



Kashmir Observer wishes its readers a happy and prosperous Eid-ul-fitr.

27th year OF PUBLICATION

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Eid-al-Fitr Being Celebrated Today



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Eid ul Fitr will be celebrated in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday as the Shawwal moon was sighted in the region, marking the culmination of the holy month of Ramadan.

Kashmir Grand Mufti, Nasir-ul-Islam late on Tuesday announced that evidence of moon sightings were received by him from different parts of Kashmir.

He said that the consultative committee headed by him (Grand Mufti) with members Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Moulana Rehmatullah Qasimi, Moulana Abdul Lateef Alqindi, Ghulam Rasool Hami and | More on P6

LG, DGP, Others Greet People

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr. In his message, the Lt Governor said: "On the joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, I convey my heartiest greetings and good wishes to all. Eid-ul-Fitr marks the culmination of the pious month of Ramzan and symbolizes brotherhood, unity, | More on P6

Bakery Sales Dip Despite Eid Rush

Amidst the uproar over the escalating bakery prices in Kashmir and consumer complaints of exorbitant rates ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, the Kashmir | More on P6

Eid Prayers at Jama Masjid at 9:30 AM

Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar has announced that Eid prayers will be offered at the Jama Masjid at 09:30 am, while Mirwaiz Dr. Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq, will deliver the Eid sermon at 08:30 AM. It has requested Muslims to ensure their participation in the Eid prayers and to bring their prayer mats along in case they arrive late. | More on P6

J&K Bank's MPay Surpasses 1000 Cr Transaction In A Single Day

Jammu and Kashmir Bank has shattered previous records, achieving historic transaction counts ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. The bank's mPay channel surpassed Rs 1000 crore mark in a single day for | More on P6

Art 370 Takes Centre Stage In 3-way Fight In Udhampur



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Four years after being revoked, Article 370 has taken centre stage in the

poll campaign in Jammu and Kashmir, more so in the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency where Union Minister Jitendra Singh | More on P6

Arrangements For PM's Rally In Full Swing

Preparations are in full swing for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally here on April 12, Udhampur Bharatiya Janata Party chief Arun Gupta said | More on P6

'Battle of Young Turks Vs Old Guards'

As the electoral battle heats up for the Udhampur parliamentary seat in Jammu and Kashmir, an intriguing age divide emerges among the candidates vying for the coveted position. Among the 12 contenders, 28-year-old Amit Kumar stands as the youngest aspirant, while 71-year-old GM Saroori | More on P6

Kejriwal To Stay In Jail, Petition Rejected

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Political considerations are not relevant to the legal process, the Delhi High Court said on Tuesday, as it dismissed Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's petition challenging his arrest in a money laundering case and questioning its timing, holding that an investigation against "classes and masses" cannot be different.

Kejriwal, who was arrested by the ED on March 21 after he skipped nine

summons for his appearance, had argued that the federal anti-money laundering agency could have questioned him through video conference or by sending a questionnaire or quizzed him at his residence.

"In this court's opinion, this contention has to be rejected since the investigating agency under the Indian criminal jurisprudence cannot be directed to conduct the investigation in accordance with convenience | More on P6

Have To Take "Rocket Of Development" Much Higher: PM

Press Trust Of India

Bhopal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hit out at the opposition's INDIA grouping saying that its leaders were working to protect the corrupt, and abusing and threatening him to hinder the country's development.

"I say remove corruption, they say save the corrupt," Modi said at a rally in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district which will go to polls on April 19.

The Lok Sabha elections were a mission for building a



new India, he said, seeking the people's blessings to take "big and historic decisions" in the third term of the BJP-led NDA

government.

The "sea of saffron" that had gathered to hear him showed what the poll results on June 4 would be, Modi said.

Congress has sounded the bugle against the country by forming the "INDI alliance", the prime minister said, adding that these parties fight with each other but claim to have come together to stop him.

"But in reality, they do not want to stop Modi. Those in the INDI alliance want to stop the development of the country," he said. | More on P6

Waqf Board Relieves Hazratbal Shrine Cleric

Accused Of Forced Conversion Of Non-local

Agencies

Srinagar: Days after an FIR was registered over alleged forced conversion, the J&K Waqf Board has relieved the cleric of Hazratbal shrine and constituted an enquiry committee to probe his role.

On Jumat-ul-Vida- the last Friday of Ramazan, a video showed a non-local converting to Islam and reciting Kalima at Srinagar's Hazratbal shrine. Police registered an FIR the same day under various

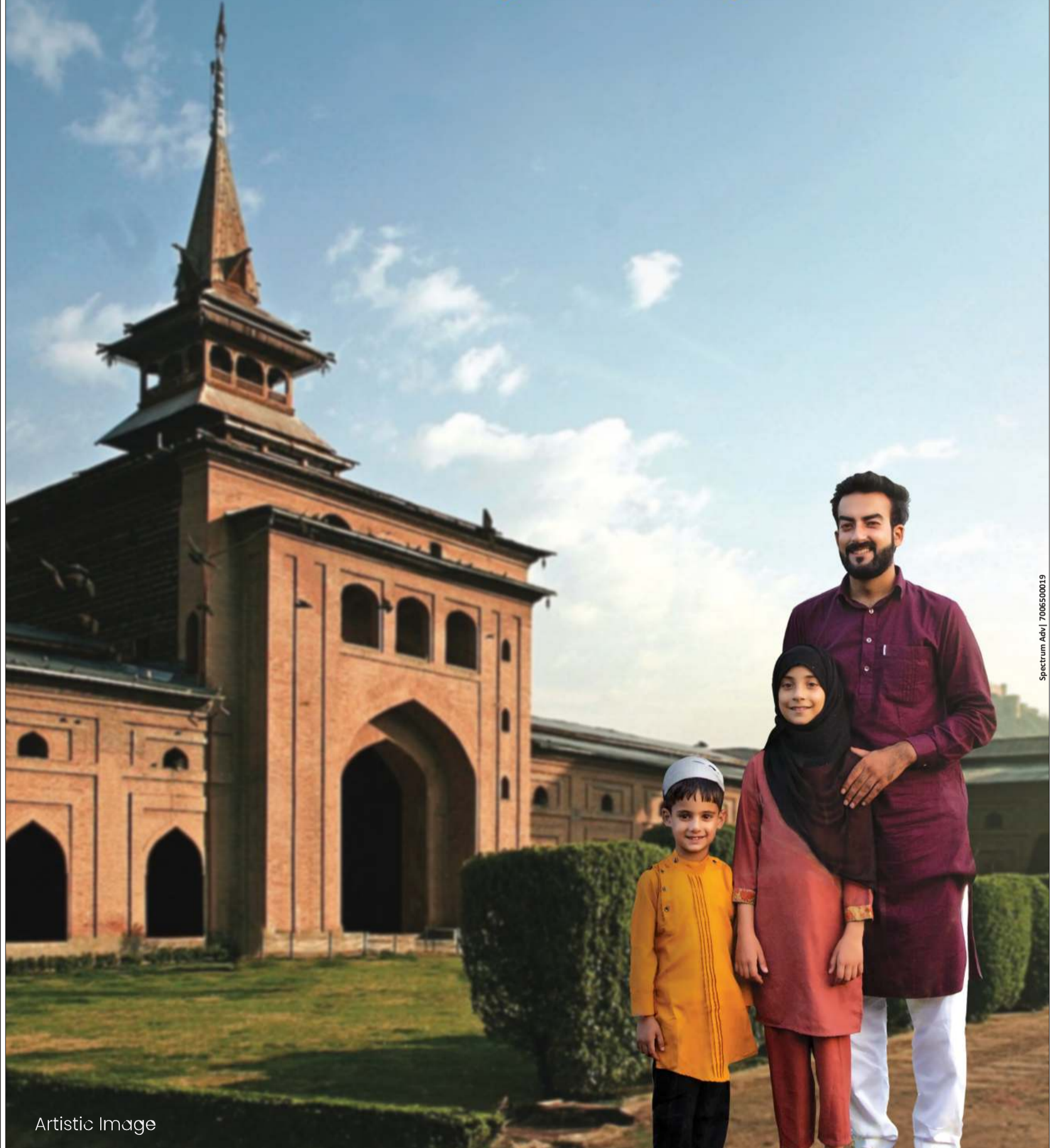
sections at Nigeen police station alleging that a Srinagar resident forced the non-local who was his domestic help to convert to Islam. The J&K Waqf Board has now acted against the cleric and relieved Kamal-ud-din Farooqui from the duties of Imaam-o-Khateeb, Aasar-i-Shareef, Hazratbal till the completion of the enquiry, a statement said. The Waqf said there were allegations that Farooqui presided over forcible conversion during Friday prayers.

"Given the | More on P6



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'Sensing', 'Intuitive' Runners Adopt Different Styles To Optimise Energy: Study

Press Trust Of India

An individual's Myers-Briggs personality -- sensing or intuitive -- can influence how they use their lower bodies while running for optimising energy, a new research has found.

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) personality test defines sensing individuals as those preferring physical realities and concrete, specific facts, and intuitive ones as those favouring abstract concepts and making unconscious connections.

Researchers said this preference was reflected in the participants' running styles as they used their lower bodies differently.

They observed that the intuitives adopted a "dynamic and elastic" running form by using their legs as springs in propelling themselves upwards, thereby making shorter strides and recovering energy with each stride -- known as the 'stretch-shortening' running style.

The sensing runners, on the other hand, were seen to favour a more "earthbound" running style, by which they propelled themselves forward rather than upwards.



"The 'physical contact' down-to-earth aspect of this personality trait seems to be reflected in both the mind and running form of sensing runners," the researchers, including those at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, said in the study published in the PLoS ONE journal.

Since such individuals pay attention to something they can perceive with their physical senses, individuals with a more grounded running form should focus on practical facts, the authors said.

"Sensing runners might describe their running form as 'I run very close to the ground to save as much energy as possible,'" the team said.

In contrast, the authors said the elastic running form is an "inherent feature" of the intuitive runners, relying on the re-use of elastic energy.

"These individuals were better able to use their lower limb structures as springs, representing one of the multiple functional roles of the musculoskeletal system," the authors wrote.

"Intuition runners might describe their running form as 'I spend energy to fight against gravity because I can use my leg springs to recover energy from each step,'" said the authors.

For the study, the researchers recruited 80 participants -- 67 men and 13 women -- between September 1 and November 30, 2014. Each participant underwent two experimental sessions within a week -- a running test in the first session and a personality assessment in the second.

Researchers Warn Of Extreme Heat Impact On Outdoor Workers, Call For Awareness, Fewer Hours

Press Trust Of India

As the country braces for extreme heat in the April-June period with the temperatures already starting to rise, researchers have sounded the alarm over detrimental effects it can have on outdoor workers in farming, construction and other sectors.

The India Meteorological Department recently said above-normal maximum temperatures were likely over most parts of the country in April-June this year, and the central and western peninsular parts are expected to face the worst impact. Above-normal heatwave days are likely over most parts of the plains, it said.

Following the adverse weather warning, researchers are advocating for novel ways of working outdoors, including flexible hours and mandatory breaks, to help workers adapt to the effects of heat, made increasingly humid because of climate change.

"Dry heat is relatively easier to handle. When the body heats up and we drink water, there is evaporation and the body cools down. However, in humid heat, evaporation reduces because of high moisture in the air which hampers the body's cooling mechanism," Vimal Mishra, Vikram Sarabhai Chair Professor, Civil Engineering and Earth Sciences, IIT Gandhinagar, told PTL.

"Doing intensive labour in such conditions can raise body heat to a level where it can also cause mortal-

ity," he warned.

An international study examining how tropical heat impacts outdoor workers has found that for one degree Celsius of additional warming, roughly 800 million people will live in areas needing hours of heavy work to be cut down by more than half over the entire year.

In other words, "one degree Celsius of additional warming, heat, and humidity, will hinder the ability of one in eight people living in the tropics to safely work (outdoors) during most daylight hours," Mishra, the study's co-author, wrote in a comment for Nature India, an online publication of the Nature Portfolio.

The study, co-led by the US-based Paul G Allen Family Foundation, was published in the journal One Earth in March 2024.

According to the study, the world is edging closer to breaching the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, with heat and humidity levels in the tropics having been studied to be closer than ever to human tolerance thresholds.

The increasingly humid heat is likely to affect outdoor workers in Africa and Asia the most because of their large working-age populations, likely to rise in coming decades, coupled with high reliance on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, the authors said.

Another study, conducted in Tamil Nadu and published in October last year, found that occupational exposure to extreme heat more than



doubled the risk of miscarriage in pregnant women, with the heat generally raising the overall risk of adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes.

"We also observed that because of limited access to toilets, the women were eating and drinking less, resulting in malnutrition. This too can impact pregnancy outcomes," Vidhya Venugopal, the study's corresponding author and professor at the Faculty of Public Health of the Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research in Chennai, told PTL.

The study assessed 800 pregnant women, 47 per cent of whom were exposed to heat while working outdoors.

Among the women exposed to extreme heat, 6.1 per cent had still and preterm births, compared to 2.6 per cent of the women exposed to heat within safe limits, it said.

Further, 8.4 per cent of the women exposed to high heat levels birthed babies having low weight, compared to 4.5 per cent of the women exposed to safe levels of heat, the "first-of-its-kind" study to be conducted in India found. It is published in the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

"Biologically, the external heat adds to the internal heat generated in pregnant women because of hormones. So, when these women sweat

in the heat, the blood flow rushes more towards their organs, which lowers the amount flowing towards the foetus, thereby hindering their growth and development," Venugopal said.

Mishra said that unless adaptation measures were implemented, the vulnerable tropical outdoor workers were in store for a future with more extreme heat, accompanied by more pronounced adverse impacts.

The researchers also called for the empowerment of outdoor workers by raising their self-awareness and agency in decision-making.

"We suggest workers to avoid labour under harsh conditions. We also suggest fewer working hours with changes in working routine in line with the external ambient conditions. We further advise workers to take breaks, which can also be mandated by agencies employing them," Mishra added.

Venugopal said outdoor women workers needed to be made more aware of the effects of extreme heat on their health and that primary healthcare centres can play an important role.

"Through primary healthcare centres, which the women frequent during their gestation period, they can be sensitised about how the extreme heat is impacting them and their offspring's health. The government can adopt such measures in mitigating the effects of extreme heat on outdoor women workers," she said.

It's critical for kindergartens to embrace playful learning

The Conversation

Think back to one of your fondest memories of play. Where were you, who were you with, what powers did you pretend to have? Would you like to go back there if you could, if only for a moment?

Unfortunately, fewer and fewer children are having the opportunity to have experiences like this, which is disturbing for many reasons.

Key among these is that play makes children (and people of all ages) happy, and our society is seeing happiness deprivation. Along with many others who work in health, as a child psychiatrist I am deeply concerned about this. Mental illness among children and adolescents has gone up and some mental health researchers are making a link to play deprivation.

Ontario recently announced there will be a new kindergarten curriculum that focuses on back-to-basics for literacy in response to the province's Right to Read inquiry, which called for changes to

reading education.

Ontario's education minister has said a play-based approach will remain part of kindergarten. But some early childhood experts fear we will see an increased schoolification of kindergarten and an end to a rich environment where educators support children's curiosity and play-based inquiry.

Our children can flourish and learn how to read if classrooms embrace playful learning inquiry-based, play-based activities that are supported by educators, with some direct instruction. However, the success of this type of learning will depend on several factors.

Learning to read does not come naturally. Reading requires developing new neural pathways. This requires some direct instructions for the development of specific skills, and this can be done through playful learning that need not mean a loss of play.

This will depend on: The kindergarten team (comprised of a teacher and

early childhood educator) fully understanding their roles and the new curricula priorities;

The team knowing how to support play-based learning in the classroom, and mapping out how they will combine some direct instruction with rich play-and inquiry-based activities;

The team being sufficiently equipped and resourced. Ideally, this would mean being supported by a literacy coach well-versed in evidence-based learning strategies for supporting children's emerging literacy and for supporting play.

Until fairly recently, many people considered play to be the opposite of work and learning, believing play is done when the real work of learning has been finished. Many still do not understand that playing instead of practising the alphabet or counting is not a waste of valuable time.

But once people know that experiences accompanied by emotional connections are much more memorable, you can organize play in ways that

increase the amount of learning. From a neuroscientific perspective, it is clear that play is not frivolous: it changes the brain by enhancing brain structure and function.

Children learn about themselves, the world and so much more through play. From a health perspective, the absence of play, especially outdoor play, leads to rising obesity rates.

Through play, children learn interpersonal skills, how to be a friend and how to solve problems skills desperately needed in these times of artificial intimacy. Play promotes thinking, problem solving, impulse inhibition and executive function. These are essential skills for learning how to read.

There has been an explosion in the study of the science of learning which asks: how does the brain learn? Kathy Hirsh Pasek, a professor of psychology at Temple University, with her team, is leading scholars in this science of learning. According to their research, learning happens best when:

از وقت تا ب تحصیلدار چٹن
 عنوان: درخواست مخائب عاقبت بشیر ولد بشیر احمد خان ساکنہ برن چٹن بھڑسہ صولہ پنڈت سرٹھیکٹ بچہ متونی بشیر احمد خان ساکنہ بوجھ تحصیل چٹن
اشہار ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درواست بھڑسہ صولہ پنڈت بھڑسہ صولہ پنڈت کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بھاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے میاں ہے کہ ساکن کا والد متونی بشیر احمد مورخہ 12-02-2024 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے متونی کنیک کفالت خود کرتا تھا متونی کے پسماندگان بذیل ہے۔
 سمانہ لویہ پنڈت 54 گھر پلوکام زوہہ متونی
 تبسم بشیر 27 سال گھر پلوکام ڈنڈ متونی
 مدثر بشیر 24 سال زیر تعلیم پسر متونی
 عاقبت بشیر 21 سال زیر تعلیم پسر متونی
 سمانہ متناہ پنڈت 70 سال عمر رسیدہ والدہ متونی
 اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد نکتہ نہیں ہے۔ سرٹھیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزی یا عراض ہو تو وہ عدالت بھڑسہ صولہ پنڈت کے اندر آئے پنے عزی یا عراض واد است حذا کو دفتر ای اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میا کو کوئی عزی یا عراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 نامب تحصیلدار FKO

از عدالت ایکویٹیو مجسٹریٹ با اجلاس تحصیلدار نارہ مل ضلع بڈگام
 عنوان: درخواست مدثر علی دو صیف علی پسران علی محمد تیلوانی ساکنہ متونی ڈون تحصیل نارہ مل ضلع بڈگام برادر اجرائی سولہ کاسٹ سرٹھیکٹ بڈرہ تیلوانی
اشہار ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درواست بھڑسہ صولہ سولہ کاسٹ سرٹھیکٹ چٹن کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بھاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے میاں ہے کہ ساکن متونی ڈون میں کاسکوت دار ہے اور تیلوانی ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے۔ ساکن کا کنبہ 14 افراد پر مشتمل ہے کنہ میں ایک سرکاری کرم چاری ہے کنہ کی آمدنی ہملو ساکن سے مبلغ 408000 روپیہ ہے۔ سرٹھیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزی یا عراض ہو تو وہ عدالت بھڑسہ صولہ پنڈت کے اندر آئے پنے عزی یا عراض واد است حذا کو دفتر ای اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میا کو کوئی عزی یا عراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
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از عدالت ایکویٹیو مجسٹریٹ با اجلاس تحصیلدار نارہ مل ضلع بڈگام
 عنوان: درخواست رئیس راہی ولد حبیب اللہ ساکنہ متونی ڈون تحصیل نارہ مل ضلع بڈگام برادر اجرائی سولہ کاسٹ سرٹھیکٹ بچہ ساکنہ
اشہار ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں ساکن نے ایک درواست بھڑسہ صولہ سولہ کاسٹ سرٹھیکٹ چٹن کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں بھاری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے میاں ہے کہ ساکن متونی ڈون میں کاسکوت دار ہے اور اجرام ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے۔ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل ہے۔
 حبیب اللہ غلام ولد غلام امجد گام 72 سال مزدوری والد ساکن
 سکینہ بیگم زوہہ حبیب اللہ 65 سال گھر پلوکام والدہ ساکن
 رئیس راہی ولد حبیب اللہ 31 سال زیر تعلیم ساکن خود
 اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد نکتہ نہیں ہے ساکن کے کنہ کی سالانہ آمدنی تقریباً ایک لاکھ بیس ہزار روپے تک ہے۔ سرٹھیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزی یا عراض ہو تو وہ عدالت بھڑسہ صولہ پنڈت کے اندر آئے پنے عزی یا عراض واد است حذا کو دفتر ای اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میا کو کوئی عزی یا عراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
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Fire Damages 3 Residential Houses At Rambagh

Agencies

Srinagar: At least three residential houses were damaged in a fire incident that broke out in Rambagh area of Srinagar on Tuesday late evening, officials said.

An official said that three residential houses

were damaged in a fire incident that broke out in Srinagar's Rambagh.

He added that, as the fire call was received, the officials from F&ES rushed to the spot and doused off the flames, while the cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained—(KNO)

Traffic Police Issues Warning Against Reckless Driving On Eid

Agencies

Srinagar: As Eid-ul-Fitr festivities approach, the Traffic Police in Srinagar has issued a stern appeal to young individuals, urging them to refrain from fast driving, racing, and engaging in dangerous stunts on the streets.

A senior traffic official, speaking anonymously, emphasized the risks associated with reckless behavior, highlighting that violators will face on-the-spot penalties, with their parents being duly notified.

"Special teams have been deployed to monitor and deter such activities, particularly focusing on areas prone to such incidents," the official said.

Collaboration with district police has been established to enhance vigilance and enforcement measures.

In a direct plea to parents, the official under-

scored the importance of not entrusting vehicles to minors and ensuring responsible driving habits among young drivers.

The Traffic Police has been actively engaging with youth through counseling sessions, urging them to redirect their energy towards constructive pursuits, such as education, to foster responsible citizenship.

Efforts to streamline traffic movement ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr have been successful, thanks to meticulous planning and deployment of specialized traffic squads. Reports indicate smooth traffic flow across key areas of Srinagar, attributed to the cooperation of the public and diligent efforts of traffic personnel.

With collaborative efforts and continued vigilance, the Traffic Police aims to maintain safe and efficient traffic conditions throughout the Eid festivities in Srinagar.

Navratra Festivities Illuminates Vecharnag Temple In Old City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As a display of religious fervor and cultural harmony, Navratra festivities took center stage in Srinagar as the devotees gathered at the historic Vecharnag Temple to celebrate the auspicious occasion.

The temple grounds echoed with chants and prayers, resonating with the spirit of devotion and celebration.

Local residents and pilgrims alike flocked to the Vecharnag Temple, adorned in vibrant traditional attire, to pay homage to the divine during the nine-day festival.

The atmosphere was filled with joy and reverence as devotees offered prayers and participated in rituals, marking the triumph of good over evil.

A devotee said they look forward to Navratra every year as it brings

our community together in celebration and devotion. She added that Vecharnag temple holds immense significance for them, and being able to participate in the festivities here fills their hearts with happiness and spiritual fulfillment.

Another devotee voiced the sentiments, saying the vibrant celebrations of Navratra at Vecharnag Temple fill me with pride and joy. It's heartwarming to see people from all walks of life come together to celebrate our rich cultural heritage and traditions.

Pertinently, 'Navratra' is a time when Hindus celebrate the goddess Durga for killing the demon, Mahishasura. A more powerful God, Lord Brahma, had blessed Mahishasura with the gift of immortality because of his dedication to him, which meant he could never die-KNO



Marketplaces were bustling with activities from consumers, a day before Eid-ul-Fitr in Srinagar on Tuesday, KO Photo by Abid Bhat

Mirwaiz Addresses Faithful At Bazar Masjid Srinagar

Agencies

Srinagar: The chief cleric of Kashmir, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, while addressing a sermon at Bazar Masjid, Srinagar spoke about the great teachings of Islam and its far-reaching effects on humanity.

He emphasized that rights in Islam are fundamentally based on the rights of Allah (Haqooq Ul Lah) and the rights of mankind, (Haqooq Ul Ibadan) and the entire structure of rights and duties in Islam stands on this principle.

Mirwaiz said that as far as the rights of Allah are concerned, then Allah is "Ghani" and "Be-Niyaaz".

He can deal with His servants in the matter of concessions and forgiveness, but as far as the rights of the servants are concerned, the Qur'an and the Hadith are clear on this: unless full consideration and attention are given to the fulfillment of each other's rights, Allah Almighty forgiveness can remain elusive

Greets People On Eid-ul-Fitr

Srinagar: Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq Tuesday expressed heartfelt greetings to the Islamic World and all the Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. His Eid message is as follows:

On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the Islamic World and all the Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir, a statement said.

"We are celebrating today's Eid in these circumstances while we are facing various challenges

and problems at the social, societal and religious levels. As a Muslim Ummah, we are facing many problems locally as well as on the global level as Muslims regarding our Milli identity," Mirwaiz said.

By the grace and mercy of Allah Almighty, all of us have been blessed with an opportunity for worship, fasting, purification of the soul and improvement of our conduct during the blessed month of fasting. Let us strive to maintain this spiritual atmosphere and disposition in the future as well, he added.

He said that nowadays, our focus is more on the fulfillment of the rights of Allah while there are severe and serious lapses on our

behalf in fulfilling the rights of mankind. This discrepancy starkly contrasts with the core values and teachings of Islam.

ذہنی صحت کی حفاظت کے لئے
مفت مشاورت
ہمارے کلینک پہ روزانہ میسر ہے۔
اور ساتھ ساتھ ہم آن لائن موڈ میں بھی
مشاورت کے لئے دستیاب ہیں

HAPPY AND HEALTHY MINDS

خوشحال اور صحت مند ذہن

HAPPY MIND

HEALTHY MIND

ہمارے پاس پیشہ ور اور تربیت یافتہ ماہرین کی ٹیم تجربہ کار ماہر نفسیات کی سربراہی میں مختلف اقسام کے نفسیاتی اور منشیات امراض سے چھٹکارہ پانے کے لیے سماج کے متاثرہ افراد کی مدد کے لیے دستیاب ہیں۔

درج ذیل ذہنی صحت سے وابستہ مسائل پہ قابو پانے کے لیے رجوع فرمائیں:

- عصبانیت اور زہنی تناؤ کا درمان
- بھیانک حادثات اور واقعات کے بعد آنے والا ذہنی عارضات، مثلاً بد خوابی، شدید تشویش اور واقعات کے بارے میں قابو میں نہ ہونے والے خیالات - (PTSD)
- انفرادی ترقی اور مثبت تبدیلی کی خاطر اپنے فیصلوں پر عملدرآمد کرنے کا عمل
- اداسی کی کیفیت۔
- ذہنی پریشانی کے آثار
- منشیات کی لت پر قابو پانے کے لیے مشاورت
- خودکشی کے انتہائی اقدام سے روکنے کی مشاورت

مفت ذہنی مشاورت کے لیے پیر سے ہفتہ، صبح 10 بجے سے شام 5 بجے تک رابطہ کریں۔

9070806160

HPVT فارمیسی بلڈنگ، دوسری منزل - دریش کدل چوک، سری نگر، جموں و کشمیر

DC Srinagar Visits Sharika Devi Temple On Navreh

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today visited Sharika Devi Temple atop Hari Parbat to inspect the arrangements made on the eve of Navreh festival, a festival celebrated on New Year as per Hindu calendar and beginning of Navratra celebrations.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by the members of Kashmir Pandit community and Officers.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner extended his greetings and best wishes to the devotees at the Temple, besides other members

of the community present there. They performed several ceremonies in presence of the Deputy Commissioner.

The DC expressed hope that the festival would become the harbinger of harmony, brotherhood and peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

All the devotees prayed for peace, positivity and prosperity in the society.

While interacting with the management Committee of the Sharika Devi Temple, the DC took first hand appraisal of the arrangements made at the venue and expressed satisfaction with the efforts put in by various Departments.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar-Leh - (Open)

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4 : 41
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5: 08
Magrib	7:01
ISHA	8: 25

This Day In History

- 837 - Comet 1P/837 FI (Halley) approaches within 0.0334 AUs of Earth
- 1589 - Spanish troops conquer Geertruidenberg
- 1815 - Mount Tambora in Indonesia experiences a cataclysmic eruption, one of the most powerful in history, killing around 71,000 people and causing a global volcanic winter
- 1877 - 1st human cannonball act performed in London
- 1887 - US President Abraham Lincoln's re-buried with his wife in Springfield, Illinois
- 1913 - President Woodrow Wilson throws out 1st ball, Senators beat Yankees 2-1
- 1923 - Hitler demands "hatred & more hatred" in Berlin
- 1938 - Austria becomes a state of Germany
- 1944 - Soviet forces liberate Odessa from Nazis
- 1946 - 1st election for Japanese Parliament
- 1964 - Iranian motor launch catches fire & sinks killing 113 (Persian Gulf)
- 1972 - 7.0 earthquake kills 1/5 of population of Iranian province of Fars
- 1973 - Pakistan suspends constitution
- 1979 - Soyuz 33 launched with a Russian & a Bulgarian
- 1981 - Computer glitch keeps Space Shuttle Columbia grounded
- 1986 - Benazir Bhutto returns to Pakistan
- 1989 - Intel corp announces shipment of 80-486 chip
- 1991 - Rare tropical storm develops in the Southern Hemisphere near Angola; first to be documented by satellites
- 1996 - Fastest wind speed ever recorded (not a tornado) 408 km/h (220 kn; 253 mph; 113 m/s) during tropical cyclone Olivia on Barrow Island, Australia
- 2006 - Hundreds of thousands protest H.R. 4437 (aka the "Sensenbrenner Bill") in the United States.
- 2010 - Polish Air Force Tu-154M crashes near Smolensk, Russia, killing all 96 people on board including President Lech Kaczyński
- 2012 - United Nations deadline for Syrian troop withdrawal passes as violence continues
- 2012 - Apple Inc claims a value of \$600 billion making it the largest company by market capitalization in the world
- 2013 - Japan and Taiwan sign an agreement on fishing rights around the Senkaku Islands

From KO Archives

Leisure A No Longer A Pleasure For Kashmir Youth

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The youth in Kashmir are today severely handicapped when it comes to spending leisure time in an enriching and meaningful way, a Kashmir Observer report has found out.

The older generation had a better time in its youth than today's younger lot, who despite the myriad diversions are dispassionate, feels anxious and impatient at what it describes as severely shrinking space for recreation.

Evidently television, internet cafes and snooker clubs are no match for the colourful fairs at Badamwari, the acrobatics of an Asfar Khan at Edges or the antics of magicians in open grounds of which only memories exist in the minds of elders.

What the youth of today seem to be missing is the kind of active participation their parents and grandparents had by being associated with dramatic clubs, literary societies or sports bodies.

The first ingredients of living satisfying life - the manner of spending leisure time - appears to be a gift that youth in Kashmir today have lost or never acquired in first place.

(Kashmir Observer, 10 April, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Wednesday | 10-04-2024

Balance Celebration And Charity

The joy of Eid-ul-Fitr is the ultimate reward for the faithful after a month of fasting and devotion. Despite the challenges of enduring long days, the prospect of Eid brings a sense of fulfillment and joy. Over the past few days, Srinagar, the heart of the Valley, was alive with bustling markets, congested roads, and a fervent rush of shoppers. The shopping has brought cheer to the faces of the business community. An unending stream of consumers has pushed up the sales. Despite the turmoil of the past three decades, the markets in Kashmir have never been robbed of the sheen during Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha celebrations.

The significance of Eid transcends mere festivity; it embodies spiritual renewal and the fulfillment of religious obligations. It is a time when the faithful reflect on their devotion and seek forgiveness from the Almighty. However, in Kashmir, Eid holds an additional significance – it serves as a reminder of our obligation to society amid the backdrop of decades-long turmoil.

It is true that over the past few years, the situation in Kashmir has transformed. While there has been a reduction in violence, many of the underlying issues remain unresolved. It is imperative for the authorities to take steps to understand the importance of a political outreach in the union territory. And it is hoped that this would happen sooner than later.

Amid the festivities, it is crucial not to succumb to unchecked consumerism. While indulging in celebrations, it is incumbent upon the community to remember the less fortunate and those who have endured the brunt of turmoil. Eid presents an opportunity for collective action to alleviate the suffering of the marginalized and contribute to a more equitable society. As Kashmir celebrates Eid, it is essential to reaffirm our commitment to tolerance, understanding, and cooperation across sectarian lines.

In the midst of uncertainty and challenges, Eid-ul-Fitr in Kashmir is a testament to resilience, faith, and community spirit. As we exchange greetings of "Eid Mubarak," let us not forget our responsibility towards our fellow citizens.

While we celebrate Eid, a festivity which is incumbent on all Muslims, we need to be mindful of the trauma and grief that we have been experiencing for the past three decades. This calls for us to be much more austere in our celebration. We need to show that we care on Eid too. Those of us who can afford to spend should instead donate the amount they would otherwise spend on consumables for their brethren in distress. Same goes for the people who spend lavishly on Eid feast. They would earn more Sawab and God's goodwill should they also contribute some amount to the people who have nothing. Let this Eid further strengthen and sustain the spirit of community effort that has made us resilient in the face of worst adversity.

OTHER OPINION

Promise or perish

Political parties offer voters a preview of their vision in manifestos ahead of an election. Personality-driven politics and rapid changes in communication modes have reduced the import of manifestos, but still they offer a structured documentation of a political party's approach to governance and state policy. The Congress manifesto for 2024, titled Nyay Patra (Document for Justice), is a pitch for the party's political revival in the face of the expansive ideological project of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Congress has offered 25 guarantees under categories such as justice for youth, women, farmers, workers and for equity. The focus, according to the party, is social justice, economy and the primacy of constitutional institutions, and a promise to "reverse the damage," allegedly done by the Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government. The most significant political promise is to remove the 50% cap on reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBC) and conduct a nation-wide caste census. The Congress is wading into unfamiliar waters on this count, as it has for the longest time lived in denial of caste as a determinant of politics, even as the BJP has expanded its base by addressing it. A new law to ensure that "bail is the rule, jail is the exception" in all criminal laws, a review of all laws that interfere with the right to privacy and individual's choice of food, dress or marriage, a self-regulation regime for the media and a law to preserve the freedom of the Internet have been promised.

An unconditional cash transfer of 1 lakh a year to every poor family under the Mahalakshmi scheme, legal right to the minimum support price (MSP), and the right to health with cashless insurance of up to 25 lakh under a universal health scheme are among the raft of welfare schemes that the Congress is offering to voters. Further, the party promises the right to apprenticeship with an annual stipend of 1 lakh, the abolition of application fees for government examination and government posts, one-time writing off of all educational loans including unpaid interest and a lot more. Whether all this adds up to a new vision that stands out in comparison with that of the BJP, and has credibility against the backdrop of the Congress's own track record in governance are questions that remain. Welfare schemes have ceased to be differentiators between political parties as all of them offer a mix of these. The Congress should have shown more imagination than was evident in its manifesto.

The Hindu

Riverbeds Over Exposed in J&K, A Catastrophic Precedent

Vaishav, Rambhara, Romshi, Sukhnag streams are being plundered and authorities' inaction is worsening the situation. Springs in Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Budgam and other districts are also drying up



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

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The constant movement of huge trucks, tractor trolleys, dumpers and tippers has weakened the embankments of streams like Romshi, Rambhara, Doodh Ganga, Shali Ganga, Vaishav, Sukhnag and other streams. The excessive use of JCB & L&T cranes has caused havoc in our streams and they look like bombarded sites



The Rule 4.3 of Jammu & Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016 also called J&K MMC Rules 2016 clearly says that no mining activity/operation shall be carried out in any river bed below the depth of 3 metres or below the water level, whichever is lesser. The use of machines is also banned as the work is to be done manually and material sold to locals in an area of 2 sq kms. On the contrary, the riverbeds in J&K are over-explored with heavy machinery and machines are going as deep as 20 to 30 meters. From Poonch to Pulwama and Kishtwar to Kupwara our streams, nallahs and rivers are being plundered by construction companies and contractors violating all the laws and rules governing riverbed mining in J&K.

Sukhnag Plundered

After being directed not to use heavy machinery for riverbed mining in Shaali Ganga and Doodh Ganga, the construction company involved in Srinagar Ring Road construction has moved towards the Beerwah area of Budgam where deep mining is done in Sukhnag nallah. Every day at least 100 dumpers carry boulders and other riverbed material from Sukhnag river and the same is dumped and processed at Gudsathoo Budgam. It is estimated that at least Rs 30 to 50 lakh damage is caused to state exchequer every day and in addition to it the environmental loss is immense which can't be even calculated monetarily.

When this author spoke to the District Mineral Officer-DMO Budgam Geology and Mining Department on Monday, he said Flood Control Department Budgam gave permission to the contractors but the officers of the Flood Control Department blame Geology & Mining Department for this. Under the garb of carrying riverbed material for construction of Srinagar Ring Road the said material is dumped at various places and sold in black-market as well. Same thing is done in areas falling under Karew where clay, sand and bajri is excavated for the Srinagar Ring Road project and a lot of this material is sold in black-market. Several Police officers, Geology and Mining department officials and other Govt officers are involved in these criminal acts across J&K.

Romshi Plundered

Romshi Nallah which flows through Pulwama district has been looted and plundered during the last many years. In the last 3 years the damage has been so immense that it is much more than the damage that was caused in the last 20 years to this water-body. On April 5th 2024 around 6:15pm

someone posted a video with GPS location on X (formerly Twitter) about illegal riverbed mining taking place in Romshi nallah at Rahmoo Pulwama. The X account named Save Rumshi Nallah had tagged me as well. I contacted the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama and also alerted the District Mineral Officer -DMO Manzoor Ahmad. The DMO told me that Executive Engineer PWD, R&B division Pulwama had forwarded requisition for disposal permit of riverbed material that had been accumulated near Rahmoo village inside the Romoshi nallah. "The machines were removing that material," he said. But the locals allege that illegal riverbed mining was happening in violation of J&K MMC Rules 2016 and against the orders of National Green Tribunal -NGT where a case has been filed already by this author.

The Govt officers always play safe by involving in blame games. On the other hand riverbeds are being over-exploited. This will be catastrophic in the coming years as a large number of springs have dried up and the water table has gone deep which is also impacting the water channels irrigating our paddy lands. The bore wells and tube wells in many areas of J&K are also drying up. The situation is dangerous in the areas located around Vaishav nallah in Kulgam, Rambhara in Shopian and Pulwama, Romshi nallah in Pulwama and Sukhnag nallah in Beerwah. The Doodh Ganga and Shali Ganga have also been over explored as the use of JCB cranes etc has almost been stopped except in the upper reaches of Shali Ganga nallah area where it is still being used but when it comes to other districts the loot and plunder is going on which needs to be stopped soon. Infact the DC Pulwama has been serious about this but these illegal acts are committed during the night hours

Flood Mitigation Capability Eroded

The excessive riverbed mining has eroded the flood mitigation capabilities of Kashmir's rivers and their embankments now have developed cave-like structures due to deep mechanized mining. This has made them porous and, in some places, completely weak which can be destroyed with gush of water in summer floods. This has resulted in an increased risk of flooding, landslides and soil erosion. This is posing a threat not only to the river landscape but also to the surrounding paddy fields, apple orchards as well.

When machines were not used for riverbed mining several years back, the streams and rivers followed a proper course. The paddy fields and apple farms were properly nourished through small irrigation channels. The capillary action of the water also fed the adjoining springs and tube wells as well and the water table was maintained. Now when the river-

bed has been explored as deep as 10 to 20 meters, this is impacting everything. The springs are drying up, bore wells, tube wells are getting impacted plus the irrigation channels don't get adequate water supply also.

Frequent Flooding

Frequent flooding, water logging on roads / fields is an annual phenomenon in Kashmir. But this would not have been dangerous earlier even if it would rain for 24 hours. Now things have changed completely. In the last 4 to 5 years, there isn't a single year when Kashmir valley did not experience water-logging and flooding. Maybe the intensity of these floods is small as compared to September 2014 floods but saying that there were no floods at all would be an incorrect statement. Kashmir valley especially has witnessed many floods in the last 200 years which caused unprecedented damage and loss of lives. For instance, Kashmir valley witnessed major floods in 1841, 1893, 1903, 1929, 1948, 1959, 1957, 1992 and 2014. Infact, Govt created many embankments around Jhelum and other small streams like Romshi, Doodh Ganga, Shali Ganga, Vaishav but due to illegal Riverbed Mining and constant movement of trucks, cranes and JCBs around these nallahs, streams and rivers, the embankments have been weakened and this is also leading to floods and water logging in the areas.

Conclusion

The constant movement of huge trucks, tractor trolleys, dumpers and tippers has weakened the embankments of streams like Romshi, Rambhara, Doodh Ganga, Shali Ganga, Vaishav, Sukhnag and other streams. The excessive use of JCB & L&T cranes has caused havoc in our streams and they look like bombarded sites. The landscape of these beautiful streams is extremely shabby now and Govt is yet to penalize the involved Govt officials and other non state actors? How can we expect the judiciary or National Green Tribunal to take cognizance of these issues when we have institutions like Flood Control Department, Geology & Mining Department, Pollution Control Committee, J&K Environmental Impact Assessment Authority who are not working as per the mandate they have been assigned. These institutions need to be taken to task and should be held accountable.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder & Chairman of J&K RTI Movement and Anant Fellow for Climate Action

Echoes of Eid

Nostalgic Reflections On The Festive Celebrations Of Yesteryear

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

As I strolled homeward bound, the iridescent hues of dusk slowly melting into the melancholy of evening, a sudden cry from behind broke the serenity. My little cousin, with his impish grin and sparkling eyes, beckoned me towards him. His words burst forth like a delightful symphony, "Look what I've got for Eid, new clothes to adorn my personage! And pray tell, dear cousin, have you also graced your wardrobe with the finest attire, or do the years deem you exempt from such revelry?" In an instant, my heart was aflutter, caught off guard by his innocent query. With a gentle smile, I replied in earnest, confessing that I had not indulged in the customary pursuit of acquiring new garments for Eid. Yet, his inquiry lingered in my mind, igniting a poignant reflection on my past adolescent years. In that moment, I was transported to a bygone era, reminiscing on how ardently we craved the arrival of Eid, eagerly anticipating the new clothes that would adorn our youthful frames.

Once upon a time, the Eid of yore was a glorious celebration of pure delight. How vividly I recall those endless nights of wakefulness when the dawn finally broke! And yet, as my mother's gentle voice roused us from our slumber, our weary eyes were stirred by the sweetest scent and aroma of joy. Truly, those were the moments that made life worth living, and we reveled in their glory as if they were the very essence of our existence. Oh, how our souls were lifted by the bountiful array of bakery and confectionery that graced our lips with each delectable bite. We knew that the delights of the day were only just beginning. For there was a world of wonder waiting to be explored, and we would savor every moment of it with the same joy and delight that had fueled us through the night. People

would traverse across the town, bearing gifts of warm embraces and jovial laughter, spreading love and joy as they went. The air was rich with the sweet aroma of fresh fruit, exchanged as a gesture of love between relatives. And oh, the children! They were bestowed with the coveted eidi, a cherished token of appreciation and love on this blessed occasion. Alas, those days are gone, but the memories of that joyous time remain etched in our hearts forever.

In this age of technological marvels and superficial connections, the once cherished sentiments of love and compassion have been callously replaced by the treacherous vices of jealousy, covetousness and envy. The advent of mobile phones has only exacerbated this malady, as we now barely make the effort to visit our loved ones, preferring instead to send a cursory text as a mere formality. The pure and noble emotion of love has been relegated to the annals of history, replaced by the cold and sterile world of virtual communication. Oh, how the heart aches for those simpler times when love was the cornerstone of our existence! In the bygone era, I fondly recollect the joyous



radiance of love. Ah, those were the days when children would flock to the nearby parks, their laughter and playful screams echoing through the surroundings as they indulged in various recreational activities. But alas, those treasured memories now

beauty of the designs was such that young girls and children alike would flock to these artists, patiently waiting in long and winding queues for their turn to have their hands embellished with the rich and radiant colors of mehndi. Oh, how those mem-

orable deeds of the mischievous young scamps who hurled these incendiary fireworks towards their innocent peers, particularly the gentle maidens who pleaded for mercy, were a source of great distress. Alas, their supplications fell upon deaf ears, and they were left to writhe in agony as the explosive blasts rent the air, while the perpetrators cackled with glee at their tormented cries.

As I weave the tapestry of my recollections, a vivid memory springs forth from the depths of my mind – a memory steeped in tradition and festivity. It is the memory of elders engaging in a rousing game of toss ring during the joyous occasion of Eid, vying for coveted prizes with every skillful toss. And yet, amidst the excitement and merriment, there existed a playful subterfuge – the children's crafty fibs about receiving the highest eidi, adding a delightful touch of whimsy to the festive air. In my youthful days, I indulged in the purchase of trinkets and eyewear

priced at a humble sum of rupees ten. I vividly recall basking in the glory of my imagination, envisioning myself as a Bollywood protagonist, wielding a toy gun in one hand and donning a pair of spectacles in the other. It wasn't long ago when I was chided for my ineptitude in mealtime etiquette, with a perplexed inquiry as to why I adorned glasses if I couldn't even dine correctly. Albeit in our nascent years, we may have been oblivious to certain concepts, but somehow, we retain them in our memory, and eventually, the veil is lifted, and we gain a deeper understanding of the message being conveyed to us. Oh, how the past beckons with its cherished tales, begging to be revisited and relived! As the day draws to a close, and the sun surrenders to the embrace of the night, we trudge back to our humble abodes, laden with the weariness of the day. Our minds racing with anticipation, we implore our parents, "Is tomorrow Eid as well?" The affirmative response from them evokes a sensation of unparalleled elation and euphoria within us. Our countenances illuminated with joy, our parents proceed to inquire about the manner in which we've expended our Eidi. They advise us to invest in something useful, instead of squandering it on firecrackers. They also urge us to opt for healthier alternatives like fruits instead of junk food. Nostalgia consumes me as I reminisce about the Eid festivities of yesteryear, now a distant memory.

The weight of our current responsibilities has rendered us unable to relive those cherished moments. Now I comprehend why some individuals professed that Eid was solely for us and indeed, really we were the undisputed monarchs of that era.

The author is a columnist and Poet pursuing msc In zoology. He tweets @peermohdamir and can be mailed at ehsaanamir133@gmail.com

Our countenances illuminated with joy, our parents proceed to inquire about the manner in which we've expended our Eidi. They advise us to invest in something useful, instead of squandering it on firecrackers. They also urge us to opt for healthier alternatives like fruits instead of junk food. Nostalgia consumes me as I reminisce about the Eid festivities of yesteryear, now a distant memory

occasion of Eid, where the pious and devout would gather to offer their prayers with fervor and devotion. The air would be thick with the sweet fragrance of love and blessings, as friends and family would embrace each other with genuine and candid hearts, their faces aglow with the

lie forgotten in the pages of time, a distant and fading echo of a simpler time when the world was innocent and pure.

The Girls would gather to adorn their hands with the intricate patterns of mehndi, a cherished art that only a few masters could command. The sheer

ories were treasured, etched in the hearts and minds of those fortunate enough to have experienced such simple yet profound joys. During my tender years, the festivities of Eid were often marred by the presence of firecrackers, a bane that I abhorred with every fiber of my being. The

How to Pray Eid Salah

AMALIAH TEAM

Every year, Eid comes around and some of us might end up standing behind the Imam to pray and find ourselves in Ruku when everyone else around us is still standing! We perform the Eid prayer twice a year, and yet we can still make the same mistakes. Here is an ultimate guide to Eid Salah that covers it all, from the origins and dates of Eid to the details of the Eid prayer to help you finally get it right!

What is Eid and how many types are there?

Islam has two specific days of celebration each year: Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha. These are days of festivities, worship, generosity and spending time with family.

Anas ibn Malik reported, The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) arrived in Medina during two days in which they were celebrating. The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "What are these two days?" They said, "We would celebrate these two days in the time of ignorance." The Prophet said, "Verily, Allah has replaced these two days with two better days: Eid-al-Adha and Eid-al-Fitr." (Sunan Abi Dawud 1134)

Eid-al-Fitr is celebrated after the holy month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and it is translated to mean "the festival of breaking the fast". Eid-al-Adha is celebrated on the 10th of Dhul-Hijjah, the twelfth and final month of the Islamic calendar, and it is translated to mean the 'festival of sacrifice'

How do we know when it is Eid?

The day of Eid-al-Fitr is determined when the crescent moon for the month of Shawwal is sighted on the

29th night or 30th night of Ramadan.

Eid-al-Adha is the tenth day of Dhul Hijjah, so when the crescent for this month is sighted for that month following the month of Dhul Qadah, the tenth day afterwards is celebrated as Eid.

How is Eid celebrated?

Both Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha are celebrated by Muslims by wearing their best clothes, greeting each other and most importantly performing the Eid prayer in the morning.

Each Eid also has specific acts of worship related to it. For example, on Eid-al-Fitr, Muslims pay an obligatory charity called Zakat-al-Fitr. This helps the less fortunate Muslims in our community to have enough food to celebrate Eid too. The required amount for Zakat-al-Fitr is the equivalent of one saa' (approximately 2.5kg) of staple food such as rice or grains for each member of the family, children and elderly included. This usually equates to the cost of a single meal and needs to be paid before Eid prayer. Watch this step-by-step guide on paying Zakat-al-Fitr.

Ibn Abbas reported: "The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) obligated Zakat-al-Fitr as purification of the fasting person from vain talk and misbehavior, as food for the poor. Whoever pays it before the Eid prayer, it is accepted as Zakat. Whoever pays it after the Eid prayer, it is part of voluntary charity." (Sunan Abi Dawud 1609)

On Eid-al-Adha, Muslims sacrifice an animal to commemorate the story of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and his readiness to sacrifice his son Ismail (AS) when commanded to do so. Allah (Exalted is He) pro-



vided a ram to sacrifice in place of Ismail (AS), and this sacrifice continues as part of our Eid celebrations.

The Eid Prayer

The Eid prayer is a special congregational prayer performed in the morning of Eid after sunrise, but before the time of zawaal, the time in which the sun has reached its highest point in the sky. Everyone is encouraged to join the community at the musalla (the prayer space).

Eid Salah for Women

The Prophet (ﷺ) commanded all women, young and old, to come out to the Eid prayer as well, including the menstruating women but told them to keep away from the musalla itself.

Umm 'Atiyah reported, "We were ordered to come out on the day of Eid, even the young girls and men-

struating women from their houses. We would stand behind the men and declare the greatness of Allah along with them, and supplicate to Allah along with them, hoping for the blessings of that day and its purification from sin." (Sahih Bukhari 971)

Is Eid Prayer obligatory?

- According to the Hanafi Madhab, Eid salah is a duty for each Muslim and is fard 'ayn (an individual obligation) for the men, meaning it is not permissible for them to miss it. This view is favoured by Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah (may Allah have mercy on him).

In the Maliki and Shafi'i schools, it is considered to be Sunnah Al-Mu'akkadah (confirmed Sunnah) but not mandatory.

- In the Hanbali Madhab,

it is a communal obligation (fard kifaya).

Before the Eid prayer

There are certain acts of Sunnah associated with the Eid day that you can read about in our article Sunnah Acts of Eid-al-Fitr.

It is also recommended to recite the Eid Takbeer from the night of Eid up until the Imam comes forward for the Eid prayer. On the way to the masjid, takbeerat should be recited softly.

The Eid Takbeer is:
Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La Ilaha Illallahu Wallahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar wa Lillahir Hamd

"Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great, Allah is most Great there is no god but Allah, Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great, and to Allah be praise."

How is the Eid prayer performed?

The Eid prayer is two units of prayer (rak'ahs) and here are the steps to perform it:

First Rak'ah:

- Begin with the opening takbeer and then recite the opening dua for the prayer.
- The Imam will then recite additional 3, 6, or 7 takbeers afterwards depending on your madhab.
- In the Hanafi Madhab there are 3 additional takbeers, Shafi'i madhab is 7 additional takbeers and the Maliki and Hanbali madhab is 6 additional takbeers.
- After the final takbeer, the Imam recites Surah al-Fatiha and a portion of the Qur'an.
- The rest of the rak'ah is completed as normal.

Second Rak'ah:

- The second rak'ah begins with one takbeer and then an additional 3, 4 or 5 takbeers depending on the madhab.
- The Hanafi school begins with 1 takbeer, followed by the recitation of the Qur'an and then three additional takbeers.
- In the Shafi'i and Maliki schools there is 1 takbeer to begin the second rak'ah, followed by 5 additional takbeers, and then the recitation of the Qur'an.
- In the Hanbali school of thought 5 takbirs are performed in the second Rak'ah before Surah al-Fatiha.
- The rest of the rak'ah is then completed as normal. It is recommended to recite Surah Qaf and Surah al-Qamar in the Eid salah as this Hadith states: 'Abdullah b. Umar reported that (his father) Umar b.

Khattab asked Abu Waqid al-Laithi what the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) used to recite on 'Eid-al-Adha and 'Eid-al-Fitr. He said,

"He used to recite in them 'Qaf. By the Glorious Qur'an' (Surah Qaf), and 'The Hour drew near, and the moon was rent asunder' (Surah al-Qamar)." (Sahih Muslim 891)

Can I Pray Eid Salah at Home?

- The Hanbali, Shafi'i and Maliki schools permit Eid prayers at home, whether individually or in congregation.

According to the Hanafi school, it is neither recommended nor a sunnah to perform Eid prayer at home by individuals if you miss the communal prayer. The ruling is that it is a communal event similar to the Friday prayer that needs to fulfil the same conditions as the latter, unless there are special circumstances such as during Covid lockdowns.

While there is a difference of opinion on how this prayer is performed, no madhab is definitively more correct than the other in this regard, as these groups of scholars have come to these conclusions through ijthad (striving and reasoning) and their extensive knowledge of the religion. Try to check what is the madhab or convention being followed at your local mosque so you can follow along with ease, this is usually explained beforehand.

We hope this guide to Eid was beneficial and useful. May Allah (SWT) grant us a blessed Ramadan and a joyous Eid!

The article was originally published by Amaliah

Eid-ul-Fitr Being

ulema from Jammu and Chenab valley have concluded that Eid-ul-Fitr will be observed on Wednesday.

Mufti's message followed a late night announcement by the Pakistan Ruet-e-Hilal Committee declaring Shawwal moon has been sighted and Wednesday was Eid-ul-Fitr.

In New Delhi Shahi Imam Ahmed Bukhari announced that the Shawwal moon had not been sighted. Therefore, Thursday, April 11, will be the Eid-ul-Fitr in India.

Interestingly this year Kashmir is celebrating Eid together with the Muslims in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Turkey, Iran, US, United Kingdom and other countries in the Middle East and the West.

Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated on the first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal, marking the culmination of month-long Ramazan when Muslims fast from dawn to dusk.

Eid ul Fitr is also known as a festival of charity and gratitude that brings deep spiritual awakening for its followers.

One of the five pillars of Islam is Zakat that means charity and on this day followers believe in giving money, food, clothes and other items of necessity to the poor. In fact, many Muslims give Zakat before offering Eid prayers.

With a devastating war on Gaza which has left over thirty thousand Palestinian men women and children dead amid rising fears of famine-like situation it is expected that Eid celebrations will be low-key.

Meanwhile Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has exhorted Muslims to celebrate Eid with solemnity.

"We are celebrating today's Eid while we are facing various challenges and problems at the social, societal and religious levels. As a Muslim Ummah, we are facing many problems locally as well as on the global level," Mirwaiz said.

By the grace and mercy of Allah Almighty, all of us have been blessed with an opportunity for worship, fasting, purification of the soul and improvement of our conduct during the blessed month of fasting. Let us strive to maintain this spiritual atmosphere and disposition in the future as well, he added.

"On this occasion of Eid, as a servant of Islam and an advocate of humanity, I urge the entire community to focus not only on the rights of Allah but also on the significant religious obligations related to the rights of fellow human beings. As we strive to fulfill our personal responsibilities, it is also incumbent upon us, as part of our religious duties, to assist and cooperate with all those members of society who are deserving of our attention and support."

LG, DGP, Others

compassion, harmony and the spirit of sharing. The festival inspires us to dedicate ourselves to the service of humanity.

"May the holy festival bring good health, happiness and prosperity in everyone's lives".

On the auspicious occasions of Navratri and Eid-ul-Fitr, the Director General of Police, J&K, Shri R.R Swain has extended heartfelt greetings to the fellow citizens living in J&K, Police officers, men & women personnel and their families. He has conveyed special wishes of health and happiness for the families of our martyrs.

In his message the DGP said, "May almighty usher in peace and prosperity to each home in J&K. Let all souls emit prayers for the good of their neighbours, the wider community they live in irrespective of caste, religion and origin".

On this propitious occasion, the DGP thanked the people of the J&K for their unwavering support and cooperation to the police whenever and wherever JKP have tried to do good work with sincerity and honesty.

"Please pray for us and be by our side as we rededicate ourselves with passion and compassion to make our 'fight to the finish' against narcotics, terrorism and gangsterism a success", DGP has appealed.

In his Eid greetings, NC president Dr Farooq Abdullah said, "I extend my warm wishes to people on the auspicious occasion praying that the Almighty accept our month-long fasting, repentance, prayers and rectitude. I urge the affluent class in the society to help those who do not have any resources to celebrate the Eid. The prevailing situation has regrettably increased the social gap with uncertainty looming large over the poorest of poor, daily wagers, marginal farmers pushing them to the brink of hunger. On the auspicious occasion of Eid ul Fitr, the well off in our society should lend all support to the people in need."

Party Vice President Omar Abdullah while extending warm wishes to the people on the auspicious occasion of Eid ul Fitr said, "On this day we should include the underprivileged in our happiness. There is no superior act than sharing our resources with the people in need. I wish the candles of piety and faith remain lit in our families and neighbourhood throughout the year. I extend my warm wishes to the people on the auspicious eve with a view that the needs of the people at need are taken care of by the affluent ones. May the auspicious day increase the prospects of peace, prosperity, and brotherhood in J&K."

J&K Peoples Conference President Sajad Lone extended his heartfelt wishes to the people on the joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

In his statement, Lone highlighted the profound significance of Eid-ul-Fitr, emphasising how this sacred occasion fosters a renewed and reinvigorated sense of faith within the hearts of believers after the spiritual introspection and devotion of Ramadan.

"On this auspicious day, I pray for the Almighty Allah's blessings to shower upon us all, guiding us towards greater

empathy, tolerance and understanding. It's a moment to strengthen the ties that bind us and to forgive those who may have wronged us," he expressed.

Furthermore, the PC President stressed on the importance of remembering the less fortunate and extending a helping hand while celebrating with family and loved ones.

Bakery Sales

Bakers Association has shed light on a deeper issue, highlighting a significant decline in bakery sales over the past decade.

Shahid Mir, President of the Kashmir Bakers Association, said that they are witnessing a steady decline in bakery sales, notably during festive occasions over the past decade.

Mir attributed this decline to a multitude of factors, including heightened health consciousness among consumers and intensified competition within the market.

"Over the last ten years, bakery sales have experienced a noticeable downturn. Beyond mere competition, people have become increasingly health-conscious, opting for fewer sugary items," stated Mir.

He highlighted changing dietary preferences, influenced by concerns over health and wellness, have led consumers to exercise caution, particularly with products high in sugar or salt content.

Responding to swift depletion of bakery stock from shelves and freezers from bakery shops during Eid festival, Mir clarified that the association's production strategy has been meticulously calculated over the years.

"Our bakery production has always been strategic, aligning with the previous sales trends. The apparent scarcity of stock should not be misconstrued as a deliberate act rather, it reflects our measured approach to production," he asserted.

Moreover, Mir highlighted the emergence of a new wave of home-based bakers, contributing to an expanded landscape of competition, expressing support for the new entrants, and acknowledging their role in diversifying the market.

"We are adapting our approach to bakery manufacturing in light of evolving consumer preferences and the shifting health landscape of the valley," Mir remarked.

He underscored the association's commitment to meeting consumer demands while prioritizing health considerations and also assured of action against any baker associated with their association, found involved in selling the bakery items beyond the prescribed rates of association.

It is pertinent to mention that in recent years, Kashmir has witnessed a surge in lifestyle-related diseases attributed to the overindulgence in sugary and salty foods. According to the experts, high sugar intake has been linked to a rise in cases of obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular ailments among the locals.

Similarly, the liberal use of salt in traditional cuisine has contributed to elevated blood pressure levels and a greater incidence of hypertension, further exacerbating the health challenges faced by the community.

Eid Prayers

Meanwhile, the Auqaf has reiterated that this year the Zakat-ul-Fitr amount has been fixed at a minimum of Rs.70 rupees per person, which is mandatory to be paid before the Eid prayer.

J&K Bank's MPay

the first time.

With a staggering 493,598 transactions totaling Rs 3230.77 crore, the bank's digital platform has witnessed unprecedented activity. Branch transactions also contributed significantly, amounting to Rs 9586 crore over the past four days, even with two of those days being public holidays.

As Eid-ul-Fitr approached, J&K Bank's digital channels seamlessly facilitated historic transactions, culminating in a jaw-dropping total of Rs 11,000 crore. This monumental achievement underscores the bank's commitment to providing efficient and reliable digital banking services to its customers.

A spokesperson for J&K Bank expressed delight at the overwhelming success of their digital initiatives, particularly highlighting the milestone reached by MPay Delight+, which contributed to the total of Rs 11,082 crore in transactions over the last five days.

The record-breaking performance of J&K Bank's digital channels reflects not only the growing reliance on digital banking solutions but also the bank's dedication to meeting the evolving needs of its customers.

Catering to huge transactional traffic with interrupted service, J&K Bank recorded around five crore transactions amounting to more than Rs. 11000 crore across the channels in the last five days. Bank's Digital channels including mobile banking application Mpay Delight Plus witnessed a huge traffic with around Rs 7500 transactions effected smoothly.

So much so, Mpay Delight Plus breached a Rs. 1000-crore transaction mark in a single day twice on a trot affirming ever evolving and improving Bank's digital ecosystem.

Branches across the enterprise especially in UTs of J&K and Ladakh catered to customer rush providing them uninterrupted banking services recording impressive transaction figures to the tune Rs. 3200 in last two working days in the build up to auspicious occasion of Eid ul Fitr.

Social networking platforms witnessed netizens from all walks of life hailing Bank over flawless functioning of Mpay Delight Plus and other banking channels like ATMs, ebanking etc.

Notably, six months ago J&K Bank upgraded its earlier mobile banking app to a more sophisticated version boasting

features at par with the best in the country. Unlike earlier versions which had experienced glitch on Eid last year, mPay Delight Plus withstood the massive transactional traffic with much to the satisfaction of people across J&K.

Keeping pace with the ever changing digital landscape and needs of its customer base, J&K Bank has of late given a huge impetus by weaving a bouquet of digital offerings attuned to the demands of contemporary times.

Expressing satisfaction over the uninterrupted services provided by the bank and while revealing the figures, the bank's spokesperson said, "This is something we have been working on for the last year or so. Last year's glitch pushed us to the drawing board with our management led by MD and CEO Mir Bsldev Prakash pledging that no such hiccups would have to be witnessed in the future.

And accordingly Bank's IT team came up with a more robust and upgraded mobile banking application Mpay Delight Plus that could withstand the huge transactional traffic on big occasions like Eid. The historic numbers recorded in the last five days or so is a testament to the Bank's commitment to bring home a highly upgraded digital

Art 370 Takes Centre

is seeking reelection.

The seat is seeing a triangular fight with the Congress fielding Choudhary Lal Singh and the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) pitting three-time ex-MLA G M Saroori against the BJP's Jitendra Singh who is vying for a hat-trick of victory in the constituency.

Polling in Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency will be held in the first of the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections on April 19.

Lal Singh has been seeking the support of the electorate by accusing the BJP of snatching Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and special constitutional provisions, while Union Minister Singh has been demanding that the main opposition party clears its stand on Article 370.

Canvassing for Saroori, DPAP chairman and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad held a series of public rallies and said his party's agenda is to advocate restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and raise public issues, including land and job rights.

The campaigning in the seat is expected to reach a crescendo with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally in Udhampur on April 12. The Congress has planned a mega rally the next day which is likely to be addressed by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Raj Babbar.

BJP candidate Jitendra Singh has said that while the Congress was yet to clear its stand on the Article 370 issue, the party is fighting the election with the National Conference that has publicly declared its opposition to Article 370 abrogation and stated that if given a chance they would seek to restore it.

"The Congress party should clear its stand on Article 370... let them say that they will restore Article 370 if at all brought back to power. Otherwise, they are beating about the bush and avoiding the issue they are answerable for," the senior BJP leader said on Monday as he moved from one village to the next seeking votes.

"We will not allow the Congress to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds," he said and asserted that it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who undid the acts of "omission and commission" committed over the years by successive Congress governments beginning from first prime minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

The Union minister claimed that even though the Congress leadership had agreed to include Article 370 in the Constitution as a temporary provision, "over a period of time, they could not muster the courage to fulfil their own commitment".

"It was PM Modi who had the courage of conviction to correct the fallacies and lapses committed by the Congress," he stressed, responding to the Congress' criticism of the BJP-led government over its August 2019 decision to revoke Article 370 and bifurcate the erstwhile state into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

On the other hand, Congress candidate Lal Singh's poll plank has been the "identity" of Jammu and Kashmir, which he alleged has been robbed by the BJP government at the Centre.

The three-time MLA and former minister, who recently returned to the Congress fold, is mimicking no word to attack the Narendra Modi government, accusing it of "destroying Jammu and Kashmir during its 10 years of misrule".

"They have not only snatched our statehood but also special constitutional provisions and our exclusive rights over land and jobs. It is time to teach them a lesson."

Lal Singh is currently on bail in a money laundering case against an educational trust run by his wife and former MLA Kanta Andotra. In the campaign, he is accompanied by senior Congress leaders, including J-K Congress chief Vikar Rasool Wani. Singh's wife and brother Rajinder Singh Bubby, the former president of Kathua Municipal Council, are separately canvassing for him in Kathua.

As many as 12 candidates are in the fray from the constituency which is spread over five districts of Kishitwar, Doda, Ramban, Udhampur and Kathua and has over 16.23 lakh voters, including 7.77 lakh women.

Jitendra Singh won the seat in 2014 and 2019. In 2014, he defeated Ghulam Nabi Azad by a margin of 60,976 votes while in 2019 he won against Congress candidate Vikramaditya Singh, the grandson of erstwhile Maharaja Hari Singh, by a margin of 3,53,272 votes.

Lal Singh won the seat on a Congress ticket in 2004 and 2009.

Union minister Anurag Thakur addressed a special meeting in Udhampur last week and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will address a rally in Support of Jitendra Singh on April 10. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh are also slated to hold poll meetings in support of the BJP candidate.

Arrangements For

on Tuesday.

"PM Modi will address a public rally in Udhampur on April 12. The rally will be organised at the Modi ground. Around 2 lakh people are expected to attend it... The party has made all types of preparations. Complete arrangements of food and water, and medical facilities will be made for the people coming for the rally. We will make sure that no one has to face any inconvenience," Arun Gupta said.

Earlier on Monday, BJP state chief Ravinder Rana said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is expected to address a rally in Kathua on April 10.

"BJP is gaining ground in the entire Jammu and Kashmir. Only the BJP is visible among the people. Opposition parties do not have public support," Rana said.

BJP has again fielded Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh from Udhampur.

Jitendra Singh is looking for a hat-trick from the seat that will go to the polls in the first phase of Lok Sabha polls on April 19. He is in a triangular contest with Congress and Democratic Progressive Azad Party candidates.

'Battle of Young

represents the seasoned veterans in the electoral fray. The diverse spectrum of candidates reflects a generational shift in the political landscape, with five candidates below the age of 40 and an equal number surpassing the age of 50.

Amit Kumar's youthful vigor at 28 years old marks a stark contrast to the seasoned experience embodied by GM Saroori, whose 71 years of age epitomizes decades of political engagement.

Among the contenders, notable candidates include 67-year-old Ghulam Mohammad Saroori representing the Democratic Progressive Azad Party, followed by BJP candidate Dr. Jitendra Singh at 67 years old and Congress' Choudhary Lal Singh at 65 years old.

However, the youth brigade is not to be underestimated, with Bahujan Samaj Party's Amit Kumar leading the charge at a mere 28 years of age. Additionally, independent candidate Swarnveer Singh Jaral, aged 30, and Ekam Sanatan Bharat Dal candidate Manoj Kumar, aged 32, bring a fresh perspective to the electoral arena.

Other candidates in the mix include independent contenders Mehraj Deen at 36 years old and Sachin Gupta at 37 years old. Mohammad Ali Gujjar, contesting independently, clocks in at 43 years old, while Dr. Pankaj Sharma and Rajesh Manchanda represent the 40s age bracket at 44 and 56 years old, respectively. Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party candidate Balwan Singh, aged 57, rounds out the diverse array of contenders vying for the Udhampur parliamentary seat.

Kejriwal To Stay

or dictates of a person. ...Investigation qua classes and masses cannot be different," Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma said in her verdict.

The investigation, she said, has to take its own course, and if the investigating agency was directed to visit the house of every such person for probe, the very purpose of investigation would be lost and end in chaos.

"This court would not lay down two different categories of laws-- one for the common citizens and the other granting special privilege to be extended by investigating agencies either to a chief minister or any person in power only on the basis of being in public office...The accountability of public figures has to be held through the public," it said.

The court observed that it cannot accept Kejriwal's contention that he was arrested on account of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, adding that the issue has to be examined only in the context of law, and not the timing.

"In the absence of any mala fide intention on part of ED which could be apparent on record, accepting this argument would mean that in case the petitioner would have been arrested in October 2023 itself, his arrest would not have been challenged on the ground of mala fide since elections were not declared at the time," the court observed.

"Kejriwal also must be aware of the impending Lok Sabha election dates which were likely to be declared in the month of March 2024. He would have known when LS elections will be declared and he would be very busy at that time," it added.

The court said upholding Kejriwal's stand would mean allowing a person, who delays in presenting himself before the investigating agency, to take advantage of the situation and later plead mala fide.

"ED was in possession of enough material which had led them to arrest the present accused. Non-joining probe by Kejriwal was only a contributory factor and not the only factor," it said.

The court clarified the present case was not of a "conflict" between the Centre and the Delhi CM, and it was crucial to focus

solely on the legal merits of the case.

"When confronted with cases involving political figures, the judiciary relies on the Constitution and that is the only paramount consideration before this court. Political considerations and equations cannot be brought before a court as they are not relevant to the legal process," it said.

"Courts are concerned with constitutional morality and not political morality... An attempt to introduce political considerations into the proceedings would undermine the integrity of the legal process and would compromise the process of justice. Therefore it is essential for this court to remain vigilant in ensuring that the case is adjudicated based on only legal principles and not influenced by any extraneous factors," it said.

Have To Take

"That is why they are abusing and threatening me. I have left everything to dedicate myself to the mission of serving the country. For Modi, Bharat is my family. Those who have come into politics to fill their own coffers should not abuse me," he added.

"I say remove corruption, they say save the corrupt. The people of the alliance have this enmity towards me. I will expose the money from corruption that has gone into their coffers. This work will be done at a faster pace in the next five years," the PM said.

"Hundreds of crores of rupees are openly available with the dynastic parties. Note-counting machine gets tired and breaks down when they count this money. But Congress people are openly and shamelessly holding rallies seeking to stop action and proceedings against corrupt people," he alleged.

This was a very important election for the future of the country, Modi further said.

"This is an election for the development of new India," he said, adding "we have to take the rocket of development much higher."

The people of Madhya Pradesh wiped out the Congress in the assembly elections last year, the prime minister noted.

"When Modi gives a guarantee of the country's security, they abuse me. When Modi fulfills the guarantee of abrogating Article 370 (which had granted a special status to Jammu and Kashmir), they start talking in the language of Pakistan," he said.

He is a devotee of Lord Mahakal and not afraid of anyone, the prime minister said, evoking the famous deity of Ujjain in the state.

"Modi bows either before Lord Mahakal or the public, and for the development of the country and its service, I have also learnt to tolerate abuse," he said.

Opposition leaders also abused him when he fulfilled his guarantee of carrying out the consecration of Lord Ram's idol at the Ayodhya temple, Modi claimed.

He also accused Congress of conspiring to defeat Droupadi Murmu when she was set to become the first tribal woman president of India.

"(When) At G-20 (summit), major global decisions, which seemed impossible, are taken in India, every citizen of the country feels that his power has increased. When India's fame rises from America to Australia, every person in the country feels that his respect has increased," the PM said.

In another jibe at Congress, he said in these elections, its leaders were not fighting against the BJP, but with each other.

Congress governments of the past approached other countries over issues related to India, Modi said.

"But times have changed today, big countries of the world, countries that are at war among themselves, come to India to talk about their issues...Seeing this status of our country, the morale of every Indian goes up," he said.

Congress's thinking after Independence kept the country backward, the prime minister alleged.

"Their minds were full of arrogance regarding the freedom movement. Congress denied the sacrifices made by the common people in the freedom movement as soon as it came to power. The coterie and clan surrounding a family became dominant," he said.

The BJP-led Union government, whose mantra is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' (with everyone, for development of everyone), is giving priority to every city and every village, and spending lakhs of crores of rupees on the development of modern infrastructure, Modi said.

His government also gives priority to the underprivileged and accords respect to this Dalit-backward class-tribal section of society which was deprived of identity and recognition by the previous governments, he said.

Congress never gave the status of freedom fighter to a revolutionary like Govind Guru, Modi alleged. In an apparent swipe at the Nehru-Gandhi family, he added that the party wanted to give the credit for winning freedom only to its "royal family", and not to any tribal hero.

The BJP government gave the status of freedom fighter to Govind Guru, honoured tribal leader Tanta Mama and started celebrating Adivasi Gaurav Diwas to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda, he said.


The PM also appealed to people to vote in large numbers and "break all polling records"

Waqf Board

allegations, an emergency meeting was convened at the Central Waqf office on Monday to discuss the incident and determine the future course of action. The meeting noted that due process was not followed during the conversion and that both Islamic law and government regulations were not followed," it said.

"During the meeting, all leading Imaam-o-Khateeb of the Board unanimously concluded that this incident has caused confusion and chaos among the general public and has the potential to disturb public harmony. Additionally, it was noted that due process was not followed during the conversion and that both Islamic law and government regulations were not followed," an order issued by the Executive Magistrate (Tehsildar) Waqf Board read. It was also agreed that a committee should be formed to inquire into the matter.

"Furthermore, they deemed it improper for Dr. Kamal-ud-din Farooqui to retain the position of Imaam-o-Khateeb until the conclusion of the inquiry. Accordingly, in light of this, sanction was accorded to the constitution of an Enquiry Committee," the order read. The committee will be headed by Syed Mohammad Hussain, a Board Member, of the J&K Waqf Board and it will have two members Ghulam Nabi Haleem, a Board Member, of J&K Waqf Board and Mohammad Yaseen Khan, Imaam-o-Khateeb, Syed Karan Shah Sahib, Karan Nagar, Srinagar "Kamal-ud-din Farooqui is relieved from the duties of Imaam-o-Khateeb, Aasar-i-Shareef, Hazratbal till completion of the enquiry or till further orders," the order read. The Committee shall examine the matter and furnish a factual report within seven days.



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Haryana Guv Promises To Restore Valley Temples At Navreh Celebration With KPs

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Tuesday visited an ancient Shiva temple here and joined the Kashmiri Pandit community in commemorating 5,100 years of their existence through the celebrations of Navreh -- the Kashmiri New Year.

Dattatreya promised the devotees to renovate the old temples in the Kashmir valley and restore their pristine glory.

A large gathering of Kashmiri Pandits and locals under the banner of Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj celebrated 'Saptarishi Samvat-5100' at a function at the historic Vichar Nag temple here on Tuesday, a spokesperson of the organisation said.

The organisers said such a huge Navreh celebration took place at the temple after 35 years.

The Haryana governor, who was the chief guest on the occasion, highlighted the contribution of Kashmir towards the development of 'Sanatan



Dharma', the country's knowledge system, and spiritual consciousness among Indians.

Addressing the gathering of the Kashmiri Pandits, Dattatreya assured them to restore the glory of temples of Kashmir through renovation work, the spokesperson said.

The governor dedicated a book written and published by Amit Raina on efforts of Jammu

and Kashmir police combatting terror in the region, and also released a special calendar to commemorate 5,100 years of the 'Saptarishi system'.

On the occasion, Raj Nehru, vice-chancellor of Vishwakarma Skill Development University, Harayana, and Ramesh Chander Bhardwaj, vice-chancellor of Maharishi Valmiki Sanskrit University,

announced a seat each on research of Kashmir Shaivism.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also conveyed Navreh greetings to the Kashmiri Hindu community through a telephonic message.

Later, the Haryana governor visited the revered Kheer Bhawani temple in the central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and paid obeisance there.

Plastic Waste Management Plant In Pulwama Turns Into Dumping Ground

Project To Be Made Functional In Next Two Months: Official

Agencies

PULWAMA: The much-hyped Plastic Waste Management plant in the Newa area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district has become a dumping ground, causing distress to the local population.

According to locals, the Rural Development Department (RDD) of Pulwama recently constructed a segregation shed, composite pit and plastic recycling project to ensure proper garbage disposal in the area.

However, the segregation shed now lies defunct, with all the garbage from surrounding panchayats being indiscriminately dumped at the recycling plant, locals lamented.

"The scattered garbage near the shed has become a breeding ground for a large number of stray dogs, posing a serious inconvenience to people," said Ghulam Nabi, a resident.

"The growing number of the dogs attracted by this waste risks our sheep herds on which we are dependent for livelihood," he said. "It is disheartening to see that instead of recycling, the site has turned into a dumping ground, causing immense suffering to the entire



community."

Locals expressed disappointment, saying that authorities had previously assured that proper waste disposal measures would be implemented during the infrastructure's construction.

"But now, the area is now overwhelmed with garbage," they said.

Sajad Ahmad Bhat, another resident, said the entire area's waste is being dumped in Newa, which has created a chaotic and unsanitary environment. He urged the government to address the issue at the earliest, especially in line with initiatives like the Swachh

Bharat Mission and Shweta Hi Sewa.

Despite repeated pleas to higher authorities, including the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Development (ACD) of Pulwama, locals said their concerns have been overlooked. They reiterated their appeal to the officials to intervene urgently to alleviate the community's suffering.

Meanwhile, an official from the department said there is a need for electricity at the site to initiate proper waste disposal procedures. "Efforts are underway to make the project operational within the next two months," he assured. (KNO)

Ex-cop Wanted In Triple Murder, Drug Trafficking Arrested

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A former police constable wanted in a triple murder and drug trafficking here has been arrested, officials said on Monday.

According to police, Sadeque Ali, who is involved in serious crimes in various areas of Jammu region, had been evading arrest after jumping bail during his trial before the Court of the Additional Sessions Judge in Jammu.

Ali is a key accused in the triple murder case registered in 2021 in Arnia police station and was also found to be involved in drug trafficking with the charge sheet already submitted to the

court, they said.

During the trial, Ali was granted interim bail, but he went absconding. Acting on a tip-off, a police team from Arnia police station conducted a raid and arrested him here, they said.

Two constables, including Ali and Bhupinder Singh, were involved in a firing incident in which three people -- Sabar Chowdhary, Arif Chowdhary and Babar Chowdhary, all residents of RS Pura tehsil -- were killed and another injured, the officials said.

The reason behind the incident was a dispute over land and cash. Singh among four people have already been arrested in the case, they said.

Minor Dies, Another Injured After Falling From House In Bandipora

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A minor lost her life while her cousin was injured after they fell from a two storey house in North Kashmir Bandipora district Monday late night.

An official said that a five year-old girl Hoorun Aina daughter of Reyaz Ahmad Rather died while as her four year old cousin in brother Zamin Gulzar son of

Gulzar Ahmad Rather was critically injured on last night after they both fell from two storey house in Asham village in Bandipora district.

He said that Zamin Gulzar was immediately taken to Skims Soura Srinagar for treatment.

Meanwhile police have taken cognizance and started an investigation.

Police Observer Visits Reasi To Oversee Election Preparedness

Agencies

JAMMU: In order to oversee the preparations for the upcoming Parliamentary elections on Jammu Lok Sabha seat, police observer Bhopal Gajraj today visited district police office Reasi.

The police observer held a meeting with district election officer Reasi (Deputy Commissioner) Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Reasi Mohita Sharma and other police officers.

Speaking on the occasion, Gajraj asked police officers to remain vigilant to any concerns arising during these elections and advised them to strictly adhere to election rules and regu-

lations in ensuring free and fair elections besides continuing their work with dedication.

Both DEO and SSP briefed the police observer regarding the election preparedness including enforcement of model code of conduct, expenditure monitoring, security plan, transport and communication plan and the functioning of VSTs and FSTs and coordination efforts to ensure a successful election process.

During a powerpoint presentation SSP presented a report on the action taken so far and preparedness of the Lok Sabha elections.

After the meeting, the General Observer appreciated the election preparedness.

Chinar Corps Commander Reviews Counter-infiltration Grid Along LoC

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Commander of the Army's strategic Srinagar-based Chinar Corps Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai Tuesday reviewed the counter-infiltration grid along the Line of Control and the operational preparedness of the force in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The Army said the Chinar Corps commander interacted

with troops and motivated them to maintain operational readiness and morale despite extreme weather conditions and terrain.

"#ChinarCorps Cdr visited frontline units deployed along the #LoC in the Keran Sector #Kupwara, today, to review the counter infiltration grid and operational preparedness," the Chinar Corps said in a post on 'X'.

BJP Used KP's Pain As 'Weapon' To Garner Votes: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The BJP has used the Kashmiri Pandit community's pain and suffering as a "weapon" to garner votes across the country, People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti alleged on Tuesday.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) president was speaking after visiting the residence of Roshan Lal, a Kashmiri Pandit and a photojournalist who died last month, in the city's Abi Guzar area.

"The BJP has not only used the Kashmiri Pandits as a vote bank but as a weapon as well. It has used the pain of the Kashmiri Pandits as a weapon and then used that weapon to garner the votes of others," she alleged.

"The Pandit community does not have so many votes themselves but the BJP used their pain and suffering and went around seeking votes in their name, without doing anything for them," she told reporters.

Mehbooba, a former chief minister of the erstwhile state, said since the BJP-led Centre be-



gan to directly administer Jammu and Kashmir, "even those Kashmiri Pandits who used to live here have left because the situation became such".

The PDP chief said Lal was a close friend of her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and lived in the Valley despite the situation that is portrayed in some films, referring to "The Kashmir Files".

"Kashmiris are defamed across the country, films are made about them. I think Lal living here amid brotherhood is the answer to those films. There was a huge rush of people to pay their condolences after Lal's death. This is the biggest example of brotherhood," she added.

Lal living in the Valley in a

"very difficult situation" was a lesson for the country's Hindu community, Mehbooba said.

"What is happening in the country -- the way people from our community are lynched, killed, beaten up, our mosques and madrasas demolished, homes are demolished. The people of our country, our Hindu brethren, are secular. They don't believe in this, this is a lesson for them that Lal lived here in very difficult times and that Muslims and Hindus are ready to live here as they used to," she said.

Speaking on the return of the Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley, Mehbooba said the community does not need the help of any government.

"Our Kashmiri Pandit brothers and sisters living in Jammu or elsewhere in very difficult circumstances, I think they don't need help from anyone to settle here -- whether the government is of the BJP or Mehbooba Mufti or someone else. The people of Kashmir want the Kashmiri Pandits to return," she said.

Thousands Throng Vaishno Devi Shrine



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Thousands of devotees from across the country thronged the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir as the nine-day long 'Chaitra Navratri' commenced on Tuesday.

'Shat Chandi Maha Yagya', a special havan organised by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), was performed at the holy cave amidst the serene aura besides other rituals on the auspicious occasion, a spokesperson of the board said.

He said the sacred rituals at the shrine, located atop Trikuta hills, spanning across the Navratri are being performed to foster harmony, abundance and good health for all.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, along with other board members and offi-

cial attended the yagya ceremony, apart from the pilgrims, the spokesperson said.

The havan is being telecasted live on MH1 Shradha channel from 12 noon to 1 pm daily for the nine days, he added.

The shrine has been specially decorated for Navratri with intricate colourful lighting, floral arrangements, coupled with traditional motifs and embellishments.

The spokesperson said the board has made elaborate arrangements as per the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the chairman of SMVDSB, to facilitate the large number of pilgrims expected to visit the temple during the Navratri.

These arrangements include round-the-clock water and power supply along the tracks leading to the shrine, sanitation and medical facilities and

availability of special 'fasting food' at the board's 'bhojan-layas', he said.

"For the ease and comfort of pilgrims, facilities such as accommodation, battery-operated vehicles, passenger ropeways and helicopter services have been provided and are operating smoothly," he added.

Free meals will also be available to the pilgrims at Tarakote Marg and Prasad Kendra at Sanjichatt, besides the 'langar sewa' at Bhaironji.

To facilitate the smooth pilgrimage for differently-abled pilgrims, the board is providing free pony and battery car services to the shrine, the official said.

Other special features of the Navratri celebration in Vaishno Devi shrine include 'bhajan' and 'atka aarti' by renowned artists, he added.

Man Dies After Boat Capsized In Wular Lake

Agencies

BANDIPORA: A 45-year-old man, father of four, lost his life after his boat capsized in Wular Lake near Kanbathi village of North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Tuesday morning.

Locals said that Mushtaq Ahmad Kawa, son of Gh Mohd Kawa of Kanbathi village of Bandipora district was on his way to catch fishes when his boat capsized in Wular Lake.

"Upon receiving news of the boat capsizing, a swift rescue operation was launched in Wular Lake; however, they were only able to recover the body of the deceased," they said.

The deceased, who relied solely on fishing in Wular Lake to support his four children, tragically perished in the boat capsizing incident. The locals appealed to the district administration to compensate the family members of the deceased, as they now find themselves without a breadwinner.

Meanwhile, a pall of gloom descended on his native village as soon as the news of his death reached his village.

People who accompanied Kawa to Wular Lake expressed profound shock over his untimely demise and offered prayers for peace to his departed soul. (KNO)

Two 'Trouble Creators' Booked Under PSA In Poonch

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Two "trouble creators" were detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday, police said.

Yar Mohd of Mandi and Anjum Khan of Surankote have been booked under administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases, said a police official.

"They have been identified as habitual trouble creators posing a significant threat to the peaceful existence of society. The notorious persons have demonstrated a pattern of behaviour

characterised by the adoption of various tactics to spread terror and fear within the community," the official said.

He said the Poonch district police, acting upon a detention order obtained from the Poonch district magistrate, have taken necessary steps to detain Mohd and Khan who were subsequently shifted to jail.

"Both the notorious persons have been implicated in several criminal cases, notably involving criminal intimidation, interference in public work and assault within the jurisdiction of police station Mandi and Surankote respectively," a spokesman said.

CRACKDOWN ON EID BIKE STUNTS

SSP Traffic Directs For Establishing Special Checkpoints Across Kashmir



Agencies

SRINAGAR: With Eid-ul-Fitr around the corner, SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir Ravinder Pal Singh on Tuesday directed all Dy.SPs and Divisional Transportation Inspectors (DTIs) across Kashmir to establish special checkpoints in order to curb the bike stunts on the festival.

R P Singh while talking to the news agency CNS said that the decision to put up special checkpoints in Kashmir was taken as there is a high likelihood of a spree of bike stunts to

be seen on the occasion of Eid.

"Therefore, we have directed all Dy. SPs and DTIs in Kashmir to establish special nakas so that the bike stunts can be curbed, helping in saving previous lives," said SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir.

He said rash driving and other traffic violations including bike stunts are often seen taking place during the festivities.

"To prevent any loss of life and keep this Eid free from road accidents and fatal bike stunts, we have given direction for erecting special checkpoints," R P Singh said. (CNS)

Jaiswal's Form A Concern As Rajasthan Royals Take On Gujarat Titans

Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: Yashasvi Jaiswal would be desperate to let his bat do the talking when an unbeaten Rajasthan Royals take on an under pressure Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday.

RR could not have asked for a better start to the season, registering four consecutive wins from as many games.

But Jaiswal, who has been terrific for the national team of late, has tallied just 39 runs in four games.

If he is back amongst the runs, it will be icing on the cake for RR as his opening partner Jos Buttler returned to form with an unbeaten century against Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Sanju Samson has been leading RR from the front, scoring 178 runs from four games including two fifties. But it is Riyan Parag's performance with the bat that has been a revelation for RR.



tion for RR.

The all-rounder from Guwahati is the third highest run-getter in the tournament so far with 185 runs, including two unbeaten half-centuries.

The likes of Shimron Hetmyer and Dhruv Jurel also needs to contribute more in the middle-order.

Rajasthan also boast of potent bowling attack in the form of

pacers Trent Boult and Nandre Burger, and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who has been their stand-out performer with eight wickets, the second highest so far. But Ravichandran Ashwin's

patchy form is a surprise.

He has taken just one wicket from four matches while giving away eight runs per over.

Gujarat Titans, on the other hand, witnessed a mixed bag campaign so far with two wins and three losses out of five games.

The Shubman Gill-led side would look to avoid a hat-trick of losses on Wednesday but it would be easier said than done against an opponent on rampage.

They would be looking to bounce back after a 'poor' effort with the bat against Lucknow Super Giants.

Gill, personally, have had a decent outing with the bat so far, scoring 183 runs from five games with a strike rate close to 147.

The Afghan trio of Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad also need to raise their game.

Match starts at 7:00 PM.

Short TAKES

Viyaskanth Joins SRH As Replacement For Hasaranga

Sunrisers Hyderabad on Tuesday roped in young Sri Lanka leg-spinner Vijayakanth Viyaskanth as a replacement for the injured Wanindu Hasaranga in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League.

The 22-year-old Viyaskanth, who has played one T20I for Sri Lanka, is a like-for-like replacement for leg-spinner Hasaranga.

He joins for a base price of Rs 50 lakh.

Hasaranga was set to turn out for SRH in the 2024 IPL after being bought for Rs 1.5 crore last year.

Cristiano Ronaldo Faces 2-Game Ban After Elbowing Opponent



Cristiano Ronaldo is facing a two-game suspension after receiving his first red card in Saudi Arabia for elbowing an opponent as Al-Nassr lost 2-1 to Al-Hilal in the Saudi Super Cup semifinals.

The five-time Ballon D'Or winner, who signed for Al-Nassr in December 2022, was dismissed in the 86th minute for striking Al-Hilal defender Ali Al-Bulaihi. According to media reports in Saudi Arabia, the 39-year-old soccer great may receive further punishment after seeming to mock the referee.

GT Finisher Miller Could Also Miss Rajasthan Royals Tie

Gujarat Titans designated finisher David Miller, who hasn't featured in the team's last two games which ended in defeats, in all likelihood, will also miss their next game against Rajasthan Royals, the team's left-arm Australian pacer Spencer Johnson said on Tuesday.

The 2022 champions and last year's runners-up GT lost to Punjab Kings by three wickets and Lucknow Super Giants by 33 runs in their last two matches, and Miller's firepower was sorely missed at the back-10.

Man United's John Murtough To Step Down As Football Director

British soccer club Manchester United said on Tuesday that John Murtough would step down as football director after nearly 11 years at the club.

"John has mutually agreed with us that now is the right time to step aside and allow the new football leadership structure to be put in place," co-Chairman Joel Glazer said.

The announcement comes months after British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe took control of football operations at the Premier League club.

Novak Djokovic Dominates To Reach Monte Carlo Third Round

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic made an emphatic start at the Monte Carlo Masters with a 6-1 6-2 win over Russia's Roman Safiullin to ease into the third round at a rain-delayed day three on Tuesday. Djokovic had pulled out of the recent Miami Open as he tries to balance his schedule.

The Serb, winner in 2013 and 2015, will meet the victor between France's Arthur Fils and Italy's Lorenzo Musetti.

Jadeja Reaches IPL Milestone In Chennai's Win Over Kolkata

Agencies

Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja became the first player with at least 100 catches, 1,000 runs, and 100 wickets in the Indian Premier League (IPL) during their seven-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders on Monday. Jadeja took two catches to reach the 100 mark and also had three wickets in his first eight balls to be named player of the match. He has taken 156 wickets and made 2,776 runs in the IPL.

The 35-year-old joins Virat Kohli (110), Suresh Raina (109), Kieron Pollard (103) and Rohit Sharma (100) for most catches by a fielder in the IPL.

"I don't count my catches," he said during the mid-innings break. After the match, Jadeja said he



always enjoys bowling in Chennai. "My plan was just to bowl in good areas. I have practiced a lot here and if you bowl in good areas it will assist you," he added. Chennai, who came into the match after back-to-back losses, are fourth in the standings with three wins from five games.

LSG PROVIDES UPDATE ON PACER MAYANK YADAV'S INJURY

Following the win against Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024, Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) CEO Colonel Vinod Bisht gave an update on pacer Mayank Yadav's injury which he suffered on Sunday.

During LSG's win over Gujarat Titans, Mayank's bowling was much-anticipated by fans, who were impressed with the bowler's pace, line and length. He was hitting 150 kmph consistently. But in the GT clash, Mayank looked a little off, barely able to touch 140 kmph and was hit for three boundaries. After delivering his only over, Mayank walked off the field.

"Mayank felt soreness in the lower abdominal area and as a precaution, we are managing his

workload over the next week. We hope to see him soon in the field," Vinod Bisht said in an official statement.

The LSG seamer scripted history at the age of 21 as he became the first bowler in the history of IPL to win the 'Player of the Match' award in their first two matches.

PCB Call Up Amir, Wasim For New Zealand T20 Series



Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday named fast bowler Mohammad Amir and all-rounder Imad Wasim in their 17-player Twenty20 squad for their home series against New Zealand, after the duo announced that they were coming out of retirement ahead of the T20 World Cup. Amir, 31, made himself available for the T20 World Cup in March, more than three years after retiring from international cricket.

Amir, who was jailed in 2011 for his part in a spot-fixing scandal, served three months in prison and a five-year ban from all forms of cricket before returning to the Pakistan squad in January 2016. Part of the team that won the 2009 T20 World Cup and 2017 Champions Trophy, Amir last played international cricket against England in

August 2020. He has continued to play in franchise T20 leagues.

Wasim, 35, also reversed his retirement decision and made himself available for the T20 World Cup in March. Pakistan will kick off their T20 World Cup campaign against co-hosts United States on June 6.

"Amir and Imad possess undeniable match-winning capabilities, and we trust they will consistently deliver strong performances to bolster the team's objectives," Pakistan's selection committee member Wahab Riaz said in a statement. The five-match series against New Zealand will also see Babar Azam begin his new captaincy stint with Pakistan.

Azam was announced as Pakistan's white-ball skipper in March, 4-1/2 months after the batter stepped down as their all-format captain in

the wake of their poor performance at the one-day international World Cup in India.

Earlier in April, the United Arab Emirates banned 28-year-old Pakistan-born Usman Khan from participation in Emirates Cricket Board events for five years after being "found to have breached his obligations owed to Emirates Cricket Board."

Pakistan will host the Blackcaps in Rawalpindi on April 18. The series will conclude on April 27 in Lahore.

PAKISTAN SQUAD FOR NEW ZEALAND T20S: Babar Azam (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Amir, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usama Mir, Usman Khan, Zaman Khan.

Enrique Wants PSG Ambition To Overcome Barcelona

Agencies

PARIS: Paris St Germain are still seeking their first Champions League trophy but they need ambition rather than pressure in the first leg of their quarter-final against Barcelona, manager Luis Enrique said on Tuesday.

PSG last reached the semi-final stage in 2021, and with the Ligue 1 title more or less wrapped up along with a place in the Coupe de France final, focus now turns to the competition which the club wants to win more than any other.

"I hope that our ambition overcomes the pressure," Luis Enrique told a press conference before Wednesday's game.

"We aren't feeling pressure at the moment, we are very excited to play at this level and we are trying to qualify for the next round.

"During the group stage I could see that the players were taking re-



sponsibility, and now that has got us here." Luis Enrique has already won the Champi-

ons League when managing Barcelona, a club where he also spent eight seasons as a player, but he

doesn't see his knowledge of the club or their manager Xavi Hernandez as an advantage.

"I don't know Xavi at all as a coach. I know about him as a player, he was my teammate," Enrique said.

"I know the club very well, I know Barcelona and the players but I don't know if that could be an advantage, maybe it could be the opposite.

"It's an important team for me on an emotional level because of my experiences there. But this is a job and I need to be professional."

The PSG manager's dislike of questions regarding Kylian Mbappe continued, when he was asked about the French forward's mindset before the game, having been rested recently.

"I think you are asking about one player but I want to talk about the team because I think that's more interesting," Enrique said.

"We are in a good situation this season. The mindset is very strong collectively."

France, Spain Tighten Security For Champions League Games



Agencies

PARIS: France and Spain will step up security ahead of the Champions League quarter-finals being held in Madrid and in Paris on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, top government officials said, citing threats from the Islamic State.

"Regarding the game that will take place in the Paris region, the head of police has considerably strengthened security," French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told reporters at a press event on Olympic Games

security.

Paris-St-Germain are due to play Barcelona in Paris on Tuesday night.

"We have seen, among other things, a communication from the Islamic State that particularly targets stadiums. It is not new," he added.

Islamic State was alleged to have threatened four venues for this week's Champions League matches, including the Parc des Princes in Paris and two games in Madrid hosted by Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid, who face Manches-

ter City and Borussia Dortmund respectively. In London, Arsenal take on Bayern Munich in their quarter-final on Tuesday night.

Spanish police forces will deploy 2,000 extra officers to boost security in the capital for the two games, government spokesperson Pilar Alegria told reporters on Tuesday. She said the terrorism alert level had been raised to 4 on a scale of 5. Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the recent attack on a Moscow concert hall that killed at least 143 people.