

'YES' ! THIS IS THE WAY I THINK

Thoughts Revealed....

K VISHWANATH



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Stories Matter

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DEDICATION

My mother Nagalakshmi and my father Krishnamurthy
who are the inspiration for life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My bank Union Bank of India which gave me everything for more than 35 years. Whatever I am today is because of my Bank and I am indebted to it for life.

My wife Shantha and daughter Deepthi who helped me in compiling and editing this book.

FOREWORD

PREFACE

Well friends, at the outset I wish to say that the book you are holding is a small book. I always believe in being brief and even in my school and college days I rarely took additional sheets during examinations.

I would never have written this book; so many of my letters have been published in newspapers. But so many more sent to many newspapers and other institutions have neither been published nor acknowledged. I therefore thought I will put everything in the form of a book. The points written may or may not appeal to everybody but I wish to say that all thoughts are from the bottom of my heart and I have a deep conviction that they are true. I would also like to confess that I used to write letters under my second name Paramesh and also in the name of Shantala for various reasons. I would also take this opportunity to thank The New Indian Express, Deccan Herald & The Hindu for publishing so many of my letters in their Letters to the Editor column.

So, over to the main part of the book.

K. VISHWANATH

17-11-2022

PROLOGUE

Write or paste your content here...

Contents

COPYRIGHT DECLARATION	II
DEDICATION	V
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	VII
FOREWORD	IX
PREFACE	XI
PROLOGUE	XIII
CHAPTER 1 ADS ON AIR	21
CHAPTER 2 SEASONAL LAKES	23
CHAPTER 3 MISLEADING ROUTE NUMBERS	25
CHAPTER 4 AT LEAST WE HAVE NOT LOST IT TO PAKISTAN!	27
CHAPTER 5 CONGESTED ROADS	29
CHAPTER 6 MAIN CULPRITS	31
CHAPTER 7 DO WE NEED CET?	33
CHAPTER 8 A DISTORTED FORM OF EQUALITY	35
CHAPTER 9	

	37
CHAPTER 10 FOR A 2 PARTY SYSTEM	39
CHAPTER 11 POLITICIANS MUST RETIRE	41
CHAPTER 12 BEGIN THE NEW MILLENNIUM WITH LIGHT	43
CHAPTER 13 SOME FLAWS IN THE PROCESS OF LAW	45
CHAPTER 14 GIVE THREADS TO ALL	47
CHAPTER 15 GIVE WEIGHTAGE, NOT RESERVATION	49
CHAPTER 16 BANKERS, BE AWARE OF OTHERS' PLIGHT	51
CHAPTER 17 MAKE CRICKET A FAIR GAME FOR ALL PLAYERS	53
CHAPTER 18 LIVING FOR THE DEAD	55
CHAPTER 19 HITTING & BANGING A LEADER INTO SHAPE	57
CHAPTER 20 ADS ON AIDS	59
CHAPTER 21 PLASTIC IS BETTER	61
CHAPTER 22	

	63
CHAPTER 23 END OF THE ROAD	65
CHAPTER 24 METERS MUST SHOW DISTANCE TRAVELLED	67
CHAPTER 25 CURRENCY MATTERS	69
CHAPTER 26 STANDARDIZATION OF PROCEDURES IN BANKS	81
CHAPTER 27 OUR CALENDAR	85
CHAPTER 28 TEST CRICKET - IS IT WORTH THE GAME?	91
CHAPTER 29 FOR ANIMALS SAKE	93
CHAPTER 30 YES! MY GOD IS HERE ITSELF	97
CHAPTER 31 IS WHEEL THE GREATEST INVENTION ?	99
CHAPTER 32 SUN & PLANETS (CAN THIS BE TRUE!)	101
CHAPTER 33 WHY WE SEE ONLY 1 FACE OF THE MOON	103
CHAPTER 34 ROTATION OF PLANETS - WHERE DOES THE FORCE COME FROM	105

ANANTHA X SHOONYA (ZERO X INFINITY)	107
CHAPTER 36 WORLD HABITAT DAY 2004 - ESSAY COMPETITION	109
CHAPTER 37 POSITION OF THE HEART	119
CHAPTER 38 FOOD FOR THOUGHT	121
CHAPTER 39 STATIONARY & MOVEMENT - THE IRONY	123
CHAPTER 40 ARE YOU SAVING ENERGY?	125
CHAPTER 41 WHAT IS THE LEGACY OF MOON LANDING?	127
CHAPTER 42 DO YOU SUFFER FROM ROAD RAGE?	129
CHAPTER 43 SHOULD UNIVERSITIES FAVOUR POORER STUDENTS?	131
CHAPTER 44 IS AN AGING POPULATION A GOOD THING?	133
CHAPTER 45 HOW CAN WE AVERT A PERFECT STORM?	135
CHAPTER 46 WHAT IS IN A NAME?	137
CHAPTER 47 HOW SHOULD SOCIETY TACKLE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS?	139

CHAPTER 48 WHAT NEXT FOR CHINA?	141
CHAPTER 49 WHAT GUIDES YOUR MORAL COMPASS?	143
CHAPTER 50 DID SCHOOL CHANGE YOUR LIFE?	145
CHAPTER 51 WOULD YOU CHANGE YOUR DIET TO HELP THE PLANET?	147
CHAPTER 52 WHO WOULD YOU DEDICATE A SPECIAL DAY TO?	149
CHAPTER 53 'LIFE' WHEREFROM IT COMES & GOES	151
CHAPTER 54 BACK COVER	155

ADS ON AIR

My first letter that was published in any newspaper was in Deccan Herald on 18.11.1993. I was a staunch listener of the programme 'Gitaradhana' on All India Radio, Bangalore. This was a programme on devotional songs but it used to start with shrieky advertisements which was not in consonance with the main programme.

Ads on AIR

There was a time when not a single advertisement was heard on AIR, Bangalore. Now the station starts with those noisy advertisements even before Gitaradhana which disturbs the early morning serenity. Can't AIR avoid advertisements at least before Gitaradhana. I can only pray a time does not come when AIR starts its transmission with advertisements instead of Vande mataram.

I wish to say that the noisy advertisement was withdrawn after a few days and once again we could hear the morning devotional programme in peace.

SEASONAL LAKES

In 1997-98, the condition of roads in Bangalore was really bad. During that time this small letter was published on 11.09.1998 in The New Indian Express.

Seasonal lakes

We Bangaloreans have been guilty of drying up our lakes and converting them into residential sites. Yes! Let us accept it. But the Corporation authorities are trying their best to undo this. Whenever there is heavy rain, we can see so many lakes on the roads and I can imagine a beautiful sight from above (a bird's eye view) of our City. A vehicle sinks here and there. But haven't we complained about the dwindling number of lakes? So what if the lakes are in the wrong places – let us enjoy the brighter side of life and the sight of lakes, even if it is only seasonal.

MISLEADING ROUTE NUMBERS

BMTC buses are the mainstay of Bangalore's transport system and the following letters concern BMTC. The first letter was published in Deccan Herald on 05.05.1996

Misleading Route Numbers

The Pushpak service was introduced by BTS with a noble intention. But now Pushpak buses have been introduced on routes where no ordinary buses ply. The BTS should make it a policy to introduce Pushpaks only along routes where ordinary buses ply. Also giving separate route numbers for Pushpaks should be discontinued, to avoid confusion. People will recognise Pushpak Buses through its different colour.

I wish to state here that giving separate numbers for Pushpaks was later discontinued by BMTC and we now have both ordinary buses and Pushpaks with the same route numbers.

The second was published in The New Indian Express on 05.01.1999.

The BMTC has grown tremendously and consequently, there has been a huge increase in route numbers. With Pushpak making its appearance a few years ago, the confusion has increased. For example, No. 1 is an ordinary bus from IV Block Jayanagar to Yeshwantpur and No. 1 is also a Pushpak run from Vijayanagar to Shivajinagar. There are many such examples.

To avoid such confusion, I have the following suggestions to make. The City should be divided into 4 zones (for the sake of route numbers only) – North, South, East and West. Buses originating from the North Zone should be allotted numbers from 001-200; South 201-400; East 401-600 and West 601-800.

Further, South Zone, Jayanagar, for example, can have numbers from 201-220, J.P.Nagar 221-240 and so on. With such a numbering system, one can make out to which area a particular bus is headed by seeing the route number of the bus. I hope the authorities will consider this suggestion and work on it.

I also wish to suggest that the Prefix 'B' be given to buses terminating at Bangalore Bus Station; Prefix 'C' for City Market and 'S' for Shivajinagar. This will be of great help to commuters.

Finally, fares should be rounded off to the nearest 0.50 paise for ordinary buses and to the nearest rupee for Pushpak to avoid problems regarding change.

AT LEAST WE HAVE NOT LOST IT TO PAKISTAN!

In the late 90's there was tough competition between Hyderabad and Bangalore for setting up Software Companies and a Business School. The following letter published in The New Indian Express on 18.09.1998 calls for truce between Bangalore and Hyderabad.

At least we've not lost IT to Pakistan!

Hyderabad has been selected to set up an important business school and it is also becoming the home for reputed software companies. Many people are crying over the flight of computer companies to Hyderabad from Bangalore. This has surprised me. After all we are losing the companies to Hyderabad of India and not Hyderabad of Pakistan! Why should we feel ashamed? Let us wish that Hyderabad becomes 'Cyberabad' in the true sense of the word. Why Hyderabad, let the whole country develop with equal vigour. A country can be called developed not by developing some pockets here and there, but through development across the country.

Even in Karnataka, most of the development is in Bangalore and Bangaloreans are already paying the price. I have always felt that places like Mysore, Shimoga, Chikmagalur, Mercara, Hubli-Dharwad, Belgaum, Bidar, Bijapur to name a few have equal potential to develop into important centres (at par with Bangalore). But have our leaders got the political will and foresight?

CONGESTED ROADS

Bangalore roads are congested and the following 2 letters give some suggestions to reduce the same. The first letter was published in The Hindu on 13.07.1994 and pertains to the area around City Market, Chickpet, Avenue Road, etc.

Congested roads

I am a daily traveller to Avenue Road and its surrounding areas. The congestion there is really shocking. The traffic movement in the area is so slow that one gets frustrated driving along these roads. I wish to make the following suggestions so that conditions improve to some extent. All hawkers should be removed from Tippu fort, sub-way, front of the market, Avenue Road and all footpaths. The public has more right to use the footpaths than the hawkers who are more of a nuisance than of any help to the people. Encroachment of footpath forces the people to spill on the road and that is the main reason for utter chaos. The subway also should be cleared of hawkers, beggars, etc., so that it can be used for the purpose it was built. All the pedestrians later should compulsorily use the subway and no one should be allowed to cross the road above. Pushcarts and bullock-carts should not be allowed on the busy roads or at least their timings should be regulated. These vehicles coming from opposite direction in spite of one-way traffic is one of the major impediments for traffic movement. Even now a lot of construction work is taking place on Avenue Road, Chickpet Main Road, etc. No license should be granted for any fresh construction on these roads.

MAIN CULPRITS

The second letter is regarding the autos whose numbers have grown astronomically and was published in Deccan Herald on 21.09.1995

Main Culprits

Of late, there has been a tremendous growth in traffic on Bangalore roads.

One of the main contributing factors is the huge increase in the number of autos. When autos are on strike the roads are so free that riding is a real pleasure.

I suggest the following to reduce the congestion on the roads. Everyday only a half of the currently running autos should be allowed on the roads.

Autos with even numbers should be allowed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and odd numbers on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. All the autos can be allowed to ply on Sundays.

This measure will go a long way in easing the traffic on the roads. And also no fresh permits should be granted for new autos to ply.

DO WE NEED CET?

And now this letter regarding CET was published in Indian Express on 05.11.1998. My only concern was the pressure that students experience during PUC and CET Exams. It was written to reduce the same without compromising on quality.

Do we need CET?

Every year, soon after the final exams, II PUC students who wish to join professional courses have to appear for CET. Students have to work hard for two exams with the same syllabus and undergo immense tension waiting for the results. To avoid this, I have the following suggestion to make.

Let those who wish to join professional courses have objective type of questions (just like in CET) in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology in II year PUC exams. Those who don't have any plans to join professional courses can take exams as usual in the descriptive type (as also languages for all students).

The marks obtained in PUC exams in objective Exams (PCMB) should form the basis of ranking for entry into professional courses. By this, the ignominy of rank holders (in PUC) dropping down in CET ranking is also avoided.

Only exams for outside Karnataka students need to be conducted for the remaining seats. Through this, I feel the academic year can start from July of every year.

A DISTORTED FORM OF EQUALITY

The next letter is also regarding II PUC students and pertains to Capitation Fee. It was published in The New Indian Express dated 16-06-1998.

A distorted form of equality

It's time for the Common Entrance Test (CET) for admission to professional courses. The success in CET will determine the future of thousands of young minds.

I always wonder why we have seats in the merit category, payment seats and seats on donation. One of the points stated in the Constitution is that nobody will be discriminated against on the basis of status – whether he is rich or poor. 'Everybody will get equal opportunity' – so on and so forth.

I want to know on what criteria colleges give seats in the payment category and on donation. Does it mean that a meritorious student who does not have the means is not worthy of a seat? Does anybody understand the effect of this on the psyche of poor students who missed the boat in spite of all his efforts?

Most of the ragging meted out to girl students, the prevalence of drinking habits, addiction to drugs and the like have become common among the students because of the money power of the students who have everything but merit. They can do with or without a degree and they join professional courses just for the heck of it. It is said that colleges cannot be run without donations. If so, it is better to close down the business. There are plenty of engineers and doctors who are unemployed even after getting their degrees. Henceforth, let

only students with merit get admissions. Besides this, the fee-structure may be revised upwards if need be as many merit students have got the capacity to bear it. (The poorer students should be exempted). The sooner the issue is decided, the better it is.

REDUCE HOLIDAYS

LETTERS CONCERNING NATIONAL ISSUES

Now I would like to share with you letters regarding issues of National concern.

I am deeply pained by the number of holidays we enjoy as a nation. This letter of mine is an appeal to reduce holidays. The letter was published on 24.09.1998 in The New Indian Express.

Reduce Holidays

India is one of the least developed countries in the world but can take pride in having the maximum number of holidays. We have holidays to commemorate the death of Presidents, Prime Ministers, Vice-Presidents, former Presidents, former Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers, etc.

Our Government has a tendency to declare a holiday at the drop of a hat. The death of any politician is followed by a flood of calls to newspaper offices enquiring whether the Government has declared a holiday.

To curb this tendency and to improve the work ethos of our people, I suggest the following. Let us have only two holidays in a year – Republic Day and Independence Day – and let there be an increase in casual leave (presently 10-12). Abolish all other holidays and if anybody wants a holiday for any festival, let him/her take casual leave.

It might so happen that for certain important festivals, the number of persons applying for leave may be so high that offices cannot function normally. In such cases, let the office be closed and one day casual leave be debited to all the staff. (There might hardly be five to six such cases in a year). This

will help people to get their work done almost round the year as offices will remain closed only on 54 days (52+2) in a year. More importantly, let us decide not to have holidays for the death of any politician.

FOR A 2 PARTY SYSTEM

Now, over to political parties and politicians. The first letter is a call for a 2-party system so that there is political stability in the country. It was published in Deccan Herald on 15.05.1996.

For a two-party system

After spending crores of rupees on the elections, the country is unable to have a stable government.

The bane of the system is that we have too many parties. It is high time we brought down the number of parties to just two. These could be the BJP and the Congress as these are the ones which occupy the No. 1 and No. 2 positions respectively, in terms of seats won in the Lok Sabha elections. All other parties should merge with either of the two.

The existence of regional parties is harmful for national integration and the time is not far off when each State may demand separation from the country.

Another alternative is the presidential form of government, if our political parties are unable to reconcile themselves to merging either with the BJP or the Congress.

Stability is vital to the country's economic prosperity, international relations and foreign investment

POLITICIANS MUST RETIRE

The second letter is regarding retirement for politicians published in Deccan Herald on 27.08.1996.

Politicians must retire

All employed people have to retire from service at the age of 58 or 60 and, in some cases, 65. This has been in vogue for a long time as it is generally believed that human efficiency slackens at around 60 years of age and it requires rest after working for more than 35 to 40 years.

When such is the case, how is it that there is no retirement age for politicians? Is a politician super-human? When a clerk is supposedly not fit at 60 to do ordinary desk work, how is it that a politician deemed fit to hold the reins of administration without any age limit? Shouldn't politicians also enjoy retired life?

I suggest that all politicians retire at 65 and nobody who has crossed 60 should be allowed to contest elections. Active politicians should also be medically fit. Unfit persons should be barred from contesting elections.

BEGIN THE NEW MILLENNIUM WITH LIGHT

Here is a host of letters on a variety of topics. I am arranging them in some random order. The first letter is regarding the clock our country follows and was published in the Indian Express on 27.02.1999.

Begin the new millennium with light

Man has been adjusting his activities according to the movement of the Sun since time immemorial. Most of the activity is during day time. The Sun gives us so much light and energy that we are hardly able to use a fraction of it. We have the word 'day time' but it is surprising we start a new day at 'night'.

A new day starts at '0' hour at midnight and after 5 to 6 hours of darkness we have light for about 12 hours. It is again followed by about 6 hours of darkness and the day ends at 12 midnight. I always wonder as to why a 'new day' should begin in 'dead' darkness.

We all know that our clock is 5½ hours ahead of International Standard Time (IST or GMT). I feel we should switch over to GMT. In that case early morning 5.30 AM will be '0' hour and this is the approximate time that the Sun rises in our country (during the major part of the year). And, it will be a lovely feeling to start a day with light instead of darkness. Only few countries like ours have this boon because the difference between local time and GMT is 5 ½ hours.

The above suggestion if implemented will make things difficult for us initially, but we will get used to it with passage of time. Also our switching over to GMT will not cause probl-

ems to any foreign Country because we will be following only the GMT and in fact it will be a blessing to them.

Finally, I feel the country should begin the new millennium with light and not in darkness!

Even today I strongly believe we should switch over to GMT so that we start the day with light and not in darkness. We all know that light is positive and darkness is negative.

SOME FLAWS IN THE PROCESS OF LAW

The next letter that I would like to share is regarding the process of law in our Country. This was published in the New Indian Express on 26.10.1998.

Some flaws in the process of law

I am no law student. In fact, I have never entered a court in any capacity. But I have a faint idea regarding courts through films, TV, newspapers and mainly as a bank man. And I feel that there are some flaws.

First and foremost is the oath that a person has to take as a witness. He has to swear that he will tell the truth and nothing but the truth. So far, so good. Now when a District Magistrate gives a judgment – it can be contested in the High Court and the judgment may be reversed. In the High Court if there is a bench (say 5), 3 may differ with the other 2. What I would like to know is which judgment constitutes the truth? The fact is that everybody in the hierarchy of justice has got the same witnesses but has given different judgments. Is this truth? Truth has only one tongue. And when the Law is not doing justice to truth – it has no right to ask the witness to swear by truth.

Secondly, of late, we hear a lot that the medical profession should be brought under the Consumer Act. Good idea. But what about lawyers? A lawyer can just go through the case and judge whether his client will win or not. But often, he gives them false promises. So why should he be paid if he loses the case?

Thirdly, the judicial jargon in English is boring, confusing and lengthy and is understood by lawyers only. We haven't bothered to simplify it even after 50 year of freedom.

Lastly, regarding the vacations. Of all the organised sectors – Court staff are the only ones to get vacations regularly. Recently there was a report that there are over 4 crore cases pending in Courts. With each case taking years (sometimes decades) and with adjournments for flimsy reasons – added to fresh cases – it may not be long before we have 1 case each on everyone's head of our Country.

Yes, I was simply straightforward and I do have suggestions to improve the system if required.

GIVE THREADS TO ALL

Here is one letter which gives suggestions to make the whole country developed by spending hardly 100 crores and is titled 'Give threads to all' and was published in The New Indian Express on 13.10.1998.

Give threads to all

We see M.K.Gandhi being thrown out of the train (in the film Gandhi) in South Africa for travelling in a First Class compartment. Yes, we Indians cannot tolerate discrimination towards Indians in foreign countries.

But what is happening to Indians in India?

Even today, people of certain castes are called 'backward' (even by the Government) and are not allowed to draw water from village wells.

Scavenging still exists in many States; do we need a greater form of discrimination? In professional colleges, students are given a medical seat just because of their father's bank balance. Is donation seat and payment seat not a form of discrimination?

Many so-called forward candidates are denied jobs in the government sector just because of their caste and a person with lower merit gets it due to his caste.

Seeing all this, many seek jobs in greener pastures and later we lament that there is 'brain drain'. At least let us be happy that the brain was useful even though in a foreign country.

After all, what is this forward class? A person becomes 'forward' just because he has a thread across his body? Then I have a simple suggestion to make our country forward. Let the government give one thread free to all males (even to women if they are ready to wear them) so that everyone becomes forward. And the country will become developed by spending hardly Rs. 100 crores.

GIVE WEIGHTAGE, NOT RESERVATION

The next letter is regarding demand for weightage for rural students in employment published in The New Indian Express on 10.02.1999.

Give weightage, not reservation

Of late, there has been a debate over giving weightage to rural students in employment. The Courts say 'No' and that it is discriminatory against urban candidates. The Government is of the opinion that students in cities have better facilities for education and hence rural students should be given some grace marks. I feel the contention of both the courts and the Government is correct.

But we all know that there are some very good private schools in rural areas. Should the students of these schools be given weightage just because of their rural setting? There are so many students in the cities who cannot afford to utilise the available facilities just because of poverty and what is the use of any facility if one cannot afford to use it?

We all know that education upto the 10th standard is the foundation for the future of any student. I feel this foundation is laid better in private schools as compared to the Government schools for so many reasons. I sincerely feel that all students who have studied upto 10th standard in Government schools, irrespective of location, should be given more weightage (not reservation) not only in selection for jobs but also for admission to professional courses like BE and Medicine.

Through this, justice will be done to almost all rural students and the 'not so well off' students in urban areas.

BANKERS, BE AWARE OF OTHERS' PLIGHT

Not long ago Banker's job was one which was really envied. This is one letter written out of deep concern of people working in the unorganised sector. It was published in The New Indian Express on 22.09.1998.

Bankers, be aware of others' plight

I am a bank employee and as already announced by bank unions, bank men have called off (deferred) the strike planned for 18.09.1998 demanding wage revision as Indian Banks Association (IBA) has agreed for talks as per the demands.

Everyone knows that bank employees are fairly well paid. There are staffers even in the lowest cadre (sub-staff) who are income tax assesses. We get housing loans, consumer loan at concessional rate of interest, festival advance (interest free), medical aid, first class LFC, reimbursement of hospitalisation expenses, quarters for officers, conveyance – 25 litre petrol for officers (Rs. 50 for clerks), not to speak of PF, Gratuity, Pension, etc, etc.

As a class, have we bank men ever thought about the plight of our brethren in the unorganised sector? There are highly educated /deserving (including BE & MBBS) people who slog in the private sector for less than Rs. 2000 per month. They don't have most of the facilities mentioned above and their working hours are not fixed. There are instances when women are made to stay beyond the statutory limit of 7.00 PM. They don't have any leave facility and are sometimes asked to work even on national holidays. But bank men

enjoy holidays for more than 1/3rd of the year (recently a customer asked for working days list instead of holiday list)

If the bank men should strike, it should be for the improvement in conditions in the private unorganised sector. What about child labour? There are millions of children who are struggling for a few rupees, sacrificing their childhood. Don't the government / intellectuals / judiciary / unions know about this? As a group – have we in the organised sector done anything for the sake of these children? Have we lost our conscience?

MAKE CRICKET A FAIR GAME FOR ALL PLAYERS

I was a great fan of cricket till the episode of match fixing came to light. This letter regarding Cricket is a suggestion to do away with field restrictions for the first 15 overs in one-day cricket matches. It was published in The New Indian Express on 07.10.1998.

Make cricket a fair game for all players

Like most Indians, I am a great cricket fan. One of the conditions introduced to make one-day cricket entertaining is the restriction in field placement for the first 15 overs. This has the following lacunae. As there are only 4 fielders outside the circle, many batsmen have cultivated the art of hitting the ball over the fielder's head. This has paid handsome dividends and the batsmen in the upper order score runs very easily and walk away with the Man of the Match awards. The batsmen lower down the order have to work for their runs as there is no field restriction. The effort put in by a lower order batsman to score a century is definitely more than that of higher order batsmen.

When we look at the scoreboard, it does not give any idea as to how many runs were scored by the batsmen when there were field restrictions.

I think this is not fair.

Likewise bowlers who bowl the first 15 overs are at a disadvantage. They are sloggged heavily and later bowlers have

the full freedom of field placement. Here also the bowling analysis does not show as to who bowled the first 15 over.

To avoid such unfair advantages and disadvantages to any particular player, I suggest that the conditions should be the same to all throughout the innings. To retain the popularity of one-day cricket, let us say – 5 or 6 (including bowler and wicket keeper) players should be inside the circle throughout the innings.

Something should be done so that conditions are the same to all players by the time the next World Cup starts in 1999.

LIVING FOR THE DEAD

And finally a few letters which were relevant to the times of its publication but which could be of interest even today.

Living for the Dead - The New Indian Express
19.01.1999

In the last general elections, BJP leaders blamed the Congress for the partition of Bharat; it criticised the Emergency and claimed that it would bring offenders in the Bofors deal to book at the earliest. When they blamed the Congress, the entire country knew whom they were referring to and for what.

But after coming to power, we see the BJP leaders going to the Samadhi of the dead – both on their birth and death anniversaries. Is it out of reverence or is it for public consumption?

It is difficult to understand why the dead are remembered by a visit to their Samadhi rather than to the place / house of birth!

Also, why should we have a Samadhi after cremation? After all, man does not take with him even a mustard seed after death and that is why a section of Hindus cremate the body so that it 'sublimes' into nature.

But now, there are Samadhis constructed on the cremation site and acres of land reserved for it. With our country having a new Prime Minister every 6 – 8 months, an incumbent Prime Minister 10 years from now will spend most of his tenure visiting Samadhis.

The citizens of Delhi will have to move out so that the 'dead' can 'live' and a local conducted tour of New Delhi will all but be a 'Samadhi Darshan'!

HITTING & BANGING A LEADER INTO SHAPE

Hitting & banging a leader into shape - The New Indian Express 06.05.1998

Whenever a person dies after achieving something great, there is a demand by his followers to issue a stamp in honour of the person. This always surprises me.

After issuing the stamp, some use their saliva to stick the stamp on the envelope. Then we 'bang' it with our fist to make it stick. It is then 'stamped' by giving a 'hit' with the post-office seal. Sometimes it is difficult to identify the person on the stamp because of this 'defacement'. When a statue is defaced so many people raise protests / riots / bandh etc. But the defacement of leaders on the stamp has been going on unnoticed! Is this the way to honour our leaders? And there are of course so many other ways in which stamps can be issued.

I don't want to become great. But if I, by chance achieve some greatness, I humbly request the Government not to issue a stamp in my name.

ADS ON AIDS

Ads on AIDS - The New Indian Express 11.06.1999

Of late, there have been lots of advertisements on the TV and in print media regarding AIDS. Famous personalities advise people to go in for 'safe sex' to avoid AIDS.

In India, the society is not so permissive and multiple sex partners are more of an exception than the rule.

Do these ads want people to behave like dogs!. And, the safe sex that is being propagated is 'safe' only till one can hoodwink one's spouse / family members.

This is not the way to combat AIDS. What is required is to appeal to people to restrict sex only with one's spouse.

PLASTIC IS BETTER

Plastic is better – The New Indian Express 04.03.1999

Of late there have been loud noises that plastic is spoiling the environment and a few States have banned the use of carry bags below a certain thickness. Let us wish these states the very best and let us hope the environment changes for the better.

But, is plastic the root cause for environmental degradation? Plastic has replaced paper in many fields and we all know we need acres and acres of trees / bamboo / bagasse (sugarcane), etc. to make paper. This in turn has prevented in denuding our already depleted forests. If we start replacing plastic with paper, the greenery in our Country will take further beating. Hence I feel that instead of spoiling the environment – plastic has in fact improved it to a great extent.

Of course the reasons for banning plastic are genuine and the cause is not plastic – but MAN! If a person while walking on a road steps on a banana skin and falls – is it fair to blame the banana? And this is what we are doing with plastic.

As a people we care a damn for the environment. We throw rubbish everywhere except in the dustbin. We spit seeing rubbish little realising that we are only increasing the rubbish.

What we require is proper disposal of plastic. A simple task at home – separating Organic waste (vegetable / fruit / flower / etc.) and dumping it in a separate bin (that should be provided by BCC) will yield very good compost manure. Having done this the disposal of Inorganic waste (2nd bin) including plastic will be much easier.

Finally, let us not blame plastic for environmental degradation. Until such time Biodegradable plastic is developed – let us only ‘use’ plastic and not ‘abuse’ it.

GANDHI'S BIRTHDAY

Gandhi's Birthday - The New Indian Express
21.09.1998

October 2 is approaching and the whole country will be celebrating it as 'Gandhi Jayanthi'. The term 'jayanthi' is used only when a birthday is celebrated according to the Hindu calendar and does not fall on the same date every year. The present practice of celebrating the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 is done according to the Gregorian calendar. If Oct 2 is the date that everybody wants to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, I feel it would be apt to call it 'Gandhi's birthday' instead of 'Gandhi Jayanthi'.

END OF THE ROAD

End of the road? - The New Indian Express
03.06.1998

So Pakistan has tested the nuclear bomb and the arms race has begun.

Modern civilisation probably began on the Indian sub-continent and in all probability the beginning of the end of civilisation has begun here. Let us not be afraid. Whatever is going to happen to everybody will happen to us. After all, nothing is permanent!

Before the end of mankind let us take care to leave behind a few monkeys (of course not of the same sex). In a few million years, there will be man again (you see, there is evolution). And how I wish he does not come across nuclear bomb!

METERS MUST SHOW DISTANCE TRAVELLED

Meters must show distance travelled - The New Indian Express 04.06.1998

Another hike in petrol prices and a subsequent revision in auto fares is on the cards. This calls for recalibration of meters and the creation of new rate charts.

To avoid such problems, it would be nice if the auto-meters instead of showing the 'fare-to-be-paid' rates showed the 'distance travelled' in terms of kilometers. A conversion chart should be fixed in the auto showing the fare to be paid for different distances travelled. So if there is a revision of auto-fares, only the conversion charts need to be replaced. This avoids chances of auto men tampering with their meters as a commuter will generally have a fair idea as to how much distance he / she has travelled.

I wish to state here that meters showing distance were introduced on a much later date, first in New Delhi and in other cities subsequently. These meters are very popular and today we can see many people waiting for such meters to make their journey.

The above were a few letters which were published in Newspapers and were relevant to the times in which they were published. So many are relevant even today. I only hope they were interesting.

CURRENCY MATTERS

MATTERS

CURRENCY

I am an employee of Union Bank of India. I have worked in various Branches / Offices of the Bank. I was posted to our B V K Iyengar Road Branch in the year 1991. Many times I had to work in the Cash Department. B V K Iyengar Road Branch is a very busy branch and many customers use to bring cash in bags for remitting with denominations right from Re. 1 to Rs.500. During those days we did not have the luxury of counting machines and we had to physically count each note individually. I used to wonder - why should we have currency in 8 denominations! Can't it be reduced to some manageable numbers? Having this in mind I wrote a letter to Dr. Manmohan Singh who was Finance Minister in the Narasimha Rao Cabinet. I am reproducing the letters I wrote as also the replies received which are self explanatory

From:-

K.Vishwanath

08.12.1993

xxxxxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxx

To

The Finance Minister,

Government of India,

New Delhi

Dear Sir,

*Sub:- Denomination of our
Currency.*

I the undersigned am working as a Cashier in Union Bank of India, B V K Iyengar Road, Bangalore - 560053, and wish to make the following few points for your kind consideration.

We have '8' different denominations (Re. 1 to Rs.500) in our currency and I feel it will be very beneficial for our country to reduce it to only 3, i.e., Rs.1000/-, Rs.100/- and Rs.10/-. All other denominations can be withdrawn from circulation in a phased manner. You can see sir, that any payment either big or small can be made by using an ideal combination of the above 3 denominations. Lot of time and confusion can be avoided by discontinuing the other denominations.

Regarding the size of the currency note, I feel it should be distinctly different and it is so confusing as of now. Presently, Rs.500/- note is almost the same in size as the Rs.100/- note and Rs.20/- section may go unnoticed in a 10/- rupee ring while making payment or during remittances. The size I suggest is Rs.100/- size for 1000 denomination; a size between Rs.20/- and Rs.50/- for 100 denomination and retain the present size of 10 rupee note.

The colour should be different for each of the denominations and the present colours of Rs.5/-, Rs.20/- and Rs.50/- can be had for the three denominations. The tendency to change pattern and design in each denomination should be avoided and there should be one design only.

Coins in the denomination of Rs.5/-, Re 1/-, 50 paise and 10 paise of distinct sizes (the present 2 rupee and small round 10 paise coins are really confusing) may only be retained and there is no necessity of other denominations.

The above suggestions if implemented will make dealings between parties in business, banker- customer very easy and also save a lot of paper, ink and man-power required for printing.

I thank you very much for going through this letter of mine, and I will be very honoured to receive a letter from you regarding your opinion on the suggestions made by me.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(K. VISHWANATH)

I received reply from the Ministry of Finance through their letter dated 30.12.1993

D.O.No.F.1/18/93-cy.(BNP).

Rama Murali
Government of India
Joint Secretary (CC&A)
Ministry of Finance

Dept. of Economic Affairs

New Delhi December 30, 1993

Dear Shri Vishwanath,

Please refer to your letter dated 08.12.93 regarding changes to be made in the existing size / design of currency / bank notes.

- i. Your suggestions are being looked into.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Rama Murali)

Shri K. Vishwanath,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Time went by and after a nearly 4 ½ year gap I wrote to the then Finance Minister Mr. Yaswanth Sinha again regarding our Currency with copies endorsed to the Prime Minister Mr. A.B.Vajpayee and to Mr. Bimal Jalan, Governor, RBI, Mumbai. The letter is reproduced below.

From:-

29.05.1998

K.Vishwanath,

xxxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxx

To:-

The Finance Minister,
Government of India,
New Delhi - 110001.

Dear Sir,

Sub:- Denomination of our

Currency

Please find enclosed a copy of my letter written to the then Finance Minister in December 1993 as also the reply received by me.

A few suggestions like discontinuing 1, 2 & 5 rupee notes have been carried out (though it might be a coincidence).

I wish to impress upon you that having only 3 denominations, Rs.10, Rs.100 and Rs.1000 will be very good for our economy. I request that the size and colour 'SHOULD' be 'DISTINCT'. The present series of Rs.500, 100, & 50 notes in the Gandhi series is very 'confusing' to say the least for even a banker like me. I really pity the illiterate and gullible persons.

I have written everything in detail in the enclosed letter of December 1993 and will be very glad if my suggestions as mentioned therein are implemented.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(K. VISHWANATH)

cc: Mr. A.B.Vajpayee, Prime Minister,

: Mr. Bimal Jalan, Governor, RBI, Mumbai.

*My letter was acknowledged by Reserve Bank of India,
Mumbai*

**RESERVE BANK
OF INDIA**

CENTRAL OFFICE,

DEPT. OF CURRENCY MANAGEMENT

CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING

SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,

POST BOX NO 1379 MUMBAI - 400001

Ref DCM No. Plg 1798/10.02.00/97-98

11th June 1998

Shri K. Vishwanath,

xxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxx

Dear Sir,

Sub:- Design of currency notes and Shape of Coins

Please refer to your letter dated 25th May 1998 addressed to the Finance Minister and copy endorsed to our Governor on the above subject.

2. In an attempt to prevent counterfeiting of banknotes, the bank note designs, security features, etc. are changed / updated from time to time. With this end in view, a new family of bank notes in the Mahatma Gandhi series has been recently introduced. Hence all the notes carry the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi. Nevertheless notes in each denomination have been printed in different designs, sizes, and colours.

3. While we appreciate the difficulties encountered by the members of the public in differentiating notes, it is our experience that whenever a new note is issued by the Reserve Bank it takes time for the public to get used to the changes. Your suggestion for change in colour will be kept in view while designing new series of notes in future.

4. As regards change in the shape of coins, the same being a sovereign subject, the matter is under consideration of the Government of India. We appreciate the keen interest evinced by you in currency matters.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(E. A. MACHADO)

Assistant General Manager.

The above letter was received by me on 17.06.1998 and on 19.06.1998 I wrote the following letter to Mr. Machado, Assistant General Manager, RBI, Mumbai.

From:-

19.06.1998

K.Vishwanath,

xxxxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxx

To:-

Mr. E.A.Machado,

Asst. General Manager,

Dept. of Currency Management,

Reserve Bank of India,

Mumbai - 400001.

Dear Sir,

**Sub:- Design of Currency notes
& shape of Coins**

I thank you very much for your letter No. 1798/10.02.00/97-98 dated 11.06.1998 in response to my letter dated 25-05-1998.

In your letter, you have not mentioned anything regarding my suggestion to have only 3 denominations - Rs.1000, 100 & 10 and withdrawing of other denominations. Anyway we had heard statements from the earlier United Front Government and we are hearing from the present Government at the Centre that 1000/- denomination notes will be introduced shortly. My only humble request - let the note have picture of any Gandhi (Mahatma, Feroze, Indira, Rajiv, Sonia, Sanjay, Maneka, Rahul, Priyanka, Varun.....) please let it be DISTINCT and easily identifiable.

And now regarding your reasoning that notes design, security features, etc. are changed from time to time to prevent counterfeiting. The whole country knows that when RBI introduces a new set of notes, the earlier ones do not become redundant and the fact is that you issue bulletins that old notes continue to be legal tender. The maker of counterfeit notes will continue to make notes in any of the 101 or more designs you have for any particular denomination. It is a fact that people will detect counterfeit notes better if there is only ONE pattern instead of having so many patterns. Counterfeiting is prevented not by changing designs every alternate day - but by giving such a severe punishment to those caught in counterfeiting that others dare not commit the crime.

I am extremely sorry for troubling you so often but I somehow feel that a serious thought has not been given to my first suggestion of having only 3 denominations.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(K.VISHWANATH)

In return I got the following letter from The Chief General Manager, RBI. The letter was dated 13-07.1998

INDIA **RESERVE BANK OF**

CENTRAL OFFICE

DEPT. OF CURRENCY MANAGEMENT

CENTRAL OFFICEBUILDING,

SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,

POST BOX NO. 1379, MUMBAI -400001

Ref. DCM No. Plg. 62 /10.02.00/98-99
July 13, 1998

Shri K. Vishwanath,

Dear Sir,

Sub:- Only three denominat-

ions of Indian Bank Notes.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter dated 19th June 1998 on the above subject and advise having noted the contents. Your suggestion would be considered to the extent possible at the appropriate time.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

Chief General Manager.

I wish to state here that 1, 2 and 5 rupee notes were discontinued between September 1994 and November 1995 and were coinised completely. The process began only 9 months after my first letter of December 1993. This has greatly improved the quality of our Currency and there is no need to carry so many denominations. Matter has become very simple and the facilities used for printing 1, 2 & 5 rupee notes are now available for higher denominations. Middle aged and senior citizens can recollect the cellophane and gum paper stuck 1, 2 and 5 rupee currency notes that was in circulation in the 1990's. This is not there now.

1000 rupee note, for the first time was introduced in December 1998 and while introducing the bill, the then Finance Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha stated in the Parliament the bill had the consensus of the earlier two Governments – The Congress (to whom my original letter was addressed) and the United Front. The Rs.1000 note made carrying huge amounts of money very easy. It brought down

pressure on smaller denomination currency and it saved a lot of paper, ink, and manpower required for printing of currency.

Readers may or may not agree as to whether my suggestions were actually implemented but I have real satisfaction that I could foresee dramatic changes in Currency Matters long before they actually took place.

But today, after so many years in banking and after so much advancement in payment practices like debit card, credit card, internet banking, RTGS, NEFT, Google Pay, Phone Pe, Paytm, Mobile Banking I feel that currency notes in 4 denominations Rs 10, 50, 100, 200 and coins in the denominations 1, 2, 5 and 20 is more than sufficient for our country.

STANDARDIZATION OF PROCEDURES IN BANKS

This is a letter written to the Governor, RBI suggesting standardisation of forms, registers, documents and also for reducing the number of banks in the Country.

From:-

31-03-1997

K.Vishwanath,

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To:-

Mr. P.Rangarajan

Governor,

Reserve Bank of India,

Mumbai.

Dear Sir,

Sub:- Standardisation of

Procedures/systems in Banks

I, the undersigned, am working in Zonal Stationery Cell of Union Bank of India, and wish to bring the following few points for your kind consideration.

We have 27 Banks; State Bank, Its subsidiaries and Nationalised Banks

doing the same type of business but using different systems, procedures, formats, registers, books, documents for doing the same work. Amongst the Banks there will be 1 system which is 'THE BEST' for doing any type of work. I suggest we can form a committee to pick out this 'THE BEST' system and implement the same amongst all the Banks. This will help in standardising the systems and procedures in all the Banks.

Streamlining the procedures this way will help the customers/bankers very much and will go a long way in improving the customer service in the banks. It will also reduce problems during merger of Banks. I suggest we can have 10 solid Banks including the State Bank after merger with 2 Head Offices in the five zones of our Country. Also RRBs can be merged with the sponsor Bank after pruning down the number of branches.

I thank you very much for going through this letter of mine and will be very grateful to receive a reply from you regarding the suggestions made by me.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(K.VISHWANATH)

cc: Mr. A.T.Pannerselvam, CMD, Union Bank of India, Bombay

: The Secretary, Indian Institute of Bankers,

Bombay.

OUR CALENDAR

OUR CALENDAR

Man has devised so many ways to measure time. We have got the 'second'. A second is rhythmic – it has got 10 milliseconds. Then we have got the 'minute' which is rhythmic (60 seconds). So are Hour (60 minutes), Day (24 hours), Week (7 days), Year, Decade, Century, Millennium. Each one of the above has rhythm and 'Rhythm' is the basic essence of any form of measurement of time. This element of rhythm is absent when the year is divided into months.

I had suggested a new calendar to the then Secretary General, United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan in December 1996 wherein we can have a calendar which has a rhythm. The letter as well as the reply received is reproduced below.

From:-

27.12.1996

K. Vishwanath,

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To:-

Mr. Kofi Annan,

Secretary General,

United Nations,

New York.

Dear Sir,

Sub:-

Our Calendar

Please accept my heartiest congratulations on your appointment as Secretary General of the United Nations. I, the undersigned, am a Citizen of India and wish to share my views on the calendar which our world is presently following.

The Earth goes round the Sun once in every year in such regularity that it takes exactly $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days to complete one cycle. Nature has been so perfect, but we human beings who have created the calendar to measure the cycle seem to have erred somewhere in dividing the year into months. We have 1 month with 28 days (29 in a leap year), 4 months with 30 days and 7 months with 31 days. Sir, as you can see, there is no definite pattern and since my young days I have been wondering as to why the year is so haphazardly divided.

As we approach the end of the decade, I wish to make the following suggestion to be incorporated from 2001 A.D. onwards. Let us have 30 days in the months of January, February, March, May, July, September, November and 31 days in April, June, August, October and December. Let the leap day be incorporated in February again so that it continues to be special as of now. At least in a leap year we will have alternate months of 30 and 31 days each and the calendar will be perfectly rhythmic.

I request you to place my above views amongst countries of this world if you find them interesting. If agreed upon by all, the same may be announced at the earliest so that people of this world can be mentally

ready to follow a new calendar in the year 2001 A.D. After all calendar is human-made and there is always scope for improvement! And what better way than to start with a new Millennium - a chance you get once in 1000 years.

I thank you very much for sparing your time to go through this letter and I will be really honoured if you can acknowledge this letter.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(K. VISHWANATH)

The letter was duly acknowledged by United Nations through their letter dated 11th February 1997 and is reproduced below.

UNITED NATIONS

/ NATIONS UNIES

POSTAL

**ADDRESS - ADRESSE POSTALE UNITED NATIONS.
N.Y.10017**

CABLE

**ADDRESS - ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE UNATIONS
NEWYORK**

11 February 1997

Dear Mr. Vishwanath,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 27 December 1996 regarding your plan for a revised calendar.

Calendar reform is not at present under active consideration by any organ of the United Nations. It was last discussed in the Economic and Social Council in 1956, when the Council decided to adjourn debate on the matter indefinitely. The enclosed information sheet summarizes its deliberations on this issue.

Although no evaluation or study of a new calendar is being contemplated, we nevertheless appreciate your interest.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Officer - in - Charge

Public Inquiries Unit

Department of Public Information

Mr. K. Vishwanath,

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Beginning of new Millennium

This letter was written on 05-10-2000 to Mr. Kofi Annan

Secretary General, United Nations, New York

Dear Sir,

Sub:- Beginning of Millennium

I, the undersigned, am a citizen of India and wish to place the following views for your kind consideration.

The whole World celebrated 01-01-2000 as the beginning of the new Millennium and the United Nations has also held the Millennium - Summit recently. But - Is the Year 2000 the first year of the new Millennium?

We all know that scoring 100 runs is a century in cricket and not 99 (i.e. 1 to 100 and not 0 to 99). Also we have a \$100 note and Rs.100 note and not \$99 or Rs.99 note.

I feel that 01-01-0001 is the first day of the Gregorian Calendar and 31-12-0100 is the last day of the 1st Century. Similarly the year 2000 is the last year of the 2nd Millennium and not the 1st of the 3rd Millennium. Finally we have the leap year. The leap day (29th Feb) is added because there is a shortfall of 0.25 day (approx.) in the first three years and a full day is added in the 4th year. In a cycle of 4 years, the 4th is the leap year not the 1st. The year 2000 is a leap year and is therefore the last of the 20th Century as also the 2nd Millennium.

The beginning of the year 2000 coincided with the Y2K problem and that is why so much hype was

created.

I feel that the World should celebrate 01-01-2001 as the beginning of the new Millennium and that too with greater vigour (because the tension of the Y2K problem is behind us) than it celebrated the arrival of the year 2000.

I will be really honoured to hear from you

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(K. VISHWANATH)

TEST CRICKET - IS IT WORTH THE GAME?

This letter on Test Cricket was written on 15-12-1997 and was titled

Test Cricket - Is it worth the Game?

At the outset I wish to state that I am a great fan of Cricket - I mean 1-day cricket. But somehow I feel strongly against Test Cricket.

Time was when Test Cricket was supreme and people had the time and patience to make it to the stadium. But with the advent of 1-day cricket, we have to accept the fact albeit with a pinch of salt that Test Cricket has become redundant. It is a fact that people have little interest even to watch it on TV let alone make it to the stadium.

The basic drawback of Test Cricket is after playing 5 long days sometimes (most of the time of late), the match ends in a draw! "Five days of play and the match ending in a draw". What is the fun in playing a game if the end result is a draw? And then we have teams playing for a draw; saving a match; avoiding a defeat and what not. In no other sport you can play for a draw - you either win or lose. There is a penalty shootout in football, hockey; tiebreaker in Tennis, badminton, etc or some other means to break a deadlock in all the games. But there is nothing of that sort in Test Cricket. Batsmen keep accumulating runs and bowlers building their tally of wickets (who bothers as to whose wicket it is - a regular batsman or a tail-ender) so long as it keeps the statis-

Another thing against Test Cricket is that it lacks the thrill, excitement of 1-day cricket. In the shorter version of the game, the whole crowd is deeply involved in the game, the whole nation is on their toes till the end (in fact 1-day cricket is one of the unifying factors of the country) and most importantly you cannot play out for a draw.

In this jet set age, who has the time to watch a 5-day game except the umpires, officials, players (it is another matter that on an average a player spends 2 ½ days in the dressing room). It is time we bid good-bye to Test Cricket and play only 1-day games. We should discontinue Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy, Irani Trophy and instead concentrate only on 1-day Cricket.

In the same breath, I wish to say that sports like Athletics, Football, Hockey, Tennis, Badminton, Table Tennis, and other sports which are as interesting as Cricket and also which have the potential to bring laurels for our Country should be encouraged.

FOR ANIMALS SAKE

The Below mentioned article was written in October 1998. It was written out of deep anguish on the plight of animals on this planet. Even today I believe in every point that was written more than 10 years ago.

FOR ANIMALS SAKE

At the outset I wish to say that the views expressed below may sound archaic. But I feel the same may be given a serious thought.

Man has been and is dependent on both Plants and Animals for his food. A few live only on Plants but a vast majority of the population do need animals also.

Animals like Sheep, Goat, Pig, Camel, Hen, etc., etc., are butchered in the most modern slaughter houses in a few places but are done to death in a very crude manner elsewhere. But the 'fact' is that they are killed. These poor animals satiate our hunger and are going to be part of our body - then WHY should the death be so painful? I suggest they should be given some sort of 'Anesthesia' before being butchered. This way they will not feel the pain; their death will be more peaceful and the guilt for man a little less. Similarly fish caught in the sea should be put in water containing anesthesia before they are actually killed.

As regards Cow, I hold a very different view. A cow gives us milk even denying milk to its own calf. Mankind can survive without a particular animal, but it CANNOT survive without a cow. Man milks, milks and milks the cow and finally when it is uneconomical, he butchers it for beef. Is there a more ungrateful being on this Earth? In fact, a cow is greater than our Mother!

Our mother gave us milk taking healthy food; she brought us up in a good manner having hope that we will look after her in her old age and she had so many expectations from us. But what does the cow expect from us when she gives us milk?

I wish to say that it is unethical to eat beef. I also don't want to propagate that we should keep cows forever. At least let us put her to sleep in an honourable manner (using the needle) and let us burn her off. As we all know - fire is the greatest purifier and it is only apt that we burn the cow for her sins - for having given milk to man.

Just as I have said that there should be least pain to animals for the sake of meat, I also wish to say that animals should not be 'sacrificed' to appease deities. A God which is appeased by animal sacrifice is not God because no God will like to see his own creatures being butchered.

In spite of all the above, let me clarify that I am not against killing mosquitoes, lice, cockroaches, etc and a host of others which trouble man. A saying goes - 'Don't trouble trouble, till trouble troubles you'. If we are troubled by any animal, let us put away the animal - but let us take care not to leave it half alive.

Lastly about the animals in Zoo, Parks, Circus, etc. I strongly feel that animals (lion, tiger, cheetah, leopard, panther, bear, wolf, jackal, etc.) which are not their natural self in cages and enclosures should not be imprisoned for the sake of man. Even the best maintained Zoo takes away 'freedom' from the animals. We can have huge (vast) wildlife sanctuaries to know about them because there is at least some freedom. Birds which have the God given gift of flying (which every man envies)

should never be caged. The best way to learn about them is through Books, Television and other mediums. For God's sake let us not snatch away the freedom from animals and make them prisoners. Circus authorities should never be allowed to have wild animals in their troupe.

Talking about animals, how can we leave MAN! I feel that all those who are suffering from terminal illness, unbearable pain and believe that death is the best escape - 'SHOULD' be allowed to die (mercy killing).

Finally I wish to say that I might have hurt many a religious feelings, but my views are for the sake of Animals - which we all know are DUMB.

YES! MY GOD IS HERE ITSELF

Here is another article written in January 1998. It is titled 'Yes! My God is HERE itself. It is a very short essay that says we should be more grateful to the Sun and Mother Earth rather than any God which we cannot see through our naked eyes.

Yes! My GOD is HERE itself

Man has since the beginning of time yearned to see GOD. The Hindus have innumerable deities to worship; Christians have Jesus; Muslims their Allah and various other religions their own faithful GODs.

Yes, Man has deep faith in his own GOD but rarely has the magnanimity in accepting others GOD as also another GOD. Many wars, communal clashes, fights have taken place because of this and an end to these seems nowhere in sight.

Through the following article I wish to humbly submit that we need not go very far to seek GOD! Yes! you can see him, feel him, and what not.

SUN:- That star which is the centre of the solar system. Abundant, inexhaustible energy! Holding all the planets under his control and giving light. If he slackens his grip no planet will be in the prescribed orbit and will be tumbling out of the Solar System. He causes Day & Night and also brings rain on Earth.

EARTH:- Mother Earth. The embodiment of life, patience, tolerance and what not! Gives us air, water and also protects us from the fury of the Sun; is an ideal home for life – plants, animals and mankind. Holds the

ocean, carries the mountain, allows the rivers to run over her, and gives us food.

We human beings pollute the seas, rivers, cut trees and denude forests, butcher animals for a variety of reasons, explode nuclear bombs and do so many things which ought not to be done. Yes, we may do anything; it is only we who are doomed! Mother Earth will continue to live.

Yes! The Sun and Earth are the ones which I am referring to as GOD. We cannot imagine life without either of the two. If the GODs we presently believe were to be so powerful, why did they come to Earth to propagate their ideals? Why did they not take birth on the Moon and propagate their message?

Sun and Earth are the parents of life. We all are their children. Just as a husband looks after the overall well-being of a family, the SUN is the boss. Mother Bears children, feeds them, fondles them and brings them up; and Earth is doing just this.

Finally I wish to say we should be more grateful to SUN and EARTH to whom we owe our existence rather than any God which most of us can neither see nor hear.

IS WHEEL THE GREATEST INVENTION ?

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Finally, some thoughts which have come to my mind randomly. These thoughts have come on the spur of the moment and I am honestly not very sure whether they are right or wrong. You may call it my own fantasy but I strongly believe that each article has got some substance in it.

I would like to begin with an article written in September 1999 about the greatest invention by Man.

Is Wheel the Greatest Invention?

It is always said that the 'Wheel' is the greatest invention made by man. But, - Is the wheel the greatest invention?

The Basic reason as to why a wheel rotates or moves is that it is round - yes - the form of the wheel is a Circle.

There are so many things in this Universe whose form 'appears' round to man. The Sun is round, the Moon is round, the eye (Cornea) is round. Did man invent the wheel before he saw the above few things which are round. Why- for that matter even the Apple - Adam & Eve ate was probably round.

The Square, the Triangle, the Rectangle may be called man's creations - But the Circle existed even before man was born. It is there for everyone to see in nature. The wheel is only an 'adaptation' of something

which already 'existed' and therefore can never be called an 'invention'.

Then, what is the greatest invention on Earth? Is it the method of generating Electricity? Is it the Matchstick? Is it clothes? Or is it something else?

My belief is that it is 'PAPER'. Paper is one thing that has a bearing on so many aspects of our life and we cannot imagine Mankind without paper.

Hence I feel that it is paper and not wheel which is the greatest invention on Earth.

SUN & PLANETS (CAN THIS BE TRUE!)

SUN & PLANETS (CAN THIS BE TRUE!)

We are all told that Planets revolve around the Sun and are held in Orbit due to the gravity of the Sun.

Jupiter is held by the Sun's gravity. Jupiter is so big, heavy and so far from the Sun that it requires more gravity to hold it in Orbit than the force required to hold Earth and Mercury in Orbit. Then WHY doesn't Mercury & Earth crash into the Sun? We are told that the rotation of planets causes centripetal force and this prevents planets from crashing into the Sun. We all know that the orbit of planets around the Sun is elliptical and not circular. The centripetal force required when planets are near to the Sun is more than that required when it is further away. But this is not happening. We all know that the time taken for one rotation by Earth is 24 hours irrespective of its position in the Orbit around the Sun.

My belief is that it is NOT gravity of the Sun that holds planets in Orbit and that the present theory is WRONG.

The force that holds planets in Orbit is KAMA - The greatest force in the Universe. I feel that Kama exists between Male & Female, Positive & Negative and this is what is happening in our Solar System.

In the Solar System, SUN is male and he is so bright. Planets are female and want to impress the Sun. They dance around him and want to merge with him. But the

Sun is *sthitaprajna*. He emits only repulsive force and does not want any planet to get near him. He wants to give only light. He also creates a 'Vortex' like effect in the Solar System and that is why all planets revolve in the same Plane and in the same direction. In the Gravity theory the planets should have been fixed (i.e. they shouldn't rotate on its axis). But the fact is that planets rotate along its axis and also revolve. The theory of Kama explains everything. Even though Mercury requires less force to keep in Orbit because of its size, the force required is maximum because of its nearest distance. Jupiter is the biggest, but due to its distance, the force required is less.

Life is so SAFE on Earth because of SUN'S *sthitaprajnya*. If the repulsive force of the Sun fails, then all planets will go out of 'Orbit' and there will be *pralaya* as far as life on Earth is concerned.

WHY WE SEE ONLY 1 FACE OF THE MOON

Why we see only 1 face of the Moon

We all know that we can see only 1 face of the Moon and the other side can't be seen. Why is this?

We are told that the time taken by the Moon for 1 rotation and 1 revolution is the same. How is that 1 rotation and 1 revolution takes EXACTLY the same time? The following I think is the reason.

Earth has gravity and has a tendency to pull the Moon. Moon in turn has its own gravity and tries to pull the Earth. Due to the attraction by Earth and Moon in opposite directions, the present status-quo is maintained. Like all planets in the Solar System, Earth rotates on its Axis. Due to rotation, the lines of attraction between Earth and Moon are broken and this makes the Moon revolve around the Earth. (just as Magnets move Iron objects without physically touching it). As the gravitational pull of Earth and Moon is constant, the Moon is always held in place and the orbit is circular. The present position of the Moon makes it possible to revolve around Earth once in about 29 days. If it were to be farther away, the time taken for 1 revolution would have been more than 29 days (due to lesser effect of rotation of Earth) and vice-versa. The concept of rotation of the Moon is real from the Sun or any other planet/star point of view and not from Earth's viewpoint.

Now, if we can imagine a Mother sitting on the ground and her small child going around the Mother holding her always for support, the face of the child is always facing the Mother and she can see only the face

and the back of the child can never be seen. I feel that something similar is happening in the case of Earth and Moon. If the Moon's rotation had taken 29 days, then the other face of the Moon would have been visible to Man after $14 \frac{1}{2}$ days. Most of the satellites of other planets are also tidally locked (i.e. the same face of the satellite is visible to the respective planet). Therefore we can say that Moon only REVOLVES around the Earth and there is NO rotation and the force for revolution is the action of Earth's rotation around its axis.

ROTATION OF PLANETS - WHERE DOES THE FORCE COME FROM

ROTATION OF PLANETS - WHERE DOES THE FORCE COME FROM?

We all know that Day & Night is caused by rotation of Earth on its Axis. But where does the force for rotation come from?

I feel the following may be the reason.

Earth rotates on its axis once in 24 hours and this causes day and night to all of us. Have you ever wondered what causes the rotation? I found the answer more than 10 years ago and it is as follows. Earth has a magnetic field with North and South Poles. The presence of a strong magnetic field causes earth to rotate. Also the axis of rotation is tilted (23.5°). This tilt makes the rotation to be 24 hours. If the angle is less the rotation speed will be less and if the angle more (upto 45°) rotation speed will be more. This will also explain why two planets - Venus and Uranus rotate in reverse direction. The North and South Poles are interchanged in the two planets. The above principle applies to all planets in the Solar System. Moon doesn't have a magnetic field and therefore doesn't rotate on its axis.

ANANTHA X SHOONYA (ZERO X INFINITY)

Anantha X Shoonya

What is Shoonya multiplied by Anantha?

$$0 \times \infty ?$$

The explanation is as follows

$$\text{We have } 0 \times \text{Anything} = 0$$

$$\infty \times \text{Anything} = \infty$$

Therefore $0 \times \infty$ is either 0 or ∞

That means to say $0 = \infty$

How can $0 = \infty$

Now the best example for 0 - We have the universe. Let us remove all planets, stars, comets, asteroids, black holes. What is left is zero or shoonya.

Now let us see what is infinity. The best example we have for infinity is the stars. To reach infinity we have to count 1,2,10,100,1000,10000.....1 crore.....infinity. We can have stars in all empty places so that we can cover the whole space in the universe. Any vacant space - you imagine a star or atoms of Hydrogen. Yes!! Every atom is a miniature Solar System. Thus we can say that the whole of Shoonya is covered by stars and hence Shoonya is Anantha.

Now let us study the present Number Line

- infinity-1cr-1lac-1000-100-10-1 0 1 10 100 1000
1lac 1cr infinity

On the right side we have + infinity and on the left side we have -infinity.

Now we cannot imagine what is infinity than how on Earth can we imagine what is minus infinity. I feel that the Number line is not a straight line but is a circle as under.



THE-BOOK.png

On the right side we have positive 1 to infinity or zero on the top. From top it starts with 0 and reaches infinity at the bottom on the left side (anti clockwise)

Thus we can conclude that the Number line is a big Shoonya and not a straight line as is presently understood. It starts with Shoonya or Anantha and ends with Shoonya or Anantha as the situation warrants. Just as there are no integers called minus zero and plus zero, there is also nothing called as minus infinity and plus infinity.

WORLD HABITAT DAY 2004 - ESSAY COMPETITION

The following is an article written by me for a competition conducted by National Housing Board, New Delhi in the year 2004. Readers can observe that so many thoughts and ideas penned in 2004 have become reality on a later date.

From:

13-12-2004

K. Vishwanath,

xxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxx

To:-

Mr. P.K.Kaul,

General Manager,

National Housing Bank,

Core-5A, 4th Floor,

India Habitat Centre,

Lodhi Road,

New Delhi - 110003.

Dear Sir,

Sub: - World Habitat Day

2004 - Essay competition.

I, the undersigned, am working in Union Bank of India, Nodal Regional Office, Bangalore, in the Planning & Development Department. I am enclosing the essay

'Prosperous Villages - Healthy Cities' for the subject competition. I wish to declare that all the points/suggestions given are original and have not been published earlier.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(K.VISHWANATH)

**PROSPEROUS
VILLAGES - HEALTHY CITIES.**

In spite of the visible growth of towns and cities in our Country, India's heart is still in its villages whose number exceeds 6 lakhs.

Since independence there has been a lot of urbanization and there has been rapid growth of population in our cities. In many cities the growth of population is at such a high pace that the infrastructure is grossly insufficient to withstand the influx. In cities like Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, there is severe shortage of water in summer and per capita consumption of water is below the national average. Power is one commodity that is always in short supply in most states and is affecting normal activity across the country. Populist schemes like free power to farmers resorted to by political parties during elections are causing severe strain even on well run State Electricity Boards.

Due to inflow into cities demand for seats in schools/colleges for students has increased drastically and is the root cause of commercialization of Education. Donations right from the pre-nursery stage are so high and there is no sign of it coming down in the near future. Traffic snarls in cities like Bangalore, Mumbai have become the order of the day and precious man-

hours are lost in traffic jams. Air pollution, noise pollution due to vehicles is ever on the increase and more and more people are facing breathing related problems.

There is cut-throat competition amongst business entities/companies/banks to make name/fame and money and people are putting too much strain on their minds and bodies. We are therefore seeing too many burnouts amongst promising youngsters, health related problems in professionals and rapid increase in suicide rates.

There is a general agreement amongst a cross-section of the society that the quality of life has gone down in spite of better standards of living. With such busy schedules a time has come in many families that parents have no time for their children, husband-wife not seeing each other for many days due to different time schedules and many families do not have even 1 meal together in a day where they could share their joys and experiences. In many urban families the only company during lunch/dinner is the T V and the sense of belongingness amongst family members is decreasing by the day. We see elders lamenting about the fall in values of life and we have no alternative but to agree with them.

So, is there no solution in sight and should we simply witness the fall of quality of life in our country still further; should we not make honest efforts to reverse the trend?

YES, we can do it; we should do it & we WILL do it.

Here is a small attempt as to how the quality of life can be increased without sacrificing progress.

A saying goes - 'The only thing constant in this World is Change'. Nothing in this Universe is constant

- absolutely nothing. We have to accept change and let us make this change give a better life to our citizens. After all, what is the use of any progress if it causes only strain to the people?

To find a permanent solution to all the ills of our people both in the villages and cities, we have to go back to the basic ethos of Indian culture/society. It is an accepted fact that if India is commanding respect amongst the comity of Nations in spite of being under-developed, it is because of its achievement in spiritual/religion and cultural aspects. It is said that what the rest of the world can't see with eyes wide open can be seen by an Indian Yogi with eyes shut. If India is still solidly united in spite of its vast diversity in language/religion/caste/geographical features/customs and traditions, it is because of the solid foundation given by its forefathers. In spite of such variety, a true Indian believes in the slogan 'Sarve Janah Sukhino Bhavanthu'. There is a Sanskrit saying which says 'let noble thoughts come from all directions' and to find the right solution we should combine the dynamism/organizational skills of the West with the spiritual prowess of our Country.

In spite of 57 years of Independence, the Government/Planners of our Country are concentrating more on the development of towns and cities rather than looking at villages. We are failing in our duties in providing proper food/clothing and shelter to our rural people.

The educated sections of our society should impart the importance of hygiene to the rural folks. Efforts should be made to build pucca houses and first and foremost toilets should be provided in all houses. It is saddening to note that this basic necessity of humanity

is still not fully taken care of. With so much advance in construction techniques, a fairly decent house can be constructed at optimum cost using locally available materials.

Next we should start the process of conserving water. Any amount of rainfall will not solve water problems unless we conserve water. It is a misfortune that places in Western Ghats and even in Cherrapunji which receives one of the highest rainfall in the world face shortage of water during certain parts of the year. All this is because of mis-management of our resources. We have to increase our forest cover and a revolution has to be started across the country to increase our greenery. Rainfall will occur and water will be absorbed by earth only when there are trees. Our country will be doomed if the present trend of denuding forests goes unabated. We are already seeing how water inflow in rivers and capacity of dams are decreasing due to silt caused by soil erosion. We should take steps to elevate the water table which has drastically gone down. In many places water is not available even after drilling 400-500 ft. deep. We should immediately stop the abuse of borewell technology. Also instead of debating over grandiose projects like linking Ganga & Cauvery, we should conserve and improve all water bodies presently available. This can be done at a much lower cost and without disturbing the ecology and displacement of native population.

Also I shudder to think of the situation when Ganga & Cauvery are linked. After all there is so much animosity between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over sharing of Cauvery - and what will be the size of dispute if Ganga and Cauvery is joined with the river flowing through so many regions and states? Let not Ganga become the cause for disunity amongst the people of

Bharat. Let her be left alone so that she retains the same reverence that she presently commands.

The next basic requirement is education. Children should be imparted the basic education and also should be inculcated the value system for which India is known for. All youngsters upto the age of 15/16 should be compulsorily made to attend school. Free food to school students is definitely drawing children to school, but the supply of food can be handled by outside agencies instead of school authorities taking the responsibility of distributing food. Packed food can be given to children so that the time lost for distribution is less and there will also be improvement in hygiene. Teachers can concentrate more on teaching rather than on distributing food. English should be taught right from 1st standard so that children can have a broader view of the outside world when they grow into adults. But let us not forget that the basic education should be through the local language. Students should also be taught the importance of physical fitness. The concept of a sound mind in a sound body should be stressed. What is the use of any wealth if one is not able to enjoy the same due to lack of good health?

Yoga is a very good means through which everybody can keep fit and I feel the 1st period at every school should begin with yoga classes. Yoga not only develops the body but is very effective in improving the mind also. Also local/native/Indian games which improve physical fitness should be encouraged instead of blindly asking students to play cricket which is such a lazy and time consuming game. With the invasion of foreign T V channels through cable T V, we see deterioration in values and morals amongst our people. We are already seeing so much erosion of values in College campuses due to the T V channels. What was earlier

talked in hushed tones is openly discussed now and everything is available through the pressing of a button on the remote. It is high time we ban all Mega T V serials/ Music Channels which are corrupting the young minds and which treats all girls/women as commodities. A time is not far off when our women folks will find it very hard to even go out of their homes if the trend that has set in is not checked immediately. Sufficient number of professional colleges like Medical and Engineering Colleges should be started so that students need not go too far from their homes for higher Education. Locals should be given preference and not the donation paying capacity of the parents. Capitation fees should be totally abolished and in fact the Government should subsidise education so that it is within reach of every aspiring student.

Transportation is one aspect which has to be addressed on a priority basis. We have problems of scarcity and problems of plenty for the same commodity at the same time at different places due to the lack of proper transportation. We have seen situations where farmers throw their produce on roads due to abysmal low prices for their produce when there is a bumper harvest. I feel that every village should have a Central place within a range of 50 - 100 kms so that they can deliver their produce for onward transportation to major towns/cities. These centers should have all weather proof roads connecting the villages and in turn should be connected to National Highway/Railway Station or Port so that the produce reaches the point of consumption within the shortest possible time. With the completion of Golden Quadrilateral & North-South /East-West Corridors in the near future, the above can be implemented very easily.

Power is one commodity which is very much in short supply in our country. Ours is a tropical country and we should make solid use of the sunshine that our country is blessed with. We see power-cuts for hours together in the rural side and that too when it is required most. With the vast improvement in Solar-Energy Technology, we can make use of Solar Energy for various appliances and thus reduce the burden on Electricity Boards. In states like U.P & Karnataka, Solar heaters are very popular and this has brought in drastic reduction in electricity bills at many homes. Solar Energy is absolutely free and is very much environment friendly. Villages should be encouraged to take up use of Solar Energy. This energy can be used for Water heating, cooking, lighting and a lot of power can be saved. Lot of firewood can be saved and consequently our forest resources can be improved. There will be no air/noise pollution and is absolutely non-hazardous. I feel the Government should subsidise solar equipment to the maximum so that more villages can reap the benefits of Solar Energy. I feel that subsidising solar equipment is a better way of helping farmers than giving free electricity which is detrimental to the interest of farmers in the long run. What the farmers require is quality power and not free electricity. Also solar energy is absolutely free and we all know that 1 unit saved is worth 2 units generated. This technology is definitely a great boon to our power starved country and has a great future in our Country.

We are witnessing rapid progress in the field of communications. Cable TV/Internet/Mobile phones are available everywhere. So it doesn't make much difference as to where a person lives as the world is becoming smaller and smaller. Events taking place across the globe are available on T V sets almost at the same time it

is occurring. Hence there is no need for everyone to crowd in the cities. People can make great progress by staying at the comforts of their native places or villages. The rapid strides in communication should be also put to optimum use. Agencies can be set up to advise farmers as to what crop should be grown/when it should be grown/what crop should not be grown (due to falling prices/demand)/what manure has to be used/advance in technology/tips regarding storage, packing & transportation,/marketing strategy/realization of credit/credit facilities available, etc. These agencies can guide farmers regarding floriculture/horticulture which fetches a high volume of business through exports to foreign countries. With the signing of GATT, the whole world is a huge market and the Indian farmer can really reap good profits if he is a bit more enterprising. These agencies which I have suggested above can give valuable inputs to the farmers as to what to do and what not to do.

Thus we can see that the quality of life in villages can be really improved. What is required is the will, perseverance and patience and a little amount of sacrifice. Much can be achieved by staying in the village. Also a country can be called developed only if it develops across its length and breadth and not through development of pockets here and there. Even from the point of security it is prudent for a country if development takes place on a broad spectrum rather than concentrating on a few cities. In these days of terrorist attacks and wars, cities can become easy targets to the enemies.

Thus we can conclude that prosperous villages lead to healthier cities and with each village chipping in its bit, the whole country can really move forward. My suggestions may take 1 or 2 decades to or even the sacrifice of a generation but if implemented in the right spirit

and dedication, I can tell from the bottom of my heart that our country will have a very bright future and become a model for other countries to follow.

POSITION OF THE HEART

Position of the Heart

In the Human Body - Generally - all parts that are one in number are in the centre and all those organs which are 2 in number are on either side of the Spinal Cord.

For example, Head and Brain which are one in number is in the centre. Nose, Mouth, Tongue, Sex Organs, Rectum which are also one are in the centre.

Eyes, Nostrils, Ears, Hands, Legs, Breast, Lungs, Kidneys which are 2 in number are placed on either side of the Back bone.

My question is that why - THE HEART - which is only one in number and which is such an important organ - NOT at the centre?

My thinking is as follows,

All the organs that I have mentioned above maintain a balance. When we see something with our Eyes we see nothing else. For example if we see a tomato or a mango we see a tomato or a mango and nothing else. When we hear a song we don't imagine something else. When we eat a jamoon we relish the taste of jamoon and not that of coffee.

The basic thing is that everything is balanced. But that is not the case with Heart.

The Heart in addition to maintaining circulation of Blood has CONSCIENCE. That is why it is Off-Centre. Situated at a side it can observe everything minutely and can make proper judgement. It can say what is

right and what is wrong. For example the whole world may judge the Freedom Movement of our country in one angle but an individual's Heart may judge it from a different angle. In the same way the world might have enjoyed the film 'Titanic' but an individual might have seen the film in another angle. Organised sector employees frequently go on strike for wage revision but an individual's heart may be pricking him telling that the salary he is already getting is more and also that there are millions in the unorganized sector who deserve more . That is why it is said that there is never a Bad Conscience and also that if there is conflict between Heart and Brain - Listen to the Heart.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Food for Thought

Of all the basic needs, Food is the first priority for Man. All other needs come only after Food. But are we really giving the respect to Food which it really deserves?

We see in hotels customers leaving food on plates and washing off their hands. I suggest people should order only food that they can optimally consume, put on to their plates only the required quantity and if anything is leftover, get it home through parcel.

In Marriages, and other functions also there is so much wastage. People should get served only items that they can eat and should not feel shy to tell 'No' if necessary. We see servers serving all items to everybody without having any inkling whether they can eat or not. We also see parents being silent spectators when their small children are fed with so many items.

In a way, Buffet is an ideal solution, but even here we see so much food being wasted.

I feel all this should change. All persons between the age of 10-70 have no right to waste food. Food is God and we have no right to show disrespect to God. Let us get served only with the quantity that we can consume and heavens won't fall if we eat a morsel less. Also at many homes left over food is just thrown away. I feel it can be used the next day after keeping it in the fridge. It does not definitely bring down one's status.

All the above I have stated is because of 2 reasons.

When we waste food just think of the farmer who has grown the food for us; his toiling in the field during rain or shine, his sacrifice, his noble intention in feeding the nation and what not.

Secondly, when we throw the leftovers outside there are so many beggars, urchins competing with stray dogs for food. Until the situation changes whence there is not a single hungry stomach in our Country, we absolutely have no right to waste food in any form.

STATIONARY & MOVEMENT - THE IRONY

Stationary & Movement - the irony

We are all taught in the school and we all believe that the Sun rises in the East and sets in the West. Is it really true?

The Sun is located in the Centre of the Solar System and all planets go around the Sun in an Elliptical Orbit. For all practical purposes the Sun is stationary and we do not know whether the Sun along with its planets moves around some other point/star or not. Earth rotates around its axis from West to East and that is why we have an illusion that the Sun rises in the East and sets in the West. The fact is that it is the Earth that is moving and not the Sun.

And then we have another thing. When we are asked to give an example for something that is stationary, we say the Table is stationary; the Chair, the tube-light, the cot, the floor, the photo, the God's Idol are stationary. But are they really stationary?

Earth rotates around its axis once in 24 hours; i.e. 15 degrees in one hour. It also revolves around the Sun at an average speed of 30 kms/second. When a passenger is travelling in an Aeroplane flying at a speed of say 700 kms/hr then naturally we can say that the passenger is moving at 700 kms/hr. Similarly when the Earth is moving at 30 kms/second naturally the Table, Cot, the floor, Idol or photo is also travelling at 30 km/sec. Then how can we say that they are stationary? The fact is that

NOTHING on this Earth including MOUNT EVEREST is stationary.

We feel that they are stationary because the relative speed is Zero. But there can be no dispute about the fact that their absolute speed is 30 kms/sec around the Sun and 15 deg around its axis. To put in simple words **SUN DOES NOT RISE IN THE EAST AND EVEN MOUNT EVEREST IS NOT STATIONARY.**

ARE YOU SAVING ENERGY?

The BBC News channel used to host a column **have your say** and viewers had to debate on topics given, in not more than 500 letters. Here are a few contributions made in 2009. I hope readers will find it interesting.

Debate : Are you saving energy?

Sent : 16-7-2009

I feel that energy is consumed to the maximum in the form of fossil fuel. We should develop the habit of using Mass transport like Metros, Buses, Steamers - wherever available and avoid using personal vehicles as far as possible. Renewable sources of energy like solar, wind, and tide should be explored. Buildings should make use of sunlight for illumination.

Finally I wish to say that I have done my bit in saving energy. I have been taking cold water bath for the past 30 years.

WHAT IS THE LEGACY OF MOON LANDING?

Debate : What is the legacy of Moon landing?

Sent : 18-07-2009

Earth is 1 astronomical entity in the vast expanse of space and whatever study that can be done from the Moon or Mars can definitely be done from Earth itself. Huge amounts of money can be saved and risk to life can be avoided by curtailing space programmes. First of all man doesn't know how to live on Earth and there is absolutely no need for space exploration. I feel that Earth is the only Heaven in this Universe and humans collectively can do wonders if all brains are pooled together with right leadership.

DO YOU SUFFER FROM ROAD RAGE?

Debate : Do you suffer from road rage?

sent : 29-07-2009

Cities have become congested as there is migration from rural to Urban areas. Facilities that attract people to Urban areas should be created in rural areas as well so that people stop migrating to cities. In cities also public transport should be improved so that the urge to go in for personal vehicles is minimised. When caught in a traffic jam I usually hum a song to myself and look around the sky seeing and envying the birds flying above - you see there is no traffic jam above there.

SHOULD UNIVERSITIES FAVOUR POORER STUDENTS?

Debate : Should universities favour poorer students?

sent: 09-08-2009

In my Country - India, many higher caste students don't get seats in spite of getting higher marks as they are taken away by lower caste students with lower scores (many who are well off). When Constitution swears that there will be no discrimination on the basis of caste, sex - admissions to universities on the basis of caste is discriminatory. I feel seats should be given on the basis of merit only. The poor can be given concessions in fees. The effect on the psyche of students should be kept in mind.

IS AN AGING POPULATION A GOOD THING?

Debate : Is an aging population a good thing?

sent : 11-08-2009

Aging per se is not in our hands. I feel everyone likes to live so long as one can take care of himself and is not a burden to other members of the family. The aged in any family can be a moral source of strength to other family members. As far as a Country is concerned, it is always good to have young citizens but elders can lend their wisdom in all walks of life. They can help in channelising the vigour of the youth. Finally I feel that Euthanasia can be given sanctity for honourable death.

HOW CAN WE AVERT A PERFECT STORM?

Debate : How can we avert a perfect storm?

sent : 26-08-2009

Whether Man wants it or not, Nature has its own way of controlling not only humans but all kinds of animal and plant population - be it through earthquake, cyclone, famine, volcano, tsunami, etc. But to mitigate the problems which we will face in future we have to pursue mass transportation, rain water harvesting, reduce plastic usage, curtail luxury and pomp, cultivate joy of sharing, give up greed and show compassion for the needy. Atomic energy should be popularised, as also solar and wind.

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

Debate : What's in a name?

sent : 08-09-2009

In India people are usually named after mythological characters and there are millions of them. Just because a person is named after 'Rama' or 'Krishna' - incarnations of Lord Vishnu - it doesn't mean that they are flawless. But personally, I do create notions about a person's appearance by hearing his or her name and will be surprised if the person's personality is contrary to my imagination. I can say the success rate as a percentage is higher than failure.

HOW SHOULD SOCIETY TACKLE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS?

Debate: How should society tackle mental health problems?

sent: 01-09-2009

My friend is suffering from an illness called Bi-polar Affective Disorder. He cannot tolerate corruption, cheating, injustice, vices plaguing the society and he has fallen sick just brooding over issues which he feels can be rectified. He gets so many ideas and psychiatrists treating him say that he is a genius. He has been advised to put all his ideas/thoughts on paper. So many ideas/thoughts penned today become facts tomorrow. He is on minimum medication now and is waiting for time to reveal his thoughts.

WHAT NEXT FOR CHINA?

Debate : What next for China?

sent : 01-10-2009

China has really made great strides in the last 60 years but I somehow feel they are in a cocoon. For example, how many outside China can name or adore Gold medal winners in last year's Beijing Olympics. Chinese, I feel, do not enjoy as much freedom (thought, speech, expression) as citizens of other Democratic countries do. The results would have been much better had there been Democracy. It can do wonders in the region by joining hands with India but it always sides up with Pakistan.

WHAT GUIDES YOUR MORAL COMPASS?

Debate : What guides your moral compass?

sent : 01-10-2009

I feel in this world everyone can see but few notice. Out of this small percentage who actually notice majority don't speak. Only a miniscule of this World's population can actually see below the surface and also talk. That is the reason the World is full of chaos. I firmly believe a day will come when a revolutionary will come into prominence and will explain what is what and lead people towards light.

DID SCHOOL CHANGE YOUR LIFE?

Debate : Did school change your life?

sent : 12-10-2009

During my school days Sanskrit was one of my subjects. We were taught morals from mythology which were called 'Subashitas'. One Subashita says - 'Speak the Truth'; Speak pleasant Truth; Don't speak unpleasant Truth and also don't speak pleasant Untruth. I have been trying to follow this for the past so many years and I feel that it helps in keeping one's conscience clear.

WOULD YOU CHANGE YOUR DIET TO HELP THE PLANET?

Debate : Would you change your diet to help the planet?

sent : 29-10-2009

As a Hindu Brahmin, my religion forbids me from eating even egg, let alone meat. Personally I feel beef should be avoided by all. A cow gives milk to man, denying milk even to its own calf and see what man gives back in return. Also, all animals like sheep, goat, pig should be given anesthesia before they are actually slaughtered. This way pain will be less for animals and guilt for man a bit less.

WHO WOULD YOU DEDICATE A SPECIAL DAY TO?

Debate : Who would you dedicate a special day to?

sent : 11-11-2009

Any human howsoever popular will not exist without at least a few enemies/opponents. I therefore don't have any human being to whom I want to dedicate a day. Being a Hindu, I would like to dedicate a day to 'Saraswati' - the Goddess of learning. She gives light to every person so that he/she becomes literate, wise, knowledgeable, patient, brave - qualities one should get to sail in the vast expanse of ocean called 'life'. The day is during Dasara and usually falls during September/October.

'LIFE' WHEREFROM IT COMES & GOES

'LIFE' - Where from it comes and goes

Life is always a mystery of sorts.

Man has been wondering as to where this Prana (life) comes to a living being and whereto it goes after death of the living being. The debate on Prana has been going on for ages and every religion probably has its own explanation.

But can the fact be the following?

We all know in Animals it is the female that gives birth to the offspring. Before this happens, the male has to 'mate' with the female for the latter to conceive. During this act of mating, the male reaches a point of 'ECSTASY' during which he passes on the 'sperm' into the body of his partner.

And now coming to the aspect of Prana; we should all accept the fact that the whole Universe is full of Energy. There is a common saying that the beginning of Nari (woman), Nadhi (river) and Rishi (saint) should not be pondered into or questioned. But we all know that the source of all the three is Mother Earth. In the same way there are 3 factors, the beginning or the end of which cannot be comprehended by Human mind - Space, Time & Energy. While everybody has some comprehension of 'Space' & 'Time', the understanding of the aspect of Energy is still in its infancy. A casual look at the sky is sufficient to convince one that there is some supernatural Energy or Force that keeps everything in place in the 'Universe'.

And now, when the male attains 'Climax' during mating, there is rapid breath, and during this peculiar and different way of breathing (which is extremely different from normal breathing and is observed only during this act) the Prana from the 'Space' is sucked by the 'Male' and 'passed' to the female. The 'sperm' mates with the egg of the Female and conception takes place. All the remaining rights/duties are that of the Female.

It is probably for this reason that in a family tree the 'Man' is the inheritor and also in certain sections of Hindus only 'son' can perform the ceremony and not the daughter. In the act of mating, the Male experiences a peculiar sort of 'Joy' and 'Sorrow' put together and that is why there is the aspect of (element of) PAIN in animals. This is the reason we don't see pain in plants in spite of there being life in it.

After residing in the body of the living being, a time comes for the Prana to leave. I feel that just as Prana comes from Space, it returns to Space after death and integrates itself in space without a trace.

The whole relationship between Male & Female can be compared to the relationship between our own Sun & Earth, in the Solar System. The Sun (Purusha) gives out so much Energy and a small fraction falls on Earth. This small fraction is sufficient for 'Life' to sustain on Earth. Similarly a Man produces Millions and Millions of Sperms in his lifetime and hardly 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 is utilized by his spouse for procreation. The Sun may produce any amount of Energy but life will be non-existent till Earth exists. In the same way life on Earth without the Sun is unimaginable.

Just as life cannot be present till both Sun and Earth are there, there cannot be Animal life on Earth, till the

Male and Female of the animal species plays his or her Role as the GIVER & PROPAGATOR of life respectively.

Conclusion

So, dear friends, my book 'YES! This is the way I think' comes to an end. As I said in the beginning it is a small book. My writing will be worth the effort if it has created a small spark somewhere in the corner of your brain. Of course, this is my first book and God willing will not be my last. So signing off,

K. VISHWANATH

BACK COVER

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Vishwanath was born as second of the four sons of Nagalakshmi and Krishnamurthy on 26-03-1962 in Bengaluru, India. He graduated in BAsC (Bachelor of Applied Science - Pulp & Paper) from Bangurnagar Arts, Science & Commerce College, Dandeli, which is affiliated to Karnatak University, Dharwad, India.

Vishwanath joined Union Bank of India in Aug 1986 and retired from service in Mar 2022 after putting in 35 Yrs & 8 Months of service. He is married to Shanthalakshmi and is blessed with a daughter Deepthi.

