Why only 'babus' shortlisted for appointment as Information Commissioners, SC asks Govt

NEW DELHI, Jan 29:

The Supreme Court today Commissioners

A bench of Justices A K Sikri and S Abdul Nazeer was told by the government that chief information commissioner and four information commissioners have already been appointed while the process for appointing other information commissioners was

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Pinky Anand, appearing for the Centre, said that search names for consideration to the selection committee for appoint-

ing information commissioners. from bureaucrats (retired or sitting) is there anybody else?," the

bench asked. To this, the ASG said one of the 14 persons is a retired judge while rest are bureaucrats.

"Their (petitioners) objection is that only civil servants are there. Ultimately, you do not find even a single person other than bureaucrats," the bench told the ASG.

The bench also observed that the search committee comprises of civil servants only.

The apex court is hearing a plea filed by RTI activists Anjali Bhardwaj, Commodore Lokesh Batra (retired) and Amrita Johri who have claimed that over 23,500 appeals and complaints are pending with the CIC as

4 injured as vehicle rolls down into Nallah

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Jan 29: Four persons were injured when a Tavera vehicle rolled down into nallah on Rajouri-Thannamandi road this evening.

A police spokesman said that mishap took place at around 4.30 pm when the Tavera vehicle bearing registration No. HR01/2898 was on Rajouri from way to Thannamandi. As it reached near Fatehpur, the driver lost control and it fell down into a

Four persons on board, including driver were injured and rushed to District Hospital. Rajouri. They were identified as driver Mukhtar Hussain -23, his wife Asia Akhtar-20, Azhar Mehmood-19 and Amjad Hussain- 18, all residents of police has taken cognizance of

sioners are lying vacant.

During the hearing, the ASG ers. asked the Centre as to why only told the court that process of under the RTI Act.

Advocate Pranav Sachdeva, appearing for the petitioners, Commissions Information 2008 is being decided now.

He said that as per apex court's December 13 last year order, the Centre should have committee has recommended 14 put on the website the names of process of appointing chief Pakistan after launching and members of search committee, information commissioner and candidates who have been short- information commissioners and listed and criteria which was fol- the details were uploaded on the 'In these 14 names, apart lowed for selection but it was website.(PTI)

posts of information commis- done only after appointment of four information commission-

"This information should retired or sitting bureaucrats appointing information commis- have been made public during were being shortlisted by the sioners was an ongoing exercise the process of appointment and search committee for appoint- and government is following the not after the appointment was Information selection criteria prescribed already being done," Sachdeva Studies tour to the State today said, adding, "transparency in the entire process is required".

He said that the government was appointing only retired or sitting civil servants as informa-(SICs) are kept pending for tion commissioners but names years due to non-availability of of persons like activists, scieninformation commissioners and tists, journalists, lawyers and in West Bengal, cases filed in others should also be considered for appointment.

The ASG told the court that government has complied with the requirements during the

He stated that after comple-

various extensions from MHRD,

J&K Government started a

process to frame a job policy in

* Watch video on

www.excelsiornews.com

ble", the protestors warned.

AoL organizes 'Nav

Chetna Shivir'

Excelsior Correspondent

Chetna Shivir was organized at village Marh Taluka, Kandoli

JAMMU, Jan 29: Nav

The training was organized

The students actively and

"Every child was opened up

to the individual and group

processes, the teachers leading

those sessions witnessed their

by Jagdish and Subash Sharma

with the cooperation of

Principal Government Middle

enthusiastically participated in

School Nagrota, Zamayat Ali.



SBM employees raising slogans during protest rally in district -Excelsior/Rafi Choudhary

SBM employees take out protest rally

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, Jan 29: Demanding job policy in their favour, the Saakshar Bharat Mission (SBM) employees took out protest march here today.

Large number of preraks, block co-ordinators and district co-ordinators working under SBM scheme assembled here and raised slogans in favour of their demands. They also took out protest rally.

The protesting employees were demanding clear cut job

While speaking, one of the protestor said that the Mission was launched in the year 2009 by the Prime Minister across the country and it was introduced in J&K in 2011.

He stated that since their joining in the mission they served in the department by various means like academic support to schools, Aadhar duty, election duty and Kothara village in Darhal. The CAPD duty, but unfortunately the scheme has been stopped in



MLA Ghanaur, Madan Lal Jalalpur, inaugurating Blood Donation Camp at Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, in

Aryans Group organizes Blood Donation Camp

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 29: Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura in association with Department of Transfusion, PGI Chandigarh, today organized a "Blood Donation Camp" at its campus in Punjab.

Madan Lal Jalalpur, MLA, Ghanaur inaugurated the Camp while Dr Anshu Kataria presided over the function. An 8-member team of Doctors, Nurses and technicians from Chandigarh under the guidance of Dr Anita, Assistant Blood Transfusion Officer (ABTO), PGI conducted thorough medical checkup of voluntary donors and selected the eligible donors to donate blood. The students were given certificates and donor

cards along with refreshments. While speaking on the occasion, Madan Lal Jalalpur said that Aryans is doing wonderful job in this region giving each and

every platform to its students to make them a responsible citizens in the Society. He added that to handle responsibilities and other students and Colleges stress in life. should also come forward for this noble cause and made their students aware in the very beginning about this noble cause.

Dr Anshu Kataria, while motivating the students for blood donation, said that a person can save 3 lives from 1 unit blood. He added that these camps not only provide blood to the blood banks but also are a great boon to the Thalassemia and Leukemia patients who need blood infusions frequently. A total of 25 units of blood were collected by the students and staff of Aryans.

Director, Aryans Group, Dr Raman Rani Gupta; Registrar, Steven Jawinda and Sarpanches of 3 villages i.e Alampur, Gurbhej Singh; Nepra, Ravinder Singh; Thuha, Gurwinder Singh were also present on the occa- Inclusion

15 bovines rescued, smuggler arrested Raj Angural and in collaboration

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Jan 29: Ghagwal police rescued 15 bovine animals and arrested a smuggler.

As per police sources, on specific information, a team from Ghagwal Police Station laid a naka at NHW Tapyal and intercepted a truck bearing registration number JK02AL-1497.

During checking, police rescued 15 bovine animals from the vehicle and arrested one person, who has been identified as Amreek Singh, son of Daya Singh, a resident of Gundala, Tehsil

A case under FIR Number 7/19 under Section 188 RPC and 2/3 PCA Act has been registered at Ghagwal Police Station and inves-

tigation started. Police team led by SHO Ghagwal Inspector Rajeev Kumar made the arrest under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Samba Deepak Digra and SSP Samba Dr Koshal Sharma.

Foreign officers call on Dilbag Singh Pak using social media for radicalization: DGP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 29: A group of officers from Foreign Armed Forces and Civil Services on National Security and Strategic visited Police Headquarters here and called on the Director General of Police (DGP), J&K

Dilbag Singh. During their visit to PHQ, a special interactive meet was held in which the visiting officers from different foreign countries and the top officers of the army and J&K Police took part.

Speaking on the occasion, DGP Dilbag Singh said that the promoting a proxy war in the State is using the social media for radicalization and undertaking disinformation campaigns against our country. He said that by cooking false stories it is trying to entice the young minds of the State into terrorist activities by radicalizing them. He said that different terrorist organizations have been working in tandem on the behest of Pakistan.

AIG (Prov & Tpt) PHQ Mubassir Latifi gave a power point presentation regarding the J&K Police, its functioning and its fight against the militancy as also maintenance of peace and order in the State over the years.

Senior officers who took part in this meet included Paramjit Singh GOC XVI Corps, ADGP CID, J&K Dr B Srinivas, ADGP Armed, J&K, AK Choudhary, Anti-Corruption Director Bureau SJM Gillani, ADGP (Hqrs) PHQ, AG Mir, Director SKPA Udhampur Mohammad Sulaiman Salaria, Major General Sharad Kapoor GOC 26 Div, IGP Jammu MK Sinha, IGP Armed Jammu Danesh Rana, IGP (Pers) PHQ, JP Singh, By this it is continuously abet- Director SSG J&K Surinder ting and sustaining the terrorism Gupta and IGP (Hqrs) PHQ

time but on the other hand the

Government has left the officials

at the District level unbridled who

pass their own dictum by super-

meeting demanded immediate

withdrawal of circular circulated

by the Dy CEO Kathua as this cir-

cular is based on the flimsy and

unrealistic grounds for the unaided

sector to save them from harass-

ment and extinction before the

session 2019-20. Members also

demanded enhancement of Tuition

fee @ 8% w.e.f. April 2019.

Vivek Chouhan.

self financed Private schools.

The members present in the

seding all orders and circulars.

Pvt schools discuss fresh orders on tuition fee

Excelsior Correspondent

tion of 6 years service by getting under the chairmanship of Prof J L Kotwal for discussing the fresh PSA general secretary Ajay

favour of SBM employees, the file of which is pending in the authorized to raise their fee struc-Civil Secretariat for more than The future of hundreds of August 1st, 2018. He also drew SBM employees is at stake after attention towards the order no Dy the closure of this scheme, he /B/1128-29 CEO said, and appealed to the DC Doda to take up the issue with the concerned authorities for immediate redressal so as to provide Private High & Higher Secondary succor to hundreds of SBM "If our issue is not redressed in the shortest possible time, we the month of March 2019.

will protest in aggressive manner and for any untoward incident, the Government will be responsi-

4 drivers arrested for overcharging, endangering human lives

Nagrota here under the aegis of RAMBAN, Jan 29: Banihal Art of Living (AoL) in order to 'nurture young minds' of the human lives. Over 150 students along with 15 teachers participated.

cial drive was launched by Police Station Banihal against overcharging and overloading.

all the processes, games, art competition, knowledge ses-Camp instructors Jagdish and Subash Sharma said that AoL Nav Chetna Shivir is a dynamic programme that helps

Cases under FIR Numbers 10/19, 11/19, 12/19 and 13/19 under section 279 and 336 RPC have been registered at Police Station Banihal and investigation started.

participation ecstatically," said Ajay Kapoor, State Coordinator Media for AoL "We felt a lot of peace within us while doing the meditation. The games were so much fun and we feel that we have learnt a lot. Please keep coming to conduct such classes," a stu-Sharma dent in the Shivir said.

Grameen Bank organizes **Financial Literacy camps**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 29: Financial Insurance Department, J&K Grameen Bank under the chairmanship of Janak NABARD conducted Financial Literacy camps at villages Haripur Padal, Patti, Mawa in Kathua and Samba

Om Dutt Attri, BDO Marheen who was chief guest on the occasion at village Haripur Padal highlighted the schemes like KCC card, Rupay Kisan Card, Crop Insurance etc that can be availed from Grameen bank. He told them about technological advancements in today's banking and the merits and demerits of using such services and precautions to be taken care EMIs. of while utilizing such facilities so as not to fall prev to some fraudulent person's active in the market.

told the gathering about the latest developments in PMJDY like the overdraft amount raised to Rs 10,000 and the age limit to open a PMJDY account is also increased to 65 years and there will be no condition for Overdraft up to Rs 2000 plus the accidental insurance cover for new Rupay card holders has been raised from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh for the new PMJDY

Rupay debit cards were also distributed to the customers during

The presentation was followed by a lively question answer session. Senior Army and Police officers highlighted the measures taken by the police and security forces to keep a tab on radicalization and check on activities of terrorists in the State and thereby enhancing the overall security of the J&K.

and Education Department time to

JAMMU, Jan 29: A meeting of Executive members of central body of J & K Private Schools Association was held here today order by Fee Fixation Committee.

Gupta informed about the Fee Fixation Order No. 01-FFC of 2019 dated 28.01.2019, according to which the Private schools are ture annually not more than six percent on the fee existing on dated 25/01/2019, issued by Deputy Chief Education Officer Kathua in which he has directed Heads of all Schools not to demand tuition fee from the students studying in their institution in class 10th & 12th for

President of the Association Kamal Gupta said that on the one hand Government has given partial relief to all low budget Private schools by rectifying all teething orders and circulars issued by FFC

Excelsior Correspondent

police arrested four drivers for overcharging and endangering

As per police sources, a spe-

During the drive, police team arrested four drivers for overcharging and endangering human lives by overloading their vehicles

Police team seized four vehicles bearing registration JK02AF-4955, JK03D-9635, JK18-5179 and JK06-1415. All the seized vehicles were found overloaded with passengers against their sitting capacity.

Police team led by SHO Banihal Inspector Aejaz Ahmed Wani launched the drive and arrested the erring drivers under the supervision of SDPO Banihal Sajjad Sarwar, Additional SP Ramban Sanjay Parihar and SSP Ramban Anita

B.S Thyal, BH Haripur More

Pankaj Bandral, BH Raya; Tejinder Singh, BH Pangdour at their respective programmes spread awareness about various lending schemes offered by the hank where rate of interest charged by the bank is very competitive and which are available on easy

these events.

'Gandhi family's 4 generations responsible for poverty'

Only Modi's leadership can thwart Pak's misadventures: Shah

BJP president Amit Shah on Tuesday dubbed the proposed "mahagathbandhan" (grand alliance) of opposition parties as "helpless" and asserted that his party would retain power after the upcoming Lok Sabha polls as only Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership could thwart any misadventure by Pakistan.

In a stinging attack on the Congress, he blamed the four generations of the Gandhi family for poverty still prevailing in the coun-

"Four generations of Rahul baba's (Congress chief Rahul Gandhi) family were in power, but the country is still fighting against poverty. The BJP government is working for the welfare and development of the poor, tribals and Dalits," Shah told a BJP workers' meeting here in Odisha's Cuttack

He claimed that the nation's mood was very clear to return Modi to power and appealed to the people of Odisha to be part of this by electing a large number of MPs of the saffron party from the state.

Shah hit out at the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in the state, saying Odisha remained backward, despite the flow of huge funds from the Centre, because of the inefficiency and inaction on the part of the Naveen Patnaik government.

"The mahagathbandhan of opposition parties is devoid of a proper leadership, policies and agenda, but they claim that they can give a strong government. The country needs a majboot (strong) government and not a majboor (helpless) government...Only the at Ram Gali, when they were BJP is capable of providing such a government," he said. Stating that more than 26 polit-

ical parties were solidly backing the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National They also appealed to the Democratic Alliance (NDA), Shah Government to intervene and ridiculed the proposed opposition install a universal mechanism coalition ahead of the Lok Sabha which is acceptable to all the stakeholders of Private Education The BJP chief asserted that the prime minister was thinking about the country's security round-thecommencement of new academic

clock and working sincerely to

safeguard our frontiers, which the

constituents of the proposed

'mahagathbandhan'' were inca-The Executive members of nable of doing. JKPSA, who were present in the When terrorists sent by meeting, included Rameshwar Pakistan had mounted an assault in Mengi , Sanjeev Luthra , Ajay Uri, Modi took revenge within 10 Singh, Laddi Kumar, R D Singh, days by sending soldiers to carry Usha Jamwal, Kiran Raina and out surgical strikes in their territory,

he said, adding, "Only Narendra of the BJP-led government, Shah Modi is capable of doing it and not said more than eight crore toilets

the Congress. elevated the image of India across General Assembly, everyone in the NDA came to power in 2014. country felt proud.

He added that during his visits to several states, he had found that people were desperate to re-install Modi as the prime minister.

2019 polls very clear. The mood of

"It makes the mandate of the

the nation is clear. Narendra Modi will form the government again with an overwhelming majority," Shah said. the people of Odisha to be part of of it was used for development of the nation's mood and send more these areas, Shah said, adding that

prospects. We need the blessings of Lord in the upcoming election," he said.

party to further bolster Modi's

were constructed across the coun-Stating that Modi successfully try, 13 crore women and infants were covered under the immunisathe globe, Shah said when the tion programme and a large number prime minister spoke in an Indian of poor were provided with houses language at the United Nations and LPG connections since the For the first time since

Independence, the country saw a prime minister in Modi, who gifted the poor tribal people their due share in the earnings from mining operations, he said.

While there was no provision for mineral area development during the previous Congress rule, the BJP-led government stopped the entire money from going to indus-The BJP chief also appealed to tries and ensured that a major share number of MPs of the saffron Odisha received over Rs 4,000 crore under the District Mineral Foundation (DMF).

Seeking to motivate the party Jagannath and the people of Odisha cadre in the state, he said the BJP was different from the other politi-Highlighting the achievements cal parties.(PTI)

3 drug peddlers arrested, narcotics seized

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Jan 29: Continuing its drive against drugs, Police today arrested three drug peddlers, two from Reasi and another from Katra, besides affecting recovery of narcotics from their possession.

Two drug peddlers were intercepted during a special naka coming from Reasi, and carrying bags in their hands. Even as they made an attempt to escape from the spot, the police party led by SI Nitin overpowered During the search of their

bags, four kg of Poppy Straw (Bhukki), some heroine like 12 intra dermal substance. Syringes, 9 disposable syringes, 12 needles and a portable weighing machine were recovered from their possession. The intoxicant substances were sealed on the spot and both the accused were arrested.

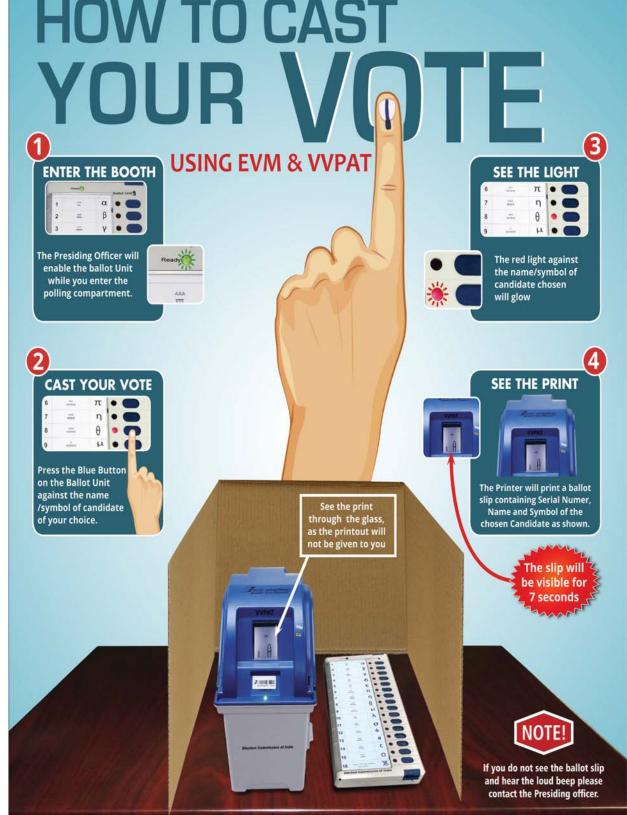
The accused were identified Shiv Nandan, son of Lt Surinder Kumar of Ward number 11, and Vikram Gupta alias Laddi, son of o Ashwani Kumar Gupta of Ward number 11.

A case FIR number 21/2019, U/S 8/15/ NDPS Act has been registered in this connection at Police Station Reasi. The operation was carried out by Insp Ashwani Sharma, SHO Reasi, under the direct supervision of Dr Nikhil Gogna, DySP

Hqrs Reasi. Another drug peddler, name-Shubam Singh son of Kartar Singh of Didi Morh, Reasi, was apprehend alongwith vehicle JK02BB- 6968 from Nomain area, under the jurisdiction of Katra Police Station. Six grams of Heroine like substance was seized from his possession.

The accused was arrested in case FIR number 18/2019 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act at Police Station Katra. Earlier also, he was arrested by Katra Police a few months ago while smuggling Heroine and a case FIR number 126/2018 u/s 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered at PS

The arrest and recovery was made by SHO Katra, Inspr. Surinder Paul Singh under the supervision of ASP Katra





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DIP/J-4942-P/18 Dt: 29.01.2019