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Press Release

Kite Flying Advisory Stay Safe; avoid flying kites near electric installations

Tripping of a single 33/66 KV line can disrupt power supply to over 10,000 consumers

- **Metal coated *manjha* can lead to trippings and even electrocution**
- **BSES advises Delhiites against flying kites near electricity installations and overhead wires**
- **25 kite related trippings caused outages last year**
- **Tripping related outages can take anywhere between 15 minutes to 2 hours to rectify**

Kite flying is an integral part of the Independence Day celebrations in India. The skies are dotted with innumerable kites flown by people – cutting across religions and regions – celebrating India's freedom. Sometimes this otherwise innocuous activity can be hazardous, even fatal at times. The wide-spread use of metal coated *manjha* – being a good conductor of electricity – poses a great danger not only to the person flying the kite, but also poses a risk to the electricity supply of an area. Each year, there are several instances on both counts.

Even though, disrupting power supply and causing damage to power equipment is punishable under the Electricity Act and the Delhi Police Act, there seems to be little consideration shown for the law as well as power supply.

Dangers to the electricity system – The *manjha* used to fly kites contains metallic substances and in some cases, it is made of a thin metallic wire. When these metal coated *manjha* comes in contact with a live overhead wire, it causes trippings, resulting in blackout of the area fed by the affected line – a phenomenon witnessed each year.

Risk to life – Not just electrical equipments get affected, the risk to life is a bigger danger of reckless kite flying. Moreover, if the entangled *manjha* happens to be metal coated, it can even lead to electrocution of the 'kite-flyer'.

“According to estimates, tripping of just one 33/66 KV overhead line can disrupt power supply to over 10,000 residents of an area. And a tripping of a single 11 KV line to over 2500 residents. And each year there are scores of such incidents in the city. Last year, there were around 25 instance of kite-flying related in BSES' area,” said a BSES official.

“In the run-up to the Independence Day, BSES discoms have put their Operations and Maintenance teams on extra high alert to take care of any kite-flying related contingencies”.

“Elders and parents are also requested to inform and counsel children not to enter prohibited/ barricaded electrical installations to retrieve kites because life is more precious than a mere 5-10 rupee kite”, added the official.

Reiterating the need to be cautious while flying kites, a BSES spokesperson said “People should celebrate the Independence Day. But they should do it responsibly. Residents are advised not to fly kites near electricity installations, including overhead cables and certainly not use metal / metal coated *manjhas*. These two simple mantras will ensure safe I-Day celebrations. Any carelessness can lead to a major power failure, blackout and even electrocution”

According to a BSES spokesperson, “We have been educating and informing RWAs to caution their members about the perils of flying kites near electricity installations and using metal coated *manjhas*”.