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HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR AT JAMMU
(Office of the Registrar General)

ORDER

No. 2

Dated : 01.06.2020

Two matters - one for appointment of vacation judges in both wings of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir during the already declared summer vacation period commencing from 8th to 26th June, 2020, both days inclusive, and another for approval of routine 15 days summer vacations in District and Subordinate Courts in summer zone of Jammu division - have been placed before me for orders.

The prevailing circumstances arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuous lockdown for more than two months has adversely impacted the functioning of the High Court as well as the District and Subordinate Courts in the UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Hearings stand reduced to urgent matters only.

Before taking a decision in these matters, I had deemed it appropriate to take the views of all sister and brother Judges of the High Court. In response, views in writing have been received from nine Judges. Cancellation of this year's summer vacation in the High Court as well as in District & Subordinate Courts in summer zone of the Jammu division is overwhelmingly supported.

Considering the severe hardships faced by the litigants in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh due to the impeded functioning of the Courts on account of lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it would be highly inappropriate and un-justified to proceed with the ensuing summer vacation in the High Court of J&K and Subordinate Courts in Jammu division.

In view of the above, it is directed as follows:

- a) The ensuing summer vacation in the High Court commencing from 8th June, 2020 are cancelled. The summer vacation shown in the High Court calendar for the year 2020 from 8th to 26th June, 2020 (both days inclusive), shall be the working days in the High Court except the gazetted holiday on 18th June, 2020 and Saturday 13th and 27th June, 2020.
- b) The routine fifteen days summer vacations in District and Subordinate Courts located in summer zone of Jammu division shall not be observed this year.

Sd/-
Gita Mittal
CHIEF JUSTICE

No. 10-27/GS

Dated: 01.06.2020

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Copy to the:-

1. Advocate General, UT of J&K, Jammu.
2. Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
3. Registrar Generals of all the High Courts.
4. Secretary to Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Department, Govt. of UT of J&K, Jammu.

5. Secretary to Law Department, UT of Ladakh.
....for information.
6. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K, Jammu
7. Secretary to Hon'ble Mr./Mrs. Justice _____
....for information of their Lordships.
8. Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K, Jammu
9. Registrar Rules, High Court of J&K, Jammu
10. Registrar Computers, High Court of J&K, Jammu
11. Registrar Judicial, High Court of J&K, Jammu/Srinagar.
....for information and n/a.
12. All Principal District Judges of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with the request to circulate the same among the Judicial Officers under their jurisdiction.
13. Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu/Srinagar for information.
14. Secretaries of all District Bar Associations of Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
15. Director Information, Government of Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir with request to give wide publicity to the Order in print and electronic media.
16. Director Doordarshan, Jammu/Srinagar with the request to broadcast the same for wide publicity.
17. Incharge NIC for uploading the same on the official website of High Court.


01/06/2020

(Jawad Ahmed)
Registrar General (Officiating)