

# Editorial

## Of power and the powerful

God works in mysterious ways - but people in power device plans in stranger ways. The rapid soar in the temperature in the state has already sent many to despair and difficulties. Yet we should blame no one but ourselves for the predicament we find ourselves in today. Deforestation, clearing of green patches, encroachment on forest land, disturbing the natural habitat of birds and animals that is vital for maintaining the natural ecosystem of our land - the list goes on. Knowingly or unknowingly we have been shaping our own future, along with the present state of affairs. And while most of us are slowly coming to terms with the reality and are getting acutely aware of the need to halt this drastic change and find ways to reduce the misery we are in right now, yet the Government, while being far from showing any concern or plan for providing any sort of relief to its citizens by improving the supply of power to its consumers, is all set to supply to its neighboring country Myanmar.

The rationale behind this move can only be speculated - if only one would know where to start. The public right now is at a loss for words, no one yet to come up with a plausible explanation. The one person, and a few of his chosen cronies, who might be able to shed some light on the critical matter at present chose not to. Perhaps they have their valid and logical take on this - from their own point of view, as they sit in unbillable air-conditioned rooms which runs all day - and night - supplied by VIP "lines" of which the general public can only dream and crib about, plotting and planning for the greater good of it's people while the very same people for whom they are forever planning laywithered, sunburnt and parched, the heat burning through our very soul, tossing and turning, just to get a moment's respite. Our daily lives have been, for a long time now, a daily adjustment and struggle to keep ourselves in sync for the few hours of power we are so generously provided, to feel civilized and perform every other necessities. Keeping the public in the dark - practically and literally does not bode well for the powers that be.

All and every talks of advancement, of development and improvements, of technology and world class infrastructures will continue to prove to be just lip service no one is serious about, until basic groundwork is in place. Citing social unrest and difficulties in implementation of projects to deflect the real issues have come to be the norm for those who are elected and entrusted with the job of running the Government. And while all these important issues beyond our grasp of understanding is being discussed behind closed doors along the corridors of power, all we are asking is - can we have some light?

## Cracker ban goes up in smoke on Diwali night, Delhi wakes up to hazy morning

**PIT**  
**New Delhi, Oct. 20:** Delhi and the National Capital Region woke up to a blanket of smog today, after a quiet and promising Diwali evening gave way to noisy and relentless bursting of firecrackers till late night yesterday, despite a Supreme Court ban on their sale in the NCR.

The online indicators of the pollution monitoring stations in the city glowed red, indicating a 'very poor' air quality as the volume of ultra fine particulates PM2.5 and PM10, which enter the respiratory system and manage to reach the bloodstream, sharply rose from around 7 pm yesterday.

Real time pollution data appeared alarming. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee's (DPCC) RK Puram monitoring station recorded PM2.5 and PM10 at 878 and 1,179 micrograms per cubic metre at around 11 pm.

The pollutants had violated the corresponding 24-hour safe limits of 60 and 100 respectively by up to 10 times.

While it is difficult to quantify the immediate effect of the ban on firecrackers, residents across the national capital felt the beginning was promising with neighbourhoods reporting much lesser noise and smoke till about 6 pm, compared to the previous years. But as the festivities picked up, the faint echos of crackers started growing louder. According to the SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research), the 24-hour rolling average of PM2.5 and PM10 were 154 and 256 micrograms per cubic metre respectively at around 11 pm yesterday.

It has forecast that the pollution levels will peak between 11 pm and 3 am.

The situation was similar, if not worse, in the neighbouring regions of Delhi such as Gurugram, Noida and Ghaziabad, where crackers were burst as usual, raising question marks on the efficacy of the administration in enforcing the apex court's ban.

# CCTNS Digital Police Portal launched to fast-track Criminal Justice System in the Country

**By: Deepak Razdan (PIB Feature)**

As crime continues to grow, and criminals turn tech-savvy, police investigators across States face a tough challenge to bring the law-breakers to justice. The situation is, however, undergoing a revolutionary change. The Digital Police Portal launched by the Government of India as part of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), in August this year, will not only help police sleuths track the criminals fast, but also help the victims seek redress online.

The total IPC crimes in the country increased from 28.51 lakh in 2014 to 29.49 lakh 2015. According to the Union Home Ministry's latest annual report (2016-17), the share of IPC crimes to total cognizable crimes in percentage terms was 37.2 per cent in 2011, and it increased to 40.3 per cent in 2015. The crime rate, which shows the number of crimes per one lakh population, too increased from 497.9 in 2012 to 581.8 in 2015.

In such a complex scenario, the Digital Police Portal, with its various features, is expected to be a game-changer. The CCTNS portal will provide investigators the complete record history of any criminal from anywhere across the country.

Equipped with a Google-type Advance Search engine and ability to give analytical reports, the portal is expected to become the backbone of the country's criminal justice system. For the State Police organisations and investigating agencies like the CBI, IB, ED and NIA, the Digital Police Portal provides a National Database of crime and criminals with facility for 11 searches and 44 reports. This will improve national security and revolutionise the way police works in the country.

To citizens, the Digital Police Portal offers online facility to register FIRs.

There will be initially seven Public Delivery Services in 34 States & UTs, like Person and Address Verification of employees, tenants, nurses etc; permission for hosting Public Events, Lost & Found Articles and Vehicle theft. The portal will turn criminal investigation completely citizen-friendly affair. The citizens' reports and requests are forwarded to State and Union Territory Police without loss of time for follow-up action.

In 2004, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) initiated a project named- Common Integrated Police Application (CIPA) as a component of the "Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF)" project, aiming at computerization of crime records in police stations on a stand-alone basis. The need for setting up of a national database of crime records was realized later, and the MHA introduced a Central sector project of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) in 2009, with the objective of inter-linking all police Stations under a common application software for the purpose of investigation, policy making, data analytics, research and providing Citizen Services.

The project provided the State Police officials with a platform to enter Crime & Criminal data onto a CCTNS application, which could be accessed any time through State database at State Data Centre as well as at National Database at National Data Centre (NDC). The total approved outlay of the CCTNS project is Rs. 2000 Crore. The Central government provides funds to States and Union Territories towards hardware, CCTNS software, connectivity, system integration, data entry of legacy data, project management manpower and training. The Centre has released to States Rs 1450 crores out of which Rs 1086 crores have been spent by the States and UTs.

At present, the CCTNS software is deployed at 14284 Police Stations out of the 15398 Police Stations covered under the scheme. A total of 13775 Police Stations out of 14284 Police Stations are using this software to enter FIRs 100 per cent. As many as 13439 Police Stations out of the 15398 Police Stations covered by the scheme are already connected and linked with State & National database of Crime and Criminal records. The total number of FIRs registered using CCTNS leapt from less than 1.5 lakhs in March 2014 to about 1.25 crores before June, 2017, registering a jump of almost 100 times. Thirty-four States and UTs have launched their State Citizen Service portals with key services such as reporting a crime, request for verification, permission for events etc. Thirty-five out of 36 States and UTs are sharing data with National Crime and Criminal database. The system has seven crore records for crime and criminal data including 2.5 cr FIR records and legacy data.

The scope of the CCTNS project has been enhanced to integrate the Police data with other pillars of the criminal justice system namely - Courts, Prisons, Prosecution, Forensics and Fingerprints and juvenile homes, and accordingly a new system - "Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)" has been developed. The ICJS system has been developed as a dashboard approach with an advance search facility for the purpose of retrieving the desired data from the system. The ICJS project is being monitored by a Working Group chaired by a Supreme Court judge, Mr Justice Madan B. Lokur.

State police organisations and all investigating agencies have been greatly empowered by the Digital Police Portal. The portal provides 11 searches and 44 reports based on CCTNS National database. The

advanced search is equipped with high performing search and analytics engine. The advanced search can be carried out in two ways. In the first way of search, the search engine will look for full names entered (for eg. Name and Relative Name) but will get all the records where one or both of these names exist. In the second way of searching, it also fetches records with partial matches and returns all the results.

There are various kinds of filters available on the portal through which data can be sorted and narrowed down. Search can be carried out through Person Name, Person and Relative Name, Person and Act/Section, free text search and exact search on FIR Regd. Number/Mobile Number/Email. The CCTNS portal will provide investigators the complete record history of any criminal from anywhere across the country.

The software offers Google-type Advance Search engine and analytical reports. Recently, the software was used to trace mentally challenged women from Tamil Nadu in Uttarakhand and reunited with their families. The CCTNS database will be later linked with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) database on vehicle registrations. The "Advanced Search" allows the user to find crime correlations, crime trends, outliers (anomalies) and crime patterns by having access to CCTNS dashboard.

Since the launch of the Digital Police Portal, citizens have begun registering complaints on the portal, and requests have been made for antecedent verification of persons. The Digital Police Portal is helping the Government in the efficient delivery of citizen-centric services in a friendly manner, which is an important responsibility of a modern welfare state today.

## Problem of 1949 Annexation of Manipur

**(Contd. from yesterday issue)**  
**By: Prof. Naorem Sanajaoba**  
*(Translated by Aelham Koireng Singh)*

**Third Issue**  
A question has always been asked whether a state after its annexation could regain its lost political status or has lost all its status. Possible ways and already applied benchmark are given below. In addition to it, the UN's Committee of 24 had been looking after to de-colonise the colonised states, and if need arises, reports were submitted to the Security Council. This issue can also be mentioned in relation to the case of Manipur.

**State Retained**  
An independently existing state may cease to exist as a state when the state no longer maintains to do so. Even after being illegally annexed, Ethiopia, Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia,

Albania could regain and save its state from losing its entity. In the recent past, three Baltic States integrated under Nazi-Soviet Secret Pact could regain its state as earlier in the form of Estonia, Lithuania and Libya. James Crawford writes: A state can continue to exist for example even if its government is reduced to relative impotence or even if its territory is wholly occupied". The trend that is observable in today's world is decolonisation. Paul Kennedy in his "Rise and fall of Great Powers (1988)". "Preparing for the twenty-first Century (1993)" writes about the great political fragmentation and emerging economic globalisation of the world. The sovereignty of the annexed state can also be treated as a case of suspended sovereignty. Wrongfully annexed state can also again be created. Why because annexation of that state could also be

due to the inability to resist annexation. Retrocession of treaty is also accepted benchmark.

In addition to it, according to universally accepted benchmark, as in the Western Sahara Case, state can recognize and follow self determination benchmark. The benchmark of the self determination unit shall always override the "Territorial Integrity Rule" of the state which perpetrate annexation. Moreover, when a new state is created, it is always followed by two ways of devolution and secession. As in the case of Greece seceding from the Ottoman Empire, and Netherlands from Belgium, it was on the basis of secession benchmark that Indonesia, North Korea, North Vietnam, Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau was created and came into existence. Today, International law, after so many changes, has created

many new laws concerning the creation and retrocession of state on the basis of historical legality. Jawaharlal Nehru writes that States shall have the right to secede after 10 years. Any of the international laws and benchmarks does not approve, allow or support annexation of state irrespective of whether the state is member of the United Nations or not. It even furthermore threatens and violates world peace and security. The prime objective and responsibility of the UN is to maintain world peace and security. UN system does not allow and permit "aggression" and "annexation". It even resorts to power to stop aggression and annexation if it becomes inevitable.

**(Concluded)**  
*(This article is being reproduced again in the interest of our readers who had missed it)*

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## 204 fire calls on Diwali, big blaze in east Delhi cloth godown

**New Delhi, Oct 20 (PTI)** Over 200 fire-related incidents were reported in the national capital on Diwali, which included a big blaze in a godown in east Delhi last night, fire department officials said today.

Out of 204 calls made to the city's fire department, 51 were related to use of crackers.

"A blaze was reported from the Subhash Mohalla area in east Delhi around 10:10 pm at a cloth godown. Twenty-six fire tenders were sent to the spot. However, no injury has been reported in this case," a Delhi Fire Service (DFS) official said.

"It was a three-storey building. The case is being investigated by the police," he said.

The 204 fire calls were made between midnight of October 18 and Diwali midnight. "Last year

243 calls were received on Diwali," the DFS official added. He said fire-related calls have been received post-Diwali midnight as well.

"From Diwali midnight onwards, so far 75 calls have been received today," he said.

Besides the 59 permanent fire stations in the national capital, the fire services department had also set up temporary stations at 28 locations across the city, from where the maximum number of calls were received on Diwali last year. The department had also increased the number of phone lines to the control room.

Last year, the Delhi Fire Services control room had received 243 calls between 5 PM and midnight on Diwali and another 107 calls between midnight and morning.

## Eight killed TN transport corp'n building collapse, CM

**PIT**  
**Chennai, Oct 20:** A portion of a 65-year-old building belonging to the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation collapsed in Nagapattinam district early this morning, killing eight transport department staffers, police said.

The TNSCT crew members were sleeping in the building, which was constructed in 1952, when it collapsed around 3.30 am, killing them on the spot. Three persons were injured and rushed to the Karaikal General Hospital, a police official said.

The Chief Minister K Palaniswami condoned the deaths and announced cash relief to their families, besides jobs for their kin. "I have directed that a sum of Rs 7.5 lakh be given to each of the families of those killed in this unfortunate

incident as a special gesture," he said. Further, Rs 1.5 lakh would be given to those with severe injuries and Rs 50,000 for persons with simple injuries, he said, and wished for their speedy recovery.

In a statement, he identified the victims as Dhanpal, Manivannan, Kani, Prabakaran, Balu, Chandrasekar, Ramalingam and Muniappan, and expressed sympathies with their families.

Palaniswami said he had directed that the entire relief sum, including for the injured, be provided from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. He said he had also issued directions for providing jobs, based on their qualifications, in the transport corporation to one member from each of the victims' families "as a special gesture".