

TECHNO-GANDHIAN NEWS

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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

Women and Voting Rights

Women in India came out and vote for choosing their public representatives for the first time during the constituent assembly election held in 1921.

Between 1919 and 1929, all of the British provinces and princely states granted women the right to vote in elections and in some cases, allowed them to contest as well. In India, Bombay and Madras became the first provinces to give the limited vote to women.

The Women's Suffrage Movement in India fought for Indian women's right to political enfranchisement in Colonial India during the British Raj. Many Indian organizations and women factions were demanding the British for voting rights for women. While the British opposed the voting rights for women, Indian constituent assembly adopted a policy of universal suffrage and voting rights for women without much debate.



Until India attained independence in 1947, only the elite and some selected few women were allowed to vote. All women were allowed to vote only from first general elections held in 1951.

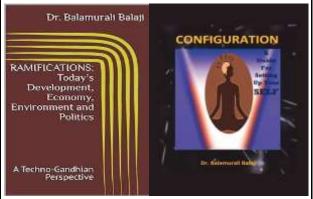
In 1920, when council elections were held in Bombay, Gandhi received a forwarded appeal issued by Mrs. Chapman Catt, President of the International Women Suffrage Alliance, to the men of India to support votes for women.

Replying to this plea - Gandhi wrote in Young India dated 24th November, 1920, "... while we do want the women-folk of India to come into their own and take their proper place by the side of their men, guarding their own responsibilities and rights and also of their men, we confess our in ability to appreciate any 'campaign' of "Votes for Women;" and that for two reasons.."

Gandhi marked that, firstly, a campaign conducted on the lines of the "Women suffragist movement" in Europe and America would be of any use or benefit to this country in general and the women m particular. Secondly, this is not at all the time suited for any such campaigns, which would lead to dissipation of the national energy of the manhood and womanhood of India.

He added, "The women of India will have rightly deserved and won their votes by liberating themselves and their men from the death-grip of the existing government

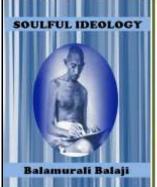
TECHNO-GANDHIAN PROCESS MODEL- The practical side of Techno-Gandhian Philosophy! A know-how video is available in Youtube for understanding how to proceed with the five steps that include activities, actions and resolving issues. Write to us requesting for details about how to get certification.



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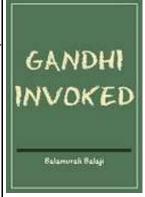


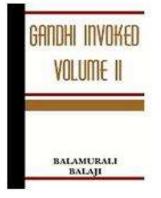
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which is the greatest of all social evils with which society is cursed. Their votes are already theirs, for has not the Congress admitted their right to equal status and privileges".

Nature and Natural Resources Photo Series

Sinkholes are unusual phenomena occurring in certain parts of the world, as the one that formed in a town near amazon river in Brazil last month. It may be as huge as many metres in depth and width swallowing everything on the earth's surface. While landslides swish the soil out of earth, sinkholes pull the soil down inside causing deep crater.



Photo source: NDTV World

Demerits of Renewable energy

By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

Energy from renewable sources alone contributes more than one-fourth of the global power needs. Whereas hydro-electric power generation constitute a significant 15.3% of the overall renewable energy generation, other sources contribute a trifling share of 3.7 from solar panels, 6.6 from wind mills, 2.3% from bio-mass and less than one percent from geo-thermal sources.

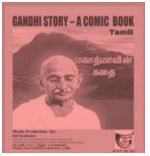
Enhancing this 28% of renewable energy for a much wider use is what the energy experts and companies are talking about these days to address the issue of carbon emissions and environmental pollution caused by nuclear fuel, fossil fuel and coal. Actually, relying entirely on renewable energy sources is not that easy and neither practical nor reliable. It requires tech-savvy innovations and process refinements to achieve efficient production of green energy. Obviously, that is lacking in many countries.

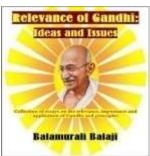


If we switched to renewable energy in full 100% in the entire world, the number of ships crossing the ocean would fall almost in half. "Why because, 90% of the ships across the world are just carrying coal, oil and gas", reportedly stated by an U.S. activist Bill McKibben.

The major setback in using renewable energy for individual household purposes comes when the produced electricity is stored in batteries. As of now, battery technology is not suffice, reliable enough to store very high capacity of current. We are noticing the incidents of e-bikes and e-vehicles burning due to malfunction of batteries installed in them. Moreover, there exist an immense dissatisfaction amongst the consumers buying e-vehicles that the charging points were not vastly available at times of need. It also requires waiting time during the charge affecting their scheduled travel time.

Due to changing climatic conditions, unpredictable and worse, production of electricity could not be quantified accurately in a stable manner. Countries like





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Thought of the month

"... Mutual toleration is necessity for all time and for all races. We cannot live in peace if the Hindus will not tolerate the Islamic form of worship of God and its



manners and customs or if the Muslims will be impatient of Hindu idolatry or cow-worship.

It is not necessary for toleration that I must approve of what I tolerate. I heartily dislike drinking, meat-eating and smoking, but I tolerate all these in Hindus, Muslims and Christians even as l expect them to tolerate my abstinence from all these although they may dislike it, All the quarrels between the Hindus and the Muslims have arisen from each wanting to force the other to his view...."

- Gandhi in Young India, dated 25th February 1920.

Executive orders trumpeting MAGA appear more adventurous!

By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

With the whole bunch of executive orders right from ending birth right citizenship for children born to undocumented immigrants in America to imposing sanctions on the International Court of Criminal Justice, Donald Trump has Made America Great Again!



Eyeing on the destroyed land of Gaza and rareearth minerals in Ukraine would have never come that easier for any other American President reigned so far but for

Donald Trump, connecting to Israel based on propositions from a few elite Jews and talking to Russia overlooking the age-old animosity between two countries is objectively just. The MAGA campaign that kicked off in the election rallies and streets of America has come to veracious presence within a month he assumed office.

Tariff hike on goods imported from Canada, Mexico and China followed by similar indication to India and European nations will certainly make America's economy self-reliant, self-sustainable and stable even if it has adverse effects on trade and commerce. That is MAGA's new adventurous road yet to be travelled.

Quitting from global entities like UNHRC, UNESCO, WHO and stopping the USAID is yet another decision that has made MAGA palpable for the generations to come. And, firing thousands of federal employees is no less than an efficient move for the upheaval of MAGA.

Germany are rethinking of switching back to traditional source of electricity due to adverse weather conditions affecting the production by solar panels.

Another team of researchers from India says that the fossil fuel is here to stay in the world forever as it is based on sea water (earth constitutes 73% of water) believing that just the raw crude oil dig out from underneath the oceans would not really disturb the ecosystem. The only concern about the use of fossil fuel is higher levels of emissions that ought to be cut by incorporating efficient automobile technologies, efficient engines, but not the use of fossil fuel itself.

Another type of interesting renewable energy, Biogas plants, failed to make a successful run for its unreliability and <u>pricing</u> reasons. Many households and communities were persuaded to install biogas models in their vicinity as a part of campaigning by fancy words such as *eco, bio, waste management, recycling, environment friendly* etc. However, they feel unhappy as it takes long time for production and maintenance that also incurs a heavy investment from two to three lakhs.

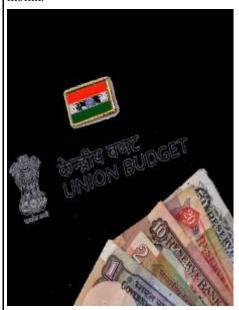
While nuclear energy generation plants are being shutdown in many European countries, it serves most of the power needs of the countries like USA, Japan, and India etc. However, it is reckoned that producing energy using nuclear fuel is the only best and positive way of using the nuclear material, which otherwise would be gratified to the production of nuclear weapons.

Around the world an estimated 41% of the electricity needs is met by power produced using coal as raw material. Coal unearthed from mines travel thousands of miles across the seas and oceans in large ships. Oil and gas too are transported from one country to another via sea route. Over 80% of all goods and raw materials traded worldwide are carried to their destinations by ships. Without shipping, intercontinental trade will come down to almost nil. So, in terms of trade and economy, the use of renewable energy will be considered as a major drawback for the survival of certain other related industries.

[P.S: Renewable energy sources are supplemental to sources that yield large-scale production of power. This article is not intended to demean the use and production of renewable energy sources, as the world still requires them. However, it is now required a new set of refinements in processes and invention of new techniques in power generation targeting efficiency, durability and zero pollution. As Gandhi said, "We can try to canalize scientific and economic trends but we can't run against them in a head-on collision", more reliable ways of utilizing renewable energy are always welcome.] •

Revenues and Expenditures – Union Budget 2025

Here is the break-up of every rupee the Government of India earns and spends according to the Union Budget - 2025 presented by Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman last month.



Revenues (Total 100%):

Borrowings – 24 %
Income Tax – 22%
GST and other taxes – 18%
Corporate Tax – 17%
Non-tax receipts – 9%
Excise duties – 5%
Custom duties – 4%
Non-debt capital receipts – 1%

Expenditures (Total 100%):

State's share of taxes and duties -22%Interest on borrowings -20%Central schemes -16%Defence and other schemes -8%Finance commission grants -8%Centrally sponsored schemes -8%Subsidies -6%Pension -4%Other Expenditures -8%

source: legal.economictimes.com, taxscan.in

What makes Gandhi the tallest leader in world history? By Dr. Balamurali Balaji

Mahatma Gandhi is the foremost figure in the history of the world remembered even after his martyrdom seventy-six years ago, known for his philosophy of nonviolence and peace combined with the power of truth and justice.

In contrast to what the western world believed that an individual could attain peace only when he overcame the world by conquering rulers and securing their lands to his control,

Deporting the illegal immigrants by literally dropping them through military planes is not just a security procedure, but also the peak point in the civilian evacuation plans the world has ever witnessed.

America is great again when transgender athletes were banned to take part in women sports which is definitely an additional response to the women pastor who pleaded for more rights for LGBTQ community on the day of oath-taking ceremony on January 20.

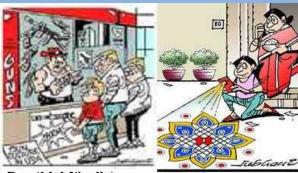
Nationalist agenda for America may sound weird for many, as it ought to have such executive orders, though! Since America is a special kind of compound that is made of atoms and molecules from not just this planet but also from extra-terrestrial sources that requires not only greater levers of Intelligence Quotient but also a considerable size of Artificial Intelligence.

Protests from the opposition parties and civilian unrest might continue to intrude Trump 2.0 policies as it has already began in parts of the U.S., with heavy voices trumpeting denouncement of Project 2025 and Elon Musk's DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency). Nevertheless, more such wokeism and civil resistance would only Make America Great Again, coercing the rest of the world tight-lipped; tremulously keeping them away from America and curiously watching the demonstrations as they wait for some unexpected, terrible consequences in the administration.

The ratio between job-openings vs. employed has come down to 1.1% from 1.5%. Though it is too early to reckon this first-hand data showing that the unemployment rate is slightly higher after Trump assumed office, another executive order may bring good numbers to jobs in Americas!

Passing these orders in the senate with no intrusion from SC judges is a monumental task for the Trump administration as it determines how America strengthens itself and how the rest of world coerce with America.

CARTOON OF THE MONTH



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Hindu-Muslim rights dispute over a hill in Tamilnadu

In a sudden turn of events, the well-known hill-temple Thirupparankundram near Madurai in Tamilnadu has become a spot for heating debate on Hindu-Muslim unity in its vicinity. The town was in the grip of tension even after Section 144 curfew has been enforced for two days and then lifted later. Even as the hillock temple Thirupparankundram is famous abode of Lord Muruga, it also houses, on the other side of the hill, an Islamic worshipping place known for centuries as Sikandar Dargah (Mosque).

Recently when an order was issued from temple authorities at the behest of some Hindu groups banning of sacrificing animals such as goat and chick hens, officials and Islamic devotees in the nearby Dargah Gandhi spread the waves of nonviolence and exhibited its power for the empowerment of indentured labourers and peasants by bringing down the unruly authorities to dust through his actions reinforced by highly moralising speeches and writings.

At the time when nations did rise up against other nations for want of power, Gandhi took to his campaign to wipe out the sins of men and women by awakening the spirit of freedom, gearing up the art of spinning as an instrument for meeting the economic needs of villagers and fasting for days to sort out the differences amongst Indian people (Hindus, Muslims, Harijans etc.) that was hindering the independence of the nation.

In contrast to what the western philosophies believed that an ascetic sainthood would mean just for bringing up an universal religion for removing imperfections in humanity and for establishing peace among the mankind,

Gandhi practised a path of spiritual, saintly tenets for fighting the malevolent British that was governing with an intent of warring with the kings and destructing the cultural symbols like temples.



In contrast to what the western world faithfully believed in their scriptures "Love you enemies" but indulged in war and bloodshed,

Gandhi took the same words for fighting it out with the imperial powers demanding justice and pleading for giving truth a chance!

In contrast to what the heads of the western religions awfully preaching, "The Lord is a man of war. He is mighty in battle" (Moses) and "... when you encounter the unbelievers strike off their heads" (Prophet), Gandhi remained a Hindu monk throughout his life practicing <u>eleven vows</u> he set himself as code of conduct meant for satyagrahis.

In contrast to what many philosophers of the west were propounding that both equal rights for all in the state and moral purpose of humanity could be achieved through the laws of nature that which based on man's natural tendencies including the use war as a means,

Gandhi formulated the laws of moral force to work for the attainment of supremacy of rights guaranteeing perpetual peace by peaceful means.

Indian Railways going green!

The right use of the right technology is always fascinating and a welcoming one. India is taking a giant leap towards *self-reliant transportation* with the trial of solar-powered trains. While the railways has already electrified 97% broad gauge network of rail routes (as of December 2024) and reduced carbon footprint from its part, harnessing solar energy to power trains bring cleaner, greener and sustainable future.



Source: Unbox factory

complained that the order was breaching their rights, as they have ownership on part of the hill.

There is also a Kasi Viswanathar temple situated atop the hill to which one has to pass by the Sikandar Dargah. When a Muslim devotee carrying animals to fulfil his entreaty, he was stopped by the security forces at the entrance of the hill. This incident provoked furore amongst the Islamic admins of the Dargah and they complained to the district authorities. However, to their dismay, permission was denied to carry out their age-old practice.



People living in the mountain surroundings believe that they are united and living in harmony for centuries and keeping the symbols of different faiths in the same hill was never an issue before. Those who wanted to worship Lord Siva also pray and do offerings at Dargah, a shopkeeper says.

Some Hindu and Islamic outfits are trying to politicise the issue by creating unnecessary dispute over the name of the hill (some sects want it to be called as Sikandar hill), or cooking non-vegetarian food in the hill premises. The issue is under investigation and a case is registered in the High court, Madurai.

CORNER STONE

Non-stopping language war: Tamilnadu Vs NEP Vs Consititution

Tamilnadu CM MK Stalin accuse d Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan of *blackmail* when the latter said that TN would not receive funds to the tune of ₹2,151 crores from *Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme* if the centre's "Three Language Policy" as per the National Educational Policy is not followed in the state. Subsequently, the centre also announced making Hindi as a compulsory language subject for upto 8th standard in the government schools.



While Tamilnadu has been insisting on the state's two-language policy (Tamil & English), centre's inclusion of Hindi as third language rises opposition from all parties in the state.

Both the centre and the state shall have to look upon this issue from the context of *Social Justice* for the people of the state. If NEP serves the purpose of social justice and is in accordance with equality of languages, undue politicization and derisive attitude towards Hindi or Tamil will get over. Within the socio-political framework, the issue could be resolved amicably.

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