



2/2014

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Cleanliness is Godliness: Building Toilets as against Temples



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Business Standard

The last time I went to the Loharu School to attend to their Annual Day celebrations the leitmotif was that 'Cleanliness is Godliness', which was an apt message to convey to the toddlers. But they are not ignorant about it because we Indians are known for being so concerned about our own hygiene. However, where they are at fault is for the sheer negligence and callousness about what happens in our environs. Even if they are taught not to throw out the banana skin from the moving car, they do it, because they see so many of us doing it. Consequently, everywhere we see dirt and filth other than people desecrating our surroundings nonchalantly.



Perhaps we will see a new thrust in ensuring higher cleanliness in our environs with the new Narendra Modi Government in the saddle for few years, at least. A campaign will be launched on promoting cleanliness and sanitation in our cities. Even the issue of cleaning the Ganga will be taken to higher action levels, which is witnessed by the appointment of Uma Bharati as a Cabinet Minister for Water Resources and cleaning the Ganga. Reportedly, over ₹20,000 crores have been spent to clean the Ganga, but the money has flown down to the Bay of Bengal where Ganga ends.

Cleanliness can be best promoted by people's involvement and participation. One way is by naming and shaming the miscreants. At a village near Bhopal, the people put up a hoarding showing people and dogs crapping together on the roads. The hoarding was pulled down after much protest as many felt offended to be compared to dogs, but the impact was felt and people started behaving better.

In Delhi, I have seen posters on noise pollution showing that if dogs don't bark unless provoked, why do drivers blow their horns unnecessarily. These posters have not met with any criticism but the message has hardly gone home. Surprisingly, even in poor countries that I have travelled to, people do not use horns unless absolutely required. In Jaipur, drivers are so callous that they keep their fingers pressed on their horns for long as if it is their birthright. There is just no education or peer pressure on them to desist from such awful activities.

Alas! Our villages and city slums do not have public toilets and people defecate on the roads or public grounds. In the villages, more than half the population go to the fields for defecation. But there are temples dotting round all over our country and new ones being built every day. No wonder the former Rural Development Minister, Jairam Ramesh and even Narendra Modi has said that we build more temples than toilets. How many of our philanthropists donate for building toilets; they are more than willing to donate to build temples.

Another act of shaming or embarrassing people peeing on the roads is being handled very cleverly. In some cities, water tankers have been equipped with water cannons and they use them on people who are found pissing on roads, as they do to control protesting crowds.

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Pradeep S. Mehta

Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General

Portrait of Modern Britain

Indians in the UK are the most prosperous among all minority groups, according to a new report called the 'Portrait of a Modern Britain'. Almost all other minority groups have unemployment rates that are double than the national average.

The 'Portrait of Modern Britain' has revealed that almost one in three people in Britain will be from an ethnic minority by 2050. Non-white people will make up between 20 to 30 percent of the population by 2050.

The report reveals that while the face of Britain is becoming multi-racial, people from ethnic minorities have a stronger association with being British than the whites.

(Tol, 07.05.14)

Banking on the Wife

Bhartiya Mahila Bank, India's first women-focused bank, is flooded with requests for loans, since its launch a few months ago. Ironically, however, very few of the loan seekers are women.

The bank has been receiving several calls from men asking for loans for their wives and when the bank staff asks them what they will do with the money, the stock answer is, "She will do something, we have not decided yet. You give the loan first".

Naturally, the bank staff is spending a good part of its time explaining to the customers that a women's bank does not mean interest free loans or loans without purpose.

(BS, 22.04.14)

Printed Food and Edible Water

In Germany, companies are doing some incredible things with 3D printing. They are using it to make food. One of the more successful projects is 'Biozoon's



'Smoothfood', which was developed to print food for senior citizens having need for such food. Smoothfood creates melt-in-your-mouth food from fresh ingredients using a 3D printer.

The food puree is injected into the printer as "ink", and out comes the final product. The printer is controlled by a software that determines the shape and you can set the shape to match the food.

In an another development, a designer has created a jelly-fish like, tasteless edible water, the "Ooho Water". "Ooho" harnesses a technique called spherification, which encircles the water in a membrane of algae. It is an innovative packaging that proposes an alternative to the plastic bottles.

(The Wire, 29.05.14 & DesignBoom, 18.05.14)

ICU under Your Roof

As a part of the new healthcare concept, a room at home can now be converted into a dedicated and fully



functional Intensive Care Unit (ICU). It can also perform dialysis and chemotherapy for cancer patients.

After foraying into Delhi and Chandigarh, Health Care at Home (HCAH), a UK based healthcare firm, has come up with the new facility that offers healthcare services at your doorsteps.

For this, a team of HCAH will contact a patient's doctor and provide adequate treatment needed for him at home. If required, it can also set up an ICU within six hours at home for serious patients.

(DNA, 10.06.14)

City under Water for 25 years

In 1920, a tourist village named Villa Epequen was established in Argentina on the banks of the Villa Epequen Lake. After Dead Sea, maximum salt was found in this lake. It was almost 10 times more than the other lakes. In the beginning of the 19th Century, people started settling in this city and soon it became a favourite tourist destination.

By the year 1960, the number of tourists reached 25,000, in a year. There were more than 300 hotels, spas and museums in the city.

In the year 1985, the level of water started increasing and the place started sinking and by 1993, the city sank about 10 metres below water. After 25 years, the city again started coming on the surface. Presently, there are no people living and it is deserted. (DB, 24.05.14)

Mobiles Revolutionise Reading

United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is pointing to a "mobile reading revolution" in developing countries, after a year long study found that adults and children are increasingly reading multiple books and stories on their mobiles.

Nearly 5,000 people in seven countries – Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan and Zimbabwe – took part in the research, the largest study of its kind to date, which found that 62 percent of the respondents were reading more on their mobile phones.

The key conclusion from the study was that "mobile devices can help people develop, sustain and enhance their literacy skills".

(TH, 25.04.14)

Action Movies Bad for Heart?

A study from University College London and Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospital suggests those with weakened hearts could be negatively affected by watching a stressful film.

Researchers found that the blood pressure increased, the pace of breathing became faster and the heart's natural rhythm began to shift during viewing of a clip from 2000 action thriller 'Vertical Limit' depicting a shocking rock climbing accident.



The study saw 19 people monitored via electrodes detecting activity in the ventricles of the heart. It is believed to be the first recorded instance of biological effects of mental and emotional stress on healthy conscious patients. The changes in the heart pattern are linked to the autonomic nervous system, which operates below the level of consciousness.

(TH, 18.05.14)

Trial of Man-made Blood

Artificial blood created from stem cells could be tested on the Britons within two years. The scientists believe it will transform transfusions by preventing hospital shortages and save thousands of lives on battlefields and at the scene of car crashes.

The 'holy grail' of blood research, the man-made blood would be free of infections that have lighted natural supplies and could be given to almost everyone regardless of blood group. The hope comes from Edinburgh and Bristol University researchers who have, for the first time, made thousands of millions of red blood cells from stem cells – 'master cells' seen as a repair kit for the body – taken from bone marrow.

It is predicted that in two to three years, they will be ready to inject a teaspoon of man-made blood into healthy volunteers, in the first British trial of blood from stem cells.

(FT, 15.04.14 & Mail Online, 26.06.14)

Bridge Use Barred

Residents of a village in Bihar's Darbhanga constituency have barred representatives from using a bridge they



built with their own donations. Villagers of Kamalpur Brahmtar Ghat, a village, under the Pirri panchayat block in Darbhanga, have announced a boycott of Lok Sabha polls for failure of the people's representatives to fulfill their demand for a concrete bridge, over the Kamla river.

According to a villager, the bridge was open for public, but not to the politicians. In the last five months, not a single legislator has dared to cross the bridge.

The bridge has provided connectivity to dozens of nearby villages also. Earlier, the villagers used to travel across the river through a bridge, which used to

get washed away during monsoon due to river's flooding.

(Indo Asian News Service, 20.04.14)

A Big Step of Apple on Earth's Day

Apple Inc. has announced that it would allow the customers to recycle iPhones and iPads with the company and receive gift cards in exchange.

Previously, iPhone trade-ins would only get a credit on a new iPhone – that was no longer the case. Simply going online and answering to questions about the device and Apple will send the customer a shipping label and packaging materials.

Once the company receives the device it will release gift cards to the customers within a month. If the device is too old to trade-in, one can simply go to the closest Apple store and the company will recycle him a device free of charge.

Moreover, the company also plans to allow customers to recycle other companies' products for free on a couple of occasions in the current year.

(RP, 23.04.14)

Data Centre Nuclear Bunker

A Data Centre built in cold war era Nuclear Bunker located in Stockholm, the ISP Bahnhof gained notoriety when it hosted WikiLeaks' sensitive materials. Built into the Pionen Mountains, the Centre took two years to retrofit the caves with enough space for their server racks and backup generators.

This underground data centre has greenhouses, waterfalls, German submarine engines, simulated daylight and can withstand a hit from a hydrogen bomb. It is a newly opened high-security data centre run by one of Sweden's largest Internet Service Provider (ISPs).

This was located in an old nuclear bunker, deep below the bedrock of Stockholm city and sealed off from the



world by entrance doors 40 cm thick. For a pleasant working environment, the data centre has simulated daylight, greenhouses, waterfalls and a huge 2600-litre salt water fish tank.

(DB, 15.04.14)

Cellphones to Exceed People

By early 2015, there will be more cellphones than the world's population, said Swedish technology giant 'Ericsson'. According to the report, of the 6.8 billion global mobile subscriptions, in the first quarter of 2014, 790 million were in India.



The global figures included the addition of 120 million new subscriptions during the first quarter: India led the global growth with 28 million new subscriptions, during this period.

The report projects mobile subscriptions will hit 7 billion by the end of 2014 and overtake the world's population of 7.2 billion in early 2015.

(HT, 04.06.14)

Health Horoscope

Marriage in India is often based on matching of astrological horoscope (*Janam Kundli*) before deciding on the life partner.

However, in order to build a relationship on the foundation of good health for the would-be-couples and their future generation, Health Minister, Rajendra Rathore, Rajasthan, has advocated for 'Health Horoscope'.

According to Rathore, before marriage, the girl and boy should make a 'Health Kundli' after undergoing blood tests as it would give information regarding diseases like Hepatitis B, C and HIV too.

People do not pay attention to medical tests before marriage. But such test is really important for healthy life after marriage, pointed another health expert.

(Tol, 12.05.14)

'MyCity' for Local Self Governance

To engage the citizens in urban local governance, community meetings and interface meetings are being organised, under the MyCity Project, a CUTS endeavour for improving the quality of Urban Service Delivery in Jaipur. To review the progress of MyCity Phase II Project, Mandakini Devasher Surie, Senior Programme Officer, The Asia Foundation, New Delhi, visited CUTS on April 24, 2014 to discuss the ongoing activities of MyCity Project.

Mandakini also took part in a community meeting organised by the Maulik Foundation at Ward 64. She along with the Project team visited Jaipur City Mayor, Jyoti Khandelwal to discuss the issues related to local self-governance, under the Project. The Mayor appreciated the efforts made, under the Project to engage citizens in the urban area. She mentioned that CUTS' focused approach in selected wards of Jaipur city is helping in raising general awareness about civic issues in public.

Marriage Gardens Demolished

Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) had demolished two allegedly illegal marriage gardens operating from the premises of Rambagh Palace Hotel. More than the demolition, the swiftness with which the civic body acted against the private operators – in less than two hours after their appeals were turned down by a tribunal – later raised several eyebrows on the authorities' action.

The gardens were issued notices for failing to provide parking facilities inside the hotel premises that ultimately caused traffic jams on the roads. Moreover, the hotels did not take the Jaipur Municipal Corporation's (JMC) permission to run the marriage gardens.

However, later the Rajasthan High Court granted the permission to organise celebrations and Ceremonies on the premises. The court also directed the hotel officials that no vehicle should be parked on the service lane and the roads that blocks the traffic.

(Tol, 22.05.14 & DNA, 31.05.14)

New Government to Check Inflation

Families of the middle income group adopted a different take in showing their resentment over price rise of commodities in the last 10 years. Prices of essential commodities have risen sky high in the past 10 years.

People have voted for change with a hope that things would be

'Trust' in Health

The Chairman of Tata Trusts, Ratan Tata has expressed his interest in collaborating with the State Government to work on social issues with specific focus on health. Tata asserted that his trust is willing to enhance people's standards' of living in the state.



According to Rajendra Rathore, the next step will be to chalk out a strategy to initiate welfare programmes. Rajasthan having one of the highest maternal and mortality rate and infant mortality rate in the country. Tata desired to make Rajasthan a model state in 'mother and child health' care.

better in future. Women, especially the housewives, were also vocal on the rising prices and said the skyrocketing prices have brought them to the polling booths.

If the Government is changed in Delhi, it would certainly bring some changes in the lives of the middle class, according to a respondent.

(Tol, 18.04.14)

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.

"Oscar Ameringer, "the Mark Twain of American Socialism".

In an another Health Ministry's move a separate emergency medical unit will be set up in all government-run hospitals attached to medical colleges to strengthen the emergency services in the state.

(Tol, 05.06.14 & 03.06.14)

Road Safety and Traffic Control

The civic bodies and traffic department have decided to install traffic signals at 58 places at a cost of ₹9.91 crore. A high number of



vehicles plying on city roads has necessitated the need for installation of traffic lights at these spots.

With the number of vehicles registering a growth of 8.96 percent in the past one year, a proper traffic management plan is required for the city.

The Rajasthan Police Academy (RPA) is conducting a three-day refresher course for traffic police personnel on prevention of road accidents and traffic management. The police will not only examine the causes of accidents but will also analyse the technical aspects of the road accidents, construction of the road, the turns, geographical position of the crossings.

(Tol, 21.05.14 & HT, 06.05.14)

Security @ ₹1

To control the increasing crimes in the state, the city police has planned a 'Community Policing' scheme. This is a public participation programme involving Municipal



Corporation, traffic department and officials of the other departments also. Until now the police has advised the people in a few selected areas to keep a watchman for every lane, at the rate of ₹30 in a month.

For the security of women, an electronic personal safety system (EPSS) has been introduced, on a single button press of which the police can reach to the person seeking help. This safety device has to be registered in the police control room.

(RP, 21.04.14 & DB, 10.04.14)

Self Service System

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) as the country's largest state owned oil retailer, IOC, has just thrown open India first self-service system at *Bais Godam* in Jaipur. This concept, which is almost *de rigueur* in many countries across the world eliminates the need for an attendant to fill fuel into a customer's car.

Many a times, petrol pump attendants operate in teams of two, a person who dispenses fuel and another who collects money to distract the customer getting the fuel filled. By employing distraction tactics,



these dishonest attendants fill lesser fuel than billed for, thus blatantly cheating the customer.

This menace will also come to an end once the customer is able to fill fuel her/himself through self service system. On the whole, this new initiative by IOC is indeed a laudable one. (DB, 18.06.14)



Metro Updates

Commercial Operations from August

Jaipur Metro would most likely start its commercial operations in the Pink City by the end of August in 2014, according to official sources.

The trial run of Jaipur Metro will most probably begin in July on its first-phase route from Mansarovar to Chandpole, which is 10kms, and the commercial operations for commuters by the end of August, Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation (JMRC) Chief Managing Director N C Goyal said.

After receiving JMRC's completion report on the first phase and plan for trial run and commercial operation, the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety will soon issue clearance in view of the metro's speed certificate, he said, adding it might take 15 to 30 days for Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS's) approval. (Tol, 13.05.14)

₹969 Crore ADB Funding

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$176mn (₹969-crore) loan to construct Jaipur Metro's phase-I (B) Project proposed from Badi Chaupar to Chandpole area and an agreement was signed by the State Government along with the Centre and Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation (JMRC) with the bank in New Delhi.

N C Goel said, "It's a very positive sign for the state. The project cost of the proposed underground metro corridor (phase-I, B) is ₹1,126 crore. The deal will give financial backing to the Project and work can be done at rapid pace". (Tol, 30.05.14)

Centre's Assistance Not Required

The State Government might not take the financial assistance of Central Government for the Jaipur Metro Phase-I project. With this the decision of the previous Government to sign memorandum



of understanding (MoU) for the joint venture is expected to be shelved.

A senior official source said, "The total project cost for Phase-I is ₹3,149 crore. The previous State Government had sanctioned ₹1,802. Recently, the BJP-led Government, too, has sanctioned ₹500 crore for the same.

The Central Government had sanctioned ₹627 crore for the project. Moreover, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) had recently given in principle approval to provide a loan of ₹969 crore. The bank is willing to release the funds but it is held by the lack of progress in the project. (Tol, 01.04.14)

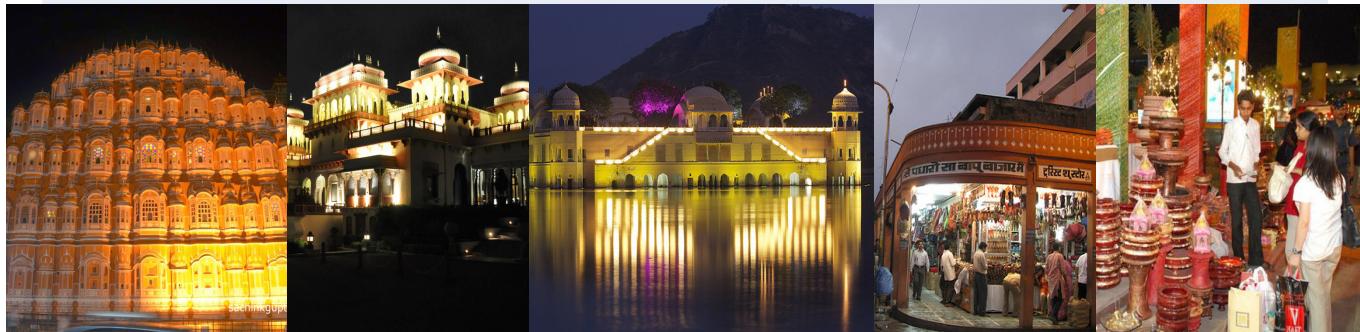
Mess with the Metro

Any misunderstanding in the Jaipur Metro has results ranging from fines to life imprisonment and even capital punishment depending on the gravity of the particular offence.

JMRC released a list of offences and penalties, under the Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act 2002. There are 22 such clauses, which could put you into trouble for causing offense while travelling by the Metro.

Even for unlawfully entering or remaining in the train even when requested to leave, there is a provision of imprisonment for up to three months or fine up to ₹250 or both. (Tol, 09.06.14)

Night Bazaar and Night Tourism: New Identity of the City



Founded way back in the year 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh-II, Jaipur has grown by leaps and bounds since and is the home to more than 5 million residents at present. The 'Pink City' edging to become a metropolitan also takes pride of being perhaps the first ever planned city of India. Its huge palatial buildings, palaces and wonderful architecture add much to its glory.

The emerging 'new' Jaipur is an exclusive city – vibrant, with booming markets, food joints, religious places, malls and multiplexes. The upcoming concept of night bazaar/night tourism will make it more distinct. Jaipur has a vibrant and unique nightlife, which is worth experiencing. As the city goes into the lap of darkness, the streets start to glow with the lights and the activities assume a different flow.

Night tourism can not only open ample tourist opportunities but also provide employment prospects to the people. Moreover, it can solve the problem of excessive traffic and parking as this will distribute the load of traffic on the roads. Quite often, the tourists coming to the pink city have to go disheartened as there are no alternatives for visiting and entertainment during the late evening hours. Besides, the extreme hot climate restricts the tourists to visit the heritage city but the idea of 'night bazaar/tourism' can give a new identity to the city. If night bazaar gets encouragement then automatically 'Night Tourism' will also be boosted. Markets all over the city, particularly the walled city are fascinating, colourful places and provide a great sense of nearly every aspect of the culture, whether it be the degree of religious devotion, the styles of dress and adornment or the gastronomical delight.

Earlier, in 2005, during the previous tenure of Vasundhra Raje as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan also on the occasion of *Rajasthan Diwas*, a 10 day night bazaar was organised, which got a good response but had some shortcomings as well. Some of the eminent politicians and industrialists provided their valuable suggestions on the theme of night bazaar/tourism.

Narpat Singh Rajvi, Legislator, Vidyadhar Nagar, opined that night tourism can be started in the walled city keeping in mind the city's rich heritage and economic feasibility.

According to Arun Tyagi, Vice President, Rajasthan Tourism Guide Association, night bazaar should be started keeping into consideration the needs and convenience of the tourists and the local people. There should be adequate security, cleanliness, parking space and light facilities.

Karan Singh Kachhawa, General Secretary, Jaipur Working Guide Association pointed out that night bazaar is the need of the hour and it should be developed in a way, which can provide the visitors healthy recreation along with the glimpses of rich *Rajasthani* art and culture.

Assistant Sales Manager, Sumit Katiyar of Hotel 'Country Inn' recommended that open areas can be suitable for night bazaar and keeping the aspirations of the middle class into consideration there should be handicraft items, music food courts etc.

Seena Sethi, National Convener of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Women Entrepreneurs' Organisation, night bazaar should offer recreational avenues like cultural programmes, classical music, dramas along with stalls of delicious food. Dusherra Ground in Adarsh Nagar can be a good place for the same.

However, to implement the concept of night bazaar/tourism an extensive survey of the various places that can be ideal venues for night bazaar should be done. The concept also demands effective advertising and marketing. Besides, it also requires strong will of the Government, adequate security measures and of course a well organised plan.

Giving shape to the city's dreams, Vasundhra Raje has recently inaugurated the Barkat Nagar-Adarsh Bazaar (ideal market), which is being developed as the 'second pink city'. She assured that the Government will leave no stone unturned in making a new Rajasthan in the next five years. The Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) has already spent ₹2.5 crores on colouring the market pink, constructing drains, footpaths, roads and other development works.

Thus Night Tourism can turn out to be a marvellous theme, which will credibly add more charm to the fascinating city and can turn it into a favourite tourist destination.

Sources: BS: Business Standard; DB: Dainik Bhaskar; DNA: Daily News Analysis; FT: Financial Times; HT: Hindustan Times; RP: Rajasthan Patrika; TH: The Hindu; Tol: Times of India