

# BDSA J&K UT congratulates Omar Abdullah on completion of One Year in Office

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: B. R. Kundal, IAS (Retd.), former Chief Secretary and Cabinet Minister, who serves as the President of the Bhartiya Dalit Sahitya Academy (BDSA), (JKUT), extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his government on the successful completion of one year in office on October 16, 2025.

Kundal recalled the deputation meeting with the Chief Minister, in which he submitted a memorandum comprising seven key demands to the office of Chief Minister and apprised Abdullah of certain key issues affecting the Dalit Community and other marginalized communities of Jammu & Kashmir (UT).



BDSA J&K delegation led by B. R. Kundal, IAS (Retd.) meeting with CM Omar Abdullah.

The Chief Minister was gracious enough to grant a patient hearing and assured that the demands of the BDSA would be examined by the senior functionaries of his government. The Chief Secretary was

kind enough to ensure the delegation of appropriate consideration and redressal of the issues raised. Kundal reiterated that he is pleased to note that one of the major demands-the constitution of a High-Powered Committee

under the Chairmanship of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) to oversee the effective disposal of complaints under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1968 (as amended in 2015)-has been positively

considered.

On the same day, the BDSA deputation also met the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo and submitted a copy of the memorandum.

The Academy appealed to the Chief Minister to kindly find time from his busy schedule to review and take necessary action on the remaining demands submitted by the BDSA, which are intended to bring relief and justice to the most marginalized, underprivileged, and neglected sections of society.

The Bhartiya Dalit Sahitya Academy reiterates its continued commitment to promoting equality, social justice, and harmony in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

# Western Railway's Mumbai Central Division holds "Amrit Samvaad" to connect with passengers

A Conversation for Change, A Commitment for Service - Jan Samvad Se Jan Vikas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: In alignment with the national vision of Amrit Kaal and inspired by the guiding principles of Panch Pran as articulated by Prime Minister, Western Railway's Mumbai Central Division organised a "Amrit Samvaad" at the Concourse Area of Mumbai Central Station. The initiative, held under Special Campaign 5.0, aimed to foster direct engagement between railway authorities and passengers to drive transformative progress through collective participation.

According to a press release issued by the Public Relations Department of Western Railway, the event was led by Pankaj Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central Division, who, along with other Senior Railway



Pankaj Singh, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central Division, is engaging in an interactive session with passengers during Amrit Samvaad at Mumbai Central Station.

Officers, interacted directly with passengers in an open Question & Answer session. Passengers enthusiastically participated, raising queries and sharing suggestions regarding public security, station amenities, CCTV cameras in coaches, as well as introduc-

tion of premium sleeper long-distance express trains.

DRM Pankaj Singh attentively addressed each query, assuring passengers of sustained efforts towards augmenting passenger amenities, strengthening safety systems, and delivering modern, technology-driven travel experiences. He further encouraged passengers to join hands with Railways by maintaining cleanliness, adopting responsible travel habits, and contributing positively to the nation-building journey.

The Amrit Samvaad initiative seeks to build a collaborative platform where citizen feedback translates into meaningful action, paving the way towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047, fully aligned with the vision of Amrit Kaal and Panch Pran.

# Energy conservation measures initiative by Western Railway



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Railways' is taking significant steps to promote sustainability across its network in today's world, where energy conservation and environmental responsibility are more important than ever.

Western Railway's Electrical Power Department of Mumbai Central Division, has rolled out energy-saving initiatives aimed at reducing electricity consumption, improving operational efficiency and adopting eco-friendly technologies. These efforts reflect a strong commitment to building a greener future.

According to a press release issued by Public Relations Department of Western Railway, as part of its commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency, Western Railway, has launched several impactful energy conservation drives. These efforts align with Indian Railways' commitment to environmental stewardship and operational efficiency.

Under this initiative, almost 12,500 energy-efficient

Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) fans have been installed at stations and service buildings across Mumbai Central Division. These BLDC fans consume about 40% less electricity than traditional ceiling fans, while offering quieter operation, longer lifespan and superior performance. In addition, the Division has achieved a complete transition to energy efficient LED lighting with more than 1,48,700 LED fixtures installed across stations, offices and service areas. This initiative has significantly reduced power consumption and maintenance costs.

To enhance passengers convenience with maintaining energy efficiency, 10 natural water coolers have been installed at major stations including Dadar, Bandra Terminus, Borivali, Bhayandar, Surat, Udhna, Nandurbar and Vapi. These coolers work without compressors and have a cooling capacity of 45 litres per hour and store up to 150 litres, maintaining a temperature between 23°C and 27°C while using minimal energy.

Additionally, across Mumbai Central Division more than 1,200 occupancy sensors have been installed to optimize the air-conditioning systems more efficiently. These smart sensors detect human presence and automatically adjust the air-conditioning, reducing unnecessary energy usage in empty rooms.

Through these consistent efforts, Western Railway is setting a strong example by adopting innovative and eco-friendly technologies, further supporting the vision of a greener and more energy-efficient future.

# LIC launches two new insurance plans: Jan Suraksha (Plan 880) and Bima Lakshmi (Plan 881)



CEO and Managing Director of LIC of India, R. Doraiswamy with other officers launching new plans.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced two new insurance plans - LIC's Jan Suraksha (Plan 880) and LIC's Bima Lakshmi (Plan 881) - under the newly implemented Next Gen GST Regime. These plans were officially launched by R. Doraiswamy, CEO and Managing Director of LIC of India. Both plans offer Guaranteed Additions throughout the policy term and come with an Auto Cover Facility, which becomes active after payment of three full years' premiums.

These features are designed to provide enhanced financial security and long-term savings, especially in a volatile interest rate environment. LIC's Jan Suraksha (Plan 880) is a Life Micro Insurance Plan tailored for the lower income segment. It offers life cover without the need for a medical examination, making it easily accessible. The plan provides Guaranteed Additions at 4% of the annualized premium at the end of each policy year. It also ensures financial support to the family in the event of the policyholder's death and a

lump sum at maturity if the policyholder survives the term. Key features include a minimum and maximum entry age of 18 and 55 years, respectively, a Basic Sum Assured between Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 2,00,000, and a policy term of 12 to 20 years. The plan is a Non-Participating, Non-Linked Individual Savings Insurance Plan.

LIC's Bima Lakshmi (Plan 881) is a specially designed insurance plan for women, offering a combination of life cover, periodic money-back benefits (every 2 or 4 years), and attractive guaranteed maturity benefits. The plan includes Guaranteed Additions at 7% of the total tabular annual premium for active policies. In the case of paid-up policies, additions accrue proportionately. The policy

term is fixed at 25 years, with a premium paying term ranging from 7 to 15 years\*. The plan also includes a Female Critical Illness Rider as an optional add-on. Entry is open to women aged 18 to 50 years, with a minimum Basic Sum Assured of Rs. 2,00,000 and \*\*no upper limit, subject to underwriting rules. This too is a Non-Participating, Non-Linked Insurance Plan.

Both products aim to address evolving insurance needs with a focus on inclusivity, gender-specific benefits, and stability in returns. For further details, customers can refer to the official sales brochure available on LIC's website at [www.wlicindia.in](http://www.wlicindia.in) (http://www.wlicindia.in).

# SWD presents baby kits to newly born baby girls at DH Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a heart warming initiative to promote the cause of the girl child, the Department of Social Welfare today felicitated newly born baby girls at the District Hospital Poonch under the flagship programme "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" (BBBP).

A team led by District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Khalil A. Banday in the presence of Dr. Mohammed Shafiq Chohan, Medical Superintendent, gave away Baby Care Kits containing essential items for infant care and hygiene to the mothers of newly born girls. The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the department for this thoughtful gesture and the continued efforts to uplift the status of women and children in the society.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from



SWD officials presenting Baby Kits to newly born baby girls at District Hospital Poonch.

hospital staff, social welfare officials and families of the newborns.

The DSWO highlighted the significance of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative in improving child sex ratio and ensuring survival, protection and education of the girl child. He emphasized that such initiatives not only extend immediate support to mothers and newborn girls but also send out a strong

message of equality and empowerment.

Dr. Mohammed Shafiq Chohan appreciated the Social Welfare Department and reaffirmed hospital's commitment to supporting government programmes that focus on maternal and child welfare. He lauded the initiative as a step toward sensitizing the community about the value and dignity of the girl child.

# DLSA Jammu organises exhibition cum sale of products made by Jail inmates

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: District Legal Services Authority Jammu in collaboration with Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu & District Jail Amphalla, Jammu has organized a Diwali exhibition cum sale of products manufactured by prisoners.

The event was inaugurated by Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Jammu Y. P. Bourney here at the District Court Complex Janipur. Other Judicial Officers were also present at the event.

The display and sale counters were established under the overall supervision of Dr. Smriti Sharma,



Chairman DLSA Jammu Y. P. Bourney inaugurating exhibition.

Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu.

The sale of products manufactured by prisoners of two jails of District Jammu will continue for two consecutive days i.e. 17.10.2025 & 18.10.2025. The stalls reflect the skill,

creativity and dedication of the inmates engaged in various vocational and rehabilitation programs within the jails.

The event aimed to promote rehabilitation, creativity and skill development among inmates through

their active participation in preparing various hand-crafted and decorative items. The exhibition stalls feature a wide range of handicrafts, festive decorations, and other handmade products prepared by the inmates of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal & District Jail Amphalla Jammu.

The activity not only enhanced the festive spirit within the Court Complex but also served as a meaningful step towards strengthening community engagement with correctional institutions. The initiative provided a valuable platform to inmates to demonstrate their skills and talent developed through vocational training pro-

grams in the jail.

The collaboration between District Legal Services Authority Jammu and the two Jails of District Jammu underscores the joint commitment towards strengthening inmate reformation, skill development and social reintegration.

The visitors include Ld. Judicial Officers, Advocates, Litigants, Judicial Staff & common masses who purchased various articles during this festive season.

The participation and appreciation of the visitors will further encourage the inmates and reinforce the objectives of rehabilitation through creative and productive engagement.

# Delphic Council of J&K concludes three-day Interstate Cultural Festival with a message of peace, tourism, unity

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The three-day interstate cultural festival organized by the Delphic Council of Jammu and Kashmir concluded with grandeur, warmth, and an unforgettable display of artistic unity. The event was inaugurated by Sunil Kumar Sharma, Leader of the Opposition and former Minister, J&K, with Sham Lal Sharma, MLA North Jammu, Ahsan Pardesi, MLA Lal Chowk Srinagar, and Mohan Lal Bhagat, MLA Akhnor, as Guests of Honour. Brij Mohan Sharma (IFS), Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, J&K, graced the occasion as Special Guest. Artists from Jammu



and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Assam gathered to celebrate India's shared soul through music, dance, and dialogue. The festival opened with the traditional lighting of the lamp, the Isband ceremony, and a welcome address by Er. Ashok Singh, President of the Delphic Council of J&K.

The first day featured mes-

merizing performances including Santoor Vadan by Umar Majeed, Kashmiri Sufiyana Mousique by Ustad Mohd. Yaqoob Shaikh, Kalbeliya and Ghoomar dances, and the vibrant Kud dance of Jammu. Every rhythm echoed cultural harmony. Day two highlighted the participation of 200 children in a painting competition on the theme "Water", followed

by an enlightening panel on "How Interstate Cultural Exchange Can Act as a Bridge Between J&K and the Rest of the Country for Tourism and Peace." Speakers included Vijay Puri, Waheed Jeelani, Naseem Akhtar, and Ramesh Chander (JKAS Retd.). The day also showcased Gojri, Rajasthani Chari, Bilun, Rouf, and Phag dances, symbolizing

cultural confluence.

Performances by Natya Roots (Dogri dance), Rakesh Anand and team (Flute and Mouth Organ), and Dr. Deepali Wattal (folk singing) left the audience spellbound.

As the curtains fell, Brij Mohan Sharma lauded the Delphic Council for building a living bridge of art, culture, and peace.

# Quantum-secure virtual tourism innovation granted utility patent

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A groundbreaking innovation in digital security and virtual experiences has been recognized with the grant of a utility patent titled "A System for Providing Secure Identity Authentication on Virtual Tourism Platforms and A Method of Secure Authentication Thereof" (Patent No. 572210) on 16-10-2025. This pioneering technology has been developed by Prof. (Dr.) Sat Prakash Bansal, Prof. (Dr.) Suman Sharma, Dr. Parveen

Sadotra, Mohd Yaseen Kiehloo (IPS), and Rabia Koser. The patent integrates quantum cryptography, AI-driven behavior monitoring, and immersive AR/VR technologies to provide secure, seamless access to virtual tourism environments. As interest in metaverse platforms and remote cultural engagement grows, concerns regarding cyber threats and data privacy-particularly in the era of quantum computing-have become more pronounced. This innovation addresses these challenges by deploying

quantum key distribution (QKD), zero-knowledge proof authentication, and a digital passport system, ensuring users' identities remain protected against both current and future cyber threats.

Key features of the system include quantum-resistant encryption, real-time identity verification to prevent impersonation and replay attacks, secure integration with AR/VR platforms, and a privacy-first design ensuring user data confidentiality through multi-tier authentication. While primarily designed for virtu-

al tourism, the system's scalable architecture allows potential application across digital finance, healthcare, education, and e-commerce within the metaverse. Experts suggest that this patent could become a foundational standard for secure digital identity in virtual environments. Looking ahead, the technology is expected to see early adoption in virtual tourism by 2027, with potential expansion into government digital ID programs and cross-border virtual services by 2030.