

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

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Impact of Weather on Road Safety

Afreen Nawab

It was an eye opener for many when one of the dailies reported that Road Rage increases in the summer wherein the same drops in the non-summer or say in winter and spring seasons. Well, summer temperatures in India can be understood that it makes the drivers crazy because of heat. The Data shows that number of Road rage cases in summer is approx 30 per month which drops to 10 in winters or non-summer months. But that does not mean that number of road related accidents reduces in winter months. In fact it is

otherwise. The number of Road accidents (especially Collision cases) goes pretty high in winters (128) in comparison to the summer months (30-50).

The Road safety is major concern today in India. One of the FM Radio channel is continuously running an awareness campaign in Delhi. We saw the same views were echoed at the 28th IISSM Global Conclave which concluded recently. We need to create an awareness and an ecosystem wherein these unfortunate accidents are brought to mini-

mum. We need to take this issue to the corporate houses for taking up this subject for their CSR activities.

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Reader,

Greetings to you all!

India was extremely engrossed and very busy in the penultimate day(s) of electioneering. Five states viz. Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana (in alphabetical order) went into polling process as per the schedule of the Election Commission and counting was done this week. Prior to that 'Exit Poll' pundits had given their verdict. Majority of them predicted return of Congress in Rajasthan and MP, Raman Singh would maintain his hold over the state and continue for the fourth term and in Telangana and Mizoram, Indian National Congress, a la Rahul Congress would do well but may not be able to turn the table over the TRS in Telangana and likely to keep Mizoram. Well, actual results are there and everybody is saying it is the sign of Return of the Congress. The Newspapers are galore with many types of slogans including 'Pappu G Pass ho gaya' and so on. Nevertheless, it needs to be analysed in its correct perspective. Partially, one may say that Modi-Amit Shah combine Juggernaut has been stopped at least in Hindi Heartland. So, is it the beginning of the refusal of Modi's corruption free good governance and return of the age old family controlled business of politics in India. It will be too early to say, but conch has been blown for 2019. By all counts, Indian public is too smart and they know what is good for them. They know it too well that there were serious requirements to give the central government a message to pay heed to the woes of farmers, which were undoubtedly ignored or at the best one can say that it failed to meet their aspirations. Today farming is nothing but a venture for doing hara-kiri. Insurance for the crops has not taken off that way and the farmers are not getting fair price of their products. Is it not the shame for us that a farmer is compelled to sell onion @ Rs 1 per kilo at his farm to be sold in Delhi @ Rs.30 per kilo? Is it being governed by the laws of 'Demand and Supply' or the market dynamics? As a consumer we are paying the price for the produce but is it reaching to the farmer? Surely, NO! Then who is responsible to ensure that they get their due and do not get into the trap of loan and finally succumbing to the pressure and commit suicide. Secondly, they grossly failed to generate jobs. Reasons may be global but impact was local and that affected the result. Thirdly, focus on 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' was missing all these years. People were tired of narratives of 'Love Jihad', inaction on 'Mob Lynching', use of social media campaign for polarisation of the society which brewed social unrest but yielded nothing. RaGa's approach to answer BJP's hardline Hindutwa with softer Hindutwa might have helped to swing votes in their favour in Hindi heartland but has been punished by the Telangana and Mizoram as both the states have minority population at large. Thus, it is a subject to ponder whether 'Vikas' should be the agenda for 2019 or Religious one-upmanship on temple issue? Is it a win for the Congress or a loss of the BJP? To my mind it was BJP's loss but certainly NOT a win for the Congress!

Back home in Delhi, air quality has been very poor due to low hanging moisture and fumes of the vehicles. But Ghaziabad and Noida were badly affected due to dust created by the construction works. But a drizzle in the last week improved the AQI and sky could be seen and it is actually blue and not Grey. Nevertheless, winter has announced its arrival. Himachal, Uttarakhand and J&K have been experiencing early snowfalls this year and certainly these are signs of abnormality, courtesy 'global warming'. Hope shower of last week brings some cheers to the farmers of the country specially Dal (pulse) production should be good. Again it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that the Pulse growers are rewarded with suitable MSP (Minimum Support Price).

While we were unwinding and taking stock of the situations in the country, there was a ripple in the power corridors of the country. We all were taken aback by sudden departure of Mr. Urjit Patel, the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Although the differences between the government and the RBI were there since sometime and simmering dissension became apparent when the government threatened to invoke Article 7 of the Constitution and that possibly triggered the resignation. Before, the issue could have lapped up by the opposition, election results took the centre stage and the government immediately appointed Shaktikant Das, most frequent face of the government during Demonetisation.

Thanks and Best Regards,
Col (Dr.) MP Sen