

HISTORIC MOMENT: WOMEN RESERVATION BILL

BUREAUCRACY INDIA

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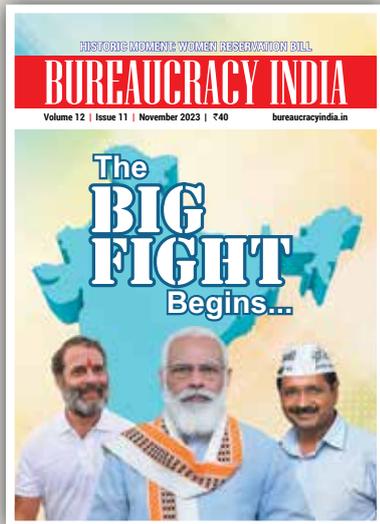
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Editor Deepak Vyas
deepak@bureacracyindia.in

Executive Editor Suhani Nagpal

Spl. Correspondents

Bureau North Tanya Arora
Bureau East Deepshika Chandra
Bureau West Naman Mukerjee
Bureau South Srinivas Iyer

Political Correspondent Dhvani Vyas

Guest Writer Sunil Kapoor
Vibha Gurtu

Graphics Fill and Strokes Media

Photography Varun Gogna

Digital & Web Support Knitdreams

Director Operation A.K. Sharma
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Phase – I, New Delhi - 20

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For Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations contact Suhani Nagpal: 91- 8800149149
suhani@bureacracyindia.in

Editorial Team can be contacted at:
H-125, Phase – 1, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi - 110052



The month of October marked the beginning of the festivities as we have Navratras combined with Dussehra/ Durga Pooja/ Garba celebrated differently at different parts of the country. In North India, the Ramleela Manchan is quite popular and we bring you a showcase of the most popular Ramleela, which has created a spectacular moment by converting New Delhi to Ayodhya ahead of the completion of the most prolonged and controversial Ram Mandir at Ayodhya.

The last month has made Delhi the most polluted city in the World. The schools are shut, Diesel Vehicles are banned and all Delhiites are suffering with chest infections, which will take months to cure. Why does this happen every year? Which government is responsible for this? We give you an insight story on the same.

Our Cover story focuses on Assembly Elections and the factual situation of the three main parties, (INC, BJP and AAP); which are preparing themselves for the first phase of Elections in November and December in 5 states. With the formation of INDI-Alliance in respect to stand strong and together against BJP and Modiji, will the Congress and AAP be able to gain majority in the upcoming elections? Find this and much more in this edition of our magazine.

Our special story celebrates the landmark Women Reservation Bill, which has been passed after 27 years of being proposed. We have traced the history of all these 27 years and shared the victorious journey of the same.

The ED story has gained a lot of popularity as now we have none other than the CM of Delhi, Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, to witness the ED probe in the liquor scam case. Is this a political move or not? Find out more in the Political Picture.

Some more interesting stories from Law, Culture, Religion, Events and Tourism also awaits your attention. We hope you enjoy and we welcome your suggestions as always.

This holy month belongs to Lord Ram's victory over Evil and his coming back to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. We wish all our readers a very Happy Dussehra and Diwali.

Deepak Vyas
Editor



Feel free to write back to us at bureacracyindiamag@gmail.com and follow our social media handles.



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The blame game continues... for India's breath of death every winter

In many parts of India, the arrival of winter is not just marked by a drop in temperature. It ushers in a season of breathing difficulties and poor visibility, forcing everything to shut down. Nowhere is this more evident than in the nation's capital, New Delhi, which ranks as the third most polluted city globally following Lahore in Pakistan and Hotan in China.

The city's air quality consistently fluctuates between "very poor" and "severe" with certain areas reaching "hazardous" levels registering air quality indexes as high as 700 and more. While children under the age of 18 are prohibited from smoking in India, the residents of Delhi are effectively smoking the equivalent of 15 cigarettes a day, just by breathing the air.

The air quality crisis is not limited to Delhi alone. Out of the 30 most polluted cities in the world, a staggering 22 are located in India. The reasons behind this alarming statistic vary with crop burning in northern India and construction activities in coastal cities like Mumbai contributing significantly to the problem.

Air pollution is not just a minor inconvenience; it is a silent killer. It is responsible for strokes, heart diseases, lung cancer, respiratory diseases and even type two diabetes. Every year, approximately 7 million people die due to air pollution with India contributing over a million of these tragic deaths. This is an alarming reality that demands immediate attention.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered good, 51 and 100 satisfactory, 101 and 200 moderate, 201 and 300 poor, 301 and 400 very poor, and 401 and 500 severe and above 500, it is hazardous.

The AQI, or the air quality index, in the Lodhi Road area, was recorded at 438, in Jahangirpuri it was at 491, in the RK Puram area at 486 and around IGI Airport (T3) 473 in the last week of October. This is assumed to increase in the days to come.

As per aqi.in, "The current PM2.5 concentration in New Delhi is 23.3 times above the recommended limit given by the WHO 24 hours air quality guidelines value."

PM2.5 are very small particles usually found in smoke and breathing in them can affect health. They are small enough for you to breath them deeply into your lungs. Sometimes particles can enter your bloodstream.

In response to the crisis, the Indian government has declared public health emergencies leading to school closures, construction project halts and various other measures. A ban on BS III petrol and BS IV diesel four-wheelers has been enforced in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Budh Nagar (Noida), as well as surrounding areas. With this, the government aims to mitigate the adverse effects of vehicular emissions on air pollution in the region.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is sprinkling water in different parts of Delhi as a measure against the rise in AQI in the city. Truck-mounted water sprinklers are being used in the central Delhi area in a bid to control the pollution.

With a booming population, a robust economy and a heartbreaking distinction as the eighth most polluted country on Earth, India faces an air pollution crisis of epic proportions, specially during winters.



Restrictions have been imposed in demolition works, loading and unloading of construction materials anywhere within or outside the project sites, transfer of raw materials either manually or through conveyor belts, including fly ash, movement of vehicles on unpaved roads, operation of batching plant, laying of sewer line, waterline, drainage work and electric cabling by open trench system, cutting and fixing of tiles, stones and other flooring materials, waterproofing work, painting, polishing and varnishing works etc and road construction/ repair works including paving of sidewalks/pathways and central verges etc.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will run 20 extra metro trains as people are encouraged to ditch cars and use the metro.

But is this enough? The blame game among politicians continues while the public suffers. The question remains: who is truly accountable for this crisis and are we holding our leaders responsible?

The suffocating reality of India's air pollution crisis is a looming disaster that affects every citizen, rich or poor. The time has come for individuals and governments to take this issue seriously and work towards a cleaner, healthier future. Air pollution is notv fate; it's a man-made disaster that can be mitigated with collective effort and a genuine demand for change. Clean air is a basic right and it's time we demand it for our sake and for generations to come. **BI**



VIJAYENDRA KUMAR IAS POSTED AS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY- YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEPT, HARYANA

Shri Vijayendra Kumar IAS (Haryana 1995), Principal Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department, Principal Secretary, Sainik & Ardh Sainik Welfare Department and CEO, Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary, Youth Empowerment & Entrepreneurship Department, Principal Secretary, Sainik & Ardh Sainik Welfare Department and CEO, Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board.

AMIT RENU IPS APPOINTED SP- NAXAL, JHARKHAND

Shri Amit Renu IPS (Jharkhand 2016) presently waiting for posting , has been appointed as SP- Naxal, Jharkhand Police.



RAHUL HIMALIAN SELECTED AS DIRECTOR (TOURISM & MARKETING)- IRCTC

Shri Rahul Himalian presently Group General Manager, Indian Railways Traffic Service, has been Selected for the post of Director (Tourism & Marketing), Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) recommended by Public Enterprises Selection Board(PESB).

RAJESHWARI SINGH MUNI APPOINTED CMD- NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD

Ms Rajeshwari Singh Muni presently GM & Director, United India Insurance Company Ltd., has been appointed as Chainman-cum-Managing Director of the National Insurance Company Ltd.



HEERALAL SAMARIYA RETD IAS SWORN IN AS CHIEF INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Shri Heeralal Samariya Retd IAS (1985) presently Information Commissioner has been sworn in as Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The

BIG FIGHT

Begins..



The fight to the Indian throne, 2024 has begun with the initiation of the Assemble elections from November, 2023. The three national parties—the Congress, the BJP and the AAP—put their poll strategies to the test in Rajasthan, MP and Chhattisgarh in preparation for the grand contest of 2024. These three states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are among the five going to the polls in November, December and will be the launch pads for the Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party and Aam Aadmi Party for the Lok Sabha election in 2024.

by **Suhani Nagpal**

In most of the 520 assembly seats in these states, the two behemoths of Indian politics; INA and BJP; will be engaged in direct combat. If the BJP dominates national politics, the Congress is in power in two of the states and a strong challenger in the third. For the BJP, which rules 10 states on its own, four in the northeast and three in alliance, winning these states will cement its chances to hold a place in the Centre.

For the first phase of Elections in these five states, it is primarily going to be BJP versus INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance). Being the first big set of polls after 28 Opposition parties came together to form the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance, or INDIA, a comprehensive Congress win will energise the coalition. In fact, the success of the alliance depends hugely on the Congress performance in seats where it is in direct contest with the BJP. Of the 186 Lok Sabha seats where the two face off directly, 65 are in these three states. In 2018, the Congress cornered 282 of the 520 assembly seats in the three states, but it was the BJP that walked away with 62 of the 65 parliamentary seats a few months later. That said, the BJP is not one to take chances and is giving these polls its all.

More so, because the Opposition parties' attempt to split the OBC (Other Backward Class) vote has jeopardised the social strategy that had fetched the BJP handsome gains at the hustings in recent years. These three states, with a massive OBC population, are set to serve as the laboratories for the Congress to test its biggest poll plank. If the party pulls it off, it will also be a hat trick of wins; after Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka; for Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

For Prime Minister Modi and the BJP, these state elections will be a test of the Vikaṣit Bharat narrative. PM Modi will be the face in all three states, like last elections, relegating the state leadership to the background. Although, between 2015

and 2023, the party has lost 10 assembly polls where Modi campaigned extensively the PM will certainly want to end the year on a winning note.

As the Congress gears up for a direct contest with the BJP in the three Hindi heartland states, it will have to contend with the presence of Aam Aadmi Party - which recently got the status of a national party and is determined to expand its base.

The Congress and the AAP are allies in the anti-BJP front. However, as political rivals in several states the two parties share an uneasy relation.

Arvind Kejriwal has already announced that AAP will contest in all the three states. Soon after the Election Commission announced the poll schedule, Kejriwal said, **“We are prepared to contest the elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh with full strength.”**

In fact, AAP leaders including Kejriwal have gone all out to target the Congress governments in the two poll-bound states. In Chhattisgarh, Kejriwal slammed the condition of government schools under the Congress rule and cited the success of his Delhi model. The AAP has also announced 10 “guarantees” which included Rs 3,000 monthly allowance for the unemployed, a monthly “samman rashi” assistance for women, free electricity, free school education, mohalla clinics.

“We are prepared to contest the elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh with full strength.”

– **Arvind Kejriwal**

In Rajasthan also, Kejriwal has promised several guarantees and sought votes to make a new Rajasthan - free of corruption. Kejriwal attacked Congress chief minister Ashok Gehlot for not taking any action against BJP's Vasundhara Raje over corruption charges.

The Congress leaders have reacted sharply to AAP attacks in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. However, they evaded any direct comments on the issue. It is still not clear if the two parties will enter into an alliance for the state polls. When asked if AAP will contest assembly elections as part of the INDIA bloc, Kejriwal said **"whatever happens will be appraised"**.

Ever since Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced the results of the caste survey in his state on Gandhi Jayanti, the idea of a nationwide caste census has caught the imagination of the Congress leadership, Rahul in particular. Putting its weight behind the demand now, the Congress wants the 50 per cent cap on reservations removed and more allotted to OBCs, Scheduled Castes and Tribes. In all three states, it has announced that if voted to power, a caste census will be government priority.

The BJP has been non-committal on the issue. It's adopting a dual approach instead. The party is aggressively promoting its model of "samagra samajik nyay" (holistic social justice) as a contrast to the Opposition's "bare representative politics". Projecting it as a step beyond reservations, "samagra samajik nyay" promises empowerment on the ground and fulfilment of the economic aspirations of the poor. The recent Rs 13,000-crore PM Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman Yojana is being cited as a representative example, as part of which 18 marginalised artisan backward communities are offered financial assistance along with training and guidance.

The Congress is constantly reminding voters that three of its four CMs—Ashok Gehlot in Rajasthan, Bhupesh Baghel in Chhattisgarh, and Siddaramaiah in Karnataka—are OBCs.

But then PM Modi himself is an OBC, hailing from the Modh community of Gujarat. CM Chouhan, too, is an OBC, besides several other leaders in the three states. In Chhattisgarh, it has replaced tribal leader Vishnu Deo Sai with Arun Sao as state chief. Part of the OBC Sahu community, Sao's elevation could inspire the community to return to the BJP since CM Baghel, a Kurmi, has overshadowed Congress partymen like Tamradhwaj Sahu. Sahus are the largest OBC group in Chhattisgarh, accounting for 14 per cent of the population.

Next year Lok Sabha elections will take place. BJP will form the govt for the third time at the centre... You can see the mess created in the Congress-ruled states...The Congress govt is busy fighting, they don't have time for the public..."

– PM Modi in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh



The tribal population is also equally significant. Historical data from MP, which has a 21 per cent tribal population, shows that the party that wins more seats reserved for STs forms the government. In 2018, the Congress had won 71 of the 101 ST reserved seats across Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and MP.

It was no surprise, therefore, that Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra chose the tribal district of Mandla in the Mahakoshal region of MP to promise that her party will extend the 6th Schedule of the Constitution that currently has provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, safeguarding the rights of tribal communities. The Congress also promised to implement the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996, in MP, directly attacking the Chouhan government, which has yet to implement the same despite repeated promises. Incidents such as a BJP worker urinating on the face of a tribal in July have also lent Congress ammunition against the BJP.

At the same time, the BJP, which claims credit for electing a tribal woman as the country's president, has always retained a sharp focus on tribal votes in these states. If in September 2021, home minister Amit Shah participated in a function to mark the martyrdom of tribal king Shankar Shah and his son Raghunath Shah in Jabalpur, two months later, PM Modi rechristened Bhopal's Habibganj railway station after the Gond queen Rani Kamalapati. In Chhattisgarh's tribal areas, the BJP is promising to convert 827 forest villages into revenue villages, easing the implementation of development projects there.

The sharpest difference in the national parties' approach is in managing the election campaign in these three battle-ground states. The Congress, wiser from its Himachal and Karnataka outings, has let state units take the lead and set the poll narrative. In contrast, the BJP's campaign strategy is being run and regulated from Delhi. If the Congress has already announced Nath, Gehlot and Baghel as CM candidates for MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, respectively, the BJP has steered clear of doing so. In the process, it has placed a question mark over the future of three stalwarts of the party—Chouhan, Raje and former Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh.

The BJP, on the other hand, is fighting the state polls in Modi's name rather than repose trust in the incumbent state leadership, even as it talks of the merits of a double-engine sarkar. In the past year, Modi has visited these three states over a dozen times. He has inaugurated or laid foundation stones for several

projects, and used the occasions to interact with party members, even addressing booth-level party workers.

The BJP has also fielded 21 MPs, including three Union ministers. In Madhya Pradesh, where eight MPs are in fray, Union minister Narendra Singh Tomar, a candidate himself and campaign committee chief, is breathing down Chouhan's neck as are other CM aspirants such as Union ministers Fagga Singh Kulaste and Prahlad Patel, state minister Narottam Mishra and national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya.

AAP, on the other hand, will focus on issues like education, health services, electricity and water as their election agenda as always.

AAP leader Sandeep Pathak said, **“The public has repeatedly given chances to all the parties, and now the public has made up its mind to give a chance to the AAP. This election is going to be very decisive... There was a time when issues like education, health services, electricity and water were not the election agenda of any political party. The AAP has changed the entire scenario of elections and made public interest issues like education, health, electricity, water, women's safety and employment its election agenda. Now, all the parties are also copying us. But everyone knows the reality of a copy and it cannot be as good as the original piece.”**

The BJP, on its part, is continuing to cultivate the labharthi varg, the vote bank it has created out of the 120 million beneficiaries of the various central schemes. While its foot-soldiers pan out to different corners of these states to spread awareness about schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) Scheme, Sukanya Samridhi Scheme—Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PM Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) and Ayushman Bharat, it had even roped in bureaucrats as “rath prabharis” to showcase the government's achievements in the past nine years till the Congress put a spanner in the works.

The Congress is also trying hard to combat every strategy of the BJP. In MP, it announced the Padho-Padhao Yojana, promising free education to students from Class 1-12 and a monthly scholarship ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 1,500. To ensure the BJP did not introduce a scheme that would neutralise its promise, the Congress waited for the Model Code of Conduct to kick in before Priyanka Gandhi announced the scheme in Mandla. The Congress manifesto has more than 1,200 promises

besides, including Rs 25 lakh health and Rs 10 lakh accidental insurance for all, 100 units of power for free, 200 units for half tariff, Rs 1,500 per month to every woman, Rs 1,500-3,000 monthly for two years to unemployed educated youth, restoration of Old Pension Scheme (OPS), waiving farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh, buying paddy from farmers at Rs 2,500 per quintal, wheat at Rs 2,600 per quintal, cow dung at Rs 2 per kg, and an Indian Premier League team from MP.

In Chhattisgarh, CM Baghel is highlighting welfare schemes like the Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay and Godhan Nyay Yojanas, unemployment allowance, procurement of millets and various forest produce at support price, subsidies to paddy farmers and cash assistance to landless agriculture labour. In Rajasthan, Gehlot hopes to make a comeback on the back of schemes like the Chiranjeevi Health Insurance offering coverage of up to Rs 25 lakh, Annapurna food kits, hike in old-age pensions, free power up to 100 units, revival of OPS and free mobiles to young and single women.

The Congress has also tagged BJP for misusing ED, thereby focusing on diminishing the credibility factor of both BJP and ED.

Atmosphere in all the poll-bound states is in the favour of the Congress. On the other hand, the BJP has been exposed by the way they are misusing ED during elections. Now, the situation has come that a CM (Bhupesh Baghel) has alleged ED officials are bringing money into the states for the elections. This will affect the credibility of the agency.

— Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot

However, the BJP has one more ace now to woo the significant women vote in these states—the recently passed Women's Reservation Bill. In MP, women-centric schemes account for a third of the state's budget for 2023-24. CM Chouhan is also placing his bets on the Ladli Behna Yojana (LBY), under which nearly 130 million women are paid Rs 1,250 per month with a promise that the amount would go up to Rs 3,000. LBY beneficiaries will also get gas cylinders at Rs 450, to blunt the Congress's offer of LPG cylinders for Rs 500. The focus on women is evident in Rajasthan, too, where they outperformed men in voter turnout last time. Gehlot has announced Rs 10,000 a year to every woman head of family and increased coverage of the subsidised LPG cylinder for Rs 500.

To counter the BJP's women-centric initiatives, the Congress is reiterating its demand for separate reservation for OBC women within the larger quota for women and highlighting how the Modi government has hoodwinked the nation by linking the implementation of women's reservation with delimitation.

What could also queer the pitch for the three national parties is the presence of caste-based parties like the Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and Gondwana Ganatantra Party (GGP). Despite being part of the INDIA bloc, the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party and SP have yet to arrive at a seat-sharing arrangement in any of the states. Snubbed by the Congress, which wanted to leave only six seats for the SP in MP, the Uttar Pradesh-based party has announced 33 candidates in MP. In 2018, the SP won one seat in MP and finished second in five seats in alliance with GGP.

With so much at stake, all parties are approaching the polls with gladiatorial zeal, deploying almost diametrically opposite tactics, making this duel for supremacy in states endlessly intriguing. 



HISTORIC MOMENT: WOMEN RESERVATION BILL



A historic moment has been created on 28th September, 2023 when the landmark Women's Reservation Bill, (in talks for over 27 years) which seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, has now become a law after receiving the assent of President Droupadi Murmu.

On September 20, the women's reservation Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha after an eight-hour debate, with just two of the over 450 members voting against it. A day later, the Bill was 'unanimously' passed in the Rajya Sabha.

The Upper House had earlier passed the women's reservation Bill in 2010 during the Congress-led UPA government, but it was not taken up in the Lok Sabha and subsequently lapsed in the lower House.

The Women Reservation Bill seeks to reserve one-third (33%) of the total number of seats in state legislative Assemblies and Parliament for women. The bill proposes sub-reservation for SCs, STs and Anglo-Indians within the 33% quota. Reserved seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in the state or union territory. The bill says that the reservation of seats for women shall cease to exist 15 years after the commencement of the amendment act.

It was former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who in May 1989 first planted the seed of women reservation in elected bodies by introducing the Constitution Amendment Bill to provide one-third reservation for women in rural and urban local bodies. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha but failed to get passed in Rajya Sabha in September 1989.

In 1992 and 1993, then Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao reintroduced the Constitution Amendment Bills 72 and 73, which reserved one third (33%) of all seats and chairperson posts for women in rural and urban local bodies. The Bills were passed by both the houses and became the law of the nation. Now there are nearly 15 lakh elected women representatives in panchayats and nagarpalikas across the country.

September 12, 1996, then Deve Gowda-led United Front government for the first time introduced the 81st Constitution Amendment Bill in Lok Sabha for reservation of women in the Parliament. After the Bill failed to get approval in Lok Sabha, it was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee chaired by Geeta Mukherjee. However, the Bill lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Two years later, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government

presented the Bill in the 12th Lok Sabha in 1998. However, this time too, the Bill failed to get support, and lapsed again. It was subsequently reintroduced in 1999, 2002 and 2003 under the Vajpayee government, but with no success.

Five years later, the WRB bill again gained some traction during Manmohan Singh-led UPA government. In 2004, the government included it in its Common Minimum Programme and finally tabled it on 6 May 2008, this time in Rajya Sabha to prevent it from lapsing again. Five of the seven recommendations made by the 1996 Geeta Mukherjee Committee were included in this version of the Bill. The legislation was sent to the standing committee on May 9, 2008. The standing committee presented its report on December 17, 2009. It got the stamp of approval from the Union Cabinet in February 2010. The Bill was eventually passed in the Rajya Sabha with 186 votes on March 9, 2010.

However, the Bill was never taken up for consideration in the Lok Sabha and eventually lapsed in 2014 with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Now the Bill has been finally passed after struggling for 27 years in Modi-led government. After this historic moment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it will usher in an era of stronger representation and empowerment for women in the country.

Confirming this, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal tweeted, **"With the approval of the historic 'Nari Shakti Vandan Act-2023' by President Droupadi Murmu, this Bill has become an important law of India."**

Now, it will be officially known as the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act.

Under Article 111 of the Constitution, the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' (Women Reservation Bill), becomes the first Bill to be passed in the new Parliament building. The seats already reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will also come within the purview of women's reservation.

Minister of state for Food Processing Industries and Jal Shakti Prahlad Patel congratulated everyone and tweeted: **"Only the Modi government had the moral courage to fulfil the demand for women's reservation which was proved by the approval of the cabinet. Congratulations Narendra Modi ji and congratulations to the Modi government."** 

RUDRA

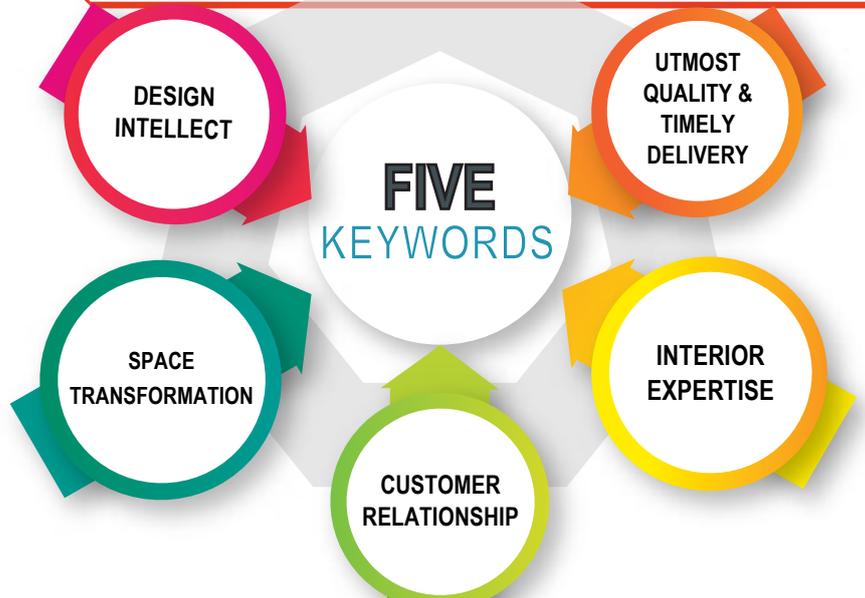
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OPINIONATED KEJRIWAL AGAINST ED SUMMONS AND MODI



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

Kejriwal who is in a fix has put the Enforcement Directorate in a fix by ignoring the summons, stating that he has to campaign for the Aam Aadmi Party of which he's convener. The AAP and the INDI-Alliance cannot be crippled with ED raids, ED questioning and ED arrests of top opposition leaders.

So Kejriwal chose to skip the ED summons. The CBI would have landed "home" and taken Kejriwal away, but the ED takes pride in being civil in its approach.

Kejriwal went to Singrauli in Madhya Pradesh for a roadshow with Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, where he said, he had no idea whether he would be in jail or not, when the election results will come out on December 3.

In a letter sent to ED assistant director, Kejriwal described the summons as "a fishing and roving inquiry". He wrote,

"As the chief minister of the state of NCT of Delhi, I have governance and official commitments, for which my presence is required, particularly in view of Deepavali festivities coming up in the second week of November. In view of the above, please recall the said summons, which, to say the least, is vague and motivated, and I am advised, unsustainable in law...The said summons is not clear as to the capacity I am being summoned, that is, as a witness or a suspect in the case. ...It does not specify whether I am being summoned as an individual or in my official capacity as Chief Minister of Delhi or as a National Convener of AAP..."

The Delhi Liquor Scam isn't a simple case of catching the robber and being done with it. Two senior AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh are already in judicial custody in this case. Sisodia was arrested on February 26 by CBI and his latest bail plea was rejected by the Supreme Court. Sanjay Singh was arrested on October 5 by ED.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "Kejriwal ran away from ED's summons because he does not want to face the truth. It won't be an exaggeration to say that the Delhi liquor scam king has accepted that he was involved in liquor scam and corruption".

He said, ED summons was based on factual evidence and the Delhi CM was trying to place himself above law.

Punjab Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu launched a sharp attack on Kejriwal and described AAP's reaction as "chori aur seenazori".

BJP leaders, in their reactions, used words like 'coward' and 'absconder' for Kejriwal.

INDIA alliance partner Samajwadi



Party chief Akhilesh Yadav alleged that BJP is misusing investigating agencies to throw opposition leaders in jail. RJD chief Tejashwi Yadav alleged that BJP was using CBI and ED to run down state governments which are performing well.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was campaigning in Chhattisgarh, did not name Kejriwal, but told the rally in Kanker that **“those who have looted public money will have to go to jail and return the money, however big the leader may be. Your voice must reach Delhi.”**

This was an indirect warning to Kejriwal. Modi neither named Kejriwal nor did he mention Delhi liquor scam, but his last line **“your voice must reach Delhi”** gave an ominous warning.

Modi's oft-repeated phrase is **“Na Khaaonga, Na Khaane Doonga”**. Modi is clear in his line. There will be no compromise on the issue of corruption. This is true to a large extent.

Modi never listens to others whenever a case of corruption comes to him. He never wastes time judging the political pros and cons of taking such a step. For him, corruption is a big issue. From Day One, his government has acted against those who scammed money from banks, who carried out scams, and pocketed public money from exchequer. Modi has always said, no matter howsoever big or influential one may be, he will not spare him or her. If this is Modi's strength, it is also his biggest challenge, because

opposition parties have come together on a single platform to contest next year's parliamentary elections. The only reason why these parties joined hands is because of ED and CBI. Both these agencies may or may not helped the BJP, but they have indirectly helped opposition unity. ED has linked all the anti-Modi parties in a single threat. Political analysts are now busy calculating whether ED and CBI cases will be a loss or gain for Modi in elections.

Addressing a Press Conference, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha claimed, **“If you'd put the I.N.D.I.A alliance top leadership or party presidents behind the bars, then only BJP will run in the race and win solely...A strategy was formed along these lines in which BJP agencies are going to do the first arrest of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.”**

Raghav also claimed that since 2014, 95 per cent of cases registered by the investigative agencies have been against opposition leaders. He said **“the next target of the probe agency is Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren as the BJP could not digest his popularity. After Soren, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav could be arrested so that RJD doesn't remain capable of contesting elections in Bihar,”** he added. **“Then the focus will be shifted to West Bengal,”** Chadha said.

“Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee.

After these leaders, they will target Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and then top leaders of the Shiv Sena and the NCP in Maharashtra,” he alleged.

AAP leader and Delhi Atish also added, **“The ED action only goes to show the BJP's growing unease with AAP's rise. They are afraid of AAP and Arvind Kejriwal. Our fears were proved right today as the ED raided the residence of our minister and MLA from Patel Nagar, Raaj Kumar Anand.”**

The question arises that will all these arguments and reasoning weigh in court, after the Supreme Court's observations?

The demand that the Enforcement Directorate should withdraw the notice immediately has been rejected and Kejriwal will have to find somebody else to campaign for AAP if he lands in jail.

And the ED is talking of a second summons. What does the law have to say about that? Kejriwal could have taken the court route to avoid the summons, but he chose to be proclaimed offender.

Kejriwal's problem is, if he is out of the AAP scene for more than a week, the AAP will transform into something he never envisaged. There are several aspirants who fancy their chances of replacing Kejriwal at the helm. The AAP convener's wife is a choice.

Atishi Marlena, Raghav Chadda, Somnath Bharti, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann... Any of them can take control of AAP. Kejriwal fears this more than he fears Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP's machinations.

Besides, Arvind Kejriwal in jail is not the same as Mahatma Gandhi and Bhagat Singh in jail. If AAP is proven guilty as accused, AAP and Kejriwal will take the taint to the end of time if the people don't forget them. Arvind Kejriwal has been calling **himself and his ministers “kattar imandaar”**. If he goes to jail on proven corruption charges, it will be his political death. Kejriwal will lose hold of AAP, Delhi and Punjab all at once, together.

How many ED summons can Kejriwal skip? At some point, he will run out of reasons. It was at the Supreme Court's instance that the AAP was made an accused in the case. The Aam Aadmi Party cannot take the ED summons lightly. **BI**

A DELIGHTFUL SIGHT

WHEN DELHI TURNED AYODHYA

by Suhani Nagpal



The picture says it all. More than 10000 people together at one ground lit up the venue in the praise of Lord Ram after Ravana's Vadh at Nav Shri Manav Dharam Ramleela Committee, Model Town, New Delhi.

It was a fascinating view where irrespective of religion, all were Hindus witnessing the epic win of good over evil and standing in awe as if all are welcoming Lord Ram to Ayodhya with the lit Diyas in hand after his 14 years exile.

Ramleela is a theatrical re-enactment of Hindu God Rama's life, capturing his journey along with his wife Sita and brother Lakshman as he is exiled from his own kingdom, his fight and eventual victory over the demon king Ravana that is retold every year around this time to celebrate the triumph of good over evil, culminating on Dussehra.

The Ramleelas in the national capital have gained prominence ahead of the polls next year. BJP leaders in the national capital are making optimum use of the platform offered by Ramlilas to reach out to the public this Dussehra, playing prominent Ramayana characters such as monkey warrior Angad and rain god Indra.

Shri Vikesh Sethi, Councilor, Model Town organizes the most popular Ramleela with great actors in the lead roles. This year we witnessed Shri Manoj Tiwari (Member of Parliament)

as Angad, Shri Puneet Issar as Ravaan, Shri Siddhant Issar as Ram, Shri Danish Aktar Saifi as Hanuman, Shri Surrendra Pal as Kumbhkarana, Actress Harleen Rekhi as Sita among others.

Sharing his delightfulness with BI team in a special interview, Shri Vikesh Sethi said, "With the grace of Lord Ram, Nav Shri Manav Dharam Ramleela has become the most popular Ramleela in Delhi and every year it is beating its own records. This year, everyday, more than 10000 people have witnessed this grandeur depiction of Ramayan on stage. The credit goes to the amazing actors that are performing live, the direction team, the organizing committee's efforts and the three layers of security arrangements that have managed the place so well."

Talking about the challenges to make it a grand success every year, he added; "this year we have added the concept of 'Manav Dharam' (as per the name of the committee), and on account of the same we have distributed 21 sewing machines



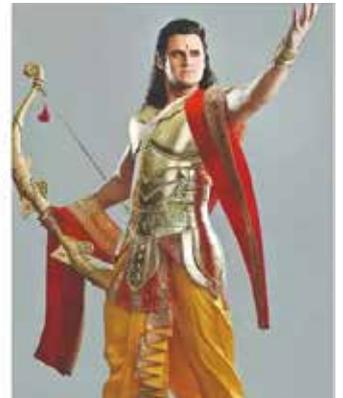
Former Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan was the chief guests at the pandal of Nav Shri Manav Dharam Ramleila Committee of Derawal Nagar

to the poor and needy widow, 21 hearing aides to poor deaf people, 21 scholarships to the poor students, 21 wheelchairs to the needy and 21 silver jewellery sets for wedding and much more. And we always try to spread the message to help in whatever way you can, so that we can continue to walk on the path of the Dhram that Lord Ram has preached us.”

On this occasion Shri Manoj Tiwari, Hon’ble Member of Parliament said “I am very happy to be a part of this iconic Ramleela. Lord Ram life will inspire the coming generations for years.”

Puneet Issar & Siddhant Issar said “It’s our privilege to be part of this Ramleela & it will be our lifetime experience as father son moment.”

Puneet Issar, also known as Duryodhana in Mahabharata, sharing his first-hand experience said, “As an actor, it is always very important to justify and live the character as it is, specially in a theatre or a live event... We need to broaden our gestures so that audience can acknowledge the act. We also need to vary our voice while delivering our dialogues to make it reachable to the audience sitting at the end..



“It’s our privilege to be part of this Ramleela & it will be our lifetime experience as father son moment.”

– Puneet Issar & Siddhant Issar

This year I have performed Shiv Stotram in front of 20000 audience, and we envisaged the Ayodya scene after Shri Ram returns. This has happened for the first time in the history of Ram leela anywhere.”

Truly described, the epic showcase at the end, The grand Shiv Pooja of Ravana, The Krishna Avtaar of Ram and many other elements have made this a grandeur event, that was worth witnessing every day. 

LEGAL ADVICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

by CA Sunil Kapoor



This is to bring to your kind notice that statistic convey that on an average only 8% people in the world live beyond 65 years of age and as a consequence thereof 92 % die before reaching 65. If you are above 65 and own a property (only 30% do) consider yourself privileged.

It is not only imperative to overcome legal hassles but equally important to prepare ourselves for the worst. We request you to consider the following:

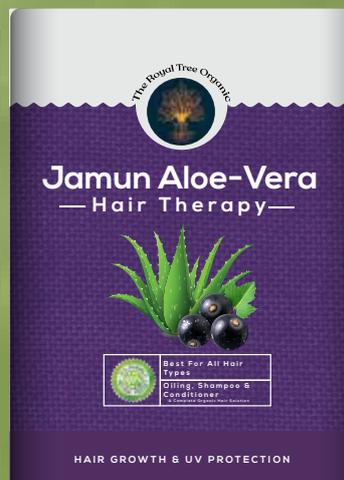
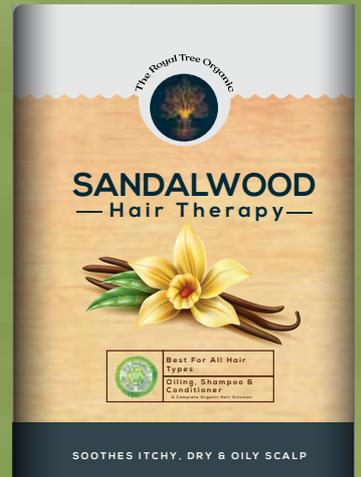
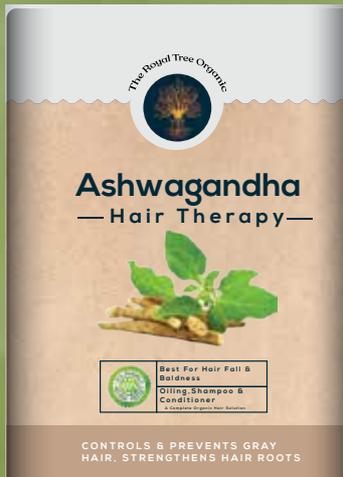
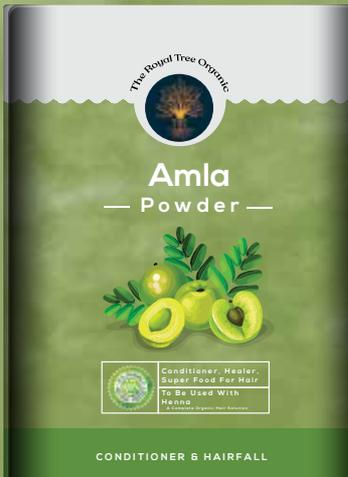
- 1 Please write down the details of all of your saving bank accounts, FDRs and insurance policies in a diary.
- 2 Write down the sources of your income and investments in mutual funds, PPF accounts, securities etc in the same diary.
- 3 Write down the details of equity shares and debentures etc held by you in this diary along with your Demat account no. Explain the above to either your spouse or some member of your family. Do not keep it to yourself.
- 4 Write the name of your most trusted people who need to be contacted in case you get something untoward happens to you.
- 5 Draft a Will with utmost prudence, acumen and being just. Bequeath your assets in favour of your family members after considering all the pros and cons. Execute and register the same before the Registrar under the Indian Registration Act whenever possible.
- 6 In case you have a bank account or FDR in a single name then Call your bankers and execute Nomination papers or make family members joint owners and account operators.
- 7 For your information a SMC certificate is required by Bankers, MCD, NDMC etc to transfer asset in favour of your nominated legal heir. This Survivor Member Certificate (SMC) is to be obtained from the SDM of your area. Apprise them of the same.
- 8 Keep photocopies of your PAN Card Aadhaar Card, passport, birth certificate, copies of latest ITR s handy and place them in a file which can be easily accessible.
- 9 Introduce your spouse etc to your tenants if any and introduce your wife/children to your CA /Legal Advisor so that they know to whom to contact if something goes terribly wrong.
- 10 Prepare and provide a list of Debtors and Creditors to your family members with the name and phone numbers of the concerned persons or entities.
- 11 Please maintain harmonious relations with your friends, relations and neighbors. That counts.
- 12 Apprise your kith and kins that a biological war may be going on between super powers for Domination on this planet. There might be a third or fourth variant intentionally perpetrated to create chaos. Warn them of an invisible enemy lurking in the darkness. They deserve all the love but make them responsible.
- 13 Make a file containing photocopies of tittle deeds of properties that you own. See to it that the link doesn't break. (From the first owner to the last) it should contain Sale deeds, Gift Deeds, Relinquishment deeds, inheritance Will sanctioned plans Completion Certificates etc.
- 14 Apprise spouse of application u/s 128/130 of DMC Act 1957 to be filed towards mutation of property.
- 15 Always compile your tax returns based upon Form 26AS. TIS and AIS available on Income tax.gov.in. It contains the details of your income and specific transactions.
- 16 Try and save at least twenty percent of your income and consider the post Covid period as Post World War II time.
- 17 Keep some cash money after due withdrawal from the bank for any emergency.
- 18 In case you are not into Net Banking or Paytm and do not have a debit card please become net savvy. And apply for one.
- 19 Teach your spouse to make payments for electricity, water, mobile recharge, insurance premium etc.
- 20 Obtain a medical insurance policy. If you do not have one. It is a must.

The above caution or suggestions may seem far fetched but no harm in preparing yourself for the worst. A stitch in time saves nine n better late then never. **BI**

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The Royal Tree believes in pure, organic wellness. Picture a world free from harmful chemicals, where vibrant health is effortless.



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Muthi me mere Ram....



I am a listener. I enjoy the silence and the many sounds of silence. I am a passionate observer too. I snatch the moments from the rush of speed, I hear the unsaid, feel the spirits whispering and relish the blessings.

One of these moments was shared by a kid at heart, a free spirited man.

I met him at the cross roads where fear met the strength. He shared one of his lonely moments when he was scared too. He was the responsible elder son of the clan who carried the hopes of his family, especially his mother's. The boy who always knew that he was being followed to lead him to follow the light. He felt the unseen presence and witnessed the grace. He kept this secret closed in his heart in a treasure box written 'Contain'.

His eyes opened up when he shared this- whenever he got really scared, he would write 'RAM' in his hand and would just close it to form the fist. This carried the strength to each and every veins and arteries of his body, mind and soul. He always felt connected, strong and calm. That very instant, I felt the power and breathed the fragrance of the presence of the ALL.

Krishna is passion, success, strength, compassion, giver and peace.... **BI**

About Vibha Gurtu

Vibha is an author, a practitioner and facilitator of Shamanism and an intuitive healer. Trained in reiki, pranic healing, hypnotherapy, tarot card reading and others, she founded Aumtara, a spiritual hub, in New Delhi. Vibha is a spiritual guide, talk therapist and an image consultant. She uses her learning and experience to create inner and outer balance. Vibha assists people to break repetitive patterns to achieve life goals through clarity. She provides holistic healing to bring a shift internally in thoughts and externally with behaviour and appearance. She has conducted numerous workshops on image makeover, relationships and empowerment at individual and corporate levels.

To learn more, visit www.vibhagurtu.com



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Thailand Extends Visa-Free Entry to India and Taiwan



The Thai Cabinet has approved the temporary visa waivers for travellers from India and Taiwan to stay in the kingdom for 30 days

The visa-free entry will be in effect from November 10, 2023, to May 10, 2024. The Prime Minister also mentioned the plan to extend the operating hours of nighttime entertainment venues until 4 a.m. and expressed confidence that this change would take effect as planned on December 15.

However, there are still legal procedures to be completed, and it is expected that this announcement will be made in the following week, along with measures related to taxation and other tourism incentives, although it may not be in the form of a comprehensive package.

As for concerns about potential issues related to the spread of illegal activities, the Prime Minister clarified that these concerns are not directly related to visa-free regulations. Nevertheless, the government remains vigilant and considers this matter an ongoing priority of the security agencies. (TNA)

INDIAN OUTBOUND TOURISM MARKET TO CROSS \$15 BILLION BY THE END OF 2023



Post Covid, the outbound tourism market has been growing steadily and this growth momentum is expected to continue till about 2032. “India’s outbound tourism market is surging and set to reach \$15.2 billion in 2023, with an anticipated 11.4% CAGR through 2032,” said Gajesh Girdhar, Chairman, Network of Indian MICE Agents (NIMA) at travel show BLTM 2023. “This growth is driven by Indians, particularly millennials, eager to explore international destinations,” he added.

He also said that India is fast emerging as a MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) tourism destination and that it would attract a large number of visitors.

“The MICE tourism sector in India is booming, thanks to government support and infrastructure development for global events. Our tourism sites are aligning with MICE growth. India’s outbound MICE market is one of the world’s fastest-growing. We expect to reach pre-COVID levels by 2024,” he added.

To get a share of the growing outbound tourism segment, Russian cities are seen promoting their destinations heavily.

Despite the Russia and Ukraine war, Indians are seen traveling to Russian cities like Moscow and St. Petersburg.

According to Evgeny Kozlov, Chairman of The Moscow City Tourism Committee, before the pandemic, tourist flow from India

India’s outbound tourism market is surging and set to reach \$15.2 billion in 2023, with an anticipated 11.4% CAGR through 2032

– Gajesh Girdhar
Chairman, Network of Indian MICE

used to grow by 12-15% annually but it dropped subsequently. “Now we are on the road to recovery--all the conditions have been created for this. Indian business tourists were the second most in number in Moscow as of 2022,” he said.

Moscow has also started Moscow MICE Ambassador programme in India to promote the capital city as a preferred destination for business tourism. **BI**

BLTM sees participation of over 200 exhibitors



BLTM, India's leading trade exhibition for Business, leisure and MICE Travel commenced in Delhi on 29th September 2023. BLTM gathered the best of leisure, and MICE under one roof, at the Leela Ambience Convention Centre, Delhi.

The event saw the participation of over 200 domestic and international exhibitors from India, Asia, Europe, and other global destinations.

Among the exhibitors were renowned partners such as Moscow City Tourism Committee, Singapore Tourism Board, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, St Petersburg Convention Bureau, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

These partners were joined by state tourism boards and co-exhibitors from captivating destinations like Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, and Telangana, adding to the event's diverse appeal.

The inaugural ceremony took place in the presence of key dignitaries such as Evgeny Kozlov, First Deputy Head of the Office of the Mayor and the Government of Moscow, Chairman of Moscow City Tourism Committee, Sergey Ivanov, Chairman of the State Committee on Tourism of Tatarstan, Sergei Azarenkov, CEO, St Petersburg Convention Bureau, Kean Bon Lim, Area Director, India, South Asia, and Africa, Singapore Tourism Board, Krishantha Fernando, General Manager, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, RK Suman, Regional Director (North), Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Sanjiv Agarwal, Chairman and CEO, Fairfest Media Ltd and Gajesh

Girdhar, Chairman, Network of Indian MICE Agents (NIMA).

Evgeny Kozlov, First Deputy Head of the Office of the Mayor and the Government of Moscow, Chairman of Moscow City Tourism Committee, said: **“Before the pandemic, the tourist flow from India grew by 12-15 per cent annually. Now we are on the road to recovery – all the conditions have been created for this.”**

Goa Tourism Meets with Travel Agents and Tour Operators at BLTM to Discuss Tourism Initiatives

The Goa Tourism stall at BLTM showcased the state's diverse tourism offerings, including its pristine beaches, lush green forests, rich heritage and culture, and vibrant nightlife. The stall also featured a live Goan band and dance performances, giving visitors a taste of Goan culture.

“We are delighted to participate at BLTM and promote Goa as one of the most popular tourist destinations in India,” said Deepak Narvekar, Dy General Manager Mktg, Goa Tourism Development Corporation. **“Goa has something to offer everyone, from its beautiful beaches and stunning scenery to its vibrant culture and delicious food. We are confident that our participation at BLTM will help us reach out to a wider audience and attract more visitors to Goa.”**

At the trade show, the Goa Tourism team met with travel agents, tour operators, and other tourism industry stakeholders to discuss the state's latest tourism initiatives and promotions. The team also participated in a number of networking events and seminars, providing valuable insights into the Goa tourism market. **BI**



AN INSIGHT TO THE ICONIC EXPERIENCES SHOW (TIES)

India's Travel Trade is booming and is exploring the luxury and experiential travel. To support this a lot of new event platforms are coming into force bringing in new ties across the globe.

Keeping Luxury segment as its main target, Jyoti Mayal, President TAAI joined forces with Chander Mansharamani, MD, Alpcord and in association with the TV9 network, came together to launch this unique event - The Iconic Experiences Show (TIES). News 9 plus, the world's first news OTT platform from the TV9 Network covered the event extensively.

Held at Hyatt Regency, New Delhi on 16th and 17th October, it became a unique platform where luxury enthusiasts converged to explore the latest trends in travel, wellness, weddings, and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions).

With palpable energy levels and highest ever attendance that any show has seen, TIES 2023 was etched in people's mind for not just quality Knowledge Sessions, Networking and Business Opportunities but also the gala evenings and 'Mock-Wedding' that saw people from the industry join in and have a festive time.

This two-day event featured an array of masterclasses, fireside chats, keynote presentations, and panel discussions, all led by distinguished figures in their respective fields, the company said in a press release. It focused on five main sectors of the industry – Weddings, Wellness, Leisure, Conferences and Sustainability. The event was spread over a period of 2 days and followed a very different style and itinerary on both days, offering people a delightful mix of various topics and issues related to all segments of travel, aviation and hospitality.

On day 1, renowned aviation leaders, Aditya Ghosh and Kapil Kaul, shared their insights on the limitless possibilities in the aviation industry. Nakul Anand, Executive Director of ITC Limited, provided a masterclass on sustainable luxury.

The event also highlighted the role of women in achieving sustainability goals, featuring prominent figures such as Rupinder Brar, Jyotsna Suri, Varija Bajaj, and Shobha Rudra.

Wellness enthusiasts were treated to inspiring talks by yoga and spiritual gurus Sadhvi Pragya and Sadhvi Praygya Bharti,

along with Brajendra Nandan Das from ISKCON India.

The discussion on the Indian wedding sector featured experts such as Samit Garg, Chetan Vohra, Vandana Mohan, Sanjana Jon, and Asmita Chakraborty.

The day was dotted with knowledgeable Presentations made by the many Sponsors and Partners of TIES 2023, who presented their product in a unique style, keeping audience hooked and engaged throughout.

The Day 2 of the TIES 2023 took place in an Exhibition Format and saw many Industry Stakeholders take up booth space, showcasing their marvellous products and services to the discerning visitor and Travel / Tour Operator. With pre-fixed meetings with 30 Corporates in MICE, 50 high-end wedding planners and good number of walk-ins, the show allowed ample opportunities to tourism professionals to network and form mutually beneficial business ties.

Numerous countries, including Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, South Africa and Germany, participated in the exhibition, along with multiple states and Destination Management Companies (DMCs).

Jyoti Mayal, the President of TAAI, expressed her motivation behind curating this luxury platform, saying,

“After the pandemic, people wanted to explore travel beyond mundane itineraries. In revenge travel mode, they were seeking experiences. For this, travel agents have to think out-of-the-box ideas. That's why we have come up with TIES, a platform which will provide travel agents an opportunity to interact with states, countries, attractions, DMCs directly and learn how they can add a luxurious element to their package.”

Raktim Das, Chief Growth Officer of TV9 Network, emphasized the transformative influence that India is set to witness in the travel, tourism, wellness, weddings, and MICE sectors. He said, **“A pivotal shift is already happening, and in the years ahead, India will be one of the world's foremost luxury markets.”**

Mayal expressed her belief in the continuing relevance of travel agents, stating, **“I refuse to believe that the era of Travel Agents is over. It is the agents who need to up their game, and TIES is a step in the direction to have them do so.”**

A perfect conclusion to this unique and grand show was the Mock Wedding – a joint collaborated between Ties and Q Events, wherein, through some traditional Indian ceremonies, the rituals and process of an Indian wedding was explained beautifully. Amidst much laughter, networking, good food and great conversation, this edition of Ties 2023 was a resounding success. **BI**

PARALYZED MCD OVERBURDENED WITH BEAUTIFICATION OF DELHI POST G20

BUREAUCRACY INDIA

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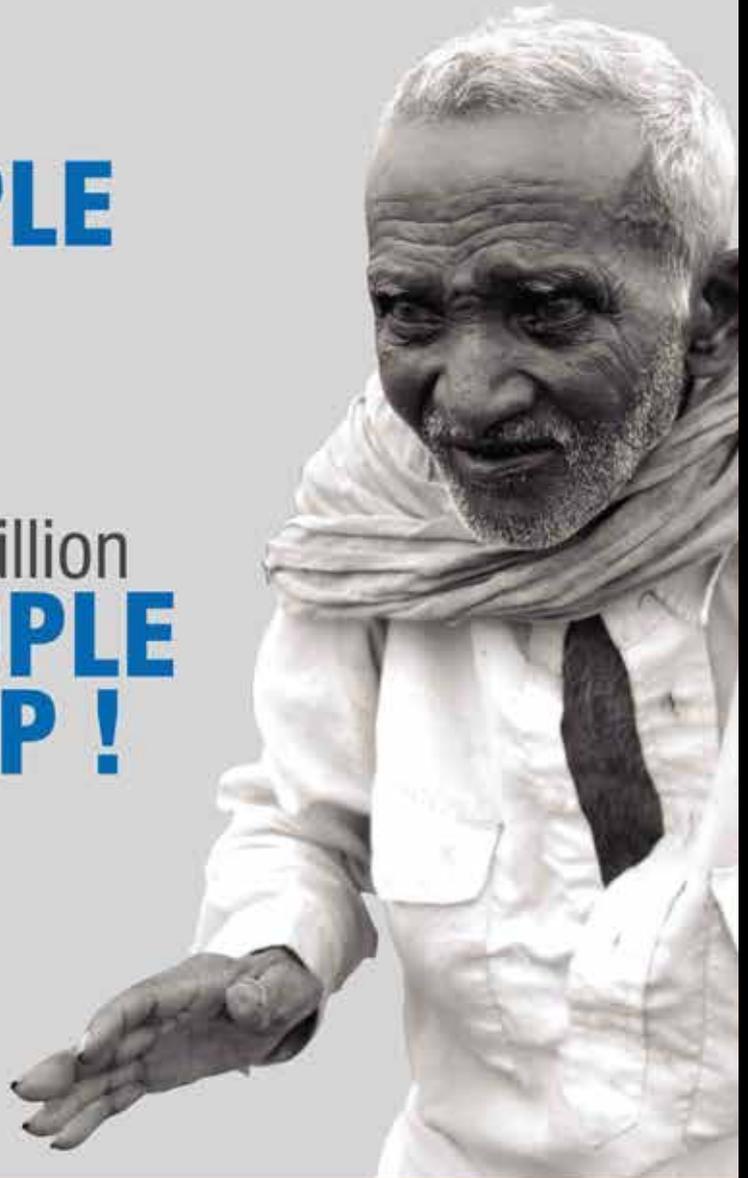
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