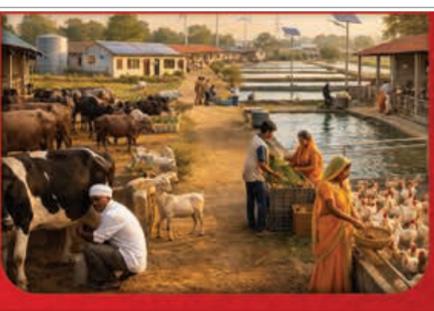


Livestock Development to Strengthen Livelihoods, Prosper Families
Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Poultry Infrastructure to Boost Rural Economy



Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) : VB - G RAM G
(विकसित भारत - जी राम जी) Act, 2025

125 DAYS
Guaranteed Wage Employment

SAYBO delegation calls on LG



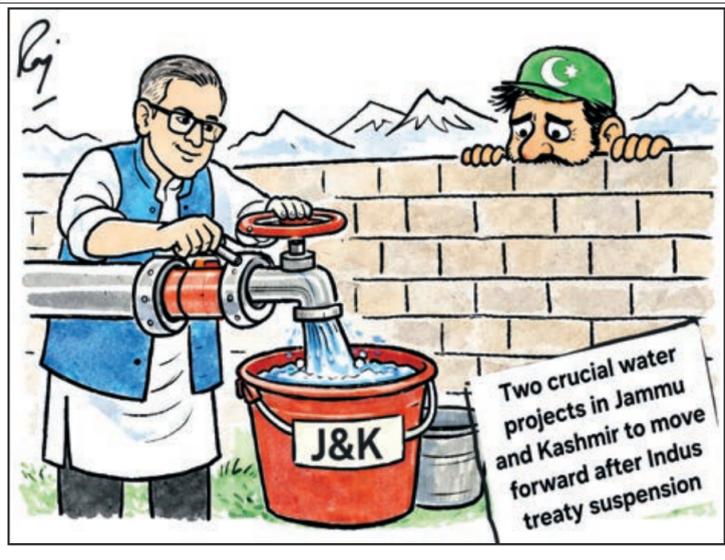
SAYBO delegation calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Jammu on Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A delegation of Shri Amarnathji Yatra Bhandara Organisation (SAYBO) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Tuesday.

The delegation led by Rajan Kapoor, President, SAYBO apprised the Lieutenant Governor of several key matters pertaining to the logistics and smooth operation of bhandaras along the Yatra route during the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The Lieutenant Governor assured the delegation that appropriate action will be taken to address the issues of bhandara sewadars. He also commended the crucial role played by voluntary organizations in the success of the annual Yatra.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, CEO Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board and Rahul Singh, Additional CEO, SASB were also present during the meeting.



Rs 3,450 Cr earned from Bars, Wine Shops across J&K in 3 yrs: Govt

STATE TIMES NEWS

J&K Govt clarifies in assembly, 'no proposal to declare J&K a dry UT'

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that there is no proposal under consideration to declare the Union Territory a dry UT, even as liquor sales have generated over Rs 3,450 crore in revenue during the last three financial years.

In a written reply to Assembly Question tabled by MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia, the government said prohibition could lead to increased smuggling from neighbouring States and UTs, growth of illegal distillation, strengthening of liquor mafias, and serious public health risks.

It also warned of adverse effects on tourism, hospitality, transport and manufacturing sectors, besides loss of livelihoods for thousands of people associated with the liquor trade.

In Jammu district, there were 140 wine shops and 84 bars in 2022-23, generating a revenue of Rs 51,262.41 lakh. In 2023-24, the number increased to 151 wine shops and 93 bars, with revenue of Rs 50,826.31 lakh. For 2024-25, the district had 153 wine shops and 97 bars, generating Rs 52,292.83 lakh, the highest in the UT.

In Kathua, revenue stood at Rs 12,367.06 lakh in 2022-23 with 28 wine shops and 33 bars. The figures for 2023-24 were Rs 12,217.17 lakh from 33 wine shops and 36 bars, while in 2024-25, revenue rose to Rs 12,694.98 lakh with 31 wine shops and 37 bars.

Samba district recorded revenue of Rs 8,229.14 lakh in 2022-23, which increased to Rs 9,825.74 lakh in 2023-24 and further to Rs 10,299.42 lakh in 2024-25, with wine shops rising from 14 to 19 over the three years.

In Udhampur, revenue increased steadily from Rs 10,777.00 lakh in 2022-23 to Rs 12,410.00 lakh in 2023-24, and Rs 12,987.50 lakh in 2024-25, supported by 26-28 wine shops and 22-25 bars.

Reasi district generated Rs 3,125.00 lakh in 2022-23, Rs 3,375.00 lakh in 2023-24, and Rs 3,450.50 lakh in 2024-25, with wine shops increasing from 6 to 11, though bars reduced to zero in the latest year.

In Doda, revenue remained stable at Rs 2,545.01 lakh in 2022-23, Rs 2,696.85 lakh in 2023-24, and Rs 2,685.29 lakh in 2024-25, with 10 wine shops and 3 bars throughout.

Kishtwar recorded Rs 1,216.76 lakh in 2022-23, rising to Rs 1,731.39 lakh in 2023-24, and Rs 1,964.09 lakh in 2024-25, while Ramban generated Rs 2,722.86 lakh, Rs 2,545.58 lakh, and Rs 2,702.16 lakh respectively during the same period.

In Rajouri, revenue was Rs 5,887.27 lakh in 2022-23 and Rs 5,268.78 lakh in 2023-24, but saw a sharp jump to Rs 15,232.04 lakh in 2024-25, with 18 wine shops and 25 bars.

Poonch generated Rs 2,254.91 lakh in 2022-23, which dipped to Rs 1,617.37 lakh in 2023-24 and Rs 1,999.95 lakh in 2024-25, despite having only two wine shops and 4 bars currently operational.

In the Kashmir division, Srinagar recorded Rs 3,086.77 lakh in 2022-23, which more than doubled to Rs 7,360.17 lakh in 2023-24 and increased further to Rs 7,632.90 lakh in 2024-25, with 7 wine shops and 4 bars currently operational.

Anantnag generated Rs 162.50 lakh in 2022-23, rising sharply to Rs 1,403.50 lakh in 2023-24 and Rs 1,999.95 lakh in 2024-25, despite having only two wine shops and no bars.

In Baramulla, revenue increased from Rs 418.07 lakh in 2022-23 to Rs 1,147.23 lakh in 2023-24, while Rs 1,135.84 lakh was recorded in 2024-25. Ganderbal generated Rs 170.14 lakh, Rs 223.44 lakh, and Rs 319.69 lakh respectively over the three years.

Kupwara had no liquor outlets in 2022-23, but recorded Rs 415.66 lakh in 2023-24 and Rs 442.96 lakh in 2024-25 with one wine shop.

The government further informed that Pulwama, Shopian, Bandipora, Budgam and Kulgam had no bars or wine shops during the last three financial years.

J&K Bank sponsors two more E-Vehicles to strengthen Green Campus vision of JU under CSR

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a move towards sustainable and eco-friendly mobility, the University of Jammu today inaugurated two 12-seater electric vehicles sponsored by J&K Bank under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The e-vehicles were formally inaugurated by Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai in presence of Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof Sangita Gupta, Dean Planning and Development, Prof J P S Joorel, Dean Academic Affairs, Rectors, Directors, Deans, Heads of various Departments, Registrar, Dr. Neeraj Sharma and other officers, representatives of University Associations and Senior Officials from J&K Bank, Ashok Gupta, General Manager, J&K Bank and Nidhi Jamwal, Cluster Head, J&K Bank, Jammu.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Umesh Rai reiterated the University's commitment to its Green Campus Initiative, under which the movement of conventional four-wheelers on



VC JU, Prof. Umesh Rai flagging off 12-seater electric vehicles sponsored by J&K Bank.

the campus circular road has been restricted.

He emphasized that while this step reflects the university's environmental responsibility, it was equally important to ensure ease of mobility for students, faculty, and staff within the sprawling campus.

Prof. Rai said that J&K Bank had earlier provided two e-carts, while the university had arranged four additional ones. Recognizing the growing need for a more structured and comfortable transport facility, he requested the bank to sponsor larger e-vehicles.

He expressed heartfelt gratitude to J&K Bank for responding positively and generously by providing two 12-seater e-

vehicles, which will now be operational from today.

He also acknowledged the proactive role of the Department of Environment, particularly Prof. Deepika Slathia, Chairperson, Green Campus Task Force and Prof. Piyush Malviya, in coordinating and facilitating the initiative.

Nidhi Jamwal highlighted the bank's longstanding association with the University of Jammu. She stated that the bank has consistently support-

ed campus development through its CSR initiatives, including providing benches, dustbins, and now electric vehicles. She added that the new e-vehicles would significantly enhance convenience for students, especially in light of restricted entry of regular four-wheelers on the campus.

Prof. Prakash Chand Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, described the initiative as a thoughtful and student-centric measure. He noted that the university had engaged with all stakeholders while shaping its Green Campus policies, and the introduction of e-vehicles ensures that environmental goals are balanced with student welfare.

RSS 100-year journey strengthened India's cultural roots: Gaurav

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP spokesperson and Convener International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta has congratulated the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on completing 100 years of its establishment, describing the organisation as a strong pillar of nation building, social service and cultural preservation.

In a statement issued here, Gupta said that RSS has played a historic role in strengthening national unity, discipline and patriotism since its foundation. He said that for a century, the organisation has worked tirelessly at the grassroots level to promote social harmony, cultural values and selfless service to society.

Quoting senior BJP leadership, Gupta said the RSS has consistently contributed to nation building by inspiring generations of youth to dedicate



themselves to public service and national development. He said BJP leaders have repeatedly acknowledged that the values of dedication, discipline and

nationalism promoted by the RSS have helped shape the country's socio-cultural framework.

Gupta stated that RSS volunteers have always been at the forefront during natural disasters, social crises and humanitarian efforts across the country. He said their service during floods, earthquakes, pandemics and other emergencies has earned respect and trust among the people.

Highlighting the organisation's ideological contribution, Gupta said the RSS has played a key role in strengthening India's cultural identity and promoting the spirit of unity in diversity. He added that the organisation's commitment to social upliftment and national pride continues to inspire millions. Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gupta said the Prime

Minister's leadership reflects the values of service and nationalism nurtured by the RSS. He added that under Modi's leadership, India is moving steadily towards becoming a strong, self-reliant and developed nation.

Gupta also said that the completion of 100 years of RSS is not just a milestone for the organisation but a moment of pride for the entire nation. He stated that the RSS will continue to guide and inspire society towards unity, integrity and national progress in the coming years. Reaffirming BJP's commitment to the ideology of service and nation-first approach, Gupta said the party remains dedicated to strengthening national unity and ensuring inclusive development while drawing inspiration from organisations that have worked for the country's welfare for decades.

Floriculture Sector in J&K seeks policy push, focused government intervention

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Floriculture in Jammu and Kashmir stands at a crucial juncture in the evolving agrarian landscape, with flower growers demanding focused government attention to address long-pending issues affecting the sustainability and growth of the sector. Flower growers from various parts of the Union Territory assembled here today to deliberate on the current status and future prospects of commercial floriculture in J&K.

Addressing the gathering, Tejinder Singh Wazir, Member, J&K Kissan Advisory Board, said floriculture is a billion-dollar global industry driven by nursery production, cut flowers, and loose flowers used extensively for devotional and cultural purposes.

He stated that despite the floriculture industry in Jammu and Kashmir being valued at nearly Rs 500 crore, it continues to remain underprivileged in planning, budgeting, and implementation by the UT administration.

Referring to official budget figures, Wazir observed that floriculture in the UT remains largely disorganised. He expressed concern that even during the ongoing budget session, flowers were imported from other parts of the country by the concerned department, contradicting the government's slogan of "Vocal for Local." He stressed that the sector requires structured planning and sustained policy support to realise its true potential.

Highlighting Kashmir's natural advantage, Wazir said the UT remains dependent on the



Member, J&K Kissan Advisory Board, Tejinder Singh Wazir talking to reporters.

import of tulips and trillions of flower bulbs every year, despite ICAR and CSIR reports identifying Kashmir as a key destination for flower bulb production in India. He lamented that floriculture continues to be viewed largely as an aesthetic activity rather than a viable livelihood option, calling this approach detrimental to the sector's long-term sustainability.

Wazir advocated UT-level interventions, including a blanket ban on the import of flower bulbs for the public sector, and suggested the development of theme-based gardens such as guldaudi, lupins and bougainvillea with the active involvement of local growers.

While major agriculture-related projects like MIDH, HADP and JKIP are being implemented in the UT, Wazir pointed out that these schemes are handled by multiple departments under the Agriculture Production Department, leading to confusion, overlap and poor coordination. He said floriculture components under these schemes remain weak, with gaps in quality planting material, protected cultivation, post-harvest management and market linkages.

Emphasising sustainability,

he called for interest subvention, revival of sick units, timely supply of quality planting material, and creation of dedicated marketing infrastructure. He said a modest budgetary allocation of ₹50 crore could significantly transform the sector.

The farmers welcomed top-up subsidies for micro and sprinkler irrigation worth Rs 116.86 crore, but demanded a dedicated Floriculture Mission, insurance cover and enhanced subsidies. Referring to the CSIR Floriculture Mission under the leadership of Dr Jitendra Singh, Wazir noted that mission-mode scientific interventions have proven effective.

Calling for corrective measures, Wazir urged the organisation of Pushp Kranti Melas in Jammu and Posh Inqilab Melas in Kashmir to bring together growers, scientists and buyers. The growers appealed to Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Science and Technology, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and Javid Ahmed Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, to initiate coordinated and time-bound interventions to revive commercial floriculture in Jammu and Kashmir.

CS pushes for robust tracking for lifelong rehabilitation of victims

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of senior officers to frame a robust mechanism for the rehabilitation and reintegration of drug abuse victims across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting brought together Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretaries of General Administration, Social Welfare, School Education; Secretaries of Health & Medical Education, Skill Development, Labour & Employment, Rural Development; Director General, Budget; Director, Information; Managing Director, JKRLM; Director Colleges, and other concerned officials.

While reviewing the framework, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of systematic tracking of every registered drug abuse victim seeking treatment to ensure sustained handholding, rehabilitation, and social reintegration. He emphasized that individuals must be monitored for several years post-treatment and provided opportunities in livelihood generation, skill development, self-employment, or education, based on individual rehabilitation needs.



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting on Tuesday.

Highlighting institutional support, he called for dovetailing resources and manpower across multiple departments to ensure comprehensive assistance at every stage of recovery.

While family and societal support is crucial, he observed that long-term reintegration depends on strong institutional mechanisms. He also stressed that motivating victims for treatment is only the first step, which must be complemented by follow-up, counselling, and livelihood support to prevent relapse.

To ensure accountability, he directed the creation of a district-level monitoring framework led by senior officers, supported by dedicated teams to identify gaps and track rehabilitation outcomes. He also instructed the development of an integrated online platform with clearly defined departmental roles and unique identification for each beneficiary for real-time tracking and case management.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez, presented the proposed inter-departmental coordination and post-rehabilitation framework under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. The Task Force, chaired by

Principal Secretary, Home, will focus on multi-departmental coordination, standardized screening and referral mechanisms, trained psychiatrists in hospitals, supply reduction, and strengthening rehabilitation processes.

The framework envisages standardized rehabilitation protocols, counselling units, skill development, livelihood support, self-employment assistance, and private sector partnerships for sustainable recovery. School-based preventive programmes, community engagement initiatives, post-care monitoring, infrastructure strengthening, and capacity building were also emphasized.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Chief Secretary Dulloo stressed that addressing drug abuse requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to safeguard youth and build a healthier society.