



IN CONVERSATION WITH BEAUTY
QUEEN KARISHMA PRADHAN

pg08

NAMCHEYBONG SCHOOL STUDENT
TO REPRESENT STATE AT
NATIONAL SCIENCE SEMINAR

pg03



EMRS GANGYAP BOYS
IN QUARTER FINALS
OF CBSE NE C'SHIP

pg3

SummitTIMES

Vol 03 | Issue 239 | Gangtok | Sunday | 09 September 2018

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

RNI No. SIKENG/2016/69420

Pages 8 | ₹ 5

Governor launches coffee table book 'Shining Stars of Siliguri'

SILIGURI, 08 SEPT (IPR):

Governor of Sikkim, Ganga Prasad launched a Coffee Table Book titled Shining Stars of Siliguri published by Prabhat Khabar here in a local hotel at Siliguri, this evening. He was accompanied by the IPR Minister, Arjun Kumar Ghatani as the guest of honour in special presence of officials from Government of West Bengal, media fraternity and eminent personalities from various fields.

On the occasion, the Governor handed over souvenir and shawl to 33 felicitated personalities who were recognized as the shining stars of Siliguri.

The Governor, in his address, extended best wishes and congratulated Prabhat Khabar for taking such an initiative to acknowledge the invaluable contributions made by various personalities in numerous capacities.

He spoke on the indispensable relation between Siliguri and Sikkim. An incredible growth in tourism sector of Sikkim has generated employment opportunities for the people of Siliguri and the city also fulfils various needs of Sikkimese people, therefore they must coexist in peace, he stated.

The Governor also underlined his deep attachment with the national daily Prabhat Khabar and its praiseworthy journey of journalism in three states of India. Addressing the gathering, IPR Minister, Mr Ghatani applauded the initiative taken by Prabhat Khabar to felicitate shining stars of Siliguri and congratulated them for publishing the coffee table book.

He also highlighted various initiatives and activities being accomplished by the state of

turn to pg02

STATE BANK OF SIKKIM CELEBRATES GOLDEN JUBILEE

Conduct economic disparity survey, Chamling suggests to SBS

GANGTOK, 08 SEPT [IPR]: State Bank of Sikkim celebrated its golden jubilee at Chintan Bhawan today in the presence of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling as chief guest.

The programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the chief guest and dignitaries.

The CM began his address by welcoming everyone and expressed his joy at seeing students in the gathering for, he said, they are the ones who will be responsible for the economic growth of the state in the future.

He recalled the time when the State witnessed the inauguration of SBS



in 1968 by the then Chogyal Palden Thondup Namgyal. Encouraging

the younger generation and to get stuck in obso-

lete traditions will bring them various obstacles, he said it is important to

respect the old culture and to strike a balance between the two and bring changes through sensible development.

Citing examples of Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates and Warren Buffet, he encouraged the students to arm themselves with the weapon of knowledge and go out to conquer the world, perhaps become Presidents of Banking Bodies, even the World Bank.

He explained to them that Sikkim's democracy is unique as it is an "Inclusive Democracy," one that caters not only to human beings but also nature and the environment.

Watching the journey of SBS and watching the youth of Sikkim acquire more degrees and experience fills him with pride and joy both, he said.

Talking about the corporate world, he said that globally, economic disparity has been on the rise. He then suggested that SBS conduct an economic disparity survey and study the economic difference between classes and bring forth measures to minimize the margin. In this regard, Sikkim could be a model State for others to follow, he added.

The CM described the State as having a dis-

tinct personality since it manages livelihood through organic farming, government funded transport department, government-funded tea estate and so on. Similarly, SBS has a distinct personality in comparison to other banks therefore it functions in a unique but transparent manner, he explained.

He stressed that in spite of being a small region with a sparse population, Sikkim ranks third in the country in Per Capita Income. He explained that peace and security is the main reason behind the State's growth and

turn to pg03

District officials take stock of Som slide zone, suggest alternate route to public



Rinchenpong-Legship via Yangsum and Chingthang to reach Gyalshing

Gyalshing, 08 SEPT [IPR]: Additional District Collector, Gyalshing, Karma Lodey Lepcha, along with Superintendent of Police, West, Tenzing Loden Lepcha, visited the landslide prone area of Som in West Sikkim today to review possible solutions to the inconveniences faced by the public of the area. The ADC was accompanied by officials of Road, PMGSY and Forest Departments.

The ADC has directed the officials to ask the public residing in the nearby areas to cooperate with the departments in order to come up with a solution as soon as possible. He also further asked the officials to hear out the grievances and make plans to ease traffic snags in the area.

The SP, West, has directed the Superintending Engineer, Power Depart-

ment to chalk out a plan of action along with technical viewpoints which could be explained by the department to the affected public. He asked them to take necessary safety measures before clearing the debris.

He further directed the SE, Roads, to submit a report on the options available for various routes available to the public for commuting from Dentam and surrounding areas to District HQ at Gyalshing. In the end, the SP also asked the SE if they could give a rough timeline on the completion of connectivity in the same route or alternative routes.

The Department of Roads has advised the public of Dentam and the adjoining areas to take the route of Rinchenpong to Legship via Yangsum and Chingthang to reach Gyalshing for their official work. Further, the clearing of debris at the Lingchom road will be done after necessary clearance is sought from the public of the area.

SDF stands like Kangchenjunga, small avalanches make no difference: Ugen T Gyatso

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 08 SEPT:

Sikkim Democratic Front, South district has started its election campaigning from Kaw Ward under Tumin-Lingee constituency under the guidance of Tumin-Lingee MLA and Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia.

Addressing a meeting at Kaw Ward on 07 Sept, the area MLA said that Sikkim Democratic Front will form the government for the sixth consecutive time in Sikkim in 2019.

He further stated that in a democracy, people are free to support any party but SKM has no decency and is not civilized enough to gain people's support. He added that SDF has been standing firm and strong like Kangchenjunga and small avalanches will not make any difference.

Mr Bhutia stated that under the leadership of

party president, Pawan Chamling, Sikkim has been moving in the right direction. He added that people of Sikkim are looked up to in the country due to the able and successful leadership of the CM.

People of Sikkim have been empowered and made aware of their rights during the SDF government, he added.

He urged people to steer clear of people with negative thoughts further adding that such negative elements will turn people into slaves if they come to power.

He encouraged the people of the constituency to work together to make Tumin-Lingee a model constituency of the State.

The Area MLA also informed about various developmental activities of the government for the constituency and

turn to pg03

SC judge criticises govt for leaving it to wisdom of court to decide on Section 377

NEW DELHI, SEPT 8 (PTI):

A Supreme Court judge expressed disappointment over the government's decision to leave it to the court's wisdom to take a call on sensitive issues such as the recent challenge to Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code which criminalised homosexuality between consenting adults, saying that politicians handing such power to the judges are happening on everyday basis.

Justice DY Chandrachud, who was a member of the five-judge constitution bench which ruled that gay sex among consenting adults was no more a criminal offence, said on Saturday that in Section 377 the judgment really represented in that

sense the battle between laws of a colonial origin and laws which must truly represent constitutional values.

The judge also said that this concern about the need to harmonise pre-Independence or colonial laws with the ethos of constitutional jurisprudence was reflected in the judgment.

"Why do politicians sometimes hand over power to judges and we see that happening in the Supreme Court everyday. We saw that in 377 where the government told us that we are leaving this to the wisdom of the court and this 'wisdom of the court' was too enticing a principle for me not to respond so

I responded in my judgment the other day," said Justice Chandrachud.

"It is well for a judge to remind himself or herself of the fact that flattery is often the graveyard of the gullible," he quoted from his judgment.

Justice Chandrachud was speaking on the topic, "Rule of Law in Constitutional Democracy", at the 19th Annual Bodh Raj Sawhny Memorial Oration 2018, organised by National Law University, Delhi.

He said that out of the many layers of the judgment, the most significant part was where "we try and give individual dignity, the autonomy, the choice and liberty of

turn to pg03

NOW OUT ON THE BOOKSTANDS!

ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM

The SummitTimes Spotlight series now in a book!

AVAILABLE IN GANGTOK AT
RACHNA BOOKS, Development Area; KANDOIKA, New Market;
JAINCO, Metro Point; GOOD BOOKS, MG Marg



For trade and other enquiries,
contact Lokta Books at loktabooks@gmail.com
or call us at +91 891 860 6209; +91 983 208 0753



SPCC to hold protest against fuel price hike on 10 Sept

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 08 SEPT: Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee [SPCC] president, Bharat Basnet, has announced that Sikkim will also join the nation-wide Bharat Bandh called by the Congress party to protest the fuel price hike on 10 Sept

from 10 a.m to 3 p.m. He announced that SPCC will stage its protest in front of SNOD complex in Deorali and has appealed to political parties, organisations, business community, drivers and members of transport sector and general people to join the protest. One of the

Congress leaders, Captain Dabur, will be arriving in Sikkim this evening to join the protest. Addressing a press conference here today, Mr Basnet stated that price rise of fuels and other commodities have broken all records in these four and a half

years of the NDA government in the country. He stated that inflation has become intolerable in Narendra Modi's government. He alleged that the people of India are unhappy with economic policies of the Central government so the people are coming to express

their anger in this bandh. Mr Basnet stated that the price rise of petroleum has directly affected prices of every commodity. He stated that AICC president, Rahul Gandhi, and other Congress leaders have been continuously raising this issue in the Parliament.

"This is not a Congress party movement but people's movement. So I would like to request everyone to join the protest," he urged. He also urged the State Government to give exemption in the State taxes on fuel and provide some relief to the people of Sikkim.

Sikkim Pentecostal Churches Council alleges bias is Israel tour selection

YOGEN THATAL SINGTAM, 08 SEPT: Sikkim Pentecostal Churches Council [SPCC], Gangtok conducted its district executive meeting here at Zeo Worship Centre in Singtam today which was attended by executive members of various churches and branches.

A total of 50 names have been listed out of which 30-35 members are young. "The pilgrimage tour is especially for elderly people but the selection reveals that there has been some partiality," said SPCC general secretary, Pastor Basant Gajmer.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the selection procedure for the pilgrimage tour to Israel which was announced by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling during the All Sikkim Summit for senior pastors conducted at Jorethang on 07 Feb earlier this year.

The Council has accused Secretary of Roads and Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim for the same.

It is reported that although the pilgrimage tour is for senior pastors, young members have been enrolled in the list while excluding senior pastors who have been working for a decade.

Further, the meeting also criticized the recent land purchase at Tumlang which has been registered in the name of United Sikkim Christian Welfare Association [USCWA]. The SPCC has questioned the arrangement of funds for the purchase of the land.

"We wish the best to all who have been enrolled but we are also not satisfied by the selection process as names were enrolled without consulting SPCC members even though it is a registered body and has been working for the welfare of the Christian community since many years," said State

chief coordinator, SPCC, Pastor David Buddha Tamang. "If the land has been purchased through the government's money, how is the land registered in the name of USCWA and not SPCC?" said Pastor Gajmer. It is informed that a delegation of senior members from the council will be meeting the CM for his immediate intervention on these issues.

Sewaro Youth Club of Yuksom wins Swachhata internship prog

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 SEPT: Following the Prime Minister's clarion call for each individual to devote at least 100 hours of Swachhata through the year, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India in association with Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has launched Swachh Bharat Summer Internship "100 hours of

Swachhata" starting from 01 Jun to 31 Jul, 2018. A press release informs that Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Sikkim has been appointed to oversee the non-academic part of the internship in all four districts of the State. As many as 180 youth clubs and 30 youths under the age of 29 had enrolled themselves in the internship under NYK in all the four districts of the State.

The summer internship being a competition based internship, youth clubs and individual youths who had completed 100 hours of internship in the top three positions at the District level were selected as the district winners of the internship and were awarded with cash prizes of Rs 30,000, Rs 20,000 and Rs 10,000 along with certificates.

Reports of the district winners namely East Sanjivni Youth Club [Rhenock], Sewaro Youth Club [Yuksom], Save Lungchok Association [Kabi Lungchok] and Chandan Rai [individual basis] from Namchi, South Sikkim were re-evaluated by a panel of judges consisting of Pincho Bhutia [Assistant Director, NSS cell, Sikkim], Munna Pradhan [Assistant Director, NCC

Sikkim] and Bhoj Kumar [General Secretary, Hariyali Udyog Sangh, Chunjachen] on 07 Sept at the State office of NYKS in Gangtok for State level selection.

Sewaro Youth Club [Yuksom] was declared State level winner of Swachh Bharat Summer Internship "100 hours of Swachhata" with East Sanjivni Youth Club [Rhenock] and Chandan Rai

from Namchi securing the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. Winners of the State level internship programme were handed cash prizes of Rs 50,000, Rs 30,000 and Rs 20,000 respectively along with certificates.

The report of the State level winner will be forwarded to Delhi for National level selection, the release adds.

Denzong Sherpa Assoc holds coordination meet in West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 SEPT: A public coordination meeting of Denzong Sherpa Association [DSA] was held at Begha Basti under Maneybung-Dentam constituency in West Sikkim today, a press release informs.

During the meeting, DSA reiterated its demand for Sherpa land protection under Revenue Order No. 1. Speaking on the occasion, DSA president, Lha Tshering Sherpa, informed about the National Commission for Sched-

uled Tribes [NCST] notice to the State Government and the proposed hearing on 24 Sept, 2018 at the office of NCST. He further alleged that certain forces are trying to disrupt the demand of the Sherpa community and requested Sherpas

from across Sikkim to stay alert and avoid getting misled by them. He said that the Assembly Session on 19 Sept, 2018 is the last and final chance for the State Government to rectify their mistakes and liberate the Sherpa commu-

nity from the historical injustice meted out to them. He urged the State Government to inculcate knowledge and wisdom to save them from embarrassment at the national level. Mr Sherpa further

warned the State Government, political parties, organisations and individuals to refrain from speaking against the rights of the Sherpa community without proper knowledge of the historical facts of Sikkim.

Secy, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, calls on CM

GANGTOK, 08 SEPT [IPR]: Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India, Parmeswaran Iyer, called on Chief Minister Pawan Chamling at his official residence in Mintokgang on 07 Sept. Mr Iyer congratulated Mr Chamling for being the

longest serving Chief Minister in the country and commended the achievements made by Sikkim under his leadership. He further praised the Central flagship schemes like the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan which has been successfully implemented in the State and also

applauded the many unique practices which has been an example for other States to follow. He said that the country has a lot to learn from Sikkim and the State is an important success story for the whole of the country. He further praised the Organic Mission of

the State and added that other States should replicate the unique practices and successful models of Sikkim. The CM talked about various policies towards environmental conservation and informed that the State Government allocates 1% of every proj-

ect for environmental protection. Mr Iyer thanked the CM for the hospitality and especially for hosting the two-day workshop on Solid and Liquid Resource Management in the State. He reiterated that the Centre will continue to extend all possi-

ble support to the State to maintain high standards of development that it has set. He was accompanied by Minister, RMDD, SB Subedi, Secretary, RMDD, DR Nepal, and officials from the department.

Legal services camp held for senior citizens & widows in South

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 SEPT: District Legal Services Authority [South] and Taluk Legal Services Committee [South] in coordination with Sikkim State Legal Services Authority organized legal services camp cum legal awareness programme at Tinik-Chisopani in South Sikkim today, a press release informs.

The programme aimed at spreading awareness on welfare legislations and schemes and strengthening the community's access to the schemes being implemented by the Legal Services Authority and other departments of the Government while identifying and connecting people to welfare schemes to ensure that fruits of

the welfare schemes are passed to eligible people. The programme also looked upon understanding legal needs of the people especially the senior citizens and widows, and addressing their legal problems by giving appropriate legal advice. Today's programme mainly focussed on NALSA [Effective Implemen-

tation of Poverty Alleviation Schemes] Scheme, 2015, Widow Pension Scheme and Old Age Pension Scheme. The camp was inaugurated by DLSA [South] Chairperson, Jyoti Kharika, in the presence of DLSA [South] Secretary, Sonam Denka Wangdi, Ld Panel Advocates, Block Development Officer and staff of Nan-

dugaon-Jorethang BAC, staff from Social Justice Empowerment & Welfare Department and Health Care, Human Services & Family Welfare Department, representatives of Jorethang Police Station, Para-Lagal Volunteers, Panchayat members of Tinik-Chisopani GPU and people from Tink-Chisopani, Salghari, Jorethang, Ambotay, Nandugaon,

Dong, Borbotay, Poklok and Samatar. Out of 83 people who attended the programme, 36 were beneficiaries. The attendees interacted with the officers and representatives of the departments present to address their problems and to procure appropriate advice and guidance. Deputy Speaker [SLA] cum MLA Dzongu, Mr Lepcha, in his address informed that Students' Front has been formed by SDF under the guidance of party president Pawan Chamling in order to understand the weaknesses in the education system and initiate measures to strengthen the system with positive suggestions from the new generation.

National Lok Adalat held in Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 SEPT: Sikkim State Legal Services Authority [Sik-Sik SLA] under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority [NALSA] organised National Lok Adalat today.

A press release informs that 10 Lok Adalat Benches were constituted in all four districts of the State comprising of the Lok Adalat judges and 'Other Persons'. Pre Lok Adalat sittings were also held for identifying cases

to be taken up during the National Lok Adalat. Out of 31 cases taken up, 20 cases were settled. A sum of Rs 6,03,000 was awarded by the various Lok Adalat benches. The National Lok Adalat today took up cases on

criminal compoundable offences, bank recovery cases, Negotiable Instruments Act, money suit, title suit and civil matter. The general public is informed that the next National Lok Adalat is scheduled to be held on

08 Dec, 2018 and the cases taken up will be criminal compoundable offences, Negotiable Instruments Act, money suit, title suit and civil matter. The general public is informed that the next National Lok Adalat is scheduled to be held on

08 Dec, 2018 and the cases taken up will be criminal compoundable offences, Negotiable Instruments Act, money suit, title suit and civil matter. The general public is informed that the next National Lok Adalat is scheduled to be held on

Lecture on legal subject matters organized for student PLVs

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 SEPT: Sikkim State Legal Services Authority [SSL-SA] under the guidance of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Sikkim, Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai, who is also the Executive Chairperson of

Sikkim SLA conducted lecture on legal subject matters for student Para Legal Volunteers [PLVs] of Sikkim Government Law College [Burtuk], ICAFI University [Lower Sichey] and Sikkim University [Tadong] today at the conference hall of Sikkim SLA in Devel-

opment Area, Gangtok, a press release informs. Registrar, High Court of Sikkim, KW Bhutia, who attended the programme as resource person, apprised the participants on Promissory notes and cheques [Section 138 of N.I. Act]. Likewise, Member

Secretary, Sikkim SLA, Suraj Chettri, spoke on Compensation under Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizen Act, 2007 & Rules framed by the Government of Sikkim and Arrest, Bail, F.I.R., Rights of Arrested Person.

Similarly, Police Inspector [Traffic], Sanjay Rai, and retired Sub-Inspector, BK Pradhan, spoke on Road Safety Rules, Regulations and Safe Driving. The welcome address was delivered by Deputy Secretary, Sikkim SLA, Bikash Sharma,

while the vote of thanks was proposed by Under Secretary, Sikkim SLA, Praveen Pradhan. Fifty-two student PLVs of Sikkim Government Law College, ICAFI University and Sikkim University attended the programme.

Electoral Literacy Club formed in Mamring SSS

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 SEPT: In order to spread awareness among students regarding elections, electoral procedures, rights and responsibilities of electors, electoral roll

and literacy, Mamring Senior Secondary School, East Sikkim has formed its Electoral Literacy Club [ELC] with IP Khatiwara [Post Graduate Teacher, Political Science] as advisor, Tshering Diki Bhutia

[PGT, History] as nodal teacher and Neechenmit Lepcha [Class XI student] as campus ambassador along with 20 students as executive members, a press release informs.

Gauri Lankesh case: One more in SIT custody

BENGALURU, SEP 8 (PTI): The Special Investigation Team probing the killing of journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh has taken into custody one more person in connection with the case. Sources in the SIT said Sudhanwa Gondhalekar, who was arrested from Pune by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad

in August in connection with the seizure of a huge cache of explosives, was brought here Friday on transit remand. He was produced in a local court which remanded him in police custody for 14 days. With this, 14 suspects have been arrested in the case. A native of Satara,

Gondhalekar has confessed to his role in the Lankesh killing, SIT sources said. The Anti-Terrorism Squad of Maharashtra police had arrested three members of a suspected right-wing Hindutva outfit, including Gondhalekar, in August and seized a huge quantity of explosives, including crude bombs.

Governor launches coffee table book 'Shining Stars of Siliguri'

Contd from pg01 Sikkim to encourage journalism and also touched upon initiation of digital media including launching of departmental website called www.ipr.sikkim.gov.in , app of Sikkim Herald, twitter page, facebook page and other publications to reach out to the public.

Programme, Women Empowerment, Tourism and Hospitality, Ban on plastic items, Literacy mission etc. He also stressed that journalism should not be restricted by boundaries and coverage of both the States should be done to encourage the good initiatives and policies.

Executive Director of Prabhat Khabar, RK Dutta, in his address, mentioned Sikkim's connection with Siliguri and Darjeeling in the context of tourism development. He talked about the various editions of Prabhat Khabar in three different states, its coverage and its activities. Earlier, Chief Editor, Asutosh Chaturvedi proposed welcome address and briefed about the objective of the programme.

Gangtok on Sunday, 09 Sept

Temp: 25°C/17°C
Forecast: Cooler; a morning thunder-shower in parts of the area, then a couple of thundershowers.
Sunrise: 05:18 AM
Sunset: 5:48 PM

Blood donation camp held in Mamring

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 SEPT: Lions Club of Rangpo Gateway, East Sikkim organised its 4th blood donation camp at Micro Lab in Mamring, South Sikkim today with the support of technical staff from Blood Bank of STNM Hospital, Gangtok. Seventy-five units of blood were collected and deposited at STNM Hospital Blood Bank, a press release informs.

SDF stands like Kangchenjunga, small avalanches make no difference: Ugen T Gyatso

contd from pg01
 urged people to work in coordination with the government for development of the area through Organic Farm Tourism. He also assured to work on all demands placed by the local people by the end of this year.

The meeting was also addressed by TD Kazi who has shifted to SDF from SKM.

"I had joined SKM for Parivartan but later realized that the party does not have a leader like Pawan Chamling who can lead Sikkim towards the right path," he said.

National Wkshp on Solid & Liquid Resource Management commences in Gangtok

GANGTOK, 08 SEPT [IPR]: Three-day National Workshop on Solid and Liquid Resource Management commenced on the evening of 07 Sept in Gangtok.

The workshop was formally inaugurated by Minister, Rural Management & Development Department, Government of Sikkim, SB Subedi, in the presence of Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India, Parameswaran Iyer, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Kapil Chaudhary, Joint Secretary In-Charge [SLWM], Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Samir Kumar, Secretary, RM&DD, Government of Sikkim, DR Nepal, senior officers from the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, officers from all participating States, representatives from National and International partner agencies and officers of RM&DD, Sikkim.

Minister, RM&DD, Mr Subedi, in his inaugural address thanked the Ministry and the partners while highlighting some



of the initiatives taken by the State in the area of solid liquid waste management and the steps taken to sustain the Open Defecation Free status enjoyed by the State since 2016.

He reiterated that the focus has now shifted to sustaining the ODF status through community participation. He stated that the Government of Sikkim has channelized its resource to change the face of rural Sikkim and has been able

to implement rural centric schemes and programmes. He expressed hope that the national workshop will be a good learning for Sikkim as well as a platform to share its good practices in SLWM with fellow participating States and Union Territories.

Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, GoI, Mr Iyer, in his address gave a brief overview of SLWM scenario in India. He appreciated the efforts

put in by Sikkim in becoming the 1st Open Defecation Free State in 2016 and steps taken thereafter towards its sustenance.

Speaking on the national scenario of solid liquid waste management, the Union Secretary informed that the country overall has been doing considerably well in the cleanliness front and quite a few States have now become open defecation free. He informed

that 19 States and Union Territories have become ODF and by the end of Sept 2018, all Union Territories will become ODF.

He added that after Open Defecation Free status, the focus now has shifted to ODF Plus which primarily focuses on SLWM.

He said that the three-day workshop will focus on Plastic Waste Management; Census Towns or very large and densely populated Gram Panchayats, essentially having a population of over 5000, with characteristics of an urban area; GOBAR Dhan Programme to generate waste and energy from cattle waste; Ganga Grams; Grey Water Management; and Menstrual Hygiene Management- supply and disposal of sanitary pads.

The Union Secretary also informed of the two major campaigns planned for the month of Sept leading up to 02 Oct, 2018. The Swachhta Hi Sewa, a pan-India Campaign will be launched by Prime Minister of India on 15 Sept through video conferencing reaching out to a cross section of stakeholders and public. Vari-

ous activities will be part of this campaign involving all sections of the population, he added.

Mr Iyer further informed about participants engaged in a field visit to Martam in East Sikkim to understand the initiatives taken by Sikkim in SLWM. He concluded that the primary focus now will be on ODF Plus where parallel programmes will be run to ensure that the gains from the ODF status are sustained. He said that the Ministry and the State Governments are engaging with stakeholders to encourage sharing and learning and extensive IEC through grassroot mobilization to bring about behavioural change.

Joint Secretary In-Charge [SLWM], Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, GoI, Mr Kumar, in his opening remarks shed light on the thrust areas that would be deliberated upon in the course of the three-day workshop. He stressed on the importance of large scale IEC to augment the awareness on the important issue of solid liquid waste management.

Earlier, State Secretary, RM&DD, Mr Nepal, in his welcome address shed light on the activities carried out by the State towards the successful implementation of solid liquid waste/resource management. He apprised the meeting that Sikkim achieved the tag of the 1st Open Defecation Free State in the country in the year 2016.

Further, in the same year, a survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Office [NSSO] ranked Sikkim as the cleanest State in the country, he informed. He credited this consistent performance of the State in the area of cleanliness and sanitation to the years of patient hard work put in by the State Government, the Panchayati Raj Institution, Civil Society, NGOs, and the active participation of the public in general.

Brochures on Grey Water Management, Black Water Management and Bio-Waste Management prepared by the Ministry were released on the occasion by the dignitaries.

Namcheybong School student to represent State at National Science Seminar

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 SEPT: State Council of Educational Research and Training [SCERT], Sikkim organised State Level Science Seminar 2018 at Birsapati Parsai Government Senior Secondary School in Ranipool, East Sikkim on 07 Sept on the topic "Industrial Revolution [IR] 4.0: Are we prepared?"

An SCERT press release informs that 12 student participants - three from each of the four districts, made their presen-

tations before students, teachers and officials from Human Resource Development Department.

The participants were Akritee Pandey [Sadam SSS], Ashish Danggal [Rangpo SSS], Ashmit Limboo [Mangshila SSS], Dawkit Lepcha [Namcheybong SSS], Hissey Dorjee Bhutia [Sreebadam SSS], Kidenla Sherpa [VCGI SSS, Rabongla], Mondira Rawat [Pakkigaon SSS], Onesimus Sundas [Tadong SSS], Pukar Chettri [Lingmoo SSS],

Rita Rai [Mangan SSS], Saknon Lepcha [Singhik SSS] and Sneha Pradhan [Daramdin SSS].

These students had been selected through district level seminars held at Pelling, Mangan, Namchi and Gangtok last month.

Dawkit Lepcha of Namcheybong Senior Secondary School was adjudged the best speaker securing 1st position while Ashish Danggal of Rangpo SSS and Onesimus Sundas of Tadong SSS se-

cured the 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.

The winner will now represent the State at the National level Science Seminar scheduled to be held on 05 Oct at Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum [VITM] in Bengaluru.

Judges for the seminar were Dipankar Lama [Deputy Director, IT, HRDD], Dr Bhakta Kunwar [Associate Professor, NBB College] and Dr LP Sharma, Senior Technical Director, NIC].

Director, SCERT, Dr Rabin Chhetri, in his welcome address highlighted the significance and importance of the 4th generation Industrial Revolution and preparatory measures.

Additional Chief Secretary, HRDD, GP Upadhyaya, who attended the programme as chief guest, in his address made notable suggestions to the winners on improving presentation for the event at the national level.

EMRS Gangyap boys in quarter finals of CBSE NE C'ship



SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 08 SEPT: Eklavya Model Residential School [EMRS], Gangyap boys' and girls' basketball teams from West Sikkim are participating in the CBSE Cluster 1 North East Zone Basketball Championship being held at Guwahati in Assam from 07 Sept.

In today's match, the EMRS boys' team outscored Maria Public School, Guwahati 49-03. The team will now face Royal Global School, Gu-

wahati in the boys' quarter final of the championship to be played later this evening.

Likewise, in their first match of the championship played today, EMRS girls' team defeated South Point School 35-11.

It may be mentioned here, EMRS Gangyap girls' team won the NE championship in 2017 for the eighth consecutive time. The boys' team had taken the fourth place last year.

SC judge criticises govt for leaving it to wisdom of court to decide on Section 377

contd from pg01

an individual, some substantive content".

"And therefore you find that in some parts of the judgment, there are reference to the fact that says 'I am as I am and let me be as I am'. There are other judgments which do not regard this right 'to be that I am' as something that is immutable,"

he said.

He also said that all our identities are shaped by our constant interaction with each other, with the society and one's self. "...is gender in that sense an identity which is not shaped by our social milieu," he said.

Noting that Section 377 rested on deep-rooted gender stereotypes,

he said that "what 377 did essentially was to say that this is how a man should be and this is how a woman should be. And, this not what a man is and this is not what a woman is."

"LGBT individuals as well as those who do not conform to societal expectations of sexual behaviour defy gender

stereotypes," he quoted from his judgment.

He further said that the issue is how do you deal with sexual orientation with expression of sex in Article 15 of the Constitution.

Section 377, imposing deep prejudices in terms of gender stereotypes, was found to be offensive to Article 15, he said.

"Article 15 also uses the word 'only'. It says that no citizen shall be discriminated only on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth. If you follow a very formalistic 'Rule of Law' approach the word 'only' means the moment you discriminate against an individual on the ground of sex and something

else, that discrimination is valid," he said.

He added that there is a need for emphasising an equal society.

"Rule of Law, if it has to flourish in a constitutional democracy, has to be amidst the diversity of culture, in a plural society," he said.

Conduct economic disparity survey, Chamling suggests to SBS

Contd from pg01

in order to maintain this political stability, people have to be responsible and not get into caste or petty politics.

Turning his attention to the retired officials and staff, he asked them to contribute their intellectual experience in the functioning of the Senior Citizens Welfare Board. He stressed on the importance of security as one ages and the support and company needed by old people. Therefore, the establishment of Old Age Homes in all the four districts is absolutely necessary, he stated.

He then asked the officials of SBS to look out for young recruits to be taken into the body for their fresh and efficient outlook.

At the end, he reminded people to develop a sense of ownership and said, "SBS is a people's bank so the responsibility

lies in all of us for it is our money. Trust your bank, love your bank, invest in your bank."

Managing Director, SBS, HK Chettri, presented the welcome address where he welcomed everybody and expressed his happiness in celebrating fifty years of service provided by SBS. He then provided a brief background of SBS explaining how the body came into existence and said that unlike other banks, the State Bank of Sikkim Proclamation of 1968 gives it a unique status.

In his address, he also said that so far, SBS has 44 branches, three 24-hr revenue collection counters and one extension counter. The aim of SBS is to open more branches so that the total number reaches 50, he added.

He then informed that SBS is clear of all Income Tax liabilities and

is making advance payment on yearly basis, it is fully compliant with the Income Tax provisions and adds to the national economy by paying tax on schedule. As per figures recorded on 31 Mar 2018, SBS has a total business of over Rs 3500 crore, he added.

Chairperson, SBS, KB Chamling, in his address spoke about the history of SBS, the problems faced and the measures taken to turn this financial body into a successfully operating monetary institute. He thanked everyone who has contributed in the success of SBS.

The CM was felicitated by SBS for his constant support and guidance over the last three decades.

KL Jawalia of National Informatics Centre, Government of India was also felicitated for his contribution and guidance in the growth of SBS.

A coffee table book with the fifty years journey of SBS titled, "The Bond" was released along with the inauguration of the Core Banking Solution [CBS].

The CM was also presented with a dividend cheque of Rs 18.92 crore.

Winners of a school level essay competition were awarded with certificates and cash prize. The competition had Disha Bhujel [Class XI Commerce, PNGSS] in the first place with Neharika Gajmer [Class XI Commerce, Deorali Girls School] and Pratistha Choudary [Class XII Science, Tashi Namgyal Academy] in the second and third positions respectively.

Likewise, School Development Fund was distributed to Paljor Namgyal Girls School, Tashi Namgyal Academy, Deorali Girls' Senior Secondary School, Sir Tashi

Namgyal Senior Secondary School, Enchey Senior Secondary School and Modern Senior Secondary School.

Earlier, girls from Paljor Namgyal Senior Secondary School and Deorali Girls Senior Secondary

School presented songs.

The programme was also attended by Deputy Speaker [SLA], Sonam Gyatso Lepcha, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, officials of various department and students.

SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES

DEAR TOUGH EVENING

Draw No:4 DrawDate on:08/09/18

1st Prize Rs.26.05 Lakhs/- 67D 03502
 Cons. Prize Rs.9500/- 03502 (REMAINING ALL SERIALS)
 2nd Prize Rs.9000/-
 02359 06099 17947 20358 43962
 49867 59738 62573 65920 71828
 3rd Prize Rs.500/- 0320 3168 3220 3780 4847 5847 7360 9324 9372 9953
 4th Prize Rs.250/- 0069 0690 0768 2509 2540 4946 7119 7541 7847 8778
 5th Prize Rs.120/-
 0107 0153 0498 0501 0590 0636 0757 0862 1024 1100
 1150 1156 1458 1467 1480 1496 1509 1571 1633 1769
 2137 2156 2174 2302 2356 2414 2606 2643 2732 2811
 3029 3137 3173 3198 3284 3618 3636 3854 3903 4019
 4074 4113 4170 4356 4426 4467 4559 4721 4780 4834
 4917 5074 5239 5371 5399 5537 5594 5620 5764 5913
 5946 5976 6001 6072 6143 6269 6632 6688 6696 6725
 6879 7086 7374 7472 7508 7512 7550 7625 7671 7873
 7949 8250 8423 8435 8505 8618 8700 8716 8791 8800
 8961 8973 9277 9293 9329 9396 9774 9896 9901 9971

Issued by :
 The Director, Sikkim State Lotteries,
 Government Of Sikkim, Deorali - 737102, Sikkim

Please Visit : www.sikkimlotteries.com

KINDLY CHECK THE RESULT WITH THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

Anthyesti Kriya



The Anthyesti Kriya of **Late Raju Rai** son of Man Bdr. Rai who left for his heavenly abode on 02.09.2018 falls on **11.09.2018**. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to join us is offering prayers for departed soul at **Chowtaro Hotel, Deorali Bazaar, Gangtok, East Sikkim**. We also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

Mrs. Manju Rai (wife)- 7407181907,
Milan Rai- 9733110850 & Navin Rai- 9609867614 (sons).

SummitTIMES

ON TOP OF THE NEWS

Let There be Love!

Yes, homophobia is a crime now. Let's have social acceptance next

On 06 September, a day after Teacher's Day, the Supreme Court decided to play the educator, delivering a landmark verdict on Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code decriminalising consensual intercourse between two persons of the same gender. And with this, an entire section of the society, one which was battling not only societal prudishness but also ham-fisted laws, received partial release.

Ideally, this law should have been repealed by the Parliament where the people's representatives sit as law-makers, required by their oath of office to serve the interest of the people. But they dithered, cowed down by conservatives, who, despite their fewer numbers are rabid rabble-rousers who can make up with hate and noise what they lack by way of public support or endorsement. The Supreme Court said as much when it commented in its verdict that the Government had capitulated on its responsibility to even take a stand on Section 377, refusing to come on record whether it defended it or opposed it and left it to the Courts to decide on the matter. And thank God for that, because had it been left to people's representatives, the kind who receive lynch-mob leaders with garlands and believe that even suspicion of cow-slaughter was enough to slaughter a human being, not only would homosexuality have remained a crime in our country for much longer, but homophobia would have been fanned even more in the run-up to the general elections when every element of hate is going to get teased out to keep the majority fearful.

The right-wingers probably know this in their hearts, but it is important for the rest to recognize how shallow extreme conservatism runs. Section 377, parts of which criminalizing consensual same-sex intercourse have now been struck down, is a nearly 160 year old law, drafted by Lord Macaulay in 1837, when there was still Company Raj in India, and legislated it 1860 in the early years of India as a colony of the Crown. This, by the way, is the same Macaulay who tore down the traditional learning systems of India and decided that we were to be a colony feeding clerks and order-takers and gave us "modern western education" which continues to stifle mental growth, inquisitiveness and learning. It was legislated by a Crown still smarting over the Mutiny of 1857 and obviously motivated by a passion to suffocate all expressions of its subjects and obliterate every aspect of its culture which did not find sync with its Victorian prudery. Homosexuality, bisexuals and transgenders, accepted and even celebrated in India through the ages, had been criminalized in England as far back as in the mid-Sixteenth century. It just had to go. And it did. The problem is that it remained even after the colonizers left. And for so long that a majority of India had converted. One must also bear in mind here that for all their bluster about Indian pride and culture, the saffron brigade, by refusing to take a stand on Section 377 even when pressed by the Supreme Court, was admitting that it was okay, even supportive, of a carry-over from a colonial past despite the offensive cultural oppression which had informed the legislation when it had arrived in 1860. If not shallowness, then what else does this reveal?

The Courts, thankfully, came to the nation's rescue. That said, there is still the societal stigma one has to deal with. The Court verdict only de-criminalises homosexuality. It does not extend them any right. Same-sex marriages are still not possible in our country. But before we even get to that discussion, homosexuality will need to gain what can only be called social acceptance. That is still some ways off. The Court order has hopefully begun the process, but one must also bear in mind that homosexuals remained closeted in India not just because the law saw them as criminals, they remained in the shadows because of the stigma attached to their orientation. This needs to change, and it will have to begin at home, at the family level. Let us hope it happens.

There is another lesson here for mindsets obsessed with the purity of the past. Section 377, despite its clearly regressive and colonial baggage, remained a law in Independent India because Article 372 (1) of the Constitution says that "all laws in force prior to the commencement of the Constitution shall continue to be in force until altered or repealed". Section 377, then, is an Old Law carried over from pre-Independent India, protected not only by the Constitution which, in its defense, left the door open for its repeal, but more so by the regressively inclined who chest-beat nationalism but are actually foisting dangerous conservatism, intolerance and denial.

ANDRE SPICER
theconversation.com

One of Donald Trump's senior White House staff has made a truly unprecedented move against their ultimate boss. The staffer anonymously published an opinion piece in the New York Times, in which the individual described a dilemma: should the White House's employees stand by and watch a president who they see as "a threat to the health of our republic", or should they quietly work to resist what they see as Trump's "amoralism" and "misguided impulses"? Trump reacted to the piece in his usual style, accusing the author of "treason" and demanding the New York Times hand over their name.

It is easy to see the op-ed and ensuing furor as just one more indicator of the abject state of the Trump presidency. But the incident also poses a much more profound dilemma: when the elected politician they serve is a liability to the public, should staffers speak out and challenge them publicly, or remain loyal and do their boss's bidding?

Among commentators, researchers and staffers themselves, there are two major schools of thought. On one side are the loyalists, who take the view that staffers should be unquestioning servants. According to loyalists, since politicians are elected officials with popular mandates, their orders must be carried out. A staffer's role, then, is to find the most effective and efficient way to do that.

On the other side are the lifesavers, who hold that staffers are obliged to save a politician from their own stupidity, thereby protecting both institutions and the public from their bosses' irrational whims. Modern states are highly complex entities, they say, and to run them effectively, you need a large body of specialists with deep experience who can sustain institutions while elected officials come and go.

So who's right? Many politicians, and Trump especially, want their staffers to be loyalists. But this is a grave mistake. It's the lifesavers who will actually help a politician to achieve their objectives, or can at the very least avert a costly or catastrophic onmishambles. There are at least three reasons why.

FIGHT OR FLIGHT

First, politicians are often far less knowledgeable than their staffers. Most have little to no understanding of the issues they are dealing with, and are routinely given portfolios they have zero experience in: energy ministers who have never set foot

in a power plant, transport ministers who don't use public transport, ministers of justice without the first idea of how the prison system works. It often takes politicians a year or two to get to grips with their portfolio, by which time they are liable to be shuffled on to an entirely unrelated job.

The role of the staffer is to guide these clueless politicians through complex policy domains they don't understand. Doing that frequently requires a staffer to tell a politician they can't do something.

One of the roles of any staffer worth their salt is to regularly rain on an enthusiastic politician's parade. Elected officials often get worked up about pet projects and cherished ideas; staffers need to force them to think critically. Even if a staffer is



wrong, this process of challenge is likely to lead to more robust decisions. By voicing their doubts, lifesaving staffers can cut through the dangerous groupthink that can set government policy on a course to disaster.

Finally, politicians should be pleased when their staffers speak up simply because it's better than the alternative. Some time ago, the economist Albert Hirshmann pointed out there were three alternative courses of action an official could take when faced with a failing institution: remain loyal, leave, or speak out. Later researchers added a fourth option: to simply neglect their job and stop caring. So how should frustrated, demoralised or panicked employees decide what to do?

When faced with a failing policy, civil servants can remain loyal and get to work on the necessary turd polishing. That might make their masters feel good in the short term, but it can also drag everyone concerned deeper into a potentially disastrous course of action.

Leaving, meanwhile, might relieve the pressure on the individual staffer and make their political master happy, but simply pulling the pin is unlikely to fix the problem. Rather, some new staffer is likely to come along and make the same mistakes all over again. The upshot could be a revolving door of misfortune. And while staffers could also simply neglect their duties, the comfort that would offer them and their boss alike may well be offset by disastrous consequences for the public.

That only really leaves one option: to speak out.

COOLER HEADS PREVAIL

Staffers are likely to be punished for putting their heads above the parapet, and the politicians they serve are often disinclined to listen. But sadly, voice is one of the few ways that endemic problems get corrected before they terminate in disaster.

For any staffer looking to speak up, grave dangers lie ahead. But research suggests there are more or less effective ways of getting your point across. Studies conducted in large American corporates have found that the best way forward is to create underground resistance from the inside. The staff who do so have been described as "tempered radicals".

Tempered radicals typically work by creating underground networks both inside and outside an organisation. These networks bring together people who care about an issue. They provide the platform for future action. Tempered radicals manage their heated emotions about the issue. They might be fuming, but they try to let rationality rather than passion lead them, using the values of their institution to push forward their claims.

If the people in charge value individual freedom, staffers trying to change course should use arguments about individual freedom to push their agenda forward. Finally, tempered radicals create behind the scenes actions which help to push their agenda forward. These are smaller actions which help to make people's lives better. Over time, these modest interventions build up to bigger wins.

It's true that in politics, loyalty is one of the most valued currencies. But being loyal doesn't mean always saying yes to seniors; it also means staying committed to the values of an institution, even when that might mean questioning or challenging the person temporarily in charge. That can be hard. But it can also help save politicians from themselves.

[the writer is Professor of Organisational Behaviour, Cass Business School, City, University of London]

Does being smart and successful lower your chances of getting married?

YUE QIAN
theconversation.com

Having a committed partner and good family relationships are important to most people. Countless novels, fairy tales and movies have told romantic stories about love that endure us to the idea of romantic love.

Sociologists, however, are less romantic. When it comes to falling in love, it's not just fate or serendipity that bring people together—social factors matter.

How so? My research illustrates how our attitudes towards Mr. or Ms. Right are filtered through the lens of social norms.

Though some of us are too young to remember, about three decades ago, the marriage prospects of highly educated women were the subject of headlines and made the cover of Newsweek magazine in 1986.

The memorable media messages produced strong feelings of anxiety in a lot of women. The story as portrayed in the romantic comedy Sleepless in Seattle went like this: "It's easier to be killed by a terrorist than it is to find a husband over the age of 40."

The conventional wisdom was that women over 40 who had achieved a certain level of professional (and educational) goals had a lower marriageability.

Is it actually true? Do women who spend years in school getting a good education sacrifice their chances of getting married?

Actually, no. Research has consistently found that American women with at least a bachelor's degree are more likely to get married and stay married than less educated women.

In fact, only a few years after the Newsweek story, family sociologist An-

drew Cherlin debunked the misleading and incorrect messages about professional women's marriage prospects.

HUSBAND-WIFE EDUCATION GAPS
In the United States, women lagged behind men in college completion before the 1980s, but by 2013, women earned about 60 per cent of bachelor's and master's degrees and half of all doctoral degrees.

My research took data from the 1980 U.S. Census and the 2008-2012 American Community Surveys to examine spousal pairings, and looked at education and income levels among newlywed couples. I found that between 1980 and 2008-2012, women were increasingly likely to marry men with less education than they had.

The proportion of couples in which the husband had more education than the wife dropped almost 10 percentage points, from 24 per cent in 1980 to 15 per cent in 2008-2012 (see the blue line in the zoomable graph, right). During the same period, the share of couples in which the wife had more education than the husband increased from 22 per cent to 29 per cent (the red line).

So, during 2008-2012 in the U.S., women were more likely than men to be the more educated spouse in marriage.

Since men have historically been expected to be the breadwinner and "the head of" the family, I wondered if these education pairings changed their breadwinner roles?

Does education equal more power in marriage?

The pairing between a better-educated wife and a less-educated husband does not mean that the wife is the person with greater resources or power in marriage.

In general, women continue to marry men whose income exceeds their own. This is not surprising, giv-

ing that women still earn less than men and the husband breadwinning norm persists.

My research found that the tendency for women to "marry up" in terms of income was greater when they "married down" in education. In other words, men and women still tend to form marriages in which the wife's socioeconomic status does not exceed that of the husband.

Although men have placed more importance on the financial prospects of a potential spouse over time, they may value women's high status only up to the point where their partner's status exceeds their own. In this way, men may hesitate to marry women who have both more education and higher income than they do.

Meanwhile, since income inequality has increased dramatically in recent decades, women may have more to lose if they marry down economically.

'LEFT-OVER LADIES' IN CHINA

So, in the U.S., highly educated men and women are already more likely than their less educated peers to get married. By contrast, in China, highly educated women (but not highly educated men) may face great challenges finding a spouse.

Chinese women have outpaced men in college enrolment as well. My previous research on contemporary urban China found that as education increases for women, the likelihood of them finding a match for marriage decreases, whereas the possibilities increase for men.

Chinese media and the public use a derogative term, "leftover ladies," to describe these urban, highly educated single women. In China, the low marriage prospects of highly educated women are closely linked to the roles that husbands and wives are supposed to play in the family.

The breadwinner role of the husband and the homemaker role of the wife remain firmly in place in Chinese families. In this context, career-orient-

ed women are commonly criticized as "selfish," "non-feminine" and "irresponsible to household needs," whereas husbands' failure to fulfil the provider role is often the primary source of marital conflict.

Unlike the U.S., where men now tend to marry women more educated than themselves, the traditional practice of men marrying women with less education than they have persists in China.

Although both China and the U.S. witnessed the gender-gap reversal in higher education, the U.S.-China contrast in marriage patterns suggests that structural factors, such as gender norms in society, play an important role in shaping individual marriage prospects.

It was a widely held social norm that men should marry women who were less educated than themselves. This norm worked well in the past when a college education was uncommon and men generally had more education than women. In the U.S., the cultural evolution of mate preferences corresponds to changes in men's and women's educational attainment.

But in urban China, this is not the case. The movement toward egalitarian gender roles does not go hand-in-hand with rapid social changes. Highly educated Chinese women gain little from the male breadwinner-female homemaker marriage; instead, they are likely to delay or even forgo marriage.

Since the reversal of the gender gap in education is happening almost globally, it would be great to get more information so we can understand how the growing female advantage in education will impact marriage and family lives.

When it comes to marriage, it's not fate and love that bring people together—social factors, like education and prevailing gender norms, matter.

[the writer is Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of British Columbia]

HAVE
A STORY TO
SHARE?

email us
news@summittimes.com

No Indians to be excluded from NRC: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, SEP 8 (PTI): Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday assured that no Indian national would be excluded from the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Addressing the Northeast Students' Festival here to welcome new students from the region to Delhi, Singh said the NRC was necessary to identify Indian citizens and weed out illegal immigrants.

"I want to say that no genuine Indian will be excluded from the NRC," he said at the event organised by 'My Home India', an NGO founded by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sunil Deodhar.

"It is absolutely necessary to know who are Indians and who are foreigners," said Singh as he asserted that the update of the NRC, a list of Assam's citizens, was carried out under the direct supervision of the Supreme Court.

Deodhar was the BJP in-charge in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency Varanasi during 2014 Lok Sabha elections and a key architect of BJP's victory in last assembly elections in



Tripura.

The update of NRC, the massive Supreme Court-monitored exercise to identify genuine Indian nationals living in Assam excluded over 40 lakh people from the draft list published on July 30, creating a huge political controversy.

The exercise aimed at identifying illegal immigrants in the state that borders Bangladesh was carried out in Assam following a decision in 2005 after a series of meetings between the central and state governments and the influential All Assam Students' Union (AASU).

Assam, which faced influx of people from Bangladesh since the early 20th century, is the only state having an NRC, first prepared in 1951.

The current exercise, started in 2005 under

the then Congress regime got a major push only after the BJP came to power in the state with illegal immigration from Bangladesh as a poll plank.

When the NRC was first prepared in Assam way back in 1951, the state had 80 lakh citizens then.

As per 2011 census, Assam's total population is over 3.11 crore. The process of identification

of illegal immigrants in Assam has been widely debated and become a contentious issue in the state's politics.

A six-year agitation demanding identification and deportation of illegal immigrants was launched by the AASU in 1979.

Chopper crashes in Nepal; Japanese among 6 killed, woman survives

SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, SEP 8 (PTI): A helicopter with seven people on board crashed in a dense forest area in Nepal on Saturday, killing six of them including a foreigner.

A woman has miraculously survived the accident.

The Altitude Air helicopter, which had gone missing since morning, crash-landed in the forest area bordering Dhading and Nuwakot districts, according to eyewitnesses.

The wreckage of the ill-fated chopper piloted by senior captain Nishchal K C with six passengers, including a Japanese trekker, was spotted in a remote location in Nuwakot district, said Nima Nuru Sherpa, Managing Director at Altitude Air Private Limited, the Himalayan Times reported.

Rescuers recovered six bodies, the report quoted Sherpa as saying.

Senior captain Nishchal KC was among the deceased. The Japanese national who was killed in the accident was identified as Hiromi Komatsu, 68, it said.

The woman, who was rescued alive, has suffered injuries to her body, the report said.

The helicopter which took off for Kathmandu airlifting a patient along with other passengers from Samagun in Gorkha lost radio contact with Kathmandu tower after flying some 32 kms at around 8:10 AM (local time), a source at Tribhuvan International Airport said.

Sherpa said that the crashed chopper had not caught fire. Adverse weather conditions and difficult terrain delayed the rescue effort. A Nepal Army helicopter and a private chopper along with rescuers had reached the spot.

Nepal's ex-PM Prachanda meets Swaraj

NEW DELHI, SEP 8 (PTI): Nepal's former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' Saturday met External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and exchanged views on advancing bilateral ties.

Prachanda, who is in India on a three-day visit,

had met Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday during which they had discussed the political situation in Nepal, among other issues.

"EAM @SushmaSwaraj met former Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' earlier today. Exchanged views on advancing bilateral ties between the two countries," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

The Nepali leader is one of the two chairmen of the Nepal Communist Party, formed by the union of Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) and Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre).

Prachanda was the prime minister of Nepal from 2008 to 2009 and again from 2016 to 2017.

Manipur based KCP-PWG terrorist arrested by Delhi Police

NEW DELHI, SEP 8 (PTI): The Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a 37-year-old member of Manipur-based banned terrorist outfit, Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP-PWG), for allegedly threatening and extorting businessmen and influential people, police said Saturday.

The accused, Moirangthem Rana Pratap alias Paikhomba, self-styled General Secretary of the banned outfit, was arrested from Bishnupur area on September 4, they said.

He along with his associates was allegedly threatening and extorting money from businessmen and influential people, said Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell).

Earlier on August 28, Oinam Ibochouba Singh alias Khoirangba, a top commander and self-styled acting chairman of the banned outfit was arrested from south Delhi's Kotla Mubarakpur area, he said.

Police said it was Paikhomba, who had directed Khoirangba to go to Delhi and set up a base here to conduct their activities. On his directions, Khoirangba had allegedly

given threats to Manipur Chief Minister, the senior officer said.

Khoirangba was in the process of setting up a base in Delhi allegedly to carry out anti-national activities. He had allegedly threatened Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh and some other ministers, he added.

Paikhomba is also wanted by National Investigative Agency (NIA) and a reward of Rs two lakh was declared on his arrest by the agency, the officer said.

He has been brought to Delhi on transit remand from Manipur, the officer added.

KCP (People War Group) was formed in January, 2016 by a combined extremist group of KCP-Poirei faction, KCP-Tamnganba faction and KCP-Paikhomba faction under the chairman of Laishram Ranjit Meetei.

In January 2017, the Special Cell arrested the self-styled convener of KCP/PWG Ranjeet Singh Porai alias Rocky and, in August 2017 busted a module of KCP/PWG with the arrest of top leadership including commander-in-chief of KCP-Tamnganba faction Laishram Ranjit Meitei.

Manipur signs MoU with VFS Global for Citizen Facilitation Centre

IMPHAL, SEP 8 (PTI): Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Saturday said the state government has signed an MoU with VFS Global to set up up Citizen Facilitation Centre which would provide 50 services to the public under a single window.

Singh said people will get 50 services - ration card, caste certificate, marriage certificate, income certificate, Aadhar, etc - by paying a nominal fee at the Citizen Facilitation Centre.

The 50 services will be provided under the Citizen Centric Services Delivery System.

Even people can apply for visa for travelling for days by student unions over admission issues.

"We are dead against the practice of gherao of principals, VCs at the slightest pretext," he told reporters, after a meeting with members of the TMC students' wing -- Trinamool Chhatra Parishad here.

Chatterjee said former students should refrain from being part of student

to some pre-determined countries like Germany, Italy, France and Thailand at the Citizen Facilitation Centre.


The chief minister said data available with several government departments and agencies will be linked with the Centre to enhance efficiency and reduce corruption.

Singh further informed that the Centre will be set up in three months time.

The MoU for setting of the Citizen Facilitation Centre was signed by Manipur chief secretary J Suresh Babu and Deb Kumar Bandyopadhyay, Head of Business, South Asia Region, VFS Global Friday.

examination if they fail to meet the minimum percentage figure of attendance," he said.

The Calcutta University had in February disallowed some students of the Bengali Department from appearing in semester examinations, after they failed to secure the stipulated 55 per cent attendance.



ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK

Memo No: 590/SD IV/R&B/17-18/143

Date: 05.09.2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Divisional Engineer (East-I), Roads & Bridges Department, Government of Sikkim, invites sealed tenders under single bid system from the eligible contractors of Class III Grade enlisted with Sikkim Public Works Department vide Notification No: 515/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 12.06.2018 and 556/R&B/PWD/Secy, dated 28.08.2018, through competitive bidding within the territorial jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat / Urban Local Bodies where the work is to be executed.

The details of works and time schedule are as under:-

Sl. no.	Name of Work	Cost of Work put to tender (in Rs.)	Earnest Money @ 2.50% (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents (in Rs.)	Completion Time.
1	Construction of Link road from NH 10 (near India Press, Burtuk) towards ICDS & Gurung Gaon, Burtuk via Gurung Crematorium in East Sikkim (Part -I).	19827575.00	495689.00	30000.00	18 months.
2.	Construction of Link road from NH 10 (near India Press, Burtuk) towards ICDS & Gurung Gaon, Burtuk via Gurung Crematorium in East Sikkim (Part -II).	16102327.00	402558.00	30000.00	18 months.

TIME SCHEDULE:-

1.	Date of submission of application with Bank receipt for issue of Tender Documents (excluding Tender Form) from the Office of the Divisional Engineer (East-I), Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok.	8 th Oct. 2018 (10.00am to 4.00pm)
2.	Date of issue of tender Forms on submission of TDR (as Earnest money) from the Office of the Divisional Engineer (East-I), Roads & Bridges Department, Gangtok.	10 th Oct 2018 (10.00am to 4.00pm)
3.	Last Date and Time for submission of Tender in the Office of the Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Deorali, Gangtok.	12 th Oct 2018 (10.00am to 1.00pm)
4.	Date and Time for Opening of Tender in the Office of the Gangtok Muncipal Corpora-tion, Deorali, Gangtok	12 th Oct 2018 (2.30pm)

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT:-

1. Tender is open only to the eligible Contractors/Firms of appropriate Class/ Area.

2. The intending tenders/contractors should apply in writing for issue of tender documents. The application would be invariably be signed by the contractor himself/herself. The tender document will not be issued to any person other than the INTENDING TENDER. The application shall be submitted initially for each work listed above with all required documents.

3. The applicants should enclosed attested copies of the a) Goods & Services Tax Clearance Certificate (b) Validated/Updated Contractor Enlistment Certificate along with the application. It is mandatory to produce the Original validated/Updated Enlistment Certificate during sale/issue of the Tender Document for verification.

4. The prescribed Non-Transferable Tender Documents (excluding the Tender Form) can be obtained during the period specified in as above from the office of the Divisional Engineer, Roads and Bridges Department, Gangtok, on production of requisite Bank receipt of the State of Sikkim towards the cost of Tender Documents (non-refundable) under the receipt the Head **"1501101" sell of tender papers (Gangtok Municipal Corporation).**

5. Earnest money deposit @ 2.5% in State Bank of Sikkim shall be in the form of Deposit Receipt of Schedule Bank which includes deposits in the form of Temporary Deposit Receipts (TDR) in favour of the Accounts Officer, Roads & Bridges, Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok. Tender form shall be issued only on production of toward deposit receipts of 2.5% earnest money.

6. The Tender Documents, including the Tender Form with quoted offer should be placed in a sealed cover with the name of the tenderers and the name of the work superscripted on it, supporting documents listed at Sl.No 3(a &b) above should be enclosed with the offer.

7. **Sealed tenders may be deposited in the Tender box in the office of the Councillor, Ward No: 1, Upper Burtuk, Gangtok Mincipal Corporation, Deorali, Gangtok on the date and within the time indicated above.**

8. Tenders shall be opened by a Tender Opening Committee as prescribed by the Government in the presence of the tenderers on the date and time indicated above.

9. The Tenderer should sign on every page of the tender documents as Acceptance of the General Direction and Conditions of the Contract and other laid down norms. The rate quoted should be both in figures and words and should be inclusive of GST all other applicable Taxes and Levies. Over writing and correction should be avoided and if made should be authenticated. Incomplete/Conditional tenders shall be rejected forthwith.

10. In case of any discrepancy in rate(s) printed in the Schedule of Rates and Quantities issued with the tender documents, rates as per approved Schedule of Rates will be taken as correct. For items outside the SOR, the rates shall be as per the technically checked estimate/analysis. Decision of the Principal Chief Engineer cum Secretary/ Head of the Department will be final in this regard.

11. The work value, scope and quantum of work are subject to change, the contractor shall execute the work as per the directives of the Department. No claim on this account is entertained whatsoever. If any claim is made, it shall be as per the agreement rates.

12. The Department reserves the rights to hold payments to the contractor unless test certificates are not produced by the contractor when called upon to do so.

13. Avoidable damages due to negligence of the contractor shall be at his own risk and cost. The Department shall not be liable for payment of such damages (if any), including accidents to labours at site.

14. The offer shall remain valid for a period of 90 days. The work should commence within 15 days from the issue of the work order.

15. All the conditions as mentioned in the NIT shall be deemed to a part of the agreement to be entered with the contractor. Security deposit shall be collected by deductions from the running bills of the contractor @ 5% of the value of work done.

16. The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

17. The recoveries of Royalties on Forest Produce shall be as per rates notified by the Government from time to time and applicable on the date of payment. In no case, claim of any contractor for deduction as per rates incorporated in the analysis of rates or Schedule of Rates on the date of tender shall be acceptable.

18. Subletting of contract work is against the norms and if it comes to notice, the original contract shall be cancelled and appropriate action shall be initiated as per the rules.

19. The Department also reserves the right to increase, decrease, alter or modify the item of works as indicated in the NIT without assigning any reason thereof.

20. In case the man powers employed by the contractors are from outside the State or neighbouring countries, it shall be the responsibility of the contractors to get them registered with the labour department, Government of Sikkim as per the relevant Labour Laws.

21. Use of explosives shall be regulated as under:-

a) Transportation, Handling, storage and use of Explosives (if necessary) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the India Explosive Act and General Guidelines, Circulars issued by the department and other competent authorities on the subject from time to time.

b) The rules and regulations issued by the Sikkim Public Works department or any other competent authority shall strictly be adhered to with regard to transportation, storage; handling and use of explosives shall be maintained by the contractor.

22. The contractor shall also make arrangements to have photographs of the works taken at least at three stages of the construction period. i.e. beginning, middle and completion stage.

23. Damage to properties in and around the work site must be avoided at all cost. The contractor shall be held responsible for any acts of negligence and shall be made to make good the damages.

24. It is accepted to the tenderer to have inspected the site before submitting his/her bid. There may be possible site difficulties for which the tenderer should have their own correct assessment before submitting the bid.

25. The cost of stock materials supplied from the Department store will be deducted from the contractors' bills as per rules.

26. **The bidders shall produce a Certificate of Residence from the concerned Gram Panchayat Unit where the work is to be executed.**

R.O. No. 331/IPR/PUB/Classi./18-19
dt. 6.9.2018

Sd/-
Divisional Engineer (East -I),
Roads & Bridges Department,
Nirman Bhawan, Gangtok

West Bengal govt against gherao of principals, VCs: Partha

KOLKATA, SEP 8 (PTI): West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee on Saturday said the state government is "dead against" the practice of gherao in higher educational institutions.

In the last few months, the vice-chancellor of Jadavpur University and the registrar of Presidency University have been gheraoed

units of their alma mater.

The minister also said that every student should keep in mind that regular attendance of classes is a must.

"We will ask the colleges and universities to show no leniency to those who fail to meet the required percentage. We will recommend the authorities to deduct students' marks in semester

examination if they fail to meet the minimum percentage figure of attendance," he said.

The Calcutta University had in February disallowed some students of the Bengali Department from appearing in semester examinations, after they failed to secure the stipulated 55 per cent attendance.

My aim is to win gold in Olympic Games: Tracy Darlong

AGARTALA, SEP 8 (PTI): Tripura kickboxer Tracy Darlong who won gold medal in the 'Francaise Savate Championship' Saturday said her aim is to win gold in Olympic Games.

The 20-year-old Darlong was felicitated by Tripura Tribal Welfare minister Mevar Kumar Jamatia at an event organised by the Darlong Students Union here for winning gold in kickboxing in 55kg category in the 'Francaise Savate Championship' which was held in Chandigarh recently.



"I have been playing different games and sports in my village since childhood. There are

many children who play games in the village. I am just another player like them. My aim now is to

now win gold in Olympic Games", she said.

Jamatia said the Tripura government would do whatever is possible to encourage young sportspersons like her (Darlong).

"It is very admirable that Darlong has brought laurel for our state hailing from a humble family. We shall provide all the support she needs", the minister said.

Darlong's mother Biakveli an ASHA worker at 82 mile village in Dhalai district of Tripura, who

attended the felicitation function said she had to sell all her jewellery to fund her daughter's trip to Chandigarh.

"We are facing severe fund crunch, but I will do everything to see my daughter fulfil her dreams," Biakveli said.

Darlong's coach Pina-ki Chakraborty said she has won gold at the WAKO India Junior National Kickboxing Championship at Pune, the 15th National Muay Thai Championship in 2014, the WAKO India Senior National Kickbox-

ing Championship and the National Amateur Muay Thai Championship in 2016.

Chakraborty said he is hopeful of success Darlong in the 2024 Olympics. Savate and kickboxing are not included in the list of sports for 2020 Tokyo Olympics. "But it is expected that both the game would be included in the 2024 Olympics," he said.

Darlong is now preparing for her next muaythay championship scheduled to be held in Bangalore in October this year.

Neymar, Firmino on target as Brazil cruise over USA

EAST RUTHERFORD (UNITED STATES), SEP 8 (AFP): Roberto Firmino and Neymar scored the goals as Brazil cruised to a 2-0 friendly victory over an inexperienced United States here Friday.

Brazil, playing their first international since a disappointing World Cup quarter-final exit, were in complete control throughout a low-key encounter at the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

The South American giants had won their previous 10 games against the United States, whose lone victory came way back in 1998.

There was never much doubt that Brazil would extend their winning record to 11 consecutive wins as they dominated throughout against an American team who are rebuilding after their shock failure to qualify for the World Cup.

Brazil glided through a one-sided first half, with the hosts paying the price for repeatedly squandering possession cheaply.

The opening goal came after 11 minutes, when Juventus winger Douglas Costa found himself in space on the right flank.

British-born left-back Antonee Robinson rushed in to close down Costa, but was left for dead as the Brazilian skipped past him all too easily before picking out Firmino with a pinpoint low cross.

The Liverpool forward tapped in an easy finish past Columbus Crew goalkeeper Zack Steffen for 1-0.

Costa had Robinson in trouble again after 31 minutes, going clear to whip in another low cross. This time however Neymar was unable to get on the end of it as the Americans cleared.

In the 39th minute Steffen saved smartly from Liverpool signing Fabinho as Brazil continued to exert pressure.

The South Americans doubled their lead three minutes from half-time when US captain Wil Trapp clipped Fabinho in the penalty area.

Paris Saint-Germain striker Neymar stepped up to stroke in his 58th international goal in his 91st game.

Neymar, who was handed the captain's armband by manager Tite for this game, is now only five goals away from surpassing Ronaldo in second place on Brazil's all-time scoring charts.

Ronaldo has 62 goals, while Pele tops the charts with 77.

Del Potro, Djokovic in US Open final as Nadal quits with knee injury

NEW YORK, SEP 8 (AFP): Juan Martin del Potro set up a US Open final clash against Novak Djokovic on Friday after defending champion and world number one Rafael Nadal quit his last-four clash against the giant Argentine with a knee injury.

Third seed Del Potro, the champion in 2009, was 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 ahead when Nadal retired.

Del Potro will now face Djokovic, the 2011 and 2015 winner, who reached his eighth final at the tournament and 23rd of his Grand Slam career with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 stroll past Japan's Kei Nishikori.

Djokovic boasts a 14-4 lead over Del Potro in a 10-year rivalry, including two wins without dropping a set at the US Open in 2007 and 2012.

"We have never met in a Grand Slam final. I have tremendous respect for him as a person and a player. He's a great guy," said Djokovic who missed the 2017 tournament through injury.

"He's had lots of injury problems in the past but he's a big-match player," Nadal was devastated by having to pull out although he believes he hasn't suffered any



long term damage.

"I hate to retire," said Nadal, a player plagued by a series of knee injuries throughout his career.

He also retired trailing in the fifth set of his Australian Open quarter-final against Marin Cilic in January.

"It's not a tennis match when one is playing and the other is at the side of the court," Nadal, bidding for a fourth title in New York and 18th major, had spent the best part of 16 hours getting to the semi-finals.

That included almost five hours to defeat Dominic Thiem in an

epic quarter-final which stretched into the early hours of Wednesday morning.

The effort took its toll, with the Spaniard twice needing to have his right knee bandaged before calling it a day after the conclusion of the second set.

"Well of course it's not the best way to win a match. I love to play against Rafa because he's the biggest fighter in this sport and I don't like to see him suffering," said 29-year-old Del Potro who will be playing in his second Slam final.

- 'SAD FOR RAFA' -
"I am sad for him but

I'm also happy to do my best." Nadal's challenge looked doomed even as early as the first set, as he was feeling the injury after just four games, he admitted.

He needed his right knee strapped after the seventh game before gallantly fighting off two set points in the 10th game, breaking Del Potro who was serving for the set.

But the Argentine swept through the tie-breaker, wrapping up the opener after 69 minutes of impressive shot-making.

The Spaniard called a medical timeout after three games of the sec-

ond set to have the right knee rebanded.

Del Potro sensed blood and broke for 3-1 as Nadal struggled for movement.

He broke again for 5-2 on his way to a two-set lead and eventual victory. "It means a lot to be back in the final," added Del Potro after his sixth win over Nadal, all on hard court.

"I didn't expect to get to another Grand Slam final in my favourite tournament.

"I had my biggest memories on this court in 2009 when I beat Rafa and Roger (Federer, in the final). I was a kid then; now I am much older." Wimbledon champion Djokovic, playing in his 11th US Open semi-final, claimed a 15th win in 17 clashes against Nishikori.

It was plain sailing for the 31-year-old Serb who is chasing a 14th Slam title to take him level with Pete Sampras on the all-time list.

He broke serve four times while an under-par Nishikori saved 13 of the 17 break points he faced and committed 51 unforced errors.

Ankur Mittal wins double trap gold in World Championship

CHANGWON (SOUTH KOREA), SEP 8 (PTI): Ankur Mittal claimed the men's double trap gold medal in the ISSF World Championship for his career's biggest triumph, as the Indian shooting team continued its dominance in the premier tournament here Saturday.

The multiple World Cup medallist shot 140 out of 150 to go into a shoot-off for gold with China's Yiyang Yang and Slovakia's Hubert Andrzzej. The 26-year-old overcame the Chinese 4-3 to emerge triumphant after the Slovakian had missed his second shoot-off clay target to settle for bronze.

Ankur also won the team bronze in the event along with compatriots Md. Asab and Shardul Vihaan, their tally of 409 points putting them behind China's 410 and the gold winning team Italy's tally of 411.

In other events of the day, two Indian women



missed out on the finals of their respective events by the narrowest of margins.

Anjum Moudgil, who has already won a silver here in 10m air rifle and a 2020 Olympic quota place for India, shot 1170 in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions qualifying round to finish ninth. The top eight make it to the finals.

Anjum shot the same score as the eighth placed Nina Christen of Switzerland, but Nina's 66 inner 10 shots were higher than Anjum's tally of 56 inner 10s, putting the Swiss ahead in the rankings.

Manu Bhaker, in the women's 25m pistol, tallied 584 in qualification

to finish 10th.

At the end of the second rapid fire qualification round, four shooters -- Singapore's Xiu Hong Teh, Qatar's Aldana Saad Almubarak, Greece's

Olympic and world champion in the 10m air pistol Anna Korakaki and Manu, were tied at the same score.

However, Xiu and Almubarak made it through as their tally of 22 and 21 inner 10s were better than Anna's 19 and Manu's 16.

In the trap mixed team junior event, Manisha Keer and Manav-aditya Singh Rathore reached the six-team final with a qualification score of 139, which placed them second.

They eventually finished fourth, with a score of 24 in the final. The Italian pair of Erica Sessa and Lorenzo Ferrari won the gold medal with junior world record score of 42 in the final.

After the seventh day of competition, India have 20 medals -- seven gold, seven silver and six bronze, putting them in the second position behind Korea and ahead of China.

India has also secured two Olympic quotas, making it the country's best performance ever at the World Championship.

ISL: Mumbai City FC sign Bengaluru's Vignesh Dakshinamurthy

MUMBAI, SEP 8 (PTI): Mumbai City FC completed their last signing for the upcoming season of the Indian Super League (ISL), bringing on board India's Under-23 football player Vignesh Dakshinamurthy.

The club made the announcement Saturday through a media statement here.

Dakshinamurthy, from Bengaluru, had been part of the Ozone Academy set up for three years before he broke into the first team squad when he was aged just 17.

Since then, the 20-year-old footballer has been an integral part of the team, playing for different Indian age group squads.

His latest stint was

being part of the Stephen Constantine-coached U-23 squad that participated in the SAFF Suzuki Cup in Dhaka.

Dakshinamurthy belongs to a footballing family, with his uncle having turned out for clubs like East Bengal and Mohun Bagan, while his younger brother recently went out for a training stint to Denmark.

"We have great faith in Vignesh. He is young, talented and is full of promise. We are delighted to welcome him into the MCFC family," CEO of Mumbai City FC Indranil Das Blah said.

This year's ISL edition will kick-off on September 29.

Current Indian bowling attack one of the best I have faced: Moeen Ali



LONDON, SEP 8 (PTI): England all-rounder Moeen Ali has said that the current Indian bowling attack is one of the best he has ever faced.

Ali scored 50 off 170 balls, and put on a 73-run stand with Alastair Cook as the hosts finished with 198-7 at stumps.

"I just tried to take it a ball at a time. I thought they bowled really well. The wicket was quite slow, but the ball was always doing something, so I just tried to stay as patient as I could. The Indian bowlers didn't give me a lot to hit. So I just tried to bat. I don't always play like that, but we were in a decent position," said Ali on Friday.

"You're always hoping to let them bowl and bowl. But they just kept coming, bowling same pace, same areas. It was one of the best bowling attacks I've faced. They were just always, consistently there."

Cook scored 71 runs off 190 balls and put on 60 runs with Keaton Jennings, England's best stand of the series thus far. He survived a dropped chance at 37, but couldn't capitalize to score a hundred as India struck back after tea.

Ali and Cook also put on 73 runs for the second wicket, after which England six wickets for 65 runs in the final session.

"When he got dropped, I just said it was meant to be for you. A player will come in to try and replace Cook, which will be very difficult. He was finding it difficult, probably not as easy as we thought it would be (on this wicket). There were some dents in

the wicket.

"I prepared different this week than I would have done previously against a bit newer ball. It just gives you time to get your mind around batting at number three for England. I know I was dropped, I know I played and missed, but I just tried to bat. I'm always confident. There's always good players, maybe some you don't know about at the moment. Obviously we don't want these collapses at the time," he said.

Ali played and missed on umpteen occasions, but just didn't nick the ball, much to India's frustrations particularly Mohammed Shami.

Talking about his role as the number three batsman, he said, "I probably wasn't good enough to nick them. When I went into tea, the guys were calling me Geoffrey Boycott, then they came in, played and missed their first ball, and I was pretty happy with that.

"I've not done it (batting at number three) much for England, and I don't see why I can't bat there. I just go out and try to play according to the situation. I bat number three for Worcester and managed to score some runs (double hundred) there earlier this year. Why not?"

"Sometimes, it's a good thing. There are times when you can balance the team out, and you get into the side probably before most of the other guys. But there are times when you just feel you want a set batting position," he signed off.

Ex-Trump campaign aide jailed in Russia probe



Rouhani evokes Iran-Iraq war in call to defy US pressure

TEHRAN, SEP 8 (AFP): Iran's President Hassan Rouhani evoked memories of the devastating Iran-Iraq war on Saturday to call for unity in the face of economic hardships and US pressure.

"Today, the government is on the frontlines. This is an economic, psychological and propaganda war," Rouhani said on state television.

"We had sweet days and we had hard days during the sacred defence," he said, using the official name for the war with Iraq which claimed up to two million lives between 1980 and 1988.

"But our nation never backed down. Now, too, our nation will not bow before the pressure of a new group in the White House." Iran's economy has been battered in recent months, in part due to Washington's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, which had lifted sanctions in return for curbs to its atomic programme.

Prices are rising and shortages are widespread, while Iran's currency has lost around 70 per cent of its value against the dollar compared with a year ago.

Rouhani said that the United States is pressuring Iran and at the same time calling for negotiations "every day".

"Which one should we believe? Your messages, or your brutal acts? If you want the best for the Iranian people why are you pressuring them?" Rouhani called for unity after weeks of pressure from both reformist and hardline factions over his handling of the economic crisis.

"We cannot fight America, the left and the right at the same time. We cannot fight on three fronts," he said.

The president also acknowledged the mounting economic pressure.

WASHINGTON, SEP 8 (AFP): A former advisor to US President Donald Trump whose contacts with Russians set off the investigation into possible collusion with Moscow was jailed Friday for lying to the FBI.

US District Judge Randolph Moss sentenced foreign policy aide George Papadopoulos to 14 days in prison, acknowledging his guilty plea and his remorse, but noting that he "lied in an investigation that was important to national security."

Papadopoulos was the second person ordered to prison in the sprawling, 16-month Russia collusion investigation of Special Counsel Robert Mueller. It came just over two weeks after two former top Trump aides were convicted of felony crimes in cases that grew out of the probe.

Trump suggested the conviction was trivial for



a probe that has cost millions since it launched in May 2017 -- while ignoring the 35 indictments, five guilty pleas and one trial conviction Mueller has racked up so far.

"14 days for USD 28 MILLION - USD 2 MILLION a day, No Collusion. A great day for America!" Trump tweeted.

Senator Mark Warner, the senior Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, which has its own Russia collusion investigation, applauded Mueller's work.

Despite constant attacks

by the president, Mueller and his team "are conducting a serious, professional investigation" into the 2016 Trump campaign's contacts with Russians, Warner said in a statement.

Papadopoulos, 31, was an inexperienced London-based oil analyst when he joined the Trump campaign in March 2016 on the Republican candidate's national security advisory board.

Told the campaign's priority was to improve relations with Russia, within weeks Papadopoulos made contact with a mysterious professor, Joseph Mifsud, who touted links to the Kremlin.

Mifsud introduced him to others who ostensibly had connections to Russian President Vladimir Putin -- including a woman who claimed to be Putin's niece.

At a campaign meeting at the end of March 2016

Papadopoulos told Trump, then-senator and now Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and other campaign officials that he had connections in London that could set up a Trump-Putin meeting ahead of the November election.

"While some in the room rebuffed George's offer, Mr Trump nodded with approval and deferred to Mr Sessions, who appeared to like the idea and stated that the campaign should look into it," Papadopoulos's lawyers said in a pre-sentencing statement last week.

Sessions has claimed he opposed the idea, but Papadopoulos continued to discuss it with top campaign officials over the following months.

Papadopoulos told CNN in a late Friday interview that Trump "gave me a sort of a nod" and "wasn't committed either

way" at that meeting -- but that Sessions "was actually enthusiastic" about a Trump-Putin gathering.

He also said that Mifsud told him in April that the Russians had "thousands of emails" about Clinton -- which Papadopoulos described as a "momentous statement" but not a direct offer of assistance.

His reaction was that Mifsud "was simply repeating gossip and rumors," Papadopoulos said.

Did he tell anyone?

"All I can say about this question -- because I've been asked a million times -- is if I told anyone it would have been discovered by now," he told CNN.

"As far as I remember, I absolutely did not share this information with anyone on the campaign.

"I might have, but I have no recollection of doing so." Weeks later, the stolen Clinton emails

were posted online by what US intelligence chiefs now say were Russian intelligence actors.

The mysterious Mifsud has since vanished, CNN said.

FBI agents quietly opened a probe into Trump campaign officials possibly colluding with Russia after they were tipped off by an Australian diplomat that Papadopoulos had spoken about Russians having dirt on Clinton.

Papadopoulos admitted that he lied to FBI investigators when they interviewed him.

"In January 2017, I made a terrible mistake for which I paid dearly, I am ashamed," Papadopoulos told the court in Washington. "I was young and ambitious."

His lawyer Tom Breen said that at the time, Papadopoulos was naive and acted on what he told the

court was a "misguided loyalty" to Trump, who had been inaugurated as president just one week before.

Breen noted that Trump was already calling the allegations of Russian election interference "fake news" and a "political witch hunt" -- terms he continues to use for the Mueller probe.

Trump "hindered this investigation more than George Papadopoulos ever did," Breen said.

Judge Moss said he considered Papadopoulos's "genuine remorse" in issuing the light sentence, which included a USD 9,500 fine, a year on parole and community service.

Papadopoulos has cooperated for more than a year with Mueller's probe, but it remains unknown whether he has provided investigators with any information supporting allegations of collusion with Russia.

Alibaba co-founder Jack Ma announces retirement



SAN FRANCISCO, SEP 8 (AFP): Alibaba co-founder and chief Jack Ma announced he will leave from the Chinese e-commerce giant Monday to devote his time to philanthropy focused on education.

Ma was an English teacher before starting Alibaba in 1999 and built it into a multibillion-dollar internet colossus.

His own worth has soared along with that of the company, which was valued at USD 420.8 billion based on its share price at the close of trading on Friday.

Ma told The New York Times that he plans to step down from the company, referring to his retirement as "the beginning of an era" rather than an end.

After being knocked back by US venture capitalists in 1999, cash-strapped Chinese entrepreneur Ma persuaded friends to give him USD

60,000 to start an e-commerce firm called Alibaba.

As he prepares to leave the company, Ma is among China's super rich. His net worth was estimated at USD 36.6 billion by Forbes.

Ma will turn 54 years old on Monday, the day he is retiring.

He gave up his university teaching job after discovering the internet.

Seeing an opportu-

nity for small businesses to buy and sell their goods online, he started Alibaba, initially running the company out of his apartment in the eastern city of Hangzhou.

"The first time I used the internet, I touched on the keyboard and I find 'well, this is something I believe, it is something that is going to change the world and change China,'" Ma once told CNN.

Ma has inspired strong devotion among his employees and users, drawing comparisons with late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs -- although he practiced a more open management style.

A devotee of tai chi, he has made references to Chinese martial arts in both business strategy and corporate culture.

Porter Erisman, a former Alibaba employee

who made a documentary about the firm, "Croc-o-dile in the Yangtze," said: "What Silicon Valley is known for, he embodies a lot of that with Chinese characteristics -- that spirit of openness, risk-taking, innovation."

Ma graduated from the Hangzhou Teachers College with a major in English-language education, and went on to teach at another university in the city, where Alibaba is still headquartered.

Chinese state media have burnished his rags-to-riches story, saying his parents were poorly educated and his father depended on a monthly retirement allowance of just USD 40 to support the family.

Ma's success was evident after Alibaba's Taobao bested eBay in China, forcing the US auction site to largely withdraw from the country in 2006.

Trump wants to stop subsidies to growing economies like India and China

LALIT K JHA, CHICAGO, SEP 8 (PTI): President Donald Trump on Friday said he wants to stop the subsidies that growing economies like India and China have been receiving as he wants the US, which he considers as a "developing nation", to grow faster than anybody.

Addressing a fundraiser event in the Fargo city of North Dakota, he also accused the World Trade Organization (WTO) of allowing China to become a "great economic power".

"We have some of these countries that are considered growing economies. Some countries that have not matured enough yet, so we are paying them subsidies. Whole thing is crazy. Like India, like China, like others we say, 'oh, they're growing actually,'" Trump said.

He said that they call themselves developing nations and "under that category they get subsidies."

"We have to pay them money. This whole thing is crazy, but we're going to stop it. We're going to



stop it. We have stopped it.

"We are a developing nation, too, OK? We are. As far as I'm concerned, we are a developing nation. I want to be put down in that category because we are growing, too. We are going to grow faster than anybody," Trump said amidst applause from the audience.

Attacking the WTO, Trump said he thinks that the World Trade Organization was probably the worst of all. "But a lot of people don't know what that is, that allowed China to become this great economic power".

On the trade deficit between the US and China, which has led to a tariff war between the world's top two economies, he said, "I'm a big fan of (Chinese) President Xi Jinping, but I told him, 'we have to be fair'."

"We can't let China take USD 500 billion a year out of the United States and rebuild itself," he added.

The President also said that the US should get paid for securing the wealthy countries from the outside harm.

"I think it's fine, but they got to pay us for this. We're watching the whole world and they

take it for granted.

"For years and years we've been protecting these countries. They're making a fortune. They've had very little military cost. We have the biggest military cost in the world. Most of it goes to protecting outside countries, some of whom don't even like us," Trump said.

"We're protecting countries that have -- I got to say, they do have respect for us now, but they didn't have any respect for us, and they got to pay. They got to pay, you know, when they're wealthy," he said.

India to cancel OCI cards of Sherin Mathews' foster parents

HOUSTON, SEP 8 (PTI): India has decided to revoke the OCI cards of the Indian-American foster parents of Sherin Mathews, the three-year-old girl found dead in a culvert in Dallas, and some of their relatives and friends, in a case that attracted global attention and forced the government to tighten the adoption process.

Toddler Sherin's decomposed body was found in a culvert close to her home on October 22 last year, two weeks after her Indian-American foster parents reported her missing.

Counsel General of India in Houston, Anupam Ray said India is cancelling the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards of Wesley Mathews his wife Sini, who are in jail, and the couple's some relatives and close associates as public opinion in India on this issue is inflamed and travel of these people to India is not in public interest.

Manoj N Abraham and Nissy T Abraham, friends of the Mathews family, were among the first to receive a notice of cancellation of the Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI), which they have challenged in Delhi High Court.

Duterte blames 'friend' Trump for Philippines economic woes

MANILA, SEP 8 (AFP): Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Saturday blamed US President Donald Trump after inflation hit a nine-year high in the Philippines, hurting the image of the populist leader.

It was an unexpected claim from the fiery Duterte, a one-time fierce critic of the United States but who has since embraced Trump after the business tycoon was elected in November, 2016.

When questioned by reporters about the 6.4 per cent inflation in August, a nine-year high that exceeded most analysts' forecasts, Duterte blamed Trump's economic policies.

"Who started it? America. When America raised its rates, everyone raised theirs as well. That is how it is. There is nothing we can do," he told reporters.

"Because America... Trump wanted it. Even taxes like excise tax, they raised it. Even import duties," Duterte said.

He later clarified that he was not angry at his fellow populist, saying: "I will talk to friend Trump".

"I have nothing against the American people, not the slightest... misgiving against



Trump," he added.

Duterte, who has previously admitted he is not well-versed in economics, did not elaborate on how US economic policies might affect inflation in the Philippines.

Duterte, who took office in mid-2016, had previously been criticised by US officials for his bloody war on drugs that his own administration says has left at least 4,410 suspects dead.

Human rights groups charge that the actual death toll is thrice as high but Trump has brushed aside such concerns, hailing his "great relationship," with Duterte.

Duterte, who has consistently enjoyed strong approval ratings, also charged that the surge in inflation and the rising prices of food are being used by the opposition against him.

China's foreign minister meets Qureshi; discusses bilateral issues, CPEC

ISLAMABAD, SEP 8 (PTI): China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi met his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Saturday and discussed various issues of mutual interest, including the USD 50-billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

This is the first high-level visit by a Chinese official to Islamabad since the new government of Prime Minister Imran Khan assumed office after the July 25 elections.

The two leaders exchanged ideas on bilateral relations and discussed regional security and the peace process in Afghanistan, the Dawn reported.

"We are proud of Pakistan and China's friendship," Qureshi said after the meeting, noting that the friendship had "withstood every test".

Both foreign ministers resolved during the meeting to strengthen strategic cooperation, and China was assured of Pakistan's continued commitment to CPEC as a priority project, the daily said.

The Chinese foreign minister also expressed China's wish to help strengthen and stabilise Pakistan's economy. The Chinese foreign office also extended an invitation to Prime Minister Imran Khan to visit the country as guest of honour.

Wang had arrived in Islamabad on Friday accompanied by three other cabinet colleagues for a three-day trip.

In addition to meeting his Pakistani counterpart, the Chinese foreign minister will meet Prime Minister Khan, outgoing president Mamnoon Hussain, National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser and Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Bajwa.

**CONTACT
SUMMIT
TIMES**

**REPORTERS
SINGTAM
8170070813**

**MANGAN/
DIKCHU
9832612485/
9434011213**

**GANGTOK
8116388176
9832424750
8016270440**

**news@
summittimes.com**

In conversation with beauty queen Karishma Pradhan

NITESH PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 05 SEPT:

Karishma Pradhan, one of the first female models from Sikkim has made a comeback of sorts in the fashion and entertainment industry as a judge in the first Temi Tea Mr Sikkim Manhunt.

In the past she has won the prestigious Miss Tilotama, one of the biggest pageants of East India along with a body of work in modelling. She has also worked in music videos.

In conversation with Summit Times, Karishma tells us more.

ST: What made you take keen interest in modelling?

Karishma: Like many young girls I was attracted to the glamour industry from a very young age. When I saw an ad for Mr and Miss Pune while I was doing my graduation I knew I had to take a chance and apply. This experience



gave me a thrust towards the industry and here I am today.

How was the experience participating in Miss Tilotama?

Miss Tilotama was a life changing experience with gruelling and exhaustive grooming sessions. It was one of the toughest times for me mentally and physically. The organisers made sure the contestants were groomed to

an exceptional level so that we would carry on the legacy in years to come.

What were you doing these past few years?

I took a sabbatical for a couple of years as I wanted to pursue and complete my MBA.

What made you join the judges

panel for Mr Sikkim?

Mr. Sikkim Manhunt is a first of its kind platform where the boys from across the state are groomed for National level competitions. Being associated with state level pageants is an honour and a great outlet to identify the talents in our state.

How was your experience judging

contestants?

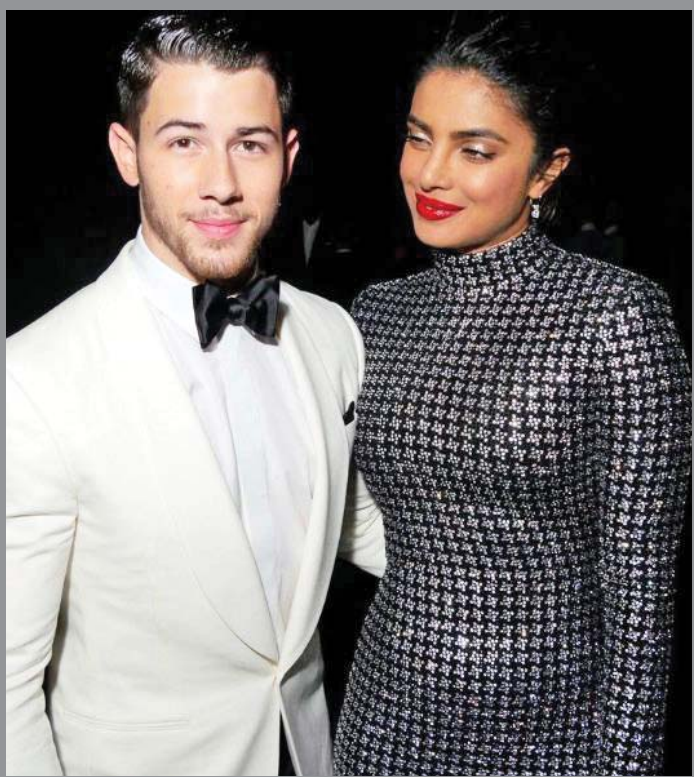
I was elated to see such huge array of talents under one roof and was pleasantly surprised to see the consistency throughout the audition. I am very happy to see the budding talents of the state and look forward to seeing the evolution of each one.

You juggle between your passion for modelling and entrepreneurship, how will you walk that tight rope?

I love doing what I am doing at the moment so it makes it easier to juggle both.

What is your message to contestants eagerly awaiting results?

Be patient, practise hard, great things take time, be very loyal towards your passion and pursue it with all the zeal and enthusiasm you can muster. Try to evolve into a better version of yourself and always remember your biggest competition should be 'you'. All the best for all of your future endeavours.



LOOK OF LOVE! Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas only had eyes for each other as they enjoyed a romantic night on the town at the Ralph Lauren show during New York Fashion Week.

John Legend says he's 'civil' with Kanye West after THAT Twitter spat!

John Legend has revealed he still can't see eye-to-eye with Kanye West after they fell out over President Trump's policies in April.

Speaking as the cover star of the October issue of GQ, the 39-year-old singer admitted that things are 'civil' between him and his longtime friend, but they still disagree with their political views.

John was thrust into the center of one of Kanye's Twitter rants this spring after the rapper posted their private text messages online and accused him of 'manipulating my free thought.'

In the text messages, John had urged Kanye to reconsider aligning himself with President Donald Trump, after the rapper showed his support for the politician during a lengthy Twitter tirade, even posting an autographed MAGA hat online.

Discussing the fallout, John - who scooped Most Stylish Man at the GQ Men of the Year Awards on Wednesday - reasoned: "Kanye was just being Kanye; this wasn't just some press stunt. I was surprised he put my messages out there without asking me,



sure. I wouldn't say that was a good thing for a friend to do. But I wasn't ashamed of what I said, and I stand by it. Kanye and I still disagree with one another, although we are civil. But the issue can't just be swept under the carpet.

For me, I don't believe politics is just purely about

debate or about who wins the intellectual argument. Politics and policies impact real lives. Kanye's got his own conscience to wrestle with; I have mine."

John and Kanye's differing political views came to light in April when Kanye shared screenshots of the texts John

had sent him urging him not to publicly endorse Donald Trump.

"You're way too powerful and influential to endorse who he is and what he stands for," John, who has been vocal about his distaste for the 45th president, wrote in his text message. "As you know, what you say really means something to your fans. They are loyal to you and respect your opinion. So many people who love you feel so betrayed right now because they know the harm that Trump's policies cause, especially to people of color. Don't let this be part of your legacy. You're the greatest artist of our generation."

Kanye replied, "I love you John and I appreciate your thoughts. You bringing up my fans or my legacy is a tactic based on fear used to manipulate my free thought."

John even poked fun at Kanye for posting their private messages on the popular micro-blogging site as he took the opportunity to plug his latest track called A Good Night.

The talented crooner wrote: "And since you're posting texts, let me add that I have a new single out haha."

"Was a fanboy moment for me," says Aamir on working with Amitabh Bachchan in Thugs of Hindostan

Vijay Krishna Acharya's directorial Thugs Of Hindostan is sure going to be thrilling one with a stellar cast on-board which includes Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan, Katrina Kaif and Fatima Sana Shaikh. The film which is slated to release by the end of this year has got everyone excited with all the buzz surrounding it.

Like most of the people across the country, it was dream come true for Aamir Khan and the actor lived a fanboy moment with Amitabh on the first day on the sets. In a recent chat with Mid-Day, the actor got candid about his upcoming film and



revealed how was it sharing the screen space with Big B.

Recollecting the first day of rehearsals of Thugs of Hindostan, Aamir shared, "I

have been a huge fan of Mr Bachchan all along. [During] the first day of rehearsals, when we were sitting and reading scenes together, it

was a fanboy moment for me. I couldn't speak properly or remember my lines, and I was all over the place. Every day that I sat next to

him has been a joy for me. We love it when actors themselves become fans! Wouldn't you agree? I am a student of whatever I am dealing with. Everything is new to me."

And it's not just Aamir who is awe of this superstar, Amitabh too has mutual feelings and respect for the former.

In an old interview with PTI, Big B had said that, "Aamir can be termed great, not me. I have enjoyed his performances and his films. He is an accomplished actor and a great star."

It would be interesting how their film turns out be when it opens to the audiences on 07 Nov, 2018.

US rapper Mac Miller 'found dead at home' aged 26

Family mourns 'bright light' Mac Miller, 26, after he is found dead in his LA home from an apparent drug overdose - four months after split from Ariana Grande, who is now engaged to Pete Davidson.

The rapper's body was found in a bedroom at his home in the San Fernando Valley outside Los Angeles around noon on Friday. He was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics, according to a report by TMZ.

It is believed Miller died from a drug overdose, but dispatch audio from when a male friend alerted authorities describes him as having suffered a cardiac arrest.

The artist was notably linked to the singer Ariana Grande, who ended their two year relationship back in May and got engaged to comedian Pete Davidson just one month later following a whirlwind romance.

A statement from Miller's family said: "Malcolm McCormick, known and adored by fans as Mac Miller, has tragically passed away at the age of 26. He was a bright light in this world for his family, friends and fans. Thank you for your prayers. Please respect our privacy. There are no further details as to the cause of his death at this time."

Miller's death has widely been reported to be the result of an overdose, although that has not been confirmed.



ARIES: There could be people who try to convince you that you're wrong about something, Aries. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that you're inferior just because you don't agree with someone on an issue. Focus on your creativity today. You can combine your incredible artistic talent with pure intellectual genius for a dynamite swing that will knock any ball clear out of the park. **TAURUS:** There's an adventurous side to today that you should latch onto. Try not to get weighed down by the little things in your life that don't really matter much. Look at the big picture and understand the importance of having great breadth of vision. There's a whole world to explore out there, Taurus, so get going. There may be a few surprises

today, so be ready for anything. **GEMINI:** Unexpected people and events are likely to crop up today just as you're longing for adventure. Feel free to hop aboard a train to an unknown destination, Gemini. It's better to regret the things you've done than regret the things you haven't done. Take this to heart as you plan your day. There's no shortage of fun out there - you just need to find it. **CANCER:** It's extremely important that you not be too possessive today, especially when it comes to other people, Cancer. You have important relationships with the people around you, and you'll find that in order to maintain them, it's best to let those people live their lives the way they want. Don't think that people belong to you, because they don't.

LEO: Matters regarding love and romance are in your favor today, Leo. You'll find that love comes to you when you least expect it. There's a powerful creative force within you that will be most rewarding if you put it to use for some sort of artistic endeavor. A strong yet erratic urge may call you into action, so be ready to respond with your entire being. **VIRGO:** Realize that you might have to leave some things to chance today, because you probably aren't going to be able to control all that you'd like to under the circumstances, Virgo. Although it may be comfortable for you to try to fit things into their perfect spots, you'll find that this may not be the best way to conduct your business, especially on a day like this. **LIBRA:** Things should be going

quite well for you today, Libra, especially in the love and romance department. You'll find that there is a magical, adventuresome spirit when you connect with others. Take advantage of this courageous energy and put it to good use in whatever way you see fit. Bring an extra element of excitement into your world tonight with someone very special to you. **SCORPIO:** Express your independence today, Scorpio, and prove to others that you won't be pushed around anymore. Do things for yourself and have fun while you do it. Your heart will know which way is the right way to proceed. Don't be fooled by those who try to tell you otherwise. Success comes when you can initiate others into your world instead of you being seduced by theirs.

SAGITTARIUS: Things relating to love and romance are in your favor today, Sagittarius, although you may find that issues of this nature might be unpredictable. Lovers could be present one moment and MIA the next, but these are the risks you take when you deal with love. Find a balance that doesn't get you so wrapped up in someone else that you're hurt if his or her eyes turn elsewhere. **CAPRICORN:** It might feel like there's a hole in your heart today, Capricorn, and you could have a hard time filling it. Remember that you're the one responsible for making sure this void is taken care of. If you insist that someone else fill the gap, you're setting yourself up for disappointment. Do something nice for yourself and feel free to spend a

little money to make yourself happy. **AQUARIUS:** Issues regarding love and romance are at a climactic point right now, Aquarius, and you could be rather combative. Your energy in this area may come in waves, and you're likely to be so charged up about the situation that you feel like a time bomb ready to explode. Don't destroy something wonderful by wanting a great deal more than you really need. **PISCES:** Don't expect a great deal of sensitivity from others when it comes to issues concerning love and beauty today, Pisces. People are apt to be in their own little worlds. It may be hard for you to relate to them now. Trying to sway others to your point of view could be possible, but it may be quite difficult and, more importantly, not worth the effort.