

## Srinagar Sizzles, Mercury Touches 34.0°C Mark

Agencies

**Srinagar:** Sweltering weather conditions continued unabated as Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir Valley recorded the season's hottest day so far on Wednesday, officials said.

A meteorological department official here said that the maximum temperature in Srinagar soared to 34.0°C and it was 4.8°C above normal for the season. Today's temperature surpassed the previous highest of 33.3°C recorded on Tuesday, the official said.

Other places including Pahalgam (28.4°C), Qazigund (33.0°C), Kokernag (31.5°C), Kupwara (33.1°C) and Gulmarg (24.6°C) also recorded the hottest day of the season so far, he said.

Regarding the forecast, he said, mainly dry weather was expected "but a brief spell of shower and thunderstorm at one or two places towards late afternoon or evening can't be ruled out".

From June 24-28, he said, generally cloudy weather with intermittent light to moderate thunderstorms at fairly widespread places has been forecast. "Few places over Jammu Division may receive intense showers for a short period," he said.

Also, minimum (night) temperature recorded an increase at most places and settled above normal across J&K.

He said Srinagar recorded a low of 19.7°C against 18.2°C on the previous night and it was above normal by **More on PIO**



## Biden Will Not 'Lecture' PM Modi On Human Rights: White House

Agencies

**Washington:** US President Joe Biden welcomes Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday for two days of talks that the White House sees as bolstering "one of the defining partnerships of our age," despite ongoing US concerns about human rights.

Washington wants India to be a strategic counterweight to China while PM Modi is seeking to raise the influence that his country, now the world's most populous, has on the world stage. Joe Biden and PM Modi are



expected to announce a variety of agreements related to defense cooperation and sales, artificial intelligence, quantum

computing and investments in India by Micron Technology and other US companies. Joe Biden is expected to

**THIS VISIT IS NOT ABOUT CHINA.** But the question of China's role in the military domain, the technology domain, the economic domain will be on the agenda,"

bring up US concerns about democratic backsliding in India, but he will not lecture PM Modi on the subject, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters. When the US sees

challenges to press, religious or other freedoms, "we make our views known," Sullivan said. He added, "We do so in a way where we don't seek to lecture or assert that we don't have challenges ourselves."

"Ultimately, the question of where politics and the question of democratic institutions go in India is going to be determined within India by Indians. It's not going to be determined by the United States," Sullivan said.

Modi has been to the United States five times since becoming prime minister in 2014, but the trip will be his first with the full diplomatic **More on PIO**

## Banihal Highway To Remain Shut On Friday

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** No traffic will be allowed on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway on Friday due to repair and maintenance works, an official said on Wednesday.

The advisory to observe 'no traffic day' on the NH-44, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was issued by Ramban Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mussarat Islam, amid ongoing preparations for the annual Amarnath yatra in the valley beginning July 1, the officials said.

The first batch of pilgrims will leave for Kashmir from Jammu base camp Bhagwati Nagar on June 30, a day ahead of the scheduled commencement of the yatra to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivling. **More on PIO**

## LG Sinha Reviews Eid-Ul-Azha Preparations

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday reviewed preparations of district administrations and various departments ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Chairing the meeting, the LG took appraisal of augmentation of the supply of essential items and services, security and traffic management in view of Eid-ul-Azha.

Sinha impressed upon the Deputy Commissioners, SSPs

and officers of stakeholder departments to make all necessary arrangements for the festival.

He also directed the DCs to constitute Joint Teams for market inspection, monitoring and implementation of notified rates of essential items.

"Sanitation and cleanliness in and around religious places, availability of Doctors, medical facilities, fire and emergency services should be ensured," the LG said.

The meeting was attended by LG's Advisor **More on PIO**

## Yoga Is India's Greatest Gift To Humanity: LG

Asks People To Make Yoga A Part Of Their Daily Routine For Stress Free And Healthy Life

Observer News Service

**Srinagar:** Stating that Yoga is India's greatest gift to the humanity as it has transcended the boundary of religion, sect and geographical barriers to bring happiness in people's lives, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Wednesday advised people to make Yoga a part of their daily routine for stress free and healthy life

"Yoga is not just a physical exercise, but it also symbolizes the spirit of oneness between body-mind and nature. This rich



and ancient tradition, based on prevention for better health, has been accepted by medical

science and researchers as a unique and significant practice of the traditional system of

medicine which offers tremendous physical and mental health benefits for people of all ages," Sinha said.

The LG was addressing Yoga enthusiasts at the 9th International Yoga Day celebrations at Botanical Garden here on Wednesday. He said everyone should make Yoga a part of their daily routine for a stress free and healthy life.

"Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, One World, One Health. This year's theme underlines the vision of "One Earth, One Family, **More on PIO**



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Thursday | 22-06-2023

## Melting Hindu Kush

The alarming findings of a recent study conducted by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) should serve as a wake-up call for the world. The Hindu Kush Himalayan region, encompassing the towering peaks of the world's highest mountains, is facing an imminent crisis. Rapidly melting glaciers and shrinking permafrost pose a severe threat to the lives and livelihoods of approximately two billion people residing downstream.

The ramifications of this unfolding environmental catastrophe are dire. Freshwater supplies, sustaining 12 rivers that traverse 16 nations, are at risk of depletion over time. The consequences will be far-reaching, adversely affecting agriculture, food security, energy sources, and biodiversity hotspots. Glacial lake outburst floods, landslides, and flash floods are becoming increasingly common, leaving devastation in their wake.

While the planet continues to warm at an alarming rate, with temperatures already surpassing pre-industrial levels by 1.2 degrees Celsius, urgent and concerted action is needed. The burning of fossil fuels, the primary driver of climate change, must be curtailed through swift and substantial emissions cuts. It is essential that governments, donors, and international agencies align their efforts to combat this existential crisis.

The melting ice in the Himalayas is a stark reminder of the interconnectedness of our world. The impacts will not be confined to the region alone; they will reverberate globally. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and the displacement of millions are just a few of the consequences we will face if we fail to act decisively.

Kashmir Valley too has a cause to be worried about the turn that the climate is taking. According to reports and some surveys, many natural streams in various parts of the Valley have run dry in recent years. And the reason for this is the steady depletion of the glaciers. This has not only reduced the discharge in the rivers and streams but also made many water bodies extinct, affecting the irrigation in the Valley. Experts worry that the fast melting glaciers are decreasing the discharge in the region's rivers, limiting their capacity to irrigate land. Triggering alarm bells is the slowly shrinking Kohlahai glacier, the biggest in Valley, which is the source of Lidder and Sindh, two major streams of river Jhelum.

That is why it is critical that the world acts in concert to address this deepening crisis. Governments must honour their commitments to limit global warming under 1.5 degree celsius and transition away from fossil fuels. The melting ice in the Himalayas is an unmistakable signpost on the road to a climate catastrophe. Let us heed this warning, unite our efforts, and take decisive action to preserve the glaciers that shape our world. Failure to do so will bring about irreversible consequences, further exacerbating the already precarious state of our planet.

OTHER OPINION

## Inglorious age

Ageing in the modern age can be a challenging experience, not only because of accompanying health infirmities but also attendant societal neglect. A sinister manifestation of this neglect is the rising incidents of abuse — physical, psychological, sexual and emotional — against the global elderly population. India, unfortunately, is not an exception to this malaise in spite of its reputed familial culture. Expectedly, elderly women are more vulnerable to the phenomenon than their male counterparts as a result of existing inequities. The recent report by HelpAge India, Women & Ageing: Invisible or Empowered?, sheds light on this gendered angle to elderly abuse. The study, which collected data from over 7,911 elderly women respondents across 20 states and two Union territories, shows that although 16% were found to be suffering at the hands of family members and relatives, in the majority of cases, these excesses had not even been reported either due to the fear of retaliation or a lack of awareness about redressal mechanisms. The survey also highlighted several other, telling, conditions. A disproportionate percentage of the victims are from rural areas; 25% among them are octogenarians; 54% are illiterate; and less than half of the population is financially secure. This shows that India, despite its ageing demographic, has not been sensitive towards the flagrant violation of the rights of the elderly.

Of course, this festering crisis needs to be seen in juxtaposition with the rapid structural transformations in modern society. The disintegration of joint families, increasing life expectancy, the erosion of traditional support systems along with minimal social security have augmented the marginalisation of the elderly. There has been a proliferation of old-age homes — yet another symptom of the market profiting from receding personalised care systems — but access to and the quality of care provided in these facilities remain uneven. There is thus an urgent need for a comprehensive — and nuanced — re-evaluation of policy for geriatric care. Legal protections, such as the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, and sensitisation programmes must be made robust and expansive. The elderly must also have at hand counselling services to deal with loneliness or bereavement. Law and order initiatives, such as the initiative of the Calcutta Police to ensure the security of the elderly, are commendable. But abuse at home is more subtle and chronic. Does the future generation want to inherit the legacy of failing its elders?

Telegraph India



KAUSHIK BASU

## Governing The Unknown

Technology is changing the world faster than policymakers can devise new ways to cope with it. As a result, societies are becoming polarized, inequality is rising, and authoritarian regimes and corporations are doctoring reality and undermining democracy.

For ordinary people, there is ample reason to be “a little bit scared,” as OpenAI CEO Sam Altman recently put it. Major advances in artificial intelligence raise concerns about education, work, warfare, and other risks that could destabilize civilization long before climate change does. To his credit, Altman is urging lawmakers to regulate his industry.

In confronting this challenge, we must keep two concerns in mind. The first is the need for speed. If we take too long, we may find ourselves closing the barn door after the horse has bolted. That is what happened with the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: It came 23 years too late. If we had managed to establish some minimal rules after World War II, the NPT's ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament might have been achievable.

The other concern involves deep uncertainty. This is such a new world that even those working on AI do not know where their inventions will ultimately take us. A law enacted with the best intentions can still backfire. When America's founders drafted the Second Amendment conferring the “right to keep and bear arms,” they could not have known how firearms technology would change in the future, thereby changing the very meaning of the word “arms.” Nor did they foresee how their descendants would fail to realize this even after seeing the change.

But uncertainty does not justify fatalism. Policymakers can still effectively govern the

unknown as long as they keep certain broad considerations in mind. For example, one idea that came up during a recent Senate hearing was to create a licensing system whereby only select corporations would be permitted to work on AI.

This approach comes with some obvious risks of its own. Licensing can often be a step toward cronyism, so we would also need new laws to deter politicians from abusing the system. Moreover, slowing your country's AI development with additional checks does not mean that others will adopt similar measures. In the worst case, you may find yourself facing adversaries wielding precisely the kind of malevolent tools that you eschewed. That is why AI is best regulated multilaterally, even if that is a tall order in today's world.

Another big concern is labor. Just as past technological advances reduced demand for manual labor, new applications like ChatGPT may reduce demand for a lot of white-collar labor. But this prospect need not be so worrying. If we can distribute the wealth and income generated by AI equitably across the population, eliminating plenty of work would not be a problem. Far from being diminished by not working, feudal lords were aggrandized by their leisure.

The problem, of course, is that most people do not know how to use free time. Pensioners often become anxious because they do not know what to do with themselves. Now, imagine that happening on a massive scale across younger cohorts. If left unchecked, crime, conflict, and perhaps extremism would become more likely. Averting such outcomes would require modifying our education systems to prepare people for the leisure force. As in earlier eras, education would mean learning how to

enjoy the arts, hobbies, reading, and thinking.

A final major concern involves media and the truth. In How to Stand Up to a Dictator, the Nobel laureate journalist Maria Ressa laments that social media has become a powerful tool for promoting fake news. As Amal Clooney points out in her foreword to the book, autocratic leaders can now rely on “an army of bots” to create the impression that “there is only one side to every story.”

This is a bigger challenge than most people realize. It will not go away even if we pass laws prohibiting automated disinformation. As Amartya Sen pointed out more than 40 years ago, all description entails choice. Reality is so complex that we cannot possibly represent it without making decisions about what to include and what to omit. In a world that is drowning in information, savvy influencers do not need to make up news; they can simply be biased in what they choose to report. News outlets can influence voters' opinions in ways both subtle and flagrant. Just compare the images of Donald Trump and of Joe Biden that Fox News chooses.

We cannot solve the problem of authoritarian influence by banning fake news. Our best hope again lies in education. We will need to do a better job teaching people to be discerning and less susceptible to manipulation.

Innovation in law and policy must go hand in hand with innovation in education, and all are necessary to keep up with innovation in technology.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Project Syndicate*



**In confronting this challenge, we must keep two concerns in mind. The first is the need for speed. If we take too long, we may find ourselves closing the barn door after the horse has bolted**



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## Education: An Enriching Journey Beyond Grades

I write to shed light on an essential aspect of education that often goes overlooked in our society—the notion that education encompasses far more than just grades. While academic performance is crucial, it is equally important to recognize that true education extends beyond test scores and certificates. It encompasses the development of critical

thinking, creativity, empathy, and a thirst for lifelong learning.

In our pursuit of academic excellence, we must not forget that education should nurture well-rounded individuals, capable of navigating the complexities of life with wisdom and compassion. It is through a holistic approach to education that we can empower our students to

become responsible global citizens, equipped not only with knowledge but also with the skills and values needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

One of the fundamental aspects of education that transcends grades is the cultivation of critical thinking skills. Education should encourage students to question,

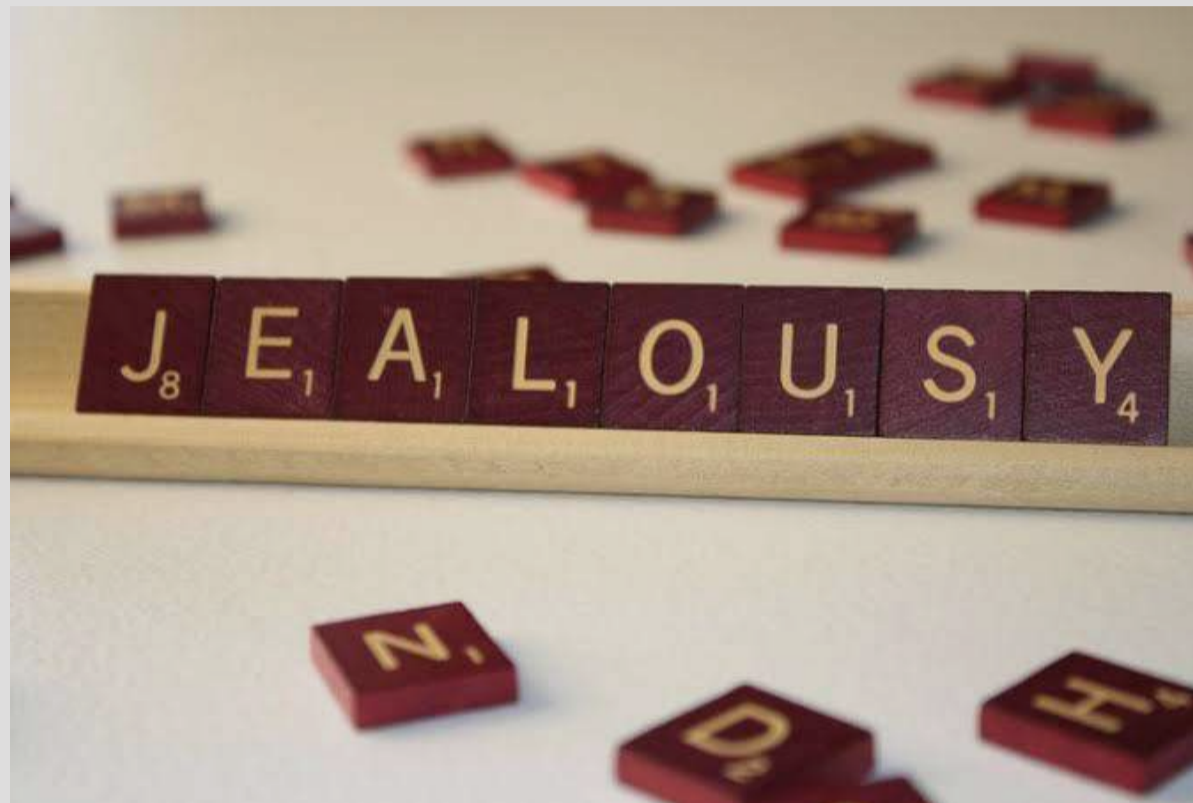
analyze, and think independently. By fostering an environment that promotes curiosity and the exploration of diverse perspectives, we enable young minds to develop the ability to make informed decisions, solve complex problems, and adapt to new challenges.

Sabina Hafeez

# Jealousy: A Cataclysmic Pathway to Self-Destruction

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

Jealousy or Envy is a pernicious affliction that ravages the heart and soul, engenders a venomous disposition in its bearer. This potent sentiment, entwined with resentment, anger, hostility, inadequacy, bitterness, and humiliation, pervades all strata of society, sparing neither age nor gender. Known as Hasad also, envy manifests as an inevitable approach to self-destruction, a notion echoed in the profound words of the Prophet (PBUH): "Beware of jealousy; for verily it destroys good deeds, the way fire destroys the wood. Ensnared within the suffocating grasp of jealousy, hearts languish in captivity, bound by its merciless hold, while the mind is enshrouded in a mist of covetous musings. This tyrannical power extinguishes the flames of personal evolution, impeding the revelation of one's genuine talents. The journey towards self-discovery and contentment becomes obscured, as aspirations wane under the weight of comparisons and envy. Only by severing the fetters of jealousy can one liberate their unparalleled gifts, unlocking the portals to their extraordinary potential." Envy festers when one becomes incapable of enduring the bounties bestowed upon another by the divine. Whether it be wealth, knowledge, fame, or societal respect, the jealous soul, plagued by the disease of the heart and soul, resorts to backbiting and deceit, spewing venomous words in a futile attempt to tarnish the envied individual's reputation. Jealousy, Hasad, assumes various forms, including rational, familial, romantic, power-driven, and sexual, permeating every facet of human existence. Jealousy, like a toxic venom, seeps into the core of one's existence, eroding the purity of their being. It warps perceptions, distort-



ing reality with its malevolent influence. Its insidious nature spreads like poison, contaminating the bonds of trust and love, leaving behind a trail of broken relationships and shattered hearts. Only by recognizing and confronting this destructive force can one hope to restore harmony and foster genuine connections built on trust and understanding.

Within the teachings of Islam, jealousy stands unequivocally condemned. It not only transgresses the boundaries of righteousness but also possesses the power to corrupt even the most virtuous

souls, reminiscent of the fate that befell Satan, once a luminary among the celestial beings. Globally, research illuminates the gender disparities in jealousy's manifestations, with men exhibiting heightened sensitivity toward sexual infidelity and women fixating on emotional betrayal. Beyond its detrimental effects on the heart and soul, jealousy, scientifically proven, inflicts harm upon the physical well-being of the envious individual. Dr. Gonzalez-Berrios elucidates the somatic toll exacted by jealousy, precipitating symptoms such as stomach aches, head-

aches, chest pain, elevated blood pressure, palpitations in the throes of acute anxiety, insomnia, diminished appetite, and compromised immunity. In essence, envy emerges as a cataclysmic force, one that jeopardizes not only our spiritual and emotional equilibrium but also our very physical existence. Let us strive to transcend the shackles of jealousy, embracing instead the virtues of contentment and gratitude, for in doing so, we nurture our souls and elevate our beings. Jealous individuals, driven by their covetousness, resort to criticism, fault-

finding, blame, and even verbal abuse against those whom they envy. History attests to jealousy's dark allure, serving as a chilling motivation for heinous crimes, including acts of murder. In the context of Islam, envy finds no legitimate grounds except in two specific cases, as elucidated by our noble Prophet: "There is to be no envy except in two cases: (towards) a person whom Allah has granted wisdom, and who rules by this and teaches it to the people, and (towards) a person whom Allah has granted wealth and property along with the power to spend it in the cause of the Truth." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim] Jealousy, devoid of any remedy, lies beyond the purview of earthly physicians. Only Allah possesses the power to alleviate its grip. Therefore, let us eternally express gratitude to the Almighty for the blessings bestowed upon us. Let us rejoice in the good fortune of others and beseech Allah to grant us the endurance witnessed in those who are envied. A jealous heart is destined for failure, hindering the attainment of one's goals. In cases where jealousy festers among colleagues or partners, it nurtures an unhealthy atmosphere of cutthroat competition that must be eradicated. Instead, let us dedicate ourselves to our work, striving to achieve our objectives without succumbing to insecurities that someone may usurp our rightful place.

The Quran reminds us, "Do they envy others for the bounty that Allah has bestowed upon them?" (Quran 4:54). May Allah guide us towards righteousness, shielding us from the allure of wicked deeds.

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## 9 Ways to Make the Most of Dhul Hijjah

Amaliah

If you were to ask anyone to name a sacred month in Islam, their immediate response would probably be 'Ramadan.' Each month in the Islamic calendar has its own virtue and the sacred months typically refer to seasons of warfare, or prominent events at the time of the Prophet (PBUH). For instance, Dhul Qa'adah – the month to sit – refers to sitting back or not fighting, Muharram means forbidden where fighting is prohibited, and the month of Rajab, which means to remove and refrain (referring to weapons). Dhul Hijjah is the last of the 12 months of the Islamic calendar. It is the month where millions of Muslims around the world gather to perform Hajj. This pillar of our faith may be one of the strongest references to the month that we know. Not many of us are able to go on Hajj, but that does not mean that we cannot take actions to commemorate and observe the month from home, and to reap its many rewards.

The month of Dhul Hijjah is one of the holiest periods of the Islamic year. A month of increased spirituality, we witness two very special occasions within the same month (Hajj and Eid ul Adha) – all in devotion to Allah (SWT).

Many people don't know that the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah are better than all the other days of the year.

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said: "There are no days on which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days [meaning the (first) ten days of Dhul-Hijjah]." [Bukhari]

The fact that these months are placed together means that even if you feel like you haven't unlocked your full potential or achieved all your spiritual goals during Ramadan, you still have Dhul Hijjah to strive for. It is as though Allah, in His infinite wisdom, placed these months together so that we do not despair. These beloved ten days offer another chance to gain immense rewards, have our sins forgiven and reach great levels of piety, Insha'Allah.

In this spirit, we've partnered up with Islamic Relief UK\* to bring you this handy guide of 9 ways you can make the most of the sacred days:

### 1. Fasting

From Allah's boundless generosity, comes another opportunity after Ramadan, to have our sins wiped away by fasting on the day of 'Arafah, the ninth day of the month.

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said: "Fasting on the day of 'Arafah is an expiation for two years (of wrongdoings), the year preceding it and the year following it." [Muslim]

This is our chance, with the additional ten days Allah has gifted us, to draw closer to Him once again and make the most of the ample opportunities He has given us to please Him. Since good deeds are beloved to Allah during

this time, we should make every effort to fast all of the nine days of Dhul Hijjah. If you miss out on fasting because of circumstances beyond your control (menstruation or illness, for example), you are still rewarded as if you had fasted. So accept the gift Allah has given you and focus on the other deeds you can do.

### 2. Hold on to your obligations

During the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah, all the pillars of Islam are combined in a way that doesn't occur again for the rest of the year. From Hajj, reciting the Shahadah, prayer, fasting, to giving in charity – this is the only time of the year that we are able to fulfill all the pillars of Islam and the best way to begin to do this is by ensuring that we are fulfilling the obligatory acts of worship before embarking on voluntary good deeds.

The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said: "Allah said: '... the most beloved things with which My slave comes nearer to Me, is what I have made compulsory upon him.'" [Bukhari]

### 3. A completed Hajj

The first ten days of Dhul Hijjah are often referred to as the best ten days of the year. It is another opportunity gifted to us by Allah to turn back to him and have our sins wiped away. For those of us not performing Hajj this year, this is still a great time of blessing and immense reward.

Although the majority of us will not be able to perform Hajj this year, and many will have saved up to do Hajj but have had their plans delayed for two years due to COVID-19 restrictions, Allah's mercy and generosity allows us to still earn rewards similar to those granted during a completed Hajj. Make these a priority and don't miss out: Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said: "Whoever prays Subh (Fajr) in congregation and then sits in the place where he prayed, remembering Allah until the sun rises and then prays two rakat has the reward of a complete Hajj and Umrah." He repeated "complete" three times. [Tirmidhi]

### 4. Give Qurbani/Udhiyah

The sacrifice offered on the day of Eid ul Adha is a means of honouring Allah and getting closer to Him. We are able to include our wider community in this sacrifice by offering our Qurbani/Udhiyah to those living in poverty and it may be the only meat they eat all year. Qurbani is obligatory on every Muslim that can afford it. It is best to organise and pay for your Qurbani/Udhiyah before Dhul Hijjah begins to ensure that the Qurbani can reach those who need it most in time.

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said: "The Companions of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: 'O Messenger of Allah, what are these sacrifices (Qurbani)?' He said: 'The Sunnah of your father Ibrahim.' They said: 'What is there for us in them, O Messenger of Allah?' He said: 'For every hair [on the sacrifice], one reward.' They said: 'What

about wool, O Messenger of Allah?' He said: 'For every hair of wool, one reward.'" [Ibn Maajah, 3127]

### 5. Best of deeds

Dhul Hijjah is the most sacred of the sacred months. Allah multiplies our rewards for good deeds during this time, which is why we should be even more mindful of sinning or acts that deprive us of Allah's blessings as those too are magnified during this time. Any good deeds done in these ten days surpass good deeds done on any other day of the year. Think of the good deeds you normally do throughout the year, and try to do more of them for the extra rewards!

The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said, 'There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than in these (ten) days'. [Abu Dawud]

### 6. Constant dhikr

Keep your tongue moist with the remembrance of Allah throughout these ten days by reciting the Tasbeeh, Tahmeed, Tahleel and Takbeer constantly. Build this beautiful sunnah into a habit by reciting 'SubhanAllah, Alhamdulillah, La ilaha illa Allah, Allahu Akbar' wherever you are!

The following takbeer should be recited after the daily prayers, from the time following Fajr salah on the 9th of Dhul Hijjah, up until 'Asr salah on the 13th of Dhul Hijjah.

Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar. La ilaha illa Allah. Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, Wa lilahil Hamd.

"Allah is The Greatest, Allah is The Greatest. There is no God besides Allah and Allah is The Greatest. Allah is The Greatest and to Allah belongs all praise."

This is one of the simplest forms of worship that can be carried out whilst doing almost anything else

Ibn Masud narrated that: Then Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said: "I met Ibrahim on the night of my ascent, so he said: 'O Muhammad, recite Salam from me to your nation, and inform them that Paradise has pure soil and delicious water, and that it is a flat treeless plain, and that its seeds are: "Glory is to Allah (Subhan Allah) [and] all praise is due to Allah (Alhamdulillah) and 'none has the right to be worshipped but Allah' (La ilaha illa Allah), and Allah is the greatest (Allahu Akbar)." [Tirmidhi]

### 7. Call on Allah

The ten days of Dhul Hijjah and in particular, the day of 'Arafah, are a time to call on Allah, to beg for His forgiveness, to ask for His mercy and to thank Him for the blessings He has bestowed upon us.

What did the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) say about the

day of 'Arafah?

"In it, there is an hour in which no believing worshipper makes a supplication to Allah for good, except that Allah answers it for him, and he does not seek Allah's protection from evil, except that He protects him from it." [Tirmidhi]

Raise your hands and call on Him in any language, at any time. Pray for yourself first and foremost, pray for your family and friends and pray for the entire ummah. In particular, pray for those that are oppressed around the world and ask Allah to make them victorious in their struggle.

### 8. Learn from the Sacrifices and Steadfastness of Hajar

Dhul Hijjah is an opportunity to reflect on the lessons from the amazing story of Hajar.

When Ibrahim left his wife Hajar and son Isma'il in the middle of the desert, she asked him whether Allah had asked him to do it. When he said, 'Yes,' she responded with, "In that case, Allah will never abandon us." She did not waver in her faith, and knew with full certainty – even as she ran between the hills of Safa and Marwa, looking for sustenance for Isma'il, that Allah would not abandon her. Today millions of pilgrims replicate her actions by running between the hills of Safa and Marwa to commemorate her strength and her complete reliance on Allah, and drink from the water of Zamzam that Allah rewarded her with and that we still drink from today.

### 9. Reflect and ask Allah to allow you to witness Dhul Hijjah next year

Prophet Muhammad's (ﷺ) last sermon, otherwise known as the Khutbatul Wadaa (the Farewell Sermon), was delivered on Friday the 9th of Dhu al-Hijjah at Mount Arafah during the final and only Hajj that the Prophet ever embarked on in the last few months of his life. In it, he reminded us to not hurt one another, to avoid riba (interest), to treat women well and uphold their rights, that we are all equal in the eyes of Allah, and that racism has no place in Islam, and to seek refuge in Allah from the devil. It is beautifully all-encompassing, to be followed by us for years to come insha'Allah.

"Today I have completed your religion for you, perfected My favour upon you, and have chosen Islam as your religion." (Qur'an 5:3)

You can also take the opportunity to listen to the sermon from Mecca on the day of Arafat, it is available via multiple platforms online.

Say: In the bounty of Allah and in His Mercy – in that let them rejoice. (Qur'an 10: 58)

Celebrate Eid ul Adha by rejoicing in Allah's mercy and bounty. Alhamdulillah for all the goodness that He provides for us and the blessing of Islam. May our worship and good deeds this Dhul Hijjah earn the pleasure of Allah.











## These Are the Best Airlines Of 2023, According To Passengers

**Agenceis**

Singapore Airlines has unseated rival Qatar Airways as the world's best airline in 2023, according to an annual poll of fliers. The Middle Eastern carrier slipped into second place, with Japan's All Nippon Airways, Emirates and Japan Airlines rounding out the top five, in the Skytrax World Airline Awards 2023.

Qatar did, however, have an ace up its sleeve. It dominated categories for best business class offerings, including best business class airline, seat and lounge.

In the budget arena, AirAsia was named world's best low-cost airline, while Scoot was the best low-cost long-haul carrier.

"This award is a testament to the indomitable spirit of our people, who worked tirelessly and made many sacrifices to ensure that SIA was ready for

the recovery in air travel," said Goh Choon Phong, chief executive officer of Singapore Airlines. "That has allowed us to emerge stronger and fitter from the pandemic as a leading international airline."

The highest ranked North American airline was Delta, which landed in 20th position -- up four spots on last year. European carriers fared a little better, with Turkish Airlines in sixth spot and Air France taking seventh place. The award for best cabin crew went to Garuda Indonesia, while the cleanest airline award went to ANA.

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The World Airline Awards were determined by an online customer survey, covering fliers from more than 100 countries. It ran from September 2022 until May 2023, with more than 325 airlines featured in the final results.

## Soon, Your Face Will Be The Boarding Pass At Airports In India: Thales



**Agenceis**

**Paris [France]:** Remember last year's congestion at Delhi Airport when Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia made a surprise visit there and suggested a few measures to mitigate the chaos? Soon, your face will be your boarding pass. Thales, an Aerospace, Space, Defence to Security and Transportation company is working with Indian airport operators for a seamless journey from your home to the boarding without really contacting or looking at anyone in terms of checking your security at Airports.

At the ongoing week-long Paris Air Show, Thales has displayed 'Fly to Gate' biometric passenger journey solutions which will reduce the boarding time by an estimated 30 per cent.

Ashish Saraf, Vice President

and Country Head for India, Thales said that his company has developed such solutions that one's face will be their boarding passes at Airport.

"The DigiYatra app on your phone will allow you to register your boarding pass, and scan your face, it authenticates the face with your biometrics in Aadhar and registers yourself as a passenger enabled by DigiYatra. Now once you are at the airport, your face is your boarding pass. So when you are at the airport, you can enter using your face because it's already authenticated with your Identity. You will see separate DigiYatra gates at our airports which already exist."

"You go to the main gate security, there also your face is your boarding pass so it authenticates you. You go through security, and at the boarding, you basically again will see the Thales face pod

which will be installed there. It scans your face and you're in so effectively doing a seamless journey from your home to the boarding without really contacting or looking at anyone in terms of checking your security etc. It's actually using your biometrics to authenticate and giving you a seamless boarding experience all the way to boarding the aeroplane."

Mr Saraf clarified that the DigiYatra application, is, however, not mandatory to use this seamless facility.

"If you don't have the app, go to the airport, enrol yourself and you are registered. Then start your boarding process, but with app, it's easy because you can do it from the comfort of your home, but if you're not, then you will find the Digi Yatra kiosk at the airport and you could go to boarding seamlessly," Mr Saraf said.

## 'Adipurush' Dialogues Altered After Public Backlash

Mumbai: The makers of "Adipurush", the latest adaptation of epic Ramayana facing public criticism for the poor quality of its dialogues and visual effects, have revised certain lines in the film. The controversy-ridden film, which registered a bumper opening at the box office only to witness a major drop in collections as negative word of mouth spread on social media, is now screening in theatres with altered dialogues.

"Adipurush", which was released across the country in Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil on Friday, stars Prabhas as Raghav (Ram), Kriti Sanon as Janaki (Sita) and Saif Ali Khan as Lankesh (Raavan).

Directed by Om Raut and produced by T-Series, big-budget multilingual saga "Adipurush" has been panned on social media over its poor VFX and colloquial dialogues, with dialogue writer Manoj Muntashir Shukla under fire for Lord Hanuman's dialogues in the "Lanka Dahan" sequence, among others. In the scene, the character of Hanuman had lines like: 'Kapada tere baap ka toh jalegi bhi tere baap ki'. It is now changed to, 'Kapda teri Lanka ka... toh jalegi bhi teri Lanka'.

Shukla on Sunday announced that the makers were ready to "revise some of the dialogues" and the amended lines will be added to the film by this week.

In a long post, he also defended himself.

"I can give countless arguments in favour of my dialogues, but this will not lessen your pain.

Me and the producer-director of the film have decided that we will revise some of the dialogues which are hurting you and they will be added to the film this week," Shukla said in the statement shared on his official Twitter account on Sunday.

In his statement, which he wrote in Hindi, Shukla said it is possible that in a three-hour film he may have written "something different from your imagination for 3 minutes of duration", but viewers shouldn't hurry to label him as a "Sanatan drohi".

"I wrote more than 4,000 lines as dialogues in 'Adipurush', some sentiments got hurt on five of those lines. In those hundreds of lines, where Shri Ram was glorified, Maa Sita's chastity was described, I was hoping to receive praise for them, which I don't know why I did not get," he added. T-Series, the studio behind the movie which was mounted on a reported budget of Rs 500 crore, on Wednesday tweeted that the film had earned Rs 395 crore gross in five days.

But a breakdown of these official numbers show that Monday and Tuesday figures are significantly lower than what the film made on its opening weekend: Rs 140 crore on day one, followed by Rs 100 crore each on day two and three.

In contrast, "Adipurush" earned Rs 35 crore on Monday and Rs 20 crore (gross figures) on Tuesday. The production banner also announced on Wednesday that audiences can now watch the movie at a reduced price of Rs 150 on Thursday and Friday.

**THESE ARE THE TOP 20 AIRLINES FOR 2023:**

1. Singapore Airlines
2. Qatar Airways
3. All Nippon Airways (ANA)
4. Emirates
5. Japan Airlines
6. Turkish Airlines
7. Air France
8. Cathay Pacific Airways
9. Eva Air
10. Korean Air
11. Hainan Airlines
12. Swiss International Air Lines
13. Etihad Airways
14. Iberia
15. Fiji Airways
16. Vistara
17. Qantas Airways
18. British Airways
19. Air New Zealand
20. Delta Air Lines

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