



**MARTIAL ARTISTS  
FELICITATE CHIEF COACH  
ON STINT AS INDIA  
TEAM COACH TO ASIADS**  
*Pg03*

**LOYOLITES RAISE  
FUNDS FOR KERALA**  
*pg02*



**ROTARIANS  
CELEBRATE  
RAKHI WITH ITBP  
PERSONNEL**  
*Pg03*

# SummitTIMES

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

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## Governor Ganga Prasad takes oath of office



**GANGTOK, 26 AUG [IPR]:** Ganga Prasad was sworn in as the 16th Governor of Sikkim at a function held at New Raj Bhawan, Gangtok, today.

Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi M. Rai, administered the oath of office to the new Governor in the presence

of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling and his Cabinet colleagues, Speaker Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Judge, High Court of Sikkim, Deputy Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, MP Lok Sabha, MLAs, senior officers of the State Government, and host of other dignitaries and invitees.

The swearing-in ceremony was followed by offering of traditional khadas to the new Governor by the Chief Minister and all the dignitaries present. The Governor was then presented a Guard of Honour.

Mr Prasad has served as a Member of Legislative Council of Bihar for

18 years, and also as the Leader of the Opposition (Bharatiya Janata Party) in the Bihar Legislative Council. He was also the Leader of the Bihar Legislative Council for the ruling party during the earlier NDA regime.

He succeeds Shrinivas Patil as the 16th Governor of Sikkim.



### MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR GANGA PRASAD TO THE PEOPLE OF SIKKIM

**"IT WILL** be my endeavour to contribute towards furthering the momentum of growth and development"

I feel privileged to assume office as Governor of this beautiful state of Sikkim, known in the country as the most peaceful and vibrant State. I am overwhelmed by the warmth and hospitality of the people of Sikkim when I reached the border town Rangpo on 25th August 2018. It was a heart warming experience to be received by the Chief Minister, his cabinet colleagues, Chief Secretary and other officials of the State administration and people in general. I express my gratitude to the State Government and all Sikkimese for according warm welcome on my arrival in Sikkim.

As I assume office today, it will be my endeavour to contribute towards furthering the momentum of growth and development the state has achieved over the decades.

Welfare and protection of interest of Sikkimese from all section and walks of life will remain my biggest priority. It will also be my endeavour to strengthen the centre state relations as a facilitator and synergize the efforts of both State and Union Government, in right spirit of the 'welfare state' as enshrined in the constitution of our nation.

I have learned about the distinction of Sikkim as the first Organic State and the most tourists friendly. I foresee immense potential of growth in the sector of tourism and organic farming in the State. I will be happy to be a part of State's effort to leverage the advantage we have in these sectors. Setting up the processing units of organic products and promoting and marketing in the national and international markets will ensure optimum economic dividends to the State and we must put in concerted efforts to realise this potential.

It would also be my quest to facilitate the creation of opportunities for employment for our State's youth and fulfil the aspiration of all sections of the community. Let us all put our efforts to keep Sikkim as abode of peace where harmony, brotherhood, mutual co-existence and hospitality remain its principal hallmark. I am confident that with the contribution and active involvement of all segments of Sikkimese populace, we can take Sikkim into greater heights of progress and prosperity in the days to come.

As the Governor of this State, I will be happy to meet the organisations, associations, charitable trusts, institutions of learning and all who are working in the collective interest of society and the State at large.

## HSP wants clarity on pay revision, implementation by end-August



**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 26 AUG:**

**H**amro Sikkim Party [HSP] vice president Bhaichung Bhutia and spokesperson Biraj Adhikari today accused the SDF Government of keeping the people confused about the pay revision announced for government servants on the recommendations of the 5th Pay Committee.

While pointing out that the Chief Minister had announced in his I-Day message that the pay revision recommendations would be implemented, the two claimed that there was no clarity on the matter thus far.

Mr Bhutia contended that despite the I-Day assurance, the only document issued by the state

government has been an "ambiguous sounding" circular forwarded to all the districts which contained a line like "for the record and for reference". However, nowhere has it been explicitly stated that the recommendations have been implemented, and HSP finds this confusing and regards it as a meaningless document, he said.

He went on to allege that the government was resorting to time-wasting tactics and condemned such moves.

Mr Bhutia went on to place two demands:

-That the State government take out a notification announcing the full implementation of the 5th Pay Commission  
**turn to pg02**

## Over 200 sign up for Mr Sikkim auditions

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 26 AUG:**

**M**r Sikkim, organized by GBT Entertainment, Sikkim Chronicle and The Accelerator, held its second day of auditions today with a marathon run of contestants vying for entry in the top 17 or 20.

Over 200 people participated in the two-day audition, a press release informs.

Contestants from across the four districts arrived in the capital at Hotel Denzong Shangrila to participate in the first of its kind event being held in the Himalayan state.

Judges for the event are journalist Nirmal Mangar, GBT-founder Tenzing Dadul Bhutia, model and entrepreneur Karishma Pradhan, Accelerator founder Pragya Satapathy, actor Sonam Barfungpa, and fashion designer Rinzing C Bhutia.



"We are excited to be part of such a grand event. The contestants are fantastic and beyond our expectations," said one of the judges, Karishma Pradhan.

Event head Yougan Tamang informs that due to the overwhelming

response, on-the-spot registrations were also opened today for those interested.

Official grooming partner, Karma Unisex Salon and Spa, founder, Karma C Bhutia, has showered rich appreciation on all the contestants

for actively taking part in auditions.

She added that such platforms will boost the glamour and entertainment industry in Sikkim.

Logistic partner, Stars of Hope (SOH), a volunteer group of Sikkim also the official logistics partner of the pageant, has actively partnered with the Mr Sikkim Manhunt.

SOH's Bikash Thapa stated that such men's pageant is representative of a new Sikkim which is young, dynamic and raring to go and reach the zenith. Sahil Lama, a school student, one of the contestants, stated that he has conquered his fear of public appearances.

Similarly, a recovered drug addict, also a contestant, in an emotional interaction held that such platforms will not just encourage them but also sharpen the goodness within.

## Pang Lhabsol in North Sikkim

**MANGAN, 26 AUG (IPR):**

Pang Lhabsol was celebrated in grand manner all over North Sikkim.

At Lachung, special prayers were conducted invoking the guardian deities of Sikkim and a wang for long life was performed by Lachung

Rimpoché.

At Thangu Monastery in Lachen, a traditional Cham was performed by the monks and the warrior dance performed by the people of Lachen Dzumsa.

At Ringhim Monastery, prayers along with  
**turn to pg03**



## SRM Univ inducts record batch of first year students

**SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 26 AUG:**

**S**ikkim has developed well into a hub for education and established incredible academic institutions in terms of higher education as compare to the other northeastern states within a short span of joining the mainstream of the Union of India, said, Additional Chief Secretary Gyan Prakash Upadhyaya while addressing the Induction programme for the first year students for the academic year 2018-19 at Sri Ramasamy Memorial University Sikkim (SRMUS).

The SRM University Registrar, Mr Satish, informed that within a span of

5 years of its establishment, the university, which began with just a hundred students in its under graduate programme, has enrolled more than 1000 students and the highest number in this academic year.

He informed that SRM Sikkim University boasts 48% girl student enrolment, the highest in the entire country.

SRM has also offered ten Sikkimese students free education from this academic session as part of its CSR engagements in the name of its founder. These scholarships go to school toppers across the various courses and  
**turn to pg02**

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## SRM Univ inducts record batch of first year students

*contd from pg01*

also students who come from under privileged backgrounds.

At present nine under graduate and 11 post graduate courses are being taught in SRMSU.

Meanwhile, inviting the newly admitted students to their new courses, the Additional CS pointed out that the establishment of seven universities - three in Public Sector and four in private sector - came about because of the progressive policies of the Government of Sikkim and the peace and tranquility that the Hill State nurtures.

Speaking on the present scenario, the Additional Chief Secretary pointed out that India still has huge potential to achieve growth if the younger generation capitalized its productive instincts through specialized in technological sectors.

While highlighting the various factors of academic performance and selection of programmes, Dr. Robin Chhetri, member of SRM Academic Council, said that SRM has adopted the best technological and job oriented programmes in under graduate and post graduate levels.

He said that the design of courses adopted in the SRM are thoroughly checked to be in step with the demands and present-day scenario.

Dr. Chhetri said that only 28% of the 18-23 years age groups are enrolling in graduate and post graduate level which compares poorly with international statistics, adding that Gross Enrollment Ratio should hit at least 30% by 2020.

## HSP wants clarity on pay revision..

*contd from pg01*

by the end of August 2018 or be prepared to face massive reprisals as the HSP is prepared to launch an agitation if the deadline is not met.

- Arrears be disbursed wef from 01 January 2016 all employees in one installment within three months, failing which the party shall consider moving the courts.

The arrears from 2016 and in one single instalment are the rights of government employees, especially the Group C and D employees, who are the backbone of the State administration. They deserve their due rights especially in the present times of market inflation, said HSP spokesperson Mr Adhikari.

Simultaneously, the HSP has also demanded the state government stop giving service extensions to retired government employees.

"The government has been giving service extensions regularly to retired government employees. Most of the extensions are given to those close to the SDF government and not on merit. Public money is also being wasted by providing police escorts to the ministers," said Mr Adhikari.



**BORDER BROTHERS:** 30 members of the Nepali Sanskriti Sangrangan Sangh from Soreong, West Sikkim, visited SSB jawans stationed on the Indo-Nepal border checkpost at Chewa Bhanjhyang in West Sikkim, on Sunday to tie Rakhis on them to mark Raksha Bandhan.

# Loyolites raise funds for Kerala

## SUMMIT REPORT

**NAMCHI, 26 AUG:**

A short skit by NSS volunteers of Loyola College of Education, Namchi, was performed here at Central Park today to highlight the tragedy and loss of human lives and livestock caused by the recent Kerala floods and the Herculean task that lies ahead for relief and rehabilitation work.

The main objective of this street play was to raise a relief fund to support the people of Kerala battling for basic survival necessities at present.

All the students of the college participated in the programme enthusiastically and showed their care and concern for people in need.



The collected amount will be sent as a token of

love to the people of Kerala, they informed.

Students performed songs and skits on the occasion to convey their

empathy and compassion.

On the occasion, Loyola College of Education also thanked the

municipality and civil administration for their cooperation and support to make the programme possible at Central Park.



# I-Day celebration committee celebrates success with memories and felicitations

## SUMMIT REPORT

**RANGPO, 26 AUG:**

A Video CD produced by Pokhraj Rai and Mani Kumar Pradhan on the Independence Day celebrations 2018 here at Rangpo was released at the final meeting of the 72nd I-Day Celebration Committee held here today.

NGOs, clubs, organisations

and individuals who supported the celebrations were also felicitated at the function which was also attended by the Area MLA Gopal Baraily, SDM Rangpo Prem Kamal Rai, SHO Keshang Bhutia, Traffic PI Santosh Bania, Rangpo Nagar Panchayat president Maya Sinchury, vice president Laal Kumar Rai, Councillor

Savitri Pradhan and representatives from different industrial units based here, officers from different departments, local youth.

The accounts were also settled and it was decided that a permanent organisation registered under Sikkim Society Act be formalised.

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# District-level Science Seminar held

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 AUG:**

State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) organised a district-level science seminar for secondary level students of north, west and south districts on 21 August in collaboration with district HRDD office of the respective districts.

The topic of the seminar was "Industrial Revolution 4.0: Are we prepared?"

The objective of the seminar was to develop inquisitiveness, scientific enquiry and scientific temper among secondary level students of govt schools.

District level seminar for north district was held at Mangan Sr. Sec. School. The jury to evaluate the seminar presentation comprised of Principal Eklavya Model Residential Schools Swayem, DB Mishra, Health Educators from Health Department Mangan Pema Nedup and Rinchen Namgyal.

Mangan Sr Sec School, Mangshila Sr Sec School and Singhik Sec. School secured first, second and third positions respectively. Likewise, the seminar for South district was held at Namchi Girls Sr Sec School. The event which saw the participation of 13 schools was co-ordinated by Parijit Sutradhar and Sekhar Chhetri.

Sadam Sr Sec School, Lingmoo Sr Sec School and VCGL Sr Sec School, Ravongla were adjudged as the three best schools in order of Merit.

The seminar for

West district was held at Pelling Sr Sec School in which KB Limboo Sr Sec School Sribadam, Pakkigaon Sec School and Kripasalyan Sr Sec School, Daramdin, bagged first, second and third positions respectively.

The seminar for East district was held on 24 August at SCERT, Lower Burtuk. 19 secondary and senior secondary schools participated in the event which was evaluated by a panel of judges comprising of Joint Director Commerce and Industries Department, N Jaswant, Assistant Professors from Sikkim University Dr Arun Chhetri and Dr Arun Tamang.

Tadong Sr. Sec School, Namcheybong Sr. Sec School and Rangpo Sr. Sec School bagged first, second and third position respectively.

These top three schools selected from each of the four districts will compete at the state-level event on 07 September at SCERT, Gangtok, while the best speaker of state level seminar will represent the state at the national science seminar scheduled to be held on 05 October at Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum Bangalore.

While SCERT Sikkim is the organiser of the event at the state level, Birla Industrial and Technological Museum (BITM) Kolkata and The National Council of Science Museum are the organisers of the seminar at regional and national level respectively.

# Flood-ravaged Kerala's wait for full central aid package could be long

## NEW DELHI, AUG 26

(PTI): Flood-ravaged Kerala may have to wait a few months to get the complete financial aid package from the Centre as the process of assessing the extent of damage and fund release is time-consuming, officials said.

After the initial release of funds, the central government follows certain rules and guidelines before awarding the final aid to any state for a natural calamity, a Home Ministry official, privy to such circumstances, said.

The Centre has so far released Rs 600 crore for Kerala, which witnessed its worst flood in a century. The death toll in Kerala floods has touched 293 since August 8 while 15 people are still missing.

According to the existing guidelines on disaster relief funds, the central government's contribution to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) is 75 per cent for general category states and 90 per cent for special category states of hilly regions.

But the amount is released in each financial year in two instalments -- in June and December.

However, the central government, upon being satisfied that exigencies of a particular calamity so warrant, may recom-

mend an earlier release of the central share but that too up to just 25 per cent of the funds due to the state in the following year.

But this release will be adjusted against the instalments of the subsequent year.

Similarly, for getting relief from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), the state government will have to first submit a memorandum showing sector-wise damage with proper justification for requirement of funds and then it is assessed whether a case for additional assistance from NDRF is made out under the existing guidelines. This itself is a time-consuming exercise for a state which is still trying to recover from the disaster, the official said.

An official statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs, which was issued on August 23 giving details of the flood relief measures taken by the central government in Kerala, noted that the submission of the memorandum by the state will take time.

The memorandum from the state government, when comes, will be examined to assess the likely requirement of funds as per items and norms of expenditure under the SDRF/NDRF.

If the preliminary examination reveals that there are adequate funds in SDRF for providing relief as per norms, the state would be advised accordingly.

If the preliminary examination reveals that the state is in need of assistance, a central team will be deputed for making an on-the-spot assessment, the guidelines say. After the tour and assessment, the central team will submit a report.

The report of the central team will be examined by the sub-committee of the national executive committee (SC-NEC) headed by the Union Home Secretary.

The SC-NEC will assess the extent of assistance and expenditure which can be funded from the NDRF as per norms and make recommendations.

Based on the recommendations of the SC-NEC, a high-level committee, headed by the Union Home Minister, will approve the quantum of relief to be released from the NDRF.

The release of assistance from NDRF will be subject to adjustment of 50 per cent of the balance in the SDRF as on March 31 of the preceding financial year.



Gangtok on  
Monday,  
27 Aug

Temp: 27°C/16°C  
Forecast: Cloudy,  
a shower or thun-  
derstorm around.  
Sunrise: 05:11 AM  
Sunset: 6:03 PM

Singtam  
welcomes  
announcement  
of RTO section  
in their midst

SINGTAM, 26 AUG: The inconvenience of vehicle owners here resulting from the chore of travelling to Gangtok to get their vehicle documents updated is finally ending soon. Singtam will soon have a branch of the RTO section of the Transport Department.

This latest development has been welcomed by drivers and vehicle owners here.

It is learnt that the RTO section was initially planned to be set up in Rangpo but it was the determination of two presidents - Tinku Adhikari of SMTWA and Tashering Lepcha of cooperative society - who pursued the matter and requested the Chief Minister to consider opening the RTO branch in Singtam.

It is to be mention here that, during the time of renewal and updating process of documents of vehicles both ( taxi and private including heavy vehicles too ) was a task that every owner and drivers used to get disappointed along with harassment, inconvenience and delay on the other hands as well.

"The requirement to travel upto Gangtok to get vehicle documents updated was proving a big strain, not only because of distance, but also the hours lost to traffic jams in the capital", mention Mr Tinku Adhikari, president of the Singtam Motor Transport Workers Association. And then there was the parking problem as well.

The announcement of establishing an RTO section in Singtam bazaar was also welcomed by Tashering Lepcha the president of New Generation Contractor Cooperative Society who has conveyed thanks to the Chief Minister on behalf of all the drivers.

The RTO office is expected to begin operations here from the old Food Godown complex in about four months time.

Pang  
Lhabsol  
in North  
Sikkim

contd from pg1

the traditional Cham was performed. A Wang ceremony was also performed by Ronyed Rimpoche.

Rajya Sabha MP, Hissey Lachungpa, and Forest Minister, TW Lepcha, attended the ceremonies at all the above locations.

Prayers in reverence of Khangchendzonga and other deities were performed at all the above places.

Martial artists felicitate Chief Coach on  
stint as India team coach to Asiads

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 AUG:

Sikkim Amateur Taekwondo Association (SATA) chief coach, Trilok Subba, led the Indian Taekwondo team as the team coach in the recently held 18th Asian Games 2018 held from 18 to 23 August in Indonesia.

The national team made it to pre quarter-final round in the Games. On his return to Sikkim, Mr Subba received a grand welcome by taekwondo coaches and players of the State here at White Hall on Sunday.

On the occasion, SATA also felicitated its chief coach for leading the national team in the prestigious Asian Games.

Mr Subba expressed his happiness on getting the opportunity to represent the country



as the coach in the prestigious Asian Games. He mentioned that the national camp for the Asian Games was a learning experience about new skills and

techniques.

"This experience will help teach our local martial artists of Sikkim and prepare them for the upcoming 2022 Asian Games to

win medals for the country," he shared.

He assured to bring out more talented martial artists from the State for the country.

Penlong School wins district level folk dance comptt

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 AUG:

Penlong Sec. School has won the district-level folk dance competition themed on Adolescence Education held on 24 August by the Population Education Cell of SCERT, HRD Department, under the National Population Education Project, NCERT, New Delhi, at Modern Senior Secondary School auditorium here.

Biraspathi Parsai Senior Secondary School came in second while Aho Kishan Secondary School came in third. The schools which bagged first and second positions will be participating in the state-level competition scheduled to be held on 21 September 2018.

The specific objectives of the programme



was to effectively convey issues related to Population Education and Adolescence Education, an official press communiqué informs.

The programme was attended by officials, faculty members and administrative staff of SCERT, Gangtok, Princi-

pal and teachers of Modern Sr. Sec. School and the teachers and students of participating schools.

The jury members of the competition were Dr. Kuljan Lama, Medical Officer In-charge, School Health (RBSK) STNM hospital, Banita Lohagun, Artist, Culture and Heri-

tage Department, Deepak Dhakal, Freelance Artist, Song & Drama, Music & Film Board.

Students from classes VIII and IX participated in the competition and addressed theme ranging from early marriage, women's empowerment, drug abuse, respect for others, charm and challenges of adolescence and environment protection through their performance.



Rotarians celebrate Rakhi  
with ITBP personnel

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 AUG:

A team of Rotary Club of Gangtok South, celebrated Raksha Bandhan with personnel of the 13th Battalion of Indo Tibet Border Police

[ITBP] here at Raj Bhawan on Sunday. The team was led by its president, Gunila Verma, and included Anil Gupta, Namgyal Sherpa, Geeta Sapkota and Anita Niroula who tied Rakhis to ITBP personnel

stationed there. A Rotary Club of Gangtok South press release informs that the programme was initiated by ITBP Commandant Angad Kumar Yadav.

Trollitically Incorrect: The good,  
bad and ugly of social media

NEW DELHI, AUG 26 (PTI): A book of satire on social media, "Trollitically Incorrect", written by senior journalist and social media critic-columnist Chetna Keer was released yesterday at the Indian Women's Press Corps here amidst much fanfare.

Peppered with humorous analogies and star strategies of surviving trolling, the book is a funny take on the ever growing world of social media yes, the good and the bad both.

"To use a metaphor culled from this digital age, my book is like a selfie stick that gives insights into the idiosyncrasies of Instagram

India.

"Whatever it is -- good, bad and ugly -- social media is like that must-have morning cuppa or Maharaja Mac burger that you just can't do without," said the author.

Heavily inspired by the wit of widely read humourist PG Wodehouse, Keer, who has a penchant for comical wordplays and tongue-in-cheek remarks, said she is confident about the book being received well among the people.

"The humour book is the perfect stress-buster for all age groups and the ideal light read especially to take on flights or Shatabdi and Rajdhani rides, for travel time is

when much of India hi-flying does its reading," she added.

Interestingly, Keer, for long, has also been writing a humour column 'Witerati', critiquing life on social media.

"While social and political tensions are killing humour across the country, Chetna has chosen to ensure that people find enough time to laugh at themselves and others," writes former MP and veteran journalist HK Dua about the book.

The book also satirically scrutinizes the several isms so synonymous with the social media --- be it "selfie-ism, status update-ism, Shashisms, or Sidhuisms".



SCA general meeting  
takes stock and celebrates  
BCCI full member status

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 26 AUG:

A special general meeting was called by Sikkim Cricket Association a day before trials to select the Sikkim squad for an upcoming national tournament. The meeting was attended by office bearers, support staffs, players and stakeholders of the association, an official press release informs.

Among other agendas of the meeting, the key highlight was to inform that SCA has been recognized as one of the Full Members of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) among 34 other full members.

As a full member, SCA will now have voting rights and is also eligible for all the other benefits. During the meeting,

SCA general secretary Sonam Palden Bhutia presented an overview of the current working of the association and details of upcoming tournaments that Sikkim will be playing in different categories.

He also informed that BCCI will soon be releasing funds for construction of a cricket pitch and improvement of Mining Cricket Ground. The Lodha Commission has been accepted in toto during the SGM, said Mr. Bhutia.

It was also decided that General Membership will be opened for all after guidelines have been drafted by KC Sharma, Vinod Gupta, Mukesh Agarwal, Chewang Lama, Nayan Tshering Bhutia and Rinzing Bhutia. The

turn to pg05

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR ZEAL EVENING

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4th Prize Rs.250/- 4644 4720 5677 6476 6486 6493 8136 8640 9639 9867  
5th Prize Rs.120/-  
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1793 1819 1882 1932 2172 2205 2215 2322 2445 2537  
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MEMORIAL SERVICE



"Father, into your hand I commit my spirit".

Luke 23: 46

Late Elder Thom Tshering Rufus (Lepcha), Former Joint Secretary of IT & ST, GoS, passed away peacefully on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 (Wednesday). His Memorial Service will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018 (Monday).

All friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to join us in the Memorial Service at our residence, Below Paljor Stadium, Near Police Barrack, Upper Sichey, Gangtok.

We would also take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who stood by us in the time of Bereavement.

Lhamching Bhutia (Wife)

Tshering Dorjee Rufus & Rinzing Chanzom Bhutia (Son & Daughter-In-Law),

Gaimit Rufus & Simon Lucksom, Tshering Choden Rufus & Yegendra Kumar Thapa, Tsering Zangmu Rufus & Anup Jyoti Baniya (Daughters & Sons-In-Law) and Grandchildren: 9933456122, 7407181380



# SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

## Awaiting Collaborations

*If people don't network, their issues will get hijacked*

Gangtok is cleaner than most State capitals in India, much cleaner than any other hill station. And the Gangtokians appear happy with that much because one is yet to see any community-level initiative to improve civic conditions any further. For instance, it had to be the State Government which gave the nod to a proposal which came from a foreign funding agency to declare MG Marg a "litter & spit free zone". The declaration was easy, it was the implementation that tested the patience of the enforcers. It has succeeded, but again as a top-down initiative, and with it, much before the rest of India was told to go swachh, Sikkim had added another USP to its appeal. Of course, no tourist is going to come to Gangtok only to see a litter & spit free zone (which, admittedly, is under some stress already), but it will be initiatives like this that will add up to provide that larger argument which will convince visitors to choose Gangtok over, say a Shimla for their summer vacations. It would, however, have been so much more palatable and welcome if such a "zone" had come about on public initiative. Why did it have to be the State which had to enforce the new stipulations? Why couldn't a local NGO have pursued the concept and convinced the locals to stop littering and spitting at MG Marg?

The problem lies with the fact that Gangtok, although it is the most urban of spaces in the State, is still also closed and uninvolved, populated by Gangtokians who are isolated not only in their lifestyles, but also their thinking. They complain that the UD&HD garbage collection trucks do not detour to their residences often enough, but will never come together to work out a solution for locality garbage disposal problems on their own. They will be scandalised when reports of a fire in a school in South India hits the headlines and will worry about the safety of their children, but will wait for the State Government to draw up a legislation to make the schools safer. And then they will forget to keep track. They will not come together as parents and pressure the respective school managements to install the safety mechanisms. They will complain of drunken driving on weekends until one of their own gets challaned for driving under the influence of alcohol and then it will be about how overbearing the cops have become. And through all this, they will not convince their neighborhood bars to collect car keys and refuse to hand them over to inebriated drivers or unless the group has a sober hand for the wheels. They know that substance abuse is a problem as is juvenile delinquency and also suicides, but remain cocooned in the belief that all that is happening to someone else until the hammer hits home and then they will convince themselves it was an aberration.

What Gangtokians do not realize is that it does not take a rocket scientist to identify the problem areas and suggest remedial measures when it comes to working out how communities can work together to make living better. The oft-expressed need for a civil society in Gangtok is not misplaced, the problem is, it does not appear to be forming; not until Gangtokians stop reacting only to personal discomforts and ignoring community issues. The problem with such an attitude is that when real issues crop-up, because the people are not interested in understanding them in their entirety, they get hijacked by people we all know commonly as "vested interests." When this happens, there is a lot of noise, but no resolution. It is for the people to decide whether they want to continue living in this cacophony or opt for saner collaborations.

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# Kerala shows the risk of severe floods is still evolving

**DANIEL PARSONS & CHRISTOPHER SKINNER**  
*theconversation.com*

The Indian state of Kerala has been devastated by severe floods. More than 350 people have died, while more than a million have been evacuated to over 4,000 relief camps. Tens of thousands remain stranded.

The crisis is a timely reminder that climate change is expected to increase the frequency and magnitude of severe flooding across the world. Although no single flood can be linked directly to climate change, basic physics attests to the fact that a warmer world and atmosphere will hold more water, which will result in more intense and extreme rainfall.

The monsoon season usually brings heavy rains but this year Kerala has seen 42% more rain than would be expected, with more than 2,300mm of rain across the region since the beginning of June, and over 700mm in August alone.

These are similar levels seen during Hurricane Harvey, that hit Houston in August 2017, when more than 1,500mm of rain fell during one storm. Tropical cyclones and hurricanes, such as Harvey, are expected to increase in strength by up to 10% with a 2°C rise in global temperature. Under climate change the probability of such extreme rainfall is also

predicted to grow by up to sixfold towards the end of the century. The rivers and drainage systems of Kerala have been unable to cope with such large volumes of water and this has resulted in flash flooding.

Much of that water would normally be slowed down by trees or other natural obstacles. Yet over the past 40 years Kerala has lost nearly half its forest cover; an area of 9,000 km<sup>2</sup>, just under the size of Greater London, while the state's urban areas keep growing. This means that less rainfall is being intercepted, and more water is rapidly running into overflowing streams and rivers.

One of the most striking things from the videos and images emerging from the area is the brown colour of the flood waters and the extreme damage caused by landslides. Our recent research has shown that geomorphology – the processes of erosion and deposition that shape the Earth's surface – is sensitive to rainfall intensity, so more frequent and more extreme floods mean more rapid changes across our landscapes.

## HOW 'EXTREME' ARE THE KERALA FLOODS?

The floods have been described as "the worst in 100 years" by Kerala state's chief minister. Similar descriptions are often used to try and define the magnitudes of a flood, such as a

"one-in-100 year flood event", despite it being widely recognised that such descriptions are ineffective for communicating flood risk. Our ways of thinking about probability and the risk of flooding, as well as measuring its magnitude, are in desperate need of updating. The 100-year flood, the flood that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year, does not register in public consciousness.

A different way of thinking about it is that a 100-year flood at a given location has close to a one in four chance of occurring within the term of a 25-year mortgage. A 25% chance your house will flood before you've finished paying for it is far more relatable and more likely to get people to consider and engage with their own individual risk.

Likewise, governments, both regional and national, along with agencies and first responders, need to develop improved flood maps and update them to incorporate uncertainty. Alongside this, we need more effective communication and public engagement to develop flood risk literacy – long term this will help improve policy decisions. The UK's 25-year environment plan is a step in that direction.

Most critically we have to accept that, with the changing climate and changing patterns of rainfall, the be-

haviour of rivers will also shift. All our assessments of flood risk currently assume a static, steady-state system where rivers respond in the same way they have in the past. An increase in rainfall, and in particularly extreme events, will cause our landscapes to adjust. Rivers and their basins will become more dynamic and prone to change.

How quickly rivers change, and how quickly we respond with urban drainage and flood mitigation measures, will play a significant role in our evolving flood risk. Layered on this will be how rapidly societies, and their governments, begin to adopt more resilient ways of living with water.

Flooding is a challenge across individual, local, regional and global scales, and is set to increase in the future and its impacts will become more damaging. We need solutions across each of these scales to improve individual and societal resilience – so when flooding does occur it isn't the disaster we are currently witnessing unfold in Kerala.

*[Daniel Parsons is Professor of Process Sedimentology and Associate Dean for Research (Science and Engineering), University of Hull; Christopher Skinner is Postdoctoral Research Assistant in Numerical Modelling of Fluvial Geomorphology, University of Hull]*

# Is China worsening the developing world's environmental crisis?

**JONAS GAMSO**  
*theconversation.com*

The developing world is in the midst of an environmental crisis. Simply breathing the air is a leading cause of death.

One recent study found that pollution is to blame for a fifth of sub-Saharan Africa's infant deaths. Another showed that exposure to toxins or other dangerous substances in the air killed over 9 million people in 2015 alone, with 92 percent of those deaths occurring in developing countries – this is more people than were killed by AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined in that same year. In Latin America, over one-third of deaths from lung cancer, stroke and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease were estimated to stem from air pollution in 2012.

There are many reasons behind these troubling trends, but one looms especially large: China's booming economy. Not only has this created an environmental crisis in China itself, but the nature of its trade with developing nations threatens their air, water and soil as well.

Over the last decade, China has become the biggest trade partner to continental Africa and to several countries in Latin America, homes to some of the world's poorest people. At the same time, air pollution has surged in many of these countries, especially in Africa.

Are these two trends linked? My new study published in June tries to answer that question. I also wondered, could a country's governing institutions make a difference?

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL COST OF TRADE

Most economists agree that trade helps generate economic growth and development.

Unfortunately, these benefits often come with costs, such as environmental degradation. Devel-



oping countries are especially susceptible to this side effect because they often export pollution-intensive goods like fossil fuels and metals and have weak environmental regulations.

Western governments have increasingly been pushing developing countries to protect their environments via trade agreements. NAFTA, for example, was the first U.S. trade agreement to include legally binding environmental conditions – something that is now a standard element. A similar trend occurred in Europe, where binding environmental provisions became fixtures in trade agreements around 2006.

In contrast, China does not push its partners to strengthen environmental protections. For this reason, trading intensively with China is especially likely to generate high levels of pollution in developing countries.

## LINKS BETWEEN CHINA'S

## TRADE AND POLLUTION

Against this backdrop, I investigated whether trade with China affected sulfur dioxide emissions and environmental illnesses in 58 Latin American and sub-Saharan African countries from 2001 to 2010.

To capture how intensively they trade with China, I measured sample countries' trade volume in U.S. dollars as a share of their gross domestic product. I then conducted statistical tests to determine whether this measure of trade correlates to two relevant indicators of pollution: sulfur dioxide emissions and a measure of environmental public health developed by researchers at Yale. I also controlled for a series of other variables to isolate the relationship between trade and pollution.

My findings show that pollution levels of many developing countries rose in tandem with trade to China – but not all of them.



## Mon Maya Subba elected SRC prez at SGC-Rhenock

### SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 26 AUG:** Elections for the Students Representative Council of Sikkim Govt College, Rhenock, were held on Saturday. Voting, it is informed, started at 8 a.m. and continued till 1 p.m. and the results declared at around 4 p.m.

Mon Maya Subba was elected SRC president at SGC, Rhenock, with Charan Das Bhandari as advisor, Dipash Rai as general secretary, Susmita Subba as treasurer and nine other member selected as class representatives.

# Spl prayer sessions mark St Teresa's 108th birth anniversary

**KOLKATA, AUG 26 (PTI):** Special masses and prayer sessions were held in the city today on the occasion of Mother Teresa's 108th birth anniversary.

At the Mother House, the global headquarters of Missionaries of Charity, nuns and shelter home inmates, along with general public, lit candles and offered prayers to the patron saint of Kolkata this morning.

The Vatican had declared Mother Teresa Patron Saint of the 'Archdiocese of Calcutta' on September 6, last year, in recognition of her selfless service towards helping the poor and the underprivileged in the city.



A large number of people also gathered at the Archbishop House, around 1km from the

Mother House, to offer floral tributes to the life-size bronze statue of St Teresa.

The statue, designed by Church Art, was donated in 2016 to mark a symbolic link between

Kolkata and Macedonia's capital Skopje, where she was born.

Archbishop Reverend Thomas D'Souza, who shares his birthday with Mother, cut a cake on the occasion in the presence of Honorary Consul of the Republic of Macedonia in Kolkata, Namit Bajoria.

Mother Teresa was born on August 26, 1910 at Skopje in Macedonia. She died on September 5, 1997, less than a month after her 86th birthday.

She was the recipient of numerous honours, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and the Bharat Ratna in 1980. In 2003, she was beatified as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

## Aiming to become best alternative to TMC in West Bengal: AAP

**KOLKATA, AUG 26 (PTI):** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) today said it is aiming to emerge as the "best alternative" to the ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and increase its organisational strength at the grassroots level in the state over the next six months.

"We will try to explain to the masses that the best alternative to the ruling Trinamool Congress or other opposition parties in West Bengal can only be AAP. We plan to spread our network in every district of the state. From Delhi, we will visit the state in every six months to monitor the progress," senior AAP leader Rakesh Kr Sinha said.

He said the party is

on the lookout for activists who will pick up local issues, fight for justice and take up the problems faced by the common man.

He was in the city to participate in the third state convention of the party today.

He said the party leadership will decide if it will contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal. AAP National Spokesperson and head of Delhi Women's wing of the party, Richa Pandey Mishra said, the West Bengal women's wing of AAP was launched during the convention today.

"We would fight for women's issues - from safety to empowerment," she said listing the priorities of the wing.

## SCA general meeting takes stock and celebrates...

**Contd from pg03**

5 Adhoc Members of SCA were also made full voting right members at the meeting, it is further informed.

Lobzang G. Tenzing, the SCA president, in his address, congratulated all the stakeholders of SCA on the association having become a full member of BCCI.

"It is all the hard work and dedication of Northeast Cricket Development Committee (NECDC) that

today we have been given the privilege of a Voting right member," he added.

He also suggested that two members each from each district body, players association, support staff, and women's unit be given voting rights in SCA.

He informed that old constitution of SCA will be redrafted and submitted to State Law Department for registration

before 22 September 2018. He offered his best wishes to the players for the upcoming trials and cricket season.

The Sikkim Cricket Players Association felicitated the SCA President for his tireless efforts and contribution towards cricket in Sikkim. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to all stakeholders by Rinzing Namgyal Bhutia, Joint Secretary of SCA.

# Bankers burning midnight oil to resolve Rs 3.8 tln NPAs before Monday deadline

**MUMBAI, AUG 26 (PTI):** With the six-month deadline set by Reserve Bank to finalise resolution plans for around 70 large stressed accounts worth over Rs 3.8 trillion ending tomorrow, banks are burning midnight oil to avoid bankruptcy proceedings against these defaulters who are mostly power producers.

Bankers prefer out-of-NCLT resolution as the bankruptcy resolution so far have seen them taking large haircuts which in cases like Alok Industries was a whopping 86 per cent.

The RBI circular asks banks to identify projects with even a day's default as stressed assets, and conclude resolution proceedings in 180 days. The circular came into effect on March 1 and the 180-day deadline concludes on August 27.

If no resolution is reached by Monday, these accounts, which also include some EPC and telcos companies, will have to be referred to NCLT to initiate bankruptcy proceedings, the RBI had said.

Banks are trying to come up with resolution plan for these accounts as going to NCLT will mean large haircuts.

In some of the stressed accounts, some lenders have already finalised resolution plans, bankers said.

It can be noted that almost three fourths of these Rs 3.8 trillion-worth stressed assets are power companies which had dragged the central bank to the Allahabad High Court where the matter is still pending. That the matter is sub-judice also gives bankers some confidence that they may get some more time to resolve them out-of-court.

"A few banks have already sanctioned resolution plans for some cases and others are in the process of doing so" said an executive director of a state-run bank who sought not to be named.

Most banks are having their board meeting to approve a resolution plan or a management committee meeting to sanction credit to these defaulting companies on Monday, he added.

Last week State Bank managing director Arijit Basu has said about eight power projects worth Rs 17,000 crore were expected to be resolved soon as lenders were nearing consensus on these accounts.

"We have looked at 13-14 accounts which would entail changes in the managements, investment etc. Of these, we are looking at seven to eight accounts very closely, to get some consensus among banks," Basu had said.

Bankers, however, said the exact number of accounts where resolutions have been arrived at, or the number of cases that will be referred to NCLTs, will be known only by Monday evening.

There are reports that lenders have identified at least 60 NPA accounts worth Rs 3.5 trillion against whom bankruptcy proceedings will be initiated.

According to a recent Icra report, 70 large accounts, mainly from power, EPC and telecom with a total exposure of Rs 3.8 trillion, would require resolution by September 1 as per the RBI's February 12 circular.

Bankers hope that RBI may show some leniency in regard to these accounts by not asking them to refer all of them to NCLTs immediately after the August 27 deadline as it knows that in some of the cases resolution process is underway.

"The RBI may not extend the deadline but they are unlikely to say take all these accounts to NCLTs the very next day...this is what everybody is feeling because in a few cases some resolution plans are already in place while many others are in the process of doing so," said the head of a state-run bank who also wanted not to be named.

# Is China worsening the developing...

**contd from pg04**

Interestingly, the environmental impact of trading with China appears to depend on characteristics of countries' governments. Those countries with high quality of governance, as measured by researchers at the Quality of Government Institute, did not experience heightened air pollution or environmental illness when they traded at high levels with China.

In countries with strong governance, such as Chile, Gambia and Tanzania, which scored near the top of my sample, trading with China had little impact on sulfur dioxide emissions and environmental public health.

On the other hand, trading intensively with China worsened the air quality in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Paraguay, which all ranked among the worst in governance.

The good news is that my research shows that China's impact can change. In two ways.

One is by finding ways to improve governance in the developing world. Governance quality encompasses bureaucracy, law and order and transparency. Countries with stronger bureaucracies can manage a multipronged policy agenda that promotes trade while protecting the environment. Governments capable of ensuring law and order are able to enforce environmental rules and regulations. Transparent institutions reduce opportunities for corruption that undermine efforts to protect the environment, such as bribery of public officials.

Collectively, these features of good governance protect countries' environments and offset negative impacts that would otherwise be generated by trading intensively with China.

change its ways and do more to push for stronger environmental laws abroad. Western countries tend to do this already because of lobbying efforts by both environmentalists and producers that compete with Mexican firms, who fear being at a competitive disadvantage if developing countries have weak environmental laws.

As wages continue to grow in China, the Chinese government will face similar pressures from domestic producers to do the same. It is perhaps telling that China recently signaled its interest in global environmental leadership.

Until there's a change, however, China's growth will continue dirtying the air in many of the countries that trade with it most, and their environmental crisis will worsen.

*[the writer is Assistant Professor of International Trade and Global Studies, Arizona State University]*

# Confident of NPP's win in Assembly bypolls: Meghalaya CM

**SHILLONG, AUG 26 (PTI):** A day before the declaration of results of two assembly bypolls in the state, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, who is a candidate from South Tura constituency, exuded confidence today that the ruling National People's Party (NPP) will win both the seats.

By-elections to South Tura and Ranikor Assembly seats were held on August 23.

Sangma, who was sworn in as chief minister in March, has to get elected to the Assembly to continue in office. His sister Agatha Sangma resigned from South Tura in July to pave way for him to contest the election.

The Ranikor bypoll was necessitated following the resignation of Congress leader Martin M Dango from the seat.

Dango switched over to the NPP from the Congress after the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) government, led by Sangma, upgraded the Ranikor admin-

istrative unit into a civil sub-division. He is hoping to retain the constituency for the sixth consecutive time.

"I am confident that the people of South Tura and Ranikor have reposed their faith on the NPP. Our performance speaks for itself," the chief minister told PTI.

Taking a dig at opposition Congress, which fielded debutants Charlotte W Momin from South Tura and Jackiush Sangma from Ranikor, the CM said the results will reflect the "kind of situation the party is going through" at present.

"...if you look carefully at the entire election process, whether in South Tura or Ranikor, the Congress is nowhere in the fight," he said yesterday outside Raj Bhavan, following the swearing-in ceremony of Governor Tathagata Roy.

Asked about United Democratic Party (UDP) candidate from Ranikor, Pius Marwein, the chief

minister said political equations in the ruling dispensation will not change as the UDP is a constituent of the NPP-led coalition in the state.

"Whether the UDP wins or the NPP, it will still be a victory of the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance and we are happy about that. This is the beauty of democracy," he added.

Currently, the Meghalaya Assembly comprises 19 NPP members, 20 Congress members, seven UDP MLAs, four People's Democratic Front MLAs, two Independent members, two members each of the BJP and the Hill State People's Democratic Party and one each of Nationalist Congress Party and Khun Hyn-niewtrep National Awakening Movement.

The two vacant seats in the 60-member House will be filled up after the announcement of bypoll results tomorrow.





# Training, diet, and a fight against finances: The life of a pahalwan

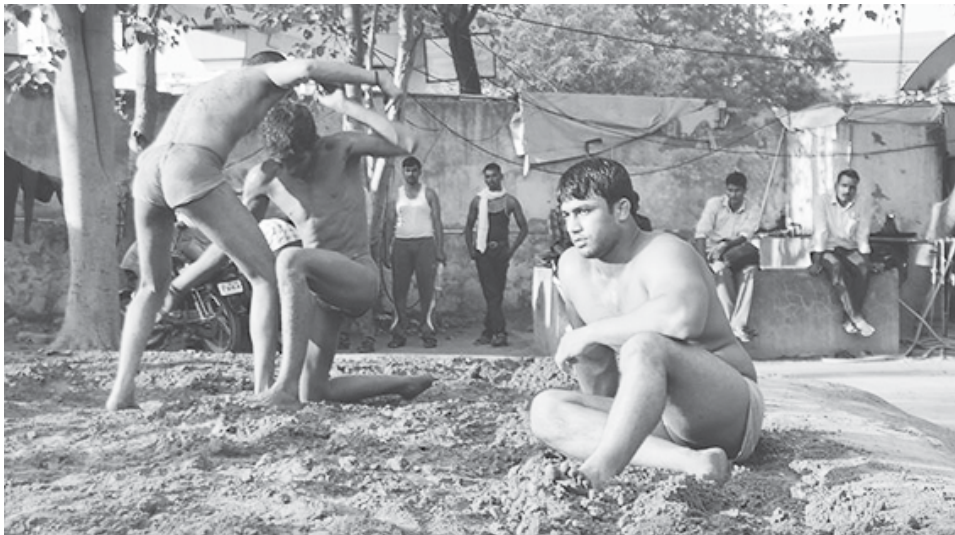
**NEW DELHI, AUG 26 (PTI):** "I want to become like Sushil Kumar," says 9-year-old Yash, fighting back a giggle while surrounded by a group of young "pahalwans" in training, all aged between 9 to 12.

Far away from home at the Chhatrasal Stadium here, the young boy from a small village of Asoda in Bahadurgarh, Haryana is dreaming of things that not many nine-year-olds dream of.

With Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat grabbing gold and Divya Kakran a bronze at the ongoing Asian Games in Indonesia, the city's "akhadass" are buzzing with energy.

Meenakshi Gahlout, a 20-year-old wrestler from Jhajjar, Haryana, is among some 40 young wrestlers at the Master Chandgiram Akhara, the first such centre to train women wrestlers in the Training under Sahdev Singh Balyan, Gahlout, who joined the akhada only a month ago after a gap of three years following an injury, likes the practice schedule and coaches here.

"Coaching is tougher and advanced here. We go



for running, sprint, then PT and bouts on the mat. They prepare us for the next level competitions with rigorous training," she says.

A usual day begins at 5am with a run. Once a week, all the wrestlers go for cross-country running for 7-8km. The morning ends with an exhausting session of

pushups and dips.

To support the strenuous regime, the body is replenished with milk, eggs, fruits, juice, glucose and protein supplement.

Another wrestler, Amit Kumar (22), from Sonapat, has been training for the last eight years.

Inspired by his uncle,

who trained under the legendary Chandgi Ram back in the day, he wants to become an Olympian.

"I have yet to go a long distance, make it through national championship, then international. But eventually I want to make the country proud the way Bajrang Punia did."

Virender Kumar, one of

the wrestling coaches at Chhatrasal Stadium, says that despite rigorous training and unwavering devotion, the players' financial condition and lack of support at early stages are to be blamed for a low medal tally in a country that has talent in abundance.

"They (players) come from very poor rural families.

They feed one child while cutting back on everyone else in the family. They eat less, so this one child can have a proper diet.

"Now that Bajrang (Punia) got a medal, Sushil Kumar got a medal in Olympics, they will get sponsorship, but there is no one to fund the others while they are training to reach that place. We need to support them from the very beginning," he says.

Wrestling requires a heavy diet throughout the day along with protein supplements.

"We (coaches) can train them the best we can, but they also need a diet to match. If they don't get a proper diet, supplements, there are chances of getting injured. How will they perform in such a situation?" he asks.

While Chhatrasal is a government-run training centre, the situation is similar at privately-run hubs like the Master Chandgiram Akhara.

Balyan, who has trained hundreds of young grapplers since 1985, echoes Kumar's views on lack of financial as-

sistance from the higher ups.

"All three players, who got medals in Asian games are from rural areas. Their parents have provided for them, that is the government's duty. Everyone wants medals from wrestlers, but no one wants to provide for them.

"How will they get medals without proper diet, lack of proper training. They don't even have money to buy a pack of glucose for themselves. The government needs to increase the sports budget," says Balyan.

The wrestlers at the akhada have separate AC hostels for girls and boys, an AC hall with mat for practice, free of cost for the trainees including the training. However, they have to pay for their own food.

"If government starts funding wrestlers for food only, 80 per cent medals will come from this country. They have to take almonds, milk, ghee, protein supplements. Just consider one packet of 2.5kg protein costs somewhere around Rs seven to eight thousand, how can anyone afford that?" asks Balyan.

## Compound archers deliver after recurve players' poor show, assure at least 2 silver

**JAKARTA, AUG 26 (PTI):** India were today assured of at least two silver medals from archery in the Asian Games after its men and women compound teams advanced to the final by prevailing over Chinese Taipei in both the semifinals here.

The Indian men are the defending champions and they lived up to their reputation by getting the better of Chinese Taipei 230-227 in an edge-of-the-seat semifinal.

The Indian men, who had earlier defeated Qatar (227-213) and Philippines (227-226) on way to the semi-finals, will play archery powerhouse South Korea in a repeat of the 2014 Incheon Asiad title clash.

The first (57-57) and fourth (59-59) sets ended on equal scored and it was the third set (58-55) which sealed the issue in India's favour as the team scored three more points than their opponents after the second set (57-56) handed India a one-point lead.

Earlier in the day, Indian women's compound team bettered their last Asian Games performance by entering the summit clash, where it will also face South Korea.

The team, comprising Jyothi Surekha, Madhumita Kumari and Muskan Kira, too, edged out Chi-



nese Taipei 225-222 in another thrilling semi-final to advance to the gold medal match.

The team made a remarkable comeback after losing the first sets to edge out the Chinese Taipei team 55-58, 55-57, 57-55 58-52.

The Indian women had earlier defeated hosts Indonesia 229-224 in the quarter-finals.

India had won a bronze medal in the 2014 Asian Games.

The two medals from the compound teams have come as a welcome relief for the Indian archery contingent after the recurve archers drew a blank from the Games.

"It is extraordinary to come back from a five-point deficit. Our women team is world number one and it has shown why," an elated India's compound coach Jiwanjot Singh Teja told PTI.

"It's a huge result for us. We can say that after recurve archers lost, there was pressure of expectations

on compound archers. Also, since they did away with the individual events, our players were fired up to win medals in team event," he added.

About the men's compound team, Teja said, "We had told the boys you have to back each other. If one hits a bad arrow, quickly forget that and give your best in the next shot. They covered each other well and that was key."

Asked to name six archers who stood out today, Teja said, "Jyoti Surekha was excellent today in the women team and Rajat Chauhan really backed the teammates well in the men's team."

Now both the teams face powerhouse South Korea on Tuesday but Teja said the Indian archers were not intimidated.

"We beat them in the Asian Championship to win gold last year. No one comes to lose. And more than winning and losing, it's about sportsmanship. I am sure we will do well," he said.

## Fouaad Mirza gives India individual equestrian silver in Asiad after 36 years

**JAKARTA, AUG 26 (PTI):** Fouaad Mirza today became the first Indian to win an Asian Games individual medal in the equestrian event since 1982 besides guiding the country to a second-place finish in the team competition here.

Mirza won the silver medal in individual jumping with a score of 26.40, while Japan's Oiwa Yoshiaki clinched the gold with a score of 22.70.

China's Hua Tian Alex finished in third position to win the bronze medal, with a score of 27.10.

The Indian team, comprising Rakesh Kumar, Ashish Malik and Jitender Singh apart from Mirza, also claimed the silver with a score of 121.30, the feats coming days after their last-minute arrival owing to infighting in the Equestrian Federation of India.

Japan finished on top with a score of 82.40, while Thailand bagged the bronze with a score of 126.70.

Fouaad topped the dressage and cross-country qualifiers with a score of 22.40 and went into the jumping finals as a favourite. In the medal round, he notched up 26.40 to bag silver in the three-day competition.

Fouaad, who has been training under German Olympian Bettina



Hoy, is the first Indian to win in Europe.

The 26-year-old made the Indian team after racing his way to victory in the first two trials at the Asian Games CCI equestrian event held in Montelibretti, Italy last year. He emerged as the spearhead for the Asian Games on the basis of his performance then.

After his impressive showing in Italy, he competed in France before displaying his skills in a couple of championships in Germany.

Fouaad's feat came days after the Indian equestrian team's nightmarish journey to the Indonesian capital as it got accreditation only a day before it was scheduled to leave for the Asian Games.

Infighting among office-bearers in the Equestrian Federation

of India, which saw the EFI declare the selection null and void, only made it worse for the athletes.

In the event, the horses, along with the riders, are timed from a start and a finish line, and a final score is obtained by combining the number of jumping faults (4 points for every jump knocked down), number of refusals (a refusal is when the horse refuses to jump), and time faults (if the rider takes more time than the stipulated limit).

Two refusals in the event lead to elimination.

India had previously won 10 medals in the sport, including three golds.

The last individual medal in eventing came in 1982 when Raghubir Singh finished on the podium in the Indian capital.

## Climate expert for steps to protect ecologically-sensitive Western Ghats

**KOCHI, AUG 26 (PTI):** The recent occurrence of extreme rainfall events and associated floods in Kerala that killed many and rendered thousands homeless were due to climate change, a noted climate expert said today.

Chandra Bhushan, Deputy Director General of New Delhi-based advocacy group Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), said the dam management system in the country will have to be "re-evaluated" taking into account the repeat occurrence of extreme rainfall events and associated flash floods.

"The floods in Kerala were caused by climate change and the disaster was exacerbated by bad development practises, particularly on Western Ghats and other ecologically sensitive regions of Kerala," Bhushan told PTI.

Over 290 people were killed and lakhs of people



have been displaced due to the heavy rains and floods in Kerala.

He also said the extreme

rainfall events and associated flash floods occurred in this century in many parts of the country including in Uttara-

khand, Jammu and Kashmir and Chennai, were triggered by climate change.

Bhushan, who was hon-

oured with ozone award by the UN Environment Programme last year for providing policy and research support to the negotiations for the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, said the dam management system should be re-evaluated taking into account the climate change issue.

"Considering that the temperature is rising, considering that there is a clear indication that the extreme rainfall event is repeated, we will now have to re-evaluate our dam management practises," he said.

He also advocated for a much better forecasting system and much better warning system to save lives of people from the extreme climate change-related incidents.

Bhushan, who has attended several climate conferences organised by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC), said destruction of Western Ghats had huge impact on Kerala.

He urged the Central and state governments to take steps to implement the Madhav Gadgil committee report or Kasturirangan committee report on the biodiversity-rich hill region.

"Large-scale deforestation, mining and construction are happening, hurting the ecology of Kerala. Such harmful practises will increase the intensity of disaster damages in Kerala," Bhushan said.

"This floods would have happened in any case. The destruction of Western Ghats and other ecological areas in Kerala made its impact worse," Bhushan said.

He said it was quite clear that protection of Western Ghats, wetlands, protection of backwaters, rivers, streams and other ecologically fragile areas were "very

very important for the ecological security of Kerala."

Environmentalists argue that the miseries and destruction caused by the rains and floods in Kerala would have been less severe if the government had taken the initiative to implement the recommendations made in the Gadgil Committee report on preservation of the Western Ghats.

The Gadgil Committee report had been a point of debate in the state ever since it was submitted in 2011 with all major political parties showing reluctance in accepting and implementing the recommendations in toto following protests from local people in high range areas.

Even the Kasturirangan report, which studied the recommendations of Madhav Gadgil report, has also not received total support from politicians, religious leaders and local people in the state.



# Pope hears the wounds of Ireland’s abused, and vows to speak

**KNOCK (IRELAND), AUG 26 (AP):** Pope Francis visited a famous shrine today in Ireland and was to celebrate a Mass dedicated to families after an emotional meeting with Irish victims of clerical sex abuse and those wrenched away from their mothers in forced adoptions demanded by Catholic authorities.

Francis arrived Sunday in Knock, the Marian shrine in north-western Ireland, where he prayed and blessed thousands of jubilant Irish faithful, who gathered in rain-coats under clouds.

Yesterday, the first day of his visit, Francis spent 90 minutes meeting with victims of clerical and institutional abuse, including two people who were forcibly given up for adoption as newborns because their mothers weren't married.

They are some of the thousands of Irish children taken from their mothers who were then forced to go live and work in laundries and other workhouses for “fallen women.”

One of them, Clodagh Malone, said Francis was “shocked” at what they told him and “he listened to each and every one of us with respect and compassion.”

The survivors asked Francis to speak out today to let all the mothers know that they did nothing wrong and that it wasn't a sin



as church officials have told them to try to find their children later in life.

They said the Argentine pope understood well their plight, given Argentina's own history of forced adoptions of children born to purported leftists during its 1970s military dictatorship.

“That is a big step forward for a lot of elderly women, particularly in the countryside in Ireland who have lived 30, 40, 50, 60 years in fear,” another adoptee, Paul Redmond, told The Associated Press.

“That would mean a lot to

them.”

Francis’ first day in Ireland was dominated by the abuse scandal and Ireland’s fraught history of atrocities committed in the name of preserving and purifying the Catholic faith. He received a lukewarm reception on the streets, but tens of thousands of people thronged Dublin’s Croke Park Stadium for a family rally featuring Ireland’s famous Riverdance performers and tenor Andrea Bocelli.

Francis’ visit had originally been intended to celebrate Catholic families at the close of the

Vatican’s once-every-three-years World Meeting of Families.

But it has been overshadowed by the abuse scandal, which has devastated the church’s reputation in Ireland since the 1990s and has exploded anew in the US following accusations of misconduct and cover-up by members of the US hierarchy.

The US scandal took on a new twist today, with a former Vatican ambassador to the US purportedly penning a letter accusing Vatican officials of knowing about the sexual escapades of ex-Cardinal The-

odore McCarrick since 2000, but making him a cardinal anyway.

The letter attributed to Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano was published Sunday by two conservative outlets, the National Catholic Reporter and LifeSiteNews.

Francis accepted McCarrick’s resignation as cardinal last month after a US church investigation determined an accusation he molested a minor was “credible.”

But in the letter, Vigano said McCarrick had been initially sanctioned by the Vatican in 2009 or 2010 but that Francis rehabilitated him in 2013 despite being informed of McCarrick’s penchant to invite young seminarians into his bed.

The Vatican didn’t immediately comment or say if the letter was authentic.

Upon arriving in Ireland, Francis sought to respond to the outcry over the US and global sex abuse and cover-up scandal during a speech to Irish government authorities at Dublin Castle.

“The failure of ecclesiastical authorities bishops, religious superiors, priests and others to adequately address these repugnant crimes has rightly given rise to outrage, and remains a source of pain and shame for the Catholic community,” he told them.

“I myself share these sentiments.” But neither his words nor

the meeting with victims assuaged demands for heads to roll over the abuse scandal.

Colm O’Gorman, who is leading a solidarity rally Sunday in Dublin for abuse victims, said Francis’ remarks about sharing the shame felt by Catholics were an “insult to faithful Catholics, who have no reason to feel shame because of the crimes of the Vatican and the institutional church.”

Separately, survivors of one of Ireland’s wretched mother and baby homes were to hold their own demonstration today.

The location is Tuam, site of a mass grave of hundreds of babies who died at a church-run home.

Francis is nearby, at Knock, but had no plans to visit the site. He did, however, hear about Tuam on Saturday from Ireland’s minister for children, Katherine Zappone.

Their conversation wasn’t released but Francis said her words “still echo in my ears.”

Deeply Catholic Ireland has had one of the world’s worst records of clergy sex abuse and the ill-treatment of women and children.

Government-mandated inquiries concluded that thousands of children were raped or molested by priests or physically abused in church-run schools and Irish bishops worked for years to hide those crimes.



## Rouhani’s woes mount as Iran economy minister impeached

**TEHRAN, AUG 26 (AFP):** Iran’s parliament impeached Economy Minister Masoud Karbasian today in the latest blow to embattled President Hassan Rouhani as he struggles to face down a mounting economic crisis.

Karbasian is the second cabinet minister to be sacked this month, following the impeachment of Labour Minister Ali Rabiei on August 8.

Critics say the government squandered the opportunities presented by the 2015 nuclear deal and have failed to tackle high rates of inflation and joblessness.

With the United States abandoning the nuclear deal in May and reimposing sanctions, Rouhani’s hopes of attracting vast sums of foreign investment appear dead in the water.

Major European firms, including France’s Total, Peugeot and Renault, and Germany’s Siemens and Daimler, have all announced their departure since the US announcement.

Rouhani’s conservative opponents -- who long-opposed his outreach to the West and efforts to improve civil liberties -- say the primary blame lies with government corruption and mismanagement.

“Inefficiency and lack of planning have nothing to do with sanctions,” said one lawmaker, Abbas Payizadeh, in a speech ahead of the vote.

“Wrong decisions have harmed the people and led to individuals

looting public assets,” he added.

Rouhani, a political moderate, can still count on the support of a sizeable reformist bloc in parliament, but even some of its key figures have grown disillusioned.

“What have we done with this nation? We made them miserable and wretched,” said Elias Hazrati, of the reformist Hope faction in parliament.

“The middle class are moving towards poverty,” added Hazrati, who broke ranks to vote in favour of the impeachment.

Karbasian lost the vote of confidence, which was carried live on state radio, by 137 votes to 121, with two abstentions.

The outcome sees him stripped of his post with immediate effect, leaving Rouhani to pick a replacement.

Hazrati said the government had failed to plan for the real pain of sanctions, which will hit when a second phase of US measures is reintroduced in November targeting Iran’s crucial oil sector.

“We haven’t been prepared and we are not prepared now,” said Hazrati. “The only person we could get our hands on was the economy minister. Otherwise, the president should have been impeached,” he added.

For now, Rouhani remains protected by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who said this month that removing the president would “play into the hands of the enemy”.

# John McCain, influential US senator dies aged 81

**YOSHITA SINGH**  
**NEW YORK, AUG 26 (PTI):** Influential US Senator John McCain, a Vietnam war hero and a towering figure in the American political scene, who turned out to be a prominent critic of President Donald Trump has died following a battle with an aggressive form of brain cancer.

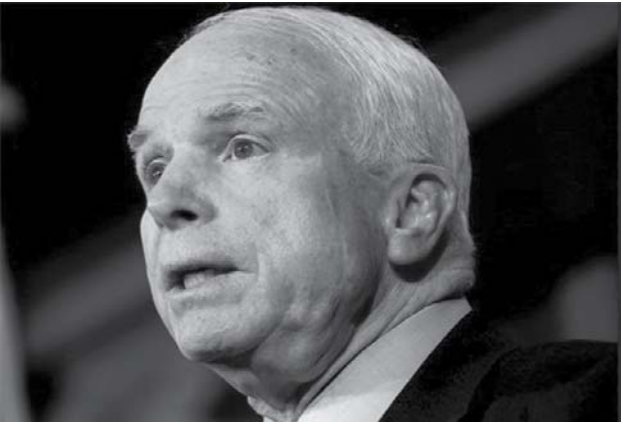
He was 81.

McCain, a six-term senator from Arizona, who was a friend of India, had been suffering from a malignant brain tumor, called a glioblastoma, for which he had been treated periodically with radiation and chemotherapy since its discovery in 2017.

According to a statement from his office, McCain died yesterday at 4:28 p.m. local time. His family announced on Friday that he was discontinuing medical treatment.

The son and grandson of four-star admirals, McCain endured more than five years of imprisonment and torture by the North Vietnamese as a young naval officer.

“My heart is broken. I am so lucky to have lived the adventure of loving this incredible man for 38 years. He passed the way he lived, on his own terms, surrounded by the people he loved, in the



place he loved best,” McCain’s wife Cindy McCain said in a post on Twitter.

In an editorial he wrote for CNN ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Washington in 2016, had said that it was remarkable how much bipartisan support the US-India relationship enjoys on Capitol Hill, an upsurge of interest and respect that is normally reserved only for close partners and allies.

“In all my years in Congress, I recall only a select few countries that rose so quickly to such an exalted esteem,” McCain wrote two years ago.

Condolence messages poured in from across party lines on McCain’s

passing.

US President Donald Trump tweeted, “My deepest sympathies and respect go out to the family of Senator John McCain. Our hearts and prayers are with you!”.

However, with Trump’s election as the nation’s 45th president in 2016, McCain was one of the few powerful Republican voices in Congress to push back against Trump’s often harsh, provocative statements.

McCain had frequently sparred with Trump and had been planning his funeral services over the last year and his family made clear that Trump is not invited, a position that has not changed, two family friends were quoted as saying by the CNN.

In his end-of-life memoir, McCain scorned Trump’s seeming admiration for autocrats and disdain for refugees.

“He seems uninterested in the moral character of world leaders and their regimes,” he wrote of the president. “The appearance of toughness or a reality show facsimile of toughness seems to matter more than any of our values. Flattery secures his friendship, criticism his enmity.”

Former US president Barack Obama said in a statement that while McCain and he came from completely different backgrounds and competed at the highest level of politics, “we shared,

for all our differences, a fidelity to something higher - the ideals for which generations of Americans and immigrants alike have fought, marched and sacrificed.”

“Few of us have been tested the way McCain once was, or required to show the kind of courage that he did. But all of us can aspire to the courage to put the greater good above,” Obama said.

McCain, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, made two unsuccessful attempts for the presidency. He lost a bitter primary campaign to George W Bush and the Republican establishment in 2000. He won the nomination in 2008, only to be defeated in the general election by Obama.

Bush called his one-time political rival “man of deep conviction and a patriot of the highest order” and a “friend whom I’ll deeply miss.”

Former vice president Al Gore said he always admired how the senator “would work to find common ground, no matter how hard.”

McCain was close friends with Senator Lindsey Graham and former senator Joe Lieberman -- a trio dubbed the “Three Amigos.”

Graham wrote that “America and Freedom have lost one of her greatest champions. And I’ve lost one of my dearest friends and mentor.” Democrat Senator Chuck Schumer hailed him as a “truth-teller” with “unsurpassed” dedication to the US and its military. He said he would seek to rename a Senate building in McCain’s honour.

McCain was also a persistent critic of Obama’s foreign policy.

“The demand for our leadership in the world has never been greater. People don’t want less of America they want more,” McCain said in 2012. “Everywhere I go in the world, people tell me that they still have faith in America. What they want to know is whether we still have faith in ourselves.”

Despite his serious health condition, McCain had appeared in the Senate to cast a thumbs-down vote against his party’s drive to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

John Sidney McCain III was born August 29, 1936, in the Panama Canal Zone and into a family whose military lineage included an ancestor who served as aide to Gen George Washington during the Revolutionary War.

# Scotland university to hand out pronoun badges for gender equality

**LONDON, AUG 26 (PTI):** One of Scotland’s leading universities is set to hand out pronoun badges to freshers joining in a new term so they know whether to refer to each other as “he,” “she” or “they”.

The move by the Edinburgh University is intended to avoid any potential “misgendering” of non-binary or transgender students, who may display the physical attributes of one gender, while associating more closely with another or none at all, The Sunday Telegraph reported.

Kai O’Doherty, the vice president for welfare at the Edinburgh University Students’ Association, announced that pronoun badges will be available throughout the ‘Welcome Week,’ which takes place before the official start of term next month.

The students’ union also published

a guide to pronouns, which explains why it is important to “normalise” the practice of sharing gender pronouns.

“Many people assume that the pronouns they should use for an individual are obvious: people who look like men should be referred to using he/him, and people who look like women should be referred to as she/her,” it said.

The guide explains that making these assumptions can be “frustrating and harmful” for transgender on non-binary students, who may in fact prefer to use gender-neutral pronouns, the newspaper reported.



nouns,” it said.

The guide advises that saying you “don’t care” which pronoun is used is offensive, as it “suggests that trans folks are silly for requesting that their pronouns be respected”.

Asking people about their “preferred” pronoun should also be avoided, as it can imply that pronouns are a mere preference rather than a necessity.

Using the term “preferred” can also

“isolate and alienate” transgender people, it said.

The guide explains how as well as using the correct pronouns for fellow students when you meet them for the first time, so too must students ensure they are using the right pronouns for existing acquaintances.

Students should bare in mind that gender is “fluid” so even if you have used a particular pronoun for someone in the past, this may not apply indefinitely.

Pronoun badges are the latest form of linguistic etiquette being explored by leading British universities.

Elsewhere, students and academics have been encouraged to sign their email with their names, titles, telephone numbers and whether they like to be known as “he/him,” “she/her” or “they/them”.





**LIGHT 'EM UP!** The Fall Out Boy guitarist, Pete Wentz, is on fire as he performs with the band during the Reading Festival in England.

## PRINCE HARRY AND MEGHAN MARKLE HAVE REPORTEDLY ADOPTED A DOG TOGETHER

Prince Harry and Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle have reportedly adopted a Labrador dog earlier this summer. The dog—whose named has not yet been announced—has joined Prince Harry and the Duchess on short-term jaunts to their home in the Cotswolds as well as keeping them company at their cottage at Kensington Palace. Kensington Palace declined to comment on the matter.

Meghan has always been an outspoken dog lover. In fact, one of her dogs, a little beagle named Guy, resides in London as well. Guy even received the royal treatment on the way to the Royal Wedding on May 19 when the canine hitched a ride with Queen Elizabeth II in her Range Rover on her way to Windsor. Meghan's other dog Bogart, however, didn't come across the pond with his adoptive mother and now lives in Los Angeles with a friend.

The newlyweds' addition to the family comes just months after Queen Elizabeth II had to put down the last of her corgis, Willow. Willow was a 14th generation royal corgi, who was descended from the Queen's first dog, Susan. Susan was given to Queen Elizabeth when she was 18 and the royal subsequently began a corgi breeding program after that.

When Prince Harry and Meghan first met the Queen together, the Queen's dogs immediately gave their endorsement of the royal-to-be. During their first post-engagement interview, Harry



told Meghan, "The corgis took to you straight away. I've spent the last 33 years being barked at, this one walks in, absolutely nothing."

No word yet if the newest addition to their family joined Prince Harry and Meghan on their recent trip to Italy while hanging out

with their new bffs George Clooney and Amal Clooney at their sprawling home in Lake Como, Villa Oleandra.

## Dystopia a wonderfully cinematic setting: 'Ghoul' co-producer Vikramaditya Motwane

**NEW DELHI, AUG 25 (PTI):** Vikramaditya Motwane says literature has always inspired filmmakers and choosing a dystopian backdrop for "Ghoul" simply put the story of the Netflix India Original in perspective.

Motwane, whose last collaboration with the streaming service was the megahit "Sacred Games", has co-produced the three-episode series through Phantom Films, along with Ivanhoe and Blumhouse.

"Literature is always used. Dystopia is a very interesting setting. Whether it's '1984' or 'Fahrenheit 451'. Dystopia is a wonderfully cinematic setting. It was really interesting to put the story of 'Ghoul' in this kind of setting," Motwane told PTI in an interview.

"Ghoul" follows a prisoner who arrives at a remote military interrogation centre and turns the tables on his interrogators, exposing their most shameful secrets.

When asked if the series sends across a message in today's time, the producer said writer-director Patrick Graham had penned the script long back.

"I don't think it has anything to do with the current state of affairs. Patrick has written it, I don't think there was even this government (when he wrote it)."

Starring Radhika Apte and Manav Kaul, "Ghoul" is Netflix's first horror series and is based on Arabic folklore.

Motwane admits horror



genre in India is yet to come out of the shadow of Ramsay Brothers, famous for their B-grade horror films in the '70s and '80s such as "Puraani Haveli" and "Tahkhaana".

He says, lately "Pari", also based on Arabic folklore, was an exception.

"Horror movies make a lot of money in India. Even if you look at the box office, 'Conjuring', 'Anabelle', 'It', etc, they all make some decent money. But nobody has been making new, interesting unusual horror."

"Pari" was one of the first steps in the right direction. And 'Ghoul' is pretty much the same in the genre - it's

cool. It's not just about the chudail (witch) or bhoot banga (haunted house) and all those typical things we associate with horror films from the Ramsay Brothers," he says.

The producer says the Arabic link between 'Pari' and 'Ghoul' was a mere coincidence.

"When I was reading about 'Pari', I was like oh it's here too. It's just one of those things. Somewhere on the story level it worked. This story goes beyond horror," he says.

Also featuring Ratnabali Bhattacharjee and Mahesh Balraj, "Ghoul" is currently streaming on Netflix.

## Miranda Lambert is "happily single"



Country star Miranda Lambert has revealed that she has split from boyfriend Evan Felker.

In an interview with The Tennessean, the 34-year-old singer said she is "happily single" and ready to move on to happy parts of her life.

"Love is a hard road sometimes and it's been a roller-coaster ride for me, but I'm definitely thankful for all the ups and downs because I've had some really good songs come

out of it," Lambert said.

"You've got to take the bad parts and put them on paper and then move on to the happy parts," she added.

In May this year, there were reports that Lambert, who had broken up with Anderson East, is dating Felker of the Turnpike Troubadours band.

The country singer was previously married to Blake Shelton for four years.

**ARIES:** A miscommunication with a business or romantic partner might cause some ruffled feathers today. Aries. You can divert this by explaining the facts clearly whenever you give information. Make sure your partner understands what you're saying before they go and act on it! For your own part, don't be shy about asking what someone means. Remember, it's better to ask a stupid question than make a dumb mistake!

**TAURUS:** Do you work with a lot of documents, Taurus? If so, you might find today that some of the papers you need are missing. They might seem to have vanished into a black hole. Look everywhere, of course, but chances are that someone has them and isn't aware of it. Don't be too shy to ask people about the papers. You could

save yourself a lot of unnecessary effort this way.

**GEMINI:** A missed communication - or miscommunication - with a romantic partner could find you waiting in the wrong place, Gemini. If you're planning to get together with someone special tonight, make sure you get the full details of the location, including the exact address, cross street, and driving directions. Write it down! And don't forget to note the time.

**CANCER:** Today you could find that you've left something at home, perhaps a book or letter that you need. There's no way around it, Cancer, you'll have to go back. This could make you late. Stay calm! This is a temporary irritation that will pass. Making yourself crazy over it will only stress you out. At lunch, treat

yourself to a glass of wine or a soothing cup of tea.

**LEO:** You may need to spend a lot of time in the car today, Leo. You could hit traffic and miss some of the people you need to see. Irritations could quickly turn to anger if you aren't careful. Park your car and walk to some of the places. This will get you out of the crush of cars and work off your frustration at the same time.

**VIRGO:** Paperwork involving money may need doing today, Virgo, and this could take you away from what you love most - working on your own projects and spending time with a love partner. Don't get too crazy over it or you might make mistakes. Correcting those errors would eat up more time. Take care of it methodically and quickly and you'll be able to get back

to your life.

**LIBRA:** An unhappy visitor, probably a woman, could come to your home today, Libra. This person has a lot of anger right now and probably won't make much of a conversationalist. If you can't make your excuses, put on some music or perhaps a funny movie. You might be surprised at the results! Some soothing chords or a few laughs might accomplish wonders. Be clever!

**SCORPIO:** Have you been expecting an important letter, Scorpio? If so, it may not arrive for a while. If it doesn't appear today, call the person who sent it and ask for a duplicate because the original could be lost in the mail. Better to have two copies than wait for one that will never come.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Money worries

could have your nerves on edge, Sagittarius. It's better to focus on doing what you have to do to resolve your difficulties than it is to waste time fretting over them. Your business head is operating at a high level today. If you stay focused, you can accomplish wonders. Formulate a plan of action and put it to work.

**CAPRICORN:** A lot of tedious paperwork is probably waiting for you, and you will want to get it done as quickly as possible. You might be distracted and irritated by everyone goofing off. Don't worry about everyone else. Concentrate on your own work. You will only cause further irritation by getting upset with everyone. You will be done with your tasks when they're just getting started on theirs!

**AQUARIUS:** Some facts that you

may need for certain projects might prove elusive today, Aquarius. No matter what website or periodical you consult, you'll probably come across some interesting stuff but not exactly what you're looking for. If the task isn't urgent, it might be a good idea to put it off for a bit. Otherwise you'll spend too much time looking for the impossible.

**PISCES:** You should pay attention to your dreams, Pisces, but tonight your subconscious might send you some garbled information that means next to nothing. If the message is obvious, pay attention to it, but if you have to perform too many mental gymnastics to discern what the symbols mean, they might mean nothing. Sometimes a dream is just a dream.