

**06** How long will status of Internally Displaced Persons & not of 'refugees' will continue for POJK-1947 DPs?

**08** Former XEn penalized with Rs 21.85 lakh recovery for procedural lapses

**09** SC orders permanent relocation of stray dogs from Delhi-NCR streets to shelters

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## Centre asserts LG's exclusive authority on J&K Assembly nominations

**Terms PIL 'politically motivated', urges HC to dismiss plea with costs**

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Union Government has come down heavily on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the Lieutenant Governor's authority to nominate members to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, calling it a "politically motivated" attempt to disrupt the democratic process in the Union Territory.

The Union Government has told the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh that the Lieutenant Governor (LG) alone holds the authority to nominate members to the Legislative Assembly, without the aid or advice of the Council of Ministers.

In an affidavit filed before the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the Ministry of Home Affairs



(MHA) said the petition - moved by Ravinder Kumar Sharma, Senior Vice President and Chief Spokesperson of the J&K Pradesh Congress Committee is based on "imaginary apprehensions" and "devoid of any actual cause of action."

The PIL contests Sections 15, 15A, and 15B of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, which empower the LG to nominate two women members, two representatives from the Kashmiri Migrant community (including one woman), and one member from among displaced persons of Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK). The petitioner alleged these powers could be used to alter Assembly majorities.

Rejecting this claim, the Centre said no such situation arose in the 2024 Assembly polls. It asserted that the 2023 amendments introducing these provisions were designed to provide long-denied political representation to historically displaced groups and under-represented communities, not to manipulate legislative

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## HC orders Lambardar polls in J&K villages within 3 months

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has directed the Union Territory administration to conduct elections for the post of Lambardar in multiple villages within three months, following petitions from residents demanding the posts be filled through due electoral process rather than temporary appointments.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal issued the common directive while disposing of a batch of petitions led by Kabal Singh vs UT of J&K & Ors [WP(C) No. 549/2023 and connected matters], in which petitioners were represented

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## Two PSIs die, one injured in accident on Jammu-Srinagar highway

**LG Sinha expresses grief**

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two police officers died in an accident on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway here, an official said on Monday.

Three sub-inspectors travelling from Srinagar to Jammu after performing Amarnath Yatra duty met with an accident at Nowgam area of the city, the official said.

The injured police officers were rushed to a hospital where two of them were declared brought dead.

The deceased have been identified as Sachin Verma and Shubham, while the



**PSIs Shubham Seth & Sachin Verma.**

injured officer has been identified as Mastan Singh, he said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed deep grief over the death of

J&K Police's PSI Sachin Verma of 23 Bn IRP and PSI Shubam Seth of 21 Bn IRP in a tragic road accident in Nowgam area of

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## Exemplary punishment awaits those selling unsafe food: Omar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review the ongoing food safety enforcement campaign in the wake of recent seizures of unsafe meat and meat products, particularly in the Kashmir Valley.

The Chief Minister directed exemplary punitive action against those found storing or selling unsafe food, emphasising that offenders posing risks to public health



**CM Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Srinagar.**

must be prosecuted under Food Safety & Standards the relevant provisions of the

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## Pak intruder killed along IB

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A Pakistani intruder was killed after being shot at by the BSF while attempting to sneak into this side from across the International Border (IB) in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

The Border Security Force (BSF) said they are lodging a protest with their Pakistani counterparts over the incident. The officials said BSF troops

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## Illegal mutation in Sunjwan: ACB registers FIR against Ex-Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar and others

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday registered a case against Ex-Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar--the then Patwari Halqa Sunjwan and others for illegal mutation of land records.

"ACB registered a formal case FIR No. 17/2025 under Section 5(1) (d) r/w section 5(2) of J&K PC Act, Svt. 2006 & section 120-B RPC at Police Station ACB

Jammu against Aslam Din, the then Tehsildar (Settlement) Jammu (now expired), Mohd Iqbal Zargar, the then Patwari Halqa Sunjwan (now retired as Naib Tehsildar) as well as beneficiaries Mohd Rashid, son of Imam Din, resident of Jalalabad Sunjwan Jammu, Mohd Mushtaq, son of Bashir Ahmad, resident of Sunjwan Jammu and others, on the outcome of verification conducted into the alle-

gations of illegal and fraudulent tampering of the revenue record of original owners in order to confer undue pecuniary benefit upon beneficiaries and corresponding wrongful gain to themselves," ACB official said.

The official added, "The verification conducted revealed that mutation No. 689/Jeeem was attested under section 121 of J&K Land Revenue Act covering land under khasra Nos. 918, 970,

994, 1024, 1623 & 1623 min at Village Sunjwan, Tehsil Bahu, District Jammu on March 27, 2010 by the then Tehsildar (settlement) Jammu. The land measuring 15 Kanals 14 Marlas was registered on the name of beneficiary Mohd Rashid and land measuring 69 kanals was registered on the name of beneficiary Mohd Mushtaq and others."

Financial Commissioner, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

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the future — together as one nation**

### Main Venues

**SKICC, Srinagar – 6:00 AM**  
**Gulshan Ground, Jammu – 6:00 AM**

### Event Highlights

- Tiranga Yatra
- Exhibition on National Heritage
- Tiranga Concert

- Cultural Performances
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