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Dedicated to His Divine Grace,
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupada, Founder Acharya of
the International Society for Krishna
Consciousness

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GOVARDHAN ECO VILLAGE

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The brahmastra is similar to the modern nuclear weapon manipulated by atomic energy. The atomic energy works wholly on total combustibility, and so the brahmastra also acts. It creates an intolerable heat similar to atomic radiation, but the difference is that the atomic bomb is a gross type of nuclear weapon, whereas the brahmastra is a subtle type of weapon produced by chanting hymns...Subtle material science is not spiritual, but it has a direct relationship with the spiritual method, which is still subtler. A chanter of hymns knew how to apply the weapon as well as how to retract it. That was perfect knowledge.

Japan's Tsunami of WARNINGS!

Call it the fallout of technological advancement or the fury of nature. Japan's baggage of woes with the crisis has sent a strong wake up call to the world. The Earthquake and tsunami that battered the Japanese coast seemed natural, but the nuclear problems aftermath is raising questions about the utility of artificial urban systems and their sustainability. What are the lessons we learn from this disaster lets explore!

The devastating earthquake that hit the coastal towns of north Japan shook four out of the six nuclear reactors in that region. Although Japan is a leader in earthquake management and radiation treatment, they are facing an ever-increasing challenge to contain the consequences of an Earthquake of the magnitude 9.0. The series of post earthquake mishaps clearly questions the safety of major coastal cities of the

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Organic Fertilizers

Have you ever wondered if organic fertilizers work better than synthetic fertilizers? The answer can be known by understanding the basic working of fertilizers.

A fertilizer is any substance that is added to the soil to promote plant growth by providing nutrients to the plants and adding to the soil fertility. Soil is the source of essential nutrients such as nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus that plants need, besides water, for proper growth and development. With the invention of chemically synthesized inorganic fertilizers, agriculture today has become largely dependent on the depleting petroleum sources. Besides this another major drawback of chemical fertilizers is their inability to supply micronutrients to the soil, resulting in a produce devoid of many essential nutrients. With the threat of ground water contamination and soil acidification, the long-term sustainability of chemical fertilizers is under question today.

Prior to the use of chemical fertilizers, the earth and animals worked together to enhance the fertility of the soil. Reviving this natural concept, today a whole new gamut of Organic fertilizers is available.

Adding organic matter in various forms such as living or dead plant and animal material to the soil is the keystone to enhancing this soil requirement. Organic matter supplies raw materials to naturally occurring bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms in the soil. These organisms digest organic matter in a process known as the decay cycle. The decay cycle breaks down the complex compounds in the plant material into forms that can be absorbed

by plant roots, creating a natural recycling process. On the other hand chemical fertilizers do not work on the soil but the plants directly absorb them without nourishing the soil. This causes the soil to lose its fertility gradually with time.

Natural substances like manure, slurry, seaweeds etc. are good sources of organic fertilizers. Humic acid, compost and seaweed extracts are some other popular processed organic fertilizers. Another practice in organic fertilization is the use of Green manures, often known as cover crops. Cover crops are temporary plants, planted while the main crops are still young and have not yet flowered. Not only do they improve the structure, organic matter content and nutrient content of the soil but also increasing the water retaining capacity, prevent erosion and weed growth.

At Govardhan Eco Village cow dung slurry, produced from the biogas plant, is used as a fertilizer. The digested slurry in the process of biogas generation is a highly nutrient rich substance and can be used directly for farming applications. Having extracted all the natural gas in the plant, the threat of emissions of methane - a strong green house gas, is also avoided. Hailed as a miracle fertilizer in the ancient texts of India, this age old traditional practice is being promoted at GEV in an attempt to show the wide-scale applicability of traditional practices.



Benefits of LEMON

Lemon is an easily available, inexpensive citrus fruit, well known for its medicinal benefits. Lemon has a natural disease-preventing compound called limonene, which helps lower cholesterol. As a natural antiseptic, lemon juice destroys harmful bacteria found in cuts and wounds. The citric acid in lemon juice reduces the excretion of calcium in the urine, thus helping stave off kidney stones. A tablespoon of lemon juice in half a glass of water relieves heartburn. Four spoons of lemon juice gives one almost half the vitamin C needed for a day. Lemon juice helps prevent and cure osteoarthritis, prevent diabetes, and the development of atherosclerosis. It also controls high BP, assists in curing respiratory disorders and throat infections and also acts as a blood purifier.



Radiation and Cow dung

The threat of nuclear radiation in Japan has raised widespread concerns across the world. The blasts at the Fukushima Daiichi plant in Japan have raised fears about the adverse health effects of the fission products, released from the reactors core.

Ionizing radiation produced by decaying radioactive material affect the body's chemical functioning. Bone marrow cells, thyroid gland, soft tissue of the stomach and lungs are very vulnerable to the radiation. Food exposed to radiation is also harmful. People across the world are rushing to buy potassium iodide tablets to safeguard themselves from exposure. But just like any other outbreak of an epidemic the skyrocketing sales is inevitably soaring the profits of pharma-companies.

But the remedy is there right at our disposal from none other than "Mother Cow". Recent studies in an Indian University physics department has shown that cow dung plastering or layering helps shield gamma rays or even nuclear radiation. Gamma rays as we know are the most harmful rays emitted during nuclear reaction. Cow dung, in fact, can absorb all the three rays – alpha, beta and gamma in the spectrum. Although alpha and beta rays are not harmful but Gamma rays penetrate the body tissue and are the most harmful. If the outer walls of houses are coated with thick layers of cow dung, it will absorb the gamma rays and in turn people would be safe.

So even if we don't have nuclear fallout we still can be saved from harmful radioactive isotopes that are around us in the environment. Moreover, besides the multitude of other benefits that the cow dung has to offer we have one highly effective construction technology, which has been incorporated in rural India since time immemorial. This keeps the interiors cool in summers.

As the modern scientists keep on finding the plethora of benefits of Cow dung we at our eco-friendly community have incorporated these age-old remedies with a concept of living with nature in harmony. We at GEV have incorporated the use of mud houses technology, which has an added layer of cow dung plaster to it. These structures are at pilot stage of implementation but slowly experiments are in progress on their large-scale construction. Going by the urgency to protect and nurture cows whom we consider sacred and worship able these kind of initiatives will make them symbolic as the moving "Industrial Enterprises" of future India.



Japan's Tsunami of Warnings!

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world, in the wake of such disasters and more importantly the recurrent question that "How safe are our Nuclear setups?"

This incident has bolstered the fact that the frequency of earthquakes and tsunamis have grown through years, not only claiming thousands of lives and resources but also collapsing many economies. So we obviously fall back on the fundamental question that given the steady recurrence of such natural disasters how can we save the colossal loss of life and money. Moreover after the nuclear radiation leaks from the ill-fated reactors, the complete bio-systems and the food chain are endangered with radiation contamination, giving rise to highly imperiled ecosystems. Now is the time to sit back and evaluate if we can afford to go on with such catastrophes at the cost of such loss in life and financial debacle or be considerate with Mother Nature and live a more eco-friendly and harmonious life.

The energy demands for all urban setups are rising by the day, primarily due to the increasing concentration of population in the cities. For the first time in history of mankind, more people stay in the cities than in the rural areas, creating a world of increasing consumers and receding suppliers. This has strained all the urban infrastructural facilities mainly, power supplies. Meeting all this energy demand using conventional sources is no easy task. Nuclear power generation was born out of this dire necessity and has become a popular choice by most nations, in spite of the high risks tag it comes with. So to reduce our dependence on nuclear setups, the root of this crisis, the unequal population concentrations needs to be addressed.

By encouraging more rural dwellings the population distribution disorder may be corrected. And by setting up local alternative power sources like Biogas, Solar or Geothermal, it can be ensured that the burden of rural electrification does not fall on the conventional power sources. Another cause of concern is that in spite of the technologically advanced Earthquake resistant infrastructure in Japan, major damage to life could not be averted. Imagine an earthquake of that same magnitude hitting one of India's major cities - the death toll would go over several thousand if not in millions. So rampant urbanization is not a panacea for all the problems of modern day, but encouraging development of eco villages seems the right way to go.

When we have eco villages sustaining on organic farming and cow culture the steady migration to cities will be minimized giving rise to less populated cities and a lesser demand for power and other natural resources. At Govardhan Eco Village this rural model is being developed, where the community sustains by farming and cow protection. Cattle provide feed for the biogas plant whose output is electricity and nutrient rich organic slurry that can be used in farming. The output of farming acts as a ready feed for the cattle. Thus by this sustainable loop of cow-culture and agriculture a future model of living is being demonstrated. It is high time that we take lessons from the tsunami of warnings that we are facing in modern urban world scenario and encourage the concept of eco villages and change our lifestyle on the decree of simple living and high thinking.