

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

NEW DELHI, Jan 29:

The Supreme Court today asked the Centre as to why only retired or sitting bureaucrats were being shortlisted by the search committee for appointment as Information 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 underway.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Pinky Anand, appearing for the Centre, said that search committee has recommended 14 names for consideration to the selection committee for appointing information commissioners.

"In these 14 names, apart 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 a 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 way to Rajouri from Thannamandi. As it reached near Fatehpur, the driver lost control and it fell down into a Nallah.

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 Kothara village in Darhal. The police has taken cognizance of the matter.



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

## Aryans Group organizes Blood Donation Camp

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Jan 29: Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura in association with Department of Blood 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 PGI 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

## 15 bovines rescued, smuggler arrested

**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 Tappal 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 RS Pura District Jammu.

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

Police team led by SHO Ghagwal Inspector Rajeev Kumar made the arrest under the supervision of DySP Headquarters Samba Deepak Digna 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 Studies tour to the State today 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 Pakistan after launching and 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 behalf of Pakistan. By this it is continuously abetting and sustaining the terrorism in our state.

## Pvt schools discuss fresh orders on tuition fee

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Jan 29: A meeting of Executive members of central body of J & K Private Schools Association was held here today under the chairmanship of Prof J L Kotwal for discussing the fresh order by Fee Fixation Committee.

PSA general secretary Ajay Gupta informed about the Fee Fixation Order No. 01-FFC of 2019 dated 28.01.2019, according to which the Private schools are authorized to raise their fee structure annually not more than six percent on the fee existing on August 1st, 2018.

He also drew attention towards the order no Dy CEO /B/1128-29 dated 25/01/2019, issued by Deputy Chief Education Officer Kathua in which he has directed Heads of all Private High & Higher Secondary Schools not to demand tuition fee from the students studying in their institution in class 10th & 12th for the month of March 2019.

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

## 4 drivers arrested for overcharging, endangering human lives

**Excelsior Correspondent**

RAMBAN, Jan 29: Banihal police arrested four drivers for overcharging and endangering human lives.

As per police sources, a special drive was launched by Police Station Banihal against overcharging and overloading.

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

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.

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 Sharma.

## Grameen Bank organizes Financial Literacy camps

**Excelsior Correspondent**

JAMMU, Jan 29: Financial Inclusion & Insurance Department, J&K Grameen Bank under the chairmanship of Janak Raj Angural in collaboration with 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 of while utilizing such facilities so as not to fall prey to some fraudulent person's active in the market.

## 'Gandhi family's 4 generations responsible for poverty'

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

KULIA (Odisha), Jan 29:

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 country.

"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 district.

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 Naaveen 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 majboor (strong) government and not a majboor (helpless) government. Only the BJP is capable of providing such a government," he said.

Stating that more than 26 political parties were solidly backing the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Shah ridiculed the proposed opposition coalition ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

The BJP chief asserted that the prime minister was thinking about the country's security round-the-clock and working sincerely to safeguard our frontiers, which the constituents of the proposed "mahagathbandhan" were incapable of doing.

When terrorists sent by Pakistan had mounted an assault in Uri, Modi took revenge within 10 days by sending soldiers to carry out surgical strikes in their territory,

he said, adding, "Only Narendra Modi is capable of doing it and not the Congress."

Stating that Modi successfully elevated the image of India across the globe, Shah said when the prime minister spoke in an Indian language at the United Nations General Assembly, everyone in the 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.

"It makes the mandate of the 2019 polls very clear. The mood of the nation is clear. Narendra Modi will form the government again with an overwhelming majority," Shah said.

The BJP chief also appealed to the people of Odisha to be part of the nation's mood and send more number of MPs of the saffron party to further bolster Modi's prospects.

"We need the blessings of Lord Jagannath and the people of Odisha in the upcoming election," he said.

Highlighting the achievements

of the BJP-led government, Shah said more than eight crore toilets were constructed across the country, 13 crore women and infants were covered under the immunisation programme and a large number of poor were provided with houses and LPG connections since the NDA came to power in 2014.

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 industries and ensured that a major share of it was used for development of these areas, Shah said, adding that Odisha received over Rs 4,000 crore under the District Mineral Foundation (DMF).

Seeking to motivate the party cadre in the state, he said the BJP was different from the other political 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 at Ram Gali, when they were 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 them.

During the search of their bags, four kg of Poppy Straw (Bhukkhi), some heroine like substance, 12 intra dermal 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 as 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,

Reasi. 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 Hqs Reasi.

Another drug peddler, namely Shubam Singh son of Kartar Singh of Didi Morh, Reasi, was apprehended 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 Katra.

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

# HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE

- ENTER THE BOOTH** USING EVM & VVPAT  
The Presiding Officer will enable the ballot Unit while you enter the polling compartment.
- CAST YOUR VOTE**  
Press the Blue Button on the Ballot Unit against the name /symbol of candidate of your choice.
- SEE THE LIGHT**  
The red light against the name/symbol of candidate chosen will glow.
- SEE THE PRINT**  
The Printer will print a ballot slip containing Serial Number, Name and Symbol of the chosen Candidate as shown.

The slip will be visible for 7 seconds

**NOTE!** If you do not see the ballot slip and hear the loud beep please contact the Presiding officer.

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