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Chouhan promises approval of package for 5,000 flood-hit rural houses in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday promised to soon approve a package, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, for over 5,000 houses damaged in recent floods, landslides and rains in rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chouhan also assured the farming community that 7,000 farmers will get their insurance amount after completion of the survey, as his central team will sit with insurance companies for its full implementation.

"Houses too have suffered damage. Several houses which are in rural areas and have broken down. There is a provision of Rs 1,30,000 for that under the Pradhan



Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressing farmers at R S Pura border belt.

"Centre, J&K Govt will bring farmers out of flood disaster"

R S PURA : Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday visited flood-hit farms in the Basmatirich R S Pura border area of Jammu and Kashmir and assured the affected farmers that with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's blessings, the central and state governments would take all necessary steps to restore their livelihoods and bring them out of this disaster.

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Mantri Awas Yojana.

"Each rural house will get Rs 1.30 lakh under the scheme, plus a toilet and MNREGA wages of Rs 40,000, which my department will provide," Chouhan, who is also Minister for Rural Development Ministry, said.

"Right now, the list that has come to me of houses being damaged is 5,101. After returning from here, I will approve these houses. Those whose houses are broken will get this amount so that they can reconstruct their houses," he added.

On crop losses, Chouhan assured farmers that nearly 7,000 insured cultivators would receive full compensation.

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Army soldier injured as encounter breaks out in Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: One Army soldier was injured in an encounter that broke out between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Friday, officials said.

Acting on specific information, the Army, Special Operations Group (SOG), and police launched an operation in the Dudu police station limits bordering the Seoj Dhar high-altitude area, resulting in the encounter, they said.

"Encounter is in progress. Joint teams of SOG, police and Indian Army on ground," Jammu IGP said in a post on X.

One Army jawan suffered injuries in the exchange of fire, reports said. Earlier, the White Knight Corps

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Reviews functioning of I&C Deptt

Industrial growth must translate into jobs, livelihoods for youth, artisans: CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday directed the Industries & Commerce Department to adopt a proactive and inclusive approach in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's industrial ecosystem, with a special focus on employment generation, sustainability and competitiveness.

Chief Minister emphasized the need for handholding of MSME units which are in distress but still revivable with minimal government intervention. He asked officials to identify such units at an early stage so these do not become defunct. "Such units can generate significant employment if supported in time," he said.



CM Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

Chief Minister expressed concern on slow progress under capital expenditure during current fiscal particularly under PMEGP & REGP schemes asking the department to at least match the last year's progress.

Chief Minister also reviewed the New Central

Sector Scheme aimed at encouraging new investments and incentives provided under the scheme. CM assessed the claim wise progress achieved under the scheme and called for completion of targets fixed under the NCSS.

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Another Patwari caught red handed while accepting Rs 15,000 bribe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday trapped and arrested Jameel Ahmed Bhat, Patwari of Patwar Halqa Shahpur, District Poonch, for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000 from a complainant seeking compensation for rain-related damage to his house.

According to an ACB spokesperson, the bureau received a written complaint alleging that the com-

plainant's house had been severely damaged during recent heavy rainfall. A police report had been filed at Police Station Poonch, and the complainant had approached the concerned Patwari with the required documents and application for compensation. However, Patwari Jameel Ahmed Bhat allegedly demanded Rs 20,000 to process the compensation file.

"Unwilling and unable to pay the bribe due to

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India will achieve robust growth through unity, peace: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: With the peace and stability, with the spirit of unity and common goals, and fostering a strong collective identity, India will achieve robust development, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday.

He was speaking at a national Seminar on Integration in Indian languages organised by National Institute of Technology, Srinagar and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.

The Lieutenant Governor said India's rich linguistic landscape is a source of strength. He said hundreds of languages and dialects have helped in building a cohesive society, which is driving transformation and development.



LG Manoj Sinha speaking during national seminar at NIT, Srinagar on Friday.

"Despite diverse background, languages, dialects and ideas, a common national identity and shared consciousness unite us all. We must harness the power of unity in diversity for nation-building. Our effort should be to ensure

that Hindi continues to serve as an essential bridge, connecting people from different linguistic backgrounds, motivate people to learn other languages, enhancing mutual cooperation and economic integration,

Yasin Malik's affidavit exposes Congress's dark dealings with terrorists: Chugh

Udhampur Police seizes Blue Lotus Spa centre

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The District Police Udhampur on Friday evening raided at an illegal spa centre in Udhampur town, which was being run without necessary licenses.

The Blue Lotus Spa management failed to provide any legitimate documentation to substantiate their business activities, leading to the immediate closure of the premises. Police has also detained few persons from the spot.

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary and In-charge of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Tarun Chugh, on Friday tore into the Congress, National Conference and People's Democratic Party after separatist Yasin Malik's affidavit exposed shocking details of how the Congress-led UPA government once used him to meet India's most wanted terrorists.

In a statement, Chugh said Yasin Malik, the murderer of Air Force officers and countless innocent people, has



himself admitted that he was in negotiations with dreaded terrorists like Hafiz Saeed at

the behest of the Congress leadership.

Chugh said this affidavit has blown the cover off the UPA's double games, where on the one hand the country was bleeding under terror attacks and on the other hand, the Congress was busy laying out red carpets for separatists.

Chugh added that between 2004 and 2014 the Congress treated

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ECI revises guidelines to make EVM Ballot Papers more readable

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has revised the existing guidelines under Rule 49B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, for the design and printing of EVM Ballot Papers to enhance their clarity and readability. The initiative is in line with the 28 initiatives already taken by the ECI in the past 6 months to streamline and improve election processes and enhance convenience for voters.

Henceforth, photographs of candidates will be printed in colour on the EVM Ballot Paper. The candidate's face will occupy three-fourths of the photo space for better visibility.

Serial numbers of candidates/NOTA will be printed in the international form of Indian numerals. The

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.0°C Min: 25.2°C

Humidity
Max: 80 Min: 63

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 29.1°C Min: 14.3°C

Humidity
Max: 70 Min: 40

Sunset : 18:32 Hours
Sunrise : 06:17 Hours

■ VIVEK SHARMA

JAMMU: A mysterious accident case reported in August has now taken a dramatic turn, with Channi Himmat Police converting the inquest proceedings into a formal FIR after it surfaced that firearms were used in the incident which ultimately claimed life of one Mumbai based girl in Jammu's Sainik Colony area.

Reliable sources confirmed to STATE TIMES that the probe into suspicious Sainik Colony firing case has been transferred on late Friday night to Special Branch wing of Crime Branch, J&K for detailed independent probe. Sensing the importance of the case, the special investigation team immediately took over the record files tonight itself.

Today, the Channi Himmat police converted an inquest proceeding into a formal FIR (152/25) after investigations revealed that the case of an alleged Road Traffic Accident (RTA) was, in fact, a targeted firing incident.

As per reports, three girls- Mehjabeen Akil Sheikh (30) of Mumbai, her sister Fatima

Akil (21), and Jaspreet Kour (28) of Ludhiana, currently residing in Sainik Colony - were admitted to JK Medicity Hospital on August 21 2025 with serious injuries. They were later shifted to ASCCOMS Sidhra and then to GMC Jammu. Mehjabeen, however, succumbed to her injuries during treatment.

Initially, the case was recorded as an RTA, and an inquest proceeding was initiated under DD No. 29 dated 30 August 2025 at Police Station Channi Himmat.

However, during the course of investigation, it came to light that the women had concealed the true incident. On the night of August 21, an unknown assailant allegedly entered their rented accommodation at House No. 157, Sector A, Sainik Colony, and opened fire on them before fleeing the spot. Sources informed that a Novshera based person was running a physiotherapy centre there.

Taking cognizance of these revelations, the police registered the case under FIR 152/2025 under Sections 108(1), 109,

332(b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) - against unknown accused.

The case has now taken a serious turn, with Crime Branch intensifying efforts to trace the assailant and ascertain the motive behind the firing. The CB investigation has been started.

Meanwhile, according to Jammu police's statement issued to media on Friday evening states that on August 21, 2025, Police Station Channi Himmat received information from JK Medicity Hospital regarding three injured persons admitted there. An Investigating Officer was deputed, but the injured were declared unfit for statement by doctors. Later, the victims left against medical advice and shifted to ASCCOMS Hospital, Sidhra and subsequently to GMC Jammu the next morning, without informing Channi Himmat Police. Tragically, one of the victims succumbed to injuries on August 29,

"Following the death, the deceased's mother approached the District Magistrate's

office seeking exemption from postmortem. However, SHO Channi Himmat found her replies suspicious and contradictory, and refused exemption. Police teams verified the facts and found that the case was registered as a road traffic accident (RTA) at Ring Road near Zamindara, with information also sent to PS Bari Brahmana. Discrepancies regarding the timeline of admission further raised suspicion," states a press release issued by J&K Police.

Acting promptly, police initiated inquest proceedings under Section 194 BNSS, 2023. On 31 August, a board of doctors conducted postmortem of the deceased in the presence of the Executive Magistrate and Crime Team, with full videography and photography. The clothes of the deceased were seized as evidence before handing over the body to the family, the police statement reads as.

The J&K Police further states that during the enquiry, CCTV footage, call records and other digital evidence were analyzed. The investigation revealed that the injuries were

not accidental but caused by firearms, leading to the victim's death after several days. Consequently, the inquest was converted into FIR No. 152/2025 under Sections 108(1)/109/332(b) BNS and 3/25 Arms Act at PS Channi Himmat.

A forensic team, crime photography/video-grapher, magistrate, and senior police officers have already visited the crime scene to collect vital evidence. Police said that investigation is underway and will be taken to its logical conclusion.

"Jammu Police remains committed to professional policing and fair investigation, ensuring justice and living up to the expectations of citizens," an official spokesperson said.

Earlier in the day, there were unconfirmed reports of the suspension of SHO Channi Himmat SHO, Insp Deepak Pathania; IC/PP Sainik Colony PSI Wasim Bhatti and Investigative Officer PSI Rohit Sharma. Senior police officers, however, remained tight-lipped over this report.