



**SHIVA HANG TAKES
FOURTH PLACE AT 12 HRS
STADIUM RUN DEBUT**
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**18-YR-OLD KALZANG
SANGAY BHUTIA IS
MR MARTAM 2018**
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**KALIMPONG CRAFT
TRAINING CENTER
INAUGURATED AT
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Summit **T**IMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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**BJP members
skip par panel
meeting on
Doklam, report
adoption
deferred**

NEW DELHI, AUG 9 (PTI): Several BJP members stayed away today from a parliamentary panel meeting that was to adopt a report on "Sino-India relations" in wake of the Doklam stand-off and the border situation, resulting in a lack of quorum, sources said.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, has prepared the draft report but it could not be adopted as most of the BJP members were not present and the quorum could not be reached, sources present in the meeting said.

Congress President Rahul Gandhi is also member of the 31-member panel, where a majority of the members are from the BJP.

The panel had also met on Tuesday to adopt the report but some members complained of not receiving the draft therefore meeting was postponed for today.

The committee had also travelled to Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh to take stock of ground situations and meet senior officials there.

It has been briefed several times on the issue by the former and **turn to pg05**

Phurba Sherpa selected for Pro Kickboxing League 2018



SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 09 AUG:

International kick-boxer from Sikkim, Phurba Sherpa, has been selected for the Pro Kickboxing League 2018 scheduled to be held in Oct later this year.

She is the only kick-boxer from Sikkim in this professional kick-boxing league. She recently attended the selection trial held from 03-05 Aug at International Martial Arts Academy in Rohini, Delhi.

She has been selected in the 60 kg category of the league.

Speaking to media persons this afternoon, Phurba shared her "immense happiness" on qualifying for the professional league.

She mentioned that only the eight best martial artists have been selected in each weight category.

"The selection trial was really tough as it included around 30 contenders in my 60 kg category from different parts

of the country and I am really happy on having been selected," she shared.

Having held a passionate interest in professional kick-boxing for a long time, Phurba had participated in the Pro Kick Boxing held at Bhubaneswar in 2016.

"I am happy to be a part of this mega event Pro Kickboxing League which is to be held for the first time in the country," she expressed.

She will be going back to Delhi at the end of this month to sign the agreement. This league will be telecast live on sports channel.

30-year-old Phurba hails from Upper Sumin in East Sikkim and is presently working as State kick-boxing coach for Sports & Youth Affairs Department. She had won an international silver medal for the country in 2017 at Turkmenistan and represented India in three other international competitions. She has also bagged four gold medals in national championships.



**Red Panda Winter Carnival
to feature Sanjay Dutt and
an AR Rahman concert**

REBYNA RANA

GANGTOK, 09 AUG:

A coordination meeting of Tourism & Civil Aviation Department was held today at Paryatan Bhawan in Tadong chaired by Tourism Minister, Ugen T Gyatso Bhutia.

Principal Chief Engineer, TT Bhutia, gave a brief background on the physical and financial status of various engineering works under NL-CPR, Ministry of Tourism projects, PIDDC schemes, religious statue projects, projects funded under State Plan, Bhaleydhunga Project and Namchi Ropeway Project.

Further, he stressed on the need to maintain quality works of the projects

and timely completion.

He directed the Engineering Cell to immediately handover completed projects, namely Melli TIC, cafeteria at Damthang, WSA at Rayong Gaddi, WSA at Tiffin Dara at Namchi, Oasis Café at Mining Dara, Rangpo, WSA at Bak- **turn to pg02**

Chalak Bhawan to be constructed at Ranipool



**DRIVERS MAY
BE CALLED
CHALAK SHRIS**

**ARPAN PRADHAN
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:**
The State Government will initiate the process of construction of

a Chalak Bhawan at Ranipool Truck Stand which will be dedicated to the driver community of the State. The Transport De-

partment will also propose to refer to drivers as "Chalak Shris". This proposal will be forwarded to the Chief Minister for his approval, informed Transport Minister, DT Lepcha, today while addressing a daylong State level Transporters Meet here at a local hotel.

The meeting, which was organised by Trans-

port Department, was also attended by Secretary, Transport Department, SBS Bhadauria, Secretary, Urban Development & Housing Development, LB Chettri, Chairperson, Transport Department, Pintso Namgyal Bhutia, former Transport Minister, TT Bhutia, who is also the **turn to pg02**

**Par passes bill to restore original
SC/ST atrocity law**

New Delhi, Aug 9 (PTI): Parliament today passed a bill to overturn a Supreme Court order concerning certain safeguards against arrest under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe law, with the Rajya Sabha unanimously adopting it amid din.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha by a voice vote, had got the nod of the Lok Sabha on August 6.

The bill rules out any provision for anticipatory bail for a person accused of atrocities against SC/STs, notwithstanding any court order.

It provides that no preliminary inquiry will be required for registering a criminal case and an arrest under this law would not be subject to any approval.

The legislation also provides that no preliminary enquiry will be required for registering a criminal case and an arrest under this law would not be subject to any approval.

Replying to the debate on the bill in the Upper House, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot said all those who spoke on the bill have supported it.

He said that after the implementation of the law, people belonging to SC/ST communities

were able to get justice and relief.

"However, some people went to court due to some reason.

On 20 March 2018, Supreme Court gave some decisions which put brakes on the Act implemented by us," he said, referring to the provisions related to filing of FIR and arrest.

"Due to these controls, the criminals started getting protection and the affected families stopped getting justice and relief," Gehlot said.

The minister said there was also scope of interference in the police procedures and therefore the government filed a review petition, which was accepted.

He said the members have expressed some apprehensions about the rights of the deprived classes. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured his government's commitment towards (the interests of) backward classes. I today say that we are committed towards safeguarding their interest."

"Some members have suggested constitution of special courts for the Act. We have made a provision for this in the bill. As many as 14 states have constituted 195 special courts for deciding cases related to SC and SC Act. Some states have declared District and Session Courts as special court for the purpose," he said.

Elaborating on the bill, he said

"we have provided for presenting a challan in the court within two months of first information report with complete investigation. We have also provided for disposal of the case with two month of presenting challan in the court."

The minister also maintained that the amendment in this bill was not brought due to "any pressure" because it was the Prime Minister's commitment.

During the debate, some members were of the view that the government has brought amendment bill under pressure from the opposition and coalition partners ahead of proposed nationwide protest later this month to demand restoration of the provisions of the law which, the Dalit groups allege, were diluted by a Supreme Court ruling of March 20.

These groups have been asking the government to overturn a Supreme Court ruling of March 20, saying it had "diluted" and rendered "toothless" the law against atrocities faced by the weakest sections of the society by putting additional safeguards against arrest of the accused.

Supporting the bill, Abir Ranjan Biswas (Cong) said "we are supporting the bill but the genuinity of feelings of the government are fake. They have brought the bill only after 9 people were killed and **turn to pg03**

GBT Entertainment presents

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Shipping Partners:

CM's announcement on Modification of SADA Act is for show only: BJP

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 AUG: Bharatiya Janta Party Sikkim Pradesh has stressed that the recent announcement of Chief Minister Pawan Chamling regarding modifications being considered in Sikkim Anti-Drugs Act to make severe and stringent laws to punish drug peddlers was just a drama for show.

BJP has argued that the CM's statement over treating substance abuse as an illness which needs treatment or therapy was also meaningless.

A BJP press release alleged that due to absence of youth-centric programmes during 25 years of SDF government, around 98% of youths was unemployed and substance abusers.

The release further alleged that the CM was giving false statements on various issues during the speech.

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18-yr-old Kalzang Sangay Bhutia is Mr Martam 2018

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:

Kalzang Sangay Bhutia has bagged the title of Mr Martam 2018 in the 4th edition of Mr Martam Strength Lifting & Inclined Bench Press Championship 2018 held at Martam in East Sikkim on 08 Aug. He was adjudged as the champion of the champions for lifting grand total weight of 672.5 kgs. 18-year-old Kalzang Sangay is also the youngest to hold the title so far in the competition.

"I am feeling really happy and satisfied on winning Mr Martam title. I have really worked hard to win this title. This achievement has now motivated me to prepare harder to win medals in the state, national and international levels," Kalzang Sangay expressed.

He further thanked his coach, gym members and family for their constant support and encouragement.

Likewise, Zamyang Palmu Bhutia became the women's champion and Homnath Shivakoti lifted the champion's trophy in master's men category.

The day-long championship was organised by Martam-based Pema's Gym which is a health club started by former Mr Sikkim and international strength lifter, Pema Dorjee Bhutia. The cham-



ampionship was chaired by Block Development Officer, Martam, Deepak Rai, as chief guest.

Forty-eight strength lifters including 24 women lifters from seven gyms of Namchi, Gyalshing, Majhitar, Jorethang and Gangtok had participated in the championship. For the first time, the championship had also included categories of Open Women and Master's Men Championship.

Another highlight of the championship was the felicitation of eight personalities for their contributions in their respective fields.

The organisers felicitated social workers,

Karma Topden Bhutia and Chandra Bahadur Biswakarma, artists, Pempa Doma Machangpa and Praja Pradhan, former Mr Martams, Tashi Bhutia and Tashi Topden Machangpa, journalist, Sagar Chhetri, and Mr Martam 2018, Kalzang Sangay Bhutia, who had earlier set a new national record of 180 kgs in hack lift.

The organisers also presented token of appreciation to international strength lifters, Pempa Tamang and Santosh Gupta, for winning medals for the country in a recent international championship.

The chief guest and



other guests handed over medals, trophies and certificates to its winners.

Martam BDO, Mr Rai, appreciated the efforts and hard work of international strength lifter, Pema Dorjee Bhutia, for working at the grassroots level on his personal capacity and for leading the youth towards healthy and productive path. He encouraged Mr Bhutia to continuously work

with the same passion to bring out more talented lifters for the State and the country in the near future.

Likewise, Pema Dorjee Bhutia stated that local youth of the area prepare throughout the year for this annual Mr Martam competition and the area has already produced many national strength lifters for the State. He also expressed

his happiness on the increasing number of participation from women in strength lifting.

Mr Martam 2018, Kalzang Sangay Bhutia, hails from Martam and is a class XII student of St Joseph School, Martam. He started strength lifting training under the guidance of Pema Dorjee Bhutia in 2015. He has been sweating out hard in the gym for around 3

hours daily after school.

In his debut appearance in the State-level strength-lifting competition in 2016, he clinched the bronze medal and then won his first gold medal last year in the State championship. Likewise, he won a bronze medal in the national championship in 2017 and again won another bronze last year in the nationals.

Kalimpong Craft Training Center inaugurated at Gitabbling

SUMMIT REPORT
KALIMPONG, 09 AUG:

In order to revive the old glory of Kalimpong's arts and crafts, Mani Trust in collaboration with West Bengal Khadi and Village Industry Board is opening Kalimpong Craft Training Center in different parts of the Hills.

Till now a total of 23 such centers have been inaugurated in Darjeeling Hills. Today the 24th center was inaugurated at Gitabbling.

The Kalimpong Craft Training Center was inaugurated today in the presence of Chairperson of Mani Trust, Subash M Singh.

The chief guest of the program was board member of GTA, Sanchibir Subba.

The centre will provide training to 40 women in handloom by a specialist teacher. The

trainees will be given a stipend of Rs 3000 per month for three months. After the training a production centre will be set up under post training period.

Subhash M Singh, in his address said that the goal of the institution is to make every rural woman self-dependent. Due to lack of employment, many young men and women are leaving the Hills, he said further adding that it is time to equip oneself with skills in order to earn a living.

The initiative aims to train around 2000 women of Darjeeling in two years. GTA member Sanchibir Subba, who was present as the chief guest, lauded the initiative and called upon all to support the dream of economic empowerment of the Trust. He appealed to everyone to work hard and self-reliant.

SDF condemns HSP's allegations

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:

Sikkim Democratic Front has strongly condemned the allegation that it is trying to obstruct programmes of opposition parties. The allegation was levelled by Biraj Adhikari, who recently joined Hamro Sikkim Party.

In a press release, SDF has said that the success of the umbrella rally prompted Mr Adhikari to make such a 'baseless' statement.

The party has further said that Mr Adhikari should know that SDF is a party with big public support, big principles and historic leadership and the party does not need to ask for any help from outside the State to conduct its programmes.

SDF has its roots in Sikkim and has grown up and flourished among the people of Sikkim, the release adds.

Chalak Bhawan to be constructed...

contd from pg01

vice president of the All Sikkim Democratic Transporters Front, Gangtok Mayor, Shakti Singh Chaudhari, GMC Chairperson, Asish Rai, along with members of various drivers' associations.

The Transport Minister urged all to work in coordination with the department for the overall development of the driver community.

"Serious and strict legal actions will be taken against irresponsible officers who are misleading people and have been involved in harassing public by not performing their duties properly," assured Mr Lepcha.

He requested all officers to work for the benefit of drivers and the transporters as they essay a vital role in the functioning of daily lives of the people.

He also informed that the State level transporters meet was organised in order to understand the problems that are being faced by the drivers and also to pay respect to the transporter community.

The Minister further asked the drivers to be responsible and cooperate with the department and

assured to fulfill all the demands placed by various associations.

He also informed that RTOs and transport offices have been recently established at various locations in the State to ensure easy documentation processes.

He also informed about various initiatives taken by the Transport Department in the interest of the transporters and the drivers.

The State Government has increased the amount of ex-gratia from Rs 3 lakh to 5 lakh. The time taken in the process of providing the ex-gratia has been reduced and is being provided within seven days, he added.

"It is a matter of shame that there have been a number of complaints regarding government employees driving taxis. This needs a serious check and intervention of the department," said Mr Lepcha while directing the departmental officers to immediately cancel the taxi registrations of those found guilty.

The meeting was also addressed by Transport Secretary Mr Bhadauria, who urged everyone to cooperate with the department as

the department was ready to work for the benefit of the transporters and extend all possible help and support.

He said that the department is working on minimizing problems and time consuming processes and will soon start online payment system through Paytm or other online platforms.

An interactive session was also held during the meet wherein representatives of various associations from across the State placed their demands, shared problems and made their suggestions.

Some major problems discussed were parking problems, need for car plaza facility, simplification of vehicle registration process, complaints against harassment by departmental officials, road permit and insurance issues, toilet facilities, counter sign permit complications, taxi fare revision, traffic classes, first aid training etc.

The questions raised by the representatives were addressed by the concerned officers and assured given to look into the and try initiating necessary solutions at the earliest.

Like the popular saying goes- 'Change is the only permanent thing in this world' and in order for a society to evolve and prosper, it is most significant in all aspects. In order to produce a free thinking society, every individual must be able to think freely and be capable of realising their goals. In order for this to happen, a society should have the necessary pre-requisites which will allow all-round development of individuals and groups which inhabit the society they live in.

In a democratic form of governance, we (people) choose our representatives who form the government and provide these pre-requisites in the form of various rights, entitlements and privileges which ensure the progress and development of the individual and the society in general. All over the world, nations and societies are filled with instances of change where people have come together and rebelled and fought for what they thought was important- a time for change. However, while some of these rebellions and revolutions have toppled governments and regimes ushering in a new and improved form of governance, many other instances have also revealed that change doesn't necessarily come in a positive form always bringing in progress and development as desired by change seekers. This depends on a lot of factors as each society; each nation is dif-

ferent from the other with its own unique specificities and particularities.

Hence, when people seek 'Change' it is imperative that we know what kind of change we want and most significantly, who do we 'choose' to bring about that change. Since a democratic form of governance allows us to choose our leaders who will lead the way for change, this exercise of electing our representative becomes significant not only for the society we live in but also for the society that our future generations would live in.

In the present state of affairs that we find ourselves in, Sikkim is purported to be gearing towards 'change'. In fact, as many instances have shown us, some of us are even seemed to be desperate for a 'change' in all aspects. However, the question we must ask ourselves is not so much about change but rather 'where it comes from'. How do we make that choice and a right one at that? Experiences have taught us that, it is always difficult to make the 'right choice', but in the case of Sikkim and its people, making the 'right choice' is not difficult at

all.

It is there, staring right at us but some of us need to be reminded time and again about where we are heading and what the 'right choice' is, after all. In wanting change, we also need to remember that change is crucial for a society but it doesn't necessarily have to come from another individual or a new one at that. In other words, there is no guarantee that newness will bring about change and especially the kind of change that we desire.

So let us think, because we are 'thinking-intelligent' people who have seen and witnessed the past 10 years (some of us even more) about where and who we put our trust into. As human beings, we need evidence and proof before we put our trust into anything or anyone. The present government in Sikkim is flooded with many such proofs and evidences which have time and again made us realise that we have indeed made the 'right choice' until now. The kind of peace and development in the State in all the spheres is the best example of good governance that the pres-

Red Panda Winter Carnival to feature Sanjay Dutt...

contd from pg01

Simultaneously, Special Secretary, Namrata Thapa, spoke on the administration section and sanctioned strength.

The inaugurations of the aforementioned projects will be done within this month, he added.

Addressing the gathering, Tourism Minister, Mr Bhutia, spoke on collective participation from all stakeholders for the growth of tourism in Sikkim.

On the tourism policy of the State, the Minister said, "Promotion, publicity and marketing are the major sectors that the department must focus on. The tourism policy plans to have 50 lakh tourists in Sikkim in its projected five year plan. Sanjay Dutt will be coming to Sikkim during the Winter Carnival along with AR Rahman."

presented details of landed properties and the database of land and assets under the department.

It is informed that Sikkim Tourism Policy will be launched on 15 Aug this year by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling.

Further, World Tourism Day will be jointly organised by Pelling Tourism Development Corporation and the Department on 27 Sept, 2018 at Pelling in West Sikkim.

The Red Panda Winter Carnival this year will commence from 12 Nov and conclude on 16 Nov and will have the presence of Bollywood actor, Sanjay Dutt, which will be followed by an AR Rahman concert on 17 Nov, it was informed.

She then

She also gave an overview on completed and pending home stays and on assets under the possession of the department.

She informed that a list of assets will accordingly be submitted and handed over to RMDD and Panchayats accordingly. She then

With the many challenges that the party has had to face in the many years of it being in power, it has been able to take criticisms with a pinch of salt and not only accept those criticisms but also been able to work in improving the party. A party that has been able to show growth and reform in its workings is undoubtedly a party which is committed to the welfare of the people it represents.

This article is thus not a tell-tale or a piece which wants to sell a point and tell people what to believe and whom to trust. (I think there are many already on those lines). It is not even about the 'right choice' as the title suggests. It is just about letting the good folk of Sikkim know that we should think and remember who has stayed through all of these years and ensured the kind of security and livelihood that we have been able to experience this far.

T. Bhutia
Development Area, Gangtok

The 'Right Choice'

VIEWPOINT

Gangtok on Friday, 10 Aug

Temp: 25°C/18°C
Forecast: Dull and dreary, a couple of thundershowers; not as warm.
Sunrise: 05:03 AM
Sunset: 6:18 PM

Strength lifter is ambassador for solid waste management in Martam

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:
In a unique initiative, strength lifter Pema Dorjee Bhutia has been appointed ambassador of solid waste resource management of Martam Block. Various other national and international personalities of Martam have been appointed as ambassadors in different fields.

Martam BDO, Deepak Rai has said that this initiative aims at creating mass awareness on different issues in Martam block.

The strength lifter will give awareness talks and interact with students and people on his subject and convince the people to give their contribution and support towards the cause.

Installation of e-PoS devices in South from next week

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:
A press release issued today by Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department has informed that the department is entering the second phase of introducing Electronic Point of Sale [e-PoS] devices at Namchi in South Sikkim for releasing, sale and purchase of Public Distribution System [PDS] items in all registered Fair Price Shops [FPSs] under South district from 13 Aug, 2018.

The e-PoS device has been introduced with the aim to improve and bring transparency in the functioning of FPSs in the State. The installation of e-PoS machine has been completed in North district and the State Government has planned to install PoS devices in the remaining districts of West and East in phase wise manner.

Shiva Hang takes fourth place at 12 Hrs Stadium Run debut

SAGAR CHETTRI
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:
Shiva Hang Limboo secured the fourth position in his debut run at the 12 Hours Stadium Run held on 04-05 Aug at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bangalore. He covered a distance of 101.5 KMs in 12 hours to finish the run in the fourth position. The run started at 5 p.m. on 04 Aug and concluded at 5 a.m. in the morning.

22-year-old Shiva Hang is a student of Marathon Man of Sikkim, Amar Subba. He hails from Timbrong village in West Sikkim and works as a trekking guide there. He started running marathons last year and has already participated in two major marathon events of Sikkim, Sikkim Run and Kanchenjunga Marathon last year.

Addressing a press



conference here today, Shiva Hang expressed his happiness and satisfaction over his debut performance in the Stadium Run.

"I had targeted to cover at least 100 KMs in this competition and I am very happy that I have covered the distance of 101.5 KMs in 12 hours to finish the run in fourth position after running with the best ultra runners of the country," he expressed.

He added that the competition was a learning experience and motivation for him to practice harder.

"As this was my first stadium night run so I was excited and nervous too. I made a fast start but got slower during last two hours of the competition otherwise I would have been in the top three," he said.

He expressed his gratitude to his mentor, Amar Subba, and all his

well wishers for their support and encouragement.

Likewise, Marathon Man of Sikkim, Mr Subba said, "Being a mentor I can only guide and train him with right techniques but he needs support from all sides to take him further in the marathon. His performance at the Stadium Run has proved the he has lots of potential."

"In my first 12 Hours Stadium Run at the same

stadium, I had covered a distance of 96 KMs in three hours, so I dreamt of covering more than 100 KMs which was finally fulfilled by my student. I am very happy and emotional too on the achievement of my student," Mr Subba said.

He mentioned that he will start preparing Shiva Hang for upcoming 12 Hours Run in Delhi and for other long distance competitions.

It is informed that out of 80 ultra runners from different parts of the country, only 60 successfully completed this 12 Hours Stadium Run. The first position holder covered a distance of 116 KMs while second covered 109 KMs and third covered 105 KMs in 12 hours. The event was organised by Bangalore-based NEB Sports Entertainment.



Rangpo I-Day Tourney

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:
Sikkim Police edged past Biswadeep Club of Rangpo in a tie breaker at the 72nd Independence Day Celebration Open Football Tournament played at Rangpo Bazaar playground in East Sikkim today. Purna Kumar Pradhan of Sikkim Police was adjudged man of the match. Himalayan FC, Gangtok will take on Jaiswal Brothers on 10 Aug, a press release informs.



Mevedir conducts training for farmers of West Sikkim

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:
Mevedir organized Ward level training at Soreng Pegha Gaon, under Soreng GPU, in West Sikkim on 03 Aug and at Lower Segeng, under Mabong Segeng GPU on 08 Aug, a press release informs.

At Soreng, master trainer from Mevedir, Lal Man Tamang, explained about pest management through preparation of herbal spray effective in controlling red ants and other plant pests.

He introduced locally available plants like Eupatorium [Banmara], Artimisea [Titeypati], Dhatura [Dhokray], Lyonia [Angeri] and Hatibar [Agave] for the preparation of this organic formulation. He also cautioned farmers that the wrong usage of this solution could also prove detrimental for crops and being organic farmers they need to undertake trial and testing and see how plants respond to various formulations.

During the training programme at Lower Segeng, master trainer, Ramesh Rai, demonstrated the preparation of Amrit Jal and explained how cow dung, cow urine, jaggery [Gur], water and soil from the farmer's field in different proportions can be mixed for its preparation.

Electoral Literacy Programme conducted for Arithang

GANGTOK, 09 AUG [IPR]:
Electoral Literacy Programme for Arithang [Part 6-9] was held today at the conference hall of Old Secretariat in Gangtok. The program was chaired by Councillor, Sandhya Prasad, and participated by representatives of Traders Association, Hawker Association, local gentries and AEROs, SOs and BLOs of Arithang [Part 6-9], East Sikkim.

Addressing the gathering, SO, Laden Gensapa, emphasized on the importance of participation in the electoral process to ensure a responsive, accountable and democratically formed Government. The participants were made to realize the value of their votes and exercise their legal right with full knowledge and responsibility.



During the programme, Councillor, Ms Prasad, and other representatives were requested to take note of left out voters including women, senior citizens, PWD voters, etc., and ensure that they take part in the electoral process.

In an interactive session, the public put forward their grievances and discussed with the concerned BLOs for their advice and suggestions.

It may be mentioned here, the main objectives of ELC or Chunav Pathsa-

la is to educate the targeted population about entire electoral process, generating information on electoral process right from young age of around 14 and to facilitate voter registration for its members on attaining the age of 18.

SBJM elections for Mangan branch

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:
Sikkim Bihari Jagran Manch [SBJM] conducted elections for its Mangan branch today in the presence of registered members of the branch. Shree Nath Prasad was elected president with Awadhes Prasad as vice president, Chandan Thakur as general secretary, Pankaj Kumar as joint secretary and Anand Prasad as treasurer, a press release informs.



ASC B'lore enters semis of Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup

SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 09 AUG:
ASC Bangalore has entered the semi-final round of the ongoing Independence Day Football

Tournament for Chogyal Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial Cup 2018 here at Paljor Stadium. In the second quarter-final match played today, ASC Bangalore edged past the

State Sports Academy 2-1. The third quarter-final will be played between Kumar Sporting Club, Rongyek and Sikkim Aakraman Football Club on Friday at 2:30 p.m.

Par passes bill to restore original...

contd from pg01
many injured in a nation wide protest against Supreme Court judgment."

He alleged that the government brought the bill due to pressure of the opposition and its coalition partners. He also said the conviction rate in cases of atrocities against SCs was 1.4 per cent and in case of STs, it was 0.8 per cent.

Sarojini Hembram (BJD) also supported the bill saying all the ministries of law, social justice and law should coordinate properly to imple-

ment the law. Ram Chandra Prasad Singh (JD-U) too supported it but suggested that the cases should be investigated by an officer of DSP and above level, while K Keshava Rao (TRS) said this law will again be challenged in the court.

K Somaprasad (CPI-M) supported the bill and said that the apex court judgment had diluted the law, while Manoj Kumar Jha (RJD) said the government could have brought an ordinance to overturn the judgment.

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD
GANGTOK - 737101

NO: 11/SSTRB DATED: 07/08/2018

NOTICE

In continuation to Notice No. 09/SSTRB, dated: 30/07/2018, the following dates have been fixed by the Board for the written examination of Graduate Teacher (Math).

PAPER - I	General Knowledge & General English	10:00 A.M - 12:00 Noon	19 th August 2018
PAPER - II	Mathematics	01:00 P.M - 04:00 P.M.	
PAPER - III	Physics	10:00 A.M. - 01.00 P.M	20 th August 2018

The venue for the examination remains the same as notified earlier.

Sd/-
SECRETARY
SIKKIM STATE TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT BOARD.
R.O. No. 259/1pr/pub/classi./18-19 dated 09.08.18

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
No: 29/ETENDER/BHD/2018 Dated: 04/08/2018

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the Governor of Sikkim, Chief Engineer, Buildings & Housing Department, Government of Sikkim invites percentage rate tenders' from qualified Class I A contractors, within the State, enlisted with the SPWD in two cover system through e-procurement. The bids should be submitted online through the website www.sikkimtender.gov.in for the work as listed below:

SL. NO.	NAME OF WORKS	BID SECURITY 2.5% OF THE BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS)	BID VALUE (RS. IN LAKHS)	COST OF TENDER / BID FORM (RS. IN LAKHS)	COMPLETION PERIOD.
1.	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Construction of Underground parking space at Namchi, South Sikkim	25.7435	1029.74	1.00	36 months.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

i)	Publishing of Online Tender in e-procurement portal	: 6 th August, 2018
ii)	Uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal	: 6 th August, 2018
iii)	Document download/Sale start date and time.	: 7 th August, 2018 11:00 am onwards
iv)	Last date & Time for seeking clarification regarding bids	: 16 th August, 2018 upto 1500 Hrs.
v)	Last date for online Submission of completed bids	: 10 th September, 2018 upto 1600 Hrs.
vi)	Date of opening of Tender bids	: 11 th September, 2018 at 1200 Hrs.

For all details on the bid visit www.sikkimtender.gov.in

Sd/- **CHIEF ENGINEER**
BUILDINGS & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.
R.O. No. 258/1pr/pub/classi./18-19 dt. 09.08.18

SummitTIMES

Prepped for Disasters?

*Not always all ready.
And that is a worry*

Two years ago, at around this time of the year, a cliff had collapsed in Dzongu. The bhir crumbled at a safe enough distance from the nearest habitation to ensure that no casualties occurred. It was however still close and dramatic enough to be captured on smartphones and the frightening visuals and videos were circulated widely on social media. The material loss at Mantam, a habitation of around 24 homes, was substantial. The settlement was battered by the extremely violent headwinds of the landslide, suffered through the confusion of zero visibility caused by the fine-as-talc dust kicked up by the landslide and watched Kanaka, a friendly stream, turn into 3km long lake dammed up behind a nearly 300 feet high dam of debris. Kanaka has since spilled over the debris dam, and although the risk of this artificial dam bursting and causing a flash-flood is now rather remote, the downstream areas will probably not be fully out of the woods. The lake has remained erratic, sometimes full of sand banks and debris, at others a spilling bucket of turbid water.

North Sikkim has traditionally been unlucky when it comes to natural disasters, but what keeps things off as even a keel as its situation would allow is the diligence of the officers it has always had in the people's service. At the end of the day, no one person or set of officers can do much after a major disaster has struck. But when they make the effort and reach affected people despite obvious dangers and difficulties, they reassure them that they matter. And for a people grappling with nature at its most fearsome, such assurances go a long way. It is in a similar context that one needs to see the rush of good Samaritans who had raced to disaster-hit places with relief materials. Even if the relief was collected without checking what the affected area really required, it was the gesture that counted. And then there was also the National Disaster Response Force which was pressed into service. They were unfamiliar with the terrain, unsure of what to do since no rescue was required and their boats unlikely to navigate the debris-heavy lake at Mantam, but seeing these men in their orange overalls busy at the site was a reassuring sight for the people there since it convinced them that they were not forgotten. But all of these were for the immediate days after the disaster. And this is true for all natural disaster events and not just the one at Dzongu.

After the adrenaline has worn off and the sympathy wave ebbed, the real task of rehabilitating and adjusting should have begun in earnest. The true mettle of the officers and the authenticity of good Samaritans gets tested then. The numbers in Dzongu are low, so rehabilitation was never very challenging, so what remains of this space can be used to discuss the importance of disaster prevention over disaster management.

For a place which has a natural disaster for every season, Sikkim is staggeringly casual about preventive measures. It is also very poor when it comes to mitigation, and it is thanks only to its small size and conscientious officers, that the fallouts of disasters are not much worse than what is seen. When it comes to preparation, the first requirement should be area-specific list of potential threats, preventive measures to keep those threats at bay and a checklist of things to do in worst-case-scenarios. These should be worked in detail down to the ward level, but has obviously not been done at any scale, anywhere beyond documents which speak in vague generalities. These documents should be given to village elders to draft because they know the history of natural disasters in their respective areas, still remember the traditional safeguards the communities had worked into their lifestyles, and, well, will be motivated more by the greater common good than the civil-works priorities which might influence the less public spirited consultants. That is really where Sikkim's preparation for disasters needs to begin, should have begun rather.

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

A gigantic trek: what it takes to move 200 elephants 1500 km

MATT HAYWARD
theconversation.com

The translocation of wild animals is becoming an increasingly important conservation strategy and is happening more and more frequently around the world.

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy has translocated 20 species (13 of them threatened) to its reserves around Australia. Similarly, the Conservation Land Trust in Argentina has translocated a suite of native mammals including the giant anteater, tapir and jaguar to restore the Iberá Wetlands in Corrientes Province. The Red Squirrels Trust Wales is restoring the Ogwen Valley by eradicating invasive grey squirrels, and translocating native red squirrels and pine marten.

Translocations have become more frequent in Africa, too; elephants are the biggest animals to be moved. In places where species have historically been wiped out, but where managers have now removed the causes of those declines, translocation is an important tool.

One of the biggest elephant translocations ever undertaken is underway as part of an attempt to rebuild Mozambique's elephant population. The global mining company, De Beers Group, in partnership with with Peace Parks Foundation, has initiated a project to move 200 from their nature reserve in northern South Africa to Zinave National Park in Mozambique – a distance of 1500 km. The process has already started. The animals will be moved in safe batches over the course of a 2-year project, the plan being to have all elephants moved by the end of next year's translocation season.

HOW IT'S DONE

The movement of elephants is a major mission.

First, helicopters are used to direct herds of elephants to a capture area so they can be darted from the air. The elephants' legs are bound by strong, soft tethers capable of supporting several tonnes of animal. A crane attached to the loading trucks then lifts each animal and lowers them gently into crates. The elephants remain immobilised and 'sleeping' as it were, are then woken before they start their long journey to their new home.

For 200 elephants, this sounds like a monumen-



tal task. But South African conservation managers have vast experience with wildlife restoration projects on this scale. As long ago as 1979, 6000 animals (including elephants) were reintroduced into the newly established Pilanesberg National Park. In 1991, Madikwe Game Reserve took the title of the world's biggest translocation when 8000 individuals from 28 different species, including elephants, were translocated.

Expertise is critical with translocations because they can go horribly wrong. For example, a Kenyan Wildlife Service translocation of 11 black rhinos this year led to 10 dying because the water at the translocation site was too salty.

Lessons have also been learnt over the years. The elephants translocated to Pilanesberg were youngsters orphaned following culling in Kruger National Park. These youngsters grew up in the absence of adults and the unruly males ended up attacking and killing rhinos. Once adults were returned to Pilanesberg (and the offending elephants were removed), this aberrant behaviour ceased. Now entire herds are translocated, including adult bulls.

NEED FOR RELOCATION

Rampant poaching has afflicted Africa's elephant populations over the past 8 to 10 years. Some poaching happens in South Africa, but elephant populations in the country are generally well managed and protected. Some populations have even increased beyond carrying capacity. For example, the reserve in Limpopo that's home to the elephants being moved to Mozambique can carry 60

elephants but has a population of 270.

For decades elephant populations in South Africa's Kruger National Park were held in check by culling. Rangers would shoot entire herds to keep numbers in check, and mobile abattoirs would fleece the carcass and give or sell the meat and products. But this was stopped in the 1990s.

Since then the elephant population in Kruger has more than doubled and there are concerns that they are damaging the park's vegetation to such an extent that other wildlife species are going extinct.

Translocation has been increasingly used to manage this growth in numbers – not just in Kruger but in reserves across the country. Until recently, elephants were moved to establish new populations elsewhere in South Africa. But this option has started to run out because almost all reserves are now well stocked. As a result, South African conservation managers have begun to look elsewhere.

Mozambique's elephant population was decimated during decades of civil war. With the return of peace, and better governance and security, wildlife populations can be restored in a number of different places. Because elephants are such slow breeders, populations in Mozambique have not returned to their previous levels. As a result, translocation and dropping the fences between Kruger in South Africa and Parque Nacional do Limpopo in Mozambique are being implemented.

TRANSLOCATION FOR THE FUTURE

With the swathes of free space in the world and the improved ability to manage threats to species, translocations should become more common as a way to reverse the wildlife declines humans have caused.

But government conservation agencies don't take part in translocations as much as they should because they're risky operations. It's time governments reviewed their approach to active and innovative conservation interventions and show that they're prepared to take risks to improve the bleak plight of the world's biodiversity.

[the writer is Associate professor, University of Newcastle]

Brazil's supposed 'racial democracy' has a dire problem with online racism

LUIZ VALERIO P. TRINDADE
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Brazil has for years presented itself as a "racial democracy" – a land of harmonious racial relations and free of racism. This image has many times been questioned, while the murder in April 2018 of social justice campaigner Marielle Franco shed new light on the violence many of the country's black women face. And today, a particular form of racism is increasingly on display online.

In Brazil as around the world, Facebook, Twitter and the like have become a sort of modern-day pillory for distilling varied forms of racism, bigotry and mysogyny – and Brazil's digital public sphere is seeing a distinctive, deep-seated, colonial-like racism unleashed against upwardly mobile black women.

The posts concerned bear the hallmarks of "whitening" ideology – the belief that whiteness represents the only legitimate form of beauty, the ultimate and unquestionable symbol of modernity and progress, whereas blackness embodies exactly the opposite. The rac-

ist posts that proliferate on social media are part of an attempt to undermine black women's social advancement and delegitimise their demands for greater racial equality, putting them back into their "natural" position of inferiority and subservience.

According to a study by the organisation Safernet Brasil, in 2017 there were 63,698 reported cases of hate speech on the internet in Brazil, and a third of them comprised racist discourses against black people. In a recent study of my own, I found that 81% of victims of racist discourse on Facebook in Brazil were middle-class black women aged 20-35.

Within the dozens of cases that have reached the headlines, it is worrisome to identify colonial-like expressions: "Where did you buy this slave? Can you sell her to me?" "Say hi to your cellmates." "Your place is not travelling across Europe but rather in the fields harvesting cotton." "Wow, I had no idea that a black could become medical doctor. Who'd fancy taking the chances of a consultation?" "A N *****. Wait a minute; let

me get my whip."

SHIELDED BY ANONYMITY

There's plenty here that should have Brazilians deeply worried. For a start, it's possible that this digital technology and the discourse it hosts are in fact helping reshape contemporary racial relations in Brazil, as bigoted racial stereotypes are constructed, enacted and reinforced in the realm of social media.

More than that, the proponents of racist ideologies disregard any personal distance that might exist between themselves and the victims of their offences. I found that in two-thirds of the cases I studied, those posting the abuse had no previous relationship with their targets either online or offline. The corollary is that anyone who fits the profile is potentially a target.

In Brazil, most racist discourse is conveyed through derogatory humour; often a socially acceptable form of communication. To many people, this provides the convenient excuse that these sorts of caustically racist posts are for "entertainment".

Examples I came across on Facebook include: "Why was a pregnant black woman expecting triplets arrested? She was charged with gang formation", and "What shines most in a black? The handcuffs, when he's not holding a knife to rob the bank".

Finally, these people often believe that online anonymity "shields" them from being held accountable for their attitudes. Nevertheless, the moment that their racist posts reach the headlines of news articles, they do one of four things: delete the post, switch their profile from public to private, delete their account, or claim that the post was "just" a joke.

So what does this picture reveal about Brazilian racism?

TRESPASS AND PUNISHMENT

As black women have increasingly achieved more prominent social roles and better schooling in recent decades, they have run into ingrained ideas that black women should engage solely in subservient and unskilled social roles. (One post suggested cotton harvesting.)

To paraphrase the pioneering African-American intellectual W. E. B. Du Bois, such achievements are interpreted as an act of "trespassing" across the so-called colour line, and as such, they must be made an example of via conspicuous public punishment. This pattern bears more than a little resemblance to the colonial practice of punishing misbehaving black slaves in the pillory to "educate" their peers not to follow the same path.

Given the popularity and ubiquitous presence of social media platforms in people's lives – Facebook alone has 122m active users in Brazil – which represents 58% of the country's population – the proponents of racist ideologies have turned them into a modern-day pillory to punish black "trespassers".

So in spite of decades-long institutional efforts to foster the idea that Brazil enjoys a "racial democracy" and that its enduring social problems are grounded solely in its class inequalities, what's happening online today tells a very different story. As they take to the internet and disregard social conventions, the proponents of white superiority are unleashing their ideology apparently without any sort of crise de conscience. They reveal that racial inequality is still a serious issue for Brazil to tackle – and that racist jokes aren't as funny as some would like to think.

[the writer is PhD in Sociology, University of Southampton]



Chess corner inaugurated under busy flyover in south Kolkata

KOLKATA, AUG 9 (PTI): In a move aimed at promoting the game of chess, the Kolkata Police has set up a chess corner under a flyover in a busy south Kolkata neighbourhood. Called 'Gariahat Chess Club', the corner was inaugurated yesterday evening in the presence of Commissioner of Kolkata Police Rajeev Kumar, Grandmaster Dibyendu Barua, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Kalyan Mukhopadhyay and Hooghly River Bridge Commission Chairman Kalyan Bandopadhyay. The DC (South-East) said 'Gariahat Chess Club' is open to all and both chess veterans and beginners can come here and play the game. Barua praised the 'unique initiative' and said it would help in popularising chess among masses. He pledged his support in running the chess corner.

Indian pilgrims re-start Kailash-Mansarovar journey as weather improves

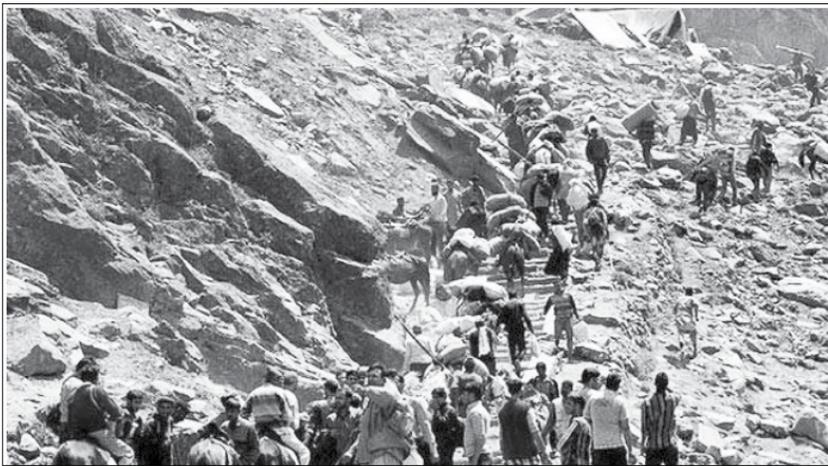
KATHMANDU, AUG 9 (PTI): Dozens of Indian pilgrims in Nepal today left for Simikot from Nepalgunj on 10 commercial flights as the Kailash-Mansarovar route was re-opened for travellers following improvement in weather conditions.

Now, the regular flights have started operating between Simikot and Nepalgunj from yesterday after the weather conditions improved, the sources said.

Dozens of Indian pilgrims today left for Simikot from Nepalgunj on 10 commercial flights. Around one hundred pilgrims had left Simikot and Humla on their way towards Kailash-Mansarovar yesterday, they added.

Meanwhile, all the Indian pilgrims who were stranded this week in Hilsa and Humla areas while returning from Kailash-Mansarovar were airlifted to their respective destinations.

Out of the 165 pilgrims who were stranded in Simikot due to bad weather, 110 were evacuated from the area on Monday and Tuesday fol-



lowing improvement in weather conditions. The remaining 55 were flown to Nepalgunj yesterday, the Indian Embassy sources said.

The pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar in Tibetan region of China is considered holy by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains. Every year, hundreds of Indians undertake the 'yatra' which involves trekking under inhospitable conditions.

Last month, more than 1,500 Indians were stranded at various plac-

es in Nepal while returning from the Kailash Mansarovar.

There is basic lodging and fooding facilities for about 500 tourists in Simikot. In case of emergency, the Indian Embassy could safely evacuate the stranded pilgrims, sources said.

Following the incident, the Indian government had issued a travel advisory.

The advisory had stated that Simikot and Hilsa are places lacking good medical and lodg-

ing facilities and therefore, pilgrims should get themselves medically examined before starting their pilgrimage and also carry medicines for up to a period of one month.

Simikot and Hilsa are connected to the rest of the world only by small aircraft or helicopters and there is no other way to travel in and out of these places.

These small aircraft or helicopters can operate only when the weather is absolutely clear, as the terrain and route is extremely dangerous. The embassy has deputised its representatives at Hilsa, Simikot and Humla for monitoring and taking action in case of emergency.



Bhutan's Druk Airlines to commence new flight from Guwahati to Paro from Sept 1: CM

GUWAHATI, AUG 8 (PTI): Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today said Bhutan's Druk Airlines will commence a new flight connecting Guwahati and Paro via Singapore from September 1.

"Consequent upon the recent bilateral talks with Bhutan, the Druk Airlines will start its flight operations between Guwahati and Paro via Singapore from September 1," Sonowal said at an event here.

He, however, did not share further detail.

"The Act East Policy announced by the Centre has also peeped to make Assam the gateway to ASEAN countries. Under such scenario, students of the state can reap rich dividends by empowering themselves through available opportunities given by the system of education in the state," Sonowal said.

On August 2, Bhutan Consul General Phub Tshering met Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi discussed about the flight operations issue, apart from other things related to bilateral interests like trade, commerce and tourism.

Mukhi had requested increasing the frequency of flight from Guwahati to Paro connecting Singapore.

On August 5, Mukhi had informed that he had discussions with the Bangladesh President during his visit here and informed about plans to start a flight from Dhaka to Guwahati.

Under the Udaan scheme, 92 new flights have been sanctioned for North East, out of which around 10 have already started operations and all North East capitals will be directly connected with Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati.

5000 court arrest in Left agitation in Tripura

AGARTALA, AUG 9 (PTI): Over 5,000 opposition Left supporters today courted arrest from various parts of Tripura in a civil disobedience agitation against the alleged anti-farmer policy of the central government, police said.

Police said there was no report of violence during the agitation, though Left leaders alleged that they were attacked by ruling BJP supporters at different places.

In the first major political protest since the poll debacle of the Left Front in Tripura in February, seven Left trade

unions organized the stir as part of a nationwide protest by different peasant bodies.

Assistant Inspector General (Law and order) Smriti Ranjan Das said 5,222 supports were arrested from across the state and no violence was reported.

However, All India Krishak Sabha state secretary and Narayan Kar alleged large-scale violence by ruling "BJP supported goons" on the agitators.

"BJP-supported goons attacked farmers at Gandacherra in Dhalai district, Panisagar in North Tripura and Am-

arpur in Gomati district on their way to protest rallies," he said.

Police used tear gas shells and water canon to disperse the agitators at Paradise Chowmuhani here where former chief minister Manik Sarkar joined the protest, the AIKS leader alleged.

Former state assembly deputy speaker Pabitra Kar said Agartala city was barricaded in a war-like situation to prevent the rally.

He also alleged that BJP workers tried to prevent left supporters from joining the movement.

BJP spokesperson Mrinal Kanti Deb, how-

ever, denied the charges and said left parties were trying to sensationalize the situation.

"Democratic atmosphere prevails in the state. The opposition party was able to organize the civil disobedience after new government's formation is proof enough that there is no political victimization."

Kishan Mazdoor Joint Forum organized the movement in 450 districts of the country today.

The agitators submitted deputations to District Magistrates in all eight districts of the state.

BJP members skip par panel...

contd from pg01 a confrontation, sources had said.

Troops of India and China were locked in a 73-day standoff in Doklam in the Sikkim sector from June 16 last year after the Indian side stopped construction of a road in the disputed tri-junction by the Chinese Army. Bhutan and China have a dispute over Doklam.

During discussions, Rahul Gandhi had questioned foreign ministry officials on China's objective and why Beijing chose Doklam to create

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TDP MP dresses like Hitler in House to send PM a message

NEW DELHI, AUG 9 (PTI): Clothes make the man, it is said, and sometimes maybe the politician too, as in the case of TDP MP Naramalli Sivaprasad who today dressed up as Hitler to send Prime Minister Narendra Modi the message that he should not "follow" the the Nazi dictator's footsteps.

Sometimes a woman, other times a farmer or a cattle herder, depending on the political point he wants to convey, Sivaprasad said he decided to don the Fuehrer's avatar today to remind Modi of his promise to give Special Status Category (SCS) to Andhra Pradesh, post bifurcation of the state.

Wearing a khaki coat and sporting a toothbrush moustache, Sivaprasad said, "I wanted to send a message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to follow Adolf Hitler."

"During elections, he promised SCS to the people of the state but has then back-tracked. He does not get the pulse of what people want and I want to urge him to not be like him."

Sivaprasad, who attended the House in his Hitler costume, also raised his hand in "heil Hitler" salute for camerapersons outside.

The TDP was a constituent of the NDA until March this year, but quit the government and the NDA over the demand for special category status to Andhra Pradesh.



"Ours is a democracy and it is necessary to understand the aspirations of the people," said the two-time MP who represents Chittor in Andhra Pradesh.

An actor, whose has worked in several Telugu films, Sivaprasad has in the past donned various avatars to attract attention.

During the last Budget session,

Sivaprasad had dressed up as a woman, a farmer, a cattle herder, a Muslim cleric and a 'swachh' Bharat worker.

"I am an artist and cannot sit quiet. I have to express myself. To represent the plight of women who were hit by demonetisation, I also dressed like one," he said.

SummitTIMES
ON TOP OF THE NEWS
informed, inquisitive, relevant

Headlines from the collage include: "He left a struggler, returns a star", "THINGS HAVE GONE SOUTH IN NORTH SIKKIM", "Pokémon Go: Best Game of 2016", "Syok Bhir collapses, blocks Kanaka completely", "For Sikkim's Patron Saint", "Nanchi Mahotop wraps up grand after three days of impressive showcasing", "Sikkim leaves Dr T An Memorial cup to Manipal but wins hearts and other honours", "CAEPHT wins A-Maze 2016", "DD Bhutta leads delegation to Tribal Affairs Minister with four demands and ST states for left-out communities", "Nights are 4°C above normal in 15 states on the verge of rain", "4000 migrants protest in Delhi", "All-women Gram Sabha at PUSA Delhi during World Women's Day", "Direct LPG subsidy savings only 15% of govt claim: CAG", "Organic Sikkim begins with four product launches", "Nights are 4°C above normal in 15 states on the verge of rain", "4000 migrants protest in Delhi".

Only we know how we face people when we return without medal: Sakshi

AMANPREET SINGH
NEW DELHI, AUG 9 (PTI): Under the scanner for her below-par performance in the run-up to the Asian Games, Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik is feeling the heat but insists that athletes always aim for medals so that fingers are not pointed at them.

The 25-year-old from Haryana had to settle for a bronze at the Commonwealth Games in April and recently crashed out of the Yasar Dogu International in Istanbul before reaching the medal round.

She along with three other wrestlers (Vinesh Phogat, Sushil Kumar, Bajrang Punia) were exempted from the trials for the Asian Games but recently WFI officials told media that it was a cause of concern for them that both Sushil and



Sakshi are not in form.

"We want to win medal every time we step on the mat. Only we know how we face people when we return

without medal. It becomes so tough to answer when people ask questions," Sakshi told PTI in an interaction after a training session in Lucknow.

"We also want to perform well so that no one points fingers at us and that we face no questions for which we have no answer."

Sakshi conceded that recent results are not according to expectations but asserted that it was not due to lack of effort.

"After Rio, I have done well in many championships. There are always ups and downs in athletes' life but we always try to give our 100 percent and bring laurels for the country. There is no lack of effort during training," she said.

Sakshi, who will compete in the 62kg category in Jakarta, also admitted that she needs to get stronger mentally, going into the Games.

"I need to be strong mentally and get better. JSW has helped me in taking help of a sports psychologist. I have been advised to meditate and develop positive thinking and think about my strong moves."

"Now I meditate and

sometimes I try to analyse my performance, why I am losing, before I sleep."

At Yasar Dogu, Sakshi had won the qualification round before suffering a defeat by fall against Elmira Gambarova. In the same 62kg category, Sarita had won a bronze with a commanding 10-0 win over Turkey's Cansu Aksoy.

Asked how she analyses her performance, Sakshi replied, "There are small things, little bit of technique and little bit of strategic part, like I have to fight differently against wrestlers from different countries."

"Few wrestlers are powerful and few are strong technically, so I am working on all these things. In the camp (in Lucknow) we are working on speed and technique."

Talking about her own

expectations at the Asian Games, Sakshi said, "I had set a target of gold medal for myself at the CWG also but now I am not thinking about the colour of medal. I just want to execute on the mat what I am doing while training. Rest is up to God."

Is it lack of confidence in her own ability?

"No it is not. Nobody will say that I will bring gold. I just expect myself to give 100 per cent."

Sakshi took satisfaction from the fact that after her medal show at the Rio Games, more girls are inclined to take up the sport.

"People know me now and expect more from me. It feels good and I feel proud. There are a few girls who have picked sport after my Rio showing."



Indian girls beat South American combined team at Jr NBA World Championships

ORLANDO (US), AUG 9 (PTI): Indian girls produced a stellar show to beat a combined South American team 40-37 in their final pool match to register their maiden victory at the Under-14 Jr NBA World Championships here.

After losing their first two pool matches of the international bracket against Asia-Pacific and Europe respectively, the Indian girls came up with a spirited effort to eke out a close win at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex situated inside the Walt Disney World Resort.

The Indians girls led their South American rivals in the first three periods 12-9 14-13 7-6 before losing the last period 7-9.

For India, Sunishka Kartik scored 17 points as against 13 of South America's Josefina Balatti.

However, it turned out to be another disappointing outing for the Indian boys as they lost 49-56 to South America.

As per the rules of the tournament, there are eight teams in the international bracket which have been divided into two

pools of four each.

All the eight teams qualified for the knock-out stages irrespective of the results and the pool outcomes are taken into consideration only to decide the placings.

So, both the Indian boys and girls teams have automatically progressed to Friday's knock-out round.

The US bracket too has eight teams and all of them will play the knock-out round irrespective of pool results.

The winner of the US bracket and the international bracket will play in the World Championship match to be held on Sunday.

Meanwhile, in tomorrow's skill and three-point challenge contests, India will be represented by three boys and two girls.

While Bhavik Garg and Dinesh Pal will be the boys representative in the skill challenge, Moumita Mishra will be the lone participant among the girls.

In the three point contest, Jeevanshu Khatri will be the boys challenger while Sunishka will represent the girls.

Nadal leads way into Toronto third round

TORONTO, AUG 9 (AFP): Top seed Rafael Nadal blew past patchy Frenchman Benoit Paire 6-2, 6-3 on Wednesday to begin his quest for a fourth Canadian trophy at the Toronto Masters.

The world number one Spaniard was untouchable as he schooled Paire for the fourth time without a loss, taking 74 minutes as he broke six times.

Nadal won the event in 2005, 2008 and 2013.

"I was not at my 100 per cent today," Nadal said. "It's true that I did good work here the last five days, but at the same time it's true that I didn't work very hard at home."

"So the first match is an important victory for me, for my confidence. It's important that I have



another match tomorrow too. So just try to keep going."

"I played a solid match, in the second set I had some troubles, but my return worked well. It was more about the mistakes from the baseline."

The 32-year-old will bid for the quarter-finals here for the first

time since 2015 when he plays Stan Wawrinka, who staged another fightback in three sets, beating Marton Fucsovics 1-6, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (12/10).

Defending champion Alexander Zverev, seeded second and winner at the weekend in Washington, also advanced easily

beating Bradley Klahn 6-4, 6-4.

Former top-ranked Novak Djokovic, a four-time champion, sent Canadian Peter Polansky to a 6-3, 6-4 defeat.

Two generations of local players split the difference with Milos Raonic, 27, heading out while teenaged gun Denis

Shapovalov moved on. American Frances Tiafoe beat Raonic 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 6-1 in a match hit by a weather interruption of more than two and a half hours.

Teenaged prodigy Shapovalov eliminated Italian 14th seed Fabio Fognini winner last weekend in Los Cabos, 6-3, 7-5.

Djokovic expressed support for the new 25-second shot clock innovation designed to cut down on time wasting between points.

"I'm pretty comfortable with it -- it's good to have shot clock in the tournaments prior to the US Open." The 13-time Grand Slam title winner has now won 21 of his last 24 matches after

a rollercoaster start to 2018 which saw him go 6-6.

Djokovic, the winner of 30 career Masters titles, will next face rising Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas, who beat seventh seed Dominic Thiem 6-3, 7-6 (8/6).

It was the second straight opening defeat for the Austrian, who also last last week at home in Kitzbuehel; he reportedly arrived carrying a virus.

Wimbledon semi-finalist John Isner defeated Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France 7-6 (7/3), 6-2.

Third seed Juan Martin del Potro was forced to withdraw prior to his opening match due to a left wrist injury.

Sri Lanka end losing streak against South Africa in tense clash

PALLEKELE, AUG 9 (AFP): Suranga Lakmal took three key wickets in a tense encounter Wednesday cut short by rain to guide Sri Lanka to their first one-day win over South Africa in 12 matches.

Dasun Shanaka hit 65 while Thisara Perera and Kusal Perera each made 51 as Sri Lanka blasted 306-7 off 39 overs. Set a target of 191 from 21 overs because of the bad weather, South Africa ran out of inspiration and finished on 187-9.

Lakmal bowled South Africa's stand-in captain and opener Quinton de Kock, and then at the climax of the game claimed the tourists' final batting hopes Willem Mulder and David Miller.

Sri Lanka had lost 11 previous one day games against South Africa stretching back to their last win in 2014 at the same Pallekele ground.

South Africa already had the series sealed by winning the first three one-day games on this tour. But de Kock was still disappointed in his first match in place of captain Faf du Plessis who has been ruled out with



a shoulder injury.

"They kept picking up wickets at the right time and bowled well," he said. "It always hurts more when you lose as captain."

De Kock passed 4,000 runs in one day internationals with a four in the second over before the rain came and South Africa's 39 overs were cut to 21. Hashim Amla hit a 40 with six

fours and Jean-Paul Duminy smashed two sixes and three fours as South Africa seemed to be heading for a fourth straight win in this series.

But Shanaka brilliantly ran out Duminy with a direct hit throw and Sri Lankan captain Angelo Mathews pulled off a brilliant catch to send back Heinrich Klaasen.

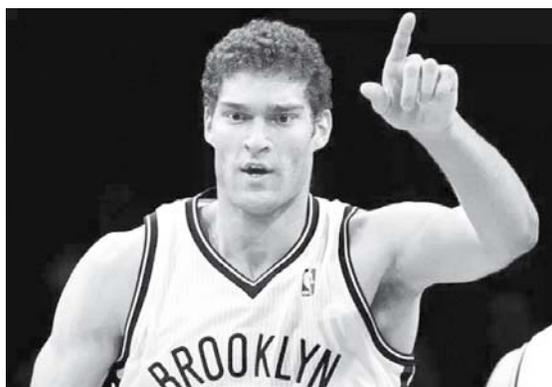
Mulder also fell to a spectacular diving catch by Dhananjaya de Silva.

South Africa's batting threat ended when Miller went for 21 and Lakmal made no mistakes keeping the lid on tail enders Junior Dala and Lungi Ngidi for the final five balls.

"It was very important to win today," said a relieved Mathews. "The batters put up a decent score on a good pitch to bat on, it was a fantastic effort by the bowlers as well." For Sri Lanka, Shanaka hit five sixes and four fours to anchor the innings.

Thisara Perera made an unbeaten 51 and Kusal Perera also hit 51 as the home side punished South Africa's bowlers.

IPL like league is the need of the hour for Indian basketball: NBA star Brook Lopez



ORLANDO (US), AUG 7 (PTI): Milwaukee Bucks centre Brook Lopez feels that an IPL like professional league to enhance the popularity of basketball in India.

During his visit to India in May earlier this year, former LA Lakers star Lopez took out time to witness an IPL match of Mumbai Indians.

"India needs a professional basketball league, just like Indian version of NBA or IPL. While I was in India I watched an IPL match and noticed the craze for cricket and the league. I think in India, the interest for basketball is there, but it needs something like an IPL," Lopez told PTI in an interview on

the sidelines of the Jr NBA World Championships here.

"India needs to create platform or competitive basketball. I think India needs to have more situations like the Jr NBA Academy, give kids a chance to watch the games, see NBA stars play and think this is what I want to do to be a basketball player," he added.

The Milwaukee Bucks star emphasized on the need to give more emphasis to the grassroots level.

"India need to have more basketball courts. They need the foundation. There needs to be more of these Jr NBA academies. The kids need more access to coaching,

trainers etc," Lopez said.

"India need more situations like the Jr NBA Academy where kids can come, play and work together, build the foundation."

NBA's initiative to set up a Junior NBA Academy in India has been yielding positive results for the growth of the sport as two Indian teams one boys and one girls are currently representing the country in the inaugural Under-14 Jr NBA World Championship here.

There is a thought among a section of people back home is that Indians are not suited for the game because of their body types but Lopez begs to differ.

Basketball is best suited for tall, lanky players, which India lacks but Lopez said the game has evolved over the years and body types hardly matters now.

"I don't think height in general has anything to do with basketball. You look at the way the NBA is trending now. There are a lot of smaller yet faster players now," he said.

"When I talked about the diversity in India, I was surprised by looking at the kids, the different kinds of body types in kids from all over India. There is a lot of opportunity for India to have different type of players."

Russia says US sanctions over nerve agent attack 'unacceptable'

MOSCOW, AUG 9 (AFP): The Kremlin today slammed as "unacceptable" US sanctions over Moscow's alleged involvement in a nerve agent attack in Britain, but said Russia still hopes for constructive relations with Washington.

"We consider categorically unacceptable the linking of new restrictions, which we as before consider illegal, to the case in Salisbury," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists, referring to the nerve agent attack on former double agent Sergei Skripal.

He added that "Mos-



cow retains hopes of building constructive relations with Washington." Russian markets tumbled after Washington announced the sanctions late on

Wednesday, with the ruble falling to its lowest value in almost two years.

The US State Department called them a response to "the use of a

'Novichok' nerve agent in an attempt to assassinate UK citizen Sergei Skripal" -- who was a double agent -- and his daughter Yulia in March.

The action is aimed at punishing President Vladimir Putin's government for having "used chemical or biological weapons in violation of international law," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement.

The Skripals survived the attack but a British couple was poisoned by the same Novichok agent in a nearby town, one of whom, 44-year-old Dawn Sturgess, subsequently died.

Moscow has angrily rejected any involvement, plunging diplomatic relations with London into a crisis.

The UK on Thursday welcomed the measures, that come less than a month after US President Donald Trump met Putin at a historic summit in Helsinki.

The Russian economy is still reeling from the 2014 international sanctions imposed on Moscow over its actions in Ukraine and a crash in oil prices the same year.

While Russia returned to growth in 2017 after two years of recession, it pales in comparison with growth figures seen during Putin's first two terms in office from 2000 to 2008 thanks to soaring oil prices.



Our govt will build balanced, trust-based relationship with US: Imran

ISLAMABAD, AUG 9 (PTI): Pakistan's Prime Minister-in-waiting Imran Khan has said his government will build a more "balanced and trustworthy" relationship with the US, asserting that the trust deficit between the two countries has resulted in many ups and downs in the bilateral ties.

The relations between Pakistan and the US nosedived this January after President Donald Trump accused Islamabad of giving nothing to Washington but "lies and deceit" and providing "safe haven" to terrorists.

The US Congress also passed a bill to slash Pakistan's defence aid to USD 150 million, significantly below the historic level of more than USD one billion per year.

Speaking to Acting US Ambassador to Pakistan John F Hoover who called on him at his Banigala residence yesterday, the cricketer-turned-politician said there was a need for revitalisation of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and the US and transforming the relationship for the benefit of both the countries.

"Our government will engage with the US to make this relationship more balanced and trust-

worthy. We count trade and economic relations with the US extremely important," Khan was quoted as saying by the Dawn.

Pakistan and the US have witnessed many ups and downs in their relationship, which were the outcome of trust deficit between the two countries, he said.

"I am glad that people in the US have ultimately started acknowledging significance of political solution as conflict and use of force can add to the damages instead of breeding a sustainable solution to the crisis," Khan said.

He said the stability in Afghanistan was in the larger interest of Pakistan, America and the region which could be achieved through viable political engagements.

In his victory speech last month, Khan had said that Pakistan wanted to have a mutually beneficial relationship with the US.

Khan has been a vocal critic of US drone attacks inside Pakistan against terrorists.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf emerged as the single largest party in the July 25 general elections, winning 116 National Assembly seats out of the contested 270 parliamentary constituencies.

Thai court sentences disgraced 'jet-set monk' to 114 years

BANGKOK, AUG 9 (AFP): A Thai court today sentenced a disgraced former monk to 114 years in prison, a court official said, more than a year after he was extradited from the United States.

Wiraphon Sukphon made headlines in 2013 when footage emerged of him wearing designer aviator sunglasses with a Louis Vuitton bag on a private jet.

The 39-year-old fled to the US but was sent back after he was accused of raping a minor and deceiving donors who gave him money to build the world's largest emerald Buddha image.

A further probe revealed he owned luxury cars and multiple bank

accounts valued at about USD 700,000.

Wiraphon was convicted of money laundering, fraud and violating the Computer Crime Act for raising funds online, a Bangkok court official told AFP.

"Judges convicted him and sentenced him altogether to 114 years," the official said, adding that under Thai law Wiraphon would not serve more than 20 years for the convictions.

Wiraphon was also required to return 28.6 million baht (USD 861,700) to 29 donors who filed complaints.

The ruling on the rape charge is expected in October, a public prosecutor said.

Dozens dead, wounded in attack on Yemen bus carrying children: Red Cross

SANAA, AUG 9 (AFP): An attack on a bus carrying children in rebel-held northern Yemen today left dozens of people dead or wounded, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

"Following an attack this morning on a bus driving children in Dahyan Market, northern Saada, (an ICRC-supported) hospital has received dozens of dead and wounded," the organisation said on Twitter without giving more details.

"Under international humanitarian law, civilians must be protected during conflict," it added.

The Huthi rebels' Al Masirah TV reported that 39 people had been killed and 51 wounded, "mostly children".

It accused the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Shiite rebels on the side of the government of hitting the bus in an air strike.



It was not possible to verify the toll or who was behind it.

There was no immediate comment from the coalition, which intervened in 2015 to try to restore the internationally recognised government to power after it was

driven out of the capital Sanaa by the rebels.

Yemen's war has left nearly 10,000 people dead and unleashed what the United Nations describes as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Police chief's son arrested for assault on septuagenarian Sikh man in California

NEW YORK, AUG 9 (PTI): Son of a police chief in a Californian city is among two teenagers arrested and charged with attempted robbery and abuse in the brutal attack on a 71-year-old Sikh man this week.

The investigators are trying to determine if the attack was a hate crime.

Police arrested 18-year-old Tyrone McAllister and a 16-year-old male juvenile yesterday for the attack on Sahib Singh Natt on the side of a road early morning on August 6 in Manteca.

McAllister, the son of Union City Police Chief Darryl McAllister, and the juvenile have been charged with attempted robbery, elder abuse and assault with a deadly weapon.

The Manteca Police Department said it received numerous tips which assisted in the identification of the suspects.

Investigations Supervisor sergeant Miller said the public assistance in providing information with this case was instrumental in identifying the suspects and helped in making a quick arrest.

Meanwhile, McAllister's father posted a statement on the Facebook page of the Union City Police department saying he is completely disgusted to find out that one of the suspects in this horrific crime is his son.

He said his son has been estranged from his family and home for several months now.

Words can barely describe how embarrassed, dejected, and hurt my wife, daughters, and I feel right now. Violence and hatred is not what we have taught our children; intolerance for others is not even in our vocabulary, let alone our values," the senior McAllister said in the statement.

He said it is difficult for his family to comprehend how one of his three kids, raised with the same values and



character, wandered so far astray.

In the eyes of the public, no matter the irrelevance to the incident, the fact remains that the father of the perpetrator of this despicable crime is a police chief, period, he said.

Disturbing footage from a surveillance camera shows Natt walking alone on the side of a road early morning on August 6 when two men, wearing hoodies, walking from the opposite direction approach him.

Natt stops on seeing the men and the duo are seen talking to him. Natt then walks past them but they continue to follow and talk with him.

After a brief argument, one of the men, who is wearing a black hoodie, suddenly kicks Natt in the stomach and the elderly man falls down on the road, with his turban coming off.

He tries to get up and defend himself but the man again kicks him in the stomach. Natt falls on the road as the man who attacked him comes close to him and appears to touch his face and spit on him. They then walk away as Natt is lying on the road.

A few seconds later the man in the black hoodie runs back and viciously kicks Natt three times near his head as he lay on the street. He then starts leaving again, pauses, turns around, and then spits at Natt.

The police chief said his stomach has been churning from the moment

he learned the news of the attack on Natt and that his son was involved.

He also said his son began to lose his way a couple years ago, while he was a juvenile, running away and getting involved in a bad crowd.

He got into trouble for some theft-related crimes and ended up spending several months in juvenile hall, the senior McAllister said, adding that his son was again arrested for a theft-related incident, and he ended up spending another three months in adult jail as a result.

"Since being released he has been wayward and has not returned to our family home for several months," he said.

The police chief said he and his wife worked with Manteca Police to help them track their son down and arrest him.

The attack on Natt is the second on a Sikh man in about a week in California.

On July 31, 50-year-old Surjit Malhi was attacked while putting up campaign signs in support of incumbent Republican Congressman Jeff Denham and other local Republican candidates.

While beating Malhi, the attackers yelled "Go back to your country! and spray painted the same message, along with hate symbols, on his truck.

Eight essays put the spotlight on the journey... Also finding place in this collection is the arrival of Climate Change and its impact on Sikkim...

THE BIRDS HAVE LOST THEIR WAY

EDITED BY TSHERING EDEN AND PEMA WANGCHUK

ESSAYS ON TEESTA, HYDEL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN SIKKIM

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Kim and Kourtney Kardashian branded 'irresponsible' by PETA!

Kim and Kourtney Kardashian have come under fire by animal rights group PETA for playing with marmoset monkeys in Instagram videos.

The duo were at their 83-year-old grandma Mary Jo's house, where Kim, 37, filmed herself and her children with the monkeys on her shoulders, saying, "they're licking me, while wearing a skimpy white bikini."

Her elder sister Kourtney, 39, fresh from her split with Younes Bendjima also shared pictures of the marmosets kissing her.

However, Babe.net reports "it is illegal to own a monkey as a pet in California, and the acquiring of a monkey involves killing entire families to obtain the young. Therefore, animal rights campaigners PETA and academics across the U.S. believe that by owning a pet monkey, you are promoting the violent monkey trade."

Professor Erin Vogel, from the department of anthropology at Rutgers added that most pet monkeys are taken from their mothers who are then shot.

He said: "It is absolutely irresponsible and inappropriate for a celebrity to promote the abuse that these monkeys experience. Celebrities should spend more time promoting the conservation of the endangered habitats of these animals instead of taking 'cute' pictures or videos for Instagram. It is appalling."

PETA's Director of Captive Animal Law Enforcement Brittany Peet told MailOnline:

Keira Knightley transforms into Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker and The Four Realms



She's usually putting up a storm, sporting her signature brunette locks and bushy brows. But Keira Knightley looks shockingly different in the brand new trailer for The Nutcracker and The Four Realms which Disney released on Wednesday.

The actress, 33, underwent a drastic makeover for her role as the Sugar Plum Fairy, which was unveiled for the first time in the short teaser.

Keira stars along Morgan Freeman, 81, as Drosselmeyer and Dame Helen Mirren, 73, who looked equally as unrecognisable as the antagonist Mother Ginger in the upcoming Disney flick.

For Keira's transformation, her glossy brunette locks were covered with a Marie Antoinette style wig in hues of light purple, pale pink and white piled high on her head, complete with side curls and hints of sparkly silver tinsel.

The Pirates of The Caribbean actress' full and fluffy brows had been turned into thin, heavily over-plucked eyebrows, with a garish pink eye-shadow drawing attention to her outlandish fake eyelashes.

Her naturally glowing skin caked in heavy white powder, and Keira's picture-perfect smile was transformed with crooked lower teeth and veneers.

A glimpse of her costume was teased in the trailer, with a high standing pleated purple collar and thick chiffon shoul-



"Marmosets should be jumping from tree to tree, playing with one another, and raising their offspring in large, tight-knit social groups. PETA urges families to steer clear of exhibitors that

drag wild animals around town for this type of misguided stunt."

Kourtney said in her Instagram story video: "Morning! Look who I spend my morning with!" perhaps not understanding the seriousness of her post.

Kourtney was seen arriving to her grandmother's place, tapping the intercom system while rocking black leggings and a white tank top. After visiting Mary Jo, Kourtney spent some quality time with the monkey, who rested on her shoulders and inspected her lips.

She also shared a message about gratitude from her daily devotional book. It all comes after it emerged

Kourtney dumped Younes last month after she discovered he had allegedly cheated on her.

Sources close to the Keeping Up With The Kardashians star say that the breakup happened a month ago just after the couple's getaway to Italy. Days after their romantic trip Younes, 25, jetted off for another vacation which is when he allegedly cheated.

The star found proof of the indiscretion and split from Younes immediately. TMZ suggests the nasty breakup explains why Younes shaded Kourtney in the comments of her saucy booty Instagram last month.

"That's what you need to show to get likes?" Younes wrote underneath a photo of Kourtney smiling in a thong bikini.

Younes hasn't posted any Instagram snaps since July 2 when he shared a pictured of the couple on their Mediterranean vacation.

Additionally, Kourtney's clan insist that photos of Younes being very hands-on with brunette beauty Jordan Ozuna in Mexico this week were not the catalyst for the breakup. Jordan has a history with the family - she was linked to Tyga following his split from Kylie Jenner last year.



GST to bring more relief to Small Taxpayers



The GST Council, in its 28th meeting held on 21st July, 2018, has recommended a number of changes in the GST laws for the benefit of small taxpayers. Some of the significant measures are:-

- Upper limit of turnover for opting for Composition Scheme to be raised from ₹ 1 Crore to ₹ 1.5 Crore.
- Composition dealers to be allowed to supply services (other than restaurant services) for upto a value not exceeding 10% of turnover in the preceding financial year, or ₹ 5 Lakh, whichever is higher.
- Levy of GST on reverse charge mechanism on receipt of supplies from unregistered suppliers, to be applicable to only specified goods or services or both in case of certain notified classes of registered persons, as recommended by the GST Council.
- Threshold exemption limit for registration in the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Uttarakhand to be increased to ₹ 20 Lakh from ₹ 10 Lakh.
- Registration to remain temporarily suspended while cancellation of registration is under process, so that the taxpayer is relieved of continued compliance under the law.
- Commissioner to be empowered to extend the time limit for return of inputs and capital goods sent on job work, upto a period of one year and two years, respectively.
- Simplified GST Return: The GST Council in its 28th meeting has also approved the new simplified return formats. Benefits for small taxpayers include:-
 - GST Council has approved quarterly filing of return for the small taxpayers having turnover below ₹ 5 Crore as an optional facility. Quarterly return will be similar to main return with monthly payment facility but for two kinds of registered persons – small traders making only B2C supplies or making B2B + B2C supplies. For such taxpayers, simplified returns called Sahaj and Sugam have been designed, wherein lesser details are to be filled than the regular return.
 - NIL return filers (no purchase and no sale) shall be given the facility to file return by sending SMS.
 - Taxpayers would have facility to create his profile based on nature of supplies made & received. The fields of information which a taxpayer would be shown and would be required to fill in the return would depend on his profile.
 - Invoices can be uploaded continuously by the seller and can be continuously viewed and locked by the buyer for availing input tax credit. This process would ensure that very large part of the return is automatically filled based on the invoices uploaded by the buyer and accepted by the seller.
 - The new return design provides facility for amendment of invoice and also other details filed in the return. Amendment shall be carried out by filing of a return called amendment return. Payment would be allowed to be made through the amendment return helping save interest liability.

Approximately 93% of the taxpayers have a turnover of less than ₹ 5 Crore and they would benefit substantially from the simplification measures proposed.

These amendments will take effect after changes are made in the relevant GST laws by the Parliament and the Legislatures of the States and the Union Territories with Legislature.

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