

TECHNO-GANDHIAN NEWS

Monthly News Journal – JUNE 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

Caste Census – An experiment with Vote Bank Politics

Indeed all the political parties have, not surprisingly though, welcomed the central government's decision to go for caste based census throughout the nation. It must be recalled that the last full-fledged caste census in India was conducted in 1931 under British rule.

Several states in India have conducted caste-based surveys independently. Bihar, Telangana, and Karnataka are among the states that have carried out such surveys.

Bihar released its caste survey data in 2023, revealing that OBCs and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) make up over 63% of the state's population. The upper castes account for 15.52%, while Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) make up 19.65% and 1.68%, respectively. Among individual castes, Yadavs are the largest group at 14.26% of the population.



In Karnataka, 70% of the population belongs to Other Backward Classes (OBCs), including Muslims. The SC/ST population stands at 25%, while Muslims alone make up 75.25 lakh people under the OBC category.

In Telangana, Backward Classes (BCs) constitute 56.33% of the population, while SCs and STs account for 17.43% and 10.45%, respectively. The Muslim population is 12.56%, with BC Muslims making up 10.08%.

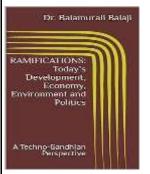
It is quite sure that these surveys would help the states in shaping policies and political strategies. Nevertheless, survey data also serve the political parties to influence elections by manipulating the selection of candidates based on caste, controlling the vote bank in a precise manner. Also, castes that fall below average is marginalised and are set to change the course of elections.

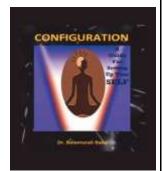
Caste based survey has direct impact on elections and the electorate:

- 1. Dominance of one or two particular castes
- 2. Provocation of marginalised castes with regards to representation
- 3. Changes in the policies with regards to Reserved constituencies
- 4. Free and fair elections is at stake
- 5. Minority castes may stay away from participation in the elections

The ruling coalition in Bihar has used the data to push for policies aimed at social justice and economic upliftment of backward classes. Parties are tailoring their campaigns to appeal to dominant caste groups. The caste census has intensified political competition, with parties vying to position themselves as champions of OBC and EBC rights. The ruling coalition has used the data to push for higher reservations, while opposition parties are leveraging it to challenge the government's policies.

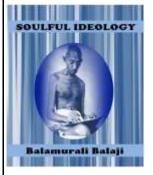
TECHNO-GANDHIAN PROCESS MODEL- The practical side of Techno-Gandhian Philosophy! A know-how video is available in Youtube for understanding how to proceed with the five steps that include activities, actions and resolving issues. Write to us requesting for details about how to get certification.





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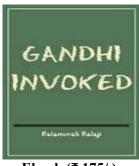
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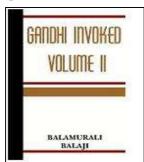




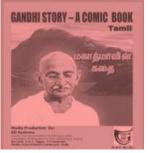
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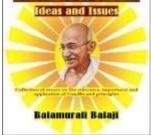


Ebook (₹ 175/)



Comic Picture book CDs GANDHI STORY Picture Book in CD!

English, Hindi. Tamil and Kannada



Ebook (₹ 110/- only) Paperback (\$20)

The revelation that 70% of the population belongs to OBCs in Karnataka has fuelled debates on expanding reservations beyond the Supreme Court's 50% cap. Based on the caste data, the state government hopes to justify policy changes, including welfare schemes targeting backward communities.

The findings of caste demography in Telangana have shaped policies related to education, employment, and political representation, particularly for BCs and BC Muslims.

At the national level, the Centre's decision to conduct a caste census has sparked debates on social justice and electoral strategy. The move is seen as an attempt to consolidate OBC votes, which form a significant portion of the electorate. However, critics argue that it could deepen caste-based divisions and be used for vote-bank politics. •

Image source: IASGurukul.com

Try *Matcha* next time!

Matcha tea is one of the stimulating type of beverages, like tea and coffee that comes under the category of non-alcoholic drinks.

Unlike regular tea, *Matcha* is a powdered green tea that mixes with water and dissolves. Widely grown and consumed in Japan and Korean peninsula, *Matcha* is powerful green tea with abundant health benefits. Being a powder tea, it stands out because you are consuming the whole leaf, rather than just the water extract. Whether you wish to obtain a thick or thin tea, known as koicha and usucha respectively, you must brew it correctly. Once you know how to brew it, you can enjoy it in many different ways.



Choosing the right *Matcha*, tools, water, and whisking technique for a perfect cup of a drink is by itself an art.

Preparation method:

- Sieve 1-2 teaspoons of ground *Matcha* powder into a bowl to remove any lumps, ensuring a smooth texture.
- Pour 70ml (2.5 ounces) of hot water into the bowl with the *Matcha* owder.
- Whisk the mixture vigorously in a W or zigzag motion to dissolve the powder completely and create a frothy layer on top with many tiny bubbles. This process should take about 15-30 seconds.
- Once it has a frothy top and there are no lumps of powder visible, it is ready to serve.

Matcha comes in various grades, each offering distinct flavors, colors, and textures suited to different recipes like lattes, smoothies, and desserts. . •

Photo: MatchaLibrary.com

Nature and Natural Resources Photo Series

As glaciers melt away in the Everest regions of Nepal, climate enthusiasts and local communities pay a mournful tribute to 'Glacier Yala' this April, which is shrinking to 66% of its actual ice and size. Melting glaciers drive floods endangering lives of 15 million people along its path.



Thought of the month

"You have to stand against the whole world although you may have to stand alone. You have to stare the world in the face



although the world may look at you with bloodshot eyes. Do not fear. Trust that little thing in you which resides in the heart and says, 'forsake friends, wife, all; but testify to that for which you have lived and for which you have to die.'"

- M.K.Gandhi in his book 'My non-violence', p. 222

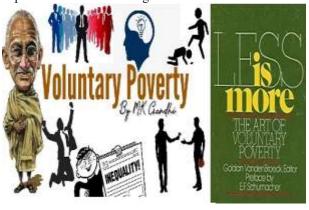
Voluntary Poverty

Voluntary poverty is the intentional choice to live with minimal material possessions and financial wealth, often for ethical, spiritual, or philosophical reasons. Unlike involuntary poverty, which is imposed by circumstances. It is a conscious decision to embrace simplicity and reduce dependence on material wealth.

Voluntary poverty is a concept based on the idea that it is *unfair* for some people to have more than they need while others have less. It involves:

- Giving what we don't need to those who do need it.
- Selling what we don't need and giving the money to those in need.
- Choosing to live with those who are materially poor as a conscious protest against injustice.
- Adopting a lifestyle equivalent to those living at the poverty level in order to serve God more effectively.

Historically, many religious and philosophical traditions have advocated for voluntary poverty as a way to cultivate humility, focus on personal growth, and contribute to social justice. Some individuals adopt this lifestyle to protest economic inequality, reduce their environmental impact, or prioritize relationships and experiences over material goods.



Some individuals who lived in voluntary poverty:

Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus – A Roman diplomat who chose to live modestly on his farm rather than accumulate wealth through politics.

Henry David Thoreau – American philosopher and writer who lived simply in a small cabin at Walden Pond to focus on self-sufficiency and reflection.

John Michael Greer – A modern thinker who advocates for voluntary poverty as a way to prepare for economic and environmental challenges.

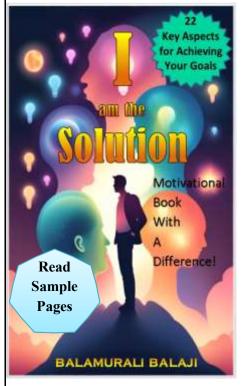
Charles Lamm – An individual who promotes voluntary poverty as a mindful approach to living a simpler, more fulfilling life.

Voluntary poverty can be applied in modern life in various ways: Minimalism, Mindful consumption, Downsizing, Self-sufficiency and Ethical living.

New Book: I am the solution

The book "I am the solution" covers the most important aspects one need to possess, practice and discern while working towards their goals. I could see some 22 aspects that need to be understood for those who wanted to achieve success. The title itself discerns that the key to success is not somewhere outside but with one's own qualities.

"I am the Solution!" conveys the message on how effectively the readers can utilize various virtues and abilities for accomplishing their goals in different walks of life. Each chapter elucidates the ways of applying the true potential of each virtue in practice in the process of completing in its entirety; this book would help the readers with a handful of self-promoting ideas and hints about transforming one's weakness into strengths and indolence into awakenings.



Author suggests that readers read one chapter a day; give some time to think over it and grasp the message to their benefit. They may randomly choose their topic of interest among twenty-two aspects. I hope that the topics I had chosen, as 'key aspects' would give readers some insight on the core essentials for taking their mission to success.

"I am the Solution" surely is a motivational book with a different perspective towards understanding one's abilities and connecting the same with the success in their endeavours.

Title: I am the solution

Subtitle: Motivational book with a difference

Author: Balamurali Balaji ISBN: 9798282442304 Pages: 116

Publisher: Amazon Kindle Publishing

Fublisher: Amazon Kindle Publishir

Price: ₹ 195.00

Print Edition (U.S.): 9\$

 $\textbf{Amazon Kindle Store}: \underline{\text{https://www.amazon.in/dp/B0F66HPBHP}}$

China's stupendous tech breakthroughs

Some of the innovations and technologies developed by China are going to make revolutionary changes in the world in near future. One of them is, its official launching of the world's first operational thorium-based reactors, not the conventional uranium, located in the Gobi Desert. It operates using molten salt as both the fuel carrier and coolant

The experimental reactor achieved full power in June 2024 and made history again in October 2024 by reloading fuel without shutting down — a global first in nuclear technology. With a modest output of 2 megawatts thermal (MWt), the TMSR-LF1 is a prototype, but its success is a major leap toward cleaner, safer nuclear power. The detection of Protactinium-233 confirms that thorium fuel breeding is working.



Some individuals find that voluntary poverty allows them to focus on personal growth, relationships, and creativity rather than financial accumulation.

P.S. For more on Gandhi and Voluntary Poverty, listen to this video lecture by Prof. Sridhar Bhat, ●

Source: theschooloflife.com

Tips for better relationship!

Maintaining healthy relationships, whether familial or professional, necessitates conscious effort and adherence to certain principles. To improve relationship and to avoid split in existing relationship in your family, or at work, follow the below rules:

Leave your ego. Never think that you are superior and the best in your surroundings. Firstly, you must consciously suppress ego and cultivate humility.

Refrain from frivolous and potentially damaging discourses. Avoid meaningless, loose talks with no idea of what consequences it causes. Don't be a chatterbox with no filter!

Handle issues diplomatically. Try to compromise in conflicting situations.

Beware that you have to tolerate certain difficulties sometimes.



Exercise discretion in sharing information, particularly regarding sensitive matters. Don't speak about everything to everyone; whether the topic is related to them or not, it doesn't matter.

Don't be stubborn in your stance or views. Be flexible.

Use courteous words while addressing others. Be respectful when they deserve it.

Don't show off as if you were always busy. Your smiles and kind words are wanted at times.

Conflicting interests with others? Play it cool and initiate reconciliatory talks without waiting for the other person to start working on it.

Following the above principles will mitigate potential misunderstandings. •

Native Innovation

As a part of traditional Lori games, kids from Ciherang village in Indonesia organize and build rollercoasters in the forest.

The Lori Games are a traditional activity in Kampung Ciherang, Desa Cihaurkuning, Malangbong, Garut, West Java, Indonesia. This game involves sliding down a 120-meter-long track made from the trunk of an aren palm tree Children and adults alike enjoy this thrilling ride, which is entirely community-built without external assistance.It helps kids' hooking to modern gadgets.

Another mind-boggling project of China is about setting up of a solar power plant into space that might cater power supply to spaceships and satellites ensuring durable functioning of equipment out in space.

To prove that it is not behind the U.S. in technology advancements, China has a line of many technological advancements. Three astronauts spent 183 days in orbit and returned safely with Shenzhou-19 spaceship capsule on April 30 this year. In a spectacular event, a dazzling fireworks display lit up the sky over Liuyang City created with over 1,000 drones and fireworks on this year's May day.

Beijing will host the 2025 World Robot Conference (WRC) and the inaugural World Humanoid Robot Games (WHRG) in August, with about 200 robotics companies presenting their latest innovations.

Source: ChinaFocus & TechWorm

Gandhi's words are becoming true! By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

Gandhi's words of wisdom are more relevant today. In view of growing hatred, violence, out lawful relations, unprincipled politics in today's world, Gandhi's moral thoughts still have a bearing to sustain the lives of people in human ways and to uphold legal bearing on the ways we connect each other.

In his speech on 22 February 1916, he pointed out, "Does economic progress clash with real progress? By economic progress, I take it, we mean material advancement without limit, and by real progress we mean moral progress, 'which again is, the same thing as progress of the permanent element in us. The subject may therefore be stated thus; Does not moral progress increase in the same proportion as material progress?"

In a driving spirit of competitiveness with a thirst for modern development, we forget 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 lives toward getting oblivion into another world of addiction, workaholics' or isolation.

Gandhi speaks of how greedy riches deprive others of every necessity. He talks of fighting through moral means by those unfortunate for justice forever until he attains what he deserved: "I observed almost invariably that the greater the possession of riches, the greater was their moral turpitude. Our rich men, to say the least, did not advance the moral struggle of passive resistance, as did the poor. The rich men's sense of self-respect was not so much injured as that of the poorest. If I were not afraid of treading on dangerous ground, I would even come nearer home and show how that possession of riches has been a hindrance to real growth."

His words are more relevant in the current geo-political situations and conflicts arising out of economic inequalities and communal differences. Richer nations continue to use might, demonstrate their mighty power, engaging the poorer nations into wars and battles making them mean and poorer than before. Smaller and poorer nations are pushed into highly volatile global markets at the economic ends as well. Altogether, global pressures take them to precariously follow the path of larger, developed nations. Had they resolved the crisis and conflicts diplomatically, through nonviolent strategies, their sovereignty and self-existence might have been preserved.

Today we see smaller countries like Ukraine, Palestine, Pakistan and some other Arab nations like Yemen, Lebanon took the path of battling with the giants through back-to-back fights and ruining the lives of millions of people. Had they had a passive, diplomatic means to counter the challenges, it would have been different! Nonviolent strategies, diplomacy, goodwill and mutual trust only can change this spiteful relations despite the interests in economic development of particular region.

Fortunately, the founding leaders of the nation like Mahatma Gandhi, who preached nonviolence, practiced tolerance and applied non-aggression in resolving global issues have ever guided India. India maintains restraint and distancing itself from war-mongering forces keeping its focus only on constructive development. At the times of the need for global responsibility, India is readily offering peaceful solutions as it continues to keep the spirit of Ahimsa at the centre of its heart.



CARTOON OF THE MONT



Business As Usual by E P Unny, May 2025 **CORNER STONE**

Operation Sindoor is not over - India claims. However, Pakistan is trying to woo China, Turkey and other nations in support of its militant activities signalling that there could be another mighty war between the two nations.

Pakistan follows a "Full Spectrum Deterrence" doctrine, which does not rule out the first use of nuclear weapons, whereas India adheres to a "No First Use" policy.

The current ceasefire and stray incidents of terror attempts - can't be taken lightly and there is no perpetual solution unless Pak sponsored terrorism stops. Pak must come forward to contain its terror groups on its own.

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