

Royalty's tryst with city's pollution

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NEW DELHI: The royalty from the UK and Belgium walked into an unexpected haze of toxins that made Delhi's air the worst this season.

Delhi air was at least 50-times more polluted than London's in terms of fine particulate matter when Prince Charles and his wife Camilla stepped out of their Royal Air Force flight at Indira Gandhi International airport in Delhi on Wednesday afternoon.

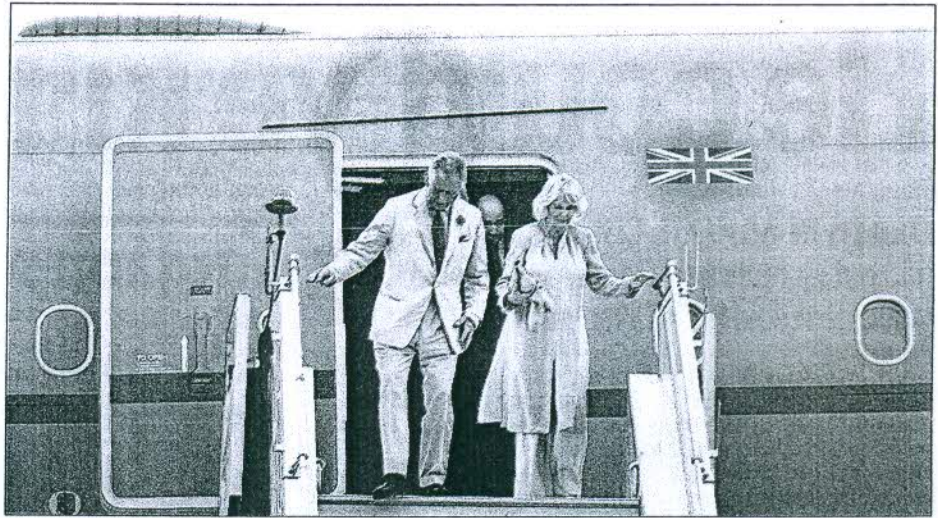
King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium, who arrived on Sunday night, also inspected the guard of honour at the Rashtrapati Bhawan through a curtain of dense smog on Tuesday.

At this time, Brussels was at least 20 times less polluted than the Indian capital.

Near Buckingham Palace, air pollution level was at '2' on Wednesday afternoon on a scale of 0-10, where 1-3 is the best air quality possible.

On the other hand, air quality in Delhi has been so severe that the Delhi chief minister termed it a poisonous gas chamber and some experts said just breathing was like smoking two packs of cigarettes a day.

The British royal couple, who are visiting for two days are



• Prince Charles and his wife Camilla step out of their Royal Air Force plane at Delhi's IGI airport on Wednesday.

VIPIN KUMAR/HT

experiencing the worst of Delhi pollution this year.

The Twitterati in India had a field day at the expense of British Royalty.

"It's almost as if India is inviting the world's monarchs to breathe Delhi's toxic air to make the world more democratic," tweeted Siddharth Singh. Others suggested that it was payback for colonisation.

Prince Charles' office did not respond to calls to see if they had taken additional precautions while in Delhi.

The terrible air quality doesn't just have activists worried. Industry groups in India also sounded the alarm expressing fears that the capital might be losing out on expat talent.

"Increasing air pollution can take a toll on the urban economy by cutting short life span of people, thereby increasing healthcare costs to the government, drive away top executives and talented people to other cities," ASSOCHAM secretary general, DS Rawat, said.

PHILIPS

Uttarakhand at 17: Some progress, a lot still desired

'Migration Is Still A Problem'

Kautilya Singh
& Shivani Azad | TNN

Dehradun: On the 17th anniversary of its formation, TOI looks at how Uttarakhand as a state, known for its hospitality and tourism, has carved a niche for itself on the national map.

Since its formation on November 9, 2000, the Himalayan state has made significant strides with a number of industries coming up in Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar districts, national-level stadiums in Dehradun and Haldwani and developments in its tourism sector.

Secretary of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), D S Rawat said, "Workforce dependability, coupled with employability, have witnessed significant growth in the state since 2001. It is pertinent to note that only about 2.3 % of the state's total workforce was dependent



CM Trivendra Singh Rawat said that a lot is still left to be done in various sectors of Uttarakhand

on the industry sector for their livelihood in 2001. The scene is different today." It is also to be noted that migration, leading to the creation of many ghost villages across the state, continues to be a major challenge for

FOUNDATION DAY

the government. "Uttarakhand was placed on top for clocking the highest compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16.5 % and 12.3 % in industry and services sectors respectively during the decadal period between 2004-05 and 2014-15

among various states. The state had also performed better than the national average growth of about 7 %," added D S Rawat. Services sector, which includes hospitality, tourism, hotels, restaurants, transport, storage, communication, banking and finance, among others, accounted for 51 % share in gross state domestic product (GSDP) in the financial year 2015," D S Rawat said.

On the other hand, a lot is still left to be done in other sectors. Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat had earlier said that out of the sanctioned posts of 2,700

doctors, the state had only 1,100. In many cases, doctors have been reluctant in taking up postings in the hill districts by citing lack of infrastructure. "This year, we have been successful in transferring many doctors to the hills and we are optimistic that it will improve the health sector in the hills," said CM Rawat.

On the education sector, the CM said, "Many of the school buildings are in poor condition and we are planning to merge junior and intermediate schools, which will help in improving standards of education."

Analyst, Jay Singh Rawat, said that the political instability in the state was a major reason behind its "slow-paced" development. "We have a good per capita income of Rs 1.51 lakh but politicians could not do much because of political instability. This is for the first time that the people have elected a government with an overwhelming majority and the BJP needs to deliver as there are high expectations from them," said Jay. He further mentioned that lack of proper connectivity was a major stumbling block in the state's tourism sector.

दूरिस्ट छोड़े, बिजनेस पर भी छाड़ें गहरी धुंध

Photo: Sunil Kumar

‘ऐसा ही रहा तो दिल्ली छोड़ सकती हैं कंपनियां’

इकनॉमी पर बुरा असर, विशेषज्ञों ने जताई आशंका

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■ नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली-एनसीआर पर छाड़ें गहरी धुंध यहां को संकेत देते इकनॉमी की संकेत भी बिगाड़ सकती है। उद्योग संघों और विशेषज्ञों ने कहा और राज्य सरकारों को आगे किया है कि दिल्ली में प्लास्टिक का गंधर तार बना तो यहां से बड़े पैमाने पर बाई फिक्स्ड व टैरेजेंट यंत्रों और ऑटोमोबाइल का पुराना शुरू हो जाएगा।

■ पीएचडी कैब और कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री के चीफ इकनॉमिस्ट रमेश शर्मा ने कहा ‘इस तरह का प्लास्टिक दिल्ली की महसिल आयात अडवायव्य के लिए बंधन खतरनाक है। एनटी और पर्याप्त वाली मैनुफैक्चरिंग इकनॉमी में विकल्प या जीव शिफ्ट करना आसान होता है। जब संस लेना ही मुश्किल हो जाएगा तो लोग कहीं और विकल्प तलाशेंगे।’

उद्योग संघों परसेशन ने कहा और दिल्ली, हरियाणा में पंचायत समितियों को आगे बढ़ा दिया है कि अगर प्लास्टिक खत्म करने को कारगर करना नहीं उदार गत तो दिल्ली-एनसीआर में निवेश के ताल पड़ जाये। परसेशन करने और उपाय शामिल है।

कार्रपोरेट की संकेत

■ दिल्ली की संकेत इकनॉमी पर भी पड़ सकता है पुराना का असर
■ इंडस्ट्री ने जताई बाई फिक्स्ड लोगों के दिल्ली छोड़ने की आशंका
■ सर्विस सेक्टर इकनॉमी में निवेश शिफ्ट करना आसान
■ जब संस लेना मुश्किल होगा तो लोग दूसरे विकल्प तलाशेंगे

उद्योग संघों ने कहा और राज्य को बड़े मुश्किल में का है कि सभी विभागों, शोध संस्थानों और संघों को मिलकर कोई संकेतों निकालना चाहिए। संघों ने दिल्लीला कुछ आंतरिकालिन करत उद्योग की निम्नलिखित ची ची है। इसमें मिस्ट केनन का इस्तेमाल, कंडेन्सिंग और कया बानने की रेकयम के लिए टाकनकेर, प्लास्टिक यूनिटों पर सक्की, गाड़ियों की संकेत निबंधन करने और उपाय शामिल है।

30 हजार जानें जाती हैं हर साल प्रदूषण से दिल्ली-एनसीआर में

186 एक्स्ट्रा ट्रिप्स लगाएगी मेट्रो, चारों लाइनों पर

34 परसेंट कम हो चुकी है दिल्ली की बसों में राइडरशिप

