

TECHNO-GANDHIAN NEWS

Monthly News Journal – MAY 2025

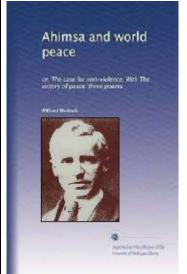
SINCE 2011

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

The only way to peace in the world By Wilfred Wellock

[Wilfred Wellock (2nd January 1879 – 22nd July 1972) was a British pacifist, socialist Gandhian, author and a short time MP from the Labour party. Here are the excerpts from the chapter "*The only way*" in his book "*Ahimsa and World Peace*"]



I hold that permanent international peace is not something for which we must look to the Courts of the Great Powers, to Kings and Parliaments, or even to peace conferences and conventions, but to the men and women who make up the several nations.

It is not a bill to be passed by a Government or Governments, but a spirit to be cultivated and possessed.

We are all called to be ambassadors of peace; if we neglect our duty, why blame others.

No government, howsoever aggressive, would ever dream of going to war, if the spirit of peace was in people.

So long as the people are fickle, prone to hate, unpractised in the art of self-control, so long will they be at the mercy of warmongers, and be subject to war.

When goodwill, which is the spirit of peace, is in the majority of people, war will naturally and inevitably pass away. But, until then it cannot pass away.

And that spirit will manifest by itself in one nation first, and will cause that nation to modify its policy, accordingly, to disarm and thus to take lead in the march towards a lovelier life, a grander civilization.

Thus, my concluding word is that lasting peace will dawn upon the world when those who profess to believe in peace, practise peace, trust the forces and principles upon which it rests are able to overrun the land with the purifying streams of goodwill and so check the growth of hatred, pride, vainglory, greed and the lust for power.

For the conditions of peace are internal not external, private not official, individual not national: they are men and women whose minds are well controlled and whose hearts are charged with unshakable goodwill towards man.

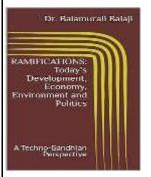
Technology Adoption Rate (TAR)

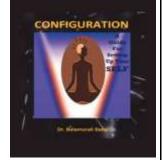
Technology Adoption Rate (TAR)is the pace and how much early a new technology is learned and used by the public.

India ranks36th out of 170 nations on a global index measuring a country's readiness for frontier technologies, according to the 2025 Technology and Innovation Report issued by the UN Council for Trade and Development. India has a large talent pool of around 13 million developers prepared to catch-up with the latest developments in Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Robotics, 3D Printing, Big Data analytics, Block chain, Cloud computing, IoT, Health, Energy, Agriculture and Manufacturing.

Amid all controversies in trade and tariffs, the United States of America remains as the ultimate technological hub in the world. More than half of scientific discoveries and technological innovations come from America while the rest of the world contribute less or catch-up with the growing trends in accordance with the developments in America. In 2025, IR4 technologies would account for a \$3.2 trillion market. India ranks 19th in adopting the frontier technologies developed in

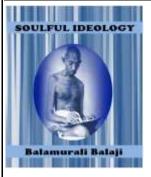
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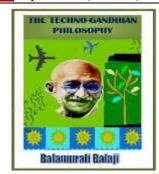




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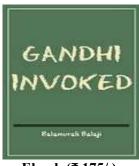
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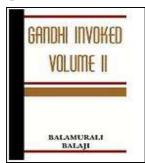




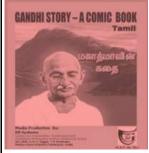
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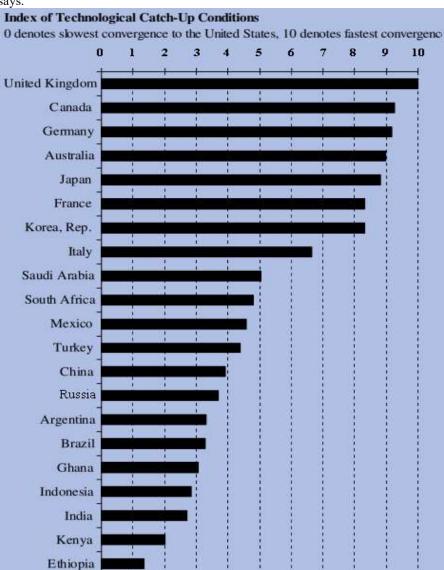
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America. World's economic growth is bolstered by spreading technologies. Innovative tools, computing equipment, digital infrastructure - constitute the betterment of standards of living besides serving as a major driving factor in a country' economic progress.

The low-income countries with larger base of rural areas and less-favoured societies often do not have access to technologies. However, mobiles phones and the Internet have become common mans' aide in almost every country because they are relatively inexpensive or require no complicated infrastructure. Advanced countries like Russia comprising highly educated, elite individuals also remain at the top of the list as a source of cutting-edge technologies. Advanced countries innovate at the frontier while the other developing nations follow suit or modify the technologies according to the need of the local conditions. Though the performance of developing countries rely on a strong labour force, much of the factors making it successful can be attributed technological World growth, a report says.



[These indices show the countries' TAR (learning and usage) of frontier technologies developed in the United States of America]

Countries with lower rates of productivity and lower per-capita income are the most in the frontier who adopt and catch-up with the newer technologies invented in the developed world. However, actual rates of catch-up will depend on each country's ability to adopt and adapt technology—a function of openness, educational attainment, communication and transportation infrastructure, governance, and business and investment environment. Thus, two countries at the same level of income may catch-up at different rates depending on these conditions.

The chart above illustrates the degree to which the countries are catching up with the newer technologies based on their ability to take advantage of technological catchup with the existing income-gap and with reference to the USA only. •

Data source: Carnegie Policy Outlook

Nature and Natural Resources Photo Series

Nigeria

Serious blunders have been committed on these days throughout the world. To lay highways and to widen the roads, millions of trees are falling down every year. On top of this, lots of screams have also been heard over climate change and adverse weather conditions. Why will not the climatic conditions go weird if people on this

Thought of the month

"We must draw the distinction between living in the face of danger and living dangerously. A man who dares to live alone in a



forest infested by wild beasts and wilder men without a gum and with God as his only Help, lives in the face of danger. A man who lives perpetually in mid-air and dives to the earth below to the admiration of a gaping world lives dangerously. One is a purposeful, the other a purposeless life"

- Gandhi in Harijan, dated 1st September 1946.

Trumpnomics and Nixonomics



By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

Much of the world was shattered by the executive orders of the U.S. President Donald Trump ever since he assumed power way back in January this year. Right from banning citizenship for the new-borns to illegal parents to reducing federal workforce - with the help of the techbillionaire Elon Musk headed DOGE, the world inside America was not that happier as it was before. But when the tariffs and reciprocal-tariffs he insisted on the trading partners since 2nd April have brought the world literally down to a newer low, shaking the stock markets and supermarkets (!) which made everyone, from ordinary citizens to the business enterprises, rise up to their heels.

Yes, Trump is doing something in the American economy; in the way the world economy runs its things. It is not just a MAGA joke or mega twist, either. It seems that a series of slower, steadier, strategic economic plans are being kick-started by the President. He has clearly done a 'Nixon Shock' of this century.

Nixon is the first President (1969-74) to have his surname combined with the term 'economics'. On August 15, 1971, President Richard M. Nixon announced his New Economic Policy, a program to create a new prosperity without war.



The *Nixon Shock* was a series of economic measures that included waging and pricing freezes, prioritizing jobs growth, removing two million poor from the tax rolls and induction of a new foreign exchange system – an 8% devaluation of the dollar that stimulated American exports and the domestic economy. His decision to delink dollars from gold has reinvented the global monetary system.

Now, the Trumps' reforms are going to change the economy of the world, not of America alone! It is like a highly geared reset, not the reset the world had seen in the previous recessions. It is like Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB) that requires every country to start from zero to trade with America.

His decision to scale down the Internal Revenue System (IRS) and replace it with tariffs-based revenue system, which he calls as External Revenue System (ERS), will potentially generate \$700 billion annually.

planet continue to do this blunder? Saudi Arabia is planting 10 billion trees as a part of climate action.

Pictures below represent the widening of Avinashi-Mettupalayam road project in Tamilnadu, India, just 44 km (27.3 miles) stretch that had fallen down around 1400 trees.

Through this Techno-Gandhian News Journal, I am pleading with the concerned authorities to consider this as a serious issue and requesting them to make provision for planting trees in some other places. Without balancing this audacious act of cutting down trees with planting trees elsewhere in a nearby area, climate change action plans will never be fulfilled.

– Dr. Balamurali Balaji



.Photo Source: Daily Thanthi

Is MAGA plan illusive? By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

What will be the fate of America if Trump's plans fail?

Realizing MAGA through drastic economic reforms and tightened immigration laws may be the only way to make America great again in all aspects. Even as new tariff rates revive America's indigenous economy, checking out the illegal immigrants surely might 'clean' America to some extent.

Most of the world, except China, has responded to the tariff rates with resistance in a mild manner. Trump also withdrew the reciprocal tariffs set for most of them.



However, in general, as days move on, executive orders are taking a downward curve, softening the whole action-plan as against the actual executive orders announced earlier. The Supreme Court's interventions too had led to seek rejection or withholding of orders, which clearly indicates that executive orders are just customary, and subjected further jurisdiction. As the scenario changes in global trade and migrant policies,

synchronization between America and the rest of the world is also diminishing largely in many aspects—especially about new tariffs and the strategic moves towards migrants and ongoing wars in Gaza and Ukraine. Notably, there are reasons for a possible breakdown of the entire scheme of things if they are not carried out devotedly. Let me list a few:

Firstly, Elon Musk is to sign-off as the head of DOGE sooner or later. Being a centre figure in the administration, Musk has a resounding voice in Trump's reforms. Second, dollar value continues to fall hampering the global standing of the U.S. in the forex market. Third, NATO nations ignore America-Russia talks and Russia-Ukraine ceasefire/peace talks as six of them are sending troops to Ukraine besides upgrading their warfare with AI boosting its command and controlling streak. Fourth, China does not want to stop its counter-tariff strategy that heightens tension.

The External Revenue System alone would have a potential to enhance the agility, optimized trading and mutual profits between America and the trading partners.

Trumpnomics, just like Nixonomics, is a bitter, indigestible pill prescribed to America and the world, after more than fifty years, is struggling to adapt to this revamping of numbers and policies in trade and migration.

In line with parliamentary democracy!

The Supreme Court gave a surprising ruling stating that the Governor has no authority to reserve the bills for President's consideration by withholding assent.

Tamilnadu Governor RN Ravi had withheld ten bills slated for President's approval during the last couple of years. The state Governor created ruckus in 2022 when he set aside the resolution for revocation of NEET for Tamilnadu. He withheld the bill by not sending it to New Delhi. He also withheld the bill for adjudging the state's Chief Minister as the Chancellor of Universities in Tamilnadu.



With the current ruling by the Supreme Court, all the decisions taken by the Governor stand cancelled and provide clearance for pending ten bills pertaining to varsities in Tamilnadu viz, Dr. Ambedkar Law, Dr. MGR Medical, Agricultural, Tamil, Veterinary and Animal Sciences, and Marine resources.

Through this order, sparingly used powers of the state Governor are curtailed and for the same reason, he is not entitled to appoint Vice-Chancellors for various universities in the state.

It is noted that there are no Vice-Chancellors for five universities in Tamilnadu - Anna university, Madras university, Bharatiyar university, Madurai Kamarajar university and Tamilnadu Teacher Education university. The state government is yet to set up a VC search panel for the Tamilnadu Agriculture university as the VC's term was over on 28th March, this year.

The current ruling from the Supreme Court has brought an end to the suffering of the universities without Vice-Chancellors due to the Government-Governor stand-off for the last many months. Now, the Chief Minister is the sole decision-making authority to appoint VCs to bring that stalemate to a complete finish. •

Amusing ritual in a temple in TN

In an exciting turn of events in the history of human evolution, festivals of India with unique, sometimes hilarious or even perilous rituals do have a place.

In the Nagapattinam district of Tamilnadu, a temple in Tagattur in Vedaranyam taluk had an interesting ritual by devotees, of throwing bananas at each other in a large gathering.

This event took place in Sri Mappillai Veeran Sri Thirumeni Amman temple on 3rd of April in view of the annual festival during the month of palguna (March-April).

It neither seems to bow down nor fearful of the after-effects in trade relations. Fifth, crude oil prices dip leading to quicken the process of inducting a separate currency for BRICS nations. Last but not the least to mention, raging protests across the U.S. against Trump's reforms cannot be belittled as a meagre opposition from democrats since it could evolve as an all-out civil resistance against him as it happened in his previous tenure.

All these may put America back to square one with two options on its table: one is to unveil its profuse neo-liberal economy opened for everyone in the world, or put itself into a furious state making things difficult in trade and migration.

Moreover, the deadline of 90 days set by Trump is not only for the world nations to work out the tariff rates. In 90 days, the impact and outcome of most of the reforms announced could well be reckoned! If America is not getting the expected results, there are a lot of chances for complete failure of the administration leading to hostile relations with world affairs. It also means that Trump has contributed his chunk of imprudent plans to create ripples in global trade, which in turn could bring frustrated nations to the forefront of World War III.

Perhaps, it is too late for America to stand out on her own! MAGA is not about it either. Most of the world has already gored into America exploiting the opportunities and diversifying their business-culture out there in the land of immigrants. America, the world dreamed about, isalready a reality for them.

Making America Great Again — from Trump's perspective is reeling under aspirations, opportunities, and freedom and above all, trust of what the entire world had on America! It has to gain support from all quarters given the dynamics of global politics. A dent on any of these will have a lasting impact in the ways it is dealing with the rest of the world and vice-versa ●

A sensible nonsense around EVMs? By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

The debate surrounding the use of Electronic Voting Machines continues to stir controversy among various political parties, as the opposition Congress alliance advocates for a return to ballot paper voting in the upcoming elections. Numerous cases have been filed in both state and national upper courts. There is considerable speculation among INDIA alliance parties that the ruling BJP is securing election victories through EVM tampering and digital vote-counting malpractices.

On April 22nd, the Election Commission reportedly informed the Supreme Court that counting nearly a billion votes would require at least twelve days.

With this confirmation from the EC, the likelihood of returning to ballot papers in the near future seems slim, as the court is expected to dismiss all pending cases related to the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs).



It is worth noting that the 1996 General Elections, which utilized ballot papers, had 593 million registered voters. By 2004, with the introduction of EVMs, the number of registered voters had increased to 675 million.

The primary aim of using EVMs is

to deliver quicker results and to compile statistical and digital data based on demographics, geography, and other factors. However, opposition parties have expressed dissatisfaction, arguing that the intended purpose and benefits of EVMs are being undermined. Issues such as discrepancies and mismatches in vote counts, delays in results due to phased elections, and concerns over tampering and machine replacement have led to distrust and disappointment regarding the use of EVMs.

While the necessity of fair elections remains a pressing issue, the implementation of EVMs presents an additional challenge.



It is believed that those who caught and ate bananas would have healthy life and women eating the banana would get impregnated sooner. ●

CARTOON OF THE MONTH







CORNER STONE

Ceasefire talks appear ineffective as attacks on Ukraine and counterattacks on Russia persist. Meanwhile, in Gaza, Hamas echoes Russia's demands for a complete cessation of hostilities. Israel, on the other hand, is targeting Iran to support the U.S. and achieve its regional objectives. Talks are meant to resolve issues, address differences, and foster reconciliation, not to decide whether to go to war. Conditions for a truce should be established only after both parties have ceased their attacks.

STOP ATTACKING FIRST! ENGAGE IN TALKS LATER.

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