

# 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

## Gandhi did not say this quote, you know!

It has been widely believed that this quote was reportedly said or wrote by Mahatma Gandhi: "First they ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they fight you- and then you win!"

This inspiring quote has tremendous influence over the many Gandhian researcthers, scholars and students. It suggests that when you are trying to achieve something, you may be ignored at first, ridiculed and fought against before you succeed. No wonder these words are highly motivational as they provide more endurance and tolerance to the hardships one suffer during the course of meeting their goals.

However, it is found that the encouraging words are not from Gandhi as we found it nowhere in his texts or speeches. Then, from where this famous quote has been drawn? While everyone believes that Gandhi was attributed to this quote asserting, a wrong impression that his nonviolent struggle passed through four stages – ignore, ridicule, fight and win!



The original source of these words are from a speech

delivered by Nicholas Klein at a convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in 1918. On a deeper research, it is found that the speaker actually said: "First they ignore you. Then they ridicule you. And then they attack and want to burn you- and then they build monuments to you!"

In 1921, Gandhi published "Freedom's battle: Being a comprehensive collection of writings and speeches on the present situation". He mentioned stages of repression, ridicule and respect, but not these specific phrase in exact. ●

## The origin of the symbol of peace

The symbol for peace in the world has an interesting story behind it. Though it has been used widely for world peace in general, the very first purpose of designing a symbol for peace is to signify nuclear disarmament.

On 21st February 1958, Gerald Holtom designed the peace sign (in picture) for the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Apparently, he wanted to create a sign to show that everyone has a responsibility to abolish nuclear weapons.



The designer also has an interpretation on why the peace symbol is in this fashion. The downward diagonal line signifies the letter N and the vertical line at the centre for the letter D. Together these two letters stand for Nuclear Disarmament. The circle surrounding the lines denote the planet Earth.

British peace activists first used the sign during a march in 1958 against nuclear weapons. Within two years, it became a universal symbol of peace.

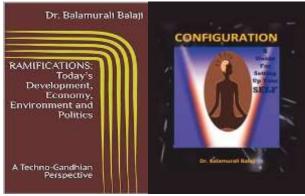
Source: Nobel Prize page

## Is the Biblical Sea Split feasible these days?

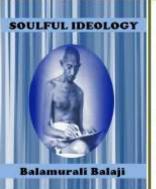
Moses in Islam is known for splitting the Red Sea. He stretched out his hands and invoked Godly powers to part the waters of *Yam Suph*, which is traditionally called as Red Sea.

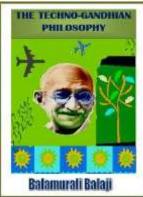
The Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night and made the sea dry land and waters were divided.

TECHNO-GANDHIAN PROCESS MODEL- The practical side of Techno-Gandhian Philosophy! A know-how video is available in Youtube for understanding how to proceed with the five steps that include activities, actions and resolving issues. Write to us requesting for details about how to get certification.



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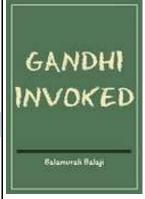


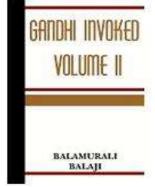
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The spirit of Gandhi invokes you again!





**Ebook** (Rs. 175/-)

EBook Rs. 175/-) (Print Rs. 375/-) With the waters dispersed, Israelites (Samaritans) were able to walk on dry ground and cross the sea, when the Egyptian Pharaoh army pursued them! The Book of Exodus has a recounting tale from the Quran about this miraculous escape of Israelites!



### Do scientists have an explanation for this miracle?

Similar story on the splitting of waters, but with a river is found in Hindu mythology. When Lord Krishna was born in prison as the 8th son for Vasudeva-Devaki facing the murder threat from the ruler Kamsa, the child was secretly taken to another place Nanda Gokul across the river Yamuna on a rainy night. It is recounted that the river split its water paving the way for Vasudeva to cross the river to the other side.

Scientists put up many theories to explain these natural but rare phenomena. One of them says that this could be possible as per the principle of wind setting down deeper on to the surface of water. Other theories suggest that splitting of water is like water vortexes occurring in various natural settings due to factors like tides and differing water currents. They can also be artificially created using Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence techniques or subsea robotics technology.

### Nature and Natural Resources Photo Series



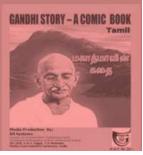
Tilling the soil is the first and foremost task in farming. More you plough, more fertile the soil is. Ancient ways of ploughing include man made wooden twigs and sharpened iron rods tied to cows, donkeys or horses...

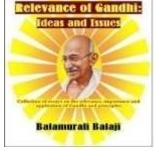
## Hydrocarbon wells in TN sea waters create uproar By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

In 2019, Oil and Natural Gas commission (ONGC) has set up 28 hydro-carbon wells in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Ariyalur, Ramanadapuram, Sivagangai districts in Tamilnadu, and all of them are functioning amid various complaints from farmers, environmental activists and political parties. On top of this, ONGC has announced plans for setting up twenty more wells in the same region in 2023.

Due to strong protests from the village people citing that, the increased number of hydrocarbon wells would spoil their agricultural activities and eco system, the proposed installation of additional wells were dropped.

It must also be recalled that despite serious protests from various quarters in March Desecration of BAPS temple in Sacramento and Chino 2017, ONGC set up hydrocarbon wells in Neduvasal in Tanjore District by compensating the landowners and farmers. Read the article Row over Hydro-carbon wells in Tamilnadu in March 2017 issue of the Techno-Gandhian News for more Writing on the walls of the temple ("Hindus Go Back") details.





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## Thought of the month

"Nobody in this world possesses absolute truth. This is God's attribute alone. Relative truth is all we know. Therefore, we can



only follow the truth as we see it. Such pursuit of truth cannot lead anyone astray"

- Gandhi in Harijan, dated 2nd June 1946.

## Chennai bus transport gets greener!

After five years of stable effort from the state government, Chennai Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) is set to float 1000 electric buses this

Under the World Bank funded Chennai city partnership programme, the corporation is procuring 500 buses in the first phase of their Gross Cost Contract (GCC) with OHM Global Mobility company.



Earlier in June 2024, Tamilnadu unveiled six CNG and LNG buses in a move to modernize public transport and reduce emissions.

These 1000 buses will be operated by private players while the conductors will be provided by MTC.

In February 2019, Tamilnadu government promised that it would procure 2000 low-maintenance environmentfriendly, battery operated buses; and is set to achieve this goal by 2026. ●

Photo source:www.coachbuilderindia.com

## **Demonstrating hatred is neither** positive nor a solution!

The Hindu temples and Gandhi statues in the world are becoming targets of hatred politics of the day and hopelessness of the future. Very often we come across the news of vandalising the temple structures and desecration of soul and faith of millions of people who believe nonviolence, peace, unity and religious harmony as the intrinsic values for establishing an amicable atmosphere in our neighborhoods.

Hills in California, and Melville, Newyork shows the sign of disrespect and intolerance towards other religions.

Now, the ONGC has floated invitation for fresh tenders to set up hydrocarbon is a sign of cowardice act and repulsive nature of refineries in the seafront near the coastal districts of southern Tamilnadu. Almost miscreants who lack sense of religious harmony and 9990.96 Square Kilometres of deep-sea ocean surface off the coast of Tamilnadu racial tolerance. under consideration for this purpose.



This time, fishermen folks, besides the leaders of opposition political leaders have opposed the move as it would affect the marine ecosystem. The heads of various organizations for the of believes that this plant would and other natural disasters; will ruin their profession. The state Chief Minister also issued a statement requesting the centre to withdraw the proposal.

The problem now for the centre and ONGC is finding the ways to go ahead with their plans by convincing the fishermen communities and the state who have locked their horns with the centre.

It must be assumed that setting up of refineries in sea waters would mean no loss of land or environmental hazard to any village or individual person's property. While the centre is keen on implementing this project, state has to keep away its political penchants. After all, oil and natural gas refineries are supposedly set up in seawaters as such, as hydrocarbon based crude energy is abundantly available under the sea.

## Top 10 countries trading with the U.S. (2024)

The following table lists the top 10 countries with which the U.S. made Exports: (in millions of dollars) in the year 2024

Rank	Country	Imports
1	Canada	349,359.9
2	Mexico	334,041.4
3	China	143,545.7
4	Netherlands	89,648.8
5	United Kingdom	79,941.3
6	Japan	79,740.8
7	Germany	75,612.9
8	South Korea	65,541.8
9	Brazil	49,667.0
10	Singapore	46,032.6

The following table lists the top 10 countries with which the U.S. made **Imports**: (in millions of dollars) in the year 2024

Rank	Country	Imports
1	Mexico	509,986.3
2	China	462,638.8
3	Canada	422,170.0
4	Germany	163,546.2
5	Japan	152,066.0
6	Vietnam	142,476.0
7	South Korea	135,461.4
8	Taiwan	118,730.5
9	Ireland	103,755.1
10	India	91,234.5

Source: U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, DECEMBER 2024

Release Date: FEBRUARY 5, 2025 Release Number: CB 25-17, BEA 25-04

# World trade achieving Equity only in tariffs

### By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

Tariffs and reciprocal tariffs bring some sort of equality amongst the trading countries; The dependency and flamboyant business gestures shown by the U.S. for

Even in a country that vouch for religious freedom, the issues that are raking up the political conditions take religious symbols as targets for meeting the mean ends. Targeting the very essence of the principles behind everlasting faiths would mean really nothing for a cause of reparation to anyone's political gains and goals, offenders need to understand!

fishermen Khalistan issue is tactlessly internationalized by extremist elements within the Sikh community. Their indulgence cause tsunami, earthquake in disrupting peace and harmony has a legal binding, and is subjected to law one must note.



Attacking worshipping places and spitting venom in the sacred places and attempting to politicize religion through vandalism - is highly condemnable act whoever has committed them.

# Will Modi government bring DOGElike model in India?

## By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

The Trump administration 2.0 introduced the Department of Government Efficiency, headed by the top billionaire Elon Musk, to cut unnecessary expenditures, costs and aids that were unjustifiable for America. Over the last couple of months since the new administration came to power in January 2025, DOGE fired thousands of employees, services and this swift action would have saved millions of dollars to the America's treasury.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi who claims to have got inspired and befriended with the American President Donald Trump, might think of similar such move to cut costs and undue expenses at the centre. It is important to note here that unlike America, India has a vast tradition of spending on grandeur functions and ceremonies to launch any project or to inaugurate a scheme. Even to open a canal for irrigation or a public toilet facility, there spent a lot of money by the departments besides publishing quite a lot of paidpublicity. GOI could save millions if they cut costs on lavish arrangements for ministers and members of legislative assemblies as well.

While austerity is considered a moral up keeping of the government, not many leaders who head the governments in the past have gone really for it in practice. From Gandhi-Nehru-Indira era to the well-known Rao-Vajpayee-Singh--Modi regimes, one could see a lot of difference in this aspect. Morality and austerity are twin brothers who go together for upholding ability and honesty of any government. Gradual degradation of such values we see since the independence of our country is nothing more than a mis-governance. Today, leaders themselves become used to lavish attire and cosy style of living while the ceremonies presided over by them are happening at huge costs.

Even as the political part of the show-off has been criticised quite often by the observers, there is little mention about the 'inside-thing' in various departments. From work force to money expended, efficient schemes the second most important countries had until now endorsed them vibrant economies as liberal and equal as that of America. With the announcement of increased tariffs and reciprocal tariffs, those countries might have virtual 'equality' status alongside the U.S. in terms of trade and commerce. The global trade conditions may soon going to change invariably affecting the way products are sold due to increased prices.



In a time while smaller economies are booming and competitive in the global market, Trump's order is really a jolt on the face of the world hitherto relishing smoother business with the U.S. He is shaking the global market with his firm stance on new tariffs policy, which has not so quickly kicked off as it was expected at the time he assumed office on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Extending time frame to implement the new tariffs keep the ends odd putting the world on wait for another firm announcement from the President on April 2.

Quite obviously, his MAGA agenda requires the support from American companies to grasp his economic plans and implement them. Trump is meeting with Tech giants like IBM, HP, Apple etc. would have proven successful in this direction. However, in a longer run they would also realize that slashing taxes and tariffs would help them globally playable. Companies do not want to lose their foreign markets, though.

Paying more for a thing is, of course, a painful aspect in the field of consumerism. "I charge what you charge" may be a rare and rough signboard hanging in the global fair where the conventional "You got more for what you pay" kind of offers what the countries would miss and will be a distant dream!

When people are paying more for products on either side, it is not really an issue since it is a traditional notion that '*imported goods cost bit higher*' than local goods. Between India and the U.S., tariffs do make only such impact in the markets. Equal tariffs on both the sides will have chances of <u>reducing the tariffs</u> as well. After all, sales is not directly proportional to taxes and tariffs but controlled by other factors.

For India, rupee value is still lower as it is facing the downward trend in the forex market. The equality achieved in charging tariffs on both the sides could no way help in this regard for increasing the value of Indian currency standing at ₹88 against a \$. The U.S. dollar value is still stronger causing ripples in the petrodollar value in the oil market as well. To gain some equitable business values in the global oil trade, BRICS nations are considering an alternative currency for oil purchases, which would definitely add flames to the American oil business. The U.S. has not much to work against the BRICS currency when it happens. Trump administration, anticipating this in advance, had fretfully increased tariffs for all other goods.

Meanwhile, domestic economies in the nations fighting with the U.S. can also thrive by reworking on their indigenous production and local sales. This is the right time for India like countries to focus on reframing their business policies and diversifying the local economies towards self-sustenance and self-efficacy.

Reports say that India's revenue from exports (87 billion dollars) to the U.S. is almost double to its imports from America. Creating indigenous values to the products shall be the focus of interest for maintaining the good balance of trade despite higher tariffs and reciprocal tariffs. Adding skill and value to our products and resources would surely fetch wonderful results from global market. ●

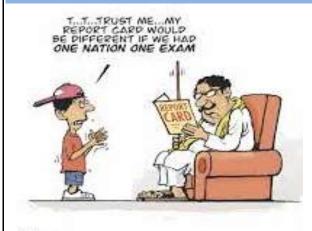
to spendthrift systems and structures built, it requires gut to draw a line between them to find out what is real worth of cost incurred!

Atleast one hundred schemes and plans announced, founded during every 5-year term get thrashed into dust without further accomplishment. However, accounts do show that a lot of money was spent on them with no endusers or beneficiaries!

Therefore, Indian bureaucracy needs a slight overhaul along the lines of America's DOGE to weed out inefficiency and misuse of tax money in our departments. Whereas the people's representatives and higher officials are held accountable and legally punishable for mishandling public funds with the implementation of Lok pal and Lok Ayukta, separate wings are formed for inquiring corruption, bribery, liquor and other malpractices .However, the efficiency and efficacy of schemes could be measured prior and post implementation only through the establishment of a separate wing like DOGE

To put it precisely, every project has a quality check within the project team, but not a quality department to check each and every project going on in the government...

## CARTOON OF THE MONTH



#### CORNER STONE

5<sup>th</sup> March marked one hundred days of fast by <mark>Jagjit Singh Dallewal</mark>, farmers' leader from Punjab demanding Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops

and other issues harming the farmers.



His fast re-ignites the spirit of nonviolent resistance challenging corporate-driven policies and government apathy. A concrete 'NO' to corporatizing farming sector will be the final choice. Read more <a href="here">here</a>

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