



THE

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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

What is Social Service?

Gandhiji's speech in Madras

At the anniversary celebration of the Social Service League, held in Madras on February 10, 1916, Mr Gandhi delivered an address on "Social Service," Mrs, Whitehead presided.

**Gandhiji:** Friends, for Social Service as for any other service on the face of the earth, there is one condition indispensable namely, qualifications, and proper qualifications, on the part of those who want to render social service or any other service. So we shall ask ourselves this evening whether those of us who are already engaged in this kind of service and others who have aspired to render the service possess these necessary qualifications. Because you will agree, with me that in social service if they can mend matters, they can also spoil matters and in trying to do service however well-intentioned that service might be, if they are not qualified for that service they will be rendering not service but disservice.



and those of you who want hereafter to be engaged in this service have these two qualities. Let me remind you also that these qualities may be trained in us in a manner detrimental to ourselves and in a manner detrimental to those with whom we may come in contact.

This is a dangerous statement almost to make, as if truth would be ever so handed and in making that statement, I would like you to consider that truth comes not as truth but only as truth so-called.

... I hold that life without religion is life without principle that life without principle is like a ship without a rudder. Just as our ship without rudder, the helmsman plying at it, is tossed about from place to place and never reaches its destination, so will a man without the heart-grasp of religion whirl without ever reaching his destined goal.

So, I suggest to every social servant that he must not run away with the idea that he will serve his whole countrymen unless he has got these two qualities duly sanctified by religion and by a life divinely guided. ●

What                      are                      these

qualifications?

It seems to me that *we require truth in one hand and fearlessness in the other hand. Unless we carry the torchlight we-shall not see the step in front of us and unless we carry the quality of fearlessness we shall not be able to give the message that we might want to give.* Unless we have the fearlessness I feel sure that when that supreme final test comes we shall be found wanting. Then I ask you to ask yourselves whether those of you who are engaged in this service

Thought of the month

"The deprivation of a man's right to trade without any compensation ... is very much akin to robbery, which is miscalled law when it is done under cover of statute... Working for the community, we may keep for ourselves only a proportion of what is secured, and no more. And herein lies the sacrifice. At times we have to pay dearly."



- M.K.Gandhi in Indian Opinion

India's Intended Climate Action

By Balamurali Balaji

Will India meet its 2030 goals for Climate Action?

With a sizable achievement in Climate Action Plan, why India still suffering with unpredictable climatic conditions?

India, among the G20 nations, is the first to achieve the targets laid down in the Paris Agreement 2015. Now, with only a couple of months to go for submitting an updated report, called Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), India is still short of some points to meet the target. More likely, it may surpass the targets set for the year 2030.

India pledged with a commitment to reduce the 'emissions intensity' to 33 to 35% by the year 2030 to which it achieved by so far astonishing 36% in 2024. India also pledged to convert half of its electricity generation capacity to green, i.e. with no use of fossil fuel. In February 2025, the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change reported in the Parliament that India achieved 47.10% power generation as against the 50% commitment by 2030.

Currently India is facing serious issues like slow-progress in renewable energy sector due to delayed approvals, import duties and tariffs, and other uncertain conditions in the sector. India is also facing adverse climatic conditions like flooding, snow melting in the Himalayas, Cloudburst and cyclones in coastal areas, which occur frequently.



In the previous NDC, India just gave an outline of its commitments in a 4-page draft with no clear road map for 2030 goals. In the upcoming NDC, will India provide an

Gandhi – an outcaste in his early years!

In a strong and ruling system of caste and creed in the pre-independent India, adjudging someone as outcaste was a regular phenomenon. Village heads outcaste those committed blasphemous act or speech against the beliefs though it was a rare occurrence at the time of freedom struggle. In certain communities, inter-caste marriages cost the couple an ‘outcaste’ verdict from the elders and leaders of the community.

Gandhi was also ‘outcaste’-ed when he flew to London for studying law. There was a heated resistance on the part of his caste to any of its members going abroad. For the Hindu beliefs and customs could not be followed overseas, religious heads and orthodox members of Hindu family had their own fear of their sons being spoiled when they go abroad. Gandhi’s family, too, had the same apprehension.

The young Mohandas managed to promise his mother with the three vows, - “no to wine, no to meat and no to women” and gain her nod and family’s support with the help of Becharji Swami, a Jain monk and family adviser.



Nevertheless, the disapproval was not yet over with this. In a series of incidents, Gandhi was harassed on the streets of Bombay (Mumbai), which had even larger population of members of his caste than his hometown. Out in open, public confrontations erupted many times that led the caste head to intervene in this matter.

The head of the caste issued an ultimatum to Gandhi:

“We were your father’s friends, and therefore we feel for you; as heads of the caste you know our power. We are positively informed that you will have to eat flesh and drink wine in England; moreover, you have to cross the waters; all this you must know is against our caste rules. Therefore, we command you to reconsider your decision, or else the heaviest punishment will be meted out to you.”

Gandhi’s response was firm and unequivocal. He said, “I am going nonetheless!”

The head of the caste thereupon decreed that Gandhi was no longer his father’s son, ordered all members of the caste to have nothing to do with him, and declared him an outcaste.

With some small amounts of money and a silver chain, that some of his friends gave him Gandhi departed Bombay on September 4, 1888, two weeks after being ejected from his caste. ●

Nature and Natural Resources Photo Series

The Salmon river in Alaska is changing its color to iron-rust orange due to thawing permafrost since 2019. Many other rivers in the world are also changing their color significantly due to many environmental polluting activities like mining and merging of chemical sewages from factories and other human activities.



Rivers naturally change their color relative to the mineral content of the soil through which they flow, due to weathering of soil and rocks. Heavy rains do pick up the

enhanced target much more in compliance to International Environment Agreements? ●

Is it still there, the Third World War?

Is the third world war still on the anvil? The tariff war by eighty-eight nations with the U.S. seems to create a greater fissure amongst the nations forming two different teams viz., a team that resist America and wanting to do more free trade; another team of nations that enjoy lesser tariffs from America without any unique effort.

The cloud of another great war was visible at the height of growing tensions in the NATO and the U.S. due to nonstop missile and drone attacks between Russia and Ukraine. The same clout was subdued by series of talks and negotiations between the leaders of Russia, Ukraine with the U.S. President Donald Trump. The middle-east conflicts and Indo-Pakistan skirmish also did not seem to escalate the risks of the arrival of the third world war.



Different leaders have different opinion and standings on these regional conflicts, forcing them to take a tough stand for or against certain options. With the given conflicts bound to a particular region, say for example, India and Pakistan were too focused on their border problem while Israel worrying about conquering the rapport with the Arab nations – the chances of going in out for a full-fledged world-wide war are becoming bleak though. Rather, regionalized, devolved approach to each conflict has been in the global scene.

Nevertheless, this is an era of wars - small, big, large or great! Peace is at stake while the wants of conflict resolutions and decoding of misconceptions at the regional levels come as a run of the mill. ●

How pills take control over our palate?

“Control of palate” is one of the eleven vows pledged by Mahatma Gandhi. He asked the fellow satyagrahis to follow the 11 vows, more importantly, to maintain sound body and health by taking the right palate. He followed a particular diet and suggested other satyagrahis to keep their palate healthy and nutritious.

Today, we see many people regularly taking more pills for controlling their blood pressure, sugar levels and for other ailments. In fact, they take more pills than food! If observed carefully, not anyone might get surprised that their food habit has caused such conditions.

Blood Pressure Ranges			
BLOOD PRESSURE	SYSTOLIC	AND/OR	DIASTOLIC
Normal	90-120	and	60-80
Elevated	120-129	and	60-80
Stage 1 Hypertension	130-139	or	80-89
Stage 2 Hypertension	Above 140	or	Above 90
Hypertensive Crisis	Above 180	and/or	Above 120
Hypotension	Under 90	and	Under 60

Healthy and nutritious food in correct quantities is the key to keep the body fit. In a busy lifestyle filled with work

surface of the soil to mix up with the flow as we see muddy floods running through their pathways.

Photo: University of Pittsburg

**The SriLanka-Bangladesh-Nepal flare-up**  
**By Balamurali Balaji**

The worst economic crisis SriLanka faced in 2022 has toppled President RajaPakse and the ruling government by the means of violent protests and seizing of Presidential residence and important office buildings. Power cuts, exorbitant prices, shortage of fuel, food and medicines and inflation provoked people from all parts of country, hoping to find a change, - massive crowd of people gathered in the main roads leading to the presidential palace resisting the police and armed force. They stormed in to Rajapakse’s palace, occupied it for days exposing his lavish style of living.

Violent protests by student groups against corruption and mean economic policies of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina led to her resignation and escape to India in August 2024. The student protest movement toppled the authoritarian government as they lose hope in their country’s future under the leadership of Ms. Hasina.

In September 2025, Gen-Z movement in Nepal aroused against the ban of Social Media days after highlighting various corruption practices by the higher authorities through months-long posts in their page. Nepal’s Prime minister KP Sharma Oli resigned after a mob of protesters stormed in to his residence, parliament and set ablaze them among other places.

A common ground for all these collapsing of governments is not to be described further as it was all vivid and felt across the world. Corruption, unemployment, economic crisis, inflation, inequitable policies by the government favoring only a few and lavish style of living by those in power.

For the ordinary public, food, shelter and health have become an everyday challenge that requires hard work in unfavorable conditions at the expense of their heard-earned money and other values. In a globally competitive work environment - getting a work, retaining it and earning a decent living and to looking for the future – has become a mega challenge even for professionals and white-collared employees. People, especially the Gen-X And Gen-Z have almost lost themselves to the changing trends that include social-media, cultural invasion and bizarre political influence.



Well, Is This The Way To Correct The Government? Are Violence, Mobsters And Hooligans The Answer For Setting Right The Corrupt Political System? No. Not.

An outburst is a resultant product of a long-standing patience and failed perseverance against a hostile environment – home, street or any public place. A violent upsurge as a reaction could happen anywhere – to a person, society, or in a community. Dreadful moments of scuffle and tussle will soon recede after a while. However, a political upsurge is of a different kind as it not only engraved with violent riots and clashes but also will have a serious repercussion of any extent! Ousting of governments and the heads of the states will need to be reckoned as a

and breaks, our body is tuned to certain pattern of metabolism resulting out of sitting in a place for long time, too much of physical work, lying on the bed for longer time or stressing ourselves with excessive thinking about a problem etc. Prolonged metabolism of certain kind determines the particular pressure in the blood flow in our body.

Therefore, to maintain a normal pressure level, one has to change their diet, physical postures and even place of living very often. Not everyone is thinking about their monotonous lifestyle and give attention to this little change. A dynamic lifestyle would surely reduce the pressure and ensure a sound body.

No treatment or medication need to be continued even after the cure. Abnormal blood pressure and sugar levels are also similar such ailment. Soon after taking medicine for a day or two, body condition comes to normal. Thereafter, one can stop medication and learn to control his/her body through mindful exercises and diet. They need not rely on taking pills and tablets for lifelong.●

**Striking way of dealing with stray dogs**

In parts of Tamilnadu, Karnataka and in some cities in northern India, people have tried to trick the stray dogs’ menace with a striking way of placing color-water bottles outside their homes.

At the time when stray dogs making biting stories across the nation that caused thousands of ‘rabies’ cases, the Supreme Court issued a Suo Moto order on August 11 to remove all street dogs in the national capital and put them up permanently in shelters.

Thousands, from young kids to elderly people experience the menace by street dogs regularly. Complaints filed by social activists and the public to the local administration could not bear a fruitful result.



Pedestrians and those who walk, jog early in the morning or evening observed many tricks and actions. They carry bread, biscuits and other snacks while they walk or jog. Feeding them gave a sort of satisfaction for animal lovers. However, dogs go awry and fury anytime bite the by passers if they feel being attacked. Even pet dogs bite their owners.

Day and night, stray dogs roam and ramble around the streets in groups of 10 to 20 barking loudly disturbing peace and sleep in the neighborhood. One can’t come out of their house and go past the dogs since it is more risky.

To avoid stray dogs gathering up near their houses, people keep such bottles filled with colored-water. And they say, “this technique works fine to some extent.” ●

**Double-colored Banana Bunch!**

A farmer in TamilNadu SathyaMangalam, Erode district has grown a red plantain tree, which gave a single bunch of both green and red bananas. Though it is not a hybrid variety of two different types of bananas, it is a mysterious sight to see multi-colored fruits in a single bunch. ●

failure of the entire nation and the people though it resulted out of outburst of the public.

In a democratically elected governance, violent mobs are not the required statute for bringing a change. A serious flaw in the systems and governance need to be addressed nonviolently by enacting rules and respecting them by following them. Only then, stability and prosperity of a nation can be guaranteed; otherwise, change due to a sudden eruption would trigger various other avenues opened for further debate and clashing.

In Bangladesh, violent clashes still going on between the supporters of Ms. Hasina and the protesters who wanting her to be tried in the court as their pleas went overlooked by the new interim-head. Nepal also elected an interim-leader to head the state with no clues on resolving issues cited for the cause of the violent ouster of the earlier government. Sri Lanka is still witnessing human-rights violations, as more activists and non-governmental organizations are suppressed and limited to their funds and activities.

Sri Lanka went for polls for choosing their new leader after all the violent incidents; Nepal has also scheduled its election next year to elect a new government. Bangladesh still suffering to come back to the path of democracy.

So the question is if elections were the main transition tool in democracy empowering the people to choose the leader and government at their will, how the violent protests be construed as a method or tool for a change?

How a violent outburst gains control and power over the authoritarian government while the public could not elect a desired government using the politically viable, legal tool or procedure? Threats and physical assaults unleashed on the holders of higher offices by unaccountable, immeasurable crowd – will never be a new tantrum as a method or process but an accidental event for change, a mere change in the political scene. It leaves as a historical past or lesson in the minds of mindless, corrupt officials and politicians, but nothing more. Listen to audio visual [here](#). ●

**Turbulence in India’s IT sector and Modi’s Gandhi avatar**

With the new executive order from Trump’s administration that imposed a whopping \$100,000 fee for fresh H1B applicants, \$283 billion IT sector in India has to overhaul its decades-old strategy of rotating skilled talent in to the U.S projects. Stat-ups and medium-sized companies are under severe jolt in this fresh wave of constraints besides facing other strict immigration rules coming into effect one after another since January 2025.

India, the major exporter of software and services have contributed to half of the economic growth and foreign exchange the country had seen in the past decade. India’s export of software and services to America alone is [valued](#) at 55.71% last year. A sudden shift in this flow of transactions would have a serious impact the way the IT sector works in its various levels from licensing to hosting of services and infrastructure and in consulting and support services.

India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his September 21 address to the nation elaborated the new GST slabs and its implications. Reducing the prices of essential commodities, he also called for self-reliance, swadeshi, and the hallmarks of Mahatma Gandhi at this time of crucial trade and tariff relations with the U.S. As experts predicted, this is the time for India to do some homework, open new avenues of building its own capacity, innovation and strengthen its IT industry.

While the U.S remains a glamorous destination, India can do a bit for bringing in some indigenous ideas to stay top. Co-existence is the mantra. ●



Photo source: Social Media

**CARTOON OF THE MONTH**



Avoid videshi food like pizza and burgers... eat swadeshi roti and chapati instead!

**CORNER STONE**

**Can Pakistan afford to take control of security concerns in the Muslim world?**

The Pakistan-Saudi Arabia mutual defense pact has stirred the Arab world with the emergence of new power-centre under the control of nuclear-armed Pakistan. For long time, Iran has been crowning itself with its Islamic supreme leadership and direct tussling with the U.S in developing its nuclear capabilities. The ‘endangered’ nations like Palestine, Syria were looking for Iran to resolve their crisis and resist the threats from the west and Israel in particular. After the destruction of Iran’s nuclear sites by the U.S, the scene has now shifted to Pakistan.

The meeting of Pakistan Prime Minister Sharif and Field Marshal Munir with the U.S President Trump could set a stage for Pakistan to take charge of entire Arab world on leading issues what Israel is trying to do through missile attacks in certain parts of the middle east.

Israel’s uncanny desire over Gaza has no specific end but only for wiping it out completely and then looking for the liking of the U.S on Gaza. With Pakistan emerging out as a new power-Centre in the Arab world, it is unlikely that Israel would continue to threaten the Arab world, including Palestine, which is going to arise and stand independently with a bigger mandate from the rest of the world. ●

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