

Monthly News Journal – FEBRUARY 2025

**SINCE 2011** 

Editor: Dr. Balamurali Balaji

News and information pertaining to the life and principles of Mahatma Gandhi, Gandhian Philosophy of Nonviolence and Peace, Technological Impact on Culture, Society, and Current Affairs of the world

### Gandhi's role in India and Denmark relations

Relations between India and Denmark in the pre-independent days was marked by the correspondence and friendship of Gandhi with three Danish women - Esther (Faering) Menon, Anne Marie Petersen and Ellen Hørup - who admired him as a person and supported the movement he led for the independence of India.

Two of these women - Miss Petersen and Miss Faering (later Mrs. Menon) - were devout Christians who had arrived in India as missionaries. They visited Gandhi's ashram at Kocharab, Ahmedabad, for three days in January 1917 to observe the school there, and were greatly impressed by Gandhi and the spirit of the ashram. Gandhi too developed a fondness for them.

He wrote to Esther soon after they left: "You were hardly guests to us; you had become members of the family". He invited them to visit the ashram whenever they could. From this encounter developed a close attachment of the two women to Gandhi, as well as their support to his campaigns for social reform and for freedom of India. They were among the few Europeans who demonstrated solidarity with the non-violent resistance of the Indian people at that early stage, despite the hostility of the Christian missions and the British authorities

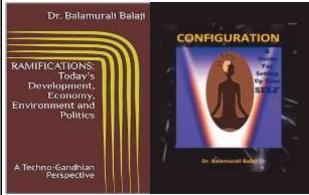


After his return to India in 1915, Gandhi was preoccupied with many protests and struggles besides setting up the Ashram in Kochrab and Sabarmati. Between 1917 and 1920 he wrote more letters to Miss Faering than to his own children. (Miss Petersen was away in Denmark from 1917 to 1919).

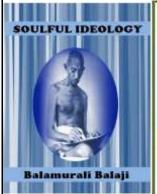
The Danish Missionary Society (DMS) prohibited Miss Faering from visiting Gandhi's ashram where she was longing to go and asked her to cease all correspondence with Gandhi and any others who were in any way connected with any political work. She resigned from the DMS and defied their demand that she leave for Denmark "as I belong to India more than ever before". Miss Petersen, who returned from Denmark two weeks later, stood by her younger colleague. She too resigned from the DMS in 1920 when it rejected equality for Danish and Indian missionaries. At that time, Gandhi was little known outside India, South Africa and Britain. British authorities launched massive propaganda to denigrate him and censored news about the atrocities by the regime and the nonviolent resistance led by Gandhi. But, he was known in Denmark, though perhaps to a few, because of these two women.

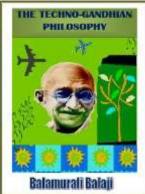
The first article on Gandhi by Miss Faering appeared in Denmark as early as 1917. Contact with the Danish missionaries accounted for Gandhi's admiration for Ebook (Rs. 175/-) Denmark. He wished to visit Denmark, but that did not prove possible.

TECHNO-GANDHIAN PROCESS MODEL- The practical side of Techno-Gandhian Philosophy! A <mark>know-how video is available in </mark>Youtube <mark>for</mark> understanding the practical (socio-political) side of the Techno-Gandhian Philosophy.



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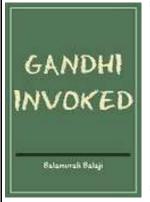
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He told Miss Petersen in 1919: "I would like to go to Denmark. It is one of the countries in the world from where we can learn the most. India is a large farming country; we need to learn from Denmark agriculturally, we need good public education, and we need unions, loan banks and cooperative societies as in Denmark".

Miss Faering felt a deep attachment to Gandhi and the Indian people, but she could do little as she suffered from ill health from 1920. Miss Petersen set up a national girls' school in 1921 as her contribution to the Indian struggle despite opposition by the DMS and intimidation by the British authorities. She offered to take part in the Civil Disobedience movement in 1930 and provided a home for the families of volunteers who were imprisoned.

Mrs. Ellen Hørup, was not religious. A radical anti-fascist journalist, she became interested in Gandhi in the late 1920s – perhaps after having read about him from Esther (Faering) Menon - and visited him in India in 1929 and 1930. She was very active in promoting understanding and solidarity in Europe for India's struggle for independence. She not only set up an organisation in Denmark to support the struggle but also established an International Committee for India in Geneva. She spent more than two years in Geneva and organised three international conferences.

The three women revered Gandhi. For Esther Faering, he was her "living ideal, the incarnation of God in man". To Miss Petersen, he was "the great saint" and "beloved leader". To Ms Hørup, he gave "what I have been seeking all my life". •

Source: Friends of Gandhi by E.S. Reddy and Holger Terp

### **Nature and Natural Resources Photo Series**

Asafoetida (known as Hing in Hindi and PerunGayam in Tamil) is an antispasmodic, antioxidant and a digestive stimulant.. It is a brownish gum-like resin exuded from ferula plants found mostly in Afghanistan and Iran (in picture). Dried sap oozing out of its roots slightly chopped and collected has a strong taste and odour. Asafoetida is mostly used in Indian spicy foods. It is also called as "devil's dung" for its bitter taste and odour.



Photo source: Social Media

### Canada and U.S. Relations

### By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

Canada, the second largest country in the world is having rough times with the United States of America. Canada is preparing to face the trade barriers put on its way to electing a new Prime Minister amid precarious challenges posed by President Trump to make it as America's 51st state.

### What exactly is the cause of soring relations between these two nations?

After passing through an acrimonious diplomatic relations with India over accusing some Indian diplomats for the killing of Khalistanii activist Nijjar, Canadian government has been gravely blamed for its handling of the issue, especially the heated statements exchanged by the Prime Minister Trudeau with the Indian officials. Neighbouring ally America, too, advised Canada to speak with evidence about the assassin(s).

Followed by this, Canada was once again blown up with rage when the President Trump said that the U.S. would impose 25% tariff for all goods imported from Canada and Mexico when he assume office on January 20. As a 'close-ally' to the U.S., Canada tried to patch up this when the Prime Minister Trudeu met Trump for reconciliations on this threat. However, the response was rather dismissive as Trump pitched in the idea of making Canada as the 51st state of America and Trudeu its

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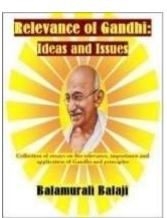
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# Thought of the month

"...Every human being has a right to live and therefore to find the wherewithal to feed himself and where necessary to clothe and house himself. But for this very



simple performance we need no assistance from economists or their laws...." - Gandhi 's lecture, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec' 1916

# How good are plastic eating insects? By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

Plastic is not really a menace like what many of us believe since plastic waste would mix up with the soil and degrade its nature and nourishment. Plastics constitute 85% of the solid, non-bio-degradable waste produced by human activities in this world.

With the discovery of plastic eating insects and worms like yellow mealworms, certain types of plastics could still be degradable as these worms feed on them. Super worms and mushroom corals inject tiny fragments of plastic debris found in deep waters of seas and oceans.



The question lingering consistently in the minds of scientists and researchers is that how these plastic eating species would contribute to a healthy food chain in the animal kingdom. It is still not clear whether the plastic is converted into a biodegradable substance upon completing the digestion process. While most of the worms produce carbon dioxide and starch after ingestion, what would be the fate of other animals and birds that

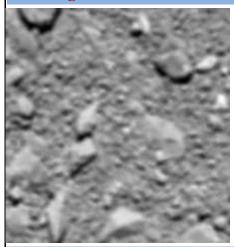
Governor. Elon Musk was jointly mocking the Canadian Prime Minister as well, on feed on these plastic eating species? Man, eating plastic this part.

Trump's notion on 'cross-border terrorism' along the U.S.-Canada border is more a pretension adding to his denunciation towards Canada's failure to meet NATO's benchmark on military spending. Candid support from NATO for Ukraine in its war with Russia, has least bothered Canada and its passive refrainment in the war has long a daunting hitch on America, NATO's major contributor.

Series of events preceded in the event of swearing in of Trump as president and the ouster of Dustin Trudeu as Prime Minister in Canada even before that have shaken the global political experts and the economists as well. Both the nations might get on to a kind of economic race in view of increased tariffs imposed on Canada, they believe Wouldn't that have an adverse effect on the U.S. economy itself, they question!

Trump's renowned theme 'America First' in the global issues and its long-standing approach towards silencing Canada in world politics will only put America - like any other country - dealing with all the nuances including border security, immigration laws, trade and tariff issues. •

## Landing on a comet – An European space odyssey



On November 12, 2014, after a ten-year journey through the solar system and over 500 million kilometres away from earth, the European Space Agency's Rosetta Mission achieved a unique feat in the space exploration history when the lander Philae touched down a comet for the first time.

This decade past extraordinary feat was collaborated by NASA and European Union to study the gas, dust and plasma in the Comet 67P/ Churyumov-Gerasimenko by making a historical landing on its surface.

Photo source: ESA – Mission Complete

# Shocking trend in Gen-Z employees

It is common to see newly recruited employees turn up in full colours on their first day of employment. They used to have the zeal of punctuality, mixed feelings of fear and excitement on the first day of assuming office.

Studies found that Gen Z candidates, those who were born between 1997 and 2012, have a new attitude towards their first day in office. That is nothing but they just won't show up for work on day one. It is a holiday for them!



Online portal CVGenius in its survey discovered this trend amongst Gen Z employees. It says that whether it is a big company or small/medium sized company, employee below the age 27 do not really show up on the first day in their designated place of work.

The trend indicates that they prefer freedom more than anything in their life, the report says. Roughly, around 34% of employees revealed this shocking truth as they justify their decision for it takes a lot of pain, time and resources to complete the whole recruitment process before they actually made it. Also, they complain that they experience a long waiting time to hear from their employers about their employment notice. To show their aversion towards long-running recruitment processes, they decide to skip the first day's work, the survey's findings say.

In the changing conditions prevailing in the business and industry Gen X (prior generation) and 'baby boomers' (fresh) employees are supposed to follow the company rules strictly, but not the Gen Z generation employees. Gen Z employees seem to be more selfish and compassionate about the potential for future progress, more money and perks, not the company's growth and tighter dependency with the same company where they are employed! Source: Tamil.OneIndia.com

contaminated meat and meals, will never know that he is slowly adding poisonous polystyrenes eaten by these worms, planktons or other marine species.

However, not all kinds of plastic are edible by these worms and insects. In addition, to entirely consume the plastic debris and clean up this planet it requires tons of such worms lasting for many centuries.

Photo source: Google Search

# **Husband-Wife relationship** By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

Marriage nowadays in India has become a complicated business deal. It is more than a business at times. Boys and girls are more cognisant about the consequences of an early marriage. They want to enjoy their youthful days for longer focusing more on work and earnings. They deliberately postpone or deny the proposals made to them arranged by their family or direct one-on-one love relationship.

The minimum age for marriage set by the law is still 21 for boys and 18 for girls. The families see marrying early at these ages as a burden and undue imposition on the boy or girl. However, boys and girls like to fall in love on their partner during these ages. Besides, they continue to love and maintain their connections thinking, speaking and working towards their married life. Some of them reveal their plans to their parents and friends while some others do not. Those who do not have opportunities for such direct connection are looking out for their close partner when they found employment. Weekends and holidays serve as a perfect time for them to meet in person and discuss their plans and love life.

Most of the boys and girls get married only when they attain a well-matured age knowing all the ifs' and buts of complexities surrounding their families. In the working class, both boys and girls do have their own budgeting, financial obligations and preferences. Both the bride and groom try to know each other more in the first few weeks of their married life. Personal interests, attitude, living style and behavioural aspects - all these do not usually match up to each one's expectations in the beginning. After all, it is normal. As the days go by, proper understanding and mutual truest would come in to play to tighten their bond to further their married life.



Nonetheless, such a beautiful relationship will often get spoiled leading to divorce for many reasons beyond their control. Problems arising from in-laws, sudden losing of job or loss in

business, infertility or infidelity of husband or wife there are plenty of reasons for a relationship to break.

Of late, shocking news about suicides and killings of man and woman by their partners are on the rise. We see incidents of techie professionals committing suicide in Bengaluru and New Delhi respectively due to money extortion and torture by his wife and amid the process of divorce. As money became the central part of love relationship, improper ways of "give-and-take" of the same result into altercations leading to force the couples to take serious decisions about the future course of their relations. Criminal intention, political backgrounds and communal or casteist clashes fuel the already fuming relationships, some times.

All these breed egoist behaviour and selfishness in husband and wife. When it reaches to extreme levels

# **Pollution Control in Thermal Power Plants** By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

Pollution due to fly ash and other chemicals emanating from Thermal Power Plants have been a never-ending menace in any country. In India, there are 163 (as on 2016) major power plants and 155 other private and government smaller units producing electricity.

Emission from power plants include particulate matter, sulphur-dioxide, and oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, oxygen and non-methane hydrocarbon. Thermal plants across the country intake around sixty lakh metric tonnes of coal as raw material producing two lakh metric tonnes of fly ash is obtained as by-product. Fly ash produced in the process must be utilized/disposed as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

The plants coming into operation after the MoEF's notification (3rd November 2009) are to achieve the target of Fly Ash utilization as 50% in the 1st year, 70% in 2nd, 90% in 3rd and 100% in 4th year from their date of commissioning. Fly ash is disposed from the site to various factories and users for the purpose of manufacturing cement, bricks, blocks, tiles, concrete, mortar, plaster etc.

Fly ash utilization, national n average is only 59.43% from the public sector power plants where as it is 82% for private plants.

As far as pollution control measures is concerned, State Pollution Board sets the standards for discharging liquid effluents and emission of particulate matter based on location and power generation capacity of the plant. Most of the toxic chemicals discharged from the plants are very much within the limits specified by MOEF&CC while fly ash remain as a chief pollutant causing various effects on a daily basis.

People living around the plant complaint mostly about the effects of the polluting fly ash comprising of particulate matter discharged from chimneys. Particles mix with air and slowly settle down on the surface of the earth. Residents staying nearby are serious affected as it directly harm their health. The cases of Asthma, Bronchitis, infection of lungs and skin are being reported more than ever.

TPPs ( units) to be installed from 1 <sup>st</sup> January, 2017**	
Particulate Matter	30 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup>
Sulphur Dioxide (SO2)	100 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup>
Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx)	100 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup>
Mercury ( Hg)	0.03 mg/Nm <sup>3</sup>

The standards for emission of particulate matter is set based on the capacity of the plant. Before 2017, for units generating less than 210MW, emission standard is 350mg/Nm3 whereas for units above 210 MW, it is 150mg/Nm3. Pollution control standards in Delhi and Andhra Pradesh is stipulated as 50 mg/Nm3 and 115 mg/Nm3 respectively. These stipulated standards are for plants installed before 2003. Imagine how many thermal plants are established in this country before 2003!

Obviously, the stipulated standards for particulate matter is not quite up to the mark as it still requires a new standards to address the growing concerns.

In addition, it is found that plants with lesser capacity produce more pollution than the ones that generate more power. Around 100 plants in the country, are merely generating 15MW to -100MW of power only causing more pollution?

The state pollution control boards and committees keep on revising the emission California (Los Angeles) wildfire leaves a church standards year after year. However, the plants are practically not viable to meet the standards because of older machinery and inefficient methods of controlling pollution. Gravimetric method for checking particulate matter emission is a very old technique based on gravity and mass. Newer methods and tools are also available.

Therefore, to minimize the effects of pollution, states should go for thermal plants of larger capacity of power generation and install efficient tools to reduce the amount of pollutants in its emission. As standards vary from plant to plant, deeper investigation on pollutants need to be carried out in every thermal plant.

Statistical data sourced from IPC - Division II

other causes such as social status, profession and earnings, also add up becoming prominent factors in pampering the wellness of relationship. If both of them are working, there are more chances for distrust and dissent amongst them. Pure love and caretaking in a couple cease to continue as they run after money taking care of themselves separately. At one point of time, extortion and swindling of money come as a way to meet their individual style of living, not caring about their togetherness and connectedness. If any reprobate mischievously play in between them, which, surely, is the end of the relationship where they feel hurt or disappointed driven by so many misgivings between them.

A good relationship needs a humble and forgoing approach towards each other. Allowing outsiders and unwanted elements between their relationships, feeling bitter about it later - we see in many couples. Mutual trust and conservative approach towards running a family is the best way to stay in relationship. Undue commitments, unjustifiable money handling and excesses in wrongdoings will lead only to stinging relationship.

### **CARTOON OF THE MONTH**



# **CORNER STONE** REBUILD NATURE!



unburnt inferring a numinous fact about belief in God and existence of mystic powers! Whether it is a sabotage or man-made disaster concocted for future developments plans, the wildfire has caused terrible loss to the human lives and properties. Thousands of acres of land that was inhabitating green life need to be brought back. Nature destroyed need to be rebuilt.

Photo source: FaceBook

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