

Cultural extravaganza

Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam Unveils ‘Shravanam 2025’ Onam Celebrations

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS), one of the largest expatriate associations in the Kingdom of Bahrain, officially commenced its annual Onam celebrations, named ‘Shravanam 2025,’ with the ceremonial ‘Onam Vilambaram’ (Onam Proclamation) and the inauguration of the Onam Committee Office.

The event was jointly inaugurated by UNICO Chief Operating Officer Jayashankar Viswanathan, BKS President P.V. Radhakrishna Pillai, and General Secretary Varghese Karakkal.

The ceremony saw the presence of Onam Celebration Committee Convener Varghese George, Joint Conveners Harikrishnan, Nisha Dileesh, Rajesh K.P., Abhilash Velukkai, along with other BKS executive committee members and Shravanam 2025 committee members.

Following the office inauguration, various cultural programs presented by Samajam members were staged.

Cultural performances

Program Convenor Sanalkumar and Joint Convener Remya



Celebrating Onam with tradition and unity

Binoj led the cultural performances.

‘Shravanam 2025’ will feature a diverse array of festivities spanning over a month and a half.

This year’s Onam celebrations will kick off on August 22 with ‘Pilleronam’ and culminate with the grand Onasadya on October 3. Pilleronam will be followed by a ‘Ruchi Mela’ (Food Festival) led by Raj Kalesh.

The official inauguration of the Onam celebrations will take place on September 1 with the flag hoisting ceremony.

Competitions

Subsequently, the Samajam will host various cultural and

sports competitions.

The festivities will be enhanced by musical evenings led by renowned singers Chithra and Madhu Balakrishnan, a band performance by Arya Dayal, Sachin Warriier & Team, and a musical night led by Pandalam Balan.

The Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam Vanitha Vedi (Women’s Forum) will present a dramatic dance spectacle, ‘Vindhyavali,’ and a mega ‘Thiruvathira’ performance as part of Shravanam 2025.

Planning

BKS President P.V. Radhakrishna Pillai announced that the Samajam’s Onam celebrations



have been meticulously planned to allow all Malayali expatriates in Bahrain to participate and enjoy.

General Secretary Varghese Karakkal further added that all expatriates in Bahrain would have the opportunity to partici-

pate in the competitions organized as part of the Onam celebrations.

The celebrations will conclude with the traditional Onasadya on October 3, led by the acclaimed chef Pazhayidom Mohanan Namboothiri.

Two men to face trial for trafficking

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Two men accused of trafficking women into forced labour will face trial before the High Criminal Court on 1 July, the Public Prosecution said.

The case centres on allegations made by two women, who told prosecutors they were forced to work long hours without pay, in roles that differed from those initially agreed.

They said the men locked them inside and restricted their movements.

The Anti-Trafficking Prosecution began inquiries immediately after the complaint was lodged.

The women were moved to a state shelter overseen by the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, where they gave statements.

Others involved in the case were also interviewed, and the suspects were questioned under caution.

Both were ordered to remain in custody while investigations continued.

Police were tasked with examining the claims.

Their findings backed up the women’s account, and the officer leading the case gave evidence to that effect.

STATE BANK OF INDIA			
Retail Branch Bahrain			
State Bank of India is licensed as a Conventional Retail Bank by the Central Bank of Bahrain			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			
As at 31 March 2025			
	Bahraini Dinars 000's		
	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24	
	(Audited)	(Audited)	
ASSETS			
Cash and balances with banks and the Central Bank	40,184	53,722	
Due from other branches	565	4,107	
Loans and advances	59,140	42,312	
Interest receivable and other assets	508	459	
Right-of-use assets	183	257	
Furniture and equipment	40	67	
TOTAL ASSETS	100,620	100,924	
HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Head Office funds			
Head Office account	10,655	10,655	
Unremitted profits	5,423	929	
TOTAL HEAD OFFICE FUNDS	16,078	11,584	
LIABILITIES			
Customer Deposits	77,616	79,402	
Interest payable and other liabilities	1,887	1,713	
Due to other Branches	4,866	7,956	
Lease obligations	173	269	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	84,542	89,340	
TOTAL HEAD OFFICE FUNDS AND LIABILITIES	100,620	100,924	
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
For the year ended 31 March 2025			
	2025	2024	
	(Audited)	(Audited)	
Interest and similar income	5,824	5800	
Interest and similar expenses	(2,036)	(1,859)	
NET INTEREST INCOME	3,788	3,941	
Fee and commission income	356	375	
Other operating income	2,625	426	
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	6,769	4,742	
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Staff expenses	(645)	(634)	
Depreciation	(184)	(191)	
Other operating expenses	(900)	(841)	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	(1,729)	(1,666)	
Profit before expected credit loss allowance	5,040	3,076	
Expected Credit loss allowance	(546)	(353)	
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year	4,494	2,723	
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE FUNDS			
For the year ended 31 March 2025			
	Head Office account	Unremitted profits	Total
(Audited)	BHD 000's	BHD 000's	BHD 000's
Balance at 1 April 2024	10,655	929	11,584
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year	-	4,494	4,494
Balance at 31 March 2025	10,655	5,423	16,078
Balance at 1 April 2023	10,655	(1,794)	8,861
Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year	-	2,723	2,723
Balance at 31 March 2024	10,655	929	11,584
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS			
For the year ended 31 March 2025			
	Bahraini Dinars 000's		
	2025	2024	
	(Audited)	(Audited)	
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net profit for the year	4,494	2,723	
Adjustments for non-cash and non-operating items:			
Depreciation	184	191	
Expected credit loss allowance	546	353	
Interest expense on lease obligations	4	4	
Operating profit before changes in operating assets & liabilities	5,228	3,271	
Changes in operating assets and liabilities			
Mandatory reserve deposit with the Central Bank of Bahrain	75	(126)	
Loans and advances	(17,374)	(3,094)	
Due from other branches	3,542	16,560	
Interest receivable and other assets	(49)	252	
Due to other branches	(3,090)	3,718	
Customer deposits	(1,786)	6,478	
Interest payable and other liabilities	173	342	
Net cash (used in) from operating activities	(13,281)	27,401	
INVESTING ACTIVITY			
Purchase of furniture and equipment	(11)	(1)	
Net cash used in investing activity	(11)	(1)	
FINANCING ACTIVITY			
Payment of lease obligations	(170)	(117)	
Net cash used in financing activity	(170)	(117)	
NET (DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(13,462)	27,283	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	51,465	24,182	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE YEAR	38,003	51,465	
Cash and cash equivalents at year end comprise			
Cash and balances with banks and the Central Bank	40,184	53,722	
Mandatory reserve deposit with the Central Bank of Bahrain	(2,519)	(2,594)	
	37,665	51,128	
Add: Due from other branches with an original maturity of less than ninety days	338	337	
	38,003	51,465	
The statement of financial position, statement of comprehensive income, statement of cash flows and statement of changes in Head Office Funds have been extracted from the financial statements of State Bank of India - Retail Branch, Bahrain for the year ended 31 March 2025 which were approved for issue by the management and on which an unmodified opinion was issued by Ernst & Young - Middle East, Bahrain on 30 June 2025			
Chief Executive Officer			