

# Amit reviews timelines for Mizo Fibre Grid Network Project with Railtel

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
AIZAWL: Amit Sharma, Secretary, Information, Communications & Technology Department, Government of Mizoram and Director Census Operations, Mizoram on Monday chaired a meeting to review the timelines for implementation of prestigious project of 'Mizo Fibre Grid Network' (MFGN) which shall serve as a basis of OPGW-laying all across the state, being executed by renowned PSU M/s Railtel in the presence of Railtel Operations Head and his team, MD ZENICS and his team, Executive Engineer, Power & Electricity Department, SeMT officials and ICT offi-



Secretary, Information, Communications & Technology Department, Government of Mizoram Amit Sharma chairing a meeting.

cials. At the beginning of the meeting, the team of Railtel led by its Regional Head made a detailed presentation, mentioning therein proposed timelines and scope of work for implementation of MFGN

which was appreciated by Secretary ICT Amit Sharma but he advised them to revise these timelines, especially keeping into consideration, long monsoon season, in this part of the country, every year.

Secretary ICT Amit Sharma also impressed upon the PSU M/s Railtel to work in close tandem with the ICT Corporation ZENICS and Power & Electricity Department of the Government of Mizoram, whose infrastructure shall be utilized by Railtel to lay down this Fibre Grid Network in all the eleven districts of Mizoram.

Amit Sharma further disclosed in this special meeting that CM Mizoram and ICT Minister are very keenly following this important MFGN Project here and there shall be quarterly reviews of the

progress achieved in it by him and M/s Railtel shall also have to submit a weekly progress report on same to ZENICS on milestones achieved from time-to-time.

During the Meeting, Amit Sharma directed ICT team, P&E Department and ZENICS Corp. to issue list of SPOCs for complete coordination with M/s Railtel who shall also share the details of their teams with them and immediately begin the Joint Survey Work and simultaneous stocking of requisite materials in their Central Warehouse to be created in the capital Aizawl for this upcoming MFGN work.

Before the culmination of the Meeting, Railtel team assured Amit that they shall adhere to the timelines with multiple teams deployment which shall work in total cohesion and guidance of ICT Department with ZENICS Corp. and P&E Department in the forefront so that this Fibre-laying activity gets completed in the state, as per the decided Milestones by the department in DPR of the MFGN Project.

# Lijjat Papad holds 60th AGM; A beacon of women's empowerment and self-reliance



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI: Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad, the iconic women-led cooperative, held its 60th Annual General Meeting at Shanmukhananda Auditorium, Mumbai. The event witnessed participation from thousands of sister-members representing various branches across the country, making it a grand celebration of unity, empowerment, and progress.

Chief Guest Roop Rashi, Chief Executive Officer of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), lauded Lijjat as a "model of ideal development" and an "inspiration for Atmanirbhar Bharat." She praised the organization's unwavering commitment to quality, fairness, and self-reliance, adding, "Lijjat's journey is self-created, not imitated. It has set a benchmark in maintaining product quality and standardization across India." She emphasized that Lijjat's legacy teaches invaluable lessons in entrepreneur-

ship, cooperation, and value-based business practices.

Guest of Honour, Suvarna Khandelwal Joshi, Joint Charity Commissioner, highlighted the organization's role in promoting women's education and empowerment. "Where the spirit of giving and receiving meets, that is where true women empowerment begins," she remarked, suggesting the inclusion of millet-based papads to meet growing demand and further empower rural women.

Lijjat President Swati Paradkar acknowledged the tireless efforts of sister-members and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to quality. She also expressed gratitude to the dignitaries for their support and encouragement. Notably, her personal story of starting papad-making at age 10 alongside education served as a source of inspiration for many.

The event was also graced by Lijjat's Vice-President Pratibha Sawant, Auditor Shri Paresh Doctor, KVIC Maharashtra State Director Yogesh Bhamre, and other well-wishers and branch representatives. The AGM included a guidance session for sister-members, fostering collective learning and motivation.

Celebrating 66 years of service, Lijjat remains a powerful symbol of "Strength through Cooperation," with no barriers of caste, creed, or age-empowering even women in their 80s through dignified self-employment. The AGM reaffirmed Lijjat's foundational motto: women's empowerment through quality, unity, and dedication.

# RPF Raising Day Parade celebrated in Valsad; Ashwini Vaishnaw felicitates brave personnel



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw felicitating RPF personnel.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
VALSAD: Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, graced the Raising Day Parade of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) as the Chief Guest at the RPF Zonal Training Centre, Valsad.

The event witnessed the felicitation of 41 RPF personnel who were awarded the prestigious President's Medals for Meritorious Service, Jeevan Raksha Medals, and other honors for their courageous efforts in saving lives and safeguarding

passengers. The Minister took the ceremonial salute and praised the RPF's discipline, precision, and dedication during the impressive parade. Extending his greetings on RPF Foundation Day, Vaishnaw lauded the force's vital role in ensuring the safety of passengers and railway assets, particularly during major events like the recent Mahakumbh.

Highlighting Indian Railways' transformational progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he noted that 35,000 km of new tracks have been added in the past 11 years, with 99% network electrifica-

tion achieved. Currently, nearly 150 Vande Bharat and 30 Amrit Bharat trains are operational, and 1300 stations are under redevelopment, with 110 already inaugurated.

To meet festive travel demand, over 12,000 special trains are running for Diwali and Chhath. The Minister also emphasized the rapid deployment of the KAVACH safety system on key routes, installation on 1200 locomotives, and the addition of 3500 general coaches to serve the public. He highlighted the integration of modern technology and enhanced training within the RPF to bolster their capabilities.

The event was attended by dignitaries including MPs, MLAs, senior railway officials, and RPF leadership. The RPF Raising Day Parade reaffirmed the force's commitment to its motto "Yasho Labhaswa" (Attain Glory) and its mission of "Sewa Hi Sankalp," showcasing the RPF as a compassionate and vigilant force playing a pivotal role in national security and passenger welfare.

# JU organises four days Calico Printing workshop

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Centre for Studies in Museology and Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani Museum of Heritage, University of Jammu today inaugurated a workshop on Calico Printing with the theme "From Fabric to Fashion Industry" aligning with the vision of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai on "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and Skill India.

The workshop would continue for 4 days consisting of practical sessions on Calico Printing. Through the workshop, the Centre for Studies in Museology aims to bring together artisans as well as craft enthusiasts to revive this traditional art form. The event highlighted the rich cultural heritage of calico printing of Samba



Students and faculty during the workshop.

(popularly known as Sheetan Aala Shelhar). The workshop focuses on sustainable practices as well as its modern applications to make it relevant to fashion industry.

The workshop started with an interesting inaugural session, where Prof. Poonam Chaudhary, the Director of Centre for Studies in

Museology, narrated the significance of Calico printing as a vital craft which embodies cultural identity and sustainability. She highlighted the need to preserve this art for supporting local artisans and promoting eco-friendly textile production. Further, Tarun Sudan, the Assistant Director, Department of Handloom & Handicrafts,

Government of Jammu and Kashmir, who was also present on the occasion highlighted the contemporary relevance of Calico printing also emphasized on the required collaborative initiatives between the University of Jammu and concerned Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Over the course of workshop, the participants will be engaging in hands-on sessions covering Calico printing techniques by the state awardees artisans Sushma Devi and her team. The Centre is optimistic that such an initiative would serve as a catalyst for those interested in Calico Printing. Dr. Malay Dey, the Assistant Professor in the Centre presented the vote of thanks.

# Power shutdown

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Shanti Nagar, Dhok Paloura, Patoli Chowk, PHE, EWS colony and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 14 from 7 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Jhajjarkotli, Jindrah, Phalata, Salal, Panthal, SMVDU and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 15 from 7 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Shahzadpur, Marh, Gajansoo, Gho-Manhasan and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 15 and 17 from 7 am to 3 pm.

# Roma Bahl's 'Measuring the Intangible' opens at Lalit Kala Akademi

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The much-anticipated solo art exhibition "Measuring the Intangible" by Roma Bahl opened with quiet elegance at the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, marking a luminous moment in the capital's cultural calendar.

The inauguration was graced by Dr. Jyotsna Singh-distinguished scholar, cultural visionary, and scion of the royal family of Jammu & Kashmir - whose words infused the evening with reflection and reverence. Her address, evoking the essence of art as both memory and meditation, beautifully set the tone for a week devoted to abstraction, imagination, and the invisible ties that bind humanity.

The inauguration drew an



Dignitaries lighting the ceremonial lamp.

impressive gathering of art connoisseurs and dignitaries including Sumita Raghu, Gen. Shriniwasan, Gen. Jaichandran, Jaya, and Rohilla, each adding warmth to the aura of the occasion.

The hall shimmered with the delicate harmony of intellect and emotion - a perfect prelude to Roma Bahl's deeply intro-

spective world of colors and consciousness.

In her art, Bahl traverses the unseen dimensions of existence. Her canvases, fluid and transcendent, pulse with dreamlike intensity and a poetic sense of order. A medal-winning graduate from Jammu University, and a participant in numerous national and

international art forums, Roma Bahl paints not stories, but sensations. "My canvases are my dreams," she reflects. "They do not carry a storyline, but there is grandeur and harmony." Each stroke, each hue, becomes an echo of the intangible - a visual translation of thought, silence, and emotional memory.

Rendered in acrylics and mixed media, her recent works transform fleeting recollections and delicate human silhouettes into luminous fields of emotion. The absence of narrative gives the viewer freedom - to wander, to feel, to find meaning in the space between forms.

As guests drifted through the gallery, Dr. Singh observed how Bahl's creations bridge Indian femininity, nature, and

shifting social realities with rare, contemplative grace. Over the years, Roma Bahl has exhibited across South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, and numerous Indian cities, earning both national and international acclaim. Her works, collected widely, stand as quiet testaments to the pursuit of spiritual beauty and universal connection.

More than an exhibition, "Measuring the Intangible" is a journey inward - an invitation to pause and listen to what lies beyond words. Open from October 12-18, 2025, the show invites viewers to not merely see art, but to experience it - to step into a realm where memory becomes color, silence becomes form, and every canvas breathes with the rhythm of the soul.

# Purnima lauds PM Modi's new agriculture push

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Adv. Purnima Sharma, former Deputy Mayor of Jammu and BJP spokesperson, has hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching two historic schemes in the agriculture sector; the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana and the Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses - with a combined outlay of ₹35,440 crore.

She said these initiatives reflect the Modi government's deep commitment to empowering farmers, boosting productivity, and transforming India's rural economy through innovation and inclusivity. "Prime Minister Modi's visionary leadership has once



again demonstrated that the farmer is at the heart of India's growth story," she said, adding that the schemes will not only strengthen food security but also ensure prosperity for millions of rural families.

Adv. Sharma highlighted that the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana integrates 36 government schemes under one umbrella to promote crop diversification, irrigation, sustainable farming, and rural infrastructure, while the Dalhan Aatmanirbharata Mission aims to make India self-reliant in pulses, benefiting nearly two crore pulse farmers.

She praised PM Modi for focusing on Aspirational Districts, turning once "backward" regions into growth engines through convergence, collaboration, and competition-a model that has shown visible results in roads, schools, healthcare, and livelihoods.

Commending the government's efforts toward women empowerment in agriculture, Adv. Sharma noted that initiatives like the 'Lakshmi Didi' campaign, promotion of drone technology, and creation of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) have made rural women central to India's economic transformation. Purnima Sharma also applauded Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh for his pioneering role in integrating science and governance, especially through the IMD's WebGIS Decision Support System (DSS) - a technology-driven platform that enhances disaster management, agricultural planning, and cost savings.

# Viksit Bhart Buildathon2025 commenced at HSS Dablehar



Students during the exhibition.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RS PURA: From identifying real world problems to building practical solutions HSS Dablehar RS pura Jammu under able guidance of Principal MRS Irvinder Kour,Our teams namely Demographic Dividend Jammu, and Pillars of Viksit Bharat are showing their creativity and innovations through #ViksitBhart Buildathon 2025

Every idea, Every Prototype, Every Efforts Counts in Building the vision of #ViksitBhart @2047.This initiative of Ministry of education

Government of India in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission and NITI Aayog calls upon schools and teachers across the nation to be part of the viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025.This initiative provided students of classes 6th to 12th an opportunity to harness their creativity and problem solving skills around theme as Atmanirbhar Bharat, Swadeshi,Vocal for Local and Samriadh Bhart .this is India's largest ever student innovations and an important step towards the vision of Viksit Bharat.

# Sardar@150 unity march to celebrate spirit of united, Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat: Billawaria

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Sardar@150 Unity March will be organized nationwide to celebrate the spirit of united, Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, whose vision and determination unified a fragmented India. This was stated by Baldev Singh Billawaria, General Secretary, J&K BJP, who is also the J&K BJP Incharge for the Sardar@150 Unity March, while addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. He was accompanied by party leaders Purduman Singh, Jaideep Sharma, and Lovedeal Sharma. Baldev Singh Billawaria, stated that the campaign, aligning with the mission of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat, seeks to rekindle Sardar Patel's message of unity and nation-building. Addressing the press conference, Billawaria informed that the campaign was inaugurated



Gen Secretary, J&K BJP Baldev Singh Billawaria briefing media.

on 6th October and began with a vibrant digital phase, featuring social media reel contests, essay writing competitions, and the 'Sardar@150 Young Leaders Programme', which has received enthusiastic participation from youth nationwide through the MY Bharat portal. Billawaria stated that the second phase of the campaign, scheduled from 31st October to 25th November; will include district-level workshops and padyatras across the region. The programmes will be held in schools and colleges, featuring debates, essay writing, seminars, and street plays (nukkad natak) on the life and ideals of Sardar Patel. Events such as 'Swadeshi Melas', Yoga Shivir, Health Camps, and

Cleanliness Drives will also be organized, along with floral tributes to Sardar Patel. Participants will take the "Proudly Swadeshi" and "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" pledges, reinforcing the principles of environmental and national self-reliance. Billawaria announced that these activities will see the presence of Union Ministers, Members of Parliament, MLAs, and other dignitaries, who will join the youth and citizens in honouring Sardar Patel's legacy. Volunteers from MY Bharat, NCC, NSS, and various social and religious organisations will participate actively, transforming the initiative into a mass movement of unity and patriotism. Highlighting the National

Padyatra, Billawaria said that from 26th November (Constitution Day) to 6th December; thousands of padyatris will embark on a historic 152-kilometre march from Karamsad, Sardar Patel's birthplace, to the Statue of Unity in Kevadia. Along this journey, participants will engage in cleanliness drives, plantation campaigns, public interactions, and social outreach. He added that during this period, 150 locations across India will host exhibitions on Sardar Patel's life and contribution under the theme of Viksit Bharat, celebrating Unity in Diversity. Every evening, cultural presentations titled "Sardar Gatha" will be organized, showcasing stories of Patel's leadership and the spirit of national integration.

Billawaria said that just as Sardar Patel united the map of India, we must unite its dreams.

This Unity March is not merely a commemoration, but a collective pledge to build the India of Sardar Patel's vision, a self-reliant, strong, and developed Bharat, he added.

# Temporary restriction on sale of platform tickets at key stations of Western Railway's Mumbai Central Division

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In view of the expected surge in passenger footfall during the upcoming festive season, Western Railway has announced a temporary restriction on the sale of platform tickets at select major stations under the Mumbai Central Division.

This move aims to control overcrowding on platforms and ensure smooth and safe movement of passengers within station premises.

As per a press release issued by Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, the restriction will be effective from October 15 to 31, 2025 at Bandra Terminus, Vapi, Udhna

and Surat stations.

To ensure minimal inconvenience, exemptions will be granted in genuine cases, such as for individuals assisting senior citizens, women passengers, illiterate persons, Divyangjan, or others requiring special assistance.

Western Railway has appealed to passengers to cooperate with railway authorities and plan their travel accordingly.

The temporary restriction is a precautionary measure undertaken in the larger interest of passenger safety, efficient crowd management, and to ensure a smooth and pleasant travel experience for all during the festive period.