

Army recruitment rules changed in pursuit of right mix of brain and brawn

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Feb 22: The Indian Army has changed its recruitment process with an aim to get a right mix of brains and brawn into the force, an official said on Wednesday.
"Earlier we used to have a written examination at the end of the recruitment process, but it will now be the first thing to do so that the recruits are physically strong and brainy too," Army Recruitment Officer Colonel G Suresh told reporters here on Wednesday.
He said the other tests - physical endurance and medical tests - will be held after the written examination.
Colonel Suresh said the other major change in the recruitment process has been that the aspirants will have to pay fees of Rs 500 to appear in the written examination.
"Out of this amount, the Indian Army will be bearing Rs 250 while the candidate will have to pay only Rs 250," he added.
The registration process for

recruitment as Agniveer has started with the nationwide notification issued earlier this month. Online registration can be done only once in a year, Colonel Suresh said.
According to the modified recruitment procedure, a computer-based online common entrance exam (CEE) will be conducted before the recruitment rally.
The army had recently put out advertisements regarding the change in the process, in various newspapers. The recruitment will be carried out in three stages.
In stage one, all candidates who have registered and applied online on the website will undergo the CEE.
In stage two, the shortlisted candidates will be called for a recruitment rally at a location decided by respective Army Recruitment Offices (AROs) where they will undergo physical fitness test and physical measurement test, the statement said.
Finally in stage three, the selected candidates will undergo medical tests.

Tourism Deptt registers 251 complaints of cheating, other TT Act violations during 2022

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Feb 22: The Department of Tourism has registered 251 complaints of various nature from tourists and visitors in respect of violations of J&K Tourist Trade Act-1978/2012 by respective service providers even as 247 of these were settled and fine to the tune of Rs. 21.95 lakh was recovered from the erring service providers.
The Department, during this one year, also ensured refund of Rs. 11.82 lakh from respective service providers in favour of prospective tourists for having charged them arbitrarily or not providing them the services for which they were charged.
The Department has taken a series of recent initiatives to bring transparency and promptness in addressing any complaints from the tourists. Separate monitoring teams have already been set up at all destinations comprising respective Resort Officers, representatives from Development Authorities and Tourist Police.
This is in addition to a cen-

tral monitoring team comprising senior officers to check the compliance of J&K Tourist Trade Act and ensure that tourists are treated in a manner befitting to the hospitality traditions of the place, they feel safe and in no way have any complaints of cheating, touting, overcharging.
The Department of Tourism has advised all tourism service providers to desist from any sort of cheating or overcharging from the tourists. The Department has made it amply clear that relevant provisions of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act-1978/2012 and other penal laws would be invoked in case of deviant stakeholders.
Secretary Tourism, Sarmad Hafeez along with Director, Tourism Kashmir, Fazul Haseeb during a recent review meeting of the department had given clear instructions for close monitoring by Resort Officers in this regard and not to allow any single service provider to damage the reputation of the whole tourism sector or genuine service providers.

Bogus cases against rivals, says Sisodia

NEW DELHI, Feb 22:
Filing bogus cases against rivals is a sign of cowardice, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said today after the Ministry of Home Affairs granted the CBI sanction to prosecute him in a case of alleged collection of "political intelligence".
In a communication to the principal secretary to the Delhi Lieutenant Governor, the Union Home Ministry said sanction to prosecute Sisodia was granted under Section 17 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
"Filing bogus cases against one's rivals is a sign of a weak and cowardly person. The more AAP will grow, the more the number of cases that will be filed against us," Sisodia said in a tweet in Hindi.

Early this month, the CBI said it found in its preliminary inquiry that the feedback unit (FBU) set up by the Delhi Government to check corruption allegedly collected "political intelligence" and the agency recommended that an FIR be registered against Sisodia.
The FBU started functioning in 2016 with a provision of Rs 1 crore for secret service expenditure, the CBI said.
The Aam Aadmi Party dispensation had proposed setting up the FBU in 2015 to gather relevant information and actionable feedback regarding the working of various departments, autonomous bodies, institutions and entities falling under the jurisdiction of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) and also to do "trap cases", it said. (PTI)

Quiz on e-services IT Deptt seeks citizen participation in online initiative

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 22: With a view to promote participatory governance, involving the common people at large, Jammu and Kashmir Government is holding an online quiz on e-services for the citizens of the Union Territory.
The Information Technology (IT) Department has exhorted and invited all the citizens to participate actively and learn about the e-services in J&K.
The online quiz, aimed at helping improve citizens' intellect and refine their skills in e-services, is being organized to educate citizens on the benefits of e-services and to increase awareness around various programs regarding the delivery of e-services in J&K.
The quiz will cover questions on various national e-gov initiatives and their benefits.
It may be recalled that the UT Government had launched MyGov instance in Jammu and

Kashmir on March 30, 2022 with an avowed objective of soliciting active participation of people in governance by way of providing ideas and suggestions for further improving various services and activities.
Optimum use of technology will further revolutionize public service delivery and citizen engagement.
MyGov platform is a key agent for change which has been designed to seek inputs from the citizens—the ultimate beneficiaries—and leveraging their collective feedback to improve policy change and implementation. The initiative is also aimed at encouraging citizen participation towards good governance by seeking their ideas, suggestions and grassroots-level contributions.
Likewise, the initiative is also aimed at making the MyGov platform a key part of the policy and decision-making at the government level.



Newly elected President & Vice President of ICAI with members of J&K branch during felicitation function on Wednesday.

J&K Branch felicitates new President, Vice-President of ICAI

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India organised a felicitation programme for the newly elected President and Vice-President of ICAI, namely Aniket Sunil Talati and Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, respectively.
Nakul Saraf, Chairman of the branch, delivered the inaugural address and deliberated on certain issues of professional importance.
Sat Sharma, former MLA and BJP leader, appreciated the efforts of ICAI for being a partner in nation building.

Eminent Speaker, Kapil Mahajan apprised the members on J&K Industrial Policy and also addressed the queries raised by the members on the subject matter. He also highlighted various aspects of the Union Budget 2023.
Ayush Sawhney, Treasurer and Sourav Pargal, Executive Member, jointly conducted the proceedings.
Vikas Purdhani, Vice Chairman of the branch, presented the formal vote of thanks and Priya Seht, Executive Member along with a number of Chartered Accountants were also present at the occasion.

Training Program for IFS Officers on Disaster Management begins at SMVDU

Excelsior Correspondent
KATRA, Feb 22: The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, has sponsored a national-level training program on "Disaster Management" for Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers, which is being organized by

Dr. Suparn Kumar Sharma, Dean Faculty of Management formally welcomed the delegates and elaborated on the aim of this program. Dr. Ashutosh Vashishtha, Associate Professor, School of Business, introduced the SMVDU Technology Incubation Centre to IFS officers.
The training program included IFS officers from several Indian states. The program will utilize various strategies, tools, practical exercises, case studies, and multicultural discussions to explore the key issues faced when handling disaster situations.
Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar SMVDU, highlighted the crucial role of IFS officers in conserving natural resources for human sustenance. He also shared his experiences of disasters in Jammu and Kashmir.
Dr. Deepak Jain, a Member of the Organizing Committee, delivered vote of thanks.



Delegates during inaugural of training programme of IFS officers at SMVDU on Wednesday.

the School of Business at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.
The three-day program, the 15th in a series of successful training, aims to equip IFS officers with the necessary skills for successful disaster management.
During the inaugural function, Prof Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, of SMVDU, emphasized the importance of preserving the environment and making people aware of its ill effects.
Dr. Jyoti Sharma, Program Coordinator & Head, SoB, stated that education is necessary for disaster management preparation rather than learning through

property in Valley, rehabilitation of over aged youth, the community needs to join hands to find an everlasting solution to these issues.
The AIMCCC warned the community that any delay will lead to extinction of this oldest civilization as two generations have vanished since the mass exodus in last 35 years and youngsters are leaving J&K for search of livelihood outside the UT.
Two pregnant ladies evacuated
Excelsior Correspondent
KISHTWAR, Feb 22: Army, Air Force and civil administration jointly evacuated two pregnant ladies in critical condition from winter isolated Nawapachi area here to Kishtwar town where the ladies are being treated at District Hospital.
It is noteworthy to mention here that Indian Army has been helping people towards reducing their hardships in this challenging area which witnesses harsh weather and extremely difficult conditions for life more so during winters.
Indian Armed Forces have always rendered life saving humanitarian assistance to the people apart from conducting counter terrorist operations in the terrorism affected area.

AIMCCC for unity among KP bodies

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 22: Expressing grave concern over stoic silence maintained by the Government on the rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits who are leading an exiled life for last 35 years now, All India Migrant Camp Coordination Committee (AIMCCC) urged to all social and political organisations of Kashmiri Pandit community to come on a single platform to fight for the genuine demands on consensus basis.
"We have to act under a right strategy to take the community cause forward in a right perspective, a spokesman of the organisation said.
The spokesman of the party while stressing on unity in the community said it is the old saying that "United we stand divided we fall". He said "Recently we have thought of bringing together all like-minded organisations to work together for our genuine demands for the general cause of our society. This community is the people of nobles and intellectuals, so we should join hands to find an everlasting solution to our 35 year issue of rehabilitation in our homeland".
He said whether it is the issue of PM package employees, passage of shrines and temples Bill, restoration of migrants land and

Canara Bank organizes MSME Customer Outreach Programme

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 22: Canara Bank MSME Sulabh Jammu here today conducted MSME Customer Outreach Programme at Channi Himmat.
The programme was inaugurated by Arvind Kapoor, Assistant General Manager, Circle Office Chandigarh and Regional Head J&K & Ladakh, Pabitra Kumar Dash, Assistant General Manager along with MSME Sulabh Head, Anurag S Ambasta, Divisional Manager; Dirisala Audi Reddy, Divisional Manager and Rajesh Prasad, Divisional Manager RAH Head.
Speaking on the occasion Arvind Kapoor talked on the role of Banks in bringing positive changes in the lives of people of every section of the society and assured the customers that the Bank is with them to boost economy.
On this occasion, Canara Bank MSME Sulabh handed over in-principal sanction letters to various customers.

Pabitra Kumar Dash informed the customers that Canara Bank is catering to the social, personal and business needs of the society and regularly contributing towards the growth of J&K & Ladakh.
Anurag S Ambasta elaborated about various schemes of the Bank through presentation, particularly schemes catering to contractors, manufacturers and traders. The Bank through this programme generated 20 leads amounting to Rs 114.40 Crores.
Entrepreneurs who attended the programme interacted with Bank officials regarding different scheme details and also shared some valuable suggestions to Bank for betterment of banking needs to MSME customers.
The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Sanjay Bansal, Chairman FTII and President FAIVM and Abhishek Sambyal, Marketing Officer, MSME Sulabh Jammu.

Notorious drug-peddler arrested

Excelsior Correspondent
POONCH, Feb 22: A flying squad of Police Station Poonch, headed by ASI Tariq Khan arrested a drug peddler from Bus Stand area here and recovered some quantity of charas from his possession last evening.
Reports said that Police party got suspicion on one unknown person as he tried to escape on seeing police party. The active police team apprehended the said person near Shaheed Manjeet Singh Memorial.
During his personal search, nearly 20 grams of Charas was recovered from his possession. He was identified as Mohd Qasim, son of Mohd Sharief from Chela Dangri village of Tehsil Mandi in Poonch and at presently residing at W.No.1 Sukha Katha, near Police Lines Poonch.
In this connection a case FIR No. 25/2023 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act, has been registered at Police Station Poonch and the investigation has been taken up.

Seminar by DSRS to commemorate Parliament Resolution on J&K

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 22: The Department of Strategic and Regional Studies (DSRS), University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu Kashmir Study Centre (JKSC), organized one day seminar to commemorate "The Parliament Resolution on Jammu and Kashmir", here today.
Major General (Retd) S K Sharma, who was chief guest on the occasion, suggested three-pronged diplomatic and military options to regain POJK that includes "India's military attack on POJK and regain its lost territory", by "developing UT of J&K to a such level so that the people of POJK revolt against Pakistan and reunite with the UT of J&K", and "assist POJK to become an independent state that can help India's standing in the UN and other international forums".
In his presentation, titled "Displaced People: Real Stakeholders of POJK", Dr Deepak Kapoor, Deputy Director Health Services J&K and Convener of POJK Visthapith Seva Samiti (POJKVSS), said that under the BJP Government, particularly after the bifurcation of the J&K State into two Union Territories in August 2019, Pakistan is on back-foot and the displaced people of POJK began to get their due and legitimate rights.
In his presentation, titled "Pakistan's Deceit and Denial and India's Response", Pradeep Dutta, Senior Editor, Times Now, drew attention towards "how Pakistan masked the truth on the state and situation of Jammu and Kashmir since 1947 and tactfully buried the reality of POJK".
While introducing the theme of the seminar, Dr Virender Koundal, Director, DSRS JU,

JKAACL organizes Punjabi musical concert

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 22: A three-day Punjabi Writers Conference organized by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages under the able guidance of Bharat Singh,

presented their musical items included C S Kattal & Party; Vinpal & Party; Thoru Ram Premi & Party; Suman Lata & Party; Kuldeep Kumar & Party and Jeet Ram & Party. Various folk-lore songs like Sahiba Mirza, Saif Muloq, Puraan Bhagat, Heer Ranjha and other folk-lore themes were presented in various art forms and genres among the big applause from the audience.
Earlier, Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Sheeraza Punjabi and in charge of the event welcomed the guests, musicians, writers and others. The proceedings of the programme were conducted by . Bhupinder Singh Jamwal, and where as vote of thanks was extended by Dr Shah Nawaz, Editor-cum - Cultural officer Gojri.



Culture programme being performed by a musical party during Punjabi Writers conference in Jammu.

Secretary, JKAACL concluded today with the presentation of Punjabi musical concerts by various music groups of Jammu region.
Secretary JKAACL presided over the programme whereas Popinder Singh Paras, Editor Sheeraza Punjabi and Dr Shah Nawaz, Editor Sheeraza Gojri were present in the podium. Several well known intellectuals like Khalid Hussain, Baljit Singh Raina, Jang Singh Verman, KS Talib,

RS Rajan, Dr Monojit, RS Mastana, Suraj Singh, HS Upshak, Suraj Prakash Rattan and writers of various languages were present in the programme.
The music groups who presented their musical items included C S Kattal & Party; Vinpal & Party; Thoru Ram Premi & Party; Suman Lata & Party; Kuldeep Kumar & Party and Jeet Ram & Party. Various folk-lore songs like Sahiba Mirza, Saif Muloq, Puraan Bhagat, Heer Ranjha and other folk-lore themes were presented in various art forms and genres among the big applause from the audience.
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Vice president DGPC, Balvinder Singh inaugurating tile work at Chand Nagar Gurudwara on Wednesday.

Balvinder starts tile works at Gurudwara Chand Nagar

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 22: Vice-president District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee Jammu, Balvinder Singh inaugurated tile works in the premises of Gurudwara Guru Nanak Dev ji at Chand Nagar, here today.
The tiles work inaugurated in presence of Mahant Rajesh Bitu, Amit Gupta Corporator Ward No.19, Surjit Singh secretary DGPC, Harjit Singh treasurer DGPC, Rajinder Singh Sudan, Ajit Singh, Kulvinder Singh and other prominent persons of the adjoining area.
Balvinder Singh said that this is in continuation of the

steps towards fulfillment of the promises made by all the members of DGPC Jammu with the Sangat of their respective areas during the election for development of Gurudwaras under DGPC. He further said that every effort is being made to approach the concerned authorities including CEO Jammu Smart City Projects Limited for beautification of the Gurudwaras especially the historical Gurudwara of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Chand Nagar Jammu.
Rajesh Bitu (Mahant) and Corporator Amit Gupta assured the DGPC Jammu that the remaining works identified by DGPC shall be taken up soon.

Sena demands restoration of OPS

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 22: Shiv Sena, Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray unit of J&K has demanded implementation of

The Shiv Sena leader said that new pension scheme has not been able to provide adequate financial and social security to pensioners.
"Under this scheme, after retirement, the employees are only getting Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 per month which is a cruel joke in this era of inflation," he maintained adding: "Employees should be provided relief by implementing OPS in J&K like what has been done elsewhere."
Sahni also demanded simplifying of the formalities in getting old age pension.
Those who were present in the press conference were Shiv Sena general secretaries Vikas Bakshi and GI Singh; vice president, Sanjeev Kohli and president Kamghar Raj Singh.
2 Tipsters, 1 Dumper seized for illegal mining
Excelsior Correspondent
DODA, Feb 22: Crackdown on illegal mining continues in the district under the supervision of District Mineral Officer (DMO) Doda, Sunil Manhas and under the directions of District Magistrate Doda, Vishesh Paul Mahajan.
A team of officials led by DMO Doda laid naka on the highway last night and seized three heavy vehicles for transportation of minerals illegally.
The seized vehicles included two tipsters and one dumper. One of the vehicles seized has been reported to be a habitual offender and has been Challenged for the third time under Mining Act.
The DMO has warned the transporters to desist from illegal mining to avoid toughest action under the Mining Act.
He informed that action against illegal mining shall be intensified and anyone involved in illegal mining shall be booked under relevant sections of the law.



J&K Shiv Sena chief, Manish Sahni in Punjab, addressing a press conference at Jammu on Wednesday.

Old Pension Scheme (OPS), restoration of concessions given to senior citizens in rail travel and simplification of formalities in old age pension scheme.
Addressing a press conference here today J&K Shiv Sena chief, Manish Sahni said that youth are totally upset due to lack of employment while the elders are demanding OPS.
He said that pension is a great security and support in old age.
2 injured in tipper accident
Excelsior Correspondent
MENDHAR, Feb 22: Two persons were seriously injured in a road accident at Chal banola village of Mendhar in Poonch district on Wednesday morning.
Police sources said that the accident occurred when a Tipper bearing registration no JK 12 -6997 was moving on a village road in Chak - Banola area. It rolled down into a deep gorge, causing serious injuries to two persons.
The injured were identified as Shazad Ahmed (25) son of Mohd Sadeeq and Aziz Ahmed (17), son of Mohd Naseer both residents of village Chak banola in Mendhar. Both the injured were admitted to SDH Mendhar and condition both was stable, BMO said.
The police has taken cognizance of the matter.

ITI Jammu organizes Campus Placement drive

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 22: To provide employment opportunities to the ITI Certificate pass-out trainees, one day Campus Placement drive was conducted today under the close guidance of Er G M Bhat, Joint Director, Skill Development Department at Govt ITI Jammu.
The drive was conducted by Maruti Suzuki for ITI certificate holder of Motor Mechanic Vehicle, Painter, Denter or similar trades for the posts of Technician.
Sheetal, HR Maruti Suzuki Jammu and her team interacted with the trainees and conducted interviews of the trainees. Karan Singh, Surveyor I/C Placement Cell briefed the trainees about the company recruitment criteria and emoluments. Pre-counseling placement session was also conducted for the students and 14 students were shortlisted in the drive.
Er Rajesh Banotra, Vice Principal Govt ITI Jammu impressed upon the students to participate in the various placement drives with full enthusiasm and make full use of their professional & technical skills for employability to various organizations. He also appreciated the efforts of Training and Placement cell for conducting such recruitment drives.

Youth drowns

Excelsior Correspondent
UDHAMPUR, Feb 22: In a tragic incident, a youth drowned while taking bath in a Nallah at village Ancha in Ramnagar, here today.
The deceased was identified as Sohan Singh (21), son of Haqiqat Singh, resident of Ancha in Ramnagar, who was taking bath in the Nallah after attending a cremation near old Gurlang Pul cremation ground along with other locals and relatives.
While taking bath, he suddenly slipped into deep water and body of the deceased was fished out after about two hours searches by Ramnagar Police and locals. Later, the body was shifted to Sub District Hospital Ramnagar for the postmortem.
After completion of all the legal formalities and post-mortem, the body was handed over to the family members.

Largan Brahman Biradri congregation tomorrow

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Feb 22: The annual congregation of Largan Brahman Biradri will be held at Dadi Deri Asthan, village Largan, Post office Aitham on February 24.
According to President of the Biradri, Om Prakash Sharma, the religious function will start at 11:00 am with Kuldevi Poojan, which will be followed by Bhandara.
He appealed to all members of Largan Brahman Biradri to participate in the congregation and seek the blessing of Kuldevi Dadi Deri.

Notorious drug smuggler booked under PIT NDPSA

Excelsior Correspondent
KISHTWAR, Feb 22: After Police booked notorious drug smuggler of Kishtwar under PIT NDPSA and lodged him in Jail, SSP Kishtwar, Khalil Poswal has said that Police is working on multipronged strategy to deal with the problem of drug abuse.
A handout of Kishtwar Police stated that in view of continuous involvement of Mudassar alias Dagga son of Mehraj-Ud-Din resident of near Om Mehta Road Kishtwar in drug peddling and criminal cases and to save young generations from indulging in addiction of drugs, it was felt necessary to book him under the stringent preventive law.
During investigation of previous cases and through leads of narcotics inputs, Dagga was found involved in various drug peddling cases.
After obtaining PIT NDPSA orders from higher authorities today Dagga was sent to District Jail Kishtwar to break drug trafficking syndicate.