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Govt fixes distance for river bed material extraction to prevent threats to bridges

day or the expiry of the date fixed by the Government for payment of such royalty, rent, fee or other sum and until payment of such royalty, rent or fee is made".

Moreover, a sub-rule has been added in Rule 107, which states: "Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules, extraction or digging of ordinary earth/clay used for filling, leveling or embankment of roads or railways, cement plants up to the depth of 2 meters, removal of overburden, free flowing material shall not be treated as mining operations".

However, such operations are required to be carried out under proper short term/disposal permit with payment of royalty and other applicable charges.

By carrying out amendment in Rule 56, the Government has inserted a provision which states that short term permits/disposal permits shall also be granted for manual customary extraction of sand, silt, clay by local Hanjris, Khanias, Muleteers etc. Further, the manual customary extraction of sand, silt and clay by local Hanjris, Khanias, Muleteers etc shall be exempted from the requirement of Environment Clearances.

Moreover, there shall be no requirement of Environment Clearances for extraction of ordinary clay or sand by manu-

al mining, by earthen tile makers who prepare earthen tiles; removal of sand deposits on agricultural field after flood by farmers; customary extraction of sand and ordinary earth from sources situated in Gram Panchayat for personal use or community work in village; community works like, de-silting of village ponds or tanks, construction of village roads, ponds or bunds undertaken in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment and Guarantee Schemes, other Government sponsored schemes and community efforts.

More cases which shall not require Environment Clearances are extraction or sourcing or borrowing of ordinary earth for the linear projects such as roads, pipelines, etc.; dredging and desilting of dams, reservoirs, weirs, barrages, river and canals for the purpose of their maintenance, upkeep and disaster management; digging of wells for irrigation or drinking water purpose; digging of foundation for buildings, not requiring prior environmental clearance; excavation of ordinary earth or clay for plugging of any breach caused in canal, nallah, drain, water body, etc., to deal with any disaster or flood like situation upon orders of the District Collector or District Magistrate or any other Competent Authority.

CAT permits police to promote 208 eligible candidates as DySPs

and when they have not got a suitable order they have filed another OA 889/2022. The applicants in both the OAs are identical. They cannot file two OAs for same relief", the CAT said.

On the other hand the applicants in the present OA submitted that the applicants are senior to those who are being promoted. However, it is true that the earlier OA challenging the seniority list of 2019 is still pending for final disposal before appropriate Bench of CAT.

The CAT after hearing both the sides observed that since the claim of the applicants is pending before this Tribunal by which seniority list of 2019 has been challenged, there is no stay operating against the respondents not to promote the eligible candidates. "In view of this, the interim order passed by this Tribunal on 12.9.2022 is vacated. Respondents are at liberty to promote the eligible candidates in the department. However, the promotion will be subject to the final outcome of the OA No. 889/2022", the CAT said.

Minimum wages for workers hiked

been satisfactory. Performance and work done by the daily wagger must be certified every month by the concerned Controlling Officer," the UT Ladakh administration order read.

It said the concerned District Officer shall make a detailed review of the number of workers required by assessing and ascertaining nature of work performed by existing workers in the department and put up a report to their Administrative Department through respective Deputy

Commissioner/CEO Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC).

It added that before drawl of wages on revised rates, it shall be ensured by the Controlling Officer that the daily wagger is registered on e-Shram portal and their registration number shall be mentioned in the wage bill.

The UT administration has asked all departments to ensure bio-metric attendance system for all categories of workers engaged in the departments.

Day after engagement, SPO killed in mishap

part of a police party engaged in checking vehicles near forest check post on the bypass when

he was hit by the speeding truck bearing Tamil Nadu registration number, resulting in critical injuries to him.

His colleagues rushed him to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) where he succumbed to injuries.

The truck driver is being treated at a hospital under custody.

The cop got engaged two days back and was expected to get married in February next year.

The body of the deceased was handed over to his family for last rites after completion of legal formalities.

A case under FIR Number 114/2022 and relevant Sections has been registered at Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu and investigation started.



Newly elected president of Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference (JKPC) Sajad Gani Lone taking oath during a function in Srinagar on Wednesday. (UNI)

Time to speak truth: Sajad

party workers here at the oath-taking ceremony after being re-elected as the chairman of the party, Sajad said that National Conference (NC) has already done injustice to the people of J&K and that it is ironic how they are talking about the welfare of the people of J&K now.

He said that the NC which is these days talking of the betterment of people, their rights and their welfare, was itself involved in that while they were in power.

"Those who will not talk about what happened in 1987 do not know anything about Kashmir; they cannot talk about Kashmir because if that would not have happened, things would have been different today," he said.

He said that the youngsters of Kashmir have seen bullets and jails and that the same needs to stop. "They have seen a lot. Those who have not seen anything are calling for revolutions and sacrifices. If they are sincere why not send their loved ones to the front," he asserted.

Sajad described the current times as distinctively painful and politically unique in terms of the challenges that it poses to the different sections of leadership in J&K today.

He said that leadership has different definitions at different times and in present times, he said, leadership would entail saving people, leadership would mean preserving the youth and leadership demands speaking the truth to the people.

Sajad said that one of the easiest things in politics is to resort to lies and innuendo and the most difficult thing, he said, is to speak the truth in the face of adversity. "We in the People's Conference will strive to ensure that we speak the truth and lead with honesty and courage."

"It's time that the leadership variables are reset. Let leaders lead with the courage to speak the truth and let the people of J&K follow those who speak the truth. Safeguarding the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially the youth, is the biggest leadership challenge in current times and the People's Conference will do everything in its power to protect a common Kashmiri from

being victimised."

Sajad further asserted that the People's Conference is the party that has a legacy of sacrifice and will continue to strive to accord people a dignified way of living.

"We will make every effort to promote political inclusiveness and tirelessly strive to restore and retrieve the glorious political legacy that the people of J&K deserve. A unique legacy which we all cherish and zealously guarded for so long. We will do what it takes to ensure that legacy is restored," he added.

He said that he does not agree with Yasin Malik's decision of taking up arms, but, he said, if he is suffering, there is a need for knowing and trying to understand who put him on the path of violence. "It was all that happened in 1987 and after that the role of Dr Farooq who ensured that his son becomes a Chief Minister while Malik was pushed on some other path," he said.

Referring to NC, Sajad said that they termed those who tried to talk in the favour of people and their betterment as "agents of Delhi", "but they kept the power and did whatever they liked," he said.

He said that the leadership is not ready to take responsibility for the failures and work towards saving the youngsters from bullets, jail and other sufferings. "We are not ready to send the children of the poor for stone pelting and send our kids to study outside," he said.

He said that the PC will work towards getting J&K identity back through legal means and if there arises a need for sacrifices, "the leadership will do that and not the people," he said.

On the occasion, Sajad took the oath of office as president of the People's Conference in presence of the General Council, which forms the Electoral College for the election of the President of the party.

The oath was administered by the Chairman of the Election Authority of the party Syed Basharat Bukhari while the same was attended by the top leadership of the party along with thousands of delegates comprising the General Council.

Need to prepare report on encroachment of water bodies: LG

reforms in agriculture, modernization of land records, road safety, smart city projects, connecting producers & markets, preserving biodiversity and ensuring equity in the society.

"GIS is playing a crucial role in the identification of forest boundaries, GI tagging, J&K green drive, conservation of wetlands, and census of water bodies", he added.

Observing that geographic approach is the only way to integrate all the information available for sectoral growth, the Lt Governor stressed the need to prepare a report on the encroachment of water bodies through comparative analysis of latest and earlier data.

The latest census of 2815 water bodies in J&K by Remote Sensing department can be used for mapping flood risk areas and sharing information with all concerned departments in an integrated manner. With the help of GIS, traffic accidents can be tackled through identification of accident locations, hotspots, he observed.

He advised all the concerned departments to collaborate to use GIS in network design, network optimization and data enhancement in remote areas. GIS can help in better planning of schemes and asset allocation according to the population and their needs, he added.

All stakeholders, GIS professionals, Research Scholars, Administrative Officers need to prepare scientific framework based on GIS for data capturing & optimum utilization of Remote Sensing, GIS technology applications for better decision making, the Lt Governor further added.

He called for spreading awareness among the people about benefits of the GIS and its various applications in the development of sci-

ety. Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Forest, Ecology and Environment department shared the achievements and the future action plans of the department.

Dr. Mohit Gera, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests extended his greetings on World GIS Day and briefed the gathering on the new initiatives of the forest department using GIS technology.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor launched Jammu & Kashmir Remote Sensing Information System - JKRSIS, a Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative and g-SAM (Gram Panchayat Spatial Assets Mapper) Mobile app.

He released reports of Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing on the "Assessment of Inherent Vulnerability of Climate Change" and "Internal Monitoring of Wular Lake & its Immediate Catchment - a geospatial approach". He also inaugurated the second edition of the Green life Contest and felicitated the winners of the Green Life Contest-1 from Jammu Region.

Apostol cover on "Chinar Tree" was also released on the occasion.

Col. Vinod Kumar, Postmaster General, Jammu Region; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department, Amit Sharma, Administrative Secretary, Mining Department; Avny Lavasa, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Rakesh Kumar, Director Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing; Senior Scholars; Professors; Research Scientists, officials, various public & private stakeholders and scores of students were present on the occasion.

Masks no more compulsory during air travel

scheduled airlines, the Ministry said the latest decision has been taken in line with the Government's policy of a graded approach to COVID-19 management response.

"... The in-flight announce-

ments henceforth may only mention that in view of the threat posed by COVID-19, all passengers should preferably use mask/face covers," the communication said.

It also said that any specific reference to fine/penal action need not be announced as part of the in-flight announcements.

The total number of active Coronavirus cases in the country accounted was only 0.02 per cent of the total infections and the recovery rate increased to 98.79 per cent, according to the latest official data.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,41,28,580 and the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.19 per cent. (PTI)

India's G-20 presidency will be inclusive, action-oriented: PM

"truly inclusive". "It is the responsibility of G-20 leaders that the benefits of digital transformation should not be confined to a small part of the human race," he said, pitching for work by the bloc to bring digital transformation into the lives of everyone in the next 10 years.

In the session on digital transformation, the Prime Minister also said that the principle of "data for development" will be an integral part of the overall theme of India's upcoming G-20 presidency.

In his remarks at the closing session, the Prime Minister said India's presidency of the G-20 is a proud occasion for every Indian and that the country will organise G-20 meetings in different cities and States.

"Our guests will get full experience of India's amazing diversity, inclusive traditions, and cultural richness. We wish that all of you will participate in this unique celebration in India, the 'Mother of Democracy'. Together, we will make the G-20, a catalyst for global change," he said.

Modi also listed India's priorities for the G-20.

"Over the next one year, we will strive to ensure that the G-20 acts as a global prime mover to envision new ideas and accelerate collective action," he said.

"The sense of ownership over natural resources is giving rise to conflict today, and has become the main cause of the plight of the environment. For the safe future of the planet, the sense of trusteeship is the solution," he added.

There were sharp differences at the G-20 over the Ukraine conflict which was reflected in the declaration issued at the end of the summit.

"Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine and stressed it is causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy -- constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity,

and elevating financial stability risks," the declaration said.

It noted that there were other views and different assessments of the "situation and sanctions".

"Recognising that the G20 is not the forum to resolve security issues, we acknowledge that security issues can have significant consequences for the global economy," it said.

Western nations imposed crippling sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

In his remarks, Modi noted that LIFE that is a 'Lifestyle for Environment' campaign, can make a big contribution to this. "Its purpose is to make sustainable lifestyles a mass movement."

The Prime Minister emphasised that the benefits of development are universal and all-inclusive.

"We have to extend the benefits of development to all human beings with compassion and solidarity. Global development is not possible without women's participation," he said.

Modi said the G-20 has to convey a strong message in favour of peace and harmony.

"All these priorities are fully embodied in the theme of India's G-20 Chairmanship -- 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', he said.

The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.

It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU).

The next G20 Leaders' Summit at the level of Heads of State/Government is scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10 in New Delhi.

"We look forward to meeting again in India in 2023, in Brazil in 2024 and in South Africa in 2025," the declaration said. (PTI)

Kathua gangrape: SC orders trial of accused as adult

Rastogi and J B Pardiwala said though there was a "clear and unambiguous case" in favour of the accused person's juvenility on the basis of his birth certificate and school records, he cannot take shelter under such documents when a heinous crime has been committed.

It also chastised the CJM and the High Court over their "casual and cavalier" approach while deciding the accused was a juvenile when the crime was committed.

"...When an accused commits a heinous and grave crime like the one on hand and thereafter attempts to take the statutory shelter under the guise of being a minor, a casual or cavalier approach while recording as to whether an accused is a juvenile or not cannot be permitted as the courts are enjoined upon to perform their duties with the object of protecting the confidence of a common man in the institution entrusted with the administration of justice," the court said.

Refusing to believe the birth certificate and school records which had established the juvenility of the accused, Justice Pardiwala, writing the 66-page judgement, said the medical reports cannot be brushed aside.

"It is held that the respondent accused was not a juvenile at the time of commission of the offence and should be tried the way other co-accused were tried in accordance with the law. Law to take its own course," it said.

The judgement said the benefit of the principle of benevolent legislation attached to the Juvenile Justice Act would be extended to only such cases wherein the accused is held to be a juvenile on the basis of at least prima facie evidence inspiring confidence regarding his minority as the benefit of the possibilities of two views in regard to the age.

"The crime that the respondent accused herein has been charged with is heinous; its execution was vicious and cruel, by any stretch of

imagination. The entire crime was calculated and ruthless. This case captured the attention and indignation of the society across the country, more particularly, in the State of J&K, as a cruel crime that raised alarm regarding safety within the community," it said.

The alleged accused is involved in "grave and serious offence" which was executed in a "well-planned manner" reflecting his maturity of mind, the court said.

It said, "The plea of juvenility is more in the nature of a shield to dodge or dupe the arms of law, and cannot be allowed to come to his rescue."

The bench, however, clarified the guilt or innocence of the respondent accused shall be determined strictly on the basis of the evidence that may be led by the prosecution and the defence at the time of the trial. "All observations made in this judgment are meant only for the purpose of deciding the issue of juvenility," it said.

The bench referred to a provision of the J&K Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and the rules for juvenility and said the medical evidence cannot be brushed aside.

"There is no good reason why we should overlook or ignore or doubt the credibility of the final opinion given by a team of five qualified doctors, one from the Department of Physiology, one from the Department of Anatomy, one from the Department of Oral Diagnosis, one from the Department of Forensic Medicine and one from the Department of Radio Diagnosis, all saying in one word that on the basis of the physical, dental and radiological examination, the approximate age of the respondent could be fixed between 19 and 23 years," it said.

The minor girl was kidnapped on January 10, 2018 and was raped in captivity in a small village temple after keeping her sedated for four days. She was later bludgeoned to death. (PTI)

HC stays order of FFRC restraining schools from charging annual fee

maintenance costs and all other one-time fee such as Examination fee, Computer fee, Sports fee, etc., wherever applicable and that mere change in the academic session by the Government does not, in any manner, disentitle the schools to charge the annual fee.

It is also contended that the FFRC was also informed that due to the Government orders implementing Uniform Academic Calendar, current session will be of 17 months but the Petitioner will only charge annual fee from

students for five months viz. November, 2022 to March, 2023 on monthly and prorata basis as per the fee structure of the Schools already approved by none other than the FFRC itself.

The DB after hearing the Senior Counsel and on an overall analysis of the pleadings on record, felt that the order impugned has been issued by the FFRC without giving adequate opportunity of hearing to the Schools.

The Advocate General, submitted that in the event this Court comes to the conclusion that no hearing has been given to the Schools before issuance of the order impugned, the proper course for the Court would be to remand the case back to the FFRC for fresh decision after hearing all concerned.

3 IAS officers from J&K allocated cadre

posted in AGMUT cadre. The UT of Jammu and Kashmir is part of AGMUT cadre.

SC to hear plea against Delimitation Comm on Nov 29

that he has to put some documents on record in the matter.

Mehta said he had a word with the secretary concerned who dealt with the issue.

The bench, while taking note of his submission, said the documents be filed within a week and posted the plea by two residents of Kashmir for hearing on November 29.

The Apex Court had on May 13 observed the petitioners have not challenged the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and therefore, pleadings concerning that were to be ignored.

It had noted in its order that the challenge really was to the exercise undertaken in respect of the delimitation pursuant to the notifications, including those of March 6, 2020 and March 3, 2021.

The top court had asked the respondents -- the Centre, the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the Election Commission of India -- to file counter affidavit within six weeks.

The counsel appearing for the two petitioners, Haji Abdul Gani Khan and Mohammad Ayub Mattoo, argued the delimitation exercise was carried out in contravention of the scheme of the Constitution and that alteration of boundaries and inclusion of extended areas should not have been done.

The plea has sought declaration that the increase in the number of seats from 107 to 114 (including 24 seats in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir) in Jammu & Kashmir is ultra vires the constitutional provisions such as Articles 81, 82, 170, 330 and 332 and the statutory provisions, particularly under section 63 of the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

It said the last Delimitation Commission was set up on July 12, 2002 in exercise of powers conferred by section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 after the 2001 Census to carry out the exercise throughout the country. NEW DELHI, Nov 16: The Supreme Court said on Wednesday it will hear on November 29 a plea challenging the Government's decision to constitute a delimitation commission for redrawing the Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in the

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on the ground that it violated Constitutional provisions.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and A S Oka was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that he has to put some documents on record in the matter.

Mehta said he had a word with the secretary concerned who dealt with the issue.

The bench, while taking note of his submission, said the documents be filed within a week and posted the plea by two residents of Kashmir for hearing on November 29.

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IT raids at Khyber group in Srinagar

Income Tax were conducted at Khyber business group owned by Tramboos.

Another team of the Income Tax department headed by the Deputy Director IT raided the office of (Khyber) owned by Rouf Tramboos at Hazuri Bagh.

Similarly, a third team of the department raided the Khyber Himalayan Resort (hotel) at Gulmarg. All the entry and exit points were sealed and searches were carried out by the sleuth of the Income Tax Department at these places.

One dies, another hurt as 3-wheeler falls into gorge

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, Nov 16: One person was killed while another injured when a 3-wheeler rolled down into a gorge in remote Bhamag area, about 30 kms from district Reasi late this evening.

A police spokesman said that Pawan Kumar (21), son of Nek Ram, hailing from village Chourakote in remote Bhamag area, who works in Katra, had hired a three-wheeler to reach his village along with some goods. Near his village, the Autorikshaw went out of control on Kucha narrow road and

rolled down into nearly 100 feet deep gorge.

"While Pawan Kumar was reportedly killed on the spot, Auto-driver, Jugal Kishore, hailing from Katra was seriously injured in the accident and was removed to District Hospital, Reasi," village Sarpanch Gandarab Singh said.

He said police party from Jyotipuram Police Post reached the spot late in the evening. The police removed the dead body to Reasi for postmortem. The injured Jugal was also shifted to Reasi hospital.

MSJK, traders demand Darbar Move practice

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: Activists of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir (MSJK) along with wholesalers, retailers, traders, transporters and hoteliers here today staged a protest demonstration demanding resumption

who threatened Jammu Bandh if Darbar Move practise is not restored.

A handout stated that Ramesh Chander Gupta, president Old Hospital Road said that J&K government has shifted few offices to Jammu and now the government should also start



MSJK leader, Sunil Dimple along with traders during a protest demonstration at Jammu on Wednesday.

of Darbar Move practice in J&K.

The protesters also opposed the construction of footpaths in old city and raised slogans in favour of their demands.

The protest was led by MSJK president, Sunil Dimple

Darbar Move practise fully to solve the problems of traders.

Vimal Gupta, president Raj Tilk Road; Ritiz Khajuria, president Purani Mandi Traders; S. Balvinder Singh, president Pacca Danga Market and others also spoke on the occasion.

WEATHER

JAMMU:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 23.1 Degree C
Min: 11.7 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 89.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 80.0 per cent
Sunset on Thursday: 05.30 p.m.
Sunrise on Friday: 07.04 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Mainly dry
TEMPERATURE
Max: 13.8 Degree C
Min: 2.4 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 86.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 69.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 4.6 Degree C
Min: -8.6 Degree C

CINEMA

APSARA AUDI- 1: BLACK PANTHER - WAKANDA FOREVER (2D) HINDI - 9:45 AM. - 12:45 PM. 03:45 PM, 09:20 PM. (ENGLISH) 06:45 PM.

APSARA AUDI- 2: CHOBBAR - 10:30 AM, 12:35 PM, 3:30 PM, 06:30 PM, 09:00 PM</