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Jammu bus accident...

and in Uttar Pradesh. Deputy Commissioner of Jammu Sachin Kumar said the treatment of the injured is going on at the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital. The Jammu administration announced on Thursday that it has set up a 24-hour helpline to provide information and assistance to the relatives of the victims. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to those injured. According to some injured passengers, the accident occurred when the driver was negotiating a blind curve and a speeding car was approaching from the opposite direction. However, some passengers have blamed the driver for overloading the vehicle. The accident is the deadliest in the region since a similar one on November 15, 2023 in Doda district, where a bus skidded off the road and fell into a 300-foot gorge, killing 39 people and injuring 19.

Stern action against...

citing the overloaded bus and the responsibility of the passengers, driver and the authorities in various states the bus passed through. "It is not one-sided negligence. That is not the case. First of all, the passengers, who travelled in this 55 seater bus, should have been responsible. The driver, who overloaded the bus, is also responsible. The vehicle passed through several states before reaching Jammu and Kashmir. Those people including their police force too are responsible," he said. Dulloo said that it was the responsibility of some people here too and added an inquiry for that has been ordered and punishment will be awarded to those responsible. The Chief Secretary maintained that best possible treatment will be given to the injured for speedy recovery. "This unfortunate accident resulted in the loss of 22 lives and injuries to nearly 70 people. Our visit to the GMC hospital was to ensure the best possible treatment and welfare of the injured," he said. He said the government is committed to providing the best care, with the entire administration working to save lives. Dulloo also said that the bodies of the deceased would be sent back to their native places.

On the condition of the injured admitted to the GMC hospital here, he said, "Currently, nearly 70 people are admitted to the hospital, with two of them being under monitor. The rest are stable and recovering." According to an official statement, the Chief Secretary termed the incident as tragic and unfortunate and directed the hospital authorities to ensure best medicare for the injured for their speedy recovery. He prayed for those who lost their lives in the road mishap. He extended heartfelt condolences to their families saying that the government would extend all necessary facilities to the accident victims. He assured that best medical care would be provided to the injured. The Chief Secretary directed the administration to enquire into the causes of the road accident so that such incidents are avoided in future.

Pertinent to mention here that a bus carrying pilgrims to Shiv Khori Shrine met an accident here in Akhnoor area killing 22 passengers and injuring many others. The local administration immediately came into action and carried out rescue operation. All the bodies were recovered and injured were taken to GMC Jammu for treatment.

Final phase of...

materials to their respective polling stations. At the 1.09 lakh polling stations, basic facilities including ample shade, drinking water, ramps, and toilets are being provided to ensure that polling takes place in a comfortable and secure environment, it said. The poll panel has also directed CEOs and state machineries to take adequate measures to manage the adverse impact of hot weather or rainfall wherever predicted. The commission called upon voters to turn out in greater numbers and vote with responsibility and pride. The turnout in the first six phases was 66.14 per cent, 66.71, 65.68, 69.16, 62.2 and 63.36 per cent respectively. The campaigning for the last phase which ended Thursday evening saw BJP leaders led by Modi accusing the Congress and the INDIA alliance of being corrupt, anti-Hindu and engaging in loot, appeasement and dynastic politics. The Opposition parties have been claiming that the BJP is anti-farmer, anti-union and will change and scrap the Constitution if they win the elections. On Thursday evening, Modi headed to Kanyakumari where he is meditating till June 1 at the site associated with Swami Vivekananda. Modi had 206 public outreach programmes, including rallies and roadshows, since the Election Commission announced the Lok Sabha election schedule on March 16. The parliamentary seats where polling will take place in Uttar Pradesh are Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Deoria, Bangsaon (SC), Ghosi, Salempur, Ballia, Ghazipur, Chandauli, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Robertsganj (SC), spread across 11 districts.

Uttar Pradesh is a seeing a direct contest between the BJP-led NDA and the coalition of INDIA bloc members Samajwadi Party and Congress. From Chandauli, Maharajganj and Mirzapur, Union ministers Mahendra Nath Pandey, Pankaj Chaudhary and Anupriya Patel respectively are contesting. Late Mukhtar Ansari's brother Afzal Ansari is in the fray from Ghazipur and former prime minister Chandrashekhar's son Neeraj Shekhar is contesting from Ballia. In Varanasi, those contesting against Modi are Ajay Rai (Congress), Ather Jamal Lari (BSP), Kolisetty Shiva Kumar (Yuga Thulasi Party), Gagan Prakash Yadav, (Apna Dal, Kameravadi), and independents Dinesh Kumar Yadav and Sanjay Kumar Tiwari.

The polls in South Bengal, a traditional TMC stronghold, will test the party's dominance amid an 'old versus new' power struggle, with the national spotlight on Sandeshkhali in Basirhat due to allegations of atrocities on women and land grabs.

The seventh phase will cover Dum Dum, Barasat, Basirhat, Jayanagar, Mathurapur, Diamond Harbour, Jadavpur, Kolkata Dakshin, and Kolkata Uttar, where the TMC secured victories in the 2019 elections. TMC heavyweight Abhishek Banerjee, considered the party's de facto number two, is contesting from Diamond Harbour. Banerjee's performance in this seat, which the TMC touts as a 'model constituency', will be closely watched as the opposition attempts to paint it as a 'laboratory of violence'. The two-time MP faces CPI (M)'s Pratikur Rahaman and BJP's Abhijit Das in a three-way contest.

The minority-dominated Basirhat Lok Sabha seat, and specifically the Sandeshkhali segment, is a microcosm of the broader electoral battle as it garnered national attention due to allegations of atrocities on women and land grabs by local TMC leaders.

The BJP has capitalised on these issues by nominating Rekha Patra, a prominent local protestor, against TMC veteran Haji Nurul Islam. The CPI (M) has fielded former MLA Nirapada Sardar, making this a three-cornered contest.

In Punjab, prominent candidates in the fray are four-time MP Preneet Kaur, former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, three-time MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Ravneet Singh Bittu.

The BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal are contesting the polls on their own for the first time since 1996 while two INDIA bloc parties - the Congress and AAP - have fielded their own candidates.

The prestige of Ranaut and Himachal Pradesh minister Vikramaditya Singh Singh, the heir of the erstwhile Rampur royal family and son of six-time former chief minister Virbhadra Singh, is at stake in Mandi.

Stakes are also high for Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Thakur, who is seeking a fifth term from Hamirpur, and former Union minister Anand Sharma, who is the Congress candidate from the Kangra Lok Sabha constituency, while for Sukhu, the six assembly bypolls are for survival and stability of his 17-month-old government.

In Bihar, Union minister RK Singh is aiming at a hat-trick from Arrah, where his principal challenger is Sudama Prasad, a sitting MLA of the CPI (ML) Liberation.

In Patna Sahib, veteran BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad is aiming at a second consecutive Lok Sabha term. His principal challenger is Congress spokesman Anshul Avjitt, son of former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar and grandson of Jagjivan Ram.

In Pataliputra, Misa Bharti is trying her luck for the third time. BJP MP Ram Kripal Yadav is aiming at a hat-trick.

Karakat is witnessing a multi-cornered fight which is being most talked about because of Bhojpuri superstar Pawan Singh, who is contesting as an Independent. Singh entered the fray after having earlier turned down a BJP ticket from Asansol in West Bengal. The move has led to his expulsion from the

party. Upendra Kushwaha, a former Union minister who heads the Rashtriya Lok Moreha, had won the seat in 2014 but lost it five years later upon quitting NDA. He is hopeful of wresting the seat back following return to the BJP-led coalition. The CPI (ML), which has a strong presence in the area, has fielded Raja Ram Kushwaha, a former MLA and farmer leader. The pitch has been queered further with the AIMIM fielding Priyanka Chaudhary, a Zila Parishad member.

Fire engulfs several...

including drones, to combat the fires. However, the challenging terrain, coupled with high temperatures and dry conditions is making firefighting efforts particularly difficult, they said. In the Nowshera Sub-division of Rajouri district, forest fires continue to cause significant damage. The dry weather and scorching temperatures are contributing to the severity of the fires, the officials said. A forest officer highlighted the critical role of prevention, with five fire watchers deployed in each of the division's 11 blocks. She emphasized the human factor in the ignition of these fires and urged the public to steer clear of forest areas, especially avoiding the use of cigarettes and other potential fire sources. In Jammu city, a minor incident occurred at the Government Medical College Hospital, where an old truck caught fire. The flames were quickly extinguished by fire service department tankers, the officials said.

Efforts to contain and extinguish the fire across the Jammu region continue, with the officials and locals working together to mitigate the damage, they said.

Phase III of...

management and transition of various facets of judicial dispensation by overcoming various challenges encountered during the journey. While highlighting the advantages of the technology, Justice Kotiswar emphasized that his addressing the participants in today's workshop seamlessly through virtual mode and joining of Joint Secretary, Department of Justice, Government of India was made possible only because of technological advancement made in the Judicial infrastructure. He expressed happiness that the fear developed due to intervention of technology was overcome and Justice delivery system has become not only convenient but also transparent and accessible to the common masses with introduction of Case Information System, Digitisation, E-filing, and E-payment etc. The Chief Justice emphasised that Phase III is going to transform the overall Indian Judicial Scenario in the coming days in incredible ways.

In his special address, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Member IT Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, shared the historical perspective of development of e-courts project and hoped that its Phase III will prove to be a boon in the justice delivery system. He lauded the contribution of Justice Badar Durez Ahmad, former Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, for providing impetus to the e-Courts initiatives both in the High Court and District Judiciary of J&K. He urged the delegates to derive maximum advantage out of the present workshop.

Joint Secretary, Department of Justice, Government of India, P.P Pandey, virtually addressed the inaugural session from New Delhi and complimented all the stakeholders for timely achieving the targets of e-Courts project. He also expressed optimism by stating that phase III of the e-Courts project will bring the Indian Judicial system far ahead in the world so far as the use of technology is concerned. He assured full support of the Department of Justice, Government of India in the execution of the project.

Arulmozhi Selvi, Member (Human Resources) E-Committee, Supreme Court of India, addressing the participants, stated that it was the initiative of the Chief Justice of India, to organise such workshops in different zones of the Country so that the developments in technology and the needs of the Project are brought to the doorstep of the actual stakeholders.

Earlier, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Y.P.Bourney, presented a formal welcome address.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Anoop Kumar Sharma, Registrar Computers (IT) cum Central project Coordinator, High Court of J&K and Ladakh who also presented formal vote of thanks.

Other dignitaries and guests who graced the occasion included D.C.Raina, Advocate General, Tahir Shamsi, Deputy Solicitor General, India, Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, Jawad Ahmad, PDJ, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief, Registrar Vigilance, Rajendra Sapru, Registrar Rules, Sandeep Kour, Registrar Judicial (Jammu), Prem Sagar, Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, Rajni Sharma, Joint Registrar (Judicial), Jammu and Abdul Bari, Joint Registrar (Judicial), Srinagar. The event was also live streamed on YouTube channel of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

Srinagar Airport operations...

an hour, resumed later, the officials said. Investigations on the origin of the threat call have been initiated, the officials added. Meanwhile, a spokesperson of the airline confirmed there was a "security concern" on Vistara flight UK 611 operating from Delhi to Srinagar, which was brought to the staff's attention while on board. "Following the protocol, we immediately informed the relevant authorities, and the aircraft was taken to the isolation bay after safely landing at the Srinagar International Airport where all passengers were disembarked," the Vistara spokesman said.

Educationists' role essential...

and educational bodies, who joined hands in intensifying the fight against growing menace of tobacco use particularly among the young generation. Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority, also played a key role in organizing this event who joined virtually displaying his resolve in raising voice against this menace.

In his inaugural address, Justice Tashi highlighted the need for raising awareness among the younger generation about the ill effects of tobacco and tobacco products. He emphasized the role of parents and teachers in this endeavor, noting that "tobacco is the first step towards substance abuse" and stressed the importance of keeping students away from such harmful practices. He further stated that in order to achieve tobacco free society concerted efforts by educationists is need of the hour.

Adding to the day's activities, a painting competition on the theme "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference" saw enthusiastic participation of students, highlighting their creativity and commitment to the cause. Additionally, a rally led by students, was flagged off by Justice Tashi, resonating through the area, amplifying their collective voice against tobacco consumption.

The event featured presentations by Dr. Tawseef Ahmad, Chairman Kashmir Concern, Manzoor Ahmad Wangnoo, Chairman, Bilaliya Educational Institute and Advocate Syed Mujtaba, Child Rights Activist, who shed light on the severe health consequences and societal impact of tobacco consumption, reinforcing the message that preventive education is critical.

The event also featured dynamic performances by students from Crescent Public School and Bilaliya Educational Institute, who creatively showcased the ill effects of smoking and tobacco use through engaging skit and presentations. These performances were not only educational but also left a lasting impression on their peers and the wider community.

The programme witnessed active participation of Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA, Srinagar, Yasmeen Jan, Secretary to Justice Tashi Rabstan, Muzamil Hayat Kabli, Under Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Shakeel Ahmad Dar, Chairman Crescent Public School, Manoj Gupta, Chairman of Agri Industries Vikas Chamber, Advocate Syed Mujtaba, Child Rights Activists and Dr Tariq Ahmad Dean Academics Crescent Public School, Srinagar. The faculty members, staff, para-legal volunteers of DLSA, Srinagar, volunteers of Kashmir Concern, and students from Crescent Public School and Bilaliya Educational Institute were also present, reflecting a broad-based community commitment towards the cause.

As the programme concluded, it left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all participants, reaffirming their collective resolve to fight tobacco use and protect future generations from its harmful effects.

The programme proceedings were conducted by Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary, DLSA, Srinagar.

Security forces launch...

personnel. A senior police officer said the entire region around the identified location has been cordoned off and the search operation is underway.

PILs on accidents...

transverse bar marking (TBM), paved shoulder, Thrie Beam Crash Barrier, Modified E-centric load terminal, object hazard marker, cross drainage structure, built-up area caution sign need to be installed.

Block spots-1 in Assar village NH-244 passes through very steep gradient, blind curves and hairpin bends, 150 meter of road section went into the reser-voir. After that incident, BRO constructed this section in a short span of 1.5 month. The construction was done by BRO for emergency purpose, thus the safety standards are not perfect. Copy of report of the Expert Committee dated March 14, 2024 with respect to Ramban, Batote-Doda and Kishtwar National Highway 244 is enclosed as Annexure-1.

Measures with respect to Mughal road section between Buffliaz and Poshiana (28Km) are as under:-(i) The Expert Committee recommends the installation of Road studs as per IRC Code, lane marking and edges line marking, transverse bar marking (TBM), paved shoulder, Thrie Beam Crash Barrier, Modified E-centric load terminal, object hazard marker, cross drainage structure, built-up area caution sign at various locations. (ii) For accident black spots several measures are recommended.

Few are listed for reference as under Spot 1- Crash Barriers need to be installed with night time safety measures. Spot 2- Objection hazard marking is required. (c) Spot 3- Crash Barriers were not continues.

DB said that Copy of report of the Expert Committee dated 14.03.2024 with respect to Mughal road section between Buffliaz and Poshiana (28 Km) is also enclosed.

Delhi court to...

The matter relates to the alleged corruption and money laundering in the formulation and execution of the Delhi government's now-scrapped excise policy for 2021-22.

Chief Secretary chairs...

"housing' and 'education' being more of a long term investment in the local as well as national economy", he added.

As part of strengthening their presence across all the rural pockets of the UT, Chief Secretary urged the banks to consider on-boarding of already available Common Service Centres (CSCs) and VLEs as their Business Correspondents (BC) to expand their outreach in the under-served areas for providing better banking opportunities to the people living in these neglected pockets of the UT. Citing states like Orissa and Jharkhand as examples, banks need to have either a branch or BC in every Panchayat to serve the common people especially in rural areas", he said.

Chief Secretary also emphasized upon the need to ease out the formalities in sponsored schemes for the general public to make these schemes hassle free.

Speaking about the lack of sufficient financial penetration in J&K, Principal Secretary (Finance) Santosh D. Vaidya stressed upon the need to increase lending in J&K so as to achieve the equitable 'financialization'.

Earlier, in his welcome address MD & CEO, J&K Bank Baldev Prakash expressed optimism saying, "With the kind of support from UT Government, RBI and NABARD we have all the reasons to be optimistic that the banking credit scenario in UT of J&K shall experience new beginning and be a facilitator for inclusive development of the UT of J&K."

He assured J&K Government that banks operating in J&K UT will continue to extend all possible support for implementing the programmes and schemes aimed at entrepreneurial development, employment generation and poverty alleviation in the UT.

Earlier General Manager, J&K Bank, Syed Rais Maqbool while making presentation on the financial achievements of various banks during Financial year 2023-24 informed that banks in J&K have disbursed Rs.66,052 Crore to 18.15 Lac beneficiaries registering an achievement of 128% in financial terms and 110% in physical terms of Annual Credit Plan 2023-24.

It was also informed that banks have sanctioned loans to the tune of Rs 2234 Crore to 50,418 beneficiaries under major employment generation schemes during the period. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair presented by General Manager, J&K UTLBC.

Tribunal quashes demolition notice to Aeroplane restaurant at Kud

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Member Special Tribunal Jammu Asif Hamid Khan quashed the demolition order No. PDA/BOCA/KH/09 dated May 24, 2024 issued by respondent Authority under Section 7(3) of the COBO Act of Aeroplane restaurant at Kud.

The said order has been passed in a petition filed by Vishal Bamotra in which Adv Veenu Gupta with Adv Mohit Vaid filed appeal before the Tribunal by the appellant on May 28, 2024 is preferred under Section 13 of the Control of Building Operations Act, 1988 (For short: 'COBO Act) against demolition order No. PDA/BOCA/KH/09 dated May 24, 2024 issued by respondent Authority under Section 7(3) of the COBO Act.

Controversy in present appeal is unique, pertaining to a decommissioned aeroplane, once said to be flying from Delhi to London, which landed in pieces on agricultural land situated at Tamatar Morh, Village Kud, Tehsil Chenani Kud, Patnitop. Said aeroplane purchased as scrap by appellant and transported to the site in question, was assembled at the site for commercial use as a Appellant submitted application for building permission to Jammu the BOCA, Patnitop on October 22, 2022. Subsequently on November 9, 2022, the then Chief Executive Officer, Patnitop Development Authority forwarded the building permission case submitted by appellant to all the concerned departments for grant of NOC.

However, the Town Planner vide his letter dated December 8, 2022 declined to issue NOC as the site in question is located under approved "Agriculture" Land Use in the Master Plan in vogue where proposed construction is not permissible. Record produced by respondent Authority shows that on February 8, 2023, the then Chief Executive Officer, Patnitop Development Authority forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur (Chairperson BOCA, Patnitop) Application No. 10010301202320136504 submitted by appellant and the other co-sharer of land in question measuring 06 Kanals, for change of land use from agriculture to commercial purpose. The communication was issued in the backdrop of objection raised by the Town Planner; Udhampur aforesaid and in light of S.O. 439 dated December 24, 2021. Special Tribunal after hearing Adv Veenu Gupta in length, observed that Sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Act, makes a provision for issuing a show-cause notice by the authority in respect of erection and re-erection of any building without the permission or in contravention of any condition subject to which any permission has been granted. Sub-section (3) of Section 7 provides for issuance of demolition order in case concerned person fails to submit reply to show-cause notice or authority is satisfied that such construction is being raised without permission or in contravention of the permission.

Thus, the authority under Sub Section 1 of Section 7 has to indicate the nature of the violation in the show cause notice. The purpose behind the aforesaid provision is to provide an opportunity to concerned person to explain alleged violation.

The authority can pass an order under Sub-section 3 only on the basis of oundas stated in the show cause notice. The order of demolition, therefore, cannot be passed and never indicated in show-cause notice and for which no opportunity was given to concerned person, Tribunal held. It is settled principle of law that unless the foundation of the case is made out in the show cause notice, the party cannot be allowed to argue the point not raised therein. The Hon file Supreme Court in Commissioner of Central Excise Bhavneshwar v. M/s Champdany Industry Ltd reported in 2009 (8) Supreme-345, has settled the law on the aforesaid point in the following lines:- "Apart from that, the point on Rule 3 which has been argued by the Learned counsel for the Revenue was not part of its case in the show cause notice. It is well settled that unless the foundation of the case is made out in the show cause notice, the Revenue cannot in court argue the case not made out in its show cause notice."

"For the aforesaid reasons, the impugned order is found to be suffering from illegality and incurable defect, there being no proof to establish the valid service of the show cause notice on the appellant, rendering the subsequent statutory proceedings including the impugned order to be illegal. Therefore, appeal is allowed and the impugned order is set aside. The BOCA shall be at liberty to proceed afresh against the appellant for violation of the Building Bye-Laws, by strictly adhering to the procedure prescribed under section 7 of the COBO Act. The question regarding the land use has not been considered by this Tribunal for the reasons mentioned hereinabove, as such, no prejudice shall be caused to either side, if any, fresh proceedings are carried out by the BOCA against the appellant.

With regard to other grounds urged by the parties but not specifically dealt for returning finding, shall not be construed as expression of any opinion by this Tribunal. Appeal is accordingly, dispose(d) of, it may be consigned to records. The record received from the respondents may be returned alongwith a copy of this order. In view of above discussions, Special Tribunal ordered that appeal is allowed. Impugned demolition order being defective on grounds discussed hereinabove is accordingly set aside. Liberty is however granted to the respondent Authority to proceed in accordance with law, only after deciding the applications for change of land use and building permission pending disposal since long with the respondent Authority vis-a-vis the appellant. Till such time, respondent Authority is restrained from clipping the wings of the Aeroplane in question.

