

'Peace within is the eternal bliss, crops up  
when one connects God, by any mode'

(The author is Resident Geologist)

should be sold, without proper clearance. Asking officials to act tough against the accused selling adulterated and rotten food to the public, chief minister Omar said that culprits will be given exemplary punishment. The CM while chairing a high-level meeting here amidst the ongoing crackdown against the selling of rotten meat and chicken in the markets, passed slew of directions to the concerned authorities, seeking an end to such criminal practices, saying that the public health cannot be compromised at any cost. Pertinently, large quantity of adulterated and rotten meat was seized from different parts of Kashmir during the past two weeks. The people have questioned the authorities for failing to curb such illegal practices and putting the health of common masses at risk. CM further said, "The grave problem appears to have remained unchecked and unnoticed for too long. The unscrupulous elements have played with the health and lives of people. This has to stop and those deliberately involved in playing with public health must face the law chief minister said. If government is serious about the health and life of the citizens, it should combat the problem of adulteration and pass a strong law to curb criminal practices which play with the lives of the people. Stringent punishment should be given to all those involved in selling adulterated food items so that other will not dare to do such illegal practices. Most recently DFCO Jammu has conducted a raid at Gangwal where they have seized 2,100 kgs of adulterated cheese and 78 expired tins of expired mustard oil. The matter of adulteration is serious and it needs to be curbed. Thus, in short, the problem of rotten meat, chicken, fish and adulterated other food items is very grave and should be curbed so that people do not have poison on their plates?"

**4. Service and Community Welfare:** In the present times, many Ganesha Mandals and organizations use the festival as an opportunity to conduct social and welfare activities. Blood donation camps, health check up camps, educational competitions, charity drives and awareness campaigns are often held during Ganesha Chatuthi. This reflects the transformation of a religious festival into a platform for social responsibility.

**Economic And Environmental Awareness**

Economically, the festival supports thousands of livelihoods from idol makers and artisans to decorators, sweet vendors and performers. The preparation for weeks in advance strengthens local economies. In recent years there has been a growing emphasis on eco-friendly celebrations. Idols made of clay, natural colours and initiatives to prevent water pollution during immersion rituals are gaining popularity and plaster of Paris idols and chem-

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