

# TECHNO-GANDHIAN NEWS

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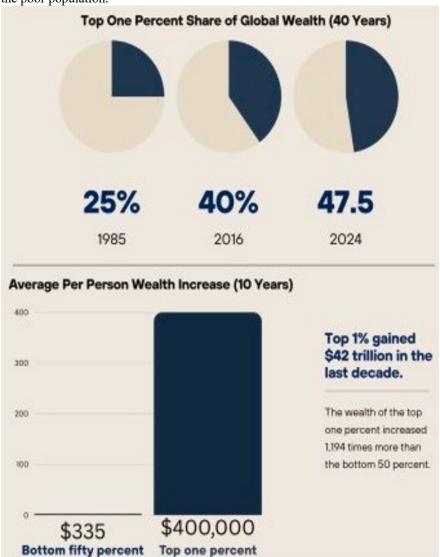
**SINCE 2011** 

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

#### Widening Gap

The gap between the rich and the poor is increasingly widening over the last few decades. The change is so obvious that the top most stratum of the rich gets 76% of their share from the global incomes whereas the poorer people get only 8.5%. Also, the buying power of the top 10% of the rich is 190 times more than that of 50% of the poor population.



Top 1% share of the global wealth has almost doubled over the last four decades. It was 25% in 1985 and has increased to 47.5% in 2024. Top 1% gained \$42 trillion in just a decade, which is 1194 times more than that of what is gained by the bottom 50%.

On an average, wealth per person in the last decade for the bottom 50% of the population is just \$335 whereas the top 1% gain \$40,000.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reports that three quarters of the world's wealth is owned by ten people and they are responsible for half of the CO2 emissions in the world. During the days of Covid-19 pandemic, ten richest men doubled their fortunes, Oxfam reports.

The growing gap between the rich and poor may cause various adverse conditions in the future: Slavery, economic conflicts and battles, degradation and demarcation of classes and social values, and a possible collapse of civilization. Economic inequality is one of the major factors that drive weaponization and warring battles

### Thought of the month

"God-given religion is beyond all speech. Imperfect men put it into such language as they can command, and other men equally interpret their words imperfect.



Whose interpretation must be held to be the right one? Everyone is right from his own standpoint, but it is not impossible that everyone is wrong. Hence the necessity for tolerance, which does not mean indifference towards one's own faith, but a more intelligent and purer love for it."

- M.K.Gandhi in Young India 2-10-1930, p. 2

## Between the past and the future! By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

All of us live in between the adorable past and admirable future. It is undeniable that changing conditions and modern developments of today are trying to completely swallow our entire life putting us at crossroads of the past values and future dreams. Do current day's living conditions and opportunities backed by sophisticated tools and machinery really take us to the future what we dreamed of? Will the current style of living in the post-globalized world take us to future what we deserve?

The answer is, miserably, a big NO! It is sad to accept the fact that we are actually driven by instincts of current time that were really was not carried out by our past values or toward attaining the spot in future.



Changing laws at the behest of increased control over people and governance is one of the foremost reasons that drives us away from our actual plans. Social pressures take us out of order, equally spoiling the values taken that kill millions of people every year. These factors, too, drive the rich becoming away by economic needs. Impoverishment contributes more rich as they divert their funds in philanthropic activities and support other organizations helping the deprived. And, that is not enough! The structural growth of economy is still drifting out of proportions causing various concerns such as undue pricing, increased taxes and tariffs, declining GDP and increasing inflation, within the economy itself

In a driving spirit of competitiveness with a thirst for modernity and development, we all forget the values that sustain our humanity. These values are about legitimacy, justice and empathy, not about material help to keep one in transitory happiness or diverting the people's lives into another world of addiction, isolation and industrious struggle.

Source:" Inequality by the Numbers" by Change Oracle

#### Travelling by Train – A tale from Gandhi's life

Bharatan Kumarappa, brother of J.C. Kumarappa recalled his experiences with Gandhiji in the book, "Incidents of Gandhiji's life" compiled by Chandrasekhar Sukhla. Sh. Kumarappa recounted that traveling with Gandhiji was a remarkable experience. He wrote,

"I accompanied him on his tour in Bengal, Assam and Madras in the cold weather of 1945-'46. Everywhere the enthusiasm of the people for him was unbounded. In some cases it was beyond control, and people stopped the train and demanded his darshan (a view of him) even at all hours of the night before they would let the train pass."



"The night that we were travelling from Wardha to Calcutta, he was so tired with the noise and the shouting throughout the day that he sat in his seat exhausted with his fingers in his ears. It was a pathetic sight. He went to bed at 9-30 p.m. with cotton wool stuffed in his ears to prevent himself from hearing. Our worst experience was as we travelled through Bengal to Assam. The mobs stopped the train repeatedly by pulling the alarm chain. They played torches on Gandhi's face to have a look at

him, and banged the windows of his compartment to make him get up and give them darshan. We were entirely at their mercy. Because of being held up by crowds thus, the Mail took thirteen and a half hours to cover a distance usually made in six and a half hours.

After this bad experience, the Government of Bengal would not allow him to travel by ordinary trains. Gandhiji protested in vain, saying that as a social worker he did not want any special fare higher than the ordinary so that public money should not be used for providing comforts to people who were journeying at public cost. The Government, however, was adamant; if ultimately he yielded and permitted a special to be provided for him, it was because he was told that the Railway could not afford to have ordinary trains detained for several hours on the way, and that such delay caused other passengers and the Railway great inconvenience. So thereafter, we had to travel by special trains." •

#### Nature and Natural Resources Photo Series

The natural beauty of dams across the Indus River Basin is now on the news as India halted the Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 with Pakistan after terror attacks that killed 26 people in Phagalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. It is disheartening to learn that the militants dog such a natural beauty; and using the Indus River System for the movement of arms and goods.



nonetheless a non-qualified life pushing the poor to go after immoral business, or even human enslavement.

Education teaches us the history of humankind adorned with successful people standing till the test of time. It also imparts us the scientific knowledge, culture and human values through which we build our hope full of colourful future. Alas, what we live in reality is not the one what we were told, or learned.

Our skills and artistry helps more to develop the capitalized, division of classes and to fuel animosity amongst them. It contributes more to socio-political divisions than to bring unity among us. It feeds less to the skilled and hard working as he/she continues to live in torment conditions plagued with socio-economic gaps.

Hoping to live in space or on the surface of Martian planet, we still live in the garbage we produce every day. Wanting to protect our culture and heritage, we create boundaries fenced with fallacies of the past and live in the world of unreality.

Our past is under the ruins!

Our future is a far cry!

Today is pleasant and joyful, if and only if you know how to forget the past and the future.

## Can the use of atom bombs end wars? By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

Nuclear attacks can never be a solution to end the ongoing conflicts in the world. As of now, there are at least five active wars/attacks going on in the world that include India, Pakistan, Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Iran and Palestine. While the use of nuclear weapons is considered as the end game of all these conflicts, it still requires a mandate from the entire world. These conflicts are regional, ethnic and historical involving one or two nations even though they have a serious impact on the entire world.

For example, the long-lasting Indo-Pak conflict for more than a century could find no solution with India using the nuclear weapon as it leads to a new civilian war in the Kashmir region and predominant Muslim population in the states bordering with Pakistan.

Similarly, the continuing attacks by Russia has already pounded half of Ukraine leaving no scope for the use of nuclear weapons. The growing tension in the middle east with Iran and Israel fighting for their supremacy in the region would never warrant a nuclear attack as it would destroy only the civilians, not the ethnic, religious dominance of one over the other. It so happened in Palestine when it was formed in 1948 while thousands of Arabs got killed as it happens today in Gaza, yet with no definite resolution. Even a nuclear attack on Gaza will not resolve the crisis.



#### Trump's Golden Dome faces initial doom

GLOBAL NETWORK against weapons and nuclear power in space, an international network of organizations and individuals issued a statement on Trump's Golden Dome, saying that it would create a dangerous arms race in the world. It also claims that it is an offensive, not defensive program. It is extremely unlikely to be able to provide the claimed 100% effective shield against an all-out attack from thousands of missiles incorporating countermeasures such as multiple warheads, or the ability to maneuver the trajectory paths of missiles.

Donald Trump's Golden Dome proposal is a continuation of Ronald Reagan's SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative), the Star Wars system of the 1980s.



Trump calls it a layered defense shield, safeguarding the American homeland with unwavering precision, ensuring the security and resilience of the nation. He says Golden Globe is capable of intercepting missiles even if they are launched from other sides of the world and even if they are launched from space.

Early cost estimates from Congressional sources range from \$550 billion to trillions over 20 years supplemented by Canada and some NATO members likely to help pay out this massive cost. The project requires \$25 billion as down payment to begin with.

The aim of Golden Dome is to combine various already existing missile defense programs with newer components that include space-based interceptors.

Golden Dome would be a colossal waste of resources when the U.S. has \$37 trillion in debt. Merely replicating Israel's Iron Dome would cover nearly four million square miles in the U.S. and Canada that require 24,000 Iron Dome batteries at the cost of \$100 million each.

It encourages other nations to expand hypersonic development, mass drone swarms, advanced cruise missiles and other tech systems to overwhelm the US system.

However, the reports from APS and 'enemy' ICBM launch sites indicate that the Golden Dome idea is not just enough to provide required protection as it requires more than 30,000 interceptors at Lower Earth's Orbit.

It might be virtually impossible to utilize the Lower Earth Orbit in future as it was already amassed by 1500 Starlink satellites with thousands more to come.

Golden Dome in operation would also doom any hopes for nuclear disarmament by China, Russia, North Korea as these countries along with some others would never like the U.S. becoming the Master of Space.

Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, L3Harris and SpaceX would likely be the beneficiaries along with Republican Mega Donor Peter Thiel's Palantir and venture capital backed-start-up Anduril.

If the US really wishes to protect the US and Canada, then it should honour the spirit of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

Global Network calls upon the US Congress, the White House and the Canadian government to abandon the plans for the creation of Golden Dome. For full statement, click  $\underline{\text{here.}}$ 

It is widely believed that a nuclear attack would silence the warring nations to a still as it caused a lasting damage to both the state and humanity. During World War II, a missile attack on the Pearl Harbour by Japan triggered the U.S. to take nuclear arms in its hands as it dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Mahatma Gandhi in Harijan dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 1946 stated explicitly on the outcome of the Second World War, "...The atom bomb brought an empty victory to the allied armies but it resulted for the time being in destroying the soul of Japan. What has happened to the soul of the destroying nation is yet too early to see..."

War experts, too, believe that the use of nuclear arms would reduce the use of other weapons meant for counterattacks leaving the nations standing-still directing the whole scene of combat into re-constructive, rehabilitation work. However, the truth is, the very purpose of war and conflict still rests on the nations involved, emerging into a wide variety of conflicts that include civilian unrest, dreadful conditions in health and economy.

In World War II, only America used atom bombs and it came as a remarkable turnaround for a complete halt of the entire war. But today, India, Pakistan, Iran, Israel, Russia and NATO members are all nuclear capable. Using a nuclear bomb in one region will stimulate the use of it in other regions, as well. Even if it ends the war in one region, expecting the same elsewhere can't be guaranteed.

In a century of globalized economy and technological intelligence, atom bombs serve no purpose for elevating humanity or unity among the nations, rather used as just a robust counter-strike in the middle of a war. Attacking the other nation with the use of atom bombs may also be reckoned as an unwise decision by the nation that incorporates it since it would not bring an end to the war.

Nevertheless, the key point for the warring nations is not about the use of atom bombs, but to target the nuclear sites and destroy them, which would have a similar effect. Particularly, Israel and the US are trying to attack the nuclear arms manufacturing sites in Iran. On the other hand, Iran opts for direct use of atom bombs on Israel with the support of Pakistan though Iran-Pakistan collaboration towards this end is bleak.

For nations that were caught in the grip of ethnic, religious, historical conflicts, the use of atom bombs is merely a faltering choice in the context of their policy and long-term goals. If two nations, both nuclear, were warring each other, it is highly implausible for them to use atom bombs. If one of them had nukes and the other was not nuked, it is still not the right choice as a nukearmed nation is answerable to the world. The UN charter says that it is a war crime.

Manufacturing nuclear weapons, in future, will cease to exist as a defence tactic rather than an invitation to dangerous consequences. Israel and the US are working on strengthening the protective covers for their nuclear facilities by constructing 'Domes. For Iran, since it was in the earlier stages of production, it remained as a threatening force, which was aptly resisted by the US. The Israel-Gaza situation came as an opportunity to restrain Iran.

The destruction of nuclear sites in Iran on 22<sup>nd</sup> June by the US' bunker-buster missiles prove that atom bombs are unlikely the super-weapon of any war. Nations building nuke bombs need to rethink unless they are truly capable

#### On cleaning Tamira Barani

Polluting the rivers is a frequent phenomenon everywhere in the world. As a part of the cleanliness drive carried out

#### RTE Tamilnadu suffers with no funds!

The Madras High Court directed the Centre to divest funds for Samagra Shiksha that serves as a flagship scheme of the Right to Education (RTE 2009) to Free and Compulsory Education Act. While the state has raised objection over certain clauses in the National Education Policy (NEP), it is creating furore in schools of Tamilnadu over the allocation of funds for covering the 25% of strength under the RTE for the students of lower-income, poor families.



# RTE TAMIL NADU

# தனியார் பள்ளிகளில் இலவச சேர்க்கை: ஏப்.22 முதல் விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம்

திப் பள்ளிகளில் ஏழைக் குழந்தை களுக்கு இவவச சேர்க்கை பெற வரும் ஏப்.22-ஆம் தேதி முதல் விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம் என தெரிவிக் பட்டது. இதுகுறித்து தனியார் பள்ளி ர இயக்குநரும், குழந்தைகளுக்

வரும் கல்வி ஆண்டில் (2024-2025) 25 சதவீத இட்ஒதுக்கீட்டின் கீழ் மேற்கொள்ளப்படும் மாணவர் சேர்க்கை தொடர்பாக பின்வரும் வழங்கப்படுகின் அறிவுரைகள்

மாணவர் சேர்க்கை எண்ணிக் கையில் 25 சதவீத இடங்களை கணக்கிட்டு அந்த விவரங்கள் சம்

மே 28-இல் குலுக்கல் எல் கேஜி வகுப்புக்கு விண்ணப்பிக் கும் குழந்தைகள் 1.8.2020 முதல் 31.7.2021 - க்குள்ளும் அதேபோல் ஒன்றாம் வகுப்புக்கு விண்ணப் பிக்கும் குழந்தைகள் 1.8.2018

The politics over NEP and a consistent ruffle between the Centre and the State of Tamilnadu is bringing the welfare policies meant for poor children's education to a new low, as the window for registration for new admissions under RTE is not yet opened fully even until June this year.

The court suggests the Union Ministry of Education to delink NEP and RTE to enable free flow of funds for the education of poor students. However, the Tamilnadu RTE School Admission website closed its functions on 21st May 2025 itself, without fulfilling the 25% quota in schools for poor students.

Even as the ruling BJP government at the centre insists on its withholding of funds for the state, it calls for the state to fund and compensate the RTE seats with private schools.

Around 100,000 students who got admission to LKG through the RTE scheme are in panic coupled with confusion whether the government will pay their fees or not. It is reported that the state has not paid their fees in due meant for private schools. •

Ring of Power - Green China



A 1,500 MW solar thermal energy storage power base is under construction in Hami, North-West China to supply 2,892 billion KW hours of electricity saving 8,68,000 tons of coal and *reducing* CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2256 million tons.

for 21 days in the river TamiraBarani, South Indian river flowing across Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu, huge volumes of debris were pulled out of the canals.



#### Following is the list:

Clothes (wet) -93.8 ton Stone idols – 3.5 ton Plants and weeds – 23.5 ton Plastic waste – 4540 kg Pottery, vessel items – 1720 kg Slippers – 580 kg Glass photo frames, bottles – 975 kg Napkins, Diapers – 255 kg Earthern lamps – 120 kg Sachets of soap, shampoo - 100 kg

While the river is considered holy and devotees use it extensively, the left overs pile up every day despite a routine cleanup.

Source: Authoor Sethigal

#### CARTOON OF THE MONTH



#### **CORNER STONE**

# Microsoft's Work Trend Index

Nowadays we work more! The 9 to 5 work culture is gone. Thanks to various tech supplements! Microsoft's latest Work Trend Index reveals how the modern day work has become a non-stop, renewed normal. From early morning emails to late night meetings added by endless messaging, productivity capacity goes beyond 200% to accomplish the jobs that were done when it was an eight-hour duty!

Professionals claim that this new trend provides ample time to rest and focus on other things, personal and for the career shift. However, the same trend may be contributing to frequent layoffs or short-term hires and firing!

Further, AI is another welcoming guest that serves as a worker's companion - round the clock, miserably making work hours longer and not adhering to any *normal*.

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