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GIS being introduced...

Governor said, "Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, GIS has now become the mainstay of development planning and being widely used in the planning and monitoring of development works".

About 1000 GIS applications every day are being used by professionals, researchers, common citizens in more than 50 sectors to address various challenges and opportunities, he noted.

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, the Lt Governor observed.

The Lt Governor 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.

The Lt Governor also called for spreading awareness among the people about benefits of the GIS and its various applications in the development of society.

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 - JKRSI, a Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative and g-SAM (Gram Panchayat: Spatial Assets Mapper) Mobile app.

The Lt Governor released reports of Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing on the "Assessment of Inherent Vulnerability of Climate Change" & "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.

A postal 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 Scientists; Professors; Research Scholars, officials, various public & private stakeholders and scores of students were present on the occasion.

Four terror associates...

used to provide logistical support to active terrorists of TRF," the Srinagar Police said on Twitter. A case has been registered under relevant sections of UAPA, the police added.

Speeding truck mows...

SPO Rajat Choudhary, a resident of Bishnah, was part of a police party engaged in checking vehicles near forest check post on the bypass when he was hit by a speeding truck bearing Tamil Nadu registration number, resulting in critical injuries to him. His colleagues rushed him to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital where he succumbed to injuries, the officer said.

The truck driver is being treated at a hospital under custody, Chouhan said, adding a case under relevant sections of law was registered and further investigation is on. The body of the deceased was handed over to his family for last rites after completion of legal formalities, he added.

Private cab falls...

on the loss of precious lives in tragic accident in Marwah area of Kishtwar.

Dr Jitendra Singh tweeted, "Just now spoke to DC Kishtwar Dr Devansh Yadav after receiving the news of an unfortunate Tata Sumo road accident in Marwah area. 8 persons have died on the spot, rescue operations in progress to recover other persons. All possible assistance being provided, further help as needed would also be made available. My sincere condolences to bereaved families".

Former Chief Minister J&K and Chairman of Democratic Azad Party, Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of eight persons who lost their lives in a fatal accident.

In a condolence message, Azad said "May almighty give enough strength and courage to the bereaved families to bear such irreparable loss. I once again expect that authorities will ensure enough safety measures as occurrence of such accidents are witnessed every alternate day. Smooth traffic movement on such hilly terrain needs immediate attention. I am sure that adequate compensation and immediate relief will be provided to the next kin of those who got killed in this devastating accident."

BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh expressed profound grief and shock over the tragic accident in Kishtwar district resulting in the death of eight passengers.

"I am deeply saddened by news of the accident in which eight persons have lost their lives," he said and prayed for peace to the departed souls.

Expressing grief and sorrow over the incident, Apmi Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "I am deeply saddened to hear about the tragic accident that took the as many as eight human lives. My heart goes out to the families of the deceased."

He added, "In this hour of grief, I stand in solidarity with the families of the deceased and I pray to Almighty Allah to give them enough strength to bear the pain of this irreparable and inconsolable loss and rest the departed souls in eternal peace."

Meanwhile, Apmi Party General Secretary Asgar Ali has expressed his shock and deep sense of grief over the deaths that occurred in the fatal road accident in Kishtwar.

Former Minister, Ghulam Mohammad Saroori, also expressed profound grief and shock over the tragic accident on Tatapani to Yurdo road, in Marwah area of Kishtwar district, when a vehicle plunged down into a deep gorge, resulting in the death of eight passenger.

In a statement, G. M Saroori extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. He prayed for peace for the souls of the deceased's and much needed strength for the bereaved families.

"I am deeply saddened by the news of the accident in which eight innocent persons passed away," he said and prayed for peace to the departed souls besides this place for them in heaven.

The former Minister of J&K demanded sanctioning of Rs. 10 lakhs ex-gratia relief to the kin of each of the deceaseds who were killed in a road accident in Marwah Kishtwar.

Compassionate appointment can't...

commanding the respondents to consider his case for appointment as Class-IV employee on compassionate grounds. The brief facts giving rise to the filing of the present writ petition are that father of the petitioner was a Class-IV employee of the Horticulture Department, who was murdered on 19.07.1989 while he was in active service. It has been contended by the learned counsel for the petitioner that since the mother of the petitioner was illiterate, so she did not apply for her appointment on compassionate grounds and at that relevant point of time, the petitioner was also a minor, so he too did not apply for the same. The further case of the petitioner is that after attaining majority and eligibility, he immediately applied for his appointment on compassionate grounds, in terms of Jammu and Kashmir Employees (Death in harness) Dependents Rules 1989 notified vide SRO 194 of 1989. It has further been contended by the counsel for the petitioner that the petitioner submitted all the relevant documents including the dependent certificate before the respondents. Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal after hearing both the sides observed that it is settled preposition of law that the compassionate appointment is not an alternate source of recruitment and the petitioner having sought appointment on compassionate grounds after 26 years is neither covered under rules or the spirit/object of the scheme for compassionate appointment and the order of rejection, as such, is perfectly legal, justified and consonance with the rule in vogue. "Order of rejection which is impugned in the present writ petition has been issued pursuant to the decision taken by the administrative department and opinion rendered by the Law Department which is justified, based on correct legal position and cannot be faulted as it is an interpretation of relevant applicable rules. Accordingly, I uphold the order dated 20.10.2011, issued by the Director, Horticulture Department, Jammu," the Court observed.

SC to hear...

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.

The plea said the commission had issued guidelines and methodology for the delimitation of assembly and parliamentary constituencies vide letter dated July 5, 2004 along with the constitutional and legal provisions.

"It clearly stated that the total number of existing seats in the Legislative Assemblies of all states, including UTs of the National Capital Region and Pondicherry, as fixed based on the 1971 census shall remain unaltered till the first census to be taken after the year 2026," the plea said.

It sought to declare as unconstitutional the notification dated March 6, 2020 constituting the delimitation commission to take up delimitation in the UT of J&K and states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland by the Centre.

The plea has also challenged the consequential omission of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland from the process of delimitation vide notification dated March 3, 2021, claiming that it amounts to classification and violates Article 14 (equality before law) of the Constitution.

On March 6, 2020, the Union Government, Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) had issued a notification in exercise of power under Section 3 of the Delimitation Act, 2002, constituting a Delimitation Commission, with former Supreme Court judge (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai as the chairperson.

CAT permits Police...

promote any further candidates to the post of Deputy Superintendent of Police."

CAT further observed that now counsel for the respondents/J&K Police has filed an MA No. 1025/2022 for vacation of stay passed by this Tribunal on 12.9.2022. Objection has been filed by the applicants in said MA. During the course of hearing counsel for the respondents submits that due to the interim order passed by this Tribunal on 12.9.2022, the department is facing difficulties since there are 208 vacancies available for promotion and there are available candidates to be promoted to the next higher grade and non-promotion to the posts available is adversely affecting the working of the police force at supervisory and operational level. He submits that the applicants have not come with a clean hand since they have earlier filed OA 241/2022 which is still pending before this Tribunal for consideration 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. On the other hand the applicants in the present OA submit 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 above, the interim order passed by this Tribunal on 12.9.2022 is vacated.

Govt for deducting...

Sudershan Kumar Mehta, the then I/c Dy.SP, retired from government service on May 31, 2021 and whereas, the Home Department, after the retirement of the Officer, examined the issue in detail in terms of Article 168-A of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations (CSRs), and also in consultation with the General Administration Department.

Accordingly, a decision was taken to initiate departmental proceedings against Sudershan Kumar Mehta, as the period of one year was still not over from the date of his retirement, for accepting the assignment of Joint Secretary, JKCA without prior permission of the Government and for drawing remuneration from JKCA; and whereas, the Home Department with the approval of the Competent Authority initiated the departmental action and Sudershan Kumar Mehta, was served a charge-sheet vide Memorandum No. Home-PG/247/2021(56418) dated May 12, 2022 along with Statement of Imputation of misconduct in support of Articles of Charge, read an order.

It added that the officer was given an opportunity to submit his written statement of defence along with an option to appear in person as well; and whereas, Sudershan Kumar Mehta neither submitted any written statement nor expressed his desire to appear in person within the stipulated time period; and the Home Department vide Government Order No.213-Home of 2022 dated 06.07.2022, appointed an Inquiry Officer to conduct an in-depth inquiry into the charges framed against Sudershan Kumar Mehta.

The Inquiry Officer submitted his report on September 14, 2022, the order stated and added, mentioning clearly that Sudershan Kumar Mehta accepted the assignment of Joint Secretary, JKCA without prior permission of the Government as was required in terms of Sub-rule 2 of Rule 21 of J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971 and had at the same time, also accepted remuneration from JKCA while drawing salary from Government Exchequer as a Police Officer.

The report of the Inquiry Officer concluded categorically that Sudershan Kumar Mehta violated the provisions of the J&K Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971; and the inquiry report submitted by the Inquiry Officer was placed before the Competent Authority and the Competent Authority after taking into account all the facts related to the case, came to the conclusion that the amount which Sudershan Kumar Mehta drew as remuneration from JKCA should be recovered from his pension, in terms of Article 168-A of J&K CSRs, as the Officer was drawing regular salary from the Government exchequer as a Police Officer during the same period.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the amount which Sudershan Kumar Mehta has drawn as remuneration from Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association, shall be deducted from his pension, in terms of Article 168-A of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, 1956.

It is further ordered that the Financial Advisor/Chief Accounts Officer, PHQ, J&K, shall take necessary steps to ensure deduction from the pension of the retired Officer.

Meanwhile responding to aforesaid order on his pension deduction by J&K Government, Retired DSP Sudershan Mehta said "It is pertinent to bring to your notice that the Departmental Proceedings initiated against him are illegal and the matter is Sub-Judice."

Mehta has challenged the order issued by the Home Deptt before the CAT Bench Jammu in June 2022 with the next date of hearing scheduled in the first week of December 2022.

SEC orders repoll...

eligible candidates. It is pertinent to mention that Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) Drugmulla, in terms of rule 21 (A) of Registration of Electors Rules 1960) had deleted the name of one elector, Sumaiya Sadaf, 'ab-initio' from the Panchayat electoral roll of Halka Badergam on 21.12.20, after complaint against her Citizenship status and subsequent inquiry into the matter revealed that she has entered wrong information in form-6 during her registration as an elector. Similarly, the Electoral Registration Officer Hajin-A, had ab-initio' deleted the name of one elector, Ms Shazia Begum from the Panchayat Halqa Sidunara-A for entering wrong information in form 6 during registration as an elector.

The DDC constituency Hajin-A has total electorate of 15351 (8039 males and 7312 females), having 57 polling stations and total number of 12 polling locations. Similarly, in DDC constituency Drugmulla (Kupwara) there are 32845 electors comprising of 16688 males and 16157 females with 42 polling stations and 24 polling locations.

The Commission has also notified a postal ballot scheme for migrant voters for which they can apply to ARO (Migrant) upto 21.11.22 to avail this facility, apart from that Migrant voters can also vote in three special poll stations set up at Jammu (2) and Udhampur(1) for the re-poll. The timing of re-poll is 7am to 2pm.

Every town to...

deliverables to be achieved during this programme on the similar lines of B2V. He remarked that this connection of officers with the people should be regular and continuous round the year. These Visiting Officers would be made the 'Town Prabharies' like the ones designated as 'Panchayat Prabharies' during B2V4, he maintained.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized on the fact that appropriate number of visiting officers be deputed to each town after considering the recommendations from Deputy Commissioners. He made out that the objective of this outreach programme is to connect with people and each one ready to give his/her viewpoint should get an opportunity to do so.

He also stressed on making our towns clean and litter free. He stated that the towns are the face of any region and build the narrative about it. He said that cleanliness can be achieved through our collective efforts. He asked them to work for 100% penetration of digital services in all the ULBs and besides Mukt and Brashtachar Mukt J&K during this programme.

Dr Mehta also laid emphasis on improving services provided to people. He strongly recommended saturating the CSS and Self Employment Schemes in these areas. He gave out that it is the programme of every Municipality and a specific city plan for each of them should be formulated at the end of this public outreach campaign. He asked the department to make a city development index so that it acts as a yardstick for each of them to prioritize their preferences.

The Principal Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta gave a broad picture of the activities and objectives of this phase of My Town My Pride programme. He revealed that the Visiting Officers are going to be in the towns for 2 days. He also informed that before it a week long Jan Abhiyan for awareness of masses is to be conducted in all the 78 ULBs including the 2 Municipal Corporations as part of this outreach programme.

Kathua case: Application...

the nation with its details of brutality.

The affidavit filed in the court cited the inconsistencies in the application to buttress its claim that Sangra was a juvenile. This was submitted in court along with medical reasons by the Crime Branch, which was contesting the trial court's decision to treat Sangra as a minor.

The application at the tehsildar's office in Hiranagar, Jammu, was filed by Sangra's father who wanted birth registration certificates of his three children. The eldest, a boy, whose date of birth was stated to be November 23, 1997, a daughter said to be born on February 21, 1998, and Shubam Sangra on October 23, 2002, police said.

The difference in the birth days of the two elder children was just two months and 28 days, "which by any medical standard is impossible", the affidavit states.

This, it says, indicates the father's casual approach in furnishing the particulars of the dates of birth.

Moreover, no place of birth was mentioned for the older two, but Shubam Sangra was stated to be born in a Hiranagar hospital. A subsequent investigation to test the veracity of that statement did not bear that out, officials said.

A special investigation team sent a questionnaire to the Hiranagar block medical officer and asked for records of Sangra's birth along with the particulars of the parents. The block medical officer verified the record and categorically stated that no delivery in the name of the Sangra's mother had taken place on October 23, 2002, police said in the affidavit before the apex court.

"...in fact these entries were imaginary, and without any supporting birth record of either Municipal Committee or Primary Health Centre where the birth of the respondent (juvenile) is stated to have taken place," it said.

The painstaking investigation, which resulted in the affidavit, was backed by a report of a board of medical experts that determined Sangra's age as not less than 19 and not more than 23 on January 10, 2018 when the brutal assault took place.

The report by specialists from different departments, including a physiologist, dental examiner, radiologist and forensic scientist, based its conclusion on various clinical tests as well as Sangra's physical appearance.

The Crime Branch charge sheet detailed Sangra's alleged involvement in the horrific crime. It said Sangra was responsible for an overdose of sedatives forcibly administered to the eight-year-old, rendering her "incapacitated" to resist sexual assault on her as well as her murder.

"She was forcefully administered five tablets of Clonazepam of 0.5 mg each on January 11, 2018 which is higher than the safe therapeutic dose. Subsequently more tablets were given...The signs and symptoms of an overdose may include drowsiness, confusion, impaired coordination, slow reflexes, slowed or stopped breathing, coma (loss of consciousness) and death," a medical expert was quoted as saying.

The peak concentration of clonazepam is achieved in the blood after one hour to 90 minutes of oral administration and its absorption is complete, "irrespective of administered either with or without food", according to the concluding opinion.

Doctors were of the opinion that tablets given to the child could have pushed her into a state of shock or coma.

The case was transferred out of Jammu and Kashmir and shifted to Pathankot on orders from the Supreme Court on May 7, 2018.

The special court on June 10, 2019 sentenced three men to life imprisonment "till last breath