

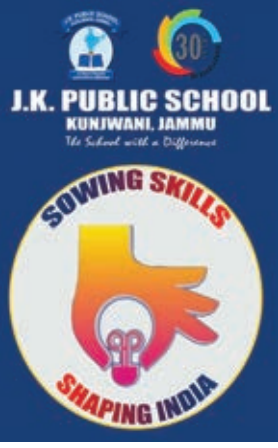


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03 Dr Jitendra discusses India's 'Pandemic Preparedness' for future, underlines immediate countermeasures

03 HC recommends training for judicial officers in Lok Adalat matters

09 Two gangsters arrested with pistol, 'heroin like substance'

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No Govt involvement in Gulmarg fashion show, enquiry ordered: CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday stated that the controversial fashion show at the famous skiing resort of Gulmarg was organized by a private party at a private hotel, with no involvement of the government at any stage.

The Chief Minister, who is also the Leader of the Legislative Assembly, made this statement in response to concerns raised by various members regarding the controversial event held during the holy month of Ramadan.

Informing the House about the matter, he said, "An inquiry into the matter was promptly initiated, and some preliminary findings have come to light."

Providing further details, the Chief Minister stated that a fashion show was organized by a private entity on March 7 as part of a four-day event.

He noted that the actions



CM Omar Abdullah speaking during the J&K Assembly session in Jammu on Monday.

during the event hurt public sentiments, a concern that he acknowledged as both understandable and justified.

Omar Abdullah emphasized that the organizers failed to exercise sound judgment, disregarding the sensi-

tivities of the people, the significance of the location, and the timing of their event. "There have been concerns that such an event should not have taken place during Ramadan. I completely

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Designers Shivan, Narresh apologise

NEW DELHI: Designer duo Shivan & Narresh, who are facing backlash for displaying "obscene" garments at a fashion show in Gulmarg last week, have said their sole intention was to celebrate creativity and regret any hurt caused by the event during the holy month of Ramzan.

The Delhi-based designers, whose full names are Shivan Bhatiya and Narresh Kukreja, showcased their skiwear collection on March 7 to mark the 15th anniversary of their label.

Following criticism on social media and elsewhere, Shivan and Narresh posted a statement of apology on their official X page.

"We deeply regret any hurt caused by our recent presentation in Gulmarg during the holy month of

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2 NC MLAs marshalled out of J&K Assembly

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Two MLAs of the National Conference were on Monday marshalled out of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly following their protest seeking to raise the issue of three youths missing Devsar constituency in Kulgam district.

NC MLA from Devsar constituency Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah raised the issue of the missing youths from his constituency. The youths disappeared after attending a marriage party.

However, he was not allowed to raise the issue in the house, which led to a protest. This prompted

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12 IPS officers promoted to Selection Grade

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: 12 IPS officers of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre have been promoted to the Selection Grade (Level 13 in the Pay Matrix), following the recommendations of the Screening Committee meeting held on December 19, 2024.

According to an official order issued with the approval of the Competent Authority, the 12 officers have been elevated to the Selection Grade with effect.

The promoted officers include Maqsood-ul-Zaman, IPS (AGMUT: 2011), Mubassir Latifi Ameer, IPS

Five IPS officers promoted to DIG Grade

JAMMU: The government on Monday promoted five IPS officers to the DIG Grade.

"In pursuance to the recommendations of the Screening Committee in its meeting held on December 19, 2024, the five IPS officers of AGMUT cadre, currently posted in the cadre, are promoted to the DIGP Grade (Level 13A in the Pay Matrix) with effect from the date of assumption of charge, read an order issued by Rakesh Kumar Singh, Under Secretary to Govt of India, MHA.

As per order, the promoted officers include Maqsood-ul-Zaman, IPS (AGMUT: 2011), Mubassir Latifi Ameer, IPS (AGMUT: 2011), Shiv Kumar Sharma, IPS (AGMUT: 2011), Rashmi Wazir, IPS (AGMUT: 2011), and Rajeshwar Singh, IPS (AGMUT: 2011).

(AGMUT: 2011), Shiv Kumar Sharma, IPS (AGMUT: 2011), Rashmi Wazir, IPS (AGMUT: 2011), Raishwar Singh, IPS

(AGMUT: 2011), Sandeep Kumar Sharma, IPS (AGMUT: 2012), Anita Sharma, IPS (AGMUT: 2012),

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365 MOs appointed in Nov 2024, 181 more in process: Sakeena

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Monday said that the government is upgrading the existing healthcare infrastructure and facilities to strengthen the medical facilities at the grassroots level.

The Minister said this while replying to a starred question raised by Shagun Parihar in the Legislative

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Ruckus in Assembly over civilian killings, Gulmarg fashion show

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly witnessed heated exchanges between opposition and treasury benches on Monday as members raised various issues, including the killing of civilians in Kathua and the Gulmarg fashion show controversy.

As the House assembled for the day, members of the National Conference, People's Democratic Party,

and two Independents stood up and raised the issue of the fashion show, terming it "obscene" and alleging that it hurt sentiments.

The MLAs demanded a probe into the facilitation of such a show during Ramzan. PDP MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz raised the demand, and NC MLA Tanvir Sadiq also raised the issue.

The fashion show held in the winter tourist resort of Gulmarg during the fasting

month of Ramzan has evoked widespread criticism, with Kashmir's chief priest Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, saying that "obscurity" in the name of tourism promotion will not be tolerated. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has ordered an inquiry into the matter.

BJP members raised the issue of killings in Kathua but strongly advocated for the continuation of

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Centre notifies appointment of 3 Addl Judges as Permanent Judges of J&K and Ladakh HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central Government has officially notified the appointment of three Additional Judges Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, and Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani as Permanent Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The notification follows the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation dated March 5, 2025.

"In exercise of the power conferred by the Constitution of India, the President of India, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, is pleased to appoint the following Judges of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, Justices Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Rajesh Sekhri, and Mohammad Yousuf Wani as Permanent Judges of the J&K and Ladakh High



Justice W S Nargal Justice Rajesh Sekhri Justice Mohd Yousuf Wani

Court." Justice Wasim Sadiq appointed as an Additional Judge was notified on June 1, 2022, following recommendations by the High Court Collegium in August 2017 and the Supreme Court Collegium in April 2018. Prior to his elevation, Justice Nargal had a distinguished career as a senior advocate, known for his expertise and commitment to justice.

Justice Rajesh Sekhri was sworn in as an Additional Judge of the High Court on July 29, 2024. Before his elevation, he served with dis-

tingtion in various judicial capacities, demonstrating profound legal acumen and dedication to the rule of law. Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani began his legal career in 1990 and was appointed as Munsiff in December 1997. He was promoted to Sub Judge in 2000 and to District & Sessions Judge in 2008. Throughout his tenure, Justice Wani has held various significant positions, including Member (Judicial) of the J&K Special Tribunal in Srinagar. His elevation to Additional Judge of the High Court was notified on March 21, 2024.

Regularisation benefits: SC pulls up J&K officials for non-compliance of HC order

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has censured Jammu and Kashmir officials for not complying with a High Court order over the regularisation of daily wagers and called it as a "glaring and textbook example of obstination".

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said instead of complying with the 2007 order of the High Court for regularisation of daily wagers, who worked between 14-19 years in the Rural Development Department, the State authorities kept on passing "cryptic orders" to harass them.

"We are constrained to



observe that the present case is a glaring and textbook example of obstination exhibited by the state officials/authorities, who consider themselves to be above and beyond the reach of law," the bench said in an

order on March 7.

The court said the "inaction" of the officials, who took about 16 years to comply with a "simpliciter High Court order" dated May 3, 2007, was "shocking and prima facie contemptuous".

The bench, therefore, refused to interfere with the Rs 25,000 cost imposed by a High Court Division Bench and observed the officials ought to be "strictly" dealt with.

"However, what concerns us is not the delay of decades alone, but also the incontrovertible fact that the poor respondents, being daily wage workers, have been repeatedly harassed by the petitioners by passing cryptic orders, thereby overlooking the true import and spirit of the order dated May 3, 2007 passed by a single judge.

The top court felt the high court imposing a

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Over 3.70 lakh unemployed youth registered on J&K job portal by Jan 2025: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said over 3.70 lakh unemployed youth have registered on the employment portal as of January 2025.

The registered youth include 1.13 lakh graduates and post-graduates.

Replying to a written question of BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma in the Assembly, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, who is

also the Minister for Labour and Employment, outlined plans to formulate policies aimed at providing employment opportunities to educated youth across both skilled and unskilled sectors in the Union Territory (UT).

"A total of 3,70,811 unemployed youth have been registered on the employment portal as of January 2025," Choudhary said and added that a baseline survey indicated that out of 4.73 lakh

individuals aged between 18 and 60 surveyed, a significant portion expressed willingness to work but were currently unemployed.

In response, the government has launched several initiatives under Mission Youth to enhance employment prospects, he said.

Those registered include 66,628 graduates, 47,114 post-graduates, 15,396 other degree holders and

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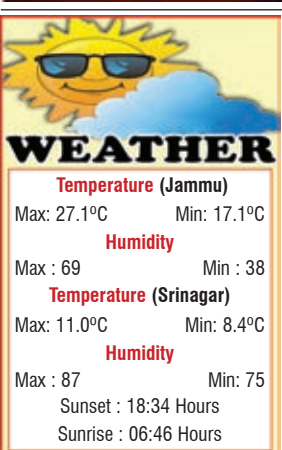
Modi greets Omar Abdullah on his birthday

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday greeted Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on his birthday, and wished for his long and healthy life.

Abdullah turned 55 on Monday.

"Birthday wishes to Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah Ji. Praying for his long and healthy life," Modi said in a post on X.



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