



# THE TECHNO-GANDHIAN NEWS

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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

## Mantra for Peace – the Upanishad way!

The Upanishads are part of the Vedas. Each of the four Vedas, i.e., the Rig, the Yajur, the Sama and the Atharva, is organized into four sections – the Samhita, the Brahmana, Aranyaka and the Upanishad. Upanishads are the last, i.e. fourth and newest ‘layer’ of the Vedas (this ‘new’ layer was added about 2,700 years ago); they are not hymns but stories, and / or conversations between teacher (Guru) and student (Shishya).

Each Upanishad is not only associated with a particular Veda, but also with a special invocation or prayer called a Shanti Mantra, which is essentially a prayer for peace. Before you start reading an Upanishad – or, more correctly, ‘listening’ to a teacher explain its essence to you – it is recommended to chant the peace prayer associated with it.

### Shanti Mantras

Why should Shanti mantras be recited before the study of an Upanishad? Simply because the sounds and words of these mantras are believed to create an atmosphere that quiets the mind and facilitates learning. As a collateral benefit, they also help calm the community and the environment around the student. Considering this fact, all of these mantras end with that most calming of calming phrases – ‘Aum Shantih Shantih Shantih’.

The triple Shantih mantra invokes three kinds of peace – peace in the mind, peace in speech (i.e., an absence of extreme emotions like anger, fear, hate, great joy or excitement when one speaks) and peace in the body (a steady pulse, a deep rhythmic breath, a happy gut). Another explanation is that the triple Shantih calls for peace within oneself, peace in the community/environment, and peace in the universe

### Shanti Mantra of the Rig Veda (Aitreya Upanishad)

Om vān me manasi pratiṣṭhitāḥ

mano me vāci pratiṣṭhitamḥ

āvirāvirma edhiḥ

vedasya ma ānīsthaḥ

śrutam me mā prahāsīḥ

anenādhītenāhorātrān

sandadhāmi tīrtam vadiṣyāmi

satyam vadiṣyāmi

tanmā mavatu

tadvaktāramavatu

avatu mām

avatu vaktārā mavatu vaktāramḥ

Om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ

ॐ वाङ् मे मनसि प्रतिष्ठिताः।

मनो मे वाचि प्रतिष्ठितम्।

आविराविर्म एधि।

वेदस्य म आणीस्थः।

श्रुतं मे मा प्रहासीः

अनेनाधीतेनाहोरात्रान्सन्दधामि।

ऋतं वदिष्यामि।

सत्यं वदिष्यामि।

तन्मामवतु।

तद्वक्तारमवतु।

अवतु माम्।

अवतु वक्तारमवतु वक्तारम्॥

ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः॥

### Meaning:

I pray, That my words make their home in my mind,  
That my mind makes its home in my words,  
That the knowledge of my true self reveals itself to me,  
That my mind and my speech work in harmony to help me understand,

## Thought of the month

“Although I know that my freedom is less than that of a passenger, I appreciate that freedom, as I have imbibed through and through the central teaching of the Gita that man is the maker of his own destiny in the sense that he has freedom of choice as to the manner in which he uses that freedom. But he is no controller of results. The moment he thinks he is, he comes to grief.”

– M.K.Gandhi in “Harijan”, 23-Feb-1940



## Coal mines to cool parks

In Germany, a remarkable transformation is taking place as old coal mines — once symbols of heavy industry and pollution — are being converted into massive underground parks. These vast, abandoned tunnels and chambers, which once echoed with the sounds of mining, are now repurposed into spaces for recreation, culture, and nature restoration.



**In Germany, old coal mines are being converted into massive underground parks.**

Engineers and architects are redesigning these underground networks into areas with walking trails, cycling paths, art galleries, and even botanical gardens lit with advanced LED systems. The stable underground climate makes them ideal for year-round activities, regardless of weather conditions. Some projects even incorporate geothermal heating from the mineshafts, making them energy-efficient and sustainable.

This conversion not only preserves the region’s industrial heritage but also tackles the challenge of reviving post-

That I do not just hear the lesson, but understand it,  
That what I learn and practice night and day is never lost to me.  
May this Divine Truth that I speak today  
Protect my teacher And protect me.  
Aum Peace Peace Peace.

Shanti Mantra of the Shukla Yajur Veda (Isha Upanishad)

Om pūrṇamadaḥ pūrṇamidaṃ	ॐ पूर्णमदः पूर्णमिदं
pūrṇātpurṇamudacyate	पूर्णात्पूर्णमुदच्यते
pūrṇaśya pūrṇamādāya	पूर्णश्च पूर्णमादाय पूर्णमेवा
pūrṇamevā vaśiṣyate	वशिष्यते॥
Om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ	ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः॥

**Meaning:**  
That is complete, and This is complete,  
From That completeness comes This completeness;  
If you take completeness away from completeness,  
Only completeness remains.  
Aum Peace Peace Peace

Source: Vedas and Upanishads

Theme of the International Day of Peace – September 21

“End Racism. Build Peace.” – is the theme of this year’s International Day of Peace.

Racism is when you as an intuition, individual or society have a negative perception about other’s ethnicity.



It is a known fact that prejudice based on skin tone, caste, religion and nationality remained the key element of disharmony in societies. People’s sentiments are strongly attached to their ethnic values. The incidents of discrimination and ultimate negativity have triggered anarchy and unrest in many parts of the world. World, as a global village, is under serious threat because of anarchy which engage the entire world into distress.

Therefore, the theme of the peace day 2025 focuses on eliminating racism so that harmony can be restored on this planet.

The actual purpose of universal peace day is to foster acceptance by engaging all the people. It asks them to show their commitment towards peace by remaining nonviolent. ●

Deriving an amicable equation for global economy

Tariff war! Trade war! Recession! Inequity! Inflation! Monopoly!

Disproportionate trade practices lead to unbalanced economy worldwide. Currently, world is facing tensions more than ever due to changing economic conditions set by a few nations. The second and third world continue to remain in distress despite values shared globally - goods and services, knowledge and

mining communities. Former mining towns now attract tourists, creating new jobs and boosting local economies. The parks also serve as unique cultural venues, hosting concerts, exhibitions, and sports events in spaces once dedicated to coal extraction.

By turning these dark, empty spaces into vibrant hubs of life, Germany is proving that environmental regeneration and cult ●

Source: Fact 27

SIR 2025

The Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls (SIR) is a privilege for the Election Commission to revise the list of voters in any state. It is a routine activity to revise the roll with the inclusion, deletion and modification of voters and their details. It is a time-consuming, delicate process taken over by the commission to ensure that all eligible voters exercise their franchise promptly.



Ahead of Bihar assembly elections in the later part of this year, a huge controversy has developed in the Indian political scene that the EC has unconstitutionally, unlawfully deleted 65 million voters from the roll to facilitate and favour the ruling BJP's win in the elections.

The massive drive carried out by the EC from 24th June required a door-to-door verification of voters' details and filling of enumeration forms along with voter ids, Aadhar ids etc. to booth level officers. This massive revamping of the entire roll revision process triggered protests from the opposition and a portion of common people as well.

Their key concerns include *Targeted timing of SIR before assembly elections, fears of exclusion who likely to oppose NDA, burdening of producing documents, scrutinizing of youth born after 1987 need to furnish parent's date and place of birth, documents like Aadhaar and MNREGA cards are not accepted as valid ID and exclusion of migrant workers and students.*

*Critics say that the SIR process is not an electoral reform, but a targeted, tedious task ahead of nearing elections.*

*When asked about this, Techno-Gandhian Balamurali Balaji says that voting must be a right for every citizen and the EC must ensure that. It also requires a policy shift in choosing the electorate based on citizenship, ownership to avoid fake votes and forgery, he said.*

Imagine a state that provides voting rights only for house owners, land or property owners, business owners who pay taxes and want their tax money working for them in the constituency.

All other citizens are just visitors, guests, or tenants having no right to take part in decision-making processes taken by the democratic government elected by owners alone. These people live in a place because of survival or livelihood with no permanent status or interest in the community they live. Anyways, in the political process, they do have minimal involvement even now.

Therefore, the demarcation is between the owned and the disowned, as opposed to Karl Marx's theory of 'haves and



expertise. Even though environmental and geo-political conditions of those nations determine the fate of their economy, we still need to look at ways of improving them for the best.

What dominates the global economy? A mix of powerful nations, industries, and financial systems shapes the global economy. Here's a breakdown of what currently dominates:

These nations wield the most influence due to their massive GDPs, trade networks, and innovation ecosystems:

Country	GDP (2024 estimate )	Core Strengths
United States	~\$26.7 trillion	Innovation, financial services, tech giants, reserve currency
China	~\$19.4 trillion	Manufacturing, exports, Belt & Road Initiative, tech growth
Japan	~\$4.4 trillion	Automotive, robotics, electronics
Germany	~\$4.3 trillion	Engineering, industrial exports, EU leadership
India	~\$3.7 trillion	IT services, pharmaceuticals, growing consumer base

These five economies set the tone for global trade, investment, and technological development.

Key Sectors Driving Global Influence:

- **Technology & Innovation:** Dominated by U.S. and Chinese firms like Apple, Google, Huawei, and Tencent.
- **Manufacturing & Exports:** China leads, followed by Germany and Japan.
- **Finance & Capital Markets:** The U.S. remains the global financial hub, with Wall Street and the dollar playing central roles.
- **Energy & Resources:** Countries like Saudi Arabia and Russia influence global energy markets.
- **Consumer Markets:** India and China are rapidly expanding, attracting global brands and investment.

Interconnected Systems

The global economy isn’t just about GDP and above factors—it’s about how countries interact:

- **Trade Agreements** (e.g., EU, USMCA, RCEP)
- **Supply Chains** (spanning continents)
- **Trade Agreements** (e.g., EU, USMCA, RCEP)
- **Digital Infrastructure** (cloud computing, fintech, AI)

**Achieving equity in the global economy** is a complex challenge—one that involves balancing power, opportunity, and sustainability across nations. Equity is not just about redistribution—it is about co-creation. When nations collaborate to build systems that reflect shared values and mutual benefit, equity becomes not just possible, but inevitable.

Conceptual Equation for Global Economic Equity

Equity Index =  $\frac{(A + T + I + S)}{P}$

Where:

- **A = Access to Resources** Includes food, water, energy, education, healthcare, and digital infrastructure.
- **T = Trade Fairness** Reflects balanced trade agreements, reduced tariffs for developing nations, and ethical sourcing.
- **I = Inclusive Innovation** Measures how technology and innovation are shared globally, not hoarded by a few.
- **S = Sustainable Development** Captures environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and long-term planning.
- **P = Power Concentration** Represents the degree to which economic and political power is concentrated in a few countries or corporations. Lower values of P improve equity.

Equity increases when there is an rise in access, fairness, innovation, and sustainability. Equity decreases when power is overly concentrated, whether in wealth, decision-making, or technology. Nations longing for such amicable equity

have not’s has a greater advantage over the electorate if voter list is shrunk and curtailed based on that. It is also not wrong to follow this pattern of 'creating a voter list' for the privileged. Here, the deprived is not actually poor; they just did not own a one in that place. They might have owned house or property in another town or constituency where they would get voting rights.

The current turbulence over 6.5 million voters, outsiders not enlisted in the voter list in Bihar, for the upcoming Assembly Elections, may find their names in the voter list in other states!

The Election Commission does have no clear ways, on its own, to decide who has the voting right or not. It requires cross checking of Identity, citizenship, age and residential status of the electorate.

Even though the theory of 'haves and have-nots' is associated with economic sufficiency, the idea of possession and dispossession seems to be a deciding factor for fixing the rights of a citizen in a particular place, village, town or city. This might also shift the perspective of looking at people's development from a rich-poor enigma to one’s status of ownership/proprietary reducing the gap between the rich and the poor. ●

Weird use of technology in TN ration shops

Ration shops in TamilNadu has implemented a new technological way to check the weights of commodities. From August 2025, weighing machine in ration shops became Bluetooth-enabled, which crosscheck the weights of items at the time of billing itself. The billing machine and electronic weighing machine are connected via Bluetooth. When an entry is made in the billing machine for a specified quantity during purchase, the weighing machine weighs the item and matches it with the quantity specified in the billing machine. This new system is launched to ensure the ration shops supply the correct quantity of items to its customers.

The state’s Public Distribution System (PDS) shops are always under criticism as people complain more often about less quantity of items they buy. To address the issue, the PDS department has introduced this Bluetooth-enabled cross verification of quantity. Accordingly, billing and measuring the quantity of item happen simultaneously..



However, the implementation has raised objections and frustration from both the customers and the working personnel. It is reported that it is impractical and time-consuming effort to crosscheck each item, and both billing and weighing at the same time. The system requires the weighing machine to receive the signal from the billing machine when an item is billed, then weighs the item is matched and then sends the signal to the billing desk. Only after much time, a single item purchase is completed.

In practical terms, it is not possible to weigh and distribute the item at the time of billing itself as the ration shops have different counters for billing and issuing. Customers get the bill first and produce it at the issuing counter to receive the items. The introduction of new system delays every

in trade and commerce need to work hard to meet the above factors on its own first, and then look for cooperation from countries of similar interest. ●

Nature and Natural Resources Photo Series

Vacant and arid lands are increasingly occupied for massive industrialization and inhabitation causing a fresh breed of pollution and depletion of resources that keep the earth’s surface in a balanced manner. Global warming, green gas emission and other natural disasters follow due to unsustainable inhabitation.



U.S – India –Pakistan ties

By Balamurali Balaji

America, once an ally of Pakistan began to stretch its friendly hands to India only from the start of this millennium. For over twenty-five years, due to sincere diplomatic efforts and by projecting Gandhian ideals as a means for working out a plausible relationship, India and the United States have been keeping their ties amiable and mutual.

During 1998-2000, the U.S cooperated meticulously with India in the war on terror, which is nothing but combating Islamic Jihadis and terror outfits from Pakistan. The issue of Line of Control (LOC) along Kashmir and the fate of PoK too centered on this cooperative mission between the two countries. Pakistan using terror as a tool is always unacceptable! However, after the just gone Operation Sindoor, it seems that the U.S is covertly misleading and misguiding Pakistan on these critical issues by offering millions to Pakistan and having dinner with the Army Chief of Pakistan.

It is outrageous to see in the midst of influential statements from the POTUS and the military head of Pakistan that India’s stance has distorted and distrusted woefully. Pakistan too is misinforming certain facts and misquoting statements from Indian leaders. How many planes are downed and how many have died during the Op. Sindoor – is still a mystery for the public. Media reports from Pakistan and the President’s claims still have not proven factually. Word of mouth cannot be trustworthy! Why there was no true picture from the military side?

Growing U.S. – Pak ties is not a matter of concern or an aspect of threat for India as long as it leads the world to peaceful relationships between them and the neighboring India. The dinner diplomacy may take their ties to new heights.



While both the U.S. and Pakistan are entering a new era of cooperation on counter-terrorism, not all is well between India and Pakistan including Indus water treaty, playing cricket matches and persistent terror threats alongside border areas. ●

transaction and the staff are frustrated to cope up with the change.

Many shops surpass this new procedure. Alternatively, some shops make use of dummy weights of various measures, 500gms, 1 kg, 2kg and 5 kg for crosschecking while billing. Once the bill is ready, the actual weighing of items for issuance follow.

Instead of messing up like this, a weighing machine could be placed outside the shop and let the people to check the quantities of items on their own.

Thus, thinking of implementing an innovative use of technology to weigh the correct measures, the PDS has paved a way for inefficiency and for another malpractice.●

CARTOON OF THE MONTH



CORNER STONE

Will President Trump get his endeavor done successfully? Donald Trump, the POTUS has been proving worth of what he is saying every day; meeting with warring leaders and proposing peace between Ukraine and Russia. His meeting with Putin in Alaska gave a reaffirmed faith in a refurbished peace. Subsequent meet with Zelenskyy and European leaders have paved a way for a direct talk between Putin and Zelenskyy.

He wants Ukraine to leave Crimean region to Russia and stay away from NATO. This reiterates his important step towards mediation between Russia and Ukraine, which got implicated immediately in another aspect when he decided not to send troops to Ukraine. With all these developments, U.S and Russia can work closely together than ever before.

However, Putin’s demands on accession of certain other parts of Ukraine remain crucial for peace! Zelenskyy is keen on pulling world leaders to the issue rather than extending warm hands to Putin and shredding the idea of joining NATO.

By the time direct talks happen between two leaders, attacks must have already stopped on both sides, and talks shall have to center around territorial agreement! That is true peace and true diplomacy. ●

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