

“With great power comes great responsibility.”

—Stan Lee



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IN BRIEF

NIA gets 45 days to finish probe

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Friday granted 45 more days to the National Investigating Agency (NIA) to conclude its probe in connection with a blast near the Red Fort here on November 10, 2025.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Pitamber Dutt of the Patiala House Courts granted the additional time on the NIA's plea seeking a 90-day extension on the ground of probing further the financial and digital links of the accused.

The court also extended till March 13 the judicial custody of the seven accused -- Amir Rashid Mir, Jasir Bilal Wani, Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay, Dr Muzamil Shafeek Ganie, Dr Adeel Ahmad Rather, Dr Shaheen Saeed and Soyab.

Soyab was produced in the court physically, while the others attended the proceedings through video-conferencing.

The premier investigating agency's plea had ▶ P11

Army Cdr reviews security

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma has reviewed security measures aimed at strengthening the counter-terrorism framework at a joint meeting in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, officials said on Friday.

The Army commander chaired the weekly joint control centres' meeting in virtual mode on Thursday, the Northern Command headquarters said on X.

In addition to the senior military leadership, the meeting was attended by senior officials of the police, CRPF and other stakeholders from the Srinagar and Jammu divisions.

"Discussions focused on intelligence sharing, ▶ P11

BNP sweeps polls; back to power after 20 years

Modi speaks to Tarique Rahman

DHAKA: The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Friday secured a sweeping victory with more than two-thirds majority in the landmark parliamentary elections and is making a spectacular return to power after a gap of two decades.

The EC postponed the announcement of results in two seats - Chattogram-2 and Chattogram-4. The election in one seat was postponed due to the death of a candidate.

BNP's top leader Tarique Rahman is set to become the prime minister for the first time. He will replace the interim government chief Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, under whose tenure Dhaka's relations with New Delhi witnessed a significant downturn. ▶ P11

According to the unofficial results announced by the Election Commission (EC), the BNP has bagged 209 out

Over 32,000 cancer cases recorded in J-K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: More than 32,000 cancer cases have been reported across Jammu and Kashmir in recent years, with nearly 79 per cent of the total cases recorded in the valley alone, Health Minister Sakeena Itoo said on Friday.

Replying to an unstarred question by PDP legislator Waheed Ur Rehman Para in the Assembly, the minister said 25,621 cases were registered in Kashmir division (2022-2024), while 6,804 cases were reported from Jammu division (2023-2025).

She said the most commonly detected cancers include that of lung, breast, oral, cervical and prostate.

On the steps taken for prevention, early detection and treatment of cancer and other terminal ▶ P11



PM Jitendra Singh and top officials including principal secretaries P K ▶ P11

citizens. In the presence of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Minister of State in

Jitendra Singh and top officials including principal secretaries P K ▶ P11

paid tributes, while the assembly observed two-minute silences over the death of the two former ministers.

J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, and Chairman Mubarak Gul also mourned the demise of the two veteran politicians and

paid tributes, while the assembly observed two-minute silences over the death of the two former ministers.

Akhoon (68) was co-chairman of the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) which along with Leh Apex Body

Gastro-intestinal malignancies, including cancers of the esophagus, stomach and colorectal region, are also frequently reported, Itoo said. Sharing the details compiled by the Health and Medical Education Department, the minister said the Kashmir division recorded 8,021 cases in 2022, 8,621 in 2023 and 8,979 in 2024, indicating a steady increase over the years. In the Jammu division, 2,036 cases were reported in 2023, 2,187 in 2024 and 2,581 cases in 2025, also reflecting a rising trend in reported cases, she said. Both leaders were prominent members of the National Conference (NC), with party chief Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressing grief over their demise.

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Akhoon, who was not well for sometime, was admitted in ▶ P11

Hard to define friends or foes, India should act on its own: CDS Chauhan

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

PUNE: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Friday said assumptions about permanent friends or adversaries are increasingly becoming unreliable in the current global order and asserted India must remain prepared - mentally, structurally, materially - to act independently when required.

Emphasising the need for pursuing strategic autonomy, the CDS noted partnerships are valuable when aligned with national interest, but they cannot substitute for indigenous capability or the power to exercise freedom of choice.

"In today's world, it is difficult to define who are your friends, who are your allies, who are your enemies and who are your adversaries. Strategic alignments have be-

come fluid and transactional," General Chauhan observed.

He was speaking at the 'JAI' (Jointness, Aatmanirbhar Innovation) seminar organised by the Southern Command here.

"India must, therefore, be prepared to act independ-

ently when required. That preparedness has to be mental, structural and material," he stressed.

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During his speech, Javed Rana expressed gratitude to all the legislators for their active



participation and valuable suggestions.

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Friday passed grants worth Rs 3,241.77 crore for public health engineering, Rs 1,524.82 crore for forest, ecology and environment, Rs 1,606.99 crore for irrigation and flood control and Rs 406.01 crore for tribal affairs.

The grants for the departments were passed through a voice vote after a daylong debate by the members.

Winding up the discussion on the Demands for Grants, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmed Rana expressed gratitude to all the

legislators for their active

participation and valuable suggestions.

He said the feedback and recommendations would form the basis for further strengthening the policy decisions, ensuring effective execution and impactful implementation of projects on the ground.

The proposed allocations reflect the government's commitment towards balancing development with sustainability, ensuring resilient ecosystems, reliable water resources and targeted socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities across Jammu and Kashmir, the minister said.

During his speech, Javed Rana said that the proposed allocations reflect the government's ▶ P11

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