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The Pakistani Opinion on Celebrating Basant is Divided

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H-45, St.52,F-7/4, Islamabad, Pakistan. Tel +92-51-2655630, Fax +92-51-2655632,

Email: isb@gallup.com.pk

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The Pakistani Opinion on Celebrating Basant is Divided - February 11, 2000

According to a recent Gallup poll public views are quite sharply divided on celebrating a traditional South Asian spring festival "BASANT". The festival is marked by colorful kite flying contests in the open grounds and on roof tops of traditional crowded housing in the down towns of old cities. Nearly half of the respondents opposed the celebration while the remaining half were split between those who favoured it and those who left it as a matter of personal choice. The respondents were asked: "Some people favour the celebration of *Basant* others oppose it and still others say let it be celebrated by those who want it. What is your opinion?" Fifty-one percent (51%) opposed, 21% favoured and 28% left it to personal preferences.

Analysts at Gallup Pakistan have pointed out that support for *Basant* celebration has declined from last year. In a similar poll held a year ago the support was 29%. This change is perhaps an outcome of the publicity of various accidents which occurred due to electrocution of kite flyers during festivities. The kite flyers used ropes made of metal which got entangled in electric supply poles. The use of metallic ropes is considered a fowl in this sport, but still practiced by some enthusiasts.

The survey was conducted among more than 1000 representative sample of urban men and women covering a cross section of various age, income and educational groups. The error margin in a survey of this kind is around 3 percent at 95 percent confidence level. The complete text of Gallup weekly poll may be seen on the internet at Gallup.com.pk.

Question: Some people favour the celebration of *Basant* others oppose it and still others say let it be celebrated by those who want it. What is your opinion?

