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Ramadan-Vishu markets permitted

Kessiah Joseph

While permission to commence the Ramadan-Vishu markets has been granted, the judicial scrutiny underscores the delicate balance between public welfare initiatives and electoral integrity, which shapes the discourse surrounding election campaigns and governance practices, said Jai George, a Lawyer, about the Kerala High Court's verdict to grant Consumerfed permission to initiate Ramadan-Vishu markets across the state.

George also underscored the Election Commission's concern, as stated in its affidavit, about actions that could potentially influence voter sentiment, which could impact the state's five crore voters.

The court emphasised that campaigning should not be associated with this initiative. The Election Commission can intervene if any electoral laws are breached. Under the guidance of the Civil Supplies Department, Consumerfed is set to launch these markets in approximately three hundred outlets, offering thirteen items at discounted prices for a week.

"They realised that they may use this as an advantage for election purposes. The High Court has given a clarification on this. The court expressed concerns about exploiting public sentiment for electoral advantage, highlighting the Election Commission's role in upholding the model code of conduct," he added.

Mamata blasts BJP over CAA, NRC & UCC

Sinchan Saha & Shoaib Shakeel

BENGALURU: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressed a public gathering in Kolkata and launched a scathing attack on the BJP government. She announced that she would not allow the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), National Register of Citizens (NRC), and Union Civil Code (UCC) in the state.

During her visit to Kolkata on Thursday, April 11, to join the celebration of Eid in Kolkata, the CM expressed her wish to see the people come together for Eid Ul Fitr at Red Road. The CM also expressed that the All India Trinamool Congress is against implementing CAA, UCC, and NRC, implying that the BJP government is trying to instil fear in



Mamata Banerjee addressing the Eid-ul-Fitr rally at Red Road

The Hindu

the name of citizenship. "We are ready to shed blood for the country but will not tolerate torture for the country.

A uniform civil code is not acceptable, and I want harmony among all religions. Your safety, your life, No NRC, no CAA", said the CM. While extending her wishes for Eid-Ul-Fitr, Banerjee also emphasised how some

people will try to "engineer riots" and encouraged people to "not fall prey to it".

She highlighted how Trinamool Congress looks beyond religion and that the people's lives and choices are their priority. "Till the time I am alive, remember one thing: Even if I have to give up my life, death doesn't scare me, and I am the strength of the

people. I will keep fighting on," Banerjee expressed. In response, BJP members have accused Mamata Banerjee of resorting to vote-bank politics on Eid. Members took to X to reply to the CM's allegations of trying to spread hatred and riots.

"Instead of spreading the message of amity, brotherhood among the Muslim brethren at the

gathering on Red Road, the CM tried to sow the seeds of division and polarisation for her narrow vote bank politics," BJP Rajya Sabha MP Samik Bhattacharya alleged.

Retorting further, Banerjee expressed how the BJP government is misusing central agencies, saying, "If there is a blast, they (BJP) send NIA to arrest everyone. By arresting everyone, your country will become desolate. We want a beautiful sky for which everyone must stay together. If anyone comes to riot, you should keep quiet, keep your head cool."

Several top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath, extended their wishes for Eid-ul-Fitr.

Karnataka witnesses record high PUC pass rate

Anu Priya M

KARNATAKA: According to the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB), 81.15% of students passed the 12th board exam this year, a higher percentage than in previous years.

The Karnataka 2nd PUC exam was held in March this year, and 6,81,079 students appeared. The number of pass students stood at 5,52,690, while 17,299 did not appear for the exam.

Dakshina Kannada district has emerged as the top-performing district in

the Karnataka 2nd PUC result 2024. A remarkable 97.33% of students from this district have passed. This is followed by Udupi (96.8%) and Vijayapura (94%).

Among the 6,81,709 students who appeared for the exam, 5,52,690 passed. Girls performed much better than boys, passing at a rate of 84.87% compared to 76.98% for boys. The Arts stream had a pass percentage of 68.36%, whereas the Commerce and Science streams did well in pass rates, with 80.94%

and 89.96% of students passing, respectively. Breaking down the data, 2,47,478 boys (76.98%) out of the 3,21,467 boys who appeared for the exam passed it.

On the other hand, 3,59,612 girls appeared on the exam, of which 3,05,212 passed, or 84.87%. This clearly shows that girls have outperformed boys in the exam.

Compared to previous years, the 2022 PUC exam saw 4,22,966 passing out of the 6,83,563 students who registered for it,

resulting in an overall pass percentage of 61.88%. Similarly, the overall pass rate in 2023 was 74.67%, with 2,07,087 students clearing the exam out of the 2,41,616 who took it.

"This is the best PUC result in the last 5 years, and I congratulate the students. Your hard work and dedication really paid off. PUC is a turning point in academic life, and I wish you success and happiness in your journey ahead," said Deputy Chief Minister Karnataka DK Shivakumar on X.

Chhattisgarh bus accident: 12 dead

Kushal Varma J V

BENGALURU: On Tuesday night, 12 people lost their lives after a bus full of workers overturned at a mine in Durg, Chhattisgarh. Last night, a video surfaced of the toppled bus carrying labourers of Kedia Distilleries.

This unfortunate incident occurred on Kedia Road within the Kumhari Police Station (PS) area. According to SP Jitendra Shukla, the accident took place around 8:30 p.m. He said, "It appears that the bus went out of control and fell into a ditch on the side of the road."

Fourteen people were injured and admitted to AIIMS. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai tweeted his condolences for the deceased and said, "Adequate arrangements have been made for the treatment of the employees injured in the accident."

Deputy CM Vijay Sharma visited the hospital late that night to meet the accident victims. During his visit, he mentioned, "One patient recalled that the headlights of the bus were not switched on, which caused the accident."

Spine-chilling horror tale: The First Omen

Sinchan Saha

Directed by Arkasha Stevenson, The First Omen is the latest prequel to Richard Donner's cult classic, The Omen (1976). Unlike a few underwhelming respawns of other horror franchises, this newest addition was magnificently skin-crawling, at par with the original.

Starring Nell Tiger Free, the movie deals with the evildoings of a demonic orphan, Damien Thorne. He is the antichrist and the Devil's son, adopted by a pair of

unsuspecting Americans in London, destined to become ever-powerful and bring people back under the rule of the Church.



The First Omen cbr.com

This supernatural Catholic horror delves into the complexities of religion, faith, and power with paranormal

and fantasy themes. The visuals and aesthetics of the film resemble a theatrical style. The movie was hauntingly captivating, with every scene, colour and music holding significance.

What sets The First Omen apart from other horror franchise prequels is how it works as a standalone flick and not just as an introduction to the series lore. Stevenson does a neat job of sensitising the concept of childbirth and exploring the theatrics of horror.

6 goal thriller ends in a draw

Shoaib Shakeel

Federico Valverde scored an equaliser for Real Madrid CF, drawing the score level at 3-3 against Manchester City FC during the electrifying first leg of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions League quarterfinals.

European football giants Real Madrid CF and Manchester City FC faced each other in the UEFA Champions League (UCL) on Wednesday in Madrid. The head-to-head game between the teams began with

Bernardo Silva's early goal for Manchester City from a free kick soon after kick-off. This was followed by an own goal by Ruben Dias against City and Rodrygo scoring for Madrid in the fourteenth minute, leaving the score 2-1 at the end of the first half.

The second half of the game witnessed a few goals by P Foden and J Gvardiol in favour of Manchester City, leaving the score 2-3. The game was later levelled in the 79th minute, with Valverde's volley settling the score to 3-3, concluding the first leg of the UCL quarter-final in a draw.