

MAURITIUS TIMES

"The duty of youth is to challenge corruption" - Kurt Cobain, Nirvana



Saint-Louis Gate

La BAD prise dans la tourmente

St Louis 2: The Pandora's Box



If there is a will to get to the bottom of this corrupt act, the inquiry must start from where the bribe money originated up to where it landed. Does ICAC have the capacity and know-how to do that?

By K. Murali See Page 4



Par Aditya Narayan Voir Page 5

Wave of 'Green' Emotions



By Nita Chicooree-Mercier See Page 16

'Happy' Doctors Day?

There is a saying that one should 'Work like a professional, but live like a human being' in order to live a balanced life. A majority of doctors have been deprived of the opportunity of living like a human being during this pandemic



By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee See Page 3

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The State We Are In

It is remarkable how an act of corruption, which has remained buried for a long time, can suddenly burst into the open. The Saint Louis Gate has shocked the nation and resulted in the revocation of the Deputy Prime Minister on an alleged act of corruption. Once again the reputation of our country has been tarnished.

At a time when the country is already suffering from repeated blows on the issue of corruption from various quarters, this is the last thing Mauritius needed in this hour of gloom. Equally serious and damaging is the damage it's causing to our democratic system and its legitimacy. It also reveals a lot about the state we are in presently.

Just as easily overlooked is how long an act of corruption can be committed in the country and remain undetected by all our institutions given to tackling corruption. Consider the CEB-Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor: it was left to a foreign company and an international organisation to carry out the investigation and to reach the conclusion that has upset the nation. Were it not for them, we would not have known who were defrauding public money. Not surprising therefore that the general public holds some of our institutions in low, rather than high, esteem.

It is a fact that such kinds of transactions are committed in utmost secrecy, but it is hard to imagine that our public officials were not aware of what was being hatched. In fact the culture of secrecy that pervades many of our institutions may explain why corruption has become so rampant in our institutions. That is why there is a crying need for a Freedom of Information Act which would certainly contribute towards putting a brake to the insidious designs of some of public officials and politicians. Unless there is a clearly expressed political will to change the situation and introduce a Freedom of Information Act right now and not simply on the eve of elections, we will not be able to prevent the pursuit of private interests in public office.

It is well known that corrupt practices at the top have dangerous ramifications and consequences at the lower levels. Businessmen and women who are well connected are suspected of providing large sums of money and gifts in return for contracts worth hundreds of millions of rupees, as in the present case, and as much or less for contracts in public and other state bodies. Such behaviour from the top reaches down to smaller businessmen, thereby creating a network of clientelism in the political system. That's why a climate of suspicion, real or imaginary, always hangs over many procurement exercises, especially when tenders are cancelled, delayed or speeded up.

While foreign surveys on the prevalence of good governance in the country may give high marks to the authorities' efforts to combat corruption, the Mauritian public is usually more sceptical. Foreign surveys can rarely grasp the nature of corruption as perceived by Mauritians themselves. It is true that corruption is such a phenomenon that defies precise definition, and that is why the buzzword 'zero tolerance for corruption' sounds hollow in the ears of the public for a number of reasons.

Anybody can point to a long and unending list of corrupt practices under investigation. But most have rarely resulted in condemnations; those that do have mostly to do with some

small fish caught in the net for some petty offences. There is also the view that the separation of powers doctrine that undergirds our democratic system is very often flouted in practice. In a small country like ours, which is almost a face to face society, such separation should have been more vigorously maintained.

Unfortunately some public officials and questionable politicians easily cross the line and damage the legitimacy and trust that should inform the public relationship with the State and its institutions. Everybody realizes today the nefarious consequences of corruption, both in the present and in the long term, for our country, its economy and society as our reputation hits the bottom.

Mr Ivan Collendavelloo is presumed innocent, and the presumption of innocence implies a right to be treated in accordance with this principle. Many people however see the revocation of the Deputy Prime Minister as an opportunity to get rid of an irritant in the Cabinet or simply to rid oneself of a partner who no longer has any political value. Whichever interpretation is valid, many see in the Saint Louis Gate and in the long list of corruption cases in recent years as the decline of the Mauritian State and its democratic deficit.

The absence of moral principles, the culture of secrecy and the pursuit of party and private interests at the expense of the national interest have reached unacceptable levels. We must also add that the politicisation of the civil service and of the disciplinary forces, poor scrutiny of legislations and the weakening of our parliamentary system are all forces which may render the country dysfunctional.

Political scientists and economists have always tried to explain the success of post-independent Mauritius putting forward a number of factors such as political leadership, institutional strengths, the democratic set-up, political consensus and pragmatic economic policies amongst others. They must now probe the causes of our decline.

Whatever prognosis they reach, it is inescapable that a revitalized State will be part of the solution. We need a revitalized State, less secretive, more democratic, and accountable to the public. At the level of the discourse, we should no longer confuse the State with the government. The government is merely a temporary administrator of the State. The legitimacy of the State rests on the sovereignty of the people; the State and its institutions must act in the interests of the people as a whole.

The question remains: who will take the lead to revitalize the State and breathe new life into the body politic, foster a sense of purpose and revitalize our democratic system? Can the political leadership embark on this project? Can reasonable people come together to work out a new framework in which the national interest is not sacrificed on the altar of cupidity? Or must it be the people themselves, who together with other stakeholders, take the initiative and come up with a new political framework? In the end, whatever is envisaged, the solution will have to be a political one.

Finally a revitalized State must be administered by a slate of officials who have the skills, the competence and the honesty to drive the country forward in the national interest.

Sada Reddi

The Conversation

Coronavirus responses highlight how humans are hardwired to dismiss facts that don't fit their worldview

Whether in situations relating to scientific consensus, economic history or current political events, denialism has its roots in what psychologists call 'motivated reasoning'



Bemoaning uneven individual and state compliance with public health recommendations, top US. Covid-19 adviser Anthony Fauci recently blamed the country's ineffective pandemic response on an American "anti-science bias." He called this bias "inconceivable," because "science is truth." Fauci compared those discounting the importance of masks and social distancing to "anti-vaxxers" in their "amazing" refusal to listen to science.

It is Fauci's profession of amazement that amazes me. As well-versed as he is in the science of the coronavirus, he's overlooking the well-established science of "anti-science bias," or science denial.

Americans increasingly exist in highly polarized, informationally insulated ideological communities occupying their own information universes.

Within segments of the political blogosphere, global warming is dismissed as either a hoax or so uncertain as to be unworthy of response. Within other geographic or online communities, the science of vaccine safety, fluoridated drinking water and genetically modified foods is distorted or ignored. There is a marked gap in expressed concern over the coronavirus depending on political party affiliation, apparently based in part on partisan disagreements over factual issues like the effectiveness of social distancing or the actual COVID-19 death rate.

In theory, resolving factual disputes should be relatively easy: Just present strong evidence, or evidence of a strong expert consensus. This approach succeeds most of the time, when the issue is, say, the atomic weight of hydrogen.

● Cont. on page 8

Mauritius Times

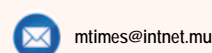
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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

'Happy' Doctors Day?

There is a saying that one should 'Work like a professional, but live like a human being' in order to live a balanced life. A majority of doctors have been deprived of the opportunity of living like a human being during this pandemic



Exhausted coronavirus doctors pictured sleeping on floors - Photo - i2.wp.com/metro.co.uk

I must confess that though being a doctor I had never heard of a National Doctors Day, so it came as quite some surprise to me to learn about a Happy Doctors Day being celebrated on 1st July. My first reaction was that this was not the best of times to celebrate a Doctors Day, what with the Covid-19 pandemic seemingly unstoppable in the world, with deaths that have now reached 530,000 and the total number of infected cases nearing 11 million. As had been foreseen by the competent authorities in the matter, several countries have been entering a second phase after an initial 'flattening of the curve', and there are second lockdowns taking place. It has been predicted that there will be a repeating pattern of opening up and lockdown – 'rolling lockdowns' – as the pandemic continues, until an effective vaccine combined with effective treatment is rolled out: and we are talking here in terms of a couple of years at least.

Which means that the accent, as it has been from the beginning, has to be on prevention by testing, sanitary measures and treatment. The sanitary measures have been recommended for the protection of people and communities. While earlier practically everyone strictly complied, unfortunately we have seen how in the past several days in some parts of the world people have openly flouted these precautions, with the result that where this happened second surges have followed.

“They have been called 'corona warriors' – a label that they would probably have preferred never to be tagged with. From the juniormost to the seniormost, health staff have been placed under tremendous and unprecedented strain as they have battled to relieve symptoms and suffering, and to save lives. Alas, not always successfully for many reasons, a main one being the unpreparedness through initial denial of the epidemic in even the most developed health systems such as in Italy, France and the USA, leading to an incapacity to cope with the numbers due to inadequate facilities...”

Inevitably, therefore, this has swelled the numbers of patients needing treatment – by doctors and other health professionals who are already overburdened, in health systems stretched to capacity. They have been called 'corona warriors' – a label that they would probably have preferred never to be tagged with. From the juniormost to the seniormost, health staff have been placed under tremendous and unprecedented strain as they have battled to relieve symptoms and suffering, and to save lives.

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epidemic in even the most developed health systems such as in Italy, France and the USA, leading to an incapacity to cope with the numbers due to inadequate facilities. The consequence of these – notably lack of protective gear, ventilators, medication – was complications, mishaps and avoidable deaths. Despite these systemic gaps, doctors as the frontliners with direct responsibility for their patients could not help feeling disappointed and even guilty when patients slipped away from their struggling hands. Doctors and nursing staff in particular, along with their families, have suffered as much as patients and their families too.

In fact, doctors and nursing staff have faced a number of problems and challenges caused by the coronavirus, and all of them are far from being entirely resolved. The impact was on both their physical and mental health, as often they were forced to work long hours, often ill-protected as well, with the constant fear of catching the infection. Which did happen, and inevitably, there have been deaths.

The exact numbers worldwide are not available, but for example, in early June Italy had recorded 63 deaths among doctors and hundreds of nursing staff infected. In the UK, so far there have been about 70 deaths among doctors. And in India two weeks ago in one hospital in New Delhi four senior doctors had lost their lives – including the one who was head of the ICU in that COVID hospital. And in Mauritius we lost Dr Bruno Cheong, who had diagnosed patient Zero – who himself died too after irresponsibly spreading the bug around. To these numbers, sadly one must add deaths by suicide as well; some doctors could simply not bear the pressure any more, and that included a 39-year old lady doctor in a New York Hospital, head of the Emergency Room where corona patients kept streaming in.

Additional problems have been the discomfort of having to wear surgical masks for hours on end, which has given rise to skin lesions in some staff. Similarly, working long hours in 'spacesuit' gear especially for surgeons has caused problems too.

No less disturbing has been emotional toll. Many staff on prolonged duty preferred to stay back in hospital quarters or quarantine centres, so as not to expose their families to the risk of contamination especially where there were children. One of the earliest videos that went viral must have brought tears to many a parent's eyes: a surgeon returning home after a long day in hospital stretched out his arms as he entered through his front door, seeing his little son running towards him. Suddenly realizing the risk of a hug to the child, he held himself back and slumped on his knees, sobbing, with his hands covering his face as the poor kid just stood there looking at his papa, stopped in his tracks.

One would have thought that doctors are facing more than their share of the pandemic burden, and no one

should add to it. But no, that's not the end of their problems. In South India, junior doctors have been protesting for a month because they have not been receiving their monthly stipend as the State government and the medical college management are locked in a tussle about who should pay. In another State, some obscurantists threw stones from roofs on doctors and associated personnel who had come into a locality to conduct tests. And in the US, there has been violence against public health workers.

In a gesture of solidarity and moral support to the frontliners, we have seen how people stood outside their apartment blocks or stretch out their arms through their windows to show their appreciation by clapping utensils. Some posts from doctors subsequently decried the practice, saying that they'd much rather have proper protective equipment and allowances for their overwork than these noisy token gestures.

So, 'Happy' Doctors Day? I am afraid it's not been quite so for the medical profession in this pandemic. Nevertheless, it may not be a bad idea to show thankfulness and appreciation to doctors who very often have to perform their duties under difficult conditions, and have to meet the ever expanding expectations of patients.

Still, a few words about Doctors' Day would not be out of place I suppose. The first observance was on March 28, 1933, in Winder, Georgia, USA. Subsequently the US Congress approved its celebration on March 30. However, the date varies from country to country depending on the event of commemoration used to mark the day, and is usually celebrated by health care organizations.

There is a saying that one should 'Work like a professional, but live like a human being' in order to live a balanced life: give time to the family, care for one's own health, enjoy some leisure. A majority of doctors have been deprived of the opportunity of living like a human being during this pandemic. Let's hope that next year it may be a real Happy Doctors Day...



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St Louis 2: The Pandora's Box

If there is a will to get to the bottom of this corrupt act, the inquiry must start from where the bribe money originated up to where it landed. Does ICAC have the capacity and know-how to do that?

K. Murali

On 8th June 2020, the African Development Bank (ADB) opened a Pandora's box and out came what looks like one of the most dastardly corruption acts in our history.

On that day, the ADB posted on its website the agreement that it had reached with Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC) regarding "sanctionable practices in a power generation project financed by the Bank in Mauritius".

According to the Prime minister, it was then and then only that the Minister of Energy and Public Utilities came to meet him to apprise him of the situation.

From then onwards, events unfurled rapidly to the extent that today we know that:

- (i) "members of the Mauritian administration and others, through the intermediary of third parties" have received "huge" amount of bribe money;
- (ii) the bribe money was given through two intermediaries'
- (iii) according to BWSC, it's a whistleblower's call in April 2018 that set the ball rolling. Per their protocol, they caused the matter to be investigated by an independent party and according to the findings "the investigation concluded that certain employees of BWSC had violated their employment contracts and the company's Code of Conduct. Furthermore, the investigation gave reason to suspect that certain employees had engaged in bribery. According to the investigation, the actions were carried out by certain employees in one department in BWSC. On the recommendation by the law firm Poul Schmith, BWSC promptly summarily dismissed the involved employees and reported two persons to the Danish police. Upon the completion of Poul Schmith's investigation, BWSC self-reported the case to the African Development Bank and other relevant stakeholders"; and
- (iv) the CEB was informed in February 2019 in an email to Shamsheer Mukoon, Acting General Manager of the CEB.

This act of corruption is no ordinary one. It was carried out by intelligent and sophisticated protagonists, operating at the highest level of a world renowned international company, intelligent public officials at the highest level of our country, smart middlemen and high calibre professionals.

One has therefore to tread carefully and exercise the highest acumen in trying to see daylight in this act of corruption.

The first step is to take a close look at each protagonist, analyse the actions and narratives, following which a clear picture of the modus operandi will emerge.

BWSC's narrative inconsistent

BWSC describes itself as "a global turnkey developer, contractor and operator of custom specific engine-based and boiler-based power plants. Our ambition is to provide highly efficient and reliable energy supply while ensuring low environmental impact and low cost for the power plant owner and consumers. Within the last four decades, BWSC has supplied more than 180 turnkey power plants to 55 countries with a total generating capacity above 4,100 MW". It is indeed a global player in the energy sector.



CEB-BWSC's Pandora's Box. Cartoon adapted from stabroeknews.com

In 2016 BWSC entered into a contract agreement with the CEB.

In all such contracts there is a clause against corrupt practices. In particular, if a contractor (BMWC) engages in acts of corruption to secure or have unfair advantages in the procurement of a contract, it exposes itself to financial penalties or even to punishment for a criminal act.

It has been established that corruption has taken place and huge bribes have been offered.

BWSC's narrative is that it has "conducted" its own investigation and found that

"certain employees of BWSC had violated their employment contracts and the company's Code of Conduct. Furthermore, the investigation gave reason to suspect that certain employees had engaged in bribery.

“BWSC wants us to believe that “certain employees” paid a huge sum of bribe money (out of their own pockets?) to very senior officials and lesser ones in Mauritius without its Senior Management being aware of what was going on? But the source of the bribe money is not revealed by BWSC!...”

“According to the investigation, the actions were carried out by certain employees in one department in BWSC. On the recommendation by the law firm Poul Schmith, BWSC promptly summarily dismissed the involved employees and reported two persons to the Danish police.”

Are the findings consistent with the narrative? BWSC wants us to believe that “certain employees” paid a huge sum of bribe money (out of their own pockets?) to very senior officials and lesser ones in Mauritius without its Senior Management being aware of what was going on? But the source of the bribe money is not revealed by

BWSC!

Why did BWSC take so long to inform the parties concerned, being given that the whistleblowing took place in April 2018?

Finally, being given that BWSC is likely to face huge penalties for this act of corruption, is it in its interest to engage in an act of full disclosure?

Is its report complete being given that it has not covered nor disclosed the source of the bribe money?

Clearly, the role of BWSC in this matter should be completely reassessed if an independent inquiry is to be carried out.

ADB's due diligence?

The African Development Bank has financed the project and was initially reluctant to part with information but, at the end, it provided an abridged version of the report of the ADB's Office of Anticorruption and Integrity to the Prime Minister.

As a financing institution, ADB has an obligation to carry out an exercise of due diligence as to where it is putting its money and to keep a watchful eye on the processing of the project up to its completion.

It appears that the fact that an Emergency Certificate was attached to the project a few hours before it was to be taken up at the level of the Independent Review Panel (IRP) did not raise an alarm at the ADB in spite of the fact that there really was no risk of any imminent blackout in the country?

CEB and Government of Mauritius

In 2014, the offer of BWSC was rejected as it contained some 200 deviations with 80 major ones.

In 2015, after the general elections of Dec 2014, the bid for the St Louis 2 project was launched again and this time there were no major deviations. Were the specifications reframed to accommodate BWSC's technology, particularly in relation to environmental and performance issues?

The offer of BWSC was eventually accepted after an Emergency Certificate was attached to it; that in effect shielded it from outside scrutiny, in this case that of the IRP. The project was completed well within the scheduled time.

It is worth noting that the Completion Report, which Ivan Collendavelloo is putting forward as a mark of excellence for him and the CEB, deals ONLY with the post-award aspects of the project up to its completion. It has nothing to do with the pre-award ones and the alleged corrupt acts.

It is in February 2019 that CEB was first appraised that substantial bribes had been given towards the award of the St Louis 2 contract.

In Oct 2019, the Board of the CEB was apprised of the case. It did not recommend any action, and the matter was considered closed.

On 8th June 2020, BWSC and ADB reached an agreement whereby BWSC was debarred from bidding for projects financed by the ABD for a period of 21 months.

A lot has been said about the handling of the case by the CEB, but there are a number of issues which need to be accounted for by the CEB Management, its Board and the Government. It is to be noted that the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Energy have representatives on the Board of the CEB.

First, all contracts, of the type entered by the CEB, include a clause against bribery and corruption.

● Cont. on page 8

Saint-Louis Gate

La BAD prise dans la tourmente

Aditya Narayan

Avant l'éclatement du Saint-Louis Gate, une affaire de corruption alléguée où la firme danoise Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC) aurait versé des pots-de-vin pour obtenir le contrat d'installation de moteurs à la station thermique du CEB, le nom de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) n'était pas connu en dehors des milieux avisés (gouvernement, presse, banques). Depuis, il est devenu notoire (un "household name", comme on dirait en anglais) au gré du scandale politico-financier qui toucherait le Gouvernement aussi bien qu'un parti de l'opposition. Cette notoriété, toutefois, dépasse le cadre mauricien.

d'obtenir des informations confidentielles lui permettant d'offrir une soumission taillée sur mesure pour le projet du CEB lors d'un appel d'offres en 2015. Suite aux révélations de la BWSC, l'*Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption* (OIAC) de la BAD avait fait une évaluation du rapport de la BWSC, dont les résultats ont été annoncés dans son communiqué du 8 juin 2020.

Confidentialité?

Sanctionnée pour l'acte de corruption, la BWSC a accepté de se priver du droit de faire des soumissions pour des projets financés par la BAD pour une année. Toutefois, on ne sait pas si la firme danoise a vraiment signé un accord de non-divulgateur avec la BAD ne permettant à aucune des deux parties de révéler les détails de

pouvait rendre public le document en raison de sa "nature confidentielle". Toutefois, il a révélé deux noms qui y seraient mentionnés, parmi tant d'autres. Où est la confidentialité donc ? Le Premier ministre a même invité le leader de l'Opposition, et non pas le leader du MMM, à lire le document supposément confidentiel, ce que Arvind Boolell a refusé de faire, flairant un piège.

Par ailleurs, il convient de noter que le Premier ministre a pris contact avec le président de la BAD à un moment où celui-ci fait face à deux difficultés.

- Premièrement, il est engagé dans une campagne visant à se faire réélire à la tête de cette institution pour un second mandat. M. Adesina est le huitième président élu de la BAD depuis le 28 mai 2015 et il est le candidat unique à sa propre succession, qui devrait être décidée en août 2020.
- Deuxièmement, il fait l'objet d'une enquête indépendante sur des allégations de mauvaise gouvernance pesant sur lui.

Le président de la BAD contesté

La BAD est une banque de développement régionale dont la mission est de promouvoir l'investissement de capitaux publics et privés dans des projets de développement en Afrique. La BAD est contrôlée par un Conseil des Gouverneurs, comprenant les représentants des pays membres (actionnaires). Les votes au conseil sont partagés entre 54 pays africains (60%) et 27 pays non-africains d'Europe, d'Amérique et d'Asie (40%). Bien que la BAD soit une banque régionale, elle n'est pas contrôlée par les pays africains. Le Nigéria est le premier actionnaire de la BAD, mais les Etats-Unis sont le deuxième actionnaire et, avec d'autres pays-membres occidentaux, y exercent une forte influence.

La candidature de M. Adesina est fortement contestée par les Etats-Unis, qui l'accusent de mauvaise gouvernance durant son premier mandat. En janvier 2020, des lanceurs d'alerte avaient envoyé un rapport à deux gouverneurs de la BAD et au directeur de l'OIAC, M. Alan Bacarese, faisant 20 allégations contre M. Adesina. Ces allégations portent sur le favoritisme dans de nombreuses nominations de hauts responsables, en particulier de compatriotes nigériens, et la nomination ou la promotion des personnes soupçonnées ou reconnues coupables de fraude ou de corruption. M. Adesina avait rapidement été disculpé par la BAD sur la foi d'un rapport de son comité d'éthique interne. A la demande des Etats-Unis, le Conseil des Gouverneurs de la BAD a annoncé le 4 juin le lancement d'une enquête indépendante pour élucider les accusations, remettant ainsi en cause le travail du comité d'éthique.

Dans une lettre datée du 22 mai, le

Secrétaire du Trésor des Etats-Unis, Steven Mnuchin, avait écrit: "We fear that the wholesale dismissal of all allegations without appropriate investigation will tarnish the reputation of this institution as one that does not uphold high standards of ethics and governance." L'ancienne présidente irlandaise Mary Robinson préside le panel d'experts chargés de l'enquête indépendante et elle devra rendre son rapport «dans une période de deux à quatre semaines maximum», selon le communiqué de la BAD.

Les Etats membres de la BAD se prononceront sur la candidature unique de M. Adesina fin août. Pour l'emporter, il doit obtenir la double majorité, tant chez les membres africains que chez les membres non-africains. Cela, à la lumière des développements récents, n'est pas gagné d'avance. Certains mettront les critiques des Etats-Unis contre M. Adesina sur le compte de l'anti-multilatéralisme de l'administration américaine, symbolisé par ses attaques contre l'OMS dans la foulée de la pandémie. Il est vrai que l'isolationnisme des Etats-Unis sur le plan mondial diminue leur autorité morale. Mais cela ne devrait pas escamoter les problèmes de gouvernance qui affligent certaines organisations internationales, dont la bureaucratie engloutit beaucoup de ressources.

Transparence nécessaire

Dans l'affaire Saint-Louis, on ne comprend pas le refus de la BAD, comme allégué par le Premier ministre, de partager ou de rendre public le rapport de l'OIAC dans l'intérêt de la transparence. L'Afrique est un continent frappé par la corruption de ses dirigeants et de ses élites alors que la pauvreté y fait rage. Nous connaissons les cas des Bongo, Mobutu, Dos Santos et autres Sobrino qui ont dilapidé des fonds publics, acheté des châteaux en Occident et transféré des fonds illicites dans des comptes bancaires en Suisse à travers des compagnies fictives créées dans les paradis fiscaux. L'adjudication des marchés publics est un domaine où les élites africaines s'enrichissent en contournant les règles pour favoriser les soumissionnaires qui leur graissent la patte.

Si la BAD est convaincue de ses preuves de corruption dans l'affaire du CEB, elle devrait les révéler au nom de la transparence. L'accord de non-divulgateur avec la BWSC ne devrait pas être un accroc si la BWSC est prête à collaborer. Que cache la BAD en voulant garder le rapport confidentiel ? Suffit-il pour la BAD que les corrupteurs (occidentaux) soient connus et que les corrompus (africains) ne soient pas connus ? Pourquoi cette politique de double mesure ? Les corrompus se trouvent en Afrique et on veut les protéger en gardant le rapport de l'OIAC confidentiel. Les corrupteurs sont-ils plus fautifs que les corrompus ? Cette logique dépasse l'entendement. Tous ceux qui sont soucieux des impératifs de la transparence et de l'imputabilité dans la bonne gouvernance sont surpris par la posture de la BAD. Dans ces circonstances, peut-on tenir rigueur aux Etats-Unis et autres pays occidentaux de vouloir la tête du président de la BAD ?



www.financialafrik.com

“Si la BAD est convaincue de ses preuves de corruption dans l'affaire du CEB, elle devrait les révéler au nom de la transparence. L'accord de non-divulgateur avec la BWSC ne devrait pas être un accroc si la BWSC est prête à collaborer. Que cache la BAD en voulant garder le rapport confidentiel ? Suffit-il pour la BAD que les corrupteurs (occidentaux) soient connus et que les corrompus (africains) ne soient pas connus ? Pourquoi cette politique de double mesure ? Les corrompus se trouvent en Afrique et on veut les protéger en gardant le rapport de l'OIAC confidentiel. Les corrupteurs sont-ils plus fautifs que les corrompus ? Cette logique dépasse l'entendement...”

En effet, la BAD a défrayé la chronique internationale avec la mise sur pied d'une enquête indépendante sur les accusations de prévarication et de népotisme qui ont été formulées contre son président, le Nigérian Akinwumi Adesina. Il n'y a, a priori, aucun lien entre la démarche de la BAD autour du rapport sur le Saint-Louis Gate et les déboires de son président. Cependant, il faut situer les événements dans leur perspective propre afin de mieux comprendre la tourmente dans laquelle se trouve la BAD.

En 2015, la BAD avait accordé un prêt de Rs 4,3 milliards au CEB afin de financer le projet de redéveloppement de la station de Saint-Louis, réalisé par la BWSC. Il faut souligner que ce n'est pas la BAD qui a découvert le pot aux roses dans l'affaire de corruption. C'est la BWSC elle-même qui avait, en février 2019, informé la BAD que ses employés avaient soudoyé des membres de l'administration mauricienne afin

cette affaire de corruption à une tierce partie, en l'occurrence le Gouvernement mauricien.

Suite au communiqué de la BAD, le Premier ministre avait dit que cette institution partagerait son rapport seulement avec un organisme d'investigation officiel comme l'ICAC. Lorsque l'ICAC a demandé une copie du rapport de l'OIAC auprès de la BAD, elle a reçu une fin de non-recevoir.

Le Premier ministre a alors écrit au président de la BAD, M. Akinwumi Adesina, pour lui demander d'exercer son influence auprès de l'OIAC en vue de l'amener à partager son rapport avec le Gouvernement. M. Adesina a été bienveillant. Résultat : le Premier ministre dit avoir reçu un "document" de la BAD (lettre ou résumé du rapport) qui mentionnerait les noms des personnes incriminées, dont le leader du ML et le leader du MMM.

Au Parlement, le PM a insisté qu'il ne

WHO must recognise risk of airborne coronavirus, says group of 239 scientists



Concerns over airborne coronavirus - Photo - www.sciencemag.org

The World Health Organisation is failing to acknowledge the potential for coronavirus to spread in airborne form, a group of scientists have said. The 239 scientists from 32 countries have signed an open letter, to be published this week, calling on the body to recognise the risk, which could lead to new measures such as air filters and indoor mask-wearing being recommended, reports Metro.

The WHO insists the virus is mainly transmitted via respiratory droplets, which are relatively large particles produced when coughing or sneezing that fall to the floor. Scientists widely agree the virus can also become airborne by hitching onto clusters of much smaller particles known as aerosols - but they differ on whether it poses a threat in this form.

Previous research has established the potential for airborne transmission but that it requires the virus to be concentrated in high enough amounts to infect the body. The WHO's current stance is that this should only be considered a real risk after medical procedures that generate aerosols, as was found to be the case with other coronaviruses. It refers to studies which also detected the

Covid-19 virus in air samples in hospital rooms with infected patients but all failed to grow the virus from the samples, 'a step that is critical to determining the infectiousness of viral particles'.

Members of the body's infection prevention committee have admitted aerosol transmission may play a minor role in the virus' spread but say new measures to block it are unlikely to make much difference. Most health bodies only recommend extra precautions for airborne transmission during some medical procedures such as intubation or certain dental surgery techniques.

The letter, co-authored by Lidia Morawska of the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane and Donald Milton of the University of Maryland, refers to emerging evidence from settings such as meat packing plants where there have been outbreaks. Linsey Marr, an expert in airborne virus transmission at Virginia Tech who signed the letter, told the New York Times that the WHO was wrong to focus on studies from hospitals, which are generally well-ventilated. She said that in most buildings 'the air-exchange rate is usually much lower, allowing virus to accumulate in the air'.

Trump blames China's 'secrecy, cover-up' for spread of Covid-19

China must be held fully accountable for its "secrecy, deception and cover-up" that allowed it to spread the coronavirus all over the world, US President Donald Trump has said, upping the ante on Beijing over its handling of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Addressing the American nation for a second time in as many days on the occasion of 244th Independence Day on Saturday, President Trump touted the country's "progress" against the Covid-19 disease despite a nationwide spike in the number of coronavirus cases.

"We have the manufacturing record for ventilators. We have the most and the finest testing anywhere in the world. We are producing gowns, masks, and surgical equipment in our country. It was almost exclusively made in foreign lands, in particular, China, where ironically this virus and others came from," he said in his address from the lawns of the White House.

"China's secrecy, deception, and cover-up allowed it to spread all over the world, 189 countries and China must be held fully accountable," he said, once again accusing Beijing of covering up the outbreak of the pandemic.

Trump has expressed disappointment over China's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in the past. In May, he claimed that it was the "incompetence" of Beijing that led to the mass killing across the globe.

China has denied US' claim of "covering up" the extent of its coronavirus outbreak and has accused the US of attempting to divert public attention by insinuating that the virus originated from a virology laboratory in Wuhan.

"China was the first country to report the COVID-19 to the World Health Organisation (WHO), (and) that doesn't mean the virus originated from Wuhan... There has never been any concealment, and we'll never allow any concealment," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said in April.



The novel coronavirus which first originated in Wuhan in December last year has claimed over 500,000 lives and infected more than 11 million people globally. The US is the worst affected country with over 120,000 deaths and over 2.8 million infections, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

Kanye West again says he will run for president

US rapper Kanye West has said he is running for president, potentially pitting him against a man he says he admires, Donald Trump.

"We must now realize the promise of America by trusting God, unifying our vision and building our future," he tweeted. "I am running for president of the United States!"

His wife Kim Kardashian West and entrepreneur Elon Musk endorsed him. But it's unclear whether West is really running.

He does not appear to have registered his name with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) for November's election. The closest name the FEC database shows is a candidate called "Kanye Deez Nutz West", who filed their papers with the Green Party in 2015 under the address "1977 Golddigger Avenue, Suite Yeezus" and appears to have raised no money.

It is also not the first time West has claimed that he is running for the White House.



Kanye West and Kim Kardashian West are among the world's wealthiest celebrities. Photo - reuters.com

At the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards, he said he had decided to run for president in 2020. But last November he pushed the date back, saying he would actually run in the 2024 contest.

"What are you laughing at?" he asked the crowd at

Fast Company's Innovation Festival.

"We would have created so many jobs that I'm not gonna run, I'm gonna walk," he said, adding he was considering changing his name for the run to "Christian Genius Billionaire Kanye West".

In his tweet on Saturday, US Independence Day, West, 43, did not say if his supposed run would be affiliated with a particular political party.

In any case, contesting the nomination of one major parties would be impossible at this stage, with the election only four months away.

In order to appear on the ballot as an independent candidate, West would have to gather a certain amount of signatures and register in states by a particular deadline. The deadline has already passed in some major states but the music star would still technically have time to file in many others.

* More on Page 7

Space Policy, Space Activities Bill in final stages, says ISRO Chairman

The space policy and the Space Activities Bill are in the final stages, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K Sivan said, days after the government opened up the space sector for private players, reports NDTV.

A dedicated policy for space and legislation on space activities has been in planning for some time now. But with the government allowing the private sector, these have now got traction.

When asked whether the government is coming up with a space law, Mr Sivan, who is also secretary, Department of Space, said: "Yes, we definitely have to do that also."

"There are two aspects. One is space policy and (the other) Space Activities Bill... both are in final stages," Mr Sivan said.



Space Policy, Space Activities. Photo - www.devdiscourse.com

Last month, the Indian government announced a major reform in India's space arena by allowing the private

sector to carry out space activities like building rockets, satellites and providing launch services.

The ISRO chairman said very soon a system will be put in place for approval that will enable these activities to happen without any hindrance.

The space policy and the Space Activities Bill will help address legal issues in this strategic sector.

Last month, during an online briefing, Mr Sivan had said a new Navigation Policy is also being proposed and suitable changes in Remote Sensing Data Policy as well as SATCOM policy are also on the anvil.

These changes are aimed at aligning these policies to an open and inclusive space sector, Mr Sivan had said.



People protest against China in Hong Kong. Photo - reuters.com

Democracy activists' books unavailable in Hong Kong libraries after new law

Books by prominent Hong Kong pro-democracy figures have become unavailable in the Chinese-ruled city's public libraries as they are being reviewed to see whether they violate a new national security law, a government department said on Sunday.

The sweeping legislation, which came into force on Tuesday night at the same time its contents were published, punishes crimes related to secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces, with punishments of up to life in prison, reports Reuters.

Hong Kong public libraries "will review whether certain books violate the stipulations of the National Security Law," the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, which runs the libraries, said in a statement.

"While legal advice will be sought in the process of the review, the books will not be available for borrowing and reference in libraries."

A search for books by young activist Joshua Wong or pro-democ-

racy politician Tanya Chan on the public libraries website showed the books, including "Unfree Speech," co-authored by Wong, either unavailable or under review.

"The national security law ... imposes a mainland-style censorship regime upon this international financial city," Wong tweeted on Saturday, adding his titles "are now prone to book censorship."

The national-security legislation has been criticised by pro-democracy activists, lawyers and foreign governments who fear it would be used to stifle dissent and undermine freedoms the former British colony was promised when it returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Local and Beijing officials have repeatedly said the legislation would not curb freedom of speech or the media, nor any other rights in the city. The new law, they said, only targets a few "troublemakers."

It is unclear how many books are under review. Two titles by Chinese Nobel Peace Prize-winning political dissident Liu Xiaobo were still available, according to the online search.

Singapore's TraceTogether Tokens - The latest effort to tackle Covid-19 with tech

The wearable devices complement the island's existing contact-tracing app, to identify people who might have been infected by those who have tested positive for the virus.

All users have to do is carry one, and the battery lasts up to nine months without needing a recharge - something one expert said had "stunned" him.

The government agency which developed the devices acknowledges that the Tokens - and technology in general - aren't "a silver bullet", but should augment human contact-tracers' efforts, reports BBC.

The first to receive the devices are thousands of vulnerable elderly people who don't own smartphones.

To do so, they had to provide their national ID and phone numbers - TraceTogether app users recently had to start doing likewise.

If dongle users test positive for the disease, they have to hand their device to the Ministry of Health because - unlike the app - they cannot transmit data over the internet.

Human contact-tracers will then use the logs to identify and advise others who might have been infected.

"It's very boring in what it does, which is why I think it's a good design," says hardware developer Sean Cross. He was one of four experts invited to inspect one of the devices before they launched.

App aid

Singapore was the first country to deploy a national coronavirus-tracing app.

The local authorities say 2.1 million people have downloaded the software, representing about 35% of the population.

It is voluntary for everyone except migrant workers living in dorms, who account for the majority of Singapore's 44,000-plus infections.

The government says the app helped it quarantine some people more quickly than would have otherwise been possible.

But by its own admission, the tech doesn't



Why Singapore turned to wearable. Photo - bbc.com

work as well as had been hoped.

On iPhones, the app has to be running in the foreground for Bluetooth "handshakes" to occur, which means users can't use their handsets for anything else. It's also a huge drain on the battery. Android devices don't face the same problem.

Automated contact-tracing can in theory be hugely effective, but only if a large percentage of a population is involved.

So, owners of Apple's devices are likely to be among others asked to use the dongles in the near future.

Privacy concerns

When the Token was first announced in early June, there was a public backlash against the government - something that is a relatively rare occurrence in Singapore.

Wilson Low started an online petition calling for it to be ditched. Almost 54,000 people have signed.

"All that is stopping the Singapore government from becoming a surveillance state is the advent and mandating the compulsory usage of such a wearable device," the petition stated.

"What comes next would be laws that state these devices must not be turned off [and must] remain on a person at all times - thus sealing our fate as a police state."

Ministers point out the devices don't log GPS location data or connect to mobile networks, so can't be used for surveillance of a person's movements.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Coronavirus responses highlight how humans are hardwired to dismiss facts that don't fit their worldview

● Cont. from page 2

But things don't work that way when scientific advice presents a picture that threatens someone's perceived interests or ideological worldview. In practice, it turns out that one's political, religious or ethnic identity quite effectively predicts one's willingness to accept expertise on any given politicized issue.

"Motivated reasoning" is what social scientists call the process of deciding what evidence to accept based on the conclusion one prefers. As I explain in my book, "The Truth About Denial," this very human tendency applies to all kinds of facts about the physical world, economic history and current events.

Denial doesn't stem from ignorance

The interdisciplinary study of this phenomenon has made one thing clear: The failure of various groups to acknowledge the truth about, say, climate change, is not explained by a lack of information about the scientific consensus on the subject.

Instead, what strongly predicts denial of expertise on many controversial topics is simply one's political persuasion.

A 2015 metastudy showed that ideological polarization over the reality of climate change actually increases with respondents' knowledge of politics, science and/or energy policy. The chances that a conservative is a climate science denier is significantly higher if he or she is college educated. Conservatives scoring highest on tests for cognitive sophistication or quantitative reasoning skills are most susceptible to motivated reasoning about climate science.

Denialism is not just a problem for conservatives. Studies have found liberals are less likely to accept a hypothetical expert consensus on the possibility of safe storage of nuclear waste, or on the effects of



China mocks US handling of coronavirus pandemic with scathing Lego cartoon.
Photo - cf-images.eu-west-1.prod.boltdns.net

concealed-carry gun laws.

Denial is natural

The human talent for rationalization is a product of many hundreds of thousands of years of adaptation. Our ancestors evolved in small groups, where cooperation and persuasion had at least as much to do with reproductive success as holding accurate factual beliefs about the world. Assimilation into one's tribe required assimilation into the group's ideological belief system – regardless of whether it was grounded in science or superstition. An instinctive bias in favor of one's "in-group" and its worldview is deeply ingrained in human psychology.

A human being's very sense of self is intimately tied up with his or her identity group's status and beliefs. Unsurprisingly, then, people respond automatically and defensively to information that threatens the worldview of groups with which they identify. We respond with rationalization and selective assessment of evidence – that is, we engage in "confirmation bias," giving credit to expert testimony we like while finding reasons to reject the rest.

Unwelcome information can also threaten in other ways. "System justifica-

tion" theorists like psychologist John Jost have shown how situations that represent a perceived threat to established systems trigger inflexible thinking. For example, populations experiencing economic distress or an external threat have often turned to authoritarian leaders who promise security and stability.

In ideologically charged situations, one's prejudices end up affecting one's factual beliefs. Insofar as you define yourself in terms of your cultural affiliations, your attachment to the social or economic status quo, or a combination, information that threatens your belief system – say, about the negative effects of industrial production on the environment – can threaten your sense of identity itself. If trusted political leaders or partisan media are telling you that the COVID-19 crisis is overblown, factual information about a scientific consensus to the contrary can feel like a personal attack.

Denial is everywhere

This kind of affect-laden, motivated thinking explains a wide range of examples of an extreme, evidence-resistant rejection of historical fact and scientific consensus.

Have tax cuts been shown to pay for themselves in terms of economic growth? Do communities with high numbers of immigrants have higher rates of violent crime? Did Russia interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election? Predictably, expert opinion regarding such matters is treated by partisan media as though evidence is itself inherently partisan.

Denialist phenomena are many and varied, but the story behind them is, ultimately, quite simple. Human cognition is inseparable from the unconscious emotional responses that go with it. Under the right conditions, universal human traits like in-group favoritism, existential anxiety and a desire for stability and control combine into a toxic, system-justifying identity politics.

Science denial is notoriously resistant to facts because it isn't about facts in the first place. Science denial is an expression of identity – usually in the face of perceived threats to the social and economic status quo – and it typically manifests in response to elite messaging.

I'd be very surprised if Anthony Fauci is, in fact, actually unaware of the significant impact of politics on Covid-19 attitudes, or of what signals are being sent by Republican state government officials' statements, partisan mask refusal in Congress, or the recent Trump rally in Tulsa. Effective science communication is critically important because of the profound effects partisan messaging can have on public attitudes. Vaccination, resource depletion, climate and Covid-19 are life-and-death matters. To successfully tackle them, we must not ignore what the science tells us about science denial.

Adrian Bardon
Wake Forest University

St Louis 2: The Pandora's Box

* Cont. from page 4

The contractor is specifically warned that involvement in corrupt practices and bribery are not tolerated and severe financial penalties and legal actions are to be applied for such malpractices. Therefore, upon receipt of the letter from BWSC in February 2019, there was an obligation on the CEB to issue a Notice of its intention to apply the relevant clauses with respect to corrupt practices irrespective of whether the inquiries had been concluded or not. CEB needs to explain why this was not done – which means that BWSC has been allowed to get away scot-free.

Second, there are three parties to the contract, namely The Client (CEB/Government of Mauritius), the Contractor (BWSC) and the Financing Agency (ADB).

BWSC has been paid its money in full. ADB will be reimbursed for its loan. The aggrieved party, the CEB, is at the receiving end of a criminal act by BWSC.

What is behind the move by the African Development Bank and Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor negotiating and entering into an agreement behind the back of the aggrieved party, namely the CEB? What have the CEB/Government of Mauritius been left out of and

what has been done about that?

It is clear the actions of the ADB and BWSC have led to a situation where the scope of a criminal inquiry is limited to "employees" of BWSC and lesser mortals of the aggrieved party.

It is also clear that if there is a will to get to the bottom of this corrupt act, the inquiry must start from where the bribe money originated up to where it landed.

Does ICAC have the capacity and know-how to do that?

K. Murali



Niyam Bhushan

Letter from New Delhi

Five good things that happened in 2020 so far

Had typed this on a FB friend's timeline where her daughter wanted to know if there were 5 things that were good that had happened in 2020.

Children get quite upset with the amplified barrage of bad news from mass media. Yet good news makes no headlines. So here goes:

- Humans went into space in a private spaceship, signalling a new era of space-travel with a planned landing on the moon, which will later be followed by a trip to Mars. Exciting times to be alive.
- Tiny forests are springing up around Europe, inspired by Japan to help restore biodiversity. About time.
- The longest continuous race of humans discovered among Australia's aboriginals. Spanning 75,000 unbroken years. You can imagine all the pandemics, natural calamities, wars, locusts, earthquakes, erupting volcanoes that must have happened. And yet humans survived and thrived. The Design of Life is based on resilience. So don't worry about this pandemic too much.
- A cure for almost all cancers may have just been discovered. Accidentally. By a group of scientists at Cardiff University. They published a paper.
- Hundreds of elephants freed from chains after 85 years in Thailand.

I spend an hour a day searching not just for good news, but news that shows people working quietly in the background, solving real world challenges, making new discoveries, inventing new things, pushing our world forward. It's about time we stopped feeding OUR energy and attention to mainstream media.

They only want to peddle negative news to us so they can get our eyeballs and sell their advertisers' wares to us. The world will continue to be here. That is its Design.

I hope this brings some good cheer to you and your children. If so, please request them to consider compiling their own list of 5 pieces of good news they actively search for and discover, say over 5 days, and share here with all of us please. We could all do with a network of good people, searching for good news, and sharing



HAL for Medical Use (Lower Limb Type) is the world's first robotic treatment device that allows a patient to walk in a supported environment using their own internal signals to help improve walking upon the completion of the HAL treatment program
Photo - brooksrehab.org

among us.

Please add your energy to this. Maybe you could compile your own list of 5 good things that happened in 2020 so far, and share on your timeline. And encourage your friends to do the same. After all, your gift to the world is your ability to transform the gestalt of people.

Over to you!

* * *

Response from Bernda - Nairobi, Kenya:

Your message of this morning on 5 good things was circulated to our team in the office. One of our team members has come with following good points of 2020. Read on:

- **Last Ebola patient is discharged in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

The end of the Ebola outbreak may be in sight as the last victim from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR

Congo) was discharged last March 3, 2020. Hospital staff sang, danced, and drummed against cans to celebrate the beginning of Africa's recovery from the 19-month-old outbreak.

A vaccine for Ebola, called Ervebo, had also approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last December 19, 2019. The Ebola virus has an average fatality rate of about 50%, which is significantly higher than that of the novel coronavirus.

- **Cures and vaccines against Covid-19 are underway**

While the political and social climate regarding the novel coronavirus (CoVID-19) remains relatively unstable, we must remind you that breakthroughs are occurring every day. For example, Fabian Dayrit, a Filipino scientist from the Ateneo de Manila University, and Dr Mary Newport, from Spring Hill Neonatology have recently submitted their proposal to test virgin coconut oil derivatives as a cure for Covid-19. Their hypothesis will be tested in laboratories in Singapore.

- **A few wins for our animal friends**

African black rhino populations have increased and there is evidence for a comeback of the giant blue whale. Meanwhile, the first cheetah cubs born from a surrogate via in vitro fertilisation were finally brought into the world last February 19, 2020. This marks an exciting passage in conservation efforts worldwide for all kinds of animal species. With a growing global interest in sustainability and development, these breakthrough wins for the animal kingdom are just a few of the reasons we can be more optimistic for the future.

- **New technologies are available to help paralysed patients**

A new system called the Hybrid Assistive Limb (HAL) has recently been tested in Brooks Cybernetic Treatment Center in Jacksonville, Florida. Created by Japanese roboticist, Yoshiyuki Sankai, HAL utilises actual brainwaves to create movements on cyborg-like exoskeleton. Inspired by Japan's aging population, HAL aims to help make life easier for the elderly (of which there will be 2 billion by the year 2050) and for the sick.

- **People are supporting each other through art**

As the world faces stringent lockdown or quarantine measures to control the spread of the novel coronavirus, a common theme has been emerging within the art world: a shared love. Plenty of organisations big and small have devoted their time to share art online for those under lockdown. Museums have made virtual galleries readily available and easily accessible, Broadway plays, opera performances, e-books, home concerts — everyone has been doing their part to help make these trying times a little easier.

Niyam Bhushan is a multipreneur and multi-disciplinary creative professional with over 33 years of vast and diverse experience in Design and Design-Thinking. He is the founder of DesignRev.in and he is driven by the vision and passion to transform India into the Superpower of Design in the world. He has helped and mentored over 200 startups, and worked with top global, international, and prestigious clients and enterprises.



The Cobra Effect

The Cobra Effect is a term used in economics. It refers to a situation when an attempted solution to a problem makes the problem worse.

This name was coined based on an incident in old colonial India.

By some reasons, there were too many venomous cobra snakes in Delhi. People were dying due to snake-bites and it became scary for almost everyone to step out of their houses.

The government of the day had to get into action to stop this menace and it offered a silver coin for every dead cobra. The results were great; a large number of snakes were killed for the reward.

Eventually, however, it led to some serious unwanted consequences. After a short-term dip in cobra population, it started going up.

This was because few people began to breed cobras for the income. When the news reached the government, the reward program was scrapped, causing the cobra breeders to set the now-worthless snakes free. As a result, the cobra population further increased. The solution for the problem made the situation even worse.

The unintended consequence for a well-intentioned idea led to making the problem worse.

Trying a new solution or planning to tackle an existing problem with a new idea?

Well, it's time to pause and think about how people would respond to the new idea that may sound great on paper!

Especially the solutions that try to affect how people behave.

Every solution has consequences and those consequences may lead to certain situations where rather than solving a current problem, you may end up with more complex problems.

As they say the road to hell is paved with good intentions; similar mistakes are happening around us every day when decision-makers fail to take a 360-degree view of all the possible outcomes of an action before implementation.

Nearly two years ago, the city of Philadelphia in the USA passed a "soda tax" -- a US \$1 tax on a typical 2-litre bottle of softdrink -- as a "sin tax" in the national war on obesity. But the natives didn't cut calories as a result of the tax on sweetened drinks, nor was there a shift towards any healthier option. Instead, most of them just drove outside the city to buy the same colas from stores where they didn't have to pay the tax. But the poorest paid more as they could not find it affordable to drive out of the city to buy their drinks. In the end, the city suffered loss of revenue due to lower sales whereas the lower section of society paid more.

What's in it for you?

Next time if you or your team has some brilliant idea, get your brilliant guys together in a room and think about the Cobra effect before implementing that idea.

You can always finetune the idea to minimize the negative implications by

spending a few extra hours/days before rushing to announce it.

Don't implement while you're under

the awe of the brilliance of a never-tested, nice-looking solution or idea, think about the Cobra effects first.

Apple turning sour!



Apple admits it slowed some older iPhones. Photo - gdb.voanews.com

In 2017 Apple admitted that it was slowing down the speed of old iPhones as the batteries of those old phones were degrading with the passage of time. To make up on loss of brand image and to satisfy its erstwhile customers, it offered to cut its US \$79 battery replacement fee down to US \$29 as a way of apologizing.

This lower fee led to more people in 2018 swapping their batteries - instead of upgrading to the latest iPhone models thus affecting new iPhone sales. As iPhone batteries became cheaper and easier to replace, fewer people are shelling out for new iPhones that can now cost up to US \$1,449.

Later Apple revealed that it was expecting a \$9 billion loss in revenue

due to weak iPhone demand that's partly caused by more people replacing their batteries, according to a letter issued by CEO Tim Cook addressed to investors.

Slowing down of iPhones sales can be attributed to many external reasons too (better Chinese phones, better Apps on Android phones, etc), but the strategy of battery-replacement was an internal idea. It would have been handled better if people at the top would have thought more about it, if they had examined the problem from the Cobra Effect perspective.

Nilesh S. Vikamsey is a Indian Chartered Accountant and a past president of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)

The Nano Car - a small car that could never it make it big!



Tata Nano launched in Mumbai. Photo - static01.nyt.com

It is not that mistakes happen only with government-run programs, there're n numbers of examples in great private companies too where the best and brilliant people lose sight of certain negative outcomes due to the initial magic of seemingly great looking ideas.

The car once touted as the world's cheapest, Tata Nano, seems to be running into a dead end as sales and production is

down to a trickle. The poor demand has resulted in Tata Motors shutting down the plant.

A car considered as a brilliant product, launched in a segment having a billion-dollar opportunity. Hope ran high; the company expected all present and potential two-wheeler owners would shift to Nano.

But they forgot to dwell deeper - a car marketed as 'the cheapest car', created huge initial interest. But it never took off. Later on, Ratan Tata admitted that the reason for the failure of this idea was none other than the term which became synonymous with Nano - "The cheapest car".

Buying a car in India is associated with social status and prestige; if a person owns a car, he is assumed to be successful and settled. But the word 'cheap' in its marketing campaigns spoiled everything.

The company also failed to dwell upon the competition from used-cars. Used cars (second-hand cars) from other companies, which were much better in quality, space and mileage were available to the same customer segment at the same or lesser price than Nano.

An intelligent team of people failed to think about the above likely outcomes because it became temporarily blind by the brilliance of such a great idea, by the idea of tapping a billion-dollar opportunity.

Work Smarter

Break up your day with chores when working from home

When you're working from home, you may find yourself feeling distracted by your looming personal responsibilities. You don't have to push aside nagging thoughts such as, "I really should put in a load of laundry," or, "Isn't it time to walk the dog?" - you can use these impulses to your advantage. Physical chores may provide welcome relief after hours of video conferences and thought work, and you can build them into your schedule.

For example, if you're having trouble starting a slide deck, decide ahead of time that you'll walk the dog as soon as you get the first three slides done. Weaving these responsibilities into your workday can help you feel more productive both personally and professionally, leaving you feeling more refreshed and energized for the days ahead.

This tip is adapted from "Is It Even Possible to Focus on Anything Right Now?," by Maura Thomas

Harvard Business Review's Management Tip

In a light vein

Wife versus Husband



Wife: Honey can you please help me clean the garden?
Husband: Do I look like a gardener?
Wife: Sorry, Honey, ok then fix bathroom door.
Husband: Do I look like a carpenter?
Then the husband walks out. After coming back, he found the garden clean and the door fixed.
Husband: I knew my wife will do all this by herself.
Wife: It's not me.
Husband: Who then?
Wife: John, our neighbour.
Husband: How much did you pay him?
Wife: No money, he just gave me two options: bread or sex.
Husband: I hope you gave him bread.
Wife: Do I look like a baker?
Husband Fainted

* * *

Intelligent Husband

Wife was busy unpacking her clothes.
Husband: Where are you going?
Wife: I'm moving to my mother.
Husband also starts packing his clothes.
Wife: Now, where are you going?
Husband: I'm also moving to my mother.
Wife: And what about the kids?
Husband: Well I guess... If you are moving to your mother and I'm moving to my mother, they should move to their mother.
Clothes unpacked.
* * *
Wife: "Why are you home so early?"
Hubby: "My boss said - 'Go to hell!'"
* * *

Doctor: How is your headache?
Patient: She's out of town.
* * *

No man can ever be satisfied with 4 things in life:
(1) Mobile
(2) Automobile
(3) TV
(4) Wife
Because, there is always a better model in the neighbourhood.
* * *

Funny quote on a husband's T-Shirt:
All girls are devils, but my wife is the queen of them.
* * *
Q: Why can't women drive well?
Ans: Because there are so many mirrors in a car to distract them.
* * *
Q: If a woman is quiet, which day is it?
Ans: Who cares, just enjoy that day...
* * *

The woman who invented the phrase...
"All men are the same" was a Chinese woman who lost her husband in a crowd.
* * *
There are three kinds of men in this world:
Some remain single and make wonders happen.
Some have girlfriends and see wonders happen.
Rest get married and wonder what happened...
* * *

Wives are magicians...
They can change anything into an argument.
* * *
Women live a better, longer & peaceful life, as compared to men.
Why?
A very **intelligent** man replied:
Women don't have a wife!
* * *

Rape, romance and marriage

Son asking father... "What is the difference between rape, romance and marriage?"
Father replies, "Clothes my son, clothes. It's all about clothes."
Totally puzzled, son asks, "What?"
Father: "In rape, you tear the clothes. In romance, you remove the clothes. In marriage you wash the clothes!"

Guru Purnima stories

"Overcoming Anger"

The story of Surdas and the Sweeper

Surdas was a poet in the 16th century. Legend says that, in his early days, he approached a Guru for spiritual knowledge. The Guru was aware of Surdas' angry disposition and knew that this tendency would prevent him from feeling close to God. The Guru decided to prepare him. He asked him to chant God's name during all his activities for a month and vow not to get angry during this time.
After a month, while walking to his Guru's ashram, a sweeper mistakenly swept dirt over his clothes. A furious Surdas shouted at the sweeper. The Guru had observed the scene. He asked Surdas to go back and again observe the practice.
Surdas went back to chanting along with his daily activities. When that month was over and Surdas was returning to the hermitage eagerly, a similar incident happened. This time, the sweeper acci-

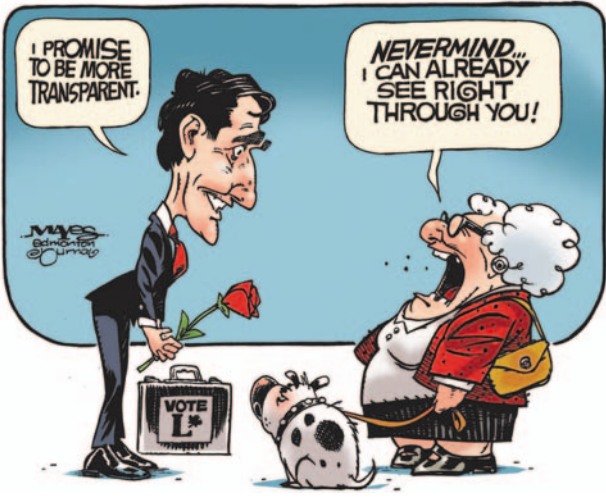
dently brushed his dirty broom against Surdas. Again, Surdas became furious at the sweeper and the Guru sent him back and asked him to chant God's name for another month.
At the end of the third month, when Surdas was on his way to visit the Guru, something unusual happened. The sweeper saw Surdas approaching and remembered the way Surdas had berated him. He noticed that Surdas was once again wearing new, clean clothes. This time, before Surdas could do or say anything, the furious sweeper intentionally poured the dirt from his garbage can on Surdas.
However this time, Surdas joined his hands and said, "I thank you. You are my master. You taught me how to overcome anger."
Source: Art of Living

Life's Lessons

When the Lord is busy mixing several things

A visiting pastor attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area. The group asked one of the older farmers to say grace before the meal.
"Lord, I hate buttermilk . . ." the farmer began.
The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.
Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, "and Lord, I hate lard..."
Now the pastor WAS growing concerned.
Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for white flour."
The pastor glanced around the room

and saw that he wasn't the only one feeling uncomfortable.
Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm biscuits! So Lord, when things come up that I don't like, when life gets hard, when I don't understand what you're saying, please help me to just relax and wait until you're done mixing. It's always even better than biscuits! Amen"
There's some wisdom in that for all of us when it comes to situations like we're experiencing in the world today.
Stay strong my friends, because the Lord seems to be mixing several things that we truly don't care for. Let's trust that something better is going to come when He's finished with it.



Sleep disorders

Ways to wreck your sleep



Drink coffee after dinner

It's the caffeine. It was perfect with that apple pie. But at 3 a.m. when you're still awake? Not so much. Caffeine lurks in lots of places like tea, chocolate, soda, and energy drinks.

Drink Alcohol

A "nightcap" is the perfect way to end the evening, right? Wrong. Alcohol messes with deep sleep, which is important for restfulness, memory, and other things your brain does. It can make you drowsy enough to fall asleep, but it often wakes you up just a few hours later.

Surf the Web

Artificial light at night can be bad for sleep. But the "blue light" on smartphones and computers is particularly bad -- televisions, too. Shut down bright screens 2 to 3 hours before bedtime to get your body ready for snoozing.

Take a nap

It's a great way to catch up on a little shut-eye. But if you take one after 3 p.m., it might affect you later on. So, no naps and no coffee. A splash of cold water on your face or a brisk walk can get you moving again.

Turn up the heat

You've probably noticed it's harder to fall asleep when it's hot. But did you know it can hurt your sleep quality, too? High humidity can make it even worse. Like so many other good things in life, if you want to get good rest, you got to stay cool.

Eat close to bedtime

A little bit is probably fine. But a big meal or snack can supercharge your metabolism and speed up your brain, which could lead to indigestion and even nightmares. But it doesn't affect everyone the same way. If you're a midnight snacker, keep a diary of what happens when you eat late to see if it bothers you.

Take certain medications

If you're supposed to take meds before bed, you should. But some prescription drugs can keep you from getting quality sleep, and some over-the-

counter medications are loaded with stimulants. Check with your doctor about what you're taking and when before you change or stop any medication.

Skip exercise

Exercise is usually good for your sleep. It can boost your mood, lessen anxiety, and wind you down at bedtime. It also helps set a regular pattern of going to sleep and waking up around the same time each day (circadian rhythm).

Exercise around bedtime

Though exercise is good for your sleep, exercising too close to bedtime can ruin it. It doesn't happen to everyone, but if that sounds like you, try to finish up your workout at least 3 hours before you go to bed.

Ignore mental health issues

You're more likely to have sleep problems if you have untreated mental health issues. It might be a condition like anxiety, depression, or bipolar disorder. Or it could be a difficult period in your life, like losing your job or partner. Whatever the cause, talk therapy, medication, or both might help. Ask your doctor what's best for you.

Worry

Did I take the trash out? Did I feed the dog? Is it my turn to do carpool tomorrow? Thinking about these things can keep you up at night. Writing a to-do list before you lie down might help. It can ease your mind and make it easier to fall asleep. Keeping a pen and notepad next to your bed can be helpful if you think of something in the middle of the night.

Argue after dinner

Difficult or angry discussions late at night can trigger hormones that keep you up. Save tough talks for daylight hours, and try a soothing evening routine. Read a book or listen to calming music. A hot bath or shower or some light stretching exercises might also help you wind down.

Drink too much water

You want to drink enough to stay hydrated, but not so much that it interrupts your sleep with repeated bathroom breaks. That's why it's best to spread the amount of water you drink over the course of the day. Don't try to guzzle it all down before bed.

Sleep in

It may seem like a good way to catch up on rest, but it doesn't do much to make up for lost sleep. It can mess with your normal cycle of going to bed and waking up. Keep regular hours, and you'll probably snooze better and longer.

WebMD

Inspiration

The Will of Amrita Pritam

Translated from the original Hindi version
'Amrita Pritam ka Vasiyat'

Fully conscious and in
good health
I am writing today my will...

After my death
Ransack my room
Search each item
That is scattered
Unlocked
Everywhere in my house

Donate my dreams
To all those women
Who between the confines of
The kitchen and the bedroom
Have lost their world
Have forgotten years ago
What it is to dream

Scatter my laughter
Among the inmates of old-age
homes
Whose children
Are lost
To the glittering cities of America

There are some colours
Lying on my table
With them dye the sari of the girl
Whose border is edged
With the blood of her man
Who wrapped in the tricolor
Was laid to rest last evening

Give my tears

To all the poets
Every drop
Will birth a poem
I promise

My honour and my reputation
Are for the woman
Who prostitutes her body
So her daughter can get an
education

Make sure you catch the youth
Of the country, everyone
And inject them
With my indignation
They will need it
Come the revolution

My ecstasy
Belongs to
That Sufi
Who
Abandoning everything
Has set off in search of God

Finally
What's left
My envy
My greed
My anger
My lies
My selfishness
These
simply
Cremate with me

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Mulan to now release on August 21 - Tenet August 12

Disney's Mulan, which was initially planned to open in March, had been slated for July

Hollywood's hopes for salvaging its summer season have effectively ended after the releases of both Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* and the Walt Disney Co.'s live-action reboot of *Mulan* were again delayed.

With reported cases of the coronavirus surging in parts of the U.S., Disney on Friday followed Warner Bros. in pushing *Mulan* to late August. The film, initially planned to open in March, had been slated for July 24. It's now moving to Aug. 21.

"While the pandemic has changed our release plans for *Mulan* and we will continue to be flexible as conditions require, it has not changed our belief in the power of this film and its message of hope and perseverance," said Disney co-chairmen Alan Horn and Alan Bergman in a joint statement.

Late Thursday, Warner Bros. also postponed *Tenet*, starring John David Washington and Robert Pattinson, from July 31 to Aug. 12. The studio stressed the need for flexibility.

"We are choosing to open the movie mid-week to allow audiences to discover the film in their own time, and we plan to play longer, over an extended play period far beyond the



norm, to develop a very different yet successful release strategy," a Warner Bros. spokesperson said in a statement.

Movie theater chains had planned the widespread reopening of cinemas partially around the return of new releases like *Tenet* and Disney's *Mulan*. AMC Theaters, Regal Cinemas and Cinemark — the three largest circuits in North America — had all set a timetable for nationwide reopening in early to mid-July with the aim of first playing catalog movies (including Nolan's own *Inception*) and a smattering of smaller films as a lead-in to summer tentpoles.

But with COVID-19 cases surging in Texas, Arizona, Florida and elsewhere, those plans became uncertain. Rising cases in California forced Disney earlier this week to delay next month's planned reopening of Disneyland in Anaheim. On Wednesday, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo also said

New York would delay reopening cinemas while it continued to research the safety of indoor, air-conditioned venues.

United Artists Releasing's Bill & Ted Face the Music also pushed back from Aug. 14 to Aug. 28.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, the John David Washington-starrer was scheduled to open in theaters on July 17, but was later pushed to July 31, given the current circumstances. This is the second delay in the film's release.

The release of Christopher Nolan's *Tenet* has been pushed again, and as per the new announcement by Warner Bros, the film will now release in theaters on August 12.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, the John David Washington-starrer was scheduled to open in theaters on July 17, but was later pushed to July 31, given the current circumstances. This is the second delay in the film's release.

Warner Bros said in a statement, "Warner Bros is committed to bringing 'Tenet' to audiences in theaters, on the big screen, when exhibitors are ready and public health officials say it's time."

The Christopher Nolan film has already got fans discussing the plot, even though there isn't much that has been revealed in the trailers. In a recent conversation with Entertainment Weekly, Nolan said, "This film is not a time-travel film. It deals with time and the different ways in which time can function. Not to get into a



physics lesson, but inversion is this idea of material that has had its entropy inverted, so it's running backwards through time, relative to us."

Actor Kenneth Branagh, who plays a significant role in *Tenet*, told Collider, "Nolan seems to be able to manipulate time. Not only does he obsess about doing it in the stories of his movies, in the making of them he seems to stop time to address difficult things."

The film also stars veteran Bollywood actor Dimple Kapadia. Branagh spoke about her role in the film to PTI and said, "She's got a really smashing part in *Tenet*. I know that our master director, Mr Nolan, was thrilled with her and our leading man, John David Washington was completely in love with her by the time they finished working together."

Tenet also stars Robert Pattinson, Elizabeth Debicki, Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Michael Caine among others.



Mallika Sherawat is happy 'to be alive'

No, nothing has happened to Mallika Sherawat. The actress is simply in a happy space, feeling positive and grateful which she seems to validate with a picture that she posted of herself on Instagram. Looking stunning and sexy in an off-shoulder gown, the actress wrote: "Let's begin the week on a positive note, let's make gratitude a way of life. Waking up each morning excited to be alive."

Mallika has been enjoying a quiet time during the lockdown, which is evident from the posts of her time with her baby nephew, the books she has been catching up on, her yoga workouts and glamorous throwbacks. All this while her whereabouts during the lockdown was not clear. However, the relaxation of lockdown rules in Mumbai gave us the answer.

Mallika was spotted at Bandra Bandstand, where she was spotted jogging and interacting with her fans without a mask. She was also spotted taking a walk on the Marine Drive promenade, this time with a mask. She also stopped to thank the Mumbai police, "for working so hard to keep us all safe".



Beyhadh 2's Jennifer Winget ends her social media detox

After almost a month of social media detox, actress Jennifer Winget has made a comeback on Instagram with a gleaming picture.

"Coming up for air on popular demand. Not MIA but RIA (Resting In Action)...and lot's of it. A li'l Social media detox didn't hurt anybody! No?," Jennifer wrote on Instagram announcing her comeback, reports IANS.

She also shared a picture wherein she flashes her smile as she poses for the camera. She keeps her tresses open, and flaunts her glowing skin sans make-up. She is seen

wearing a plain blue T-shirt.

Back in May, Jennifer garnered nine million followers on Instagram. She has lately impressed fans with her performance as Maya Mehrotra in "Beyhadh 2". In fact, her role of Maya, across two seasons since 2016, was been a major reason of her soaring popularity.

Her other popular performances on the small screen are Kumud Desai in "Saraswatichandra" and Zoya Siddiqui in "Bepannah".



Sriti Jha shoots for 'Kumkum Bhagya' promo from home

Actress Sriti Jha shot a promo for her show 'Kumkum Bhagya' at home by herself, and says she looks forward to the time when the unit can shoot together again, reports IANS.

For the shoot, Sriti did her own make up, hair, lighting, and recorded it on her mobile phone.

"To be honest, I am missing everyone from my 'Kumkum Bhagya' family. In fact, while getting ready for this home shoot, I felt that this was the first time I have dressed up as Pragya without Gaurav dada and Shabana didi, who are my makeup artiste and hairstylist respectively," Sriti said.

"I miss them as well as the extended family on my set including Shabbir, Mugdha, Krishna and many others. I am eagerly waiting to start shooting again and I hope it is safe enough to get back to the set and shoot together once again," she added.

Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya: We all are going to get infected with Covid-19, eventually

The actor says that till the vaccine is out, everyone has to be very careful about their health while stepping out

Even as India is slowly opening up and several relaxations have been given in Unlock 1.0, there has been a constant rise in the number of Covid-19 cases. Admitting that there exists a sense of panic, TV actor Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya says, "We all are going to get infected eventually." And hence, till the vaccine is out, the actor warns everyone to be very careful, reports Hindustan Times.

"The moment the lockdown is lifted completely, people are going to come out and I feel that there will be an explosion of corona, the number of cases will just increase in leaps and bounds. Only our immunity will have to build up accordingly. So, we have to keep making people aware of the dos and don'ts," she asserts.

And this is where celebrities come in the picture, feels Divyanka, adding that it's the prime responsibility of people with stature to use their position in disseminating the right information and spreading awareness.

She elaborates, "When we speak about any issue, people do take it seriously - be it fashion trends or charity. People follow in our footsteps, so we should be careful about what we say and do. I've seen a change whenever I've tried to send out a positive message. We all should feel responsible and keep on spreading the right information.



Divyanka, who has been spending time with her husband Vivek Dahiya during this lockdown, says she hopes to see a positive change in people once this crisis is over, and she especially wants people to keep following good hygiene.

"Before this, there was no concept of social distancing; cleanliness was in the least of priorities for people. In our country, people spit everywhere and there's no concept of queuing. Hopefully, now people will be mindful of all these things and remember they can contract any kind of communicable diseases because of the irresponsible behaviour," she concludes.



ICCR

INDIRA GANDHI CENTRE FOR INDIAN CULTURE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA

Phoenix TENDER NOTICE

Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC), High Commission of India, invites tenders from eligible bidders for hiring of IGCIC canteen located at IGCIC premises, Swami Sivananda Avenue, Phoenix on monthly basis. The bidder should have the technical capacity, resources and experience in the catering field.

The companies fulfilling the above conditions may send their representatives to obtain the copy of tender documents and to inspect the canteen anytime during office hours between 0900 to 1700 hrs (Tel: 6867661 or 52503970 for appointment). Tenders in prescribed forms, alongwith earnest money deposit of MUR 15,000/- (fifteen thousand only) super scribing "tender for the hiring of IGCIC canteen" in sealed envelope should be submitted not later than 1700 on **24 July, 2020** to the Director, Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, High Commission of India, Swami Sivananda Avenue, Phoenix.

CINE 12

Mardi juillet - 21.15

Sos Fantômes

Avec: Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon

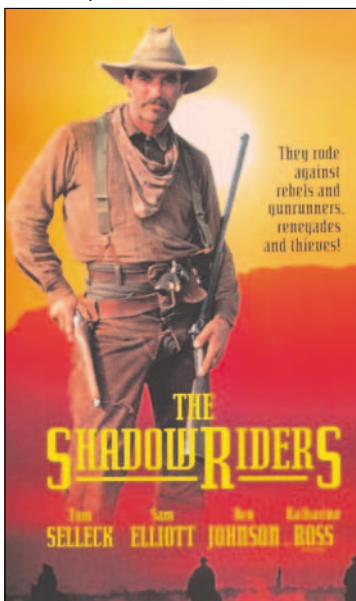


CINE 12

Mercredi 8 juillet - 21.15

The Shadow Riders

Star: Tom Selleck, Sam Elliott, Dominique Dunne, Katharine Ross



CINE 12

Jeudi 9 juillet - 21.15



mardi 7 juillet

MBC 1

07.00 Local: Eco Logik
09.22 Local: Rodrig Prog
10.17 Local: Fam Model
10.30 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Doc: Autour Des Valeurs
12.35 Doc: Comme Un Poisson...
13.30 Local: Eco Logik
14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
14.45 D.Anime: Astrology
14.59 D.Anime: MIA
16.14 D.Anime: Sissi
17.31 Serial: You And Me
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Local: Priorite Sante
21.05 Film: A Date With Miss Fortune
22.45 Serial: Chicago Police...

MBC 2

10.00 Serial: CID
11.27 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha
12.04 Film: Hukumat
Starring: Dharmendra, Rati Agnihotri
14.29 DDI Magazine
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.21 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee
15.50 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
16.20 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.43 Mehendi Tohra Naam Ke
17.03 Serial: Gangaa
17.30 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun
18.00 Serial: Dear Prince
18.30 Serial: Premabhishekam
19.00 DDI Magazine
20.00 Local: Tamil Programme
20.30 Film: Velaikkaran
Starring Sivakarthikeyan, Fahadh Faasil, Nayanthara
23.00 DDI Live

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.44 Mag: World Stories
07.00 Mag: Voa Connect
07.29 Doc: A Question Of Science
07.30 Mag: In Good Shape
09.00 Doc: 360 GEO
10.22 Mag: Made In Germany
11.33 Mag: Eco@Africa
11.59 Mag: Urban Gardens
12.02 Mag: Sur Measure
12.39 Mag: Voa Connect
13.04 Mag: In Good Shape
14.37 Doc: 360 GEO
15.30 Mag: Global 3000
16.25 Doc: On Route 7 Into The...
17.07 Mag: Eco@Africa
17.54 Mag: Set One
18.23 Mag: Urban Gardens
18.30 Live: News
18.40 Doc: Builders Of The Future
19.00 Student Support Prog...

Cine 12

02.58 Serial: Chicago Med
03.38 Film: A Date With Miss Fortune
05.15 Tele: Amanda
06.02 Serial: Shades Of Blue
06.42 Film: Royal Matchmaker
09.00 Serial: NCIS
09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
10.10 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
10.35 Serial: Chicago Med
11.30 Tele: Dulce Amor
12.00 Film: A Date With Miss Fortune
13.30 Tele: Amanda
14.45 Film: Royal Matchmaker
16.40 Serial: NCIS
17.24 Serial: Shades Of Blue
18.07 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
18.31 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
19.10 Tele: Dulce Amor
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue
21.15 Film: Sos Fantômes

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Mai
12.04 / 19.54 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.26 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe
13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.20 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan
14.36 / 22.25 - Bitti Business...
15.09 Film: Biwi.com
Starring: Karan Khanna, Lekha Prapatti, Farah Titina, Priyanka Shah
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
18.51 Piya Albela
19.13 Mere Angne Mein
19.33 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

mercredi 8 juillet

06.30 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne
07.35 Local: Priorite Sante
08.55 Local: Itinerer Moris
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs
12.35 Doc: Les Porteurs D'espoir
14.10 Local: Priorite Sante
14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
14.45 D.Anime: Astrology
14.47 D.Anime: Hogie The Globe...
14.59 D.Anime: MIA
16.03 D.Anime: Chicken Town
16.41 D.Anime: Delilah Et Julius
17.30 Serial: You And Me
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod: Lottotech
21.10 Serial: The Enemy Within
21.55 Serial: Chicago Police...
23.06 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha...
11.17 Suhani Ek Ladhi
12.00 Film: Garam Masala
Stars: Aruna Irani, Mehmood, Jeevan
13.54 DDI Magazine
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.30 Honaar Soon Mee Hya Gharchi
15.50 Mooga Manasulu
16.44 Mehendi Tohra Naam Ke
17.07 Serial: Gangaa
17.30 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun
18.00 Serial: Dear Prince
19.00 DDI Magazine
20.00 Local: Programme In Marathi
20.30 Film: Ajintha
Stars: Sonalee Kulkarni, Phillip Scott Wallace, Manoj Kolhatkar
22.30 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Rev: The Global
06.31 Doc: Builders Of The Future
06.55 Mag: Check In
07.54 Doc: Horizon
08.43 Doc: World Stamps
08.49 Doc: Une Nuit, Orsay Avec...
10.08 Doc: Curse Of The Pacific
11.59 Mag: Urban Gardens
12.58 Doc: A Question Of Science
14.17 Doc: World Stamps
15.42 Doc: Cruse Of The Pacific
16.25 Doc: Amazing Iran
16.56 Mag: Rev
17.33 Doc: Builders Of The Future
18.01 Mag: Motorweek
18.52 Mag: Urban Gardens
19.23 Doc: A Question Of Science
20.02 Doc: Trajectory
20.57 Doc: World Stamps
20.58 Doc: Visite Guidee
21.41 Mag: Business Africa
22.32 Doc: City Without water

01.26 Film: Chicago Med
03.45 Film: Buck And The Preacher
05.24 Tele: Amanda
06.06 Serial: Shades Of Blue
06.48 Film: The 5th Wave
09.00 Serial: NCIS
09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
10.35 Serial: Chicago Med
11.25 Tele: Dulce Amor
11.54 Film: Buck And The Preacher
13.33 Tele: Amanda
14.15 Mag: Hollywood On Set
14.45 Film: The 5th Wave
16.33 Mag: Hollywood News Feed
16.48 Serial: Mission: Impossible
17.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue
18.12 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Series: When Calls The Heart
21.15 Film: The Shadow Riders
22.47 Tele: Amanda

08.00 Film: Biwi.com
12.04 / 19.54 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.26 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe
13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.20 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan
14.36 / 22.25 - Bitti Business...
15.09 Film: Andar Bahar
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, Danny Denzongpa, Moon Moon Sen
17.35 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
18.51 Piya Albela
19.13 Mere Angne Mein
19.34 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

jeudi 9 juillet

06.00 Klip Seleksion
07.00 Local: Arxiv MBC
09.00 Local: Memwar Dan Ros
09.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Doc: Visite Guidee
14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
14.59 D.Anime: MIA
15.10 D.Anime: Dinofroz
15.35 D.Anime: Astrology
15.40 D.Anime: Cam And Leon
16.06 D.Anime: Chicken Town
16.42 D.Anime: Delialh Et Julius
17.30 Serial: You And Me
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Jamai Raja
19.30 Le Journal
20.06 Film: Baar Baar Dekho
22.20 Chicago Police Department
23.05 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani
12.05 Film: Sun Meri Laila
Starring Raj Kiran, Birbal, Deepika Chikhalia, Iftekar
14.23 DDI Magazine
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.21 Honaar Soon Mee Hya Gharchi
15.45 Mooga Manasulu
16.15 Apoorva Raagangal
16.40 Mehendi Tohra Naam Ke
17.00 Gangaa
17.35 Ki Jaana Kein Kaun
18.00 Serial: Dr. Quin
18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da Devi Maiya
20.00 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
20.30 Film: Baar Baar Dekha
Starring Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif
22.44 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Motorweek
06.25 Mag: Urban Gardens
07.31 Doc: Garden Party
08.52 Doc: World Stamps
10.32 Doc: City Without Water
11.14 Mag: Motorweek
11.45 Doc: Olivia's Garden
13.37 Doc: World From Above
16.29 Mag: Motorweek
17.26 Mag: Arts.21
18.21 Mag: Urban Gardens
18.30 Live: News
19.05 Open Univ: Student Support
19.26 Doc: A Question OF Science
19.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.05 Doc: Comme Un Poisson...
21.03 Doc: 360 Geo
21.55 Mag: Strictly Street
22.19 Doc: Africa Rising
23.05 Mag: Eco India
23.27 Mag: Urban Gardens

00.24 Serial: When Calls The Heart
01.28 Film: The Shadow Riders
03.01 Serial: Chicago Med
03.39 Film: Crystal Skulls
05.05 Tele: Amanda
06.00 Serial: When Calls The Heart
06.45 Film: Runaway
09.00 Serial: NCIS
09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
11.31 Tele: Dulce Amor
12.00 Film: Crystal Skulls
13.30 Tele: Amanda
14.45 Film: Runaway
16.40 Serial: NCIS
17.20 Serial: When Calls The Heart
18.07 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
18.31 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: When Calls The Heart
21.15 Film: Chappie
23.10 Tele: Amanda

08.00 Film: Andar Bahar
12.04 / 19.54 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.26 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe
13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.20 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan
14.36 / 22.25 - Bitti Business...
15.09 Film: Barsaat
Starring: Bobby Deol, Priyanka Chopra, Bipasha Basu
17.35 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
18.51 Piya Albela
19.13 Mere Angne Mein



Jeudi 9 juillet - 20.06

Stars: Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif



Jeudi 9 juillet - 15.09

Stars: Bobby Deol, Priyanka Chopra, Bipasha Basu



Wave of 'Green' Emotions



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Undoubtedly, threats to the very survival of humans posed by a pandemic make a re-assessment of production, consumption and environment-friendly policies a matter of emergency.

A new way of seeing human relation to the environment is indicative of a significant change which goes beyond materialistic and economic concerns.

Globalisation in quarantine for almost four months does not spell the end of international trade and exchanges. It connects the world in a number of ways and cannot backpedal to an unrealistic policy of isolationism of any country. However, all countries are left with little choice other than re-evaluate their needs and reduce dependence on importation to boost local production and job creation. The well-entrenched idea that all roads lead to a global workshop is losing ground.

There is a rising awareness of the use of cleaner energy to reduce carbon footprint and handle environmental damages more effectively. Ecologist parties have not been taken very seriously up to now, but as France goes green in recent municipal elections, for instance, a thumb-up signal is being given to green parties.

Alternative solutions to petrol have been under way for years and are a key priority for all importer countries to reduce dependence on oil-producing countries. In the long run it will diminish the flow of petro-dollars to oil-rich countries, lead them to eke out a living by their own efforts to diversify their economy, impact the clout they boast of in the eyes of those who look up to them, and change the rules at the negotiating table of geopolitics.

New words defining old emotions

What looks like a new phenomenon in the relation of humans and the environment has existed since times immemorial. Centuries and millennia ago, victims of natural disasters, invasions, wars and brutal development and adjustment of neighbourhood felt the nostalgia for the earth and lands that existed before. It is a feeling the victims knew very well. Today the destruction of the ecosystem and environment chaos that unfolds at planetary level reinforce the feeling of nostalgia.

Glenn Albrecht, an Australian thinker

When Glenn Albrecht advocates that humans live in symbiosis with nature, he is shaking the foundation of a scriptural vision of the scale of beings, which has prevailed for long



The Secret Life of Trees: The Astonishing Science of What Trees Feel and How They Communicate.

Photo - i2.wp.com/www.brainpickings.org

finds new words to define 'green' emotions. 'Existential' experience of a negative change in the environment, felt like an aggression on our feeling of belonging to a place is called 'solastalgia'. His book *'The Emotions of the Earth'* defines the particular nostalgia for the land that was, before the devastation caused by the presence of humans. He is a creative thinker who feels the need for neologism, appropriate words to depict a worrisome unique era of climate change when human activities impact the ecosystem in an unprecedented way. The havoc caused by an open air exploitation of a coal mine in his native land in New South Wales prompted him to find an adequate vocabulary for what he felt. A wider set of such emotions comes under the baroque term 'psychoterratic'.

Artists contribute to integrate the feeling of 'solastalgia' in popular culture. Writers and climate experts use the terms in debates at international level. Trauma and love for the earth are defined as 'tierratrauma' and 'tierraphilia'. In this light the solution to 'solastalgia' is presented as 'soliphilia', 'a political commitment to safeguard beloved places', locally and globally.

Unity of All that is Living

Such a concept coming from someone with a Western cultural background may sound innovative only to Westerners. The writer bases his observation partly on recent scientific discoveries according to which the interaction of billions of bacteria

impacts on the preservation of the human organism, and also on Aboriginal culture in which men are part of nature. It has always been common knowledge to native Indian tribes in America, Mexico and all Central America and to Africans. Millennia ago Hindus in India weaved the concept of 'One in All and All in One', a scientific fact into a rich philosophy illustrated by its mythology. The idea that men should predominate over all beings, nature and animals and use them at their will is influenced by Abrahamic religions, in scriptural beliefs embodied, first, in the Old Testament, and made its way in the other traditions in the desert regions. It was probably influenced by harsh climate conditions in the areas.

So when Glenn Albrecht advocates that humans live in symbiosis with nature, he is shaking the foundation of a scriptural vision of the scale of

beings, which has prevailed for long. But it is nothing new to other philosophical views.

Life of Plants

Traditionally, we apologize for picking up vegetables, leaves of lemon grass or *cotomili* (coriander) at six pm. We did it in our childhood, and still do today. The belief is that plants go to sleep at dusk, and we disturb their sleep when we pluck a twig or leaves from them; so we have to say 'sorry'. We also say a prayer before cutting down a tree because we are aware that trees have a life, they are living entities in our environment.

'The Secret Life of Trees' a book written by a German author in 2015 depicts how trees communicate among themselves and send messages to one another. They warn about imminent danger of being eaten by animals, and also colonize and destroy other plants. In an era of frenzied activities centred on the well-being of humans and receding natural landscapes, the book created quite a stir in Europe. It opened windows on a reality that was hitherto alien to Westerners and jolted those who have given a back seat to ancestral knowledge due to modern influences into a new awareness of other realities. As regards like-minded 'new' findings and stances, it all boils down to existing knowledge delivered in new packages. Nothing new under the sun, indeed.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Difficult Times



We can all benefit from times of constriction and difficulty to help us grow and learn.

It can be very challenging to maintain a positive attitude and a measure of faith when you are in the midst of difficult times. This is partly because we tend to think that if the universe loves us we will experience that love in the form of positive circumstances. However, we are like children, and the universe is our wise mother who knows what our souls need to thrive better than we do. Just as a young child does not benefit from getting everything she wants, we also benefit from times of constriction and difficulty to help us grow and learn. If we keep this in mind, and continue to trust that we are loved even when things are hard, it helps us bear the difficult time with grace.

This period of time in history is full of difficulty for a lot of human beings, and you may feel less alone knowing you are not being singled out. There are extreme energy changes pulsing through the universe at every level and, of course, we are all part of the growing process and the growing pains. It helps if we remember that life is one phase after another and that this difficult time will inevitably give way to something new and different. When we feel overwhelmed we can comfort ourselves with the wise saying: This too shall pass.

At the same time, if you truly feel that nothing is going right for you, it's never a bad idea to examine your life and see if there are some changes you can make to alleviate some of the difficulty. Gently and compassionately exploring the areas giving you the most trouble may reveal things you are holding onto and need to release: unprocessed emotions, unresolved transitions, or negative ways of looking at yourself or reality. As you take responsibility for the things you can change, you can more easily surrender to the things you can't, remembering all the while that this phase will, without doubt, give way to another.