

THOUGHT of the DAY

It is never too late to be what you might have been.

—George Eliot

Over two dozen 'illegal' structures demolished, 60 kanals forest land retrieved; probe ordered

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Police and the forest department on Tuesday carried out an anti-encroachment drive in the outskirts of Jammu city and demolished around 20-30 structures to retrieve nearly 60 kanals of prime forest land, officials said.

Officials of the forest department, Forest Protection Force, revenue department and the police launched the operation to evict alleged encroachers from the forest area. Despite resistance from the alleged encroachers, the drive continued for nearly three to four hours, during which around 20-30 structures, mostly kaccha constructions, were demolished in the Mahamaya forest belt, they said.

Officials said that nearly 60 kanals of land, worth crores of rupees in the Raika Bandi forest belt of the lower Shivalik range, were reclaimed during the operation. The affected families staged protests against the ac-



tion and termed the demolition drive "unjustified". They alleged that the drive was carried out without any prior notice.

The officials said there were hardly few structures in this Mahamaya forest belt five to six years ago but not scores of illegal structures have come up while new constructions continue.

Officials said that the forest department will undertake mapping of tribal settlements and other habitations in forest areas across Jammu to check further encroachments.

"All such areas will be photographed and video-graphed and the records will be uploaded on official websites after verification of documents," an official said.

"We will not allow any forest land to be encroached upon and all illegal occupations will be removed," the official added.

Meanwhile, Minister for Forests Javed Ahmed Rana reached out to people affected by an anti-encroachment drive in a forest area on the outskirts of Jammu city on Tuesday. He ordered a probe

into the Forest Department's action, urging Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha to act against the police and file an FIR against them for alleged excesses during the operation.

"I will request the L-G to order filing of an FIR against police officers for excesses committed against people. Law and order is under his jurisdiction. The police used force and did not allow people to offer prayers," he alleged.

Police and Forest department teams conducted a major anti-encroachment drive in the Raika Bandi forest belt of the lower Shivalik range on the outskirts of Jammu city.

The team demolished over 30 structures and retrieved nearly 60 kanals of prime forest land valued at several crores, officials said.

"I have just returned from Pir Panjal and ordered a probe into the role of the Forest Department," Rana told reporters.

"They are members of our society, and I have said earlier that because of their ► P11

Three IAS, JKAS officers transferred

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday ordered transfers and postings of several IAS and JKAS officers in a fresh administrative reshuffle across the Union Territory.

According to Government Order No. 938-JK(GAD) of 2026 issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Anil Banka, IAS (AGMUT:2015), who was serving as Special Secretary to the Government, Finance Department, has been transferred and posted as Director, Industries ► P11

Gen Dwivedi: Op Sindoor showcased 'smart power'



NEW DELHI: Under Operation Sindoor, Indian forces dismantled terror infrastructure, punctured a long-standing strategic assumption, and then stopped "deliberately and purposefully", and it reflected "smart power" in its most complete expression, Army Chief Gen

Upendra Dwivedi said on Tuesday.

In his address at a seminar hosted at the Manekshaw Centre here, he also said that twelve months ago, India offered the world a "partial answer" to the so-called smart power question. ► P11

NCW moves to establish office in J-K

SRINAGAR: The National Commission for Women has proposed to open offices in the country's Union territories and is awaiting approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard, Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said on Tuesday.

"We recently sent a proposal to the ministry to open commission offices in the UTs. We are waiting for the necessary approval and permission in this regard," Rahatkar, who is here to hold public hearing of complaints, told reporters. ► P11

LG Sinha honours Nari Shakti with Lal Ded National Award

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday attended the "Lal Ded National Award Ceremony" at Srinagar. The prestigious award event was organised by Sarhad, Pune.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said the Nari Shakti, honored by Lal Ded National Award, has achieved remarkable accomplishments in their respective fields. He said the blessings of saints like Lal Ded have nurtured and preserved the nation's vision, its arts, literature, music, folk traditions, and deep spiritual wisdom.

"By setting new standards in their fields, remarkable women achievers have helped shape the soul of society. Women empowerment



must be a top priority for both society and government. We must also prioritize women in innovation and entrepreneurship so enterprises led by

them become stronger," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said in today's world, Lal Ded's message can ► P11

Putin lands in China for talks with Xi

BEIJING: Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing on Tuesday night on a two-day state visit for talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, days after US leader Donald Trump travelled to China.

Xi and Putin will exchange views on bilateral ties, cooperation in various fields, as well as international and regional issues of mutual interest, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

This is Putin's 25th visit to China, foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here on Monday, emphasising close strategic ties between Russia and China as well as strong friendship and rapport between the two leaders.

"The two sides will take this visit as a ► P11

100-DAY NASHA MUKT JK ABHIYAAN

STOP DRUGS

DAY 39

The EARTH NEWS joins with the campaign launched by Honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Ji to eradicate drug menace from union territory of J&K.

Sinha joins Padyatra in Pulwama Narco-terrorists will be hunted down: LG

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday issued a stern warning to the narco-terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, saying narco-terrorists and drug-peddlers can no longer hide and will be hunted down even in their deepest hideouts.

"Narco-terrorists and drug peddlers can no longer hide. The law enforcement agencies are on their trail. We will hunt you down even in your deepest hideouts. Our mission is not just arrests but the complete destruction of narco-terror empire and tearing out the very roots from which this poison spreads," the LG said.

He made these remarks



while addressing a gathering in south Kashmir's Pulwama district where he led a padyatra (foot-march) as part of the 100-day 'Nasha Mukh J-K Abhiyaan'.

Sinha said that over the last 39 days, across different districts of Jammu Kashmir, neighbours became each

other's support and most importantly long-standing silence that hung over the UT began to break.

"Today that silence has turned into a loud, collective outcry against drugs. Our fight is against a vast narco-terror network fuelled by fear, greed, and ► P11

Property worth Rs 1.5 Cr attached

SRINAGAR: Property worth Rs 1.5 crores belonging to a notorious drug peddler was on Tuesday attached in Srinagar, police said.

Continuing its intensified crackdown against drug trafficking and narcotics-related activities under the ongoing 'Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan', Srinagar police has attached a residential house along with adjoining land measuring seven marlas worth approximately Rs 1.50 crore, a police spokesperson said. He said the ► P11

OUR CENSUS OUR DEVELOPMENT

(First Phase of Census 2027)

Common queries on Self-Enumeration (SE) and their Answers (Part-2)

WHAT IS SELF-ENUMERATION?

Self-Enumeration is an online process in which you fill and submit your household details on the SE portal (se.census.gov.in) yourself, without waiting for an enumerator

- ❖ What are the benefits of Self-Enumeration?
 - Fill details conveniently
 - Ensures privacy
 - Makes the Census process faster and efficient
- ❖ How to log in to the Self-Enumeration portal?
 - Select State/UT
 - Enter name of head of the family, mobile number and email (optional)
 - Verify through OTP
 - Start Self-Enumeration
- ❖ How to mark the correct location of your house?
 - Select district/PIN code
 - Enter area/landmark
 - Zoom on map and mark location near your house (Do not worry if exact address is not displayed)
 - Correct location marking is necessary
- ❖ Can I edit my information later?
 - Yes, you can edit before final submission during State/UT SE period
 - After final submission changes can be done during enumerator's visit
- ❖ Can SE portal be accessed outside India?

No, this facility is available only within India's geographical boundaries
- ❖ What if an error is found after submission?

Correction can be made when the enumerator visits your house
- ❖ Can I save and complete the form later?

Yes, you can save progress and complete the form within the stipulated time

TOLL FREE - 1855

Let us fulfill our responsibility, Let us participate in the Census

CensusIndia2027

UP, J-K police probe barber's conversion

KUPWARA/BIJNOR (UP): A case each was filed in Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday in the alleged religious conversion of an 18-year-old barber in Kupwara district of the Union territory, officials said.

According to a complaint by the father of the teenager, Krishna Kumar, his son Vishal had gone to work at a salon in Ganderbal (Jammu and Kashmir) around three years ago, along with Wasim, a resident of Kajiwala village.

Kumar, a resident of Khanjahanpur Bahadur village in Bijnor, had claimed

that Vishal is 17 years of age. According to the complaint, on May 15, a cleric at the Markazi Jamia mosque in Ganderbal allegedly made Vishal recite the 'kalma', following which his religion was changed.

Kumar also stated that during a phone conversation, Vishal told him that he had "come too far" and would not return to Hinduism.

A Bijnor Police officer said a video related to the incident has also gone viral on social media.

The complainant alleged that after the alleged ► P11

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Apply For - Contractual Positions (On Contract)

Applications are invited for the position of Zonal Security Officers and Financial Literacy (FL) Counsellors (On-Contract) at J&K Bank.

Name of Position	No. of Vacancy	Place of Posting
Zonal Security Officer	1	Zonal Office Kathua
Zonal Security Officer	1	Zonal Office Ladakh
Zonal Security Officer	1	Zonal Office Delhi
Zonal Security Officer	1	Zonal Office Mumbai
Zonal Security Officer	1	Zonal Office Bangalore
FL Counsellor	1	Lead District Office - Shopian
FL Counsellor	1	Lead District Office - Poonch

Interested candidates are requested to apply online from 21.05.2026 to 04.06.2026 through the link made available on Banks website (jkb.bank.in) under careers tab. The candidate shall have to pay the requisite fee of Rs. 500/- per application. The detailed notification is available on Bank's website.

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Dated:-18.05.2026

Sd/-
General Manager-HR

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