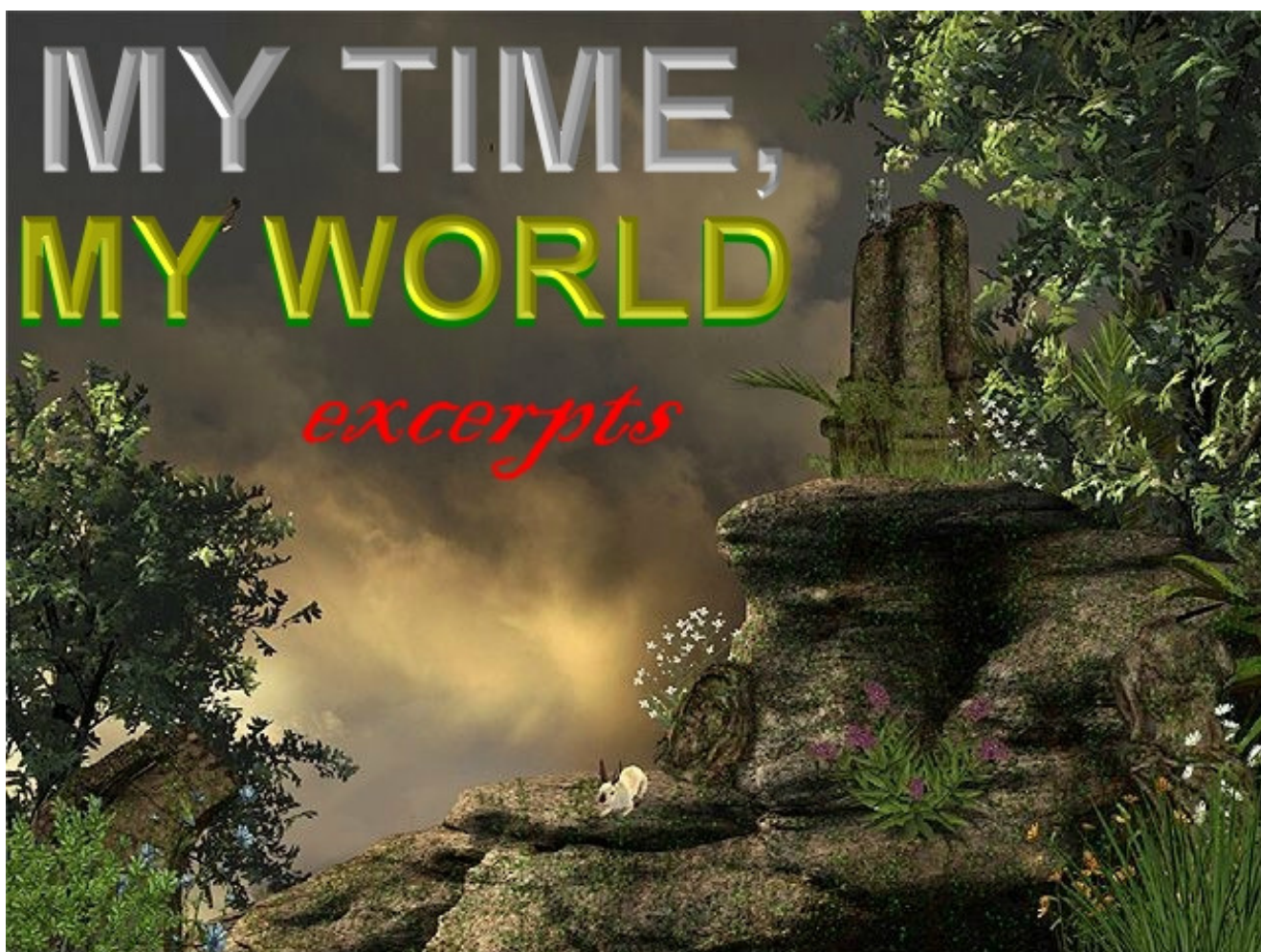




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*excerpts*

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Indian economic development largely depends on rural economy. Infrastructure development is an aspect of the Indian economy that is crying for immediate attention. Indian economic programmes call for balance between socialism and capitalism as defined in Mixed Economy by the first Prime Minister of India, Shree Jawaharlal Nehru. Mixed Economy is a contribution of India to the world as was Neutrality or Non-Aligned Movement in world politics.

For centuries people in India have suffered from lack of food. Even though the huge famines, which killed a very large number of individuals and caused a large amount of suffering now belongs to the past, there is still hunger in India. This hunger is omnipresent and looks to be irremovable from the country. Even now because of lack of food, children are born malformed or are mentally challenged.

While the oil requirement of the United States of America will increase by 46% in the next ten years and of China by about 96%, India's requirements will go up by about 132%. This is certainly a mammoth increase. India must find additional sources for oil within and outside the country apart from discovering other sources of energy as alternative to the oil. India will find itself in great problems in coming days unless it does not act fast. Further, increase in oil prices world over may find India in deep quicksand. India has only two options: either it will go down by inaction or it will claw its way up by a concerted action plan.

For a country to improve, it has to have a good education system. The gradual decline noticed in the standards of excellence in existing institutions of higher education in India like IITs of late is depressing. The fall is mainly because of the pay system of the professors there in contrast to those in China, Korea and Singapore and in western countries where a three-tier pay system is followed to attract the best to the fold. The pay system in most of these countries include a pay package covering the pay pack from the government based on the pay scale to cover basic needs, and other pay packs dependent on the track record of the individual and the institute concerned in the stipulated year. Individual performance forms the pillars in all these pay schemes, thus promoting excellence and rewarding performance.

India, Brazil and South Africa are considered as countries that have the same strength and stature in the world and therefore same interests. Birds of the same feathers flock together. Therefore, it is natural to expect them to flock together as an axis to safeguard their common interests in this complex world of competitions and ruthless manoeuvres. All the three are strong countries in their own right, and if they join hands, they can transform to be a power centre in world affairs and face challenges in every sphere to their best interests.

Both China and Pakistan have also developed interests in Nepal and try to checkmate India's influences in the region. Pakistan often used the common border between Nepal and India to infiltrate terrorists to India. The rise of Maoists in Nepal is actively supported by China. The rising influence of China in Nepal is a matter of grave concern to India.

India and Japan are close neighbours of China. India's nuclear tests had drawn the ire of Japan and it joined other developed countries in imposing sanctions against India at that time. However, they have been trying to improve their relationship for quite some time now. The political situation around the world also has compelled these two countries to come closer together over the last few years. American certificate to India that it is a responsible country and its initiative for nuclear deal with India along with the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) waiver to India in nuclear deals further mellowed Japan.

The worst enemy of Pakistan is not its neighbour, India. Rather, it is its poverty. Pakistan is one of the poorest countries in the world with a high birth rate that renders its economy failing to catch up with the population growth rate. Further, its unfortunate focus against India and war preparations for the purpose diverted its resources from development activities. It is only because of the financial and other backings of the United States of America that Pakistan has not yet disintegrated in spite of large-scale economic failings and wars against Al-Qaeda and Taliban along its borders with Afghanistan in support of the United States of America.

Oil is going to hold the future of the world. The countries that control oil interests will rule the world. Saudi Arabia has vast oil fields and tops the list of oil producing countries. USA shares an honour among the top ten oil producing countries. However, the amount of oil produced by America is not enough to keep its industries afloat for long. That is the reason why America wants to control more oil. Most of the Arab countries have vast resources of oil. This is why most of the developed countries including the USA want Arab countries as allies.

North Korea separated from South Korea after a quite violent history of war that threatened to become the harbinger of the Third World War in 1950s. South Korea with the help of the United States of America became a respected industrial power of Asia on par with Japan and Taiwan while North Korea under the Communist regime languished in this respect. It now wants to make up the loss of time and come back in the international arena by becoming a nuclear power.

The first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru respected the UNO and honoured its call for ceasefire while Indian army was successfully pushing Pakistan soldiers back from Kashmir in 1947 and in the process, lost half of Kashmir to Pakistan by declaring ceasefire and kept the irritating Kashmir issue alive to this day. No doubt, by listening to the United Nations Organisation, he had increased the prestige of India but it resulted in the main cause of the dispute between India and Pakistan. But the calls and resolutions of the UNO and its Resolutions are ignored as a rule by other countries. Absence of its own armed forces to force its resolutions and its complete dependence on other countries, particularly the United States of America, rendered it weak.

No country is a friend or foe permanently in politics and diplomacy. It is all a matter of self-interests and security of a country. India played close to the USSR till the latter disintegrated in 1990. Soviet Union was really a loyal friend of India in those decades with liberal political, diplomatic, military, scientific and economic helps to India. India survived all international pressures for decades in Kashmir issue and recurring Indo-Pak wars only because of the dependable support of the Soviet Union.

The world was created with the Big Bang about fourteen billions of years back. After billions of years of cooling from the Big Bang, the Sun of our solar system came into being leading to the birth of the Earth and other planets of the solar system. For approximately four billion years, the Earth remained without life on the planet. The Earth was too hot and cooled down very slowly. Life started on the Earth with the single cell creatures and over billions of years evolved to complicated patterns of life culminating in the birth of human beings in their present form.

While man is looking to the Outer Space to trace his cousins on the illusion that he has already conquered the Earth he lives on in his thirst for knowing it fully, he was in for a shock while he discovered the existence of a new species, Homo Floresiences, a cousin of Home Sapiens, in the island of Rampasasa in Indonesia, until a few years back. Locals of Rampasasa recall the Homo Floresiences as short in height. However, the attention of the world is yet to focus on this interesting discovery and scientists and archaeologists are yet to pursue this matter to know better about their cousins on this very Earth on which they live on.

Stem cells are the basic cells. They are the cells from what every part of the body develops after going through several stages. They are present in almost all living bodies in the stage of the initial growth. They form all cells of the body including the muscle cells, the nerve cells, and the bone cells. These stem cells if properly manipulated are potential of curing all genetic diseases and changing personal traits and character in living beings including man.

Kyoto Protocol is a United Nations initiative for international environmental treaty at climate change for achieving stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that shall prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The Kyoto Protocol establishes legally binding commitment for the reduction of four greenhouse gases namely, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and sulphur hexafluoride and two other gases namely hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons) let out to the environment mostly by the industrialized nations.

There are thousands of species of animals in the world. The continents, which have the most number of species of animals, are Asia and Africa. Species of animals are essential ingredients in bringing about balance in the nature and in human survival. Symbiosis is an essential rule of the animal world covering human beings. Protection of all species from extinction is a basic need for maintaining the balance in the nature and a responsibility of man as the most evolved and enlightened species of the animal world. They must be protected from destruction.

The tiger is the national animal of India. It is the largest member of the cat family and even bigger than the lion. It is a very ferocious animal and is well known for its ferocious hunting skills. It has been hunted for centuries. The tiger once used to occupy the whole of India, Pakistan, Russia and also Africa. In Pakistan and Russia, the tiger is now extinct, which is a terrible loss, as the largest species of the Tiger family called as the Siberian tiger lived in Russia. Sadly, it is now disappearing from India and Africa also. The cause of this is poaching and hunting. So it has been for centuries. Hunting and killing tigers were a symbol of strength and valour all over the world from the time immemorial and were the favourite pastime of valiant kings and British rulers in India. The poachers and hunters do not easily give up this adventure and the tribals who live near the forests are unhelpful in protecting tigers.

One of the most acute problems of the present world is the fitness problem: the problem of becoming more and more fat and obese day by day. There was a time when people were dying of starvation and there are people all over the world even now who starve for the lack of availability of food. But, excessive eating leading to uncontrolled obesity has become a chronic disease in many parts of the world now: the problem of eating more than what is needed. This is a sin more than a problem when one considers that in other parts of the world, people are struggling to get even a square meal a day. Need based consumption of the food is a solution for both the problems of obesity and starvation.

Out of every suicide case, one is a youth between 15 and 24. This statistics includes all those aged people who have a terminal illness and thus commit

suicide. One in 5 teens thinks of suicide. This shows just how much pressure teens have. To get a good job and consequently good life, one has to study in a good college or university. However, especially in India, good higher education is a rare thing. Also, India being the second most populated country in the world and an amazing 40% of the people being below the age of 20, the competition in our country is cutting edge. One will also have to participate competitively in extra-curricular activities to be a success in life.

Greed breeds greed, and leads to ruinous deeds. People by nature always want some thing or the other. Often what people want for them may turn out to be harmful for others individually or for the combined good of the people. Therefore protection from other's greed is an essential need of the human society. It is here that the process of law and justice come into play. Laws, law courts and legal systems were set up to see that the combined interests of the people are protected. Civilised society is obliged to obey the laws, law courts and legal systems for symbiotic existence. However, outlaws are the common feature of any society, those who live at the expense of others.

It has been believed that justice is absolute. People since ancient times have wrongly believed that justice can be made to measure to the crime committed or the good deed done. People believe that justice is very simple. They however are completely wrong as justice is not at all an easy task to do about and is a very difficult task indeed to decide and judge.

Germany, as the leader of a power in the region consisting mostly of the present Warsaw Pact countries may provide a real challenge to the financial strength of China and its neighboring allies in the first half of the 21 century and grow to be a financial giant of the world in the second half of the century by pushing the latter to second place. A close run for supremacy as a financial power of the world between regional powers led by Germany and China would be the main political drama of the new era. Both USA and Russia would be decimated to minor parts in the battle-royale.

The *raison d'être* of poetry is the pleasure of the shocks of discovery about the life. It is the *fraicheur* of thoughts in poetry that endears it to its readers; it is the intensity, the undivided attention with which the poet experiences

the déjà vu that warms up the poetry to its readers; it is the concentration of thought and feelings which brood to beauty and rich shades of meaning in poetry. The art of writing poetry is the process of gradual release of the shocks of coalesced thought and feelings in relaxed contemplative leisure of a reflective mood. Those who attempt the release through the carefully chosen language are poets and their expressions, poetry. The development of poetic impulses helps such releases to be streamlined to carefully chosen language as an assuetude to prevent wastes by dissipation. The true pleasure of reading poetry is in having an arcane peek to the subtle unknown horizons of the poet's mind, thought and personality.

Though poetry is about what affected the poet most intensely, it is possible that he may not always be consciously aware of all meanings and their oblique hues in his poem although his subconscious mind exercised on all aspects of the poetry in its parts and in its entirety. The poet, T.S. Eliot was once asked by a student to explain the meaning of one of his poems. The great poet responded to the student by reading the poem and said no more. The same student made the request encore to which T.S. Eliot read the poem encore and fell silent, ipso facto delivering the vital message of a true poetry that poetry cannot be restated in a form other than *more suo* without poetic distortions.

The great poet Robert Frost while talking about poetry said that poetry 'takes life by the throat'. Poetry is the art of capturing life in words. It is not just the ken of life, but also a direct realization of the life. It is an exercise of subconscious, concinnous interpretations of the life that intensely surface through the conscious awareness. Ergo, readers must experience poems through subconscious exercises to capture the intensity of the life, warming up in poetry. No conscious nusus and analyses can lead one any-where in fully realizing the inner arcane treasure of beauty and meanings hidden in the poetry. Nor any other person can do the work for a reader of poetry. Appreciation of poetry involves the reader tuning his subconscious perceptions to receive the poet's subconscious signals through the *juste-milieu* of the poetry. A poet can transmit his experience of shock of pleasure or grief directly to his reader sans its conscious awareness in both. The incantation is cast through the selection and articulation of words, not only in their word meanings, but also in the synergy of word rhythms, word music, word pictures, word forms and oblique word hues and shades in the poetry. No conscious efforts can do the magic either in writing poetry or in appreciating it to

the level of a well-trained subconscious exercise in the unknown horizons of the mind. All conscious exercises of poetic criticism are for this reason, badly limited.

The world would be less worth for living in the 21st century in spite of its technical and material advancements. Though the threat of war would recede in the new age, life's acceleration to the highly competitive tempo, necessary to ensure survival, may render living a sick and uneasy affair. As man bends nature to his convenience, nature's failures to meet his basic needs may balloon up to gigantic proportions by the increased tax on her fragile attributions. Yet, it should be remembered that the 21st century is just a minute phase in the huge evolution process that takes the world to higher levels of existence through restless and difficle passage.

We should know that this world is a great self-sustaining system, built to survive all ecological, nuclear or population disasters. The life system of this Earth is a wonderful self-regulating workhouse with a skill for survival. We must rest assured that the Earth will certainly survive all contingencies of the 21st century by its wonderful self-regulating and self-sustaining mechanism that was at work in the 20th century.

Jack Slipper was a renowned and efficient detective of the Scotland Yard. In the Great Train Robbery in Britain of 1963 wherein a train carrying mail from Glasgow to London was robbed of two million pound worth of goods, perhaps the most well known and the biggest robbery in the world, Jack Slipper was invested with the investigation of the case on behalf of the Scotland Yard as its most efficient and capable investigator. He successfully detected the case and arrested all those involved in the case except for one known as Ronnie Biggs who evaded Jack Slipper's attempts to catch him, the only black spot in the otherwise illustrious career of this detective. As a splendid detective, he was compared as an equal to legendary and fictional Sherlock Holmes.

Nilekani is a co-founder of India's National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM). He is also the chairperson of the Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF). His book, *Imaging India: Ideas For The New Century* was launched on November 24, 2008. In the book, Nandan

discusses a host of ideas ranging from the impact ideas such as democracy, globalization and demography have had on India's growth and development, to its slow progress in the areas of infrastructure and the provision of primary education to all, to the ideological deadlock when it comes to politics, higher education and labor reforms. He also addresses a few ideas that are vital to cementing India's position as a global power - that of its social security provisions, its policies on clean energy and the environment, as well as its ability to deal with lifestyle-related diseases and ailments.

Brigadier Dyer designated the spot where Miss Marcella Sherwood was assaulted sacred and daytime pickets were placed at either end of the street. Anyone wishing to proceed in the street between 6am and 8pm was made to crawl the 150 yards (140 m) on all fours, lying flat on their bellies. The order was not required at night due to a curfew. The humiliation of the order struck the Indians deeply. Most importantly, the order effectively closed the street. The houses had no back doors and the inhabitants could not go out without climbing down from their roofs. This order was in effect from April 19 until April 25, 1919. No doctor or supplier was allowed in, resulting in the sick being untended.

A lady by name Annam Field Salivan who was dedicated to the service of blind found Helen Keller and helped her to read and write. She used to keep a doll in Helen's hand and lead Helen's fingers to write the word *doll* on a sheet of paper. Thus, the first word learnt by Helen was *doll*. Later, Helen learnt to talk in a school for the deaf. Soon, she developed a sense for recognizing everything. She also wrote many books and became very famous.

Lee Kuan Yew has climbed very great heights in his quest to transform Singapore to an economic power of Asia and became a leader the world adores as a capable administrator and respected statesman. He raised Singapore from the lowest depths of instability and resources to the heights of an economic power. In recognition of his great contribution to the Republic of Singapore, he was honoured by retaining him in the Cabinet as Senior Minister in advisory capacity after he stepped down from the post of Prime Minister in 1990 with the distinction of being the longest serving Prime Minister of the world after holding it to then unprecedented long tenure of twenty-five years. The next Government of Singapore that came to power under his son in 2004 honoured him by retaining in the Cabinet as the Minister Mentor.

She wore a sari and went barefoot to the poorest slums of Kolkata to serve the poorest of the poor. In 1948, the Church let her set up a new order of Nuns, called the Missionaries of Charity. Since then, Mother Teresa and her nuns of the Missionaries of Charity have saved babies left on the wastages on the roadsides, looked after lepers and cared for the old, sick and dying. Her Order had more than 300 branches throughout the world by the time of her death in 1998. She was awarded the Nobel Peace prize for her great service for the humanity and the greatest Indian award, the Bharata Ratna, in recognition of her service to India. The angel of the human kind died in 1998 just before she reached the age of eighty-nine.

There are also languages that have faded into oblivion and disappeared from the surface of the Earth for lack of use. Some are on the anvil of disappearance. Sanskrit and Latin come under this category. Both are classical languages and were in their zenith of their glory for long period in ancient time. All languages have their own circles of rise and fall and both Sanskrit and Latin have come full circle. Both are almost dead as spoken languages and survive because of their great classics of the yore and as expressions of scholarships in serious writings. The classic nature of the languages and the purity warranted in using them gradually rendered the languages unpopular as the stress of life style shifted to easy and comfortable life.

Developing super human images of their film heroes is another form of this crush. Both India and United States have instances of popular film heroes rising to the highest executive positions of the country by popular vote. South India saw at least three popular regional film stars becoming popular Chief Ministers of their respective States in Mr. M.G.Ramachandran and Ms. Jayalalitha in Tamilnadu and Mr. N.T.Ramarao in Andhra Pradesh while the United States of America has Mr. Reagan as its President. The crushes people develop for their favourite film stars of the opposite sex are a matter of total madness of another dimension altogether. It is common to see people of all ages developing deep crushes to their favourite actors and going mad after them purely on the basis of the screen images they represented in films or on their screen histrionics though they never had a chance to meet those heroes and know anything about their personal traits and character except those fanciful stories presented through film

magazines. They develop illusions that they deeply love those film stars and resort to all kinds of nonsense. Though such madness is not restricted only to film stars, it is more visible for film stars and inspires disgust.

Whether it is industry, agriculture, commerce or ordinary life of the citizens, they all depend upon the common facilities available around and the quality of the process closely depends on the infrastructure available. Therefore the infrastructure available decides the style and standard of life and activities around. Infrastructure being the common facilities, it is the responsibility of the government in public domains. It is for this reason it is said that the Government decides the style and standards of life and activities in a country. Creating adequate infrastructure is the basic function of any government, and it is sine qua non for national economy, growth and development.

In governance, developmental and regulatory functions go hand in hand and they are inter-dependent. Lack of development leads to dissatisfaction and unrest, causing serious regulatory problems. On the other hand, efficient regulatory functions lead to balanced and secure life style leading to optimum prosperity in the country. Developmental and regulatory functions being inter-complimentary, government intent upon the prosperity of the country gives equal focus to both.

Greed breeds greed, and leads to ruinous deeds. People by nature always want some thing or the other. Often what people want for them may turn out to be harmful for others individually or for the combined good of the people. Therefore protection from other's greed is an essential need of the human society. It is here that the process of law and justice come into play. Laws, law courts and legal systems were set up to see that the combined interests of the people are protected. Civilised society is obliged to obey the laws, law courts and legal systems for symbiotic existence. However, outlaws are the common feature of any society, those who live at the expense of others.

Amartya Sen, the Nobel Prize laureate economist of the Indian origin and former Master of the Trinity College at Cambridge University in a book on justice talks about what justice is all about in his book, "The Idea of Justice" published in July 2009. This book along its length sets out to explain

Amartya Sen's view of justice and how he feels about justice in general. This is a very complicated book and he talks about things in great detail. He talks about justice as some thing that must be separated from other things in general. He talks about justice being relative. To illustrate this, he gives an example. He asks to consider three people who want a flute: one is who prepared it, another is who alone can play it and the other one is who has got no other source of pleasure except from the flute. Each of them has his claim for the flute on different grounds. It is a very tough thing to judge who should get the flute. Justice is like this in the real world. It is not at all absolute and relative to the issue and the circumstances in hand. This is a novel concept in the administration of justice and warrants close look from experts.

But, ancient history anywhere in the world is replete with cases where women held high positions, leaders and respected without discrimination. In the past they could become what they wanted in life and were given education. This changed during the fifth century A.D. and continued till now. Women are awakened to their rights now and are fighting for that. Time is not far away to see the sex discrimination being completely wiped out of the human race.

Rudyard Kipling in "Diversity Of creatures" says, "Transportation is civilization". This is a very profound truth. Without transport and the movement of goods and people, there can be no civilization and culture. The increase in the standard of living in many countries in the world in recent years has been almost entirely due to the strides made in transport especially by the introduction of the motor vehicle with its flexibility and ability to get into places otherwise inaccessible even by railways. Danger is unavoidable in the world of transportation. There has never been a time when travel was not dangerous. L. G. Norman in his Public Health Paper for the World Health Organisation in 1962 says, "The problem of road traffic accidents on a large scale has arisen for the first time in the present century. All other epidemics throughout history have been due to the onslaught of agencies external to man, principally the protozoa, bacteria and viruses; but road accidents are because of man himself. A terrible penalty of mortality has already been paid as the cost of integrating the motor vehicle into modern life."

Out of every suicide case, one is a youth between 15 and 24. This statistics includes all those aged people who have a terminal illness and thus commit suicide. One in 5 teens thinks of suicide. This shows just how much pressure teens have. To get a good job and consequently good life, one has to study in a good college or university. However, especially in India, good higher education is a rare thing. Also, India being the second most populated country in the world and an amazing 40% of the people being below the age of 20, the competition in our country is cutting edge. One will also have to participate competitively in extra-curricular activities to be a success in life.

War with its lieutenants, disease and death, tries to destroy human kind when there is disagreement between countries. War has proven its strength in the first and second World Wars. In these World Wars, altogether seventy million people died. Forty-five percent of them were soldiers and the remaining fifty-five percent were civilians. In that century, altogether one hundred million people died in wars and seventy percent of them in World Wars alone. Another interesting fact is that 150 wars were fought since 1945. So it is important to stop another World War as, if another World War is fought, all the people on the face of the Earth will be wiped out due to the advanced technology.

A good leader relentlessly tries to inspire those under him towards goals set for them. He encourages them to live up to his expectations out of them. For success to be gained by the leader and the people who work for him, all of them must work as a team and must go through each barrier with resolution and self-confidence to succeed and accomplish. A leader inspires risk-taking and also leads by setting an example for those who work for him. Then only can a leader be a true leader.

Some may wonder when it is said that honesty sometimes may involve lies also. But it is true. A lie said with a good intention like saving an innocent life from a gang of thieves as in a story of Mahabharata epic amounts to honesty. The test of honesty is doing well to others. Such acts endear us to all. Simplicity and kindness are the life-blood of honesty. Only honesty with its simplicity and kindness makes us true human beings.

Humility is not easy to come. It needs cleansing of the soul from the evils of arrogance and false pride. And the Satan of the arrogance and false pride has strong hold on our life and cannot be shed easily. Only great souls with extra-ordinary strength inside can reach the higher levels. They are called as great souls. We can only try towards that end. If we succeed to any degree, we can be called as great. Humility is the true path towards peace, harmony and advancement to the divine end.

Flower is something that everyone admires every day. The ethereal beauty of some magnificent flowers has astounded people. They admired them for centuries and still do, notwithstanding the rapid advancement of mankind in technology. When people look upon flowers, they see only the petals of the flowers and admire only that and think that the flower is a simple thing. Many poets have quoted about flowers and even used it as a simile, a metaphor and even in personification. In all these poetic ventures, flowers are described vividly as simple beautiful creations.

A daily regimen of exercise does help good health and good look. The problem of obesity is acute in rich countries like the United States that has some of the fattest people of the world. There was a man there who weighed more than a thousand pound. He ate more in one sitting than a person normally does in a week. He was to be carried to hospital while fell sick by breaking walls of his house to come outside. However, recent researches have shown that people with a little more than average weight is healthier and livelonger than those less than the average weight. But key here is that there are limits for everything. Excesses are always incongruent with the nature and therefore always dangerous.

Pandemics like the Black Plague in the beginning of the 20th century killed more than a million people in Europe. People still remember about this plague. Timely interventions and preventive measures by the World Health Organisation and countries all over the world prevented such devastations in modern times by the outbreak of the avian influenza and the swine flue. The Avian Flu spread from China to all other parts of Asia while the swine flue spread from Mexico and the United States of America all over the world.

Comparison with the influenza flu epidemic of the 1910s is a mute point here for the simple reason of the living conditions there. Epidemics cannot spread as did then for umpteen reasons: suitable drugs, preventive measures, international efforts against, World Health Organisation (WHO) to oversee and so on. However, some scientists say that as the world has heated up in the intervening years, this swine flu will be able to reproduce and mutate to a more virile form more quickly. However, it looks as if the best option for India is to sit tight. The disease has not yet struck India with its full strength. India reported its first H1N1 virus casualty on August 4, 2009 in Pune, the seat of the National Institute of Virology for India, by the death of a 14-year old girl and immediately the government notified the affected areas under the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897 enabling stringent preventive measures.

It is more than a century since India adopted the good old British Education System and more than six decades since India became an independent country and a republic. Yet, we have not changed the Education System from that time to meet the fast changing needs of the time and requirements of the country. It is in a very pathetic state of affairs indeed. Indian Education System is not keeping pace with the progresses in other fields in the country and the consequence is felt in the fields of other developments. It is like rotten apple spoiling other sweet apples in a basket. Education System in India is a neglected area. The number of new Universities and Centres of Higher Education in India is not on par with the increase in the population of the country. Japan, a country with almost one-tenth of the population of India, has almost three times the number of Universities as India. Also, the percentage of the people who go to Universities and Centres of Higher Education at right age is less than seven percent in India even after six decades of the self-rule. In the United States of America, the percentage is close to eighty percent while in Finland, it is close to seventy six percent.

Singapore moved to the performance based pay scale of three components about two decades back, covering basic pay based on the pay scale, another based on the reputation and market demand of the individual teacher, and the third based on his or her performances for the stipulated period. China followed the performance based scheme from 1990s wherein the pay packet based on the pay scale from the government is followed by one given by the university allowing better institutes to compensate better, and the third based on the performance of the individual in projects and research works. China

saw tremendous boost in its research projects and research papers in international journals since then. Pakistan is ahead of India in this progressive step by linking the pay scale to the number of research papers published in international journals. Pay scales and annual increments in USA from many years are based on individual performances. Britain and other European countries like Germany and Italy from which India borrowed its fixed pay package have also moved forward in adopting the performance based package of pay scales for its University faculties. Australia has also moved in this direction.

Oil is going to hold the future of the world. The countries that control oil interests will rule the world. Saudi Arabia has vast oil fields and tops the list of oil producing countries. USA shares an honour among the top ten oil producing countries. However, the amount of oil produced by America is not enough to keep its industries afloat for long. That is the reason why America wants to control more oil. Most of the Arab countries have vast resources of oil. This is why most of the developed countries including the USA want Arab countries as allies.

The riches of oil brought prestige, wealth and political manoeuvrability to most of the oil rich Arabian countries. It converted West Asia to an intense political hotbed. Only its Jewish lobby and commitment to Israel checkmate aggressive policies of the USA in this region to befriend Arab countries. It is because of the Israel policy of the USA that the relations between the Arab countries and United States of America have been deteriorating very swiftly. Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism as a world phenomenon as represented by Al-Qaeda are the direct outcome of this turn of events in the world politics.

A few countries including Iraq, Iran, Syria and North Korea are marked by the USA as rogue countries needed to be disciplined for their acts against the world order and peace. The present focus of the USA is on Iran and North Korea for their nuclear ambitions in violation of the world opinion. Both countries have made considerable progress in producing nuclear bombs and North Korea has already declared to the world that it is in possession of nuclear weapons and necessary missile technology to use it and does not hesitate to use it if any country attacks it. This is a direct challenge to the USA considering these two countries being neighbours across the Pacific Ocean and their consistently inimical relationship since the Korea War of 1950s. North Korea traded off missile technology to Pakistan to acquire

nuclear technology from the latter in late 1990s. The mastery of North Korea in both nuclear and missile technologies is a potential security threat to the USA across the Pacific Ocean and its assets in the Pacific Ocean a la Japan in 1941 in the Second World War. It is unrealistic to presume that the USA would be a mute spectator to the potential danger to its interests and security without proactive measures either of political or military kind.

Perhaps people of no other country in the world match the people of the USA in their sense of decency, fairness, justice, generosity, charity, love of scholarship and entrepreneurship. They believe in helping people all over the world. They fought against their own government against inhuman acts of their army in Vietnam War, and again in Iraq War. They stood against Guotanamo tortures. People of which other country would have deified Afro-American stars like Michael Johnson and Serena and Venus and many more in cultural and sports field and elected a descendent of Muslim forefathers from Africa as their president? They generously contributed for the relief of the tsunami-hit people and other natural disasters all over the world. People like Bill Gates and the Fords always helped unfortunate people all over the world. They are the harbingers of the think-tank phenomena to give intellectual slant to world affairs and matters of public interest. No other countries in the world have so many professors and scholars as political leaders heading various organs of the Government.

It looks as if Russia wants USA to treat it more as a friend now that the Cold War is a distant memory. The United States of America till Barack Obama took over as the President of the United States of America had been secretly allying and supportive of the enemies of Russia through its clandestine intelligence outfit, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and busy also building bases near and around Russia in Central Asia and has embarked on a missile defense system in the region apart from being aggressive in expanding NATO network up to the western border of Russia. These measures made Russia suspicious of the intentions of the United States of America. Russia has also seen this as signs of the distrust of the United States towards it. President Barack Obama's policy towards Russia may change all this. Russia will most certainly ask the United States to show more trust towards it and take concrete steps towards confidence building measures for the over all benefit of the world. Russia's decision to allow the transit of the arms and weapons and other war supplies and defence forces

meant for Afghan by rail road through its territory is a significant move forward by Russia towards the confidence building measures in response to the friendly gestures of the United States of America.

There is an adage that a wounded tiger is more ferocious when it is wounded and fallen. It was what happened to China in 1949 immediately after Communists took the reigns of the country. The world community except for those countries that belonged to the Communist bloc distanced the Communist country. Most countries of the world including the United States of America refused to recognise the new Government and preferred to continue their diplomatic relations with Taiwan than with the mainland of China. China had to struggle hard for years to gain admission to the United Nations Organisation to replace Taiwan in spite of it being the most populated country in the world with a vast geographical area. India's well intended efforts through its gentlemanly Prime Minister, Shree Jawaharlal Nehru to accommodate Communist China by introducing its leaders like Mr. Chou-En-Lai and others to world leaders in international meetings like the Bandung Conference and moves for the admission of the mainland of China to the United Nations Organisation further infuriated the wounded proud tiger as it saw the smaller neighbour's and its world stature leaders' patronage as national humiliation of China and its Communist regime. The result was the 1962 October Chinese aggression on Indian northern borders on the pretext of border disputes and Chinese claims on the present state of Arunachal Pradesh, and India's humiliating defeat.

China, if anything, has risen on the ladder of Economics as well as Military prowess by the sheer dint of patriotism, large dreams, commitment, competence and hard work of its leadership. This is a very great rise for a poor and developing country beyond wildest dreams to achieve within a span of half a century. China could stalk this far because of its outstanding leadership. China is already recognised informally as one of the world leaders and an indisputable regional power in Asia head and shoulder above former giants like Japan and South Korea and perhaps stands on par with Russia in its economic and military stature. The true rise of China started from late 1990s after the transfer of Hong Kong from the British lease to the mainland of China. Chinese leaders by all possibility learnt and picked the ropes of development and progress from the westernised and developed city of Hong Kong and intelligently adapted the tricks to their needs and system

to produce a rare hybrid of unprecedented success. The kind of growth and progress seen in China in a short span of time fades the otherwise stunning stories of progress witnessed in countries like the City State of Singapore, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan in the Asian continent. Its rapid rise in the ranks of the world made it a respectable country in spite of its Communist system and its disputes with both the United States of America and Russia, and its opinions and actions on world affairs are countenanced with seriousness and alarm as for no other countries, and no days pass without the world press, televisions and Internet news referring to China and activities pertaining to it.

The world is developing into a huge net of inter-connections. Nothing occurring in one part of the world escapes the other part of the world. Wars and peace, constructions and destructions, successes and failures, falls and rises, riches and poverty, progress and new findings, all have a cascading effect throughout the world. Interests of nations are becoming inter-related. First and Second World Wars are World Wars because of this phenomenon. Both Allies and Axis Powers fought the wars as conglomerates of nations almost dividing the world to two opposing blocs. Later wars like the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, Iraq War and Afghan War prove this need of alliance between warring nations of the present world.

Even the Cold War of the two superpowers from 1950s to 1990 was not an exception to this compulsion. The world was almost divided to two blocs supporting the United States of America representing developed capitalist countries and the Soviet Union representing the Communist alliance. The only distracting influence against the trend at the time came through the institution of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) by the triumvirates of India, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia by the initiatives of their leaders, Jawaharlal Nehru, Nasser and Marshal Tito. The very fact that NAM had only partial success in world affairs and at its death throes now proves the futility of the non-alignment in the present world.

Islam is a religion that was founded about fifteen centuries back by the holy prophet, Mohammed. Now, Islam is the second largest religion in the world after Christianity in the number of people who follow it. Islam is an aggressive religion. It believes in global brotherhood of Islam and spreading

the teachings of holy Prophet Mohammed for enduring peace in the world. Islam does not differentiate between the concepts of nationhood and religion. It is the reason why Muslim majority countries tend to declare themselves as Islamic countries as opposed to the global trend of calling themselves as secular countries. The concept of Islamic Brotherhood and the aggressive nature of Islam as a religion are at the back of the rising militancy and unrest in the present world. Rabid militancy in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq, problems in Kosovo, Chechen militants fighting for the liberation of Chechnya in Russia, problems at Xinjiang in China are all symptoms of this.

Causes for the rise in terrorism in present days are umpteen. They include successes of terrorist means, militant Islam, birth of Israel by less than just means leading to Palestine problem, hegemony of the developed countries in world politics, poverty and unemployment.

Terrorism is not new to mankind. History all over the world is replete with instances of terrorism by individuals or groups against the established power. There are instances wherein terrorists or terror groups succeeding in their efforts and establishing their own rule. Most of the powerful dynasties of the world have small terrorist groups as their origin. Terrorism in this sense is nothing more than asymmetric violence against the state power to bend it to the group's will. It be Rana Prathap or Shivaji or Bhagat Singh of India, or the violent freedom struggle of Irish people against the British rule, or the wars of LTTE with Sri Lanka Government, or violent designs of Al-Qaeda for Islamic hegemony of the world, basically they are all terrorism. Mass destructions involved in present days because of sophisticated weapons and bombs and support of outside elements including enemy states in inspiring, designing and executing terrorism make terrorism of present days different from that of yore and more reprehensible.

Bacteria are small unicellular organisms that are present everywhere in the world. They are present in the soil, they are present in the air, and they are present in water. In short, Bacteria are cosmopolitan. They are the nearest things to what we call God. Bacteria are used in many industries like tobacco industry, cheese industry, curds industry and many more. They are in this way very important. Indeed, there are some bacteria that affect human

beings by infecting them with diseases like clostridium botulinum, which causes food poisoning. It is one of the most deadly of all organisms. Bacteria also help man in saving and killing one of their own kinds as they help in producing antibiotics, which can be used both as healing and life saving drug as well as dangerous poisons.

The majority of the population in Europe at present is in its old age without children. This is particularly visible in countries like Italy, Germany and many more. In Germany, the population is getting so low that the wolfs who were driven out of the habitable regions of the country to forests a long time back by the people are now returning, because lands are less populated and spare lands are available to them to occupy. This may seem good news to environmentalists and wild life enthusiasts, but if this continues, by 2040, there will be about forty-one people less living in Europe for every one thousand. For about a thousand people in a city in Greece in an extreme case, now, the number has dwindled to a dozen and they all are in their sixties and seventies and in about thirty years, there may not be a city with that name again in Greece. This is a very sad case and it may also happen to other cities of Europe and all over the world in course of time. However, there is no need of getting overly scared, as it will take a very long time to find the Earth without mankind.