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INBRIEF

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 Shakeel 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**

PM shifts to new office, takes welfare decisions

Seva Teerth inspired by Buddhist stupas

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday shifted to his new office Seva Teerth from the colonial-era South Block building near Rashtrapati Bhavan on Raisina Hill.

The shift came on a day -- February 13 -- that marked 95 years since the formal inauguration of New Delhi as India's modern capital in 1931.

On Friday, the prime minister reached Seva Teerth Complex in a motorcade along with Union ministers Manohar Lal and Jitendra Singh and top PMO officials, and inaugurated the complex housing the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the National Security Council Secretariat and the Cabinet Secretariat.

Modi garlanded a statue of Lord Ganesha in the PMO and took important decisions targeted at welfare of women, farmers, youth and vulnerable



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

PMO Jitendra Singh and top officials including principal secretaries P K ► **P11**

CM: Jammu Master Plan-2032 delayed over zoning issues

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday said final approval of the Jammu Master Plan-2032 has been delayed due to rectification of land-use zoning, boundary alignment with revenue villages, incorporation of public objections and suggestions, and collection and verification of data from multiple departments.

Consequently, the area under the Jammu Master Plan has increased from 652.33 sqkm to 777.84 sqkm, covering 350 revenue villages.

Replying to a question by BJP MLA Chander Prakash in the Assembly, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the revision of the Jammu Master Plan-2032, which began in 2021, is presently under consideration by the government.

"The reasons for delay in final approval are rectification of incorrect land-use zoning and boundary alignment with revenue villages, incorporation of ► **P11**

Randhawa's land remark triggers uproar in House

'688 Kanals in Bahu, 579 in Jammu South encroached'

■ **EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Assembly witnessed uproar on Friday after BJP member Vikram Randhawa claimed that people hailing from Kashmir valley have encroached land in Jammu city.

Replying to a question by Randhawa during Question Hour in the Assembly, Social Welfare Minister Sakina Itoo said that, according to available records, land measuring 688 kanals (8 kanals is 1 acre) and 17 marlas (160 marla is 1 acre) in Tehsil Bahu and 579 kanals in Tehsil Jammu South is under illegal encroachment.

"These encroachments are old and are being removed as per the provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act and other relevant laws," Itoo, who was replying on behalf of the chief minister, said.

The minister noted that



since January 2025, a total of 34 anti-encroachment drives have been carried out in Tehsils Bahu and Jammu South, leading to the retrieval of 140 kanals and 11 marlas of land belonging to the Jammu Development Authority (JDA).

Randhawa alleged that habitations of people from the valley have come up on encroached land belonging to the JDA and the government, and that the authorities have failed to remove the encroachments.

He claimed that 90 per cent of these habitations are that of people hailing from Kashmir valley.

"Let the government probe it and take action for the removal of encroachments from my constituency. There are over 16,000 kanals of JDA land under encroachment in Jammu," he said.

"We have no problem if Kashmiris purchase land and construct their houses in Jammu, but they should not construct houses on ► **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**

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.

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.

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

Two ex-Ministers pass away after prolonged illness; LA mourns loss

■ **EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU: Two former Jammu and Kashmir ministers -- Qamar Ali Akhoun from Kargil and Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Shah from Devsar in Kulgam -- passed away here on Friday, officials 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.

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.

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

(LAB) is engaged in a dialogue with the Centre over the demand for statehood and constitutional safeguards for Ladakh under sixth schedule.

Akhoun, who was not well for some time, was admitted in ► **P11**

Shrine Board orders probe into filming inside Bhawan

■ **EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

KATRA: Major issue has come to light concerning the security arrangements at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan after a video posted by a content creator named Shikha went viral on social media a few days back.

The video reportedly contained photographs and visuals from inside the Bhawan, raising serious concerns related to security and the sanctity of the revered shrine. Taking cognisance of the matter and with a view to ensuring that both the faith and safety of the devotees remain fully protected, an FIR has been registered at the Bhawan Police Station.

Confirming the action,

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board stated that a formal complaint was filed with the police on 11.02.2026. Necessary legal action has been initiated, and further proceedings are underway strictly in accordance with the provisions of law.

"Taking cognizance, necessary legal action initiated Formal complaint filed with the Police on 11.02.2026. Further action is underway as per law", Shrine Board said in a post on X.

Meanwhile, the Shrine Board reiterated its commitment to maintaining robust security arrangements and safeguarding the religious sentiments and safety of millions of pilgrims visiting the holy shrine.

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 13th Parliamentary elections assumed significance as they were held after a period of tumultuous political vacuum, instability and fragile security situation, including widespread attacks on minorities after the student-led protests brought down the 15-year rule of Sheikh Hasina in August 2024.

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

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

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

General Chauhan pointed out that the global security environment was undergoing dramatic shifts marked by uncertainty and flux. ► **P11**

Assembly passes grants for 3 Depts

■ **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**

PDP queries Govt over BJP's demographic change claim

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday asked the Jammu and Kashmir government to clarify a Kashmiri Pandit leader's claim that a demographic change is being made in the Valley.

BJP leader Ashwani Kumar Churungoo had recently told a national daily that the Centre was working on changing Kashmir's demography by settling lakhs of Hindus from outside there.

"Forty townships in Kashmir to decongest cities? Sounds progressive until the BJP voices call it a demography plan for Hindu settlement. Coincidence? Or deliberate state engineering? Jammu and ► **P11**