the widespread view that the vaccine contains pork gelatine, which is forbidden in Islam.

Namgyal, however, dismissed these misconceptions, saying the vaccine was harmless.



"ENORMOUS DAMAGE" has been caused by Hurricane Irma on the Dutch side of the Caribbean island of St Martin, the Dutch Royal Navy has said. Many houses are missing roofs and hotels are under water, it added. France's interior minister, Gerard Collomb, said eight people had died on the French side of the island, adding that the figure was likely to rise in the coming hours.

Nine dead as Hurricane Irma rips through Caribbean

MARIGOT, SEP 7 (AFP): Powerful Hurricane Irma cut a swathe of deadly destruction as it roared through the Caribbean, claiming at least nine lives and turning the tropical islands of Barbuda and St Martin into mountains of rubble.

One of the most powerful Atlantic storms on record, the rare Category Five hurricane churned westward off the northern coast of Puerto Rico early morning on a potential collision course with south Florida where at-risk areas were evacuated.

St Martin -- a pristine resort known for its vibrant nightlife -- suffered the full fury of the storm, with rescuers on the French side of the island saying at least eight people had died there and another 21 were injured.

With some 95 percent of homes destroyed on the French side of the island -- the other half belongs to The Netherlands -- a delegation of troops, rescuers and medics arrived from France headed by Overseas Territories Minister Annick Girardin to help with rescue efforts.

"It's an enormous catastrophe. Ninety-five percent of the island is destroyed," top local official Daniel Gibbs said in a radio interview.

"I'm in shock. It's frightening."

Guadeloupe prefect Eric Maire called the situation in St Martin "dramatic," saying the island -- which is divided between the Netherlands and France -- was without drinking water or electricity, and warning the death toll was almost certain to rise.

To the southeast, Barbuda, part of the twin island nation of Antigua and Barbuda, suffered "absolute devastation" with 95 percent of properties damaged, and up to 30 percent demolished, according to Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

"Barbuda now is literally rubble," Browne said.

One person is known to have died on the island of 1,600 residents, apparently a child whose family was trying to get to safer ground.

And on the island of Barbados, a 16-year-old professional surfer named Zander Venezia died while trying to ride a monster wave generated by the storm, the World Surf League said.

China, India should make sure differences do not go out of control: Wang

BEIJING, SEP 7 (PTI): China and India should shed their mindset of regarding each other as rivals or threats and make sure that their differences do not go out of control, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said today.

In his first comments on India-China ties after this week's meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit, Wang said bilateral relations were "affected and undermined" during the past few months "for clear reasons".

Without mentioning the 73-day standoff between the militaries of the two countries at Doklam, Wang said, "going forward, the two sides need to work together to follow-up on the consensus reached by the two leaders and make sure bilateral relations stay on track."

Speaking to the media after his talks with Nepalese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Wang said the Sino-India relationship "should not be derailed".

"Both the countries should seek

harmonious relations and win-win cooperation which is the natural choice and the right choice" for both, Wang said.

"There should be no confrontation. We need to build strategic mutual trust and the two sides need to work to really look at each other as cooperative partners rather than be driven by an old-fashioned mindset and regard each other as rivals or threats," he said.

Both the countries should also "make sure that differences do not go out of control", Wang said.

"Both sides need to remain committed to the five principles of peaceful coexistence and work together to properly handle disputes and also work together to maintain tranquillity in the border areas," he said.

After the end of the Doklam standoff, Modi and Xi had a positive meeting at Xiamen. Putting behind the standoff, India and China had agreed to move forward in their ties with President Xi telling Prime Minister Modi that he wants to put the relationship on the "right track".

GENERAL LAND FOR SALE:

Roadside plots (general land) available for sale at Adampool, east Sikkim.

Contact **9434117687** for further details and to arrange site visits.

NAGALAND STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR FALCON EVENING

Draw Time : 8:00 pm onward

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:07/09/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 98A 08329 (Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 08329 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

06742 14071 28770 39205 40511

40602 65708 70187 80492 81898

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

10678 22818 24317 29268 34758

49146 67168 74526 85984 90404

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

0144 1064 1141 1292 3195 3571 4443 6233 7262 8268

5th Prize Rs.500/-

1049 2379 2463 2560 4542 4566 5766 5800 5917 8730

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0441 0514 0626 0635 0640 0711 0841 0862 0903 0936

0964 1024 1026 1220 1258 1298 1424 1521 1630 1680

1681 1767 1807 1833 1846 2276 2338 2692 2721 2940

3012 3056 3058 3122 3197 3578 3627 3662 3701 3734

3790 3828 3942 4268 4537 4689 4716 4751 4761 4906

5048 5265 5412 5453 5468 5549 5760 5931 5942 6004

6176 6298 6380 6545 6663 6702 7000 7012 7037 7253

7399 7498 7511 7602 7605 7697 7706 7723 7777 7822

7856 7904 7960 8010 8147 8265 8289 8312 8674 8679

8808 8839 8989 9102 9163 9313 9568 9758 9824 9836

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SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR WORTHY MORNING

Draw No:1 DrawDate on:07/09/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 92G 57418 (Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 57418 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

13766 32702 45203 45963 53856

54359 66244 69422 93649 97880

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

00995 04858 07082 48647 59332

68880 70366 85257 87309 96069

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

1400 2685 3604 4166 4366 4451 4921 6576 6760 9956

5th Prize Rs.500/-

1313 2173 5483 6343 7015 7109 7941 7967 9583 9943

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0163 0246 0432 0519 0590 0736 0751 0757 0871 1365

1596 1726 1754 1786 1806 1811 1888 1986 1995 2017

2043 2316 2324 2458 2522 2535 2713 2719 2770 2972

2973 3040 3179 3188 3226 3320 3391 3424 3528 3673

3681 3830 4025 4046 4070 4104 4196 4233 4322 4349

4355 4517 4877 4917 4931 4945 4966 5075 5286 5359

5390 5405 5711 5941 6139 6173 6221 6246 6298 6365

6635 6648 6700 6773 6882 6925 7026 7204 7270 7284

7305 7562 7651 7964 7997 8433 8467 8551 8799 8903

9026 9132 9167 9224 9351 9513 9634 9653 9833 9861

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DEAR KIND

Draw No:6 DrawDate on:07/09/17

1st Prize Rs.61 Lakhs/- 82L 59163 (Including Super Prize Amt)

Cons. Prize Rs.8,000/- 59163 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)

2nd Prize Rs.9500/-

31150 38101 45303 51171 56582

63770 69051 76589 76727 93741

3rd Prize Rs.9000/-

02275 08170 17856 21624 24598

27683 44008 66607 70963 79653

4th Prize Rs.1000/-

2314 2636 4831 5450 5486 6646 7456 9015 9038 9582

5th Prize Rs.500/-

0415 0641 1842 4060 6950 7026 7325 8551 8754 9491

6th Prize Rs.250/-

0147 0170 0194 0543 0618 0621 0726 0793 0831 1022

1146 1314 1459 1599 1603 1713 1731 1871 2029 2194

2256 2473 2757 2777 2908 2956 2988 3110 3205 3528

3568 3605 3668 4071 4075 4107 4153 4164 4184 4211

4236 4353 4531 4548 4563 4712 4715 4717 4761 4813

4924 4950 4970 5231 5510 5634 6268 6518 6618 6764

6823 6863 6885 6906 6914 6915 7077 7287 7312 7350

7356 7369 7536 7677 7798 7915 7917 8011 8247 8312

8368 8500 8627 8680 8803 8869 9011 9026 9122 9176

9241 9246 9333 9354 9527 9550 9716 9773 9814 9859



FASHION FRIENDS: Chrissy Teigen and a pregnant Jessica Alba posed together at Rachel Zoe's SS18 Presentation at Sunset Tower Hotel, where cocktails were provided by Belvedere Vodka, in Hollywood.

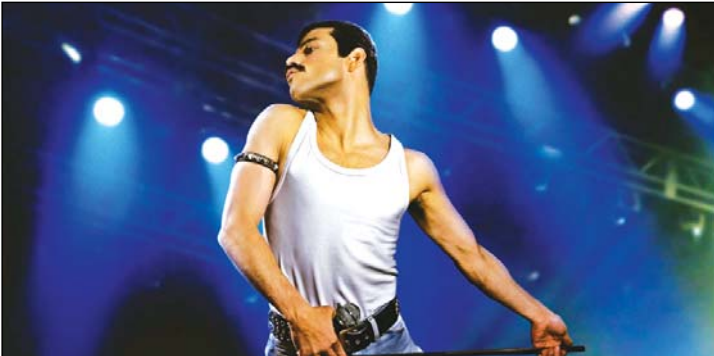
RAMI MALEK IS PRACTICALLY FREDDIE MERCURY'S CLONE IN 'BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY' BIOPIC: FIRST PHOTO!

Is this the real life, is this just fantasy? Rami Malek looks just like late Queen front-man Freddie Mercury in the first photo from the upcoming biopic Bohemian Rhapsody. Entertainment Weekly published the first look on Tuesday, September 5, which would have been the singer's 71st birthday. He died at the age of 45 in November 1991 of bronchial pneumonia resulting from AIDS.

Bohemian Rhapsody, which is named after Queen's iconic 1975 hit, chronicles the British band from 1970 to 1985. In the first photo, Malek, 36, channels Mercury's look from Queen's performance at the 1985 benefit concert Live Aid.

When you're able to open your eyes and see a different person staring back at you in the mirror, it's a very affirming moment," the Mr. Robot star told EW of the first time he saw himself in hair and makeup. Resembling the flamboyant musician "only adds to the level of confidence that one would need to play Freddie Mercury," he added.

The movie will feature Malek's own singing voice, recordings of Mercury and a sound-alike. "We're going to use Freddie as much as possible and use myself as much as possible," Malek said. "I'm in Abbey Road [Studios] right now if that should say any-



thing to you. I'm not working on my acting."Bohemian Rhapsody, which is directed by Bryan Singer, hits theaters on December 25, 2018.

PRIYANKA CHOPRA REGRETS ONCE ENDORSING SKIN-LIGHTENING CREAM: 'I ACTUALLY LIKE MY SKIN TONE'

Priyanka Chopra is a red carpet pro — but she struggled with body image long before she became one. The Quantico star, 35, used to be insecure about her skin tone, and even starred in a commercial for a skin-lightening cream years ago. Growing up in India, the actress says she was made to feel self-conscious because fairer skin tones were valued over "dusky" ones such as hers. "A lot of girls with a darker skin hear things like, 'Oh, poor thing, she's dark,'" she told Vogue India in a new interview. "In India they advertise skin-lightening creams: 'Your skin's gonna get lighter in a week.'"

Chopra says she used the creams on her own skin, and even endorsed one herself, which she immediately regretted: "I used it [when I was very young]. Then when I was an actor, around my early twenties, I did a commercial for a skin-lightening cream. I was playing that girl with insecurities. And when I saw it, I was like, 'Oh shit. What did I do?'"



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Dr. RAJEN UPADHYAY Assistant Professor in History, Namchi Govt. College

8TH SEPTEMBER
WORLD HISTORY
1522: Spanish navigator Juan de Elcano returned to Spain. He completed the 1st circumnavigation of globe, expedition begun under Ferdinand Magellan.
1636: Harvard College, the first college in America, was founded as Cambridge College. It changed its name two years later in honor of the Reverend John Harvard, who gave the institution three hundred books and a large sum of money for the day.
1858: Lincoln made a speech about "You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."
1941: The 900-day Siege of Leningrad by German forces began during World War II. The Siege of Leningrad, 400 miles northwest of Moscow, took place with Germany spread along a 2,000 mile front. It led to the death of at least one million Russians from starvation and disease.

INDIAN HISTORY:
1320: Ghazi Malik, the founder of Tughlaq dynasty ascended the throne as Sultan. The Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq dynasty ended in 1413.
1945: Korea was partitioned by the Soviet Union and the United States. The US invaded Japanese-held Korea.
2001: Venus Williams won her second consecutive U.S. Open title by beating her sister Serena 6-2, 6-4 in the first prime-time women's Grand Slam final.
1952: The first World Convention of Copyrights was signed at Geneva by 35 nations, including India.
1960: Feroze Gandhi, Indira Gandhi's husband passed away.
2001: In Kanpur nearly 6,000 Dalits rejecting Hinduism and converted to Buddhism.

ED SHEERAN RESPONDS TO 'GAME OF THRONES' CAMEO CRITICISM: 'I'M COOL WITH IT'

Ed Sheeran won't be making his return to Westeros. Following mixed reactions to the singer's Game of Thrones season 7 premiere cameo, Sheeran opened up about the experience, insisting that his Lannister soldier has been laid to rest. "No one wants to see me come back," Sheeran, 26, told MTV News.

"I wanted to be a cameo in it, and I've done the cameo." "I'm cool with it, though," he added. "I enjoyed it."Sheeran explained that he doubts his character made it beyond the loot train attack, in which Emilia Clarke's Daenerys Targaryen unleashed her dragon, Drogon, on the Lannister army.

"We were all quite young, those soldiers," Sheeran explained. "I doubt I'm going to survive for that long, to be honest, when there are dragons in the world."As previously reported, many fans were puzzled by Sheeran's appearance on the fan-favorite HBO series, in which he sang around a campfire during the episode. Hours after his appearance aired, Sheeran briefly deleted his Twitter account, a move that many fans speculated was in response to criticism of his role on the show. However, the "Shape of You" singer



quickly defended himself against those rumors. "Last I'll say on this. I came off Twitter. Coz I was always

intending to come off Twitter, had nothing to do with what people said about my game of thrones cameo, because I am in game of thrones, why the hell would I worry what people

thought about that. It's clearly f--kin' awesome," he wrote alongside an Instagram photo of himself at an airport on July 19. "Timing was just a coincidence, but believe what you want."

LOCKHORNS - HOEST & REINER



"MARRIAGE HAS TAKEN ME TO PLACES I'VE NEVER BEEN BEFORE... LIKE CRAFT STORES."

ARCTIC CIRCLE



BABY BLUES



ARIES: Someone could approach you today offering an opportunity to increase your income, which may seem too good to be true. It might be all they say, Aries, but look into the facts before making promises to go ahead with it. All may not be as it seems! Today isn't a good day to commit to investments of any kind. Wait a few days, consider the idea again, and see if it's workable.
TAURUS: Whatever your situation, Taurus, today you could encounter someone exciting who stirs a powerful romantic attraction within you. This can be delightful, and there's no reason why you shouldn't enjoy the company, but be a little cautious before taking any action. Get to know this person better before you

decide on any sort of involvement, casual or serious. All may not be as it seems.
GEMINI: Annoying situations that arise today could have you feeling stressed. Gemini. A sudden desire to escape might enter your mind. Take care not to work out your frustrations by indulging in food or drink. This could only make the situation worse. Focus on the tasks at hand and get them done. Follow that with a long walk to clear your head and a movie to get your mind off it all.
CANCER: Difficulty reaching others could plague you today. Cancer. emails might not go through or you could be stuck in endless telephone tag. You may want to stop trying, but

don't give up. Keep at it! Find something else to do while you're waiting. You'll make contact eventually. What you have to discuss with these friends could prove gratifying on more than one level.
LEO: Upsets among family members in the home could drive you to escape it all and throw yourself into your work, particularly creative projects of some kind. This might be the right course of action, Leo. The situation isn't permanent, and perhaps the others in your household simply need to work things out for themselves. In the meantime, your work will give you satisfaction and perhaps even advancement.
VIRGO: Don't expect much luck with computers today, Virgo, particu-

larly when it comes to writing or communicating with others. Malfunctions with technology could plague you throughout the day. If you want to get a message to a friend, the best way might be to visit in person! Creative efforts could be hindered the same way. Today is a great day to fall back on good old pen and paper.
LIBRA: Upsetting news about money may come your way today, Libra. This could involve your personal finances or economic factors in general that indirectly affect your finances. Don't panic. All may not be as it seems! Check the facts before acting. The situation could be real, but it's more likely the product of overblown journalism. Don't be-

lieve everything you read.
SCORPIO: A strong desire for new romance, whether with a new or current partner, could prove overwhelming today, Scorpio. You might be tempted to do whatever it takes to attain it. Don't plunge ahead - this isn't the day for it! It might cause problems. Go to a romantic movie or read a racy novel. Seek what you want in a few days. You should have better results by then!
SAGITTARIUS: Someone you're very fond of could be in a difficult mood today. Don't let your sensitivity get the better of you, Sagittarius. Don't take offense at what this person may say in frustration. Intuit what they're feeling and be your usual compassionate self. This

could strengthen your relationship and make you feel good, too.
CAPRICORN: An unexpected meeting with a friend could leave you sensing some strong emotions that your friend is experiencing. These could be unsettling, Capricorn, so be prepared. Increased psychic awareness could cause you to pick up the thoughts and feelings of others more strongly than usual. This should increase your understanding of the person, but be careful not to reveal this understanding unless asked. It might prove too much for your friend right now.
AQUARIUS: A sudden desire for independence from the confines of a job, stagnant home life, or relationship that isn't working could seem

irresistible right now, Aquarius. You might have some outrageous ideas for changing jobs, moving, or finding a new partner. These ideas might be more workable than they seem, but this isn't the day to make decisions. Wait a few days and then consider your ideas again.
PISCES: A warm, loving letter, phone call, or email could come today from someone dear who lives far away. This should be delightful, Pisces, but the frustrations that result from the separation could cause you to think about taking a trip to visit the person. This might be a good idea, but don't make any promises. Wait a few days and look into the possibility to see if it's workable.