

Don't Fly Kites Near Electrical Installations

Metal Coated *Manjha* Can Lead to Trippings and even Electrocutions

- **Tripping of a single 33/66 KV line can disrupt power supply to over 10,000 consumers**
- **Tripping related outages can take upto 2 hours to rectify**
- **Disrupting power supply and causing damage to power equipment is punishable under Electricity Act and the Delhi Police Act**

Kite flying is an integral part of the Independence Day celebrations in India. Sometimes this otherwise innocuous activity can be hazardous, even fatal. Flying kites in itself is not the problem; it's the metal coated thread or *manjha* which becomes a real threat. 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.

Reiterating the need to be cautious while flying kites, a BSES spokesperson said, “People should enjoy kite flying, but they should do it responsibly. We advise residents not to fly kites near electricity installations, including overhead cables and certainly avoid using metal / metal coated *manjhas*. These two simple mantras will ensure safe I-Day celebrations.”

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. Last year, there were around 45 instances of kite-flying related in BSES’ area. In the run-up to the Independence Day, we have put our 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 10-20 rupee kite. Any carelessness can lead to a major power failure, blackout and even electrocutions.”- **added BSES official.**

RWAs are also being informed to caution their members about the perils of flying kites near electricity installations and using metal coated *manjhas*.