

Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated across Jammu region

STATE TIMES NEWS
BHADERWAH: Like other parts of the country, Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with zeal, gaiety, and religious fervour across the Chenab Valley on Saturday, as clear skies and bright sunshine followed a week of inclement weather. Elaborate security arrangements were put in place to ensure the smooth conduct of the festival.

Eid-ul-Fitr, the festival of thanksgiving, is celebrated after the culmination of the holy month of Ramadan. Following the sighting of the Shawwal crescent, the festival was observed across the nation, including the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bhaderwah, people began assembling early in the morning at the premises of Markazi Jamia Masjid Bhaderwah. From there, they marched in a large procession towards the historic Eidgah, chanting religious slogans. Besides the Eidgah, Eid prayers were also offered at Jamia Masjid Gatha, Udrana, and other locations.

At the conclusion of the prayers, Imaam Jamai Masjid Gatha, Udrana, and other locations. At the conclusion of the prayers, Imaam Jamai Masjid Gatha, Udrana, and other locations.



Following the prayers, hundreds gathered to pay obeisance to the Islamic flag in the Union Territory and across the country.

Following the prayers, hundreds gathered to pay obeisance to the Islamic flag in the Union Territory and across the country. Following the prayers, hundreds gathered to pay obeisance to the Islamic flag in the Union Territory and across the country.

On the occasion, ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutiyal, SP Bhaderwah Vinod Sharma, SDPO Bhaderwah Naaved Shoket Qazi, Tehsildar Kamalpreet Singh, SHO Suresh Gautam, Inspector Irshad Ahmed,

Naib Tehsildar Parampreet Singh, and President Anjuman-e-Islamia Bhaderwah Riaz Ahmed Najar extended Eid greetings to the people.

Meanwhile, at Jamai Masjid Gatha, a large number of devotees, including youth, elders, and children, participated in the congregational prayers and prayed for prosperity and harmony in the region and the Union Territory.

People in Doda and adjoining areas also assembled at their respective Eidgahs to offer prayers. Former Vice-Chairperson DDC Doda Sangeeta Bhagat extended her greetings on the occasion.

Security was heightened across Bhaderwah, Doda, Thathri, and Gandoh areas to maintain law and order. Officials stated that the cele-

brations passed off peacefully.

"The event concluded smoothly across all areas, and we extend our greetings to the people on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr," said ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutiyal, while greeting people on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Riaz Ahmed Najar, President Anjuman-e-Islamia Bhaderwah, said that after the weather improved, the Eidgah was prepared for prayers, witnessing a massive turnout. He added that special prayers were held for peace, prosperity, development, and communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

Locals appreciated the administration, police, and other departments for making comprehensive arrange-

ments. Meanwhile, a procession was also taken out by youth in solidarity with Iran.

Eid prayers were also offered by large gatherings in Banihal, Ramban, Gool, Sangaldan, Batote, Kishtwar, Thathri, Gandoh, and other parts of the Chenab Valley.

RAMBAN: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with profound religious fervor and joyous festivities across Ramban district today. The largest congregations were witnessed at Jamia Masjid Sharif Ramban and Eidgahs in Banihal, Gool and Batote, where large number of devotees gathered to offer Namaz-e-Eid and pray for peace, development and prosperity in the Union Territory and the nation at large.

Deputy Commissioner

Ramban, Mohammad Aiyas Khan conveyed warm greetings to the people, emphasizing that such occasions foster unity, communal harmony and brotherhood in society.

MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju; SSP Ramban, Arun Gupta; ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; Additional SP, Mujeeb Ur Rehman; Tehsildar Ramban, Deep Kumar; DySP, Vigar Batt, and other officials from the District Administration joined the celebrations at Jamia Masjid Qadeem, Ramban and extended heartfelt Eid-ul-Fitr greetings to all.

The District and Police Administration had made meticulous arrangements, including security measures, to ensure the smooth observance of Eid-ul-Fitr festivities. Eid prayers were also

offered at various mosques in the town and its outskirts, including Jamia Masjid Karol, Chandrog, Maitra and Upper Ramban.

Senior officers participated in Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations in their respective jurisdictions and extended their heartfelt wishes to the people on this auspicious occasion.

The spirit of Eid-ul-Fitr was also witnessed across other areas of the district, including Banihal, Sangaldan, Ramsol, Ukhral, Batote, Gool and Rajgrah, where people celebrated the festival with joy, unity and traditional enthusiasm.

KISHTWAR: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with religious fervor, gaiety and in a peaceful atmosphere across District Kishtwar. Thousands of Muslim brethren thronged local mosques, performed Namaz-e-Eid and prayed for peace, development and prosperity of District Kishtwar as well as the Union Territory.

Comprehensive arrangements, including security and essential services, were put in place by the civil and police administration to ensure smooth and orderly celebrations of the Eid festival across the district including at the subdivision and tehsil

levels. Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma and SSP Kishtwar, Naresh Singh remained present and actively monitored and supervised the security and other arrangements.

On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP extended warm Eid greetings to the Muslim community and participated in the religious proceedings.

They urged the people to uphold the noble teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and appealed for sustained peace, unity, communal harmony and brotherhood across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner stated that all necessary arrangements were made to enable people to celebrate the festival in a peaceful and harmonious manner.

He also noted with satisfaction that Eid prayers were conducted smoothly and in an orderly manner, with people offering their prayers with discipline and complete peace.

SP Ops. Nisar Ahmed Khoja, ASP Kishtwar Pardeep Singh, Tehsildar Kishtwar along with other officers from the police and civil administration were also present on the occasion.

BJP Kathua reviews organizational strength, focuses on booth-level empowerment

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA: BJP District Kathua held an organizational meeting, which was chiefly addressed by District Seh-Prabhari Sanjay Baru.

District President Kathua Updesh Andotra and MLA Rajiv Jasrotia also addressed the meeting. Raghunandan Singh (Bablu), Rajesh Mehta, Gagan Singh, Advocate Jasbir, Madhu, Nandhan Khajuria, Ashok Jasrotia, along with all Mandal Presidents of Jasrota Vidhan Sabha, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on strengthening organizational activities, enhancing the active participation of party workers, and ensuring the effective implementation of upcoming party programs and initiatives across the district.

Sanjay Baru appreciated the dedication and commit-



BJP District Seh-Prabhari Sanjay Baru addressing public meeting.

ment of party workers and encouraged them to continue working collectively to further strengthen the organization at the booth and mandal levels. He emphasized the need to make the organization more dynamic, disciplined, and result-oriented while maintaining close contact with the public.

Updesh Andotra called for a collective commitment by all party leaders and workers to further strengthen the organization and serve the people with dedication and

unity. She laid special emphasis on expanding outreach at the grassroots level and ensuring better coordination among party units.

Rajiv Jasrotia reiterated the party's resolve to expand organizational outreach and ensure the effective implementation of party policies and public welfare initiatives among the masses. He also stressed the importance of addressing local issues promptly and strengthening public trust through continuous engagement.

Shri Amar Kshatriya (Rajput) Sabha launches construction of Community Hall

STATE TIMES NEWS
SUNDERBANI: The construction work for a community hall was formally inaugurated in the border village of Chagi Kagryal-located within Tehsil Beripattan-on behalf of the Shri Amar Kshatriya (Rajput) Sabha (Registered), Jammu & Kashmir.

On this occasion, the construction work commenced with a traditional Bhoomi Pujan (ground-breaking ceremony), held in the presence of the Sabha's office bearers, prominent members of the community, and local villagers. A large number of people attended the event and lauded this initiative. Speaking on the occasion, the Sabha's Chairman, Naryan Singh Jamwal, stated that this building would serve as a vital hub for social and educational activities for the residents of this border region. He informed that the structure would be built and would facilitate the hosting of various community-related



Shri Amar Kshatriya (Rajput) Sabha Chairman, Naryan Singh Jamwal with others.

programs.

He further added that once completed, the building would feature special arrangements for organizing the weddings of underprivileged and needy girls from the border areas, thereby providing significant assistance to economically weaker families. Additionally, a library for children and youth will be established within the premises to ensure that students in the region have access to a conducive environment and necessary resources for their studies.

The Chairman emphasized that the Shri Amar Kshatriya (Rajput) Sabha has always been at the forefront of social service and public welfare initiatives. He noted that such endeavors are being advanced with the active support of the community, thereby strengthening the pillars of education, social cohesion, and mutual cooperation. He expressed his confidence that, in the times to come, this community hall would prove to be an invaluable asset to the people of the region.

Also present on this occasion were the Sabha's Vice President Jagdish Sangwal, General Secretary Mangalshwar Singh Salathia, Vinod Singh (alias 'Vini'), and other members who had traveled from Jammu. Additionally, the event was attended by Sub-divisional President of Sunderbani Parshottam Singh, retired Headmaster Vakil Singh Narwal, Advocate Raghbir Singh Sadiyah, Advocate Kamal Singh, former Sarpanch Anil Sangwal, Chairman of the

NGO 'Insiyat' Ravinder Singh Bangwal, Jasbir Singh from Rajouri, President of Kalakote Balvir Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Sukhchain Singh, and their team. A group from Rajput Baradhari of Devak Hathal also participated in the program.

Several other dignitaries were present at the event, including Shamsheer Singh and Tilak Singh Parihar (both brothers), Vir Chakra awardee and retired Captain Swarn Singh, and retired Captain Chamel Singh, Vakil Singh. Appreciating this initiative, local residents stated that the construction of this building would boost social activities in the region and facilitate the provision of assistance to those who are needy.

The people expressed hope that, once completed, this venue would emerge as a prominent hub for social service, education, and community programs.

Army celebrates Eid with border dwellers

STATE TIMES NEWS
NOWSHERA: In a heartwarming gesture of unity and goodwill, Jhangar Battalion celebrated the auspicious occasion of Eid with civilians residing in the border villages of the Sariya village. The event highlighted the spirit of communal harmony and strengthened the enduring bond between the Army and local communities.

Army personnels joined villagers in offering Eid greetings and participated with great enthusiasm. Special arrangements were made to distribute sweets, traditional delicacies and essential supplies among residents, particularly focusing on families in remote and sensitive areas along the Line of Control.

The celebration witnessed active participation from local elders, children and community leaders, who expressed their appreciation for the Indian Army's continued support and outreach efforts. Cultural interactions and informal gatherings added warmth to the occasion, fostering trust and mutual respect.

The Indian Army remains steadfast in its dual role of ensuring national security while also contributing to the socio-economic development and welfare of border populations. Initiatives like these continue to build confidence and promote harmony in the region.

International Day of Forests 2026 celebrated at Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary

STATE TIMES NEWS
JASROTA: The International Day of Forests 2026 was celebrated with great enthusiasm and community participation today at Kali Mata Mandir, Jasrota. This year's theme, "Forests and Economics," highlighted the vital role forests play in sustaining livelihoods, supporting economic, and maintaining ecological balance.

The event witnessed the active participation of more than 100 people, including members of the local community, forest Officers/officials, and environmental enthusiasts. A plantation drive was organized in the Jasrota area, during which a variety of plant species were planted. These included Prunus domestica, Terminalia arjuna, Terminalia bellirica, Sapindus mukorossi, and religious species such as Ficus religiosa. The initiative aimed to promote biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and community involvement in conservation efforts.

In addition to plantation activities, participants also undertook a cleanliness drive across the Jasrota area. Volunteers collected plastic waste and other disposable materials, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a clean and pollution-free environment. The collected waste was segregated and prepared for proper disposal and recycling.

Suram Singh, Member of Jasrota Biradari, addressed the gathering and highlighted the historical significance of the ancient Jasrota Fort, emphasizing the need to preserve both cultural and natural heritage.

Retired PCCF Om Parkash Sharma, IFS, spoke on the



Forest Department officials planting a sapling.

significance of the International Day of Forests and elaborated on this year's theme, "Forests and Economics." He underlined the economic value of forests and stressed the importance of tree plantation as a long-term investment in environmental sustainability and community well-being.

Pooja Suri also spoke on the occasion, highlighting the sustainable use of forest resources. She discussed the preparation of value-added products, such as pickles and juices, and encouraged the exploration of forest resources for medicinal and economic purposes.

Vijay Kumar, SFS, Wildlife

Warden Kathua, concluded the event by emphasizing the importance of conserving wild flora and fauna, particularly in the Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary. He urged the members of the Jasrota Biradari and the surrounding communities to actively participate in protecting forest ecosystems and preserving biodiversity for future generations.

He made a special appeal to the youth of the Jasrota village to take up the role as Eco guides in the Wildlife Sanctuary, thereby contributing to the conservation, while also creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The event was attended by Navneet Sharma, Wildlife Range Officer, Thein Conservation Reserve, Vinay Kumar Block Officer Jasrota, Dinesh Kumar Block Officer, Thein CR, and field staff.

The celebration concluded with a collective pledge to protect forests, wildlife, promote sustainable practices, and work together towards a greener and healthier environment.

DISCLAIMER
"STATE TIMES" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon.

Demand for introduction of Postgraduate Courses at Kishtwar Campus gains momentum

STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: A strong demand has emerged for the introduction of postgraduate courses at the University of Jammu's Kishtwar campus, with students urging authorities to expand academic opportunities in the region.

Raising the issue, Kritika Singh Thakur, a law student of the University, has appealed to the concerned authorities to introduce postgraduate programmes in key subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Political Science, Education, Sociology, Mathematics, and Law at the Kishtwar campus. She highlighted that students from District Kishtwar, after completing their undergraduate studies in local

degree colleges, are currently forced to seek admission in universities located in other parts of Jammu & Kashmir and even outside the Union Territory. This is primarily due to the non-availability of postgraduate courses in the district. Kritika pointed out that the absence of such programmes has created serious challenges for students, especially those belonging to economically weaker sections. Financial limitations, the burden of relocation, and long-distance travel often discourage many deserving students from pursuing higher education.

Emphasizing the importance of local access to advanced studies, she stated that introducing postgraduate courses at

the Kishtwar campus would be a major step toward educational empowerment. It would not only ease the financial and logistical burden on students but also enhance academic growth in the region. She further noted that such an initiative would contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of this remote and hilly district by promoting higher education and skill development among the youth. Kritika Singh Thakur has urged the authorities to take immediate and necessary steps to introduce these postgraduate programmes at the earliest, ensuring that students in Kishtwar receive equal opportunities for academic advancement.

NGO Anmol Cultural Club distributes sweets to Muslims community on Eid-ul-Fitar

STATE TIMES NEWS
SUNDERBANI: Muslim community celebrated own religious festival Eid-ul-fitar at Sericulture hall Sunderbani.

Meanwhile the president & executive members of famous NGO Anmol Cultural Club distribute sweets to the Muslim community on Eid-ul-Fitr.

This religious programme was at Sericulture Hall included local, administration tehsildar

Sunderbani Daljeet Singh & SHO Rajeev Sharma was also presented there. President of Anmol Cultural Club Zorawar Singh Khalsa, along with Yoginder Bushey, Davinder Kumar, Satnam Singh, Gurbachan Singh, and others social workers were also participated in this programme. Yoginder Bushey said from 20 years continue we are doing this brotherhood work.

SMVDU students excel in GATE-2026 Examination in Biotechnology and Life Sciences

STATE TIMES NEWS
KATRA: Students at the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), have achieved remarkable success in the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2026, conducted by IIT Guwahati.

Rajkumar (Biotechnology - BT), Omesh (Life Sciences - XL), and Badal Shah (Life Sciences - XL), postgraduate students of M.Sc. Biotechnology, have successfully qualified GATE 2026.

They expressed sincere gratitude for the support and coordination and guidance provided under the DBT-supported M.Sc. Biotechnology Program, and extended special thanks to Prof. Sharada M. Potukuchi, Coordinator of the Program for her dedicated efforts and inspiration, which significantly contributed to the successful completion of their academic work.

Madhu Sharma, a postgraduate student of the regular M.Sc. Biotechnology Program working for her Dissertation at the Tissue Culture Laboratory, School of Biotechnology, also successfully qualified GATE 2026 in Life Sciences (XL).

She expressed her sincere gratitude to her Project Supervisor, for her constant guidance, and academic support throughout her academic journey. All the students acknowledged the excellent academic and research ecosystem and state-of-the-art facilities provided by School of Biotechnology and are grateful

to all the Faculty Members for their support at SMVDU, which played a crucial role in the accomplishment of their career goals. They also extended their respectful thanks to Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, for his visionary leadership and continuous encouragement of academic excellence. Head, School of Biotechnology, Dr. Anil Kumar, along with all Faculty Members of Biotechnology, congratulated the students on their commendable achievements and wished them continued success in their future endeavours.

Railways conduct special safety and facilitation drive at Jammu, Katra Stations During Navratri

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To ensure a safe, smooth, and comfortable pilgrimage for the lakhs of devotees visiting Mata Vaishno Devi during Chaitra Navratri, the Jammu Division of Railways conducted a comprehensive "Special Safety and Facilitation Drive" at Jammu and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway stations on Friday.

The campaign was carried out under the leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal, with special arrangements made to enhance passenger safety and service quality. The drive witnessed coordinated efforts from the Railway Protection Force (RPF), ticket-checking staff, and volunteers from the Bharat Scouts and Guides. As part of the initiative, volunteers actively guided passengers on platforms, paying special attention to elderly Yatriis, women, and persons with disabilities. They also spread awareness about essential safety measures, including avoiding travel on footboards and refraining from boarding moving trains. A rigorous ticket-checking drive was conducted across trains and platforms to curb ticketless travel and ensure convenience for genuine passengers holding valid reservations. Officials also encouraged passengers to adopt digital services by promoting the use of the 'RailOne' app for ticket booking and digital payments, thereby reducing long queues at counters. Public announcements were made urging passengers to maintain cleanliness at stations and travel only with valid tickets. Additionally, dedicated help desks were set up to assist and guide passengers throughout their journey. Speaking on the occasion, Uchit Singhal stated that the surge in passenger traffic during Navratri requires efficient crowd management and enhanced facilities. He emphasized that the Railways aim not only to manage operations effectively but also to ensure that every devotee completes their pilgrimage safely and with dignity. The Railways also appealed to passengers to cooperate by following safety guidelines, contributing to a hassle-free and pleasant travel experience during the festive season.

to ensure a safe, smooth, and comfortable pilgrimage for the lakhs of devotees visiting Mata Vaishno Devi during Chaitra Navratri, the Jammu Division of Railways conducted a comprehensive "Special Safety and Facilitation Drive" at Jammu and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra railway stations on Friday.

The campaign was carried out under the leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singhal, with special arrangements made to enhance passenger safety and service quality. The drive witnessed coordinated efforts from the Railway Protection Force (RPF), ticket-checking staff, and volunteers from the Bharat Scouts and Guides. As part of the initiative, volunteers actively guided passengers on platforms, paying special attention to elderly Yatriis, women, and persons with disabilities. They also spread awareness about essential safety measures, including avoiding travel on footboards and refraining from boarding moving trains. A rigorous ticket-checking drive was conducted across trains and platforms to curb ticketless travel and ensure convenience for genuine passengers holding valid reservations. Officials also encouraged passengers to adopt digital services by promoting the use of the 'RailOne' app for ticket booking and digital payments, thereby reducing long queues at counters. Public announcements were made urging passengers to maintain cleanliness at stations and travel only with valid tickets. Additionally, dedicated help desks were set up to assist and guide passengers throughout their journey. Speaking on the occasion, Uchit Singhal stated that the surge in passenger traffic during Navratri requires efficient crowd management and enhanced facilities. He emphasized that the Railways aim not only to manage operations effectively but also to ensure that every devotee completes their pilgrimage safely and with dignity. The Railways also appealed to passengers to cooperate by following safety guidelines, contributing to a hassle-free and pleasant travel experience during the festive season.

He emphasized that the Railways aim not only to manage operations effectively but also to ensure that every devotee completes their pilgrimage safely and with dignity. The Railways also appealed to passengers to cooperate by following safety guidelines, contributing to a hassle-free and pleasant travel experience during the festive season.