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Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) is meant for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining related operations, using the funds generated by District Mineral Foundations (DMFs).

The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, mandated the setting up of District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) in all districts in the country affected by mining related operations.

The objective of PMKKKY scheme:

- to implement various developmental and welfare programmes in mining affected areas
- the projects will complement the existing ongoing schemes of State and Central Government
- to minimize the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts
- to ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas.
- Care has been taken to include all aspects of living, to ensure substantial improvement in the quality of life.
- High priority areas like drinking water supply, health care, sanitation, education, skill development, women and child care, welfare of aged and disabled people, skill development and environment conservation will get at least 60 % share of the funds.
- For creating a supportive and conducive living environment, balance funds will be spent on making roads, bridges, railways, waterways projects, irrigation and alternative energy sources.

How the DMFs function?

The DMFs have been directed to maintain the utmost transparency in their functioning and provide periodic reports on the various projects and schemes taken up by them. Power related to sanctioning of fund, preparation of annual action plan and utilization of fund under DMF for the development of the areas affected by mining related operations have been delegated to DMF trust established by State Government by the name of respective district.

It is a non-profit body, with an objective to work for the interest and benefit of persons, and areas affected by mining operations.

By this scheme, the government is facilitating mainstreaming of the people from lower strata of society, tribals and forest-dwellers who are affected the most from mining activities.

Source: xaam.in

Ethical issues on right to information Act

You are a Public Information Officer in a state electricity department. One day, a person asked you for the information about the revenues obtained by the department through collection of electricity monthly bills. Your boss advised you to not to give any information as this would have the potential of exposing corrupt practices in the department in the bill collection. Your boss also threatened you that he would stop your promotion in case you give the information. Discuss in details the ethical issues involved in this case and the possible course of action which can be taken by you.

Analysis

Right to information act was passed to bring transparency in the system by making it a legal right to get information from any public body with some exceptions. Now being a Public Information Officer, it is your duty to abide by the law, failing which heavy and severe penalties can be imposed upon you.

Being silent on corrupt practices makes you also the culprit as well. Gandhiji once said that it is not due to bad people that we are face troubles but it is due to good people remaining silent. Moreover, legally also you are also liable and assumed as corrupt if you are complicit in any crime and support it by remaining silent.

Even if your boss is putting pressure on you not to provide information, you should not stop. You have to show complete integrity and not bow down to any kind of pressure. A life of integrity is worth living for. A life lived by corruption is corrupting one's conscience and once conscience is corrupt, life has no meaning. So protection of one's conscience should be done at any cost, come whatsoever. It may be that your boss stops your promotion but living to your principles makes your soul happier and you will be relaxed and morally strong and free from any criminal liability. Also, doing your duty with devotion in the long run will give you rewards and no one can snatch your promotion which you truly deserve.

In the long run, disclosing information will give the public a chance to understand the problem with electricity department better. This may streamline the processes and fixation of responsibilities. Finally, it may improve the functioning of a public department. So, just by doing your duty with dedication, corrupt will get punishment, law will be upheld, nation resources will be put to efficient use. So disclosing the information as per the law is the best course of action

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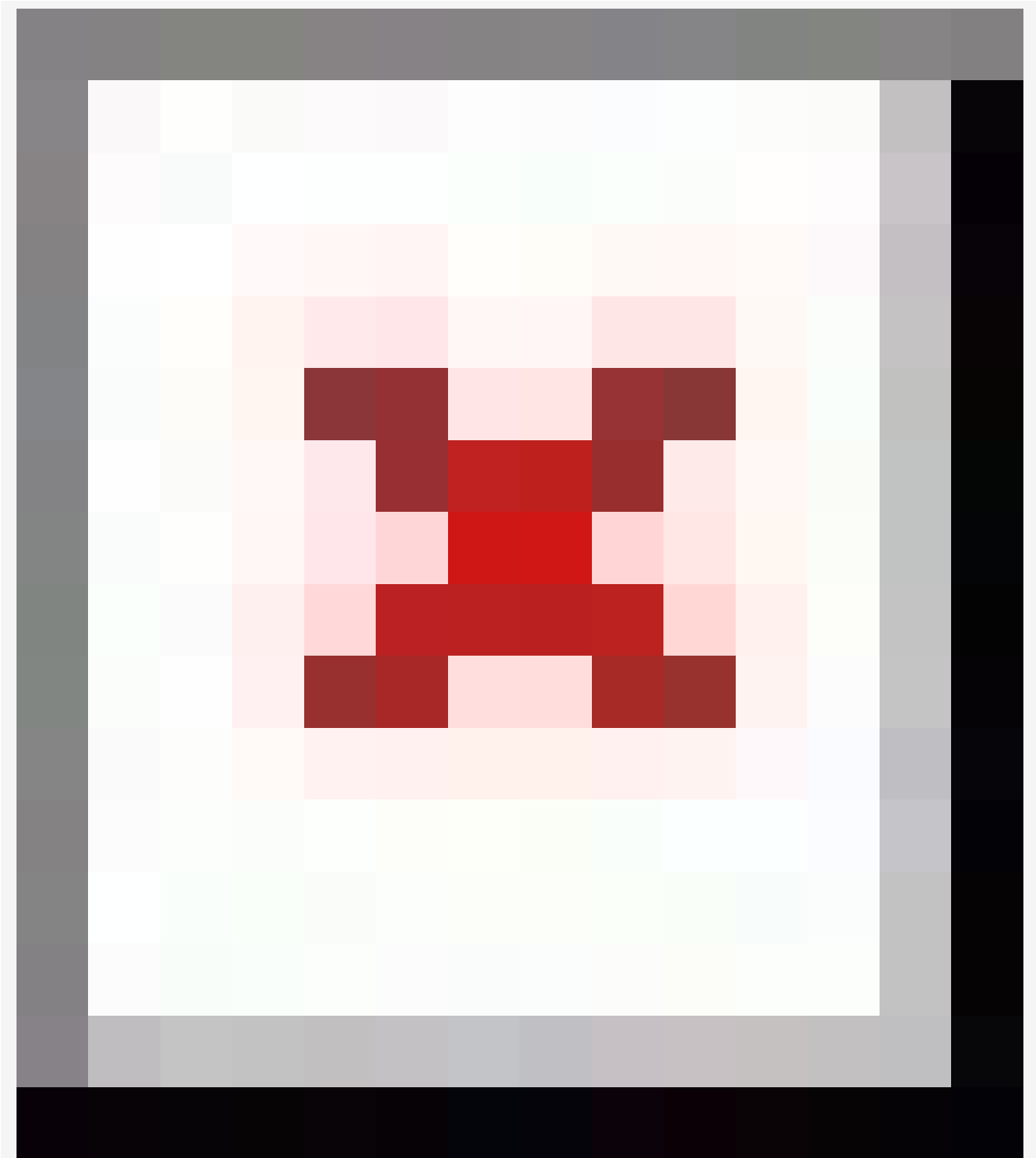
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Madhya Pradesh houses world's oldest rock art: experts



Pre-historic paintings found in the rock shelters of Bhimbetika, a world heritage site in Madhya Pradesh. The State may be housing the “world’s oldest rock art” with the petroglyph at Daraki-Chattan (hillock) near Bhanpura in Mandsaur district being dated by experts as between 2 lakh and 5 lakh years old.

They have dated the petroglyph at Daraki-Chattan hillock as between 2 lakh and 5 lakh years old.

The petroglyph rock art at Daraki-Chattan (hillock) near Bhanpura in Mandsaur district is the “world’s

oldest rock art" and is almost 2 to 5 lakh years' old, according to experts.

The successful expedition from November 2 to 23 this year for securing scientific dates for the world's earliest rock art was led by Rock Art Society of India Secretary General Professor Giriraj Kumar along with Australian scientist Robert G. Bednarik.

Mr. Bednarik is the topmost rock art scientist in the world and convener of International Federation of Rock Art Organisations (IFRAO), according to Mr. Kumar.

Oldest found so far

"As per our findings, this rock art at Daraki-Chattan in Bhanpur area of Mandsaur district is the world's oldest so far and is about 2 lakh-5 lakh years old," claimed Mr. Kumar, who is also Professor in Rock Art Science at Faculty of Arts in Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra.

"Some of the over 530 cupules on a wall in Daraki-Chattan cave were found during research in the area which began as early as 2002," he said. "Besides we have also found hammer stones which were nearly 5 lakh years old during our research in the area," Mr. Kumar claimed. Giving details about the project, the scientist said, "The field work for the project has just been completed in Mandsaur region of Madhya Pradesh. Its purpose was to secure samples and data to establish the age of the petroglyph rock art at Daraki-Chattan, one of the two Indian sites that feature the oldest rock art known in the world."

"To succeed in this complex task, the project involves the participation of several researchers from India, Australia and Europe. It has been known for some years

that this rock art, consisting of petroglyphs in a quartzite cave, is among the oldest ever found in the world, but so far the full age of this find has remained elusive to the scientists," he said.

Need to protect rock art

Stressing the need to protect this ancient art form which is yet to be fully protected, Mr. Kumar has held discussions about the future of the region, that is very rich in early archaeological evidence, with Mandsaur Collector Swatantra Kumar Singh and MLA Chander Singh Sisodia.

A tourist centre is being established at Gandhisagar on river Chambal near the small town of Bhanpura.

Prof Kumar and Bednarik suggested that to attract international visitors, the tourist centre must have something that is unique to India, if not in the world.

Palaeochannel of its own kind

The Bhanpura region is rich in rock art heritage and has palaeochannel of its own kind and the Daraki-Chattan, hence establishing a stone age museum at this location will become the centre piece of the development.

"This museum, certainly unique in India, and in its proposed form unique in the world, would attract considerable international tourists to the region. The museum's key exhibit would be a precise replica of the cave with the ancient rock art, while the cave itself will never become accessible to the public. This is to protect this irreplaceable cultural heritage for all future," the two scientists suggested.

The project was supported by the Indian Council for Historical Research and the Australia India Council, Canberra.

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