

CPFC, EPFO on three-day visit of Srinagar; holds interactive session with CII



CPFC, EPFO, Neelam Shami Rao along with other officials and stakeholders at Srinagar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Neelam Shami Rao (IAS) CPFC, EPFO on Saturday arrived at Srinagar on three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir to have important meetings at the apex level of Government of UT of J&K regarding implementation of the

Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and ongoing transition of J&KEPFO to EPFO. Dignitaries accompanying her included Hemant Jain, FA&CAO, EPFO; K. L. Taneja, ACC(HQ) - Delhi, Uttarakhand, Jammu &

Kashmir and Ladakh; Uma Mandal, ACC, EPFO along with other officers of EPFO. Neelam Shami Rao and other dignitaries were welcomed by Regional PF Commissioner - I, Rizwan Uddin, Ajit Kumar Mishra, RPFC - II, and Harinder Singh, RPFC - II and other

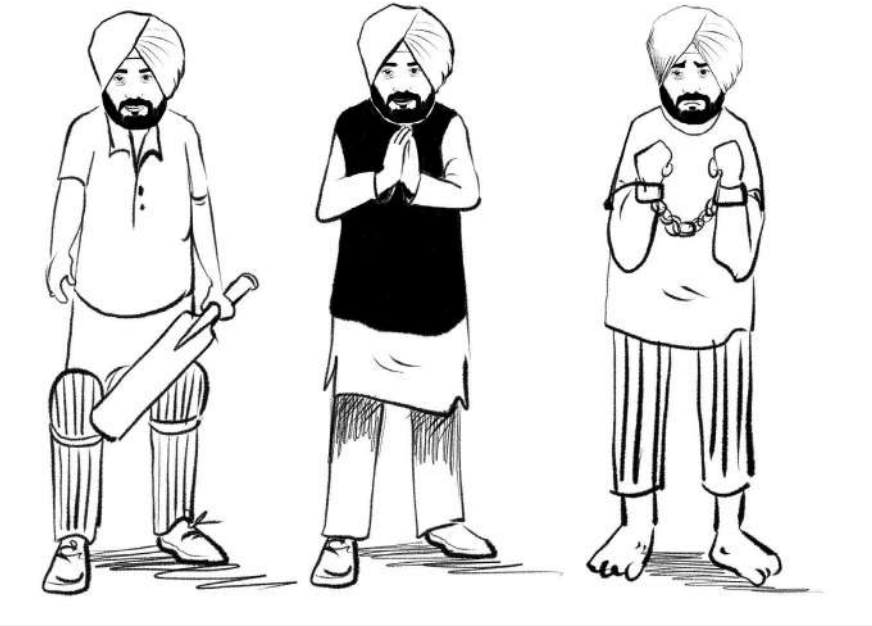
staff of Regional Office, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

On the first day of her visit, Rao along with Hemant Jain (ICAS), FA&CAO and other officers held an interactive session with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) represented by Syed Ehsan

Javaid, Chairman, CII J&K Council and Employers' Federation of India. The session focused on increasing coverage of EPFO in the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, compliance mechanism under the EPF & MP Act, 1952, major initiatives by EPFO and challenges faced by different stakeholders. The deliberations include technical glitch resolved through personal intervention of CPFC; enhanced social security benefits under the EPF & MP Act, 1952; growth of EPFO on various parameters; ect.

EPFO Regional Office, Jammu is always committed in providing prompt service delivery to all the stakeholders in a transparent, accessible, and convenient manner.

Thoko taali

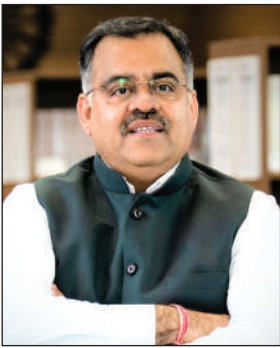


Chugh hails Jakhar joining BJP, terms it a big blow to Congress

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh welcomed former Punjab PCC president Sunil Jakhar's decision to join the BJP and said that the BJP has been always committed to give representation to all sections of the society.

He said Jakhar comes from a farming family and



it is an endorsement of the prime minister's policies to benefit farmers.

Jakhar, he said, carries a rich political legacy and the BJP welcomed him to help take Punjab to new heights.

The BJP, he said, was open to political leaders who are prepared to work for the national integrity and growth of Punjab.

Sham, Rana, others listen to public grievances at BJP headquarters

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP Vice-President & former Minister along with Devinder Singh Rana, former MLA and accompanied by Rekha Mahajan, Secretary, J&K BJP listened to the public grievances at BJP headquarter, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Individuals and deputations from various regions visited BJP headquarter to present their concerns regarding various issues comprising development, administrative and personal issues.

Majority of the deputations presented their issues regarding electricity, water supply, road connectivity, CAPD etc. A deputation of Non-Kashmiri Pandit



Senior BJP leaders Sham Lal Sharma, Devinder Singh Rana and Rekha Mahajan listening to people's grievances at party headquarters.

migrant employees raised the issue of their safety and security. Another deputation of Self help groups of Engineers from J&K also presented their demands

BJP senior leaders listened to their issues patiently and telephonically talked to the concerned departmental officials and issued letters for the others.

BJP leaders said that BJP is listening to the public grievances daily in the party headquarter. He said that they are taking up the issues of public with the authorities immediately for their redressal. He said that this exercise is proving beneficial for the masses as they are now getting a proper platform to share their issues.

Court awards six-month imprisonment, Rs 96,000 fine in cheque bounce case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Railway Magistrate Jammu R K Lalhal on Thursday awarded six months imprisonment and fine of Rs 96000 to one Pawan Gupta in cheque bounce case after 15 years of trial.

Railway Magistrate Jammu R K Lalhal after hearing both the sides observed that accused has miserably failed to rebut presumptions under Sections 118(a) and 139 of Negotiable Instrument Act even on the preponderance of probabilities whereas the complainant has succeeded in proving this case beyond reasonable doubt. "Accordingly, as to what has been dis-

cussed above, accused Pawan Kumar Gupta is held guilty and is convicted of the offence under section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881 and awarded six months imprisonment and fine Rs 96,000 which is equivalent to the amount of cheque along with interest (a) 6 per cent per annum from date of cheque till the date of judgment and in default of payment of fine. Accused shall further undergo simple imprisonment for one month. It is further ordered that both the sentences shall run consecutively. The fine shall be paid to the complainant as compensation," the Court observed.

Massive crackdown on illegal poppy cultivation across Valley

■ SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: As per latest data available, the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has become a hub of drugs. A recent study has revealed that J&K has 6,00,000 people involved in drug-related issues which are approximately 4.6 per cent of the total population and 90 per cent among them belong to the age-group of 17-33 years.

According to health experts, if we would not initiate steps to overcome the scourge of drugs, it could create a worrisome situation in coming days.

Considering critical situation, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and Excise Commissioner J&K Government, under close supervision of Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive) Kashmir, Excise Enforcement teams led by Excise &

Taxation Officers, South, North and Central Excise Ranges destroyed illicit poppy crop spread over 205 Kanals 15 Marals land. Excise Range South Kashmir with the help of concerned Police and revenue authorities launched a massive drive in Pulwama to destroy poppy cultivation in Bargam, SaimohNaner, Hardumir, Monghama, Nader, Lurgam, Seer, Pastuna, Khankhah, Midoora, Patalbagh, Lelhar, Sambora, Niloora, Achan and Hajidarpura areas. Reiterating ensuring zero tolerance towards all those involved in illegal poppy cultivation, the concerned officials said that engaging in production, manufacturing, possession, sale, purchase, transportation, warehousing, concealment, use or consumption, import or export of drugs is illegal under law under section 18 of

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985. Authorities further told that drive would further be extended to other areas of the district to ensure complete check on illicit cultivation of poppy.

It was informed that after destroying poppy crop, FIR had also been lodged for initiating suitable action against landowners under provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. The district-wise details of Poppy destroyed (in Kanals) up to May 16, 2022 include 59.16 in Anantnag, 61.01 in Pulwama, 17.15 in Kulgam, 09.09 in Baramulla, 02.03 in Kupwara, 02.00 in Srinagar, 50.04 in Budgam and 03.07 in Ganderbal.

On the other side, Nashamukt Bharat Abhiyan programme was held

at Bandipora in coordination with District Administration, District Police, District Legal Services Tehsil Legal Services Committee Bandipora and District Child Protection Unit Bandipora.

Speaking on the occasion, District Development Commissioner said that issue of the phenomenal rise in drug trafficking and drug abuse amongst youth, children and adolescents has serious implications, as it adversely affects nation's health and economy. Secretary DLSA Bandipora laid stress on dissemination of awareness amongst the general masses regarding the legal provisions, various policies, programmes and schemes, in respect of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances besides creating awareness about ill-effects of drug abuse.

Div Com inspects Shri Amarnath Yatra arrangements at Lakhanpur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of Kathua district and inspected the arrangements put in place for Shri Amarnath ji Yatra at Lakhanpur.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rahul Pandey; DC State Taxes, Ranjit Singh; SSP Kathua R C Kotwal; ADC Atul Gupta; Registrar, Suresh Kumar(Nodal Officer); ACR Sandeep Soointra and other concerned officers.

The Divisional Commissioner took round of existing infrastructure at Lakhanpur Corridor and inspected status of civic amenities viz drinking water, Sanitation, Reception



Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar taking stock of Yatra arrangements at Lakhanpur.

centre, provision of announcement for facilitation of Yatris, medical facilities besides arrangements for boarding and lodging of Yatris, in case of Yatra halt.

He directed the Executive Officer Lakhanpur MC to take measures for maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in the area besides

installation of signages for assistance of Yatris coming for pilgrimage.

He also inspected Langar sites identified by the district administration at different locations and took first hand appraisal of the facilities.

Ramesh Kumar also directed the concerned

authorities to start the face-lifting and other necessary repair works well in time. Reviewing the arrangement for the security of Pilgrims, the Div Com asked the police to devise a foolproof plan to keep a tab on suspicious movement.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the progress of work on Shahpur Kandi project.

The Div com reviewed in detail the status of utility shifting, tree felling and land acquisition.

The Deputy Commissioner Kathua informed the status of the same and said that the work was in progress.

The Div Com directed the DC Kathua to personally monitor the work on the prestigious project and also seek regular progress reports from the concerned Departments.

Industry to aim zero carbon effect, promote innovative Star-Ups: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENNAI: Union Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Earth Science; MoS of Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh said, leather industry in India will aim at net-zero carbon footprint to meet the environmental norms. For sustainability in the sector, the government will promote innovative StartUps, he added.

Addressing the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute here today, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the carbon footprint of leather processing activity needs to approach zero levels and the bio-economy of animal skin-derived products is the new mantra of the time. He said, the carrying capacity requirements of the leather sector in locations like Tamil Nadu demand the implementation of Zero Liquid Discharge as the enforced environmental norm, which is under discussion.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pitch for new innovations and next-generation technologies, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the sustainability of the leather sector is likely to emerge as the new challenge



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, addressing Platinum Jubilee celebrations of CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute, at Chennai on Thursday.

for CSIR-CLRI in its journey from the platinum to the centenary. He said, the new vision for leather research and industry during the next 25 years may need to be on sustainability, net-zero carbon footprint, gaining total recyclability of leather-based materials, bio-economy of animal skin-derived products, and ensuring income parity for workers, besides brand building.

Dr Jitendra Singh offered attractive financial support from DST to Start-ups to come up with innovative and market friendly leather products. He said, efforts are on to prepare customized footwear for Indians by using 3D technology to scan the feet of the person to prepare their footwear. He said 73 districts in the country are included to implement the project in the first phase.

Dr Jitendra Singh said,

the leather footwear needs to be designed and developed into foot care solutions with foot hygiene and wearer comfort as the Unique Selling Properties. He said, there are as many as half a million cells in the palm of feet that enable the sweating process and leather enjoys an unmatched potential for transpiration. The Minister also pointed out that Diabetic footwear is one such product that ensures a better quality of life due to the reduction in the abnormal distribution of plantar foot pressure.

The Minister informed that Collagen-based innovative biomaterials for applications in human health care are new opportunities and they could well become co-products of leather, if next-generation leather-making technologies avoid contaminating skin-based matrix materials with lime, sulfide, and many other sen-

sitive chemicals. He said, there is a possibility for CLRI to emerge as the game-changer in the knowledge domain and to make the leather sector matter even more for the new India of the future.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the Indian leather sector in 1947 provided livelihood opportunities for about 50,000 people only, but today it is widely known that the leather sector supports the livelihood of more than 45 lakh people in the country. He also expressed satisfaction that in 2021, export realization from the leather sector is valued at Rs 40,000 crores. The Minister noted that the role played by a unique partnership among academy-research-industry in which CSIR-CLRI has been the central pin is worthy of commemoration on this occasion. Moreover, the Indian leather sector has played tangible and traceable contributions to social equity and it has been scientifically assessed that technology utilization in the footwear industry has significantly contributed to women's empowerment. Social equity benefits of women empowerment emanating from the leather industry since 1950 are laudable, the Minister emphasized.

BJP demands filling of all vacancies in Public Service Commission

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded that all the existing vacancies in Public Service Commission be filled up immediately. While noting that most of the members of the commission had retired and presently the Public Service Commission is working with negligible strength.

In the press release Chief Spokesperson of Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party Sunil Sethi has demanded that there is immediate requirement of filling of all the vacancies of Public Service Commission including appointment

of permanent Chairman of Public Service Commission as Commission is involved in very important assignment of making selections to Gazetted Services Cadre .

He further said that Public Service Commission is also involved in promotion /regularisation in Gazetted cadre and there is rather acute requirement of increasing the strength of members of the Public Service Commission to sufficient numbers so that the appointments and promotion in the Gazetted Cadre is well managed.

The system of appointments to the Gazetted cadre including to the

JKAS is suffering because of the curtailed strength to Public Service Commission.

While appreciating the role of the Public Service Commission in making all efforts within its limited resources in view of its depleted strength, Chief Spokesperson demanded from the government that Public Service Commission working in full strength ,which should be increased as per the present requirement, will insure justice to not only the unemployed youth but to Gazetted officers whose promotion and regularization is pending for long.