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METAL TUBE INDUSTRIES
64, C. P. Tank Road, Mumbai - 400 004.
Dear Reader,

The Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (DCPC), along with FICCI organised a “Summit on Global Chemicals & Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hubs in India – 2019” in November 2019. The event focussed on opportunities in investing in the PCPIRs which have the potential to become global manufacturing hubs for chemicals. The Indian chemicals industry was estimated at USD 163 billion in 2017-18 which is expected to grow to USD 304 billion by 2024-25. Production of chemicals in the country has lagged behind demand, as a result, imports have been increasing, reaching USD 55 billion last year. Challenges to manufacturing include inadequate infrastructure for chemicals, lack of feedstock, land-related issues and environmental restrictions that are not commensurate with footprint of the chemical industry or global norms. Chemicals form an important constituent of all other manufacturing industries and so deserves better treatment. Unless this fact is recognised, the chemical industry will continue to lag behind.

The government announced its intention to formulate technical regulations to regulate imports of non-essential items. Chemicals constitute a significant share of India’s import basket. Chemicals are also prone to many instances of mis-declaration for two reasons: the products are too complex and diverse, and only a person with some knowledge of chemistry will be able to differentiate between the numerous chemicals. Secondly, many chemicals are traded under the “others” category of the HS code. This gives rise to high scope for duty evasion, apart from the problem of chemicals in the watch-list coming in under another category. Some form of regulation is necessary to reduce the problem. India remains at the eight-digit level of HS tariff nomenclature whereas many countries have 10-digit classification. There are countries which also have a 12-digit classification. Classifying products at 10-digit will be useful in regulating imports and identifying the pattern of trade flows.

K. Srinivasan
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Fire engulfs 35 chemical godowns at Saki Naka
Chemical used for de-icing safe: Expert
Prof. A.B. Pandit takes over from Prof. G.D. Yadav as new Vice Chancellor of ICT
Thyssenkrupp receives second order for modular chlorine plant
Chemicals Industry can nearly double to over $300 billion by FY25, says Union Minister Sadananda Gowda

Member Units
Tata Chemicals acquires remaining 25% stake in US trona JV
Tata Chemicals takes the top spot for Sustainability and CSR in Responsible Business Ranking 2019
Tata Chemicals features in top 10 safe workplaces for women in India
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Reliance, ADNOC ink pact to build ethylene dichloride facility in Ruwais

III. UPCOMING SEMINARS/CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS
AMAI to Organise Two Day Conference on “Growth Prospects for Indian Chlor-Alkali Industry in Next Decade” and Exhibition on 23-24 March 2020 at New Delhi

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In the balloon incident, good emergency response training, practice, and drills enabled the site personnel to deal with the emergency situation, although this one had never been anticipated.

Apart from mechanical damages and direct fire hazards, flying objects may collide with overhead uninsulated power lines and cause short circuits & further consequences. This is regularly reported for those popular helium-filled decoration balloons made from PET foil with metallic surfaces.

Unmanned aerial vehicles or systems (UAVs, UASs; drones) have recently become widely available for all sorts of purposes. In addition to entertainment, they may be legitimately used for visual inspection in industry, agriculture, environmental sciences, monitoring, surveying, deliveries, etc.

They are now seemingly as numerous as model airplanes. There is concern that drone use in industrial sites and collision with equipment can cause damages, even fires/explosions. Recently there was an incident that involved a military drone in the process industry.

In the course of festivities, skyrockets and other aerial fireworks can end up where flammable or combustible material is stored or handled, thus introducing a source of ignition.

Fire balloons (aka sky lanterns) are often used as an alternative to fireworks; they are sources of ignition as well – and they can travel much longer distances. There has even been one example where hot air balloonists could not avoid being driven towards a factory site, making an emergency landing inside a plant (see photo below and Beacon of April 2007: Mr. Potato Head is Down).

Well-Identified Flying Objects

Did you know?

- In the balloon incident, good emergency response training, practice, and drills enabled the site personnel to deal with the emergency situation, although this one had never been anticipated.
- Apart from mechanical damages and direct fire hazards, flying objects may collide with overhead uninsulated power lines and cause short circuits & further consequences. This is regularly reported for those popular helium-filled decoration balloons made from PET foil with metallic surfaces.

What can you do?

- When you go for your control rounds, also check the sky.
- Report anything that threatens to fly over the plant grounds – apart from birds, of course.
- Be especially vigilant when it is the season for fireworks, sky lanterns and hot air ballooning.
- If there is a chemical plant, fuel store, or similar near where you live, advise your neighbors of the hazards if they plan activities involving fireworks or drones.
- If your facility uses drones, that activity should be permitted work like any other non-routine work.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above” – but some hazards come this way too!
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23-24 March 2020 ● Shangri-La’s – Eros Hotel, New Delhi

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- Industry Vision & Outlook for the Twenties
- Government Initiatives, Policies and Reforms with their impact on chlor-alkali industry
- Growth Propellers for Major Caustic Soda End Use Segments like Textiles, Alumina and Paper Sectors besides Outlook for other driving consuming sectors like Dyes & Inks, Soaps & detergents, Inorganic intermediates, etc.
- Overview and Growth Prospects of Non-Vinyl Chlorine Derivatives like Chloro Paraffins, Chloromethanes, Specialty Chemicals, Isocyanates, Epichlorohydrin, Agro chemicals, CPVC and many more
- Emerging Technological Trends and New Developments for Twenties in chlor-alkali sector
- Operations Risk Management for Sustained Competitiveness in the coming decade
- Salt Industry plans in coming decade to meet growing demand & Quality Aspects of alkali industry in twenties
- Government Policy Reforms in Power Sector including Renewables and its impact on chlor-alkali industry in India
- Power Exchanges and Trading - Road ahead for chlor-alkali industry

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