

TIME AND US

DAILY SRINAGAR, KASHMIR

SATURDAY

- SEPTEMBER, 09, 2017
- 17 ZHUL HIJJAH 1438 AH
- ISSUE: 209
- VOLUME: 03
- PAGES: 08

WEATHER TEMPERATURE		
STATION	MAX TEMPERATURE	MIN TEMPERATURE
	ACT	ACT
SRINAGAR	29.8	12.3
JAMMU	32.3	23.7
LEH	20.7	7.3
KARGIL	25.2	10.0

SUNSET SATURDAY: 06:49 PM
SUNRISE SUNDAY: 06:11 AM
LOCAL FORECAST OF SRINAGAR
 Partly cloudy Sky. Maximum & Minimum temperatures will be around 29°C & 14°C respectively.

RNI NO: JKENG/2015/62397 • PRICE RS.3/- (AIR SURCHARGE FOR DELHI, JAMMU & LADAKH 50/- PAISA)

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DY CM FOR MEASURES TO AUGMENT POWER SUPPLY, REDUCING T&D LOSSES

MODI TURNED BLACK MONEY OF THIEVES TO WHITE THROUGH DEMONETISATION: RAHUL

78% RISE IN PAPERLESS I-T ASSESSMENT; ALL-INDIA ROLL OUT BY FISCAL END

KOHLI FIRES INDIA TO UNPRECEDENTED WHITELASH OF SRI LANKA

Rajnath Singh to begin four-day visit to Kashmir

'Whoever comes to meet me, I will talk to them'

Srinagar, Sep 08: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who is arriving on a four-day visit from tomorrow, is all set to take the review of the security situation in the state.

Singh will meet Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Governor NN Vohra before taking review of "Operation all-out", which was launched by security forces in Kashmir valley against the militants.

Officials said the visiting minister will review the overall security situation in Kashmir vis-a-vis rise in the attempts of infiltration from across the LoC.

Singh according to the officials will be accompanied by the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba and senior officers of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

He will also review Prime Minister's Development Package in the state.

A BJP leader told KNS the home minister will meet various delegations of civil society and political leaders besides interact with J&K Police, CRPF and BSF officials in the state.



"The main aim of the Home Minister's visit to Jammu and Kashmir is to review the security situation and will take feedback on operation all out which was earlier this year established by the Modi led government," an top official in security establishment told KNS.

According to sources, the Home Minister will meet the BJP leaders separately in order to see the party progress in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and in addition to that

▶ See **Rajnath**...Pg 02

Killing of Rohingya Muslims: Authorities impose restrictions in Srinagar parts

People protests in solidarity with Burma Muslims, cops injured in Ang

Srinagar, Sep 08: The district administration on Friday imposed restrictions in Old City here to prevent the protest against the killing of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

The protest after Friday prayers was called by the Muslim religious organizations including the Muta-hida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) head Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in solidarity with Burma Muslims.

They had also appealed people to observe Fri as solidarity day with Burma Muslims.

In view of the call given by the religious organizations, the authorities imposed restrictions in parts of Srinagar falling under the jurisdiction of five police stations in downtown here.

A huge contingent of police and paramilitary troopers were deployed on the roads here to prevent the possible protests against the killing of Rohingya Muslims.

The forces had erected concertina wires on the roads and were not allowing anyone to move towards the restriction bound areas, witnesses



told KNS.

Meanwhile, authorities also barred people to offer the Friday congregational prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid here.

"We were not allowed to offer the congregational prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid here and were forced to offer the Friday prayers in local Masjids," locals told KNS.

Meanwhile, as soon as the Friday congregational prayers ended, the Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL) workers and activists held protest at Maisuma area here.

The protesters raised slogans in favour of Rohingya Muslims while carrying the placards and banners reading 'stop genocide of Muslims in Myanmar'.

They said that the atrocities being committed on the Muslims in Burma should be stopped forthwith. "It is unfortunate that the world community is acting as mute spectator over the killing of Rohingya Muslims. The International community must play their role to stop such violence and should also play their role to punish the killers," they said.

Protest in solidarity with Rohingya Muslims was also held outside the Dastgeer sahab shrine in Khanyar area here, where scores of people assembled and chanted slogans in favour of the Rohingya Muslims.

Scores of Tibetan vendors also staged demonstration against the killings of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar at Srinagar's Press Enclave.

Protesting vendors' were holding placards reading the slogans in favour of Burma Muslims.

They appealed Islamic countries ▶ See **Killing**...Pg 02

SIX POLICE PERSONNEL INJURED IN ANANTNAG

CLASHES: POLICE
 SRINAGAR, SEP 08 (PTK): Police said that today, soon after the culmination of Friday prayers, some miscreants from a mob started pelting stones on the police and security force deployment at Lal Chowk, Anantnag.

In a statement, police said that these miscreants also set a police vehicle on fire. The miscreants were chased off by using mild force.

"Six police personnel ▶ See **Six**...Pg 02

Assault on 35-A an assault on our soul, identity: Dr Farooq

Abdullahs offer Fateha at Naseem Bagh

Srinagar, Sep 08: National Conference (NC) Friday held a commemorative function and congregational Fateha Khwani at Qaid Mazaar, Srinagar to pay glowing tributes to Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah on his 35th Death Anniversary.

National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Working President Omar Abdullah attended the commemorative function and offered Fateha at the Qaid Mazaar in Naseem Bagh.



Speaking on the occasion, National Conference President and Member of Parliament for Srinagar, Dr. Farooq Abdullah highlighted the spirit of selfless service and sacrifice that formed the core of Sher-e-Kashmir's legacy and said his vision should continue to guide the party in the service of the people. "Sher-e-Kashmir taught us to put the needs and aspirations of the people before all temptations of power.

He chose to spend more than two decades in jail cells but never compromised on his ideology and his ▶ See **Farooq**...Pg 02

CM reviews BGSB University functioning

Mehbooba asks BGSBU to come up as an important learning Centre in JK



SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 07: Appreciating its flight on the academic canvas, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today asked the Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri ▶ See **Mehbooba**...Pg 02

CM takes strong note of delay caused to first Hajj flight

Asks CS to take up the issue with Civil Aviation authorities, ensure it is not repeated

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 07: Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti has taken strong note of the delay caused in the landing of the first Hajj flight to Srinagar airport yesterday.

Chairing a high level meeting in this regard here today, ▶ See **CM**...Pg 02

Veeri receives first Batch of Hajj pilgrims at Srinagar International Airport

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 08: Minister for Revenue, Relief Rehabilitation and Disaster Management Abdul Rehman Veeri today received first batch of Hajjis at Srinagar International Airport who returned here today after performing Hajj.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Baseer Ahmed Khan, Secretary Revenue Muhammad Ashraf Mir, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, SSP Budgam, and other Civil and Police officers were also present on the occasion.



While interacting with the returning pilgrims, Veeri felicitated them for performing Hajj. He said all the requisite arrangements ▶ See **Veeri**...Pg 02

MCI GUIDELINES ON GENERIC DRUGS BEING FLOUTED IN J&K: DAK

Srinagar, Sep 8: Doctors in Jammu and Kashmir prescribe brand-name drugs in violation to the recommendations of the Medical Council of India (MCI) which mandates prescribing of generic drugs, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) said in a press communiqué on Friday.

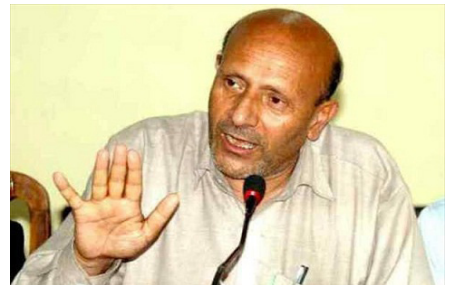
President DAK Dr Nisar-ul-Hassan said while the MCI has made prescription of generic drugs compulsory, doctors continue to write expensive branded drugs preventing access to cheaper medicines for the poor.

MCI, the statutory body that registers doctors to ensure proper standards of medical practice, on September 2016 amended Clause 1.5 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, etiquette and ethics), Regulations 2002 mandating doctors to prescribe generic medicines.

Earlier this year, the MCI reiterated its directive asking ▶ See **DAK**...Pg 02

NC's surrender on resettlement bill encouraged New Delhi: Rasheed

Srinagar, Sep 8: Urging National Conference leadership to show consistency, AIP Supremo and MLA Langate Er. Rasheed has welcomed Dr. Farooq Abdullah's stand on Article 35-A, but asked him not to repeat what suspicious and inconsistent role National Conference played since 1975. While interacting with various deputations in Srinagar today Er. Rasheed said that the two main regional parties will be held responsible for every erosion to the autonomy, special status and dilution of Kashmir cause. Er. Rasheed said "Whatever Dr. Farooq Abdullah is saying has to be seen in light of the historical events of the past. May Farooq Abdullah and his party explain what happened to the resettlement bill passed by the state assembly



but was still dragged to Supreme Court and for the want of proper pleading it is now story of the past. Recently when PDP succumbed to BJP's ego and ideology by trusting GST on Jammu & Kashmir, NC played the most dubious role by keeping mum ▶ See **Rasheed**...Pg 02

DOORS OF NC OPEN FOR PUBLIC SPIRITED, RIGHT THINKING POLITICAL ACTIVISTS: RANA

JAMMU SEPTEMBER 08- Provincial President Mr Devender Singh Rana on Friday said that doors of National Conference were always open for right thinking and public spirited political activists, who want to see Jammu and Kashmir as a peaceful, progressive and developed state.

"Realization is fast dawning upon progressive, forward-looking and peace-loving political activists to serve the state in best of their capabilities", Mr Rana said while welcoming Mr Ghulam Haider and his associates in National Conference at a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan this afternoon.

Mr Rana said that time had come when all the right ▶ See **Rana**...Pg 02

China pledges support for Pakistan's war against terrorism

Beijing: China on Friday pledged support for Pakistan's efforts against terrorism as the Foreign Ministers of both countries discussed the regional and international situation.

Addressing a press conference here along with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif, his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi said both countries are "steady anchors for peace in the region" and that Beijing fully backs Islamabad in its fight against terrorism and



supports it in safeguarding its sovereignty, Geo News reported. The relationship between ▶ See **China**...Pg 02

China and Pakistan remains "rock firm and unbreakable", Wang said, adding that Beijing will continue to play its role in Islamabad's progress and development.

Wang said that both the countries stand together amid the changing regional and international situation. Welcoming Pakistan's efforts for peace in Afghanistan, he expressed Beijing's desire for better relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. ▶ See **China**...Pg 02

'LOWER RUNG EMPLOYEE MADE SCAPEGOAT TO HUSH UP FCI SCAM'

SRINAGAR, SEP 8: Employees of Food Corporation of India (FCI) J&K region are up arms against the suspension order of an employee involved in the discrepancies of 130 trucks for entries during 2014-15 and 2015-16 in respect of the PEG Baramulla.

The anguished employees while holding a protest demonstration outside the Regional office in Srinagar told Press Trust of Kashmir that they suspended employee, Sandeep Vaid (AG-2) (D) S/o Pavan Vaid have been wrongly implicated in to the scam.

Worth to mention that Press Trust of Kashmir unearthed a huge scam in FCI where 130 trucks were fraudulently challaned, sold while as these truck were never unloaded at the PEG Baramulla.

Soon after the news report, FCI constituted a team ▶ See **Scam**...Pg 02

TRANSPORTERS' DEPUTATION MEETS CHIEF MINISTER

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 07: A deputation of transporters of Kashmir Valley today met the Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti here today and apprised her about various problems being faced by the transporters of the valley. They also discussed with the Chief Minister the issues being confronted by them during the shifting of Batamaloos bus stand to Parimpora.

The transporters also brought to the notice of the Chief Minister several suggestions to decongest traffic on some critical routes and also induction of some new technologies in urban transport.



Mehbooba Mufti assured the deputation that their suggestions would be taken into consideration while formulating policies on urban transport. She also assured them to look into the problems raised by them considerably.

CM'S ASSURANCE TO PROMOTE HANDICRAFTS APPRECIABLE: NIZAMUDDIN BHAT

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 08- Appreciating the concern of Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti for promotion of Handicrafts sector, Nizamuddin Bhat Vice Chairman for the Corporation of Handicrafts said that her assurance to save and sustain Sate's tradition and Art comes at an opportune time. Bhat said and added effort is needed to instill confidence in thousands of artisans, social upliftment and saving of the heritage.

He said both handicrafts and handloom sectors cannot progress as a viable economic tool and a component of splendid culture without liberal government support.

He said the present scenario obtaining for production manufacturing and marketing of Kashmir art is obviously grim and if appropriate measures are not taken, the situation will further worsen. As a result the indigenous, rural economy and art and craft related employment avenues will shrink to a large extent. He said the government



is seized with the problems of weavers, artisans, embroiders and other entire skilled class who have hitherto struggled to maintain the progress index of Kashmir's art and craft.

Referring to institutions devoted to promote the handicrafts and handloom as a tradition of economic and cultural value, Bhat said corporations of handloom and handicrafts as well as the administrative department need to revise planning to achieve desired objectives.

Bhat pointed out that it is unfortunate that handloom

things to get handloom, handicrafts and the silk industry under one umbrella. That for utilization of segregated resource infrastructure to be made more compact, effective and result-oriented.

He said that the government also should take measures to recognize handicraft, handloom and sericulture as a social sector and own responsibility for its sustenance and growth.

He made an appeal to Chief Minister to appoint a time bound expert committee to review and recommend how the state can restore pristine glory of Kashmir art and craft and how these sectors of social and economic value can be provided an effective and vibrant institutional base.

He said without an organized growth-oriented and objective based working policy, the change for better seems impossibility. Chief Minister's concerns will yield result once the actual potential is harnessed and an innovative revival plan.

ELA BHATT, FOUNDER SEWA MEETS GOVERNOR

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 08: Smt. Ela Bhatt, Founder Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) accompanied by Smt. Reema Nanavaty, Director SEWA and Sh. Rameshwar Mihir Bhat, met Governor N.N. Vohra at the Raj Bhavan here today.

Smt. Bhatt discussed with the Governor several issues about the welfare activities being undertaken by the SEWA in Kashmir, since it started working here in 2010. She also spoke about SEWA's fu-



ture plans in Kashmir and informed that so far 5000 women have been trained through their local enterprise,

"Shehjar Association Kupwara", which was registered this year. Governor thanked Smt.

Bhatt and her colleagues for the exceptional dedication with which SEWA has been working in Kashmir for imparting skills to women and enabling them to become self employed. He assured Smt. Bhatt of full support to SEWA's initiatives in Kashmir and wished high success to all of SEWA's future endeavours.

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RAJNATH

he will also visit to frontier districts with top Army officials including the GoC 15 corps.

He added that the government had all intentions to solve the Kashmir issue.

Meanwhile in New Delhi Rajnath Singh said that while the government was ready to discuss the Jammu and Kashmir issue with all stakeholders, he would talk to anyone who comes to meet him during his visit to the state.

"I personally want that we talk to everyone. So whoever comes to meet me, I will talk to them," Rajnath said, adding that the government had all intentions to solve the Kashmir issue.

Earlier, the union Home Minister had assured that the security forces were working towards completely eliminating Pakistan-sponsored terror from Kashmir.

He had said that the government of India assures you that we will uproot Pakistan-sponsored terror from Jammu and Kashmir and establish peace there.

Singh had also said that after surgical strikes, there had been a decrease of 45 per cent in infiltration from Pakistan.

KILLING

to intervene and unite to stop the atrocities being committed on Rohingya Muslims.

Similar protests were also reported from several other places in Srinagar.

However, clashes erupt in Lal Chowk area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district today after the authorities disallowed the solidarity protest with Rohingya Muslims in the area.

The forces deployed on the roads used tear gas canisters to disperse the protesters who tried to carry out a protest against the Burmese action with Muslims there.

Meanwhile, reports said that the angry protesters chased the cops resulting in the injury to scores of policemen.

Meanwhile, police spokesman in a statement issued to KNS said that "today, soon after the culmination of Friday prayers, some miscreants from a mob started pelting stones on the police and security force deployment at Lal Chowk, Anantnag. These miscreants also set a police vehicle on fire. The miscreants were chased off by using mild force."

He said that six police personnel including two officers identified as DySP Hqrs Anantnag Mohd Yousuf, SI Junaid Ahmad, HC Gurdeep Singh, Ct. Shabir Ahmad, Ct. Bilal Ahmad and Ct. Javaid Ahmad were injured in this incident, who were shifted to hospital for treatment.

"A case was registered and investigation was set into motion to identify these miscreants," he added.

A senior Police official further informed KNS that the overall situation remained peaceful and under control throughout the day.

SIX

including two officers identified as DySP Hqrs Anantnag Shri Mohd Yousuf, SI Junaid Ahmad, HC Gurdeep Singh, Ct. Shabir Ahmad, Ct. Bilal Ahmad and Ct. Javaid Ahmad were injured in this incident, who were shifted to hospital for treatment", police adds.

A case was registered and investigation was set into motion to identify these miscreants.

FAROOQ

courage. He lived his life for the poor and disempowered and every battle he fought was a righteous battle to uphold the dignity of the State and its people. His vision of a diverse yet inclusive and united Jammu and Kashmir acted as a unifying bond in the State and today, in the face of divisive forces and their nefarious designs, it is imperative that we hold on to that vision and ensure nobody divides us", Dr. Farooq Abdullah said.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah said the assault on the State's special status was a challenge that should unite everyone who is sincere towards the people and is committed to defend the State's unique political and cultural identity. "The assault on Article 35-A is an assault on our soul and our identity and we should all unite to defend our honour. The powers that be are using myths and distortions to support their long-cherished goal of weakening J&K from within but in the end the truth always prevails. Article 35-A is not for any one region or religion of the State but is an article of faith and honour for all regions and religions. The party's outreach and awareness programme is being met with overwhelming response in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions and this is a proof of

our unity in standing up for our rights as one State and one people irrespective of our religion, region, caste or creed", Dr. Farooq Abdullah added.

National Conference Working President Omar Abdullah paid glowing tributes to Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah on his 35th Death Anniversary and said Sher-e-Kashmir's struggle to defend the State's political identity was ongoing in the face of recent challenges that we have to overcome as one people.

"Sher-e-Kashmir spent his life struggling for all of us and for our political aspirations and rights. Today as we commemorate his 35th Death Anniversary, we are confronted with a new assault on the State's special status both from within the State and from outside the State. Those who have always dreamt of weakening our special status are now in an alliance with a party from within our State and are using this Trojan Horse to the hill to divide us and rob us of our rights. The best tribute to Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah would be to fight against these forces with full political might and ensure their evil goals are nipped in the bud. National Conference will continue to reach out to the people in all the three regions of the State to evolve a strong and resolute consensus on the grassroots level", Omar Abdullah said.

Similar commemorative functions were held across the State in all the three regions where speakers paid glowing tributes to Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah. On this occasion, a delegation from Leh travelled to Srinagar to participate in the commemorative function here and paid tribute to Sher-e-Kashmir.

Senior National Conference Leaders including NC General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, Additional General Secretary Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani, Senior Leaders Abdul Rahim Rather, Chaudhary Muhammad Ramzan, Mian Altaf Ahmed, Mubarak Gul, Muhammad Akbar Lone, Sakina Ittoo, Sharif-ud-din Shariq, Shameema Firdous, Mir Saifullah, Muhammad Syed Akhoun besides other senior leaders, legislators and functionaries also participated in the commemorative function and spoke on the occasion after offering Fateha at Qaid Mazaar.

MEHBOOBA

to come up as an important centre of learning in the region and the State.

Chairing a meeting to review the functioning of the university here today, the Chief Minister appreciated the progress registered by the University ever since its establishment in 2005 by the then Chief Minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed. She noted with appreciation that the university has also come up as an important confluence of different cultures, regions and people.

Minister for Education, Syed Altaf Bukhari and Advisor to Chief Minister, Prof. Amitabh Mattoo were present in the meeting.

Mehbooba Mufti, who is also Chancellor of the University, asked the Vice Chancellor to undertake regular visits of the students of the University to institutes of higher learning in the country so that they inculcate a sense of competitiveness, craving for higher learning and capacity to absorb the fast changing advancements in teaching and research among themselves.

The Chief Minister enquired about the performance of the three Nursing Colleges set up by the University last year at Rajouri, Jammu and Kishtwar. She directed the University administration to start looking upto some medical institutes and industry for the job placement of the students of these colleges when they would complete the courses.

Mehbooba Mufti also directed construction of a guest house on the campus for which she directed release of Rs. Two crore as well. She asked the VC to get the work started on the project immediately. She also enquired about the pace of work on the girls hostel and other infra being raised on the campus.

The Chief Minister was informed that 17 national and international companies visited the University during 2016-17 and selected some 200 students during their campus recruitment programmes. It was also informed that during the last financial year the university launched 13 new academic programmes and four skill development courses on the campus.

Chief Secretary, B. B. Vyas; Vice Chancellor, BGSB University, Prof. Javed Mussarat; Principal Secretary, Finance, Navin Choudhary; Principal Secretary to Chief Minister,

Rohit Kansal; Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Dr. Asghar Samoon and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

CM

the Chief Minister asked the Chief Secretary to take up the matter with the authorities of Civil Aviation at the Centre and ask the airline authorities and Air Traffic Control to ensure that the same is not repeated again.

Mehbooba Mufti also asked the Principal Resident Commissioner at New Delhi to be stationed there during the period of Hajj flights and coordinate the timely and smooth arrival of Hajjies to the State.

The Chief Minister also directed the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir to get the airline and Airport authorities to ensure that in no case shall the flights carrying Hajjies back home be made to wait for landing or put to any inconvenience. She also stressed on a coordinated approach among all the agencies concerned to ensure that the pilgrims return back home in time and without any inconvenience.

Chief Secretary, B. B. Vyas; Director General of Police, Dr. S. P. Vaid; Principal Secretary, Home, R. K. Goyal; Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Rohit Kansal; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Baseer Ahmad Khan; IGP(CID), A G Mir and other officers were present in the meeting.

VEERI

have been put in place to facilitate hassle-free return of the pilgrims to their respective destinations.

The Hajjies expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made by the Government for their smooth travel and stay at the Holy places in Saudi Arabia.

Due to the cancellation of late evening flight yesterday, Air India today operated additional flights Hajjies today.

230 Hajjies arrived in the first Indian Airlines flight this morning.

DAK

doctors to prescribe generic drugs failing which strict disciplinary action will be taken against those violating the code.

The move was taken with a view to make medicines accessible to the poor as they are not able to buy the branded medicines.

"Clinician are fed and bred by Pharma companies for pushing patients to purchase branded medicines," Dr Nisar said. "From luxury cars, family trips to household items, Pharma companies provide doctors everything to prescribe these costly drugs."

This unholy nexus, he said, is misleading public and has generated a false perception regarding generics that prevents these drugs from getting popular. Even the chemists get huge margins for selling branded drugs.

Generic drugs are copycat versions of branded drugs and cost 80 to 90% less than branded medicines as manufacturers do not have to spend on development and promotion of the drug.

Lyrica, the drug used for nerve problems, costs Rs 842 for a strip of 14 tablets whereas its generic version costs a meager Rs 70. Similarly Glivec, the branded drug, used for treating blood cancer is sold at a monthly cost of Rs 1.2 lakh while its generic version is sold at Rs 8000 only.

Unless a legal framework is put in place, the push for generic medicines will remain only an idea without implementation, DAK said.

RASHEED

over the issue and not taking it to the public domain. NC being the oldest political party cannot run away by simply playing with the words but has to own the responsibility for the major erosions which have taken place all these decades. The records will reveal that either Farooq Sahab has changed his statements after regular intervals or Omer Abdullah has claimed that Farooq Sahab was misquoted, thus the party has ruined its credibility and helped New Delhi in maintaining the status-quo on political dispute". Er. Rasheed expressed surprise over Farooq Abdullah's comments that Central Govt. should find how money was pumped to weaken National Conference. He said "Why doesn't Farooq Abdullah disclose all that what he wants New Delhi to reveal. He owes a responsibility to the people of the state to disclose if any secret deals had taken place in New Delhi to provide an alternate political platform. If he doesn't do so then one has a reason to believe

that Farooq Abdullah is interested in only one thing that is how to maintain hegemony and supremacy of his dynasty over Kashmiris till doom's day". Er. Rasheed dared National Conference to revive the slogan of right to self determination and said that it would be the true tribute to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

RANA

thinking people should assert and isolate those dividing the state on regional and communal lines. He called for isolating such elements and working towards cementing the relations between various segments of the society.

The Provincial President hoped that with the joining of energetic young people, the National Conference will be further strengthened.

Mr Rana and senior leaders including Mr Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, Mr Surjeet Singh Slathia, Mr Rattan Lal Gupta, Th Kashmiri Singh and others profusely garlanded the new entrants and hoped that with their joining National Conference will be further strengthened at the grass roots level.

Those who joined included Mr Lal Din Mir, Mr Sabir Din Parray, Mr Shanawaz Wani, Mr Sajjad Ahmed Parray and Mr Shamas-ud-Din.

District President National Conference Mr Tanveer Ahmed Kichloo also greeted the new entrants and urged them to reach out to the people and seek redress to their grievances.

Later, senior functionaries of Kishtwar, along with the new entrants, held a meeting with the Provincial President and discussed the party matters.

CHINA

"China wants improved relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan," he said.

Speaking at the press conference, Asif, who was on his first official visit to Beijing as Foreign Minister, said Pakistan and China support each other on regional and international forums.

He said Islamabad has profoundly reviewed US Afghan policy on South Asia and thinks that there is no military solution to Afghan conundrum. Asif said talks and peace were the only solution to this lingering problem.

Asif thanked China for its "unflinching support for Pakistan" in the war against terrorism and its commitment to the country's progress and development.

He said relations between China and Pakistan were exemplary and were based on history, mutual trust, equality, harmony, non-interference and common agenda of socio-economic development.

On China's commitment to Pakistan's development, Asif called the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor a "flagship project" and vowed action against any threat to the project.

Asif reached Beijing on early Friday to hold discussions on regional and international strategies. Top officials of the Chinese Foreign Ministry welcomed Asif as he arrived at the airport accompanied by Pakistan's National Security Adviser Nasser Khan Janjua.

During his visit, Asif will also be holding important talks with other leaders of the country, speaking to a press briefing by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang.

SCAM

to hold an inquiry into the scam worth crores of rupees. The protesting employees allege that the manager level officials misled the inquiry team resulting in making Vaid a scape goat to save the skin of involved officials.

They alleged that manager level officials were trying to hush up the case which led to the suspension of lower rung employees to close the matter under inquiry. They demand a fair probe must be carried out to put forth the facts.

Pertinently PTK in its earlier report disclosed that some top officers of FCI of the rank of managers are involved in this, which has been proved by officials' documents.

Sources said that the order of suspension of an employee is out of the pressure from EDI vigilance Delhi. Reliable sources said that the FCI employees involved into the scam have a healthy political support and the favour of higher official.

Sources added that the inquiry team was formed in 2016 but a suspension of an employee is mere eyewash adding that several times a team from Delhi was sent to probe the matter but they were misguided by officials to hush up the matter.

Government unveils rules to tackle on-board disruptive and unruly behaviour by passengers, paves way for No Fly List

New Delhi, September 08: The Ministry of Civil Aviation today unveiled rules to tackle on-board disruptive and unruly behaviour by passengers. Briefing the media in New Delhi today, the Minister for Civil Aviation Shri P Ashok Gajapathi Raju said that the new rules will allow for the formation of a national, No Fly List of such unruly passengers. He said the promulgation of the No-Fly List in India is unique and first-of-its-kind in the world. Emphasizing the Government's commitment for ensuring safety, Shri Raju said that the concept of the No-Fly List is based on the concern for safety of passengers, crew and the aircraft, and not just on security threat. The DGCA has revised the relevant

sections of the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR Section 3, Series M, Part VI on "Handling of Unruly Passengers") to bring in a deterrent for passengers who engage in unruly behaviour on board aircrafts. The revision has been done in accordance with the provisions of Tokyo Convention 1963.

The revised CAR deals with unruly behavior of passenger on-board aircrafts. Unruly behavior of passengers at airport premises will be dealt with by relevant security agencies under applicable penal provisions. The revised CAR will be applicable for all Indian operators engaged in scheduled and non-scheduled air transport services, both domestic and international carriage of passen-

gers. The CAR would also be applicable to foreign carriers subject to compliance of Tokyo Convention 1963.

Also speaking on the occasion the Minister of State for Civil Aviation Shri Jayant Sinha said that the new rules have been promulgated after a lot of deliberation and consultation with all stakeholders. The focus has been on ensuring on board safety while maintaining an element of balance and safeguarding the interest of passengers, cabin crew and the airlines.

The revised CAR defines three categories of unruly behavior - Level 1 refers to behaviour that is verbally unruly, and calls for debarment upto 3 months; Level 2 indicates physical

unruliness and can lead to the passenger being debarred from flying for upto 6 months and Level 3 indicates life-threatening behaviour where the debarment would be for a minimum of 2 years.

The complaint of unruly behavior would need to be filed by the pilot-in-command. These complaints will be probed by an internal committee to be set up by the airline. The internal committee will have retired District & Sessions Judge as Chairman and representatives from a different scheduled airline, passengers' association/consumer association/retired officer of Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum as Members. As per the CAR provisions,

the internal committee will have to decide the matter within 30 days, and also specify the duration of ban on the unruly passenger. During the period of pendency of the enquiry the concerned airline may impose a ban on the said passenger. For every subsequent offence, the ban will be twice the period of previous ban.

The airlines will be required to share the No-Fly list, and the same will be available on DGCA website. The other airlines will not be bound by the No-Fly list of an airline. The No Fly Lists will have two components - unruly passengers banned for a certain period based on examination of the case by the internal committee; and those

persons perceived to be national security risk by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The latter component will, however, not be displayed on the DGCA website.

The revised CAR also contains appeal provisions against the ban. Aggrieved persons (other than those identified as security threat by MHA) may appeal within 60 days from the date of issue of order to the Appellate Committee constituted by MoCA comprising of retired Judge of a High Court of India as Chairman and representatives of passengers association/consumer association/retired officer of Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum and airlines as Members.

Swachhathon 1.0 receives massive response from young innovators of the country

New Delhi, September 08: Swachhathon 1.0, the first ever Swachh Bharat Hackathon, was organized by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to crowd source solutions to some of the Sanitation and Hygiene challenges faced in various parts of the country. The Ministry invited innovators from schools and colleges, institutions, start-ups and others to come up with exciting, innovative, novel and viable solutions to the following 6 challenges: a) Monitoring usage of toilets

b) Triggering behaviour change

c) Toilet Technologies in Difficult terrains

d) Working solutions for maintenance and operations of school toilets.

e) Technological solutions for safe disposal of menstrual waste

f) Solution for early decomposition of faecal matter

The hackathon was open for all (including international entries), and was hosted on the innovate.mygov.in portal.

The Hackathon received a massive response from across the country, with 3053 entries received overall with 633 entries in triggering behaviour

change, 229 in early decomposition of faecal matter, 750 in monitoring usage of toilets, 552 in maintenance and operations of school toilets, 405 in Technological solutions for safe disposal of menstrual waste and 484 in Toilet Technologies in Difficult terrains categories.

The selected finalists gave a short presentation showcasing their prototype/strategy before a jury consisting of stalwarts and experts from the Sanitation sector. The Grand Jury for the final comprised Smt Naina Lal Kidwai, Shri Bindeshwar Pathak, and the Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Parameswaran Iyer. The evaluation was based on an evaluation framework designed by the Ministry that took into account the originality of the solution, utility, cost-effectiveness, ease of maintenance, sustainability, scalability and environment-friendliness.

The winners of the Swachhathon were awarded by the Ministers of State, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri SS Ahluwalia and Shri Ramesh Jigajinagi. Speaking at the awards ceremony, Shri Ahluwalia, expressed his pleasure at see-

ing the young innovators who had participated in the Swachhathon. He said that the Swachhathon was a new concept adopted by the Ministry because linking government programmes with technology was the need of the hour. He acknowledged the good progress made by the Swachh Bharat Mission so far and said that he was sure that initiatives like the Swachhathon would go a long way in increasing involvement of innovators and the youth in the programme. Shri Jigajinagi spoke about the need for innovative approaches to take the Swachhathon movement forward in the country, and congratulated all participants who contributed ideas to the hackathon. He expressed hope that the ideas coming out of the Swachhathon would help lend innovation and renewed vigour to this citizens' movement.

Speaking at the ceremony, Secretary, MDWS, Shri Parameswaran Iyer, spoke about the progress made by the Swachh Bharat Mission so far. He mentioned that it was very encouraging that sanitation coverage in the country has gone up from 39% at the launch of the SBM

to 67% today with 2.35 lakh villages having been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF), and that this progress had been verified by third-party independent agencies as well. He said that the ideas presented at Swachhathon would be crucial to help meet some of the special challenges being faced on the field in some parts of the country. He urged the innovators who participated in the Swachhathon to share these ideas to the Mashelkar Committee of the Ministry so that they may be implemented at scale in the country. He encouraged all participants by reminding them that the logo of Swachh Bharat Mission itself was a crowdsourced idea, which underscores the power than an individual's idea may have in taking the country forward.

Based on the cumulative assessment by the jury, the winners were announced for each category earlier today in the Capital. The final event was organized in collaboration with AICTE and supported by KPMG, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Water Aid, Rotary India Literacy Mission, HMEI, Accenture and Dettol Banega Swachh India.

Joint Committee on The Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017

New Delhi, September 08: The Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017 has been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee of both the Houses, under the Chairpersonship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, M.P for examination and presenting a Report to the Parliament. The Bill seeks to provide for the resolution of certain categories of financial service providers in distress; the deposit insurance to consumers of certain categories of financial services; designation of systemically important financial institutions; and

establishment of a Resolution Corporation for protection of consumers of specified service providers and of public funds for ensuring the stability and resilience of the financial system and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The proposed legislation together with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 is expected to provide a comprehensive resolution mechanism for the economy.

2. It has been decided by the Joint Committee to seek views and suggestions from various stakeholders and

public at large on the provisions of the aforesaid Bill. "The Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017" has been uploaded on Lok Sabha website http://164.100.47.4/BillsTexts/LSBillTexts/Asintroduced/165_2017_LS_Eng.pdf

3. All those desirous of submitting their views/suggestions to the Committee may send two copies of their written Memoranda/suggestions either in English or Hindi on the Bill to Director (CB-I & JCs), Lok Sabha Secretariat, Room No. 339, Third Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi-

110001 or Fax at 23092092 or e-mail them at jcfrdi-iss@sansad.nic.in by 29th September, 2017.

4. The Memoranda submitted to the Committee would form part of the records of the Committee and would be treated as "Confidential" and not circulated to anyone, as such an act would constitute a breach of privilege of the Committee.

5. Those who wish to appear before the Committee, besides submitting Memoranda, are also requested to specifically indicate so. However, the Committee's decision in this regard shall be final.

MoS DoNER Dr Jitendra Singh to inaugurate two-day "North East Calling" festival tomorrow

New Delhi, September 08: The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh will inaugurate the "North East Calling" festival, here tomorrow. The two-day "North East Calling" event is being organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India under its 'Destination North East series' of this year. The purpose of the event is to promote the art, culture, heritage, cuisine, handicrafts, business and tourism of North East India.

The two-day event will be held at India Gate lawns from 11.00 AM to 10.00 PM. The entry to the venue for the general public is free.

The event will include Music Festival for bands of North-East, Cultural Night for Dances of North-East, Handloom Demo Show presenting the clothes of North-East, Exhibitions of activities being undertaken in NE, stalls by various Central Government ministries

showcasing the works being undertaken by them in the region, stalls by State Governments offering opportunities in their states, stalls for Sale of products of NERAMAC and NEHDC, variety of food stalls including sale of delicacies of NE, contests for all sections of young population to expose them to NE, B2B Summits on Food Processing, Tourism and Start-up opportunities in the North-East. The highlights of the event for the public will be Music Festival, Cultural festival, and live band performances.

Dy CM for measures to augment power supply, reducing T&D losses

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 08: Asking the officers to speed up the process of implementation of various initiatives in the power sector, the Deputy Chief Minister, Dr Nirmal Singh today said these initiatives would ensure sufficient amount of electricity is generated and provided to the consumers.

The Deputy Chief Minister was addressing officers during third meeting of Management and Finance Subcommittee of Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited (JKSPDC).

Principal Secretary Finance, Navin K Choudhary, Principal Secretary to CM, Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary PDD Dheeraj Gupta, Managing Director JKSPDC Shah Faesal and other senior officers were present in the meeting.



Dr Singh said that the Government has undertaken a multi-pronged strategy to ensure more generation of power besides, reducing the transmission and distribution losses. He said the officers of various Departments should work in coordination to ensure

timely completion of various projects undertaken in the hydroelectric sector. The Deputy Chief Minister said that adequate funds have been provided under the Prime Minister's Development Package to ensure augmentation and upgradation of the

power sector in the State and we have to ensure that these funds are judiciously used.

The meeting also discussed the issue of expediting hydropower projects in the State and also came up with various suggestions and measures regarding the same.

The meeting also discussed various issues including the human resource issues of the corporation.

Later, a delegation of JKSPDC met the Deputy Chief Minister and apprised him of various issues confronting them. Among other issues, the Delegation sought regularization of their services.

Dr Singh gave a patient hearing to them and assured the delegation that the issues projected by them would be taken up and addressed in a time bound manner.

Naeem inspects road construction work at Narwal

Minister stresses on strict adherence to quality

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 07: Minister for Public Works, Naeem Akhtar today exhorted upon the executing agencies to strictly adhere to the quality parameters in the execution of development works.

He also stressed on government functionaries to maintain added transparency and accountability in utilization of resources including public money.

The Minister was interacting with Public works department functionaries during his visit to Narwal area to inspect progress of ongoing construction work of Rigid pavement road from Railway crossing to FCI Godowan Narwal.

The Minister was accompanied by Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Sudheer Shah besides senior engineers of concerned departments.

The Minister was informed that 1565 mtr Railway crossing to FCI Godowan Narwal road would be completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.53 crore by M/S TRB Infratech Pvt. Ltd.

Naeem Akhtar said the government has taken a decision to construct more roads in



the State with cement concrete which would last up to 40 years. He reiterated the resolve of the government to improve living condition of the people of the state by providing all basic amenities at their doorstep and fast track development of each and every area of the state.

The Minister said that the completion of Railway crossing to FCI Godowan Narwal road would facilitate the tankers and other heavy vehicles which plying on this road every day. He also emphasized upon the engineers to make optimum use of funds and ensure transparency.

Zulfkar calls on Dr Jitendra Singh, discusses developmental issues

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 08: The Jammu & Kashmir Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Information & Public Relations, Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali called on the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh here today and discussed wide range of issues related

to development as well as some of the immediate problems faced by the border districts.

Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali gave Dr Jitendra Singh an update about the progress of various Central schemes and projects in his Ministry as well as in other sectors in general. He said that with the support of Union Government, the development activity has received an impetus and as the situation gradually returns to normalcy, the benefits of development will be realized



in full measure. He also gave a resume of the various flagship programmes including the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. He also requested for initiating the work on Rajouri-Poonch railway line. He also made a plea for increasing the employment opportunities for the people of the region.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that he would put forward the issues raised by him before the concerned Ministries, like Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport

& Highways, however, he suggested that the State Government should get into a more active mode and try to fast-track the works which have already been approved and for which even the funds have been sanctioned by the Central Government.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Union Government is liberal in offering all kinds of support, both financial and otherwise, to the states of Jammu & Kashmir and North-east, but it is up to the respec-

tive State Governments to make the best use of this patronage.

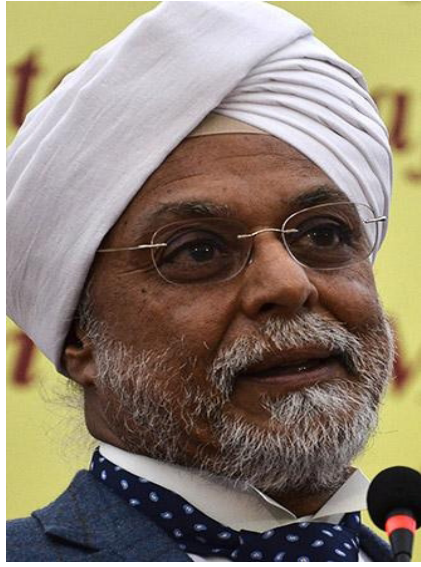
Emphasizing the need to fast-track construction of roads sanctioned through Central Roads Fund (CRF) by the Government of India and rural electrification under "Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana" (DDUGJY), Dr Jitendra Singh said that J&K Government should expedite work to achieve the fixed timelines and targets set to be achieved by 2019.

Time and Us Editorial

THE NEXT SUPERCYCLE?

Global commodities have witnessed a bull run over the last 12 months, reviving hopes of the beginning of the next supercycle in commodity prices. It is too premature to predict massive price inflation, reminiscent of the commodities boom of the 2000s. But the present rally seems driven more by easy money than anything else. The current price rise began with the election of Donald Trump as U.S. President, which led to hopes of increased public investment in infrastructure projects. Signs of a revival of the global economy and curbs on production imposed by the Chinese government to tackle pollution also led speculators to bid up commodities in anticipation of inadequate supply. Aluminium prices hit a record six-year high last month, while commodities such as copper, zinc and nickel recorded multi-year highs recently. Many of these commodities have risen in the range of 30% to 40% over the last year. It is notable that the end of the previous commodities supercycle in 2014, followed by a steep fall in prices in the next two years, coincided with the slowdown in the Chinese economy. Signs of economic recovery, driven substantially by stimulus investment in Chinese infrastructure, have thus had a significantly favourable impact on commodity prices for now. Oil alone has been an outlier to the recent trend, with the U.S. shale industry having destroyed OPEC's strong control over supply. The recent run-up in commodity prices, however, can only be partially explained by structural changes in demand and supply.

A vital clue to the rest of the story lies in how commodity prices have performed vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar. The dollar strengthened in the last quarter of 2016 even as commodity prices shot up due to market euphoria after the election of Mr. Trump. This was in direct contrast to the historical relationship between the dollar and commodity prices, which saw a stronger dollar associated with weaker commodity prices. The new relationship between the dollar and commodities continued into the first half of 2017; this time around, however, the dollar weakened by as much as 5% while commodity prices dropped in tandem. The earlier market euphoria around a recovery in commodities demand backed by a stronger economy had died out pretty fast. In fact, the first half of 2017 turned out to be a particularly ugly one for commodities with a sharp drop in prices. Consequently, even after the recent boost in prices, the Bloomberg Commodity Index currently continues to trade lower year-to-date. The last few months, however, have witnessed a recovery in the commodity index, along with the historic relationship between the dollar and commodities being restored. In fact, the U.S. dollar index has now dropped by almost 10% since the beginning of the year. This might suggest that the current rally in commodities may be largely driven by a weakening dollar rather than any substantial change in global economic outlook.



In a landmark verdict on the issue of gender discrimination faced by Muslim women in divorce cases, the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench comprising the Chief Justice J.S. Khehar, and Justices Kurian Joseph, Rohinton Fali Nariman, Uday Umesh Lalit and S. Abdul Nazeer, on August 22, recorded dissenting opinions and by a 3:2 majority set aside the practice of "talaq-e-bidat", that is, instant triple talaq.

Chief Justice Khehar and Justice Nazeer dissented, saying the practice is part of Islam, and asked Parliament to bring about its reform through legislation. The bench heard the petitioners and the respondents for five days during the summer vacation and went through voluminous written submissions made by the parties on the various nuances of the case.

Justice Kurian Joseph agreed with the Chief Justice that the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, did not regulate triple talaq and, therefore, cannot be tested on the anvil of Article 14 guaranteeing equality. However, Justice Kurian Joseph was inclined to agree with Justice Nariman that the Act could be challenged on the grounds of arbitrariness. Justice Kurian Joseph also differed with the Chief Justice that triple talaq should be considered an integral part of Islam, and, therefore, he disagreed that it enjoyed the protection of Article 25, which guarantees freedom of religion. Justice Kurian Joseph's swing vote in favour of Justices Nariman and Lalit, therefore, tilted the verdict against instant triple talaq.

There were five writ petitions before the Supreme Court, all filed by women victims of unilateral and instant triple talaq: Shayara Bano, Afreen Rehman, Gulshan Parveen, Ishrat Jahan and Atiya Sabri. Each of the five petitioners had suffered intense mental and physical abuse at the hands of their husbands and in-laws before they received the instant triple talaq. The lead petition, filed by Shayara Bano, a resident of Udhamsingh Nagar in Uttarakhnad, sought a direction declaring the practices of talaq-e-bidat, nikah halala and polygamy under

INSTANT TALAQ ILLEGAL

Muslim personal law illegal, unconstitutional, and as being violative of Articles 14, 15, 21 and 25 of the Constitution. Shayara Bano has two children from her marriage, and was divorced by triple talaq by her husband. She also alleged torture and harassment by her husband and in-laws.

Shayara Bano was represented by the Supreme Court advocate Balaji Srinivasan, who first understood the enormous potential of her case for reform of Islam through legal means, as she had the requisite locus standi to challenge the unfair practice, having suffered injury herself.

Ishrat Jahan's husband took away their four kids aged 7, 9, 10 and 12 after saying talaq, talaq, talaq over phone to her. The husband, in the mean time, married another woman. In her petition, Ishrat Jahan challenged the constitutionality of Section 2 of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, which sought to recognise and validate talaq, nikah halala and polygamy, as void and unconstitutional, as such practices were not only repugnant to the basic dignity of a woman as an individual but also violative of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15, 21 and 25 of the Constitution.

Gulshan Parveen, despite her suffering, wanted restoration of conjugal rights, to ensure that her son grew up in a family. Atiya Sabri, given triple talaq by her husband through a letter to her brother, sought justice for the violence she was subjected to by her husband. Afreen Rehman, an MBA from Jaipur, who was divorced through instant triple talaq via speed post, sought to annul the unfair means adopted by her husband.

How it all began
The challenge to instant triple talaq arose before the Supreme Court in the most unlikely circumstances in a case heard and decided by a division bench on October 16, 2015. This was the case about a Hindu woman succeeding in the Bombay High Court in her plea of retrospective application of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005. The Supreme Court, while disagreeing with the High Court, held that for application of the Act in a pending case both the daughter and her father should be alive on the date of the amendment.

After disposing of this case, the court felt the urge to reform Islam and purge it of discrimination against women because it took note of counsel's observations on triple talaq being discriminatory, which were unrelated to the main issue before the bench.

After going through the existing case law on the subject, the bench directed the registration of a public interest litigation (PIL) case and putting it up before the appropriate bench as per orders of the Chief Justice of India. This came to be known as *Suo Motu Civil Writ Petition 2 of 2015*, and titled as *In Re: Muslim Women's Quest For Equality vs Jamia Ulma-I-Hind* (respondents).

Centre's response

Although most of the petitioners had made the Central government a respondent in the case, they must have been relieved that it supported their prayers. In its counter-affidavit, the Central government submitted that gender equality and the dignity of women were non-negotiable, overarching constitutional values and could brook no compromise. Women must be equal participants and partners in the development and advancement of the world's largest democracy and any practice that denudes the status of a citizen of India merely by virtue of the religion she happens to profess is an impediment to that larger goal, the government told the court.

The government further submitted that these practices could not be regarded as an essential or integral part of religion and would not, therefore, automatically be entitled to protection under Article 25. Even if such practices are considered integral to or essentially part of religion, Article 25 is qualified on grounds of morality, and morality would denote contemporary constitutional morality, which endeavours to strive for gender equality, dignity of women and the abandonment of practices which may be considered patriarchal, anachronistic or retrograde, the government reasoned before the court. The majority judges agreed with this reasoning.

Besides, the government relied on the fact that a large number of Muslim countries, which have overwhelmingly large Muslim populations and where Islam is the state religion, have undertaken reforms and regulated divorce law and polygamy. These include Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Indonesia, Egypt, Algeria and Iran. Since theocratic states have undertaken such reforms, it cannot be held that such practices are integral to religion, the government reasoned.

Interveners & impleaders
The National Commission for Women, Zakia Soman and Dr Noorjehan Safia Niaz of the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA) were among those who intervened to seek directions against triple talaq. Muslim Mahila Research Kendra, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Hyderabad, intervened to oppose any interference with Muslim personal law.

The Forum For Awareness Of National Security (FANS), an NGO, filed an intervention application, along with three women, Lubna Asif, Naseema Bano and Shahnaz Afzal, who suffered discrimination on account of triple talaq.

Impleading petitions were also filed by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), which submitted that Muslim personal law was a cultural issue, which was inextricably interwoven with religion. The board was, however, willing to restrict the practice without judicial intervention. A similar application was preferred by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, which claimed to be

working for the protection of Islamic culture, tradition and heritage.

The well-known scholar Flavia Agnes appeared for Majlis Manch, an NGO working for the rights of women in Mumbai. She pointed out that Muslim women preferred to approach informal, non-judicial fora rather than judicial fora to dissolve their marriage. She also disclosed that in reality a large number of women were simply abandoned without any formal declaration of divorce. Women find the procedure of formal courts expensive, long-drawn and contentious, she told the court.

Indira Jaising, appearing for the Centre for Study of Society and Secularism, told the court that the impact of unilateral triple talaq was to render the wife instantly homeless, being driven out of the matrimonial home. It also renders her vulnerable to economic destitution, driving her to lengthy litigation for a just and fair maintenance.

N ACCOUNT OF THE LEGAL BATTLE IN THE TRIPLE TALAQ CASE, WHICH BEGAN IN THE SUPREME COURT IN 2015 ON THE ISSUE OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION FACED BY MUSLIM WOMEN IN DIVORCE CASES. BY V. VENKATESAN

FROM VIEW TO VISION

THE circuit of an artist's transformation is the inscape of a time-space that turns a view into a vision. "Hey Ram" (2013), an S.H. Raza painting that forms a part of the non-representational series "Parikrama: Around Gandhi", reveals how this reflective dimension might be realised in a material medium. In the said work, the phrase "Hey Ram" in Devanagari script appears on a murky background which could be the sky, the sea, or the pervasive spirit of the dead. The two words indeed look like a last utterance, not yet separated from the poignant act of living. They meditatively stay against a slanting wall of mud-brown paint, a field transitioning from wetness to dryness—it could be the earth or sheer human blood.

Raza saw Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi at a public meeting in Mandla, his hometown in Madhya Pradesh, when he was eight years old. There was something about that view which transcended the fleeting moment and continued to grow with the child as he took to drawing a few years later and went on to study art in Nagpur, Bombay, and then Paris, where he later set up his studios, married the French artist Janine Mongillat and lived for 60 years. Between 1950 and 2010, whenever he came to Delhi, he unfailingly visited Gandhi's samadhi at Rajghat. As he moved to India from France in 2011, he was still reading Gan-

dhi, now distilling his words into a charged visual idiom. Soon, he began to work on the "Parikrama" series, which included works like "Sanmati", "Satya", "Shanti", "Peed Parai", and "Hey Ram". When the series was exhibited at the Vadehra Art Gallery in early 2014, things were coming a full circle for the nonagenarian artist whose creative life had taken a definitive turn in the wake of India's independence.

In 1947 Raza co-founded the Bombay Progressive Artists' Group (PAG), along with K.H. Ara, F.N. Souza, M.F. Husain, H.A. Gade and S.K. Bakre. They wanted to break free from the influences of European Realism and the revivalist nationalism of the Bengal school and to create an avant-garde artistic idiom for free India to engage with the international art scene. Towards this, they drew from the works of Paul Cezanne, Paul Gauguin, Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky, as well as from the post-Expressionist, Cubist, and Expressionist methods and styles practised in different parts of the world. Coupled with these influences was the direct encouragement of Walter Langhammer, Rudy von Leyden and Emanuel Schlessinger who, through their regular salons, familiarised the young artists in Bombay with the works of Central European artists such as Oskar Kokoschka and Egon Schiele. It was indeed Independent India's tryst with

its artistic destiny.

All the above inspirations brought a marked difference to young Raza's artistic practice as it was until his first solo exhibition in 1946. In one of his earliest paintings, "View from Malabar Hill", we find the artist capturing the aerial view of the curvaceous seascape and sporadic flora punctuating high-rises. There are bright reds and yellows in the frame, and the brush strokes are lively. Yet, the brooding blues are what we are driven to take home. The dialectic of connection-disconnection with the other was already intriguing Raza, but it had not been formed into a quest. It was an encounter with Henri Cartier-Bresson which played a crucial role in Raza, changing his stylistic trajectory during this time. When they met in Srinagar in 1948, Cartier-Bresson told him: "You are a talented painter. But your work needs one element—that is construction."

Soon, mindful of Cartier-Bresson's remarks and heeding Walter Langhammer's advice, Raza was thinking about construction. "Ultimately, in 1949-50, I was already constructing pictures with a lot of geometry in them," he reminisced years later. Yashodhara Dalmia, in her book *The Making of Modern Indian Art: The Progressives* (2001), says about this phase of the artist: "The houses in a painting like 'Moonlit Night' are geometrically arranged and create a pattern

of colour and shapes." But, of course, it was not a question of appearance alone. Raza now had to confront his own engagement with art and figure out what it truly meant for him.

Partition was indeed an impetus for the PAG's enterprise to create a new epoch of freedom. And for Raza, it meant more than an occupational cause. The year India became independent, he lost his mother and was separated from his siblings, who chose Pakistan over India. The presence of the "other" in oneself, and the othering of one's own presence had thus come to be a key problematic for him as an individual, a social being and an artist. This question acquired starker dimensions as he moved to Paris.

It was Cartier-Bresson who told Raza he would benefit from studying Cezanne. Determined to go to Paris, he started taking French lessons and secured a three-year scholarship offered by the French government to attend the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. France tantalised him with many dazzling images of exteriority, and he promptly captured in his colours its rolling countryside and charming village architecture, the tall church and the inky sky. But his life in Paris also reawakened in him his early bonding with the practices of Cézanne, Klee and Kandinsky during his PAG time in Bombay with his peers, the co-founders

of the group as well as other brilliant artists who joined later, like Ram Kumar, Akbar Padamsee, Manishi Dey and Tyeb Mehta.

Now Raza became keenly aware of a pitch-black sun hanging like a hard spot of unknowing in his horizon even as the land spread itself out around him, stunning him with its order and radiance. And, soon, into the intensely geometric "Haut de Cagnes" (1951) he let this dark sun make its poignant entry.

In just two years, the artist's subjective unknowing in "Haut de Cagnes" acquires cosmic significance in "Black Sun" (1953), whose eponymous protagonist nonchalantly introduces into the dark universe, of which it is itself a part, a plane of luminosity which resembles a child's drawing sheet. The man-made structures within and without this radiant space exist almost accidentally in relation to the scale and feel of the cosmos.

It may be noted here that his first decade in France was the only time in his career when he turned to figuration. Experimenting with new media, he did some nudes and a few paintings with human figures. This does not mean that the human was irrelevant or negligible for him. But he simply could not get stuck to the figure because his artistic enterprise and philosophical quest were to figure out the larger connections that

made it possible for light to remain a particle and wave at once, for a human to be in the fruitful moment of becoming and yet partake in the cosmic calm of simply being, and for a dot of space to be a visual image and simultaneously be an all-encompassing consciousness.

With his artistic aspiration, Raza began to grow unhappy and restless by the 1970s. He wanted to experience a deep authenticity in his work by moving away from "plastic art". His trips to India during this time took him to the caves of Ajanta and Ellora, to Benaras, and to the tribal spaces of Gujarat and Rajasthan. These journeys made him see that the living India was a multicoloured and continuous space—its plural voices marvellously circumnavigated all nationalist impositions of integration by interweaving their distinctive traditions, practices and stories into a spontaneous sense of camaraderie. And in medias res Raza saw light slowly turning his stony black sun of unknowing into an orb of lightness. He turned, and called the vision, the Bindu. The Bindu came to him in the middle of his career in 1980. Until then, he was evidently quite torn between his own blurred inner vision of the universe, of which he was convinced he and his fellow beings were only a minuscule part, and its immense exteriority luring him to represent its magnificent view as his eyes viewed it.

Modi turned black money of thieves to white through demonetisation: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI: Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi on Friday alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were busy dividing society in their quest to retain power.

Only the Congress ideology could take on the BJP and the RSS, he said at a party rally.

Gandhi also took potshots at the Modi-led government on demonetisation and described the exercise as a total flop. "Entire India knows that it turned the black money of India's thieves to white," the Congress leader said.

"First they said demonetisation would result in checking terror. Then they said demonetisation would check black

money. The reality is that everyone in India knows that 90% of black money is in real estate, gold," he said. "We don't know the reason why Modi was after the cash of farmers, poor labourers and housewives." Gandhi also took a dig at RBI, saying it took almost a year to announce that 99% of the scrapped currency had been returned to the coffers. We had asked in Parliament about the amount of black money unearthed in the demonetisation exercise. It took RBI a year to say that 99% of old money came back in the coffers," the Congress leader said.

He blamed the government for GDP preaching "a low of 4.5%". "Who will own responsibility for this? The prime minister is



responsible for this," Gandhi said. According to Gandhi, anger was building up with the BJP and Modi engaged in dividing society.

"In Haryana, they pit Jat vs non Jat and in Maharashtra they create a Maratha vs non Maratha divide. Their only goal is that BJP and RSS should be in power," Gandhi alleged. "They speak of fight against corruption but they purchase people (legislators) in Goa and Manipur and also try to purchase people in Gujarat."

He said the BJP and RSS will fight one or two elections and after that it will be the Congress which will be in power.

The Congress leader also criticised the prime minister

over his promises of providing jobs to youth. "Modi had said he would give jobs to two crore youth every year after becoming the prime minister.

Two years ago, we were told that just one lakh youth had got jobs and last year the figure was zero," Gandhi claimed. "Their minister informed that the unemployment figure is at the lowest... in the last several years," he said.

Commenting on GST, Gandhi said the Modi government was claiming credit but it was the Congress which initiated it. "There should have been one slab, as against five now. Also, GST should have been capped at 18%, against 28% now in the highest slab," he added.

Chinese national held for diamond theft dies in Thane jail



THANE: A 48-year-old Chinese national arrested for alleged theft of diamonds died in the Thane central jail, a prison official said.

The Vanrai police in adjoining Mumbai had arrested Jiang Changqing and another Chinese national Deng Xiaobo (45) on August 1 for allegedly stealing two diamonds worth Rs 36.5 lakh from an exhibition centre in suburban Goregaon.

Both of them were subsequently remanded in judicial custody and lodged in the Thane central jail.

On August 29, while having lunch with Xiaobo in the prison, Changqing collapsed all of a sudden, Thane jail superintendent Nitin Waychal told reporters on Thursday.

He was rushed to the jail hospital and then taken to Thane civil hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, he said.

The jail authorities and the district police later informed the Chinese Embassy about the death, Waychal said.

The deceased had no previous medical history, he said. The autopsy was done at Mumbai's J J Hospital where the body was handed over to Changqing's family members on Wednesday, the official said.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel had nabbed Changqing and Xiaobo at the Mumbai international airport minutes before they were about to board a flight to Osaka in Japan on July 31, police earlier said.

The duo, who had arrived in the city on July 30, visited an international jewellery exhibition at NESCO ground in Mumbai's Goregaon area on July 31 afternoon. They engaged the sales executive at one of the stalls in conversation, asking several questions, and managed to steal diamonds on display by replacing it with fake ones.

The stall owner noticed the theft after the duo had left. The police then alerted CISF officials at the airport. The duo had cleared immigration checks when the CISF personnel apprehended them, police had said. The police interrogated the accused for about seven hours with the help of an interpreter, and recovered the stolen diamonds, they said.

Subsequently, both were arrested on August 1 under relevant IPC sections for cheating and theft.

Delhi HC refuses to restrain Arnab Goswami from airing news on death of Pushkar

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court today refrained from passing any interim order restraining TV journalist Arnab Goswami and his news channel Republic TV from airing any news or debate in connection with Shashi Tharoor's wife Sunanda Pushkar's death case.

Justice Manmohan issued notice to Goswami and the channel and sought their responses on Tharoor's plea to restrain them from allegedly misreporting the contents of court proceedings related to Pushkar's death. The court said the matter required detailed hearing and only after that, a detailed order could be passed on it. It also observed that

the Congress leader has not shown any law by which investigation cannot be done by the journalist.

"Show me that after the first date of hearing (May 29), he (Goswami) has called you a murderer," the judge said, adding "I cannot dictate what should be the editorial policy of a news channel".

"Not (any interim order) at this point," the court said and directed Goswami, Republic TV to file their responses with regard to Tharoor's application seeking direction not to make any defamatory publication against him in any manner.

The Congress leader has alleged that after the last date of hearing on

August 16, the journalist and his channel continued to indulge in misreporting and had broadcast an 8-hour programme on September 4 related to his wife's death.

Tharoor moved a fresh application through advocate Gaurav Gupta in the pending Rs 2 crore civil defamation suit filed against Goswami and the Republic TV for allegedly making defamatory remarks against him while airing news on the death of Pushkar.

Senior advocate Sandeep Sethi, appearing for Goswami and the channel, opposed Tharoor's fresh application saying "we have not made any accusations while airing the

news." Pushkar was found dead in a suite of a five-star hotel in South Delhi on the night of January 17, 2014. The matter is still under investigation.

In their affidavit filed before the high court, the journalist and the channel said they have neither "condemned" Tharoor, nor suggested that he was involved in the death of his wife Sunanda Pushkar.

They have also denied that Tharoor was called "the killer" of his wife by him or the channel, as alleged by the Congress MP.

The politician has alleged that despite assurances given in the court on May 29 by the counsel for Gos-

wami and Republic TV, they were engaged in "defaming and maligning" him. The Congress leader had also sought direction to them that they should not mention the expression "murder of Sunanda Pushkar" anywhere, since it is yet to be established by a competent court whether her death was "murder".

The court had on May 29 said the journalist and his news channel could put out stories stating the facts related to the investigation of Pushkar's death, but could not call the Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram a "criminal". It had also told their counsel to reduce the rhetoric.

A tweet to Sushma Swaraj brings Tripura man safely home from Saudi Arabia

AGARTALA: A call for help from a 34-year-old man from Tripura to external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj on Twitter worked and he was back home within days after he complained about being ill treated by his employer in Saudi Arabia.

Gopal Das, who went to Saudi Arabia nearly two years ago for a job, landed at Agartala Airport on Thursday.

The resident of Barpathari village in South Tripura District claimed he had not received his salary for the last six months and was tortured by his employer when he asked to be paid. Das said he had to take shelter in a garage after he was kicked out of the house last week, after which he called his wife and told her about his situation.

His wife brought the matter to local Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Ranjit Sarkar, who in turn sought the party's media cell coordinator Russell Sinha's help. Sinha suggested Das forward him a video talking about his plight and requesting the Prime Minister's help to



rescue him. Sinha tweeted Das' video crying for help on August 31 tagging Swaraj and Prime Minister Narendra Modi among others.

The Indian embassy in Riyadh responded to Sinha's tweet and asked him for Das' phone number. After verifying the contents of the video, the embassy contacted Das and rescued him. Swaraj, who is followed by over nine million people, has earned praise in the past for helping Indians abroad, who reach out to her through Twitter. Swaraj's external affairs ministry has launched a "Twitter

Seva' to ensure timely, transparent and large-scale response to citizens' tweets in real time. The service is being supported by 198 Twitter accounts of Indian missions abroad and 29 regional passport offices. Swaraj was named in the Global Thinkers of 2016 list compiled by the Foreign Policy magazine. The magazine recalled how, when around 10,000 Indian workers in Saudi Arabia faced a "food crisis" earlier this year due to job losses, Swaraj tweeted about the issue to her followers on the social media website.

Next CPI(M) congress to be held in Hyderabad

NEW DELHI: At the end of two-day Polit Bureau meeting that concluded on Thursday, the CPI (M) announced dates for the next party congress which is to be held on 18-22 April next year at Hyderabad, the last one before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Crucial "political tactical" line of the party is expected to be announced at the end of five-day party congress.

This will decide CPI (M)'s position in any pre or post-poll alliance of the Opposition parties. Preliminary discussions on the issue were held on Thursday.

According to at least two Polit Bureau members, no draft resolution was firmed up. The Polit Bureau for now has only finalised timetable leading up to Party Congress. "A draft resolution will be ready only by third week of October when next Central Committee meeting is scheduled," a PB member told The Hindu.

The draft resolution will then be circulated to all party units. Before the Congress, any member or even a Left sympathiser can move an amendment to the draft resolution. It will finally be passed in the Congress.

CPI (M) can not be part of any Opposition alliance, unless the present political line is amended.

The party, is amenable to be part of any anti-communal platform, however it can not have an electoral alliance with any other party especially the Congress.

This political stand has often put the party in a tricky position. Quoting this very line, the party stayed away from Rashtriya Janata Dal's "BJP Bhagao, Desh Bachao" rally in Patna.

More importantly, this position was also one of the key reasons to not re-nominate party General Secretary Sitaram Yechury to Rajya Sabha from West Bengal.

Congress support was crucial for Mr Yechury's re-election and would have gone against the party's stated position.

Rohingya Issue: The CPI (M) on Thursday said Rohingyas should be treated as refugees and those who have crossed over to India should not be pushed back or deported.

"Unfortunately, the issue affecting lakhs of people in Myanmar who in the face of widespread attacks in their country have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh and India did not find place in the talks between the Indian Prime Minister and Myanmar leaders," a Polit Bureau statement said.

NEET: On the issue of NEET examinations PB said that government should consider opinion of people of Tamil Nadu in face of widespread protest.

Alphons made BJP in-charge of poll-bound Meghalaya

NEW DELHI: Four days after being made the Tourism Minister of the BJP government, bureaucrat-turned politician K.J. Alphons has been given the additional responsibility of being the BJP in-charge of Meghalaya, a Christian majority State, where Assembly elections are due early next year.

Mr. Alphons' assignment, who had unambiguously stated that people from Kerala would continue to have beef, is meant to send a political signal in the State that had seen a spate of resignations over the beef ban issue. "I welcome the move by Prime Minister Modi to induct a Christian into his Council of Ministers. At the same time, he has been made in-charge of Meghalaya and it sends the right signal in our State,"

said Conrad Sangma, an ally of the BJP who heads the National People's Party (NPP) in the north-east.

In June this year, at least three senior BJP leaders along with their supporters had resigned over the Centre's order that banned the sale of cattle in local markets for slaughter. The issue came up again on Tuesday when BJP president Amit Shah was chairing a meeting of party leaders and BJP allies from the north-east. Two Meghalaya leaders are believed to have raised their concerns about the beef ban at Tuesday's meeting. Beef consumption is popular among the three main tribes — Khasis, Jaintias and Garos — in Meghalaya. "The government and the leadership have been clear that they have no intention to restrict



dietary habits of the people," said Mr. Sangma.

Shah confident "The BJP-led NEDA is in power in five States but I am confident that in the coming days, the alliance will be in power in all the eight States in the north-eastern region," Mr. Shah said on Tuesday at the inaugural session of NEDA's second conclave in Delhi. BJP-led governments are in power in Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh while allies rule Nagaland and Sikkim. In Manipur, though the BJP had come a close second, it managed to form the government with help from Congress defectors. The remaining three States, Left-ruled Tripura and Congress-ruled Mizoram and Meghalaya will go to polls next year.



World Physical Therapy Day: Say goodbye to your sedentary lifestyle

Lifestyle, not medicine, is key to good health

As London prepared for the Olympics back in 2012, politicians and public policy figures expressed hope that the momentum of the Games would help spur interest in sports and health across communities. However, some critics took to media channels to

highlight the hypocrisy at the heart of it all: that the Games' biggest sponsors included McDonalds and Coca-Cola, not exactly the patron saints of healthy food. Dr. Aseem Malhotra, an outspoken cardiologist, championed the call for such organisations to be banned from Olympic sponsorship,

highlighting major diabetes and heart disease problems that existed in Newham, the East London Borough, where the Games were scheduled.

The model village Pointing out inconsistencies between health policy and the road map to achieving improved health is a

theme that Dr. Malhotra has returned to time and again, most recently in his book, *The Pioppi Diet*, where he and anti-sugar campaigner and filmmaker, Donal O'Neill, return to Pioppi, the Italian village with strikingly high life expectancy and low rates of cardiovascular disease.

Medicos say that it has various other miraculous benefits such as improvement of lung functions, speedy tissue healing and is helpful in healing burns also. Most of us know that regular exercise and physical activity are good for health and can help us live longer. But the benefits an individual would yield depend on the regularity of fitness regime, regardless of the level of exercise. Medicos say that it has various other miraculous benefits such as improvement of lung functions, speedy tissue healing and is

helpful in healing burns also.

At least 60 minutes of physical activity for children daily and 150 minutes of activity for adults weekly is a must to stave off non-communicable diseases, recommends the World Health Organisation. While there are a plethora of reasons to involve physical activity in our daily life, here are a few of them to consider: So, bid adieu to the sedentary lifestyle and make the best use of exercise and physical activity in to stay healthy and prevent all kinds of illness.

Too much beer, hot dogs may up colon cancer risk: Study

Eating hotdogs, bacon and other processed meat regularly or drinking more than two alcoholic drinks daily may increase the risk of colorectal cancer, a study has warned.

Other factors found to increase colorectal cancer include eating high amounts of red meat (above 500 grammes a week), such as beef or pork; and being overweight or obese, researchers said. The report by the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) and the World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) also found that whole grains, such as brown rice or whole-wheat bread, reduces colorectal cancer risk. There was strong evidence that physical activity protects against colon cancer, researchers said.

"Colorectal cancer is one of the most common cancers, yet this report demonstrates there is a lot people can do to dramatically lower their risk," said Edward L Giovannucci, professor at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. "The findings from this comprehensive report are robust and clear: Diet and lifestyle have a major role in colorectal cancer," said Giovannucci. The report evaluated the scientific research worldwide on how diet, weight and physical activity affect colorectal cancer risk. It analysed 99 studies, including data on 29 million people, of whom over a quarter of a million were diagnosed with colorectal cancer. The report concluded that eating approximately three servings (90 grams) of whole grains daily reduces the risk of colorectal cancer by 17 per cent. It adds to previous evidence showing that foods containing fibre decreases the risk of this cancer. People who are more physically active have a lower risk of colon cancer compared to those who do very little physical activity. Here, the decreased risk was apparent for colon and not rectal cancer. "Many of the ways to help prevent colorectal cancer are important for overall health. Factors such as maintaining a lean body weight, proper exercise, limiting red and processed meat and eating more whole grains and fibre would lower risk substantially," said Giovannucci.

"Moreover, limiting alcohol to at most two drinks per day and avoidance or cessation of smoking also lower risk," he said.

"Replacing some of your refined grains with whole grains and eating mostly plant foods, such as fruits, vegetables and beans, will give you a diet packed with cancer-protective compounds and help you manage your weight, which is so important to lower risk," said Alice Bender, Director of Nutrition Programmes at AICR. "When it comes to cancer there are no guarantees, but it's clear now there are choices you can make and steps you can take to lower your risk of colorectal and other cancers," said Bender.

Here's a way to prevent cognitive decline

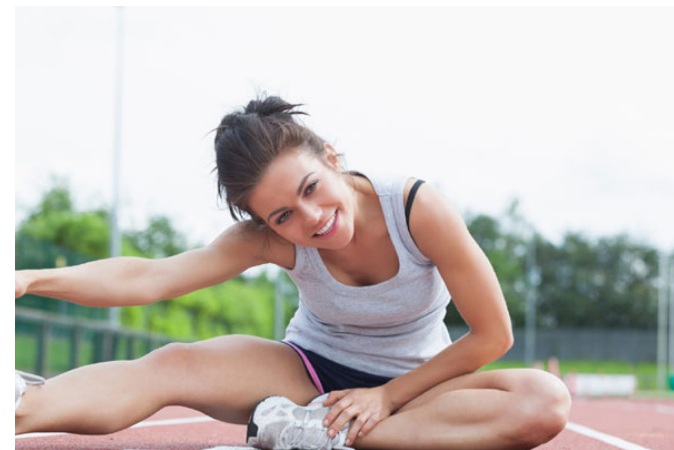
Maintaining a healthy lifestyle may be key to preventing cognitive decline - the loss of ability to think - with age, according to a new advisory from the American Heart Association.

Both the heart and brain need adequate blood flow, but in many people, blood vessels slowly become narrowed or blocked over the course of their life, a condition known as atherosclerosis, the cause of many heart attacks and strokes. Many risk factors for atherosclerosis can be modified by following a healthy diet, getting enough physical activity, avoiding tobacco products and other strategies. "Research summarised

in the advisory convincingly demonstrates that the same risk factors that cause atherosclerosis, are also major contributors to late-life cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease," said Philip Gorelick, from Mercy Health Hauenstein Neuroscience Center in the US.

"By following seven simple steps - Life's Simple 7 - not only can we prevent heart attack and stroke, we may also be able to prevent cognitive impairment," said Gorelick.

Life's Simple 7 outlines a set of health factors developed by the American Heart Association to define and promote cardiovascular



lar wellness. The Life's Simple 7 programme urges individuals to manage blood pressure, control cholesterol, keep blood sugar normal get physically active, eat a healthy diet,

lose extra weight and not smoke.

A healthy brain is defined as one that can pay attention, receive and recognise information from our senses; learn and remember; communicate; solve problems and make decisions; support mobility and regulate emotions. Cognitive impairment can affect any or all of those functions.

The advisory, which is published in the journal *Stroke*, stresses the importance of taking steps to keep your brain healthy as early as possible, because atherosclerosis - the narrowing of the arteries that causes many heart attacks, heart failure and strokes - can begin in childhood.

Sleeping with pet in bed affects quality of sleep

Dear dog lovers, sleeping with your pet in same bedroom is fine, but snuggling up with your pups in the same bed may affect your sleep quality, warns a new study.

According to researchers, do not let your canines crawl under the covers with you. The sleep benefit extends only to having dogs in your bedroom, not in your bed, as adults who snuggled up to their pups in bed sacrificed quality sleep.

Lead author Lois Krahn from Mayo Clinic's Arizona campus said that most people assume having pets in the bedroom is a disruption.

"We found that many people actually find comfort and a sense of security from sleeping with their pets," Krahn added.

The study evaluated the sleep of 40 healthy adults without sleep disorders and their dogs over five months. The participant and their dogs wore activity trackers to track their sleeping habits for seven nights.

The findings indicated that sleeping with dogs helped some people sleep better -- no matter if they are snoozing with a small schnauzer or dozing with a Great Dane.

"The relationship between people and their pets has



changed over time, which is likely why many people in fact do sleep with their pets in the bedroom," said Dr Krahn. "Today, many pet owners are away from their pets for much of the day, so they want to maximize their time

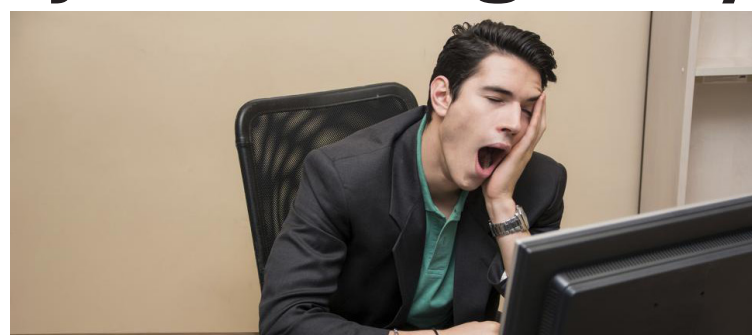
with them when they are home. Having them in the bedroom at night is an easy way to do that. And, now, pet owners can find comfort knowing it won't negatively impact their sleep," she added.

Are you a serial yawner at work You might be just making everyone lazy

All it takes is one person's yawn to make everyone else follow suit in the office. This is a universal phenomenon, known as contagious yawning. This can affect productivity in the workplace by making employees lazy and sleepy. It also gives the idea to your bosses, that you're bored.

We got in touch with experts Dr. Mohsin Wali, cardiologist and a former honorary physician to the president of India and Dr. Venu Mattu, general physician, who explain the causes of excessive yawning, and how to prevent it while at work. 1) At times, we yawn to increase to increase the oxygen supply in our blood.

2) It can also be a signal that your body is tired or needs sleep. 3) It's an indicator of boredom. Hence, if you consistently yawn at your workplace, it gives the impression that



you're not interested in your work. 4) We yawn to regulate the temperature of our brain. 5) Sometimes we yawn because we see the other person yawning. Excessive yawning can be a symptom of... 1) Fatigue 2) Insomnia or sleep apnea 3) Stress and anxiety 4) Vasovagal syncope. This hap-

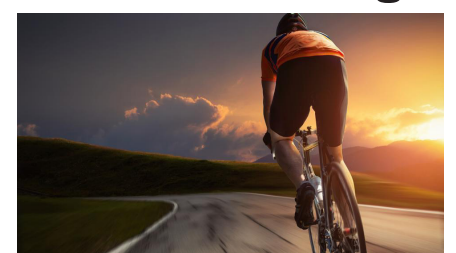
pens when the vagus nerve in the body doesn't function properly. The reason for this is internal bleeding in and around the heart area or aorta 5) Malfunctioning liver 6) Hyperglycemia aka high blood sugar 7) Hyperthyroidism. This is a condition where your thyroid gland overproduces hormones.

How to avoid an embarrassing yawn at work

- 1) Take deep breaths through your nose and exhale out through your mouth.
- 2) Cool your body. Drink a cool beverage to curb excessive yawning. Whenever, you feel the need to yawn, take a sip.
- 3) Try to keep yourself in a cool environment. Sometimes we yawn in excess because our brain temperature becomes warm.
- 4) Snack on foods like watermelon and cucumber as they are coolants.
- 5) At times, you can also use a cool compress. If you have a meeting to attend and you want to make sure that you don't yawn, then put a cool compress on your head. This should keep your brain temperature cool so you don't yawn during meetings.

Exercise, diet and weight: Healthy lifestyle key to smarter brain in old age

Want to stay smart even in your advanced years? Maintaining a healthy lifestyle from childhood may be the key as it can help in reducing the risk of developing cognitive decline as one ages, according to a new advisory from the American Heart Association (AHA). Increase in levels of blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar can cause impairment of the large and smaller blood vessels, making them narrowed or blocked. This is known as atherosclerosis, a disease process that is the leading cause of many heart attacks and strokes. The study, "convincingly demonstrates that the same risk factors that cause atherosclerosis are also major contributors to late-life cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease," said Philip Gorelick, Professor at the Michigan State University. If current trends persist, nearly 75 million people worldwide could have dementia by 2030, the study revealed. Thus, the advisory by AHA outlined a set of seven health factors to define and promote cardiovascular wellness, which may also help foster ideal brain health in adults. The health factors - termed as "Life's Simple 7



programme" - urge individuals to manage blood pressure, control cholesterol, keep blood sugar normal, get physically active, eat a healthy diet, lose extra weight, do not start smoking or quit. "By following Life's Simple 7 not only can we prevent heart attack and stroke, we may also be able to prevent cognitive impairment," added Gorelick, who is also vascular neurologist and Medical Director at the Mercy Health Hauenstein Neurosciences in Michigan. The advisory, based on a review of 182 published scientific studies and published in the journal *Stroke*, stresses the importance of taking steps to keep your brain healthy as early as possible, because atherosclerosis can begin in childhood.

Raghuram Rajan: Note ban put interest burden on RBI as people found ways to convert black money



NEW DELHI: The failure to stop dodgy cash coming back into the banking system after demonetisation has likely burdened the Reserve Bank of India with additional interest payments running into tens of thousands of crores, former governor of the central bank Raghuram Rajan said Thursday.

Latest Reserve Bank of India data shows that all but 1% of the high-value banknotes demonetised on November 8 last year have returned to the banking system, meaning black money hoarders found ways to legitimise their cash that now earns interest. Rajan estimates this burden could be as high as Rs 24,000 crore a year, if one assumes there was about Rs 4 lakh crore worth illegal cash at the time of the note ban. "One of the costs which people haven't paid enough attention to is (that) this

was money sitting, if you believe it was black money, it was sitting in people's safes or in their basement. It wasn't earning any interest," Rajan told Hindustan Times in an interview. "Once it gets into the formal system, if you haven't identified it as bad money, these are people gaining interest on it," he said, referring to short term economic costs of demonetisation. Flushing out black money was

a key objective of the decision to demonetise high-value banknotes worth Rs 15.46 lakh crore, or 86% of the total cash in circulation at that time. The government had hoped that at least Rs 3 lakh crore of this, held as unaccounted-for cash, would not return to the system. That would have reduced the RBI's liability and boosted its profits, allowing it to transfer more funds to the government for new

investments and development work. That didn't happen. As a result, the RBI, which has had to absorb most of this now-legit cash, pays interest on it, Rajan said, adding it probably played a role in almost halving the central bank's profit through FY 2016-17 from a year earlier. The RBI's financial year runs from August to July.

"I point this out because this is something that people misinterpret. They are saying we have formalised the savings. The savings were there. They were just financing the government free of cost," Rajan said. Rajan refused to reveal the specifics of a note the RBI wrote to the government on arrangements required for demonetisation. He, however, said that before such an exercise, a monetary economist would like to see preparedness to replace all the currency withdrawn.

"We have seen the cash demand is now tapering off, but you should have been ready with that sort of cash on the day we did it. The less you are ready, the more you have to print in order to roll out the currency, the more economic life is disrupted." Rajan was talking to Hindustan Times on his new book - I do what I do - in which he has said neither he nor the RBI under his watch favoured demonetisation.

Pakistan's Habib Bank to close New York office, pay \$225 million fine for compliance failures

WASHINGTON: The New York State Department of Financial Services on Thursday said Pakistan's Habib Bank had agreed to pay \$225 million to settle an enforcement action brought against it for infringing laws designed to combat illicit money transfers.

The DFS said in a legal filing last month it was seeking to fine the bank, Pakistan's biggest lender, up to \$630 million for "grave" compliance failures over anti-money laundering and sanctions rules at its only U.S. branch.

The regulator said the bank, known as HBL, agreed to pay just over a third of that sum as part of a broader settlement in which it will shutter its New York branch, subject to conditions.

These include submitting to a DFS investigation of transactions processed by the branch from October 2013 to the end of September 2014, and from April 2015 through the end of July 2017. In a statement HBL said it "remains committed to strengthening its compliance processes, operations and controls" across its 1,700 branches.

Shares of HBL surged 5 per cent, to 160.58 rupees per share, amid investor relief that the fine was not larger than \$225 million.

Thursday's announced settlement does not preclude further future enforcement action if the DFS investigation reveals further problems. The enforcement action followed a 2016 review in which the regulator said it found "weaknesses in the bank's risk management and compliance" that management had failed to tackle. The review showed HBL had failed to properly screen thousands of transactions and had processed payments for known criminals and sanctioned entities, among other failings.

"The bank has repeatedly been given more than sufficient opportunity to correct its glaring deficiencies, yet it has failed to do so," Financial Services Superintendent Maria Vullo said in the statement. "DFS will not stand by and let Habib Bank sneak out of the United States without holding it accountable for putting the integrity of the financial services industry and the safety of our nation at risk."

Sebi imposes Rs 2,423 cr fine on PACL, 4 directors

NEW DELHI: Regulator Sebi on Thursday imposed Rs 2,423 crore fine on PACL Ltd and its four directors for illegal fund mobilisation through various schemes that were used by the group to garner over Rs 49,000 crore from the public. While the group, which had collected money in the name of real estate projects among other schemes, was asked by Sebi nearly three years ago to refund Rs 49,100 crore to the investors, the regulator has passed a fresh order to impose a monetary penalty for violation of Sebi's Prevention of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices Regulations.

Indian retail may grow to Rs 85 lakh crore by 2021: Report

NEW DELHI: Indian retail industry, growing at 10 per cent, may almost double to Rs 85 trillion (lakh crore) by 2021 steered by consumer data and technology disruptions, says a joint report by Ficci and Deloitte.



According to the report, consumer data and technology disruptions will drive retail and FMCG sectors towards a new phase of growth where consumer experience will be the focal concern for all retailers and brands.

78% rise in paperless I-T assessment; all-India roll out by fiscal end

NEW DELHI: The ambitious project to conduct paperless assessment for income tax payers rose by 78 per cent over the last three years, prompting the department to roll out the regime pan-India by the end of this financial year.

The government initiative was launched in October 2015 by the I-T department's policy-making body - the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) - in select metro cities with an aim to reduce the visit by assesses to tax offices and their interface with the taxman, thereby curbing instances of corruption.

pending in around 74,000 cases," the blue print accessed by PTI said. A simple analysis of the figures states that the growth in the number of cases being processed in an e-environment has jumped slightly over 78 times. The blue print adds that for cases which "are selected for scrutiny during the 2017-18 fiscal and onwards, the Board (CBDT) has decided to utilise the e-proceeding facility for conduct of assessment on pan-India basis."

Amazon opens largest fulfilment centre near Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: E-commerce giant Amazon on Thursday opened its largest fulfilment centre near Hyderabad with the view to enhance customer experience ahead of the festive season.

The four lakh square feet facility with a massive storage capacity of 2.1 million cubic feet has come up at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad, about 20 km south of Hyderabad.

scale their business to greater heights," said Akhil. "With more than 10,000 sellers in Telangana, the selection offered by sellers in the state for immediate delivery has grown more than 120 per cent this year as compared to last year."

S.G.K. Kishore, CEO, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL), thanked Amazon for opening their largest fulfilment centre in India. Leveraging its fulfilment centre with the state-of-the-art infrastructure, Amazon provides a delightful customer experience through its programme - Fulfilment By Amazon (FBA), the company said.

AirAsia India adds one A320 aircraft, to launch 3 new routes

MUMBAI: Domestic budget carrier AirAsia India on Friday said it has inducted a new Airbus A320 aircraft in its fleet and will commence flight services to three new routes from Ranchi from next month.

AirAsia India will introduce flights from Ranchi to Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar, besides scaling up the frequency on Bengaluru-Hyderabad route, the airline said in a statement. "We are happy to add new routes connecting tier-II cities, while making air travel affordable to one and all," AirAsia India's managing director and chief

executive officer Amar Abrol said. With the induction of the new plane, AirAsia India has now a fleet of 13 A320 aircraft, which are not in sync with its plans of adding 10 aircraft per year, announced at the time of launch in June 2013.

Kohli fires India to unprecedented whitewash of Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: Skipper Virat Kohli hit a blazing half-century as India completed their rout of Sri Lanka on this tour, winning the one-off Twenty20 International by seven wickets in Colombo on Wednesday (partly reported in Thursday's edition). The visitors remained unbeaten in their nine matches against Sri Lanka as they won the preceding Test and one-day series 3-0 and 5-0 respectively.

Chasing 171 for victory, India rode on a 119-run second-wicket stand between Kohli (82) and Manish Pandey (51 not out) to achieve their target with four balls to spare at the R. Premadasa Stadium.

"Very special, it [whitewash across formats] hasn't been done before.



Credit to all the hard work that the boys have put in over the past couple of months in all formats of the game," said a delighted Kohli. "That's evidence of the fact how hungry the

players are in Indian cricket. The bench strength is coming through so beautifully...results are amazing to see as a captain," he added. Kohli, who received the man-of-the-match

award, remained calm in a tricky chase with Pandey for company after India lost their openers for 42 runs in the sixth over.

Rohit Sharma fell to veteran paceman Lasith Malinga for nine and Lokesh Rahul was done in by a superb airborne catch by Dasun Shanaka at short cover off Seekkuge Prasanna. But Kohli took the attack to the opposition with seven fours and a six during his 54-ball knock before falling to Isuru Udana with India requiring just 10 runs to win.

Pandey finished off the game with a boundary that brought his maiden T20 International fifty in 36 balls. "We knew one good partnership will get us through. So it was about staying calm in the middle...

and Manish was outstanding in this game. That partnership was very crucial," said Kohli. Earlier leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal played his part by claiming three wickets to restrict Sri Lanka to 170-7 after being put into bat first.

Dilshan Munaweera hit a 29-ball 53 before Ashan Priyanjan scored a run-a-ball 40 not out to lift the Sri Lankan total after a middle-order collapse. "We were 15-20 runs short. We had a good start. Munaweera batted really well, but we lost momentum from overs 10-14," said a disappointed Sri Lanka skipper Upul Tharanga. "The way Virat batted was outstanding. He was an example for everyone, especially with his energy and running between the wickets."



Sloane Stephens goes from foot cast to walking on air at US Open

LONDON: Sloane Stephens was proud of her ability to step up in the moments that mattered after reaching the US Open final with a win over Venus Williams.

In a wild semi-final on Arthur Ashe Stadium, Stephens claimed a 6-1 0-6 7-5 victory to advance to her first grand slam decider, where Madison Keys awaits.

After two one-sided sets, the third was a thriller as Stephens and Williams created numerous chances in lengthy exchanges and long games.

Serving at 4-5, 30-30, Stephens won a remarkable point with a backhand winner down the line, and the 24-year-old felt she delivered in big moments against the seven-time major winner.

Asked if that felt like a turning point, Stephens said: "Yeah, and then the next two points, and the next game I played incredible."

"The first point of the next game she came in and I hit that lob thing. I don't know what that was. That was great. "And then the second point was the let cord and I hit that thing. I think that really gave me some momentum and really pumped me up."

"Those were the type of opportunities I was talking about, when you get your chance, you've really just got to take it and make the most of it." "I knew that at some point I'd have an opportunity," Stephens said.

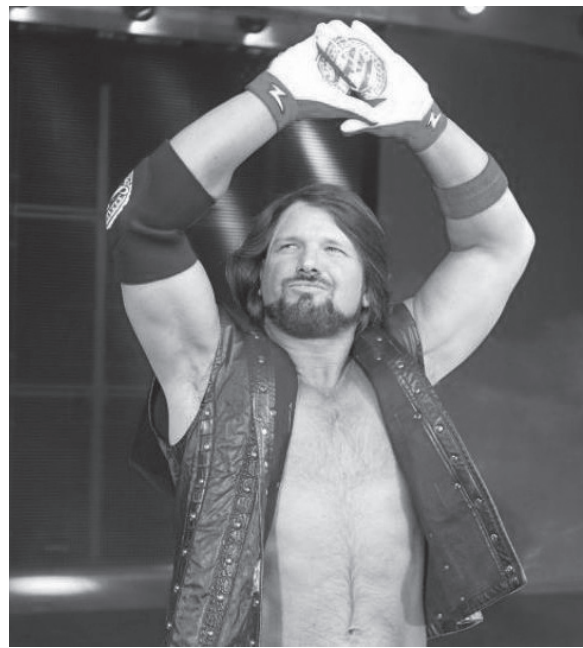
"It was whether I decided to step up and take it or not was going to be the deciding factor. I think I did that extremely well at the end of the third set."

The opening two sets were over in 54 minutes, while the third lasted 73 as both players got nearer to their best levels at the same time.

Williams, who enjoyed a tremendous year at the grand slams and made two major finals, paid tribute to Stephens. "She played well. There was nothing I could do about those shots," she said.

"Like I said, I played aggressively, and played the best point I could, and then she played a little better."

"Sometimes you get the luck and sometimes you don't."



AJ Styles still sees room for overall improvement despite WWE success

NEW DELHI: There are very few professional wrestlers who can boast of a career like AJ Styles. From being one of the original stars of Total Nonstop Action Wrestling (now known as Global Force Wrestling) to making his mark in New Japan Pro Wrestling, AJ Styles has done it all.

However, the wrestler nicknamed 'The Phenomenal One' believes that his World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) debut in the 2015 Royal Rumble pay-per-view was easily the most memorable moment of his career.

"My debut in the Royal Rumble was the biggest moment of my career! I was quite overwhelmed by the support shown by WWE fans and that is something I will never forget," Styles told Hindustan Times at the sidelines of WWE Summerslam in New York. The 40-year old from Gainesville, Georgia started his wrestling career with National Championship Wrestling (NCW) and over the next three years, he performed in independent promotions all around the country. He even featured in the now-defunct World Championship Wrestling (WCW), arguably the only professional wrestling promotion to rival and even surpass WWE in terms of popularity for a short time. Styles' big break came in 2002 when he signed with Total Nonstop Action (TNA) Wrestling. He became one of the biggest names in the company and his 26 championship wins during his TNA career means he is still one of the most dominant superstars to have ever wrestled for them. However, he was not content with his stardom and decided to move to Japan in 2014. A lot of experts predicted his style was not suited for New Japan Pro Wrestling, but his two IWGP World Heavyweight title reigns proved his brilliance once again. The entire wrestling world was aware of his charisma in the ring and in 2014, he finally made the long-awaited jump to WWE. The move sent the wrestling world into a frenzy, but many once again questioned whether his hard-hitting in-ring style will hinder his chances of success in WWE.

Shahid Afridi quits Afghanistan T20 League after Pakistan Cricket Board snub

MUMBAI: Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has pulled out of the upcoming Shpageeza Twenty20 Cricket League in Afghanistan. Afridi, who said that his international career was over in February 2017, was set to captain the Muslimyar Speenghar Tigers' team in the tournament.

The team will be coached by the former South African cricketer Herschelle Gibbs. Afridi took to Twitter to make the announcement on Friday evening, citing a 'very urgent family issue' as the reason for his unavailability from the tournament in which he was supposed to be the star attraction. Afridi had earlier announced on Twitter about his availability for the Afghanistan tournament. The dashing right-hander, who played for Hampshire in the NatWest T20 Blast in England and scored his first-ever century in the shortest format of the game, had raised hopes of some fireworks in Afghanistan as well.

It must be remembered that Afridi's decision to play in the T20 tournament in Afghanistan was not welcomed by his home cricket board. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had expressed its displeasure as the senior cricketer had earlier sought permissions to play in the Big Bash League (BBL), but not in the tournament in Afghanistan.

Afridi was not the only Pakistani cricketer expected to take part in the



Afghanistan T20 tournament. Former players like Abdul Razzaq, Umar Akmal, Kamran Akmal, Babar Azam, Sohail Tanvir and Rumman Raees were few other names associated with the Shpageeza Cricket League.

Relations between the Pakistan Cricket Board and Afghanistan Cricket Board have touched rock bottom after Afghanistan pulled out from a bilateral series in Pakistan earlier this season, followed by a bomb blast

in Kabul. The Afghan intelligence agencies had blamed Pakistan for that attack. On its official Facebook page, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) wrote, "The ACB hereby cancel all kinds of cricket matches and initial mutual relationship agreement with the Pakistan Cricket Board. No agreement of friendly matches and mutual relationship agreement is possible with a country where terrorists are housed and provided safe havens."

Del Potro wrecks Federer's hopes of first Nadal NY showdown

NEW YORK: Juan Martin del Potro sensationally gate-crashed the US Open again on Wednesday, stunning five-champion Roger Federer and shattering hopes of a first New York showdown between the Swiss legend and Rafael Nadal. The Argentine giant, who won his only Grand Slam title in the city in 2009 by beating Federer in the final after seeing off Nadal in the semis, triumphed 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (10-8), 6-4 in front of a spellbound Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd.

The 28-year-old will once again face world number one Nadal in the semi-finals on Friday, a stunning achievement for a man who

had saved two match points to beat sixth seed Dominic Thiem in the last 16. Nadal, who will keep his world number one status following third seed Federer's exit, had earlier defeated Russian teenager Andrey Rublev 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 in just 97 minutes. It will be a sixth US Open semi-final for Nadal and 26th at the majors while Del Potro, the 24th seed, will be playing in just his fourth last-four match at the Slams. For 36-year-old Federer, it was a first Slam loss of 2017 after he had captured the Australian Open and Wimbledon titles to take his career tally to 19.

"I served really good. I hit my



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

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

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

dergoing four wrist surgeries, wrapped up the first set thanks to a break in the 11th game secured with a blistering crosscourt pass. Federer, who had a 16-5 winning record over Del Potro ahead of the quarter-final, levelled the tie after breaking for a 3-1 lead in the second. However, the match turned in the third set tiebreak when Del Potro saved four set points before a weary and error-riddled Federer dropped serve again to trail 3-2 in the fourth. Victory was Del Potro's eight minutes short of three hours with a deep forehand as Federer was left to survey the wreckage of 41 unforced errors.

Salman hopes for new era on eve of World XI visit

LAHORE: Salman Butt clearly remembers the way he was dismissed against Sri Lanka in Lahore in 2009 — the last batsman out in the last Test in Pakistan, before a terror attack on the visiting team's bus scared off touring sides.

Salman, now 32, was run out in the last over of the day for 48. The next morning, on March 3, militants ambushed the tourists' bus, killing eight people and wounding seven Sri Lankan players and the support staff.

Eight years on, and with a conviction for spot-fixing behind him,

Salman is hoping for a new era for Pakistani cricket, starting with next week's visit of a World XI to play at the Gaddafi Stadium.

"I remember that Test vividly because on day two we were replying to a 600-plus Sri Lankan total and I had a good opening partnership of 110 with Khurram Manzoor but in the last over of the day I was run out for 48 in a disappointing manner," Salman said. "The next day we had to continue our innings so in the morning we set off from the hotel for play but after a few minutes the bus changed its route and we returned to the

hotel. Later we were told about the incident which was really shocking. "Those events changed the whole scene of Pakistan cricket and the isolation has impacted a great deal with both players and fans deprived of international cricket, but I hope the efforts of the PCB and improved security will end this isolation." Pakistan have not hosted international cricket — barring a short limited-overs series against lowly-ranked Zimbabwe in 2015 — since that day.

But hopes are rising that Pakistan's isolation is nearing its end

as security continues to improve in the strife-hit nation.

"Those were heartbreaking circumstances," Salman commented. "It's a wonderful feeling when you play before your home crowd and Pakistan's crowds stand out in top three in the world, so finally it's coming back and everyone is happy."

Former Zimbabwe batsman and ex-England coach Andy Flower has assembled an ICC World XI with players from seven countries led by South African skipper Faf du Plessis, with all three matches set to take

place in Lahore next week.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) hopes the series will go off without a hitch as the country prepares to host Sri Lanka for one Twenty20 International next month and another three T20s against the West Indies in November.

Salman says the fans have been the real losers, deprived of watching top-tier cricket on their home soil.

"The fans of this generation could not see their stars before their eyes and it impeded their progress," said Salman, who led Pakistan at a neutral-venue series

against Australia in 2010.

Following the attack, Pakistan was forced to play their 'home' matches in United Arab Emirates, leaving a generation of players like current Pakistan skipper Sarfraz Ahmed, Asad Shafiq, Ahmed Shehzad, Umar Akmal and Azhar Ali without the experience of competing in a home Test match.

That also prevented Pakistan's most successful leader Misbah-ul-Haq from captaining in a Test on home soil.

With cricket set for a return to Pakistan, Salman is also hoping to mount his own comeback, with

selectors considering him for future Tests.

In 2010 Salman's career was almost destroyed when he was hit with a five-year ban and prison sentence, along with pace bowlers Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Amir, for deliberately bowling no-balls as a part of a spot-fixing sting in the Lord's Test against England.

"I have overcome that bad phase and now doing my best in domestic matches to regain my place in the Pakistan team," said Salman. "I have full faith in my abilities and hard work and hope my sufferings also end sooner than later."