

MAURITIUS **TIMES**

• Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality. — Warren Bennis



Virendra Proag, Former Associate Professor - Civil Engineering, UoM

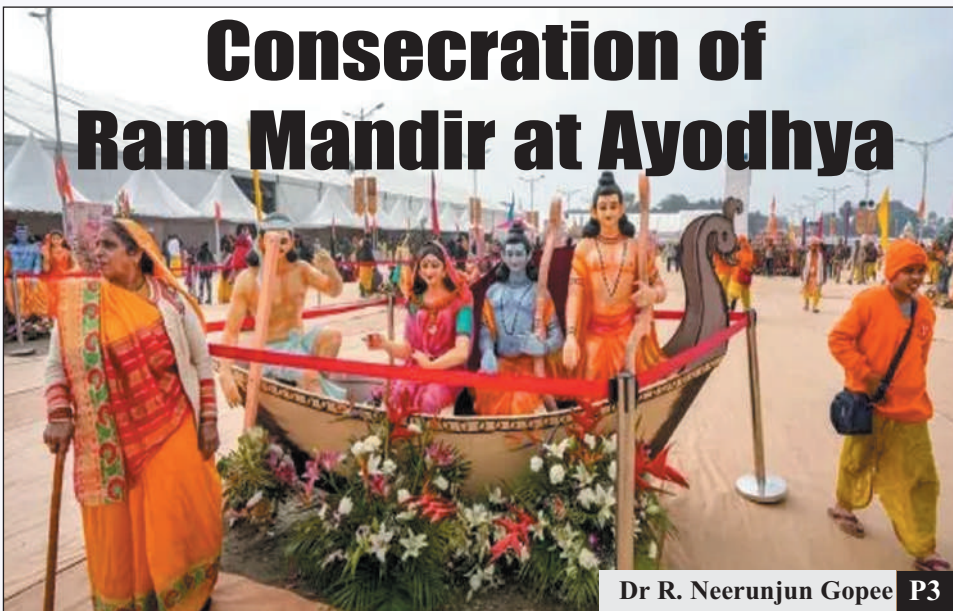
“There is no reason to believe that the officers of the Met Services are incompetent”

• ‘Each generation has a 1 in 4 chance of experiencing flooding, even if an exceptional rainfall intensity of 100 years has been considered’

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Recurrent Floods in Port Louis

Will the DPP institute a Judicial Inquiry?

In the absence of all the relevant facts, the situation remains murky, leaving questions lingering about the potential scapegoating of Ram Dhurmea, a highly qualified meteorologist recently appointed as head of the Mauritius Meteorological Services (Met). This marks the second instance of a director of the Met being removed under almost identical circumstances related to flooding following torrential rain. The echoes of a similar event from eleven years ago, where a judicial inquiry instituted by the former DPP, Satyajit Boolell, scrutinized the circumstances surrounding the flooding in 2013, add a layer of historical context to the current dilemma.

Back in 2013, the then deputy director of the Met, Rajan Mungra, acknowledged the absence of established procedures for flash floods, which resulted in a tragic loss of lives in the Capital. Fast forward to the recent events on January 15, 2024, and it appears that the lessons from the past have not been heeded. Ram Dhurmea has submitted his defence, but a video recording from the Third National Crisis Committee meeting, chaired by Hon Husnoo, the minister responsible for Local Government and Disaster Risk Management, and broadcast on MBC-TV, refutes his explanations.

While the debate between Ram Dhurmea and Hon Husnoo unfolds, the underlying issue remains: Port Louis continues to grapple with recurrent and life-threatening floods despite the billions earmarked in the Budget for addressing this issue. Beyond being an inconvenience, these floods have caused substantial damage to both public and private infrastructure, with the recent loss of a citizen in Pailles — presumed to be due to the January 15 flooding, though officially ascribed to a road accident — further amplifying the urgency of the matter. In the aftermath of this tragic incident, there is a growing consensus among citizens, advocacy groups, and stakeholders for the immediate need to conduct a comprehensive judicial inquiry akin to the one instituted in 2013. Such an inquiry is deemed essential to unravel the root causes, assess the adequacy of existing preventative measures, and formulate effective strategies for flood prevention.

The recurrent floods in Port Louis are not merely a consequence of natural disasters; they reflect inadequate infrastructure planning

and management. Ministerial responsibility encompasses a wide spectrum of duties, from immediate crisis response to long-term planning. This includes the development and maintenance of robust infrastructure, drainage systems, and urban planning that considers potential flood risks. Deaths resulting from flooding in Port Louis underscore the urgency for concrete actions. The Mauritian community rightfully demands answers regarding the effectiveness of current preventative measures and the government's commitment to ensuring citizen safety.

A judicial inquiry emerges as a crucial platform for a thorough examination of the root causes of recurrent floods. It can delve into issues such as the adequacy of drainage systems, the impact of urban development on flood-prone areas, and the overall preparedness of authorities to handle such emergencies. By examining past incidents and current protocols, the inquiry could offer valuable insights into gaps and weaknesses in the system that need urgent attention.

Importantly, a judicial inquiry can serve as a mechanism for accountability, holding responsible parties answerable for any lapses or negligence. The transparency and thoroughness of such an inquiry are crucial in rebuilding public trust and confidence in the government's ability to address the pressing issue of recurrent floods. Public input can provide valuable perspectives on the ground reality, community vulnerabilities, and potential solutions. This participatory approach not only ensures a more comprehensive examination but also fosters a sense of ownership and collaboration in finding lasting solutions.

In conclusion, the recurrent floods in Port Louis demand immediate attention, and the recent tragic fatality has intensified the call for ministerial responsibility, accountability, and a judicial inquiry. The government must take prompt and decisive action to address the fundamental causes of these floods, implement effective preventative measures, and reassure the public that their safety is a priority concern. The outcomes of such an inquiry should guide future policies, ensure accountability, and provide a blueprint for sustainable urban development across the country that prioritizes the safety and well-being of all citizens.

Socratic Dialogue

The Unlucky Minister's Guide to Gift Etiquette

Dancing Through Corruption: A Socratic Comedy on Integrity



Singapore's Transport Minister S. Iswaran resigned after facing corruption charges yesterday, as confirmed by the prime minister's office, marking a historic development for a city-state that prides itself on maintaining a squeaky-clean government, reports CNN. The allegations against Iswaran include accusations that he received gifts totalling more than \$119,000 from Malaysian billionaire Ong Beng Seng in exchange for advancing his business interests. These purported gifts encompassed business class flights, luxury hotel stays, tickets to the F1 Grand Prix, English Premier League matches, and West End musicals. The former minister has pleaded not guilty.

In the bustling agora of ancient Singapore, Socrates, the venerable philosopher with an affinity for questions, found himself entwined in a discussion about corruption, integrity, and the unexpected humour that can accompany such weighty matters. Joining him were another politician Eshwar who resigned amidst corruption charges, the ever-punny Cleophantus, and Moris, a thoughtful visitor seeking insights from distant lands and who brought a fresh perspective from Mauritius, a country grappling with its own challenges of corruption.

Plutonix

Characters: Socrates - Wise philosopher and lover of questions
Eshwar - Politician who resigned amidst corruption charges
Cleophantus - Curious citizen with a penchant for puns
Moris - A thoughtful citizen from a distant land
ACC - Anti-Corruption Commissioner in Mauritius

Scene: The agora in ancient Singapore, where Socrates, Eshwar, Cleophantus, and Moris engage in a philosophical dialogue about corruption, integrity, and the lessons learned from various experiences, all peppered with a touch of humour.

Socrates: Greetings, my friends! Today, let us embark on a journey to unravel the mysteries of corruption and integrity, infused with a dose of humour. Eshwar, pray tell, how do you navigate the treacherous waters of gift-giving?

Eshwar: Ah, Socrates, the perilous path of presents! It seems I need a manual on Gift Etiquette for Dummies.

Cleophantus: (grinning) And what about a sequel, "Bribery for Beginners"? It could be a bestseller in some circles.

● Cont. on page 15

Mauritius Times

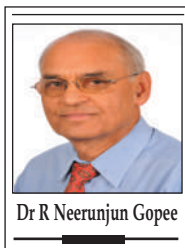
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Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Consecration of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya

'Now is just the right time to get back the Mandir at the birthplace of Sri Ram. The reason is that Ram is an epitome of Dharma, who fought and vanquished adharmic forces – and in our times, Adharma has become exceptionally strong and also needs to be fought and vanquished' -- Maria Wirth

Finally, it has happened: the construction of the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, at the site considered to be the birthplace or *janmabhoomi* of Bhagavan Sri Ram. This has been settled by a judgement of the Supreme Court of India delivered on November 9, 2019, which at the same time ordered the authorities to allocate an alternative site for the construction of a mosque in lieu of the 'Babri' masjid which had been built in 1528-29 during the reign of Babar, an invader from Uzbekistan, upon a pre-existing temple after destroying part of it.

According to Dr Meenakshi Jain, well-known historian who has researched the issue extensively and written a book on it, there was definitive historical evidence to prove the existence of a Ram Mandir there. An interesting point she made was that conquerors liked to showcase their grandeur to posterity, and for this purpose they had scribes who kept detailed records of the structures that they vandalized and what they subsequently built as well. Such records exist in the case of the Ram Mandir too; but there are also other reports about the existence of the mandir from English and Jesuit travellers who described how pilgrims took a bath in the nearby Sarayu River before they would go to pray in the mandir, besides judicial records that also support the historical evidence. Further, the Sikh Guru Nanak Dev has also given an account of his visit there in 1610, when he saw Hindus praying at the temple. On the other hand, there is also astrological corroboration from the scriptures. All such evidence was carefully scrutinized by the Supreme Court before it delivered its verdict.

But there was more: archaeological evidence gathered from preliminary surveys of the surroundings and actual excavations that were carried out, first in 1976/77, in which a key figure was KK Muhammad working as part of a team led by Prof BB Lal, then Director of the Archaeological Survey of India. Further excavations in the 1990s under Dr Mani, also Director ASI, brought up further evidence.

Archaeologist K.K Muhammad gives detailed accounts of the pillars and pillar bases that he found under the Babri masjid, all bearing carvings of the Hindu symbol *purna kalash*; further, his team found terracotta statues of Hindu deities, such as Ganesha, Vishnu, and Shiva. He explains how he felt obliged to tell the truth about what he had found when leftist/Marxist historians ('dystorians') made public declarations that Prof Lal had not found any evidence of Hindu presence. What peeved him particularly was that none of these so-called experts had any direct experience of the site since they had never been there, and were only depending upon material in the media, and besides they were not archaeologists, who use very precise methodologies to collect evidence.

So, the archaeological evidence amply confirmed what the expert historians had been advancing, and all this presented to the Supreme Court and the case argued

by lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain were more than enough to sway the decision in favour of the Ram Mandir.

This brief review provides the context in which this most important mega-event is taking place. It is being widely viewed as no less than a historical moment and a civilisational event that is long overdue in the Hindu calendar, one that has finally been resolved legally after 500 long years. The verdict of the Supreme Court has been



Pic HuffPost

“In an article titled ‘Sri Ram’s help is needed against today’s Ravana’s’ by Maria Wirth, a Hindu of German origin who has lived in India for over three decades, she writes that ‘maybe, now is just the right time for Bharat and the world to get back the Mandir at the birthplace of Sri Ram. The reason is that Ram is an epitome of Dharma, who fought and vanquished adharmic forces – and in our times, Adharma has become exceptionally strong and also needs to be fought and vanquished. Humanity is presently not in good shape – without roots and direction, without meaning and values. It’s called “being woke”...””

accepted by all the parties and communities and explains why the country and the diaspora are feeling exuberant as they impatiently look forward to Monday 22nd January for the consecration ceremony or *Pran Pratistha* of the idol of the Ram Lalla – Bhagavan Ram as a five-year old child.

In an article titled 'Sri Ram's help is needed against today's Ravana's' by Maria Wirth, a Hindu of German origin who has lived in India for over three decades, she writes that 'maybe, now is just the right time for Bharat and the world to get back the Mandir at the birthplace of Sri Ram. The reason is that Ram is an epitome of Dharma, who fought and vanquished adharmic forces – and in our times, Adharma has become exceptionally strong and also needs to be fought and vanquished. Humanity is presently not in good shape – without roots and direction, without meaning and values. It's called "being woke".'

Dharma means right conduct in every sphere of life and at every level of society that allows people to live in peace and harmony with each other, and Adharma is the opposite where instead of peaceful coexistence there is strife and enmity, which lead to violence and destruction of societies and countries - pretty much what we are currently witnessing in the world. Ravana, the demon-king in the epic Ramayana represents Adharma. He is the one who had abducted Prince Ram's wife Sita and seques-

trated her in Sri Lanka until he was destroyed by Sri Ram and Sita rescued.

For one, it is an enchanting love story that would resonate with all who know what love is. As Sadhguru of Isha Foundation said, 'After all Ram was a king, and he had an easy solution at his disposal – marry anyone else of his choice, among most willing candidates. But no, he walked thousands of km in wild jungles, crossed the seas to find his wife and bring her back.' To the puzzled female anchor who was interviewing him, he asked, 'What kind of a man would YOU choose, the first type or the second one?'

That is why Sri Ram is called *Maryada Purushottam* – 'the man who is supreme in honour, who practised righteousness until he perfected it.' He exemplified all the ideal characteristics of a man in the roles he was called upon to play, as son, husband, brother, king, and is looked up to as the perfect human being to emulate. He was an avatar – the Divine in human form come down to Earth to show us how best to live our lives, so that we can be joyful and happy.

And thus, the *Pran Pratistha*, which refers to special rituals performed to infuse the idol with the divine life-force or Prana. On 22 January 2024, a most special *Pran Pratistha* will be performed: Sri Ram will become a living Presence in the newly constructed Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

This has been a whole-of Bharat affair: not only all communities – Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist – have participated in the construction, but also all states of India. Special stone (shaligram) for the Ram idol was brought ceremoniously from Nepal, bricks were contributed by individuals, pink stone was quarried from Rajasthan, the huge temple bell weighing 700 kg was made in Tamil Nadu by an expert craftsman with a special combination of metals and emits a unique sound when struck. It was brought by train all the way from there, and so too the other hundreds of smaller bells.

Sandals and sweets on quasi-industrial scale are being prepared and packed to be distributed as prasad to the devotees. But of course, there is much more as regards the materials and the skills that are going into the construction, and that cannot all be covered in a short article. The best one can do is to invite readers to view the numerous video presentations that are readily available and in which domain experts and anchors who have researched their subject thoroughly share the exquisite details about the construction, and all the other historical, cultural, and religious aspects.

It is from such clips that one learns, for example, about a young Muslim girl, Shabnam, who is walking alone all the way from Maharashtra to be present on the 22nd, as well as about the man who has already covered 700 km on foot and is pressing on to reach Ayodhya in time for the ceremony.

Rallies have already taken place in Mauritius, the US, and the UK in connection with the event, and daily prayers too are going on in temples in the diaspora countries.

Some day in future this will no doubt be reckoned as a game-changing civilisational event for the well-being of the whole of humanity.

Om Shanti.

Les tensions en mer Rouge font chuter le commerce mondial

Par A. Bartleby

L'instabilité actuelle au Moyen-Orient pourrait bientôt échapper complètement à tout contrôle, selon Antonio Guterres, le Secrétaire général de l'ONU, lors d'une conférence de presse à New York lundi.

Une fois de plus, Guterres a abordé la crise déclenchée par les événements du 7 octobre, lorsque des militants du Hamas ont lancé une attaque surprise contre Israël, tuant environ 1 200 personnes et prenant plus de 200 otages. Le blocus israélien, les bombardements et l'assaut terrestre qui ont suivi à Gaza ont tué près de 24 000 personnes, selon les responsables de la santé locaux.

Le bilan des morts civils à Gaza a entraîné une condamnation internationale généralisée des actions d'Israël et a déjà entraîné l'implication du groupe militant libanais Hezbollah et des Houthis du Yémen dans le conflit.

“Les tensions sont également très élevées en mer Rouge et au-delà - et pourraient bientôt devenir impossibles à contenir”, a déclaré Guterres, ajoutant qu'il craint que les “échanges quotidiens de tirs” risquent de “déclencher une escalade plus large entre Israël et le Liban, et d'affecter profondément la stabilité régionale”.

La semaine dernière, les Houthis ont promis de continuer à cibler les navires liés à Israël et aux États-Unis en mer Rouge “jusqu'à ce que le siège de Gaza soit levé”. Les “tensions croissantes” ont également incité l'Iran à envoyer l'un de ses navires de guerre en mer Rouge plus tôt ce mois-ci.

Les avions de guerre américains et britanniques ont attaqué des cibles houthis au Yémen avec environ 70 frappes aériennes jeudi et vendredi derniers. Bien que le porte-parole de la sécurité nationale américaine, John Kirby, ait déclaré que les frappes avaient un “bon effet”, un rapport du *New York Times* affirmait que près de trois quarts des actifs militaires houthis restaient intacts.

Les Houthis ont frappé un navire américain avec un missile

Les militants houthis du Yémen ont frappé un navire de conteneurs américain avec un missile balistique lundi, a déclaré le Commandement central américain dans un com-



Navires ciblés par les Houthis en mer Rouge: il pourrait y avoir un impact sur les prix» P - Le Parisien

munié.

La frappe est intervenue moins d'une semaine après que les États-Unis et le Royaume-Uni ont lancé une opération militaire en mer Rouge, avec pour objectif déclaré de maintenir ouvertes les routes de navigation commerciale entre la mer d'Arabie et la mer Méditerranée via le canal de Suez.

Ce passage représente environ 15% du trafic maritime mondial, et avec les forces houthis lançant 28 attaques contre des navires marchands jusqu'à lundi, de grandes entreprises de transport telles que Maersk, MSC, CMA CGM et Hapag-Lloyd ont dévié leurs navires autour du cap de Bonne-Espérance en Afrique du Sud, une route beaucoup plus longue entre l'Asie et l'Europe.

Selon un rapport de l'IfW Kiel, le commerce mondial a chuté de 1,3% de novembre à décembre 2023 en raison des attaques houthis contre des navires marchands en mer Rouge.

L'institut économique allemand a déclaré jeudi que le volume de conteneurs transportés via la mer Rouge avait chuté de plus de la moitié en décembre et était actuellement presque 70% en dessous du volume habituellement attendu. Environ 200 000 conteneurs sont transportés quotidiennement via la mer Rouge, contre environ 500 000 par

jour en novembre.

“Le contournement des navires en raison des attaques dans la mer Rouge autour du cap de Bonne-Espérance en Afrique signifie que le temps nécessaire pour transporter des marchandises entre les centres de production asiatiques et les consommateurs européens est considérablement prolongé jusqu'à 20 jours”, a déclaré Julian Hinz, directeur du centre de recherche sur la politique commerciale de l'IfW Kiel.

L'indicateur commercial de l'IfW Kiel pour décembre montre une baisse de 2% des exportations de l'UE et de 3,1% des importations, respectivement. Les États-Unis ont connu un déclin de 1,5% des exportations et une baisse de 1% des importations, même si la route passant par la mer Rouge et le canal de Suez joue un rôle moindre pour les États-Unis que pour l'Europe, selon le rapport.

Cela se produit alors que Maurice émerge des perturbations causées par les retards créés par la Covid. Les tensions dans la mer Rouge et les menaces pesant sur le commerce mondial soulignent l'importance critique d'une approche proactive pour assurer la stabilité des voies maritimes et la continuité des approvisionnements.

Les récents troubles au sein de la Cargo Handling Corporation ajoutent une dimension supplémentaire à cette situation préoccupante. Les défis rencontrés par cette entité cruciale soulignent la nécessité pressante pour le gouvernement de prendre des mesures significatives en faveur de la modernisation du port. La construction de nouveaux terminaux et docks devient impérative pour renforcer les capacités portuaires, assurer une gestion efficace des flux de marchandises et atténuer les impacts potentiels des tensions géopolitiques mondiales sur les approvisionnements.

La diversification des sources d'approvisionnement et la modernisation des installations portuaires devraient être des priorités stratégiques pour le pays. Cette situation est à présent une urgence nationale, compte tenu de la forte dépendance du pays à l'égard des importations. Il est impératif que Maurice renforce sa résilience en investissant dans des infrastructures portuaires modernes et efficaces. La modernisation du port est non seulement un impératif économique mais aussi un enjeu de sécurité nationale pour garantir la continuité des approvisionnements essentiels.

Les Britanniques vivant à l'étranger retrouvent le droit de vote aux élections au Royaume-Uni

Environ 3 millions de Britanniques vivant à l'étranger depuis plus de 15 ans retrouveront leur droit de vote à toutes les élections au Royaume-Uni à partir de mardi dernier, mettant fin à 20 ans de promesses non tenues par les gouvernements successifs du Royaume-Uni.

La fin de la prétendue règle des 15 ans signifie que

des millions d'autres pourraient être «enfranchis» à temps pour les prochaines élections générales, dont la date reste à décider par le Premier ministre, Rishi Sunak, selon *The Guardian*.

Le groupe de campagne «British in Europe» a déclaré que le changement de la loi alignait le Royaume-Uni sur d'autres grandes démocraties qui accordent le droit de vote à vie, notamment les États-Unis, la France, l'Italie et le Canada.

“Le vote est un droit de citoyenneté fondamental, quel que soit l'endroit où quelqu'un vit. Il s'agit d'un changement historique du droit de vote au Royaume-Uni après des années de campagne de notre part et d'autres, en particulier du militant de longue date Harry Shindler, qui est malheureusement décédé avant de pouvoir utiliser son vote durement acquis”, a déclaré la co-présidente Jane Golding.

Les électeurs souhaitant s'exprimer lors des

élections parlementaires peuvent s'inscrire dans la dernière circonscription où ils étaient inscrits ou là où ils ont vécu s'ils n'étaient pas inscrits auparavant, une étape précieuse pour ceux qui ont déménagé à l'étranger en tant que jeunes adultes et n'avaient jamais voté aux élections britanniques.

La législation secondaire permettant le vote a été adoptée le 18 décembre, un soulagement pour ceux qui avaient été déçus par tant de gouvernements précédents promettant d'accorder le droit de vote aux résidents britanniques d'outre-mer dans le long terme.

Cela met également fin à une bataille de près de 20 ans menée par feu Harry Shindler, qui a contesté la limite de 15 ans sur les droits de vote devant la Haute Cour en 2016. Lorsque les gouvernements successifs n'ont pas respecté leurs promesses électorales, il a porté l'affaire devant la Cour européenne de justice.

Une mesure controversée

Le concept d'un vote à vie n'est pas universellement soutenu au Parlement. Paul Scriven, un pair libéral-démocrate, a remis en question la légitimité du fait qu'une personne n'ayant pas vécu au Royaume-Uni pendant 50 ans puisse influencer des politiques qui ne la concernent pas directement.

☞ Suite en page 5



La diaspora réclame son droit de vote. P - Defimedia

Les Britanniques vivant à l'étranger retrouvent le droit de vote aux élections au Royaume-Uni

☞ Suite de la page 4

Golding soutient que les Britanniques vivant à l'étranger sont affectés par bon nombre des mêmes préoccupations électorales que ceux qui vivent au Royaume-Uni, notamment la santé et les soins aux personnes âgées, la politique éducative pour les enfants expatriés envoyés à l'école ou à l'université au Royaume-Uni et la politique d'immigration qui touche les conjoints non britanniques.

Et le droit de vote de la diaspora mauricienne

Le droit de vote à la diaspora mauricienne demeure une question qui divise toujours à Maurice. Si la majorité de la diaspora semble soutenir la démarche de ceux qui militent en faveur de droit de vote

aux Mauriciens vivant à l'étranger, la question ne fait toutefois pas l'unanimité.

D'abord, il n'existe aucun registre officiel répertoriant les membres de la diaspora. Puis, les Mauriciens émigrent depuis 1968. Ces Mauriciens sont-ils intéressés par ce qui se passe dans la République? Et qu'en est-il des jeunes qui fuient la République comme on fuit la peste? Ne fuient-ils pas parce qu'ils ne voient plus aucune raison de voter pour un quelconque groupe politique localement?

Toutefois, le problème fondamental réside dans la nature du système politique mauricien, où les élus sont censés être des représentants ancrés sur le terrain. Si l'on vote certes pour un Premier ministre, un peu à la manière d'une élection prési-

dentielle, il est crucial de reconnaître le rôle essentiel des députés, notamment dans leurs interactions locales.

Le lien étroit entre les députés et leur circonscription est une caractéristique fondamentale du système politique mauricien. Les députés sont censés être proches de leurs électeurs, comprendre leurs préoccupations locales et travailler activement à résoudre les problèmes spécifiques à leur région. Intégrer la diaspora dans ce processus électoral pourrait introduire un élément de distanciation, où les électeurs ne partagent pas nécessairement les réalités quotidiennes et les enjeux locaux de la circonscription.

De plus, la diaspora peut être mal informée sur les nuances politiques et les défis spécifiques aux différentes régions

de l'île. Les enjeux locaux, qu'ils soient d'ordre économique, social ou environnemental, nécessitent une compréhension approfondie pour des solutions efficaces. Accorder le droit de vote à la diaspora sans une sensibilisation adéquate aux réalités locales pourrait entraîner des choix électoraux basés sur des perceptions incomplètes, potentiellement compromettant la qualité de la représentation politique.

Enfin, une réforme de ce type nécessiterait une réflexion approfondie sur les mécanismes de participation de la diaspora, garantissant une représentation équitable sans déséquilibrer le processus démocratique. Une telle réforme exigerait des garanties rigoureuses pour éviter toute manipulation électorale ou influence induite.

L'histoire du baron de la drogue fidjien révèle des parallèles inquiétants

avec le trafic de drogue et l'infiltration des institutions à Maurice

Le dirigeant d'un réseau de sociétés pharmaceutiques couvrant le Pacifique, AMM Umarji, a été condamné à quatre ans de prison en Nouvelle-Zélande en août dernier pour importation illégale de millions de dollars de pseudoéphédrine, un précurseur chimique de la méthamphétamine.

Umarji, citoyen fidjien, était depuis longtemps la cible de la police de son pays d'origine, mais il avait échappé à la justice pendant des années en raison, selon les forces de l'ordre fidjiennes et internationales, du manque de volonté du précédent gouvernement autoritaire de Frank Bainimarama à s'attaquer sérieusement au trafic de méthamphétamine et de cocaïne.

La chute d'Umarji est finalement survenue en août dernier, après qu'il a mis fin à une période d'exil volontaire en Inde et se soit livré aux autorités en Nouvelle-Zélande pour faire face à des accusations vieilles de plusieurs années.

Il a plaidé coupable et a été condamné à quatre ans de prison pour avoir importé au moins 5 à 6 millions de dollars néo-zélandais (2,9 à 3,5 millions de dollars) de pseudoéphédrine, un précurseur de la méthamphétamine, dans le pays.

Sa condamnation a été saluée par la police fidjienne comme un coup porté contre un "cerveau" dont les opérations s'étendaient à travers la région.

Qui est Umarji?

Jusqu'à récemment, Umarji était, du moins en public, un pilier de la communauté commerciale fidjienne.

En tant que propriétaires d'un réseau de pharmacies couvrant le Pacifique, Umarji et sa famille étaient d'importants donateurs du parti qui régnait de manière répressive sur le pays jusqu'à sa perte de pouvoir aux élections de décembre dernier.

Les journalistes ont découvert que le réseau commercial de la famille Umarji continuait de s'étendre malgré ses ennuis judiciaires et opérait actuellement dans trois pays du Pacifique. La plus récente de ces sociétés pharmaceutiques, au Vanuatu, a été fondée l'année dernière.

Les journalistes ont découvert que Umarji et sa famille avaient fait don d'au moins 70 000 dollars fidjiens (31 000 dollars) au parti au pouvoir précédent, FijiFirst, dans les années qui ont suivi le début de l'enquête le concernant.



L'emprisonnement d'un homme d'affaires fidjien de premier plan pour des accusations liées à la drogue n'est qu'un signe du rôle croissant de ce pays insulaire du Pacifique en tant que plaque tournante du trafic international. P - Fiji Sun

Cela inclut 20 000 dollars fidjiens (8 700 dollars) donnés au parti avant les élections de décembre dernier, soit environ trois ans après les premières accusations portées contre lui. Le secrétaire général du parti, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, était le ministre de la Justice et le procureur général de longue date des Fidji à l'époque.

Faiblesses des autorités

Derrière la condamnation d'Umarji, 47 ans, se cache une histoire bien plus sombre d'impunité, selon une enquête conjointe de l'OCCRP, du *Fiji Times*, du *New Zealand Herald* et de *Radio New Zealand*.

Umarji a pu prospérer pendant des années en raison de l'échec des hauts responsables du gouvernement autoritaire précédent des Fidji à faire face à la montée du trafic de méthamphétamine et de cocaïne à travers le pays insulaire du Pacifique.

Et lorsque les autorités néo-zélandaises ont finalement émis un mandat d'arrêt international contre lui, Umarji a pu fuir les Fidji dans des circonstances suspectes.

Le nouveau gouvernement fidjien, élu en décembre dernier, enquête désormais sur les dons que Umarji et sa famille ont faits au parti au pouvoir précédent, ainsi que sur des "connexions potentielles" avec des responsables de l'application des lois de haut niveau.

Pio Tikoduadua, ministre fidjien de l'Immigration et des

Affaires intérieures, a déclaré à l'OCCRP qu'une enquête avait été ouverte sur la manière dont Umarji avait pu fuir le pays.

Il a déclaré que les autorités enquêtent également sur les dons faits par Umarji et sa famille à FijiFirst, ainsi que sur toute "connexion potentielle" qu'il aurait pu avoir avec des hauts responsables de l'ancien gouvernement, y compris Sayed-Khaiyum et le commissaire de police actuellement suspendu, Sitiveni Qiliho.

"Je suis certainement profondément préoccupé par l'influence potentielle des trafiquants de drogue aux Fidji, surtout sur les responsables et les forces de l'ordre", a déclaré Tikoduadua. "L'infiltration de ces éléments criminels constitue un risque significatif pour notre société et nos institutions."

L'histoire du baron de la drogue fidjien révèle des parallèles inquiétants avec le trafic de drogue à Maurice et l'infiltration des institutions par "la mafia" selon le Premier ministre lui-même. Les similitudes entre ces deux situations mettent en lumière les défis persistants auxquels les gouvernements de la région sont confrontés dans la lutte contre le crime organisé et la préservation de la stabilité institutionnelle.

La saga du baron de la drogue fidjien souligne la complexité des réseaux criminels transnationaux, qui transcendent souvent les frontières nationales pour étendre leur influence néfaste. Il est impératif que les autorités mauriciennes tirent des leçons de l'expérience fidjienne pour renforcer leur propre capacité à détecter, prévenir et neutraliser les activités criminelles liées à la drogue. Cela nécessite une coordination efficace entre les agences de sécurité, une surveillance accrue des frontières et une coopération étroite avec d'autres nations confrontées aux mêmes défis.

Par ailleurs, le trafic de drogue et la protection politique sont souvent étroitement liés, formant une toile complexe de collusion et de compromis qui peut compromettre la stabilité des institutions et des gouvernements. Cette connivence entre les réseaux criminels et les figures politiques peut avoir des conséquences dévastatrices, tant sur le plan social que sur le plan économique.

La lutte contre cette collusion nécessite des mesures concertées pour éradiquer la corruption, renforcer les institutions judiciaires et promouvoir une culture de responsabilité, afin de rétablir la confiance du public dans la gouvernance et de prévenir les conséquences dévastatrices de cette alliance dangereuse.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 16



Prakash Neerohoo

Cyclone Belal: Where is ministerial accountability?

Scapegoating career civil servants for wrongdoing without a proper inquiry is not good for the efficiency of public services. It sends a wrong signal...

In any parliamentary democracy, the minister responsible for any portfolio is accountable for what happens under his or her watch. He or she is the first person to resign when something egregious happens within their area of responsibility.

In other countries, we have seen ministers resigning from office after a catastrophic event or a big scandal. Recently, in Ontario, Canada, the Minister of Land resigned after his ministry awarded leases of Crown Land to developers in suspicious circumstances. A few years ago, in India, a country that seems to be a reference for us in some areas, the Minister of Transportation resigned after a major railway accident-causing death.

In Mauritius, there is a tendency for ministers not to assume responsibility for what happens under their watch. They always blame external circumstances for poor ministerial or departmental performance. Sometimes, they engage in buck passing to identify a scapegoat for a wrong decision.

The latest example of this “modus operandi” is the case of the director-general of the Meteorological Services (Ram K. Dhurmea), who was apparently asked to resign following the decision not to issue a Class 3 cyclone warning on the morning of Monday, January 15th. People went to work on Monday morning and were caught off guard by the heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding on the roads.

Under section 10(1) of The Mauritius Meteorological

“The cyclone has taken a heavy toll on some towns, especially the Capital, with heavy rainfall that caused massive flooding reminiscent of the 2013 flooding. Fortunately, there were not more than two deaths (according to the latest information), but the damage caused by water runoffs to many vehicles on the road is consequential for many people. Insurance companies would be called upon to compensate car owners for the partial or total loss of vehicles provided the vehicle was insured against all risks, including acts of nature. Belal’s widespread impact has also revealed the country’s vulnerability to natural events. The country was caught flat-footed by heavy flooding, which shows the inadequacy of emergency response planning...”

Services Act 2019, the responsible minister (i.e., the Minister of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management) cannot avoid accountability or liability for what happened on that day. This section states that the “Minister may give such directions of a general character to the Mauritius Meteorological Services, not inconsistent with this Act, as he considers necessary in the public interest, and the Mauritius Meteorological Services shall comply with those directions.”

Surely there were some communications between his Ministry and the Meteorological Services as to when to issue cyclone warnings and in what sequence. One would be hard-pressed to believe that the director-general of the Meteorological Services acted on his own, considering the level of government control over all public institutions.

An inquiry is needed to investigate the circumstances that led the Meteorological Services (MS) to delay a Class 3 warning on January 15th. In his defense, the director-general should speak out to clear the air and save his reputation. He started doing that on January 16, 2024, in a letter addressed to the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of Civil Service, wherein he stated that he “was instructed to step down against my will.” Scapegoating career civil servants for wrongdoing without a proper inquiry is not good for the efficiency of public services. It sends a wrong signal to those civil servants who want to serve in public service.

The public needs to know:

- what specific forecasts of the cyclone’s trajectory MS had originally made based on observations and available information,
- the progressive sequence of cyclone warnings (class 1, 2, 3, and 4) from Saturday to Monday that MS originally planned to issue,
- any timing adjustments done to that original sequence of warnings after consultation with the government, and
- the rationale for the final sequence of warnings issued from Saturday to Monday.

“We have seen ministers resigning from office after a catastrophic event or a big scandal. Recently, in Ontario, Canada, the Minister of Land resigned after his ministry awarded leases of Crown Land to developers in suspicious circumstances. A few years ago, in India, a country that seems to be a reference for us in some areas, the Minister of Transportation resigned after a major railway accident-causing death. In Mauritius, there is a tendency for ministers not to assume responsibility for what happens under their watch. They always blame external circumstances for poor ministerial or departmental performance...”

Clarifying those issues is critical to understand what went wrong in the process of consultation between MS and the government, whether there was a divergence of views between the two parties and whether MS acted independently based only on scientific data.

The public needs to know the truth because the cyclone has had a huge impact on people’s life, economic activities in general, and housing conditions for those affected by flooding.

The cyclone has taken a heavy toll on some towns, especially the Capital, with heavy rainfall that caused massive flooding reminiscent of the 2013 flooding. Fortunately, there were not more than two deaths (according to the latest information), but the damage caused by water runoffs to many vehicles on the road is consequential for many people. Insurance companies would be called upon to compensate car owners for the partial or total loss of vehicles provided the vehicle was insured against all risks, including acts of nature.

Belal’s widespread impact has also revealed the country’s vulnerability to natural events. The country was caught flat-footed by heavy flooding, which shows the inadequacy of emergency response planning in the event of a cyclone. The land drainage system does not seem to be working effectively to canalize excess water runoffs. The government has invested billions of rupees in the construction of drains across the country. It’s time to do a value-for-money audit of these infrastructure projects to ascertain the true costs and benefits of public investment in infrastructure.



Analyzing Section 3 of the 14th Amendment

Is Trump Disqualified from the Presidency?



Anil Madan

The possibility exists that the Supreme Court will simply refuse to rule based on the political question doctrine...

The Supreme Court of Colorado and the Secretary of State of Maine, have ruled that Donald Trump is not eligible to appear as a candidate for president on the primary or general election ballots in those states by virtue of the prohibition contained in the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution.

The US Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal from the Colorado ruling. A Superior Court judge in Maine has stayed the removal of Trump from the ballot pending the US Supreme Court's decision in the Colorado case. Trump's right to appear on the presidential ballot has been challenged in other states too. The rulings have ranged from deferring action, to declaring that this is a political question that cannot (or should not) be answered by the courts but is a matter reserved for Congress, to declaring that election officials do not have to the power to rule on the issue, to saying that Trump cannot be disqualified from a political party's primary ballot but leaving open the question whether he is eligible to appear on the general election ballot. A ruling in the Colorado case could potentially resolve all outstanding challenges to Trump's eligibility to be a presidential candidate.

There is a theoretical possibility that the Supreme Court could rule that Trump may appear on the primary and general election ballots but that he would still have to qualify to assume the role of President.

The seemingly simple and straightforward language of the 14th Amendment is anything but. Analysis of the issue requires us to wade through a thicket of objections, questions, protests, arguments, and interpretations. Let us take a walk through that constitutionally jumbled jungle.

Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to the United States

Constitution disqualifies insurrectionists and those who give aid or comfort to enemies of the United States, from serving in certain offices. The text of Section 3 is straightforward:

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Political Question Doctrine

It should be obvious that courts are constituted to decide legal matters. The corollary of this is that courts are not empowered to answer political questions. The general rule is that federal courts should not rule in cases if the issue involved is constitutionally the sole responsibility of either the executive or legislative branch. The idea is that the courts should not intrude on the province of the other branches of the government or where there is a lack of judicially discoverable and manageable standards for resolving a question presented.

Interestingly, the 14th Amendment itself contains a purely political question. Section 5 states that Congress may by a super majority (a vote of two-thirds of each House) remove the disability of holding office. Notice that the language does not provide any standards for Congress to follow. Thus, this is a purely political decision.

In contrast, deciding whether a person is disqualified under the 14th Amendment from holding office involves resolution of factual questions (such as did the person take an oath to support the Constitution?) and legal questions (such as did the person engage in an insurrection?).

It can be readily seen that the courts have no role in ruling on the wisdom (or lack thereof) of a political decision by Congress under section 5, but they can indeed rule on the factual and legal issues presented under section 3.

Is the President an Officer Under the United States?

The language of section 3 does not explicitly mention the President. If the President is covered, it is because he would have taken an oath "as an officer of the United States." The argument is raised that the President is not an officer of the United States.

To me, this is a bogus argument. The Constitution repeatedly refers to the Office of President of the United States. One such reference is found

in reference to the Vice President and the Senate:

The Senate shall choose their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

Or we can look at the impeachment judgment clause to which I have referred in a previous article:

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Even more explicit is Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution:

"The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years..."

An interesting note in passing is that the Constitution states: "The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States" If we think of the Commander in Chief as being the Chief Commanding Officer, then the notion that section 3 does not include the President would allow a person to be President, but not serve as Commanding Officer since section 3 disqualifies insurrectionists from "hold[ing] any office, civil or military, under the United States."

The Oath taken by the President

The Constitution states that the President shall take a specified oath:

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:— "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section 3 of the Constitution refers to an oath "to support the Constitution of the United States."

Some have argued that this oath is textually different from the oath that the President takes.

The argument is a stretch. Article VI of the Constitution states:

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

The phrase "All executive ... officers" surely includes the President who is described as the person in whom the "executive Power" is vested.

Surely, if the Constitution requires that the executive take an oath to "support" the Constitution and prescribes the text of his oath, that oath must be taken as an oath to "support" the Constitution.

Do Trump's actions fall within the language of Section 3?

Section 3 bars from office any person who, having taken an oath as described above, "shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof."

● Cont. on page 8



Pic - CNN

“It should be obvious that courts are constituted to decide legal matters.

The corollary of this is that courts are not empowered to answer political questions. The general rule is that federal courts should not rule in cases if the issue involved is constitutionally the sole responsibility of either the executive or legislative branch. The idea is that the courts should not intrude on the province of the other branches of the government or where there is a lack of judicially discoverable and manageable standards for resolving a question presented...”

Analyzing Section 3 of the 14th Amendment

Is Trump Disqualified from the Presidency?

● Cont. from page 7

The first question is to what do the words “the same” and “thereof” refer? Some scholars read Section 3 as referring to an insurrection or rebellion against the Constitution and to enemies of the Constitution. To me, this is a strained reading. The clause is better understood as referring to an insurrection or rebellion against the United States and to enemies of the United States. The definition of “insurrection” and “rebellion” support such a construction.

It is a generally accepted view that the Constitution’s text should be construed to reflect the meaning of the words at the time the language was adopted. The post-Civil War 14th Amendment should therefore be understood as it was in the mid to late 19th Century.

The Colorado Supreme Court cited the definition of “insurrection” in Webster’s Dictionary from 1860:

A rising against civil or political authority; the open and active opposition of a number of persons to the execution of law in a city or state. It is equivalent to SEDITION, except that sedition expresses a less extensive rising of citizens. It differs from REBELLION, for the latter expresses a revolt, or an attempt to overthrow the government, to establish a different one, or to place the country under another jurisdiction.

A contemporary law dictionary published in 1856, by John Bouvier, adapted to the federal and state constitutions, defined “insurrection” as “a rebellion of citizens or subjects of a country against its government.”

There is no question that Donald Trump exhorted the crowd assembled on January 6 to march to the Capitol in opposition to the execution of the law requiring Vice President Pence to count the electoral college votes and Congress to certify the election. Trump said to the crowd:

“We have come to demand that Congress do the right thing and only count the electors who have been lawfully slated, lawfully slated.” He also said that Pence “is going to have to come through for us.” There was more, for example, Trump’s statement to the crowd that “we’re going to walk down, and I’ll be there with you, we’re going to walk down... and we’re going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women.”

Some have argued in Trump’s defense that he did not incite violence because he said: “I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard.”

This is beside the point. As I have pointed out in previous writings, it is very difficult to make a case for criminal incitement to violence against Trump. In deciding whether speech is protected under the First Amendment, Supreme Court precedent requires that the speech have incited lawless action because (1) the speech explicitly or implicitly encouraged the use of violence or lawless action; (2) the speaker intended that the speech would result in the use of violence or lawless action; and (3) the imminent use of violence or lawless action was the likely result of the speech.

Clearly, whether or not Trump’s speech meets those criteria, at a minimum, his speech called for lawless action.

But note that Section 3 of the 14th Amendment does not require incitement of violence. It merely requires that the person who is to be disqualified from office have “engaged” in insurrection or have given aid or comfort to the enemies of the United States (or of the Constitution if you will).

There is ample evidence that Trump was directly involved in promoting the submission of fake electors and fake electoral college votes, that he pressed Vice President Pence to abjure his constitutional duty to certify the electoral college votes. Leaving aside the question of Trump’s



Pic - AP

“It is very difficult to make a case for criminal incitement to violence against Trump. In deciding whether speech is protected under the First Amendment, Supreme Court precedent requires that the speech have incited lawless action because (1) the speech explicitly or implicitly encouraged the use of violence or lawless action; (2) the speaker intended that the speech would result in the use of violence or lawless action; and (3) the imminent use of violence or lawless action was the likely result of the speech. Clearly, whether or not Trump’s speech meets those criteria, at a minimum, his speech called for lawless action...”

responsibility for the violence that ensued, there is no question that the action of the crowd marching on the Capitol was “an open and active opposition” to the execution of the election law and Pence’s constitutional duty. This fits the definition of insurrection. And there is no question that Trump engaged in that insurrection.

There is also no question that Trump’s promise to march with the crowd was giving them aid or comfort in their enterprise to demand that the election laws not be executed. So were his comments on the afternoon of January 6 while the crowd was still at the Capitol. Among his remarks, Trump said: “I know your pain, I know your hurt. We had an election that was stolen from us... We have to have peace. So, go home. We love you, you’re very special.... I know how you feel. But go home and go home in peace.” If that is not giving comfort to the rioters, what is? But that does not answer the question whether the rioters may be classified as enemies of the United States or of the Constitution.

Some have argued that the assault on the Capitol was never an attempt to overthrow the government. This is beside the point. No such requirement is found in Section 3. Nor is it necessary that Trump have succeeded in preventing the peaceful transfer of power.

Trump’s comments since January 6 and his promise to pardon those convicted for their acts on that day may also be considered giving aid or comfort to the insurrectionists. But this may be a perilous legal path. A pardon is a presidential prerogative, so promising a pardon may be perfectly legal so long as no bribe is involved. And, again, are they enemies of the United States or of the Constitution?

Does disqualification violate Trump’s right to due process?

Arguments have been made that disqualifying Trump from running for president is a denial of due process.

This argument is without merit for several reasons.

First, as can be seen in Section 1 of the 14th Amendment, the prohibition is that no state shall “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.” There is not deprivation of life, liberty, or property here. No person has a right to run for office. If there is such a privilege or right, it is only applicable to persons qualified to be president.

On a more substantive note, there cannot be a deprivation of due process if a disqualification is mandated by the Constitution. It would be a contradiction in terms to say that the Constitution’s due process clause prevents the application of the Constitution’s disqualification clause.

In any event, this does not mean that Trump is not entitled to a fair trial. Long before the Constitution was adopted, our system of laws required fair trials and the application of rules of evidence to safeguard the rights of litigants, by virtue of the Magna Carta and common law precedent. Those did

not disappear when the Constitution was adopted.

Trump has not shown that using his own words against him is remotely a violation of fairness or due process. Nor could he. Any candidate is required to meet the threshold qualifications previously mentioned: natural born citizen, at least 35, and a resident for 14 years. A person not meeting any of those qualifications could no more claim a violation of due process than a person disqualified for insurrection.

Is disqualification of Trump anti-democratic?:

Trump’s supporters have taken to claiming that disqualifying him from being on the ballot is anti-democratic and a denial of the people’s right to choose their president.

My first reaction is to laugh. The audacity of this argument is palpable. The essential charge here is that Trump tried to avoid the outcome of a democratic election that his own head of cybersecurity called “the most secure in American history.” Falling back on the anti-democracy argument is reminiscent of the man who kills his parents and then pleads for mercy on the grounds that he is an orphan.

And the argument is silly. The people have no right to choose a person who is not a natural born citizen, or underage, or who does not meet the residency requirement. None of those disqualifications is considered anti-democratic. Why should the inability to choose an insurrectionist be any different?

Conclusion:

On its face, Section 3 of the 14th Amendment bars Trump from the Office of President of the United States, or indeed, from **any** office under the United States.

But, as this review shows, the possibility exists that the Supreme Court will simply refuse to rule based on the political question doctrine or use any one of the excuses proffered to give Donald Trump a pass.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Virendra Proag, Former Associate Professor - Civil Engineering, UoM

'Each generation has a 1 in 4 chance of experiencing flooding, even if an exceptional rainfall intensity of 100 years has been considered'

* Why do we have floods?

Being flooded or submerged by water occurs because the soil cannot absorb the incoming rainfall, or because water on the ground is not flowing away fast enough. A sudden heavy rainfall will cause flooding if there is no drain to carry the water away. A low-lying area will certainly be flooded because all water will eventually accumulate there, and it is usually difficult to make drains at a still lower level.

* What are the factors influencing flood occurrences?

When rain is falling, the amount of water that is going to collect and flow into a river or drain is influenced by (1) the catchment area concerned, (2) the rainfall intensity, and (3) the runoff coefficient.

* Can you elaborate?

Figure 1 shows the process of rainfall, wherein rainfall is the sum of the ensuing evaporation, infiltration, and runoff. $\text{Rainfall} = \text{Evaporation} + \text{Runoff} + \text{Infiltration}$.

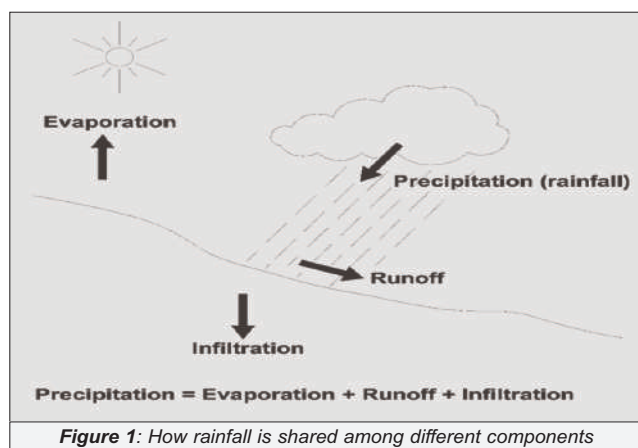


Figure 1: How rainfall is shared among different components

The land's surface always has a slope, however small it might be, which determines the direction of flow (here, the runoff).

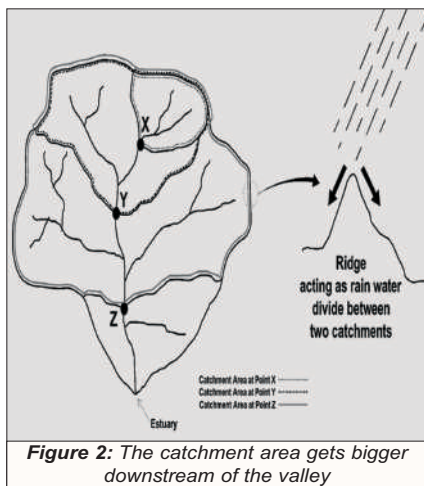


Figure 2: The catchment area gets bigger downstream of the valley

Point X determines a smaller catchment area than point Y, and in turn, the area at point Y is smaller than that governed by point Z. Eventually, the estuary governs an even bigger area.

Figure 3 gives an overall picture of a valley (with small-

TIn this Qs & As exploration, Virendra Proag, a former Associate Professor in Civil Engineering at the University of Mauritius, elucidates the causes of floods, factors influencing their occurrences, and the vital role played by catchment areas and runoff coefficients. Additionally, he scrutinizes the significance of rainfall intensity, return periods, and the implications of climate change on drainage systems.

Viren Proag's perspective challenges us to ponder the effectiveness of existing infrastructure and the imperative of innovation to mitigate the impact of floods, urging society to grapple with the question: Is it acceptable for one's house to get flooded every 10 years, or never at all during one's lifetime? Through historical analysis and engineering acumen, Proag prompts a critical reflection on the need for resilient drainage systems in the face of evolving climatic challenges.

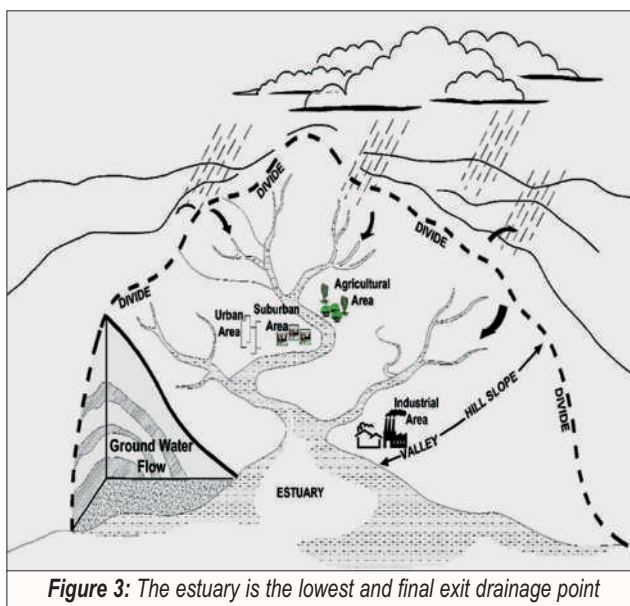


Figure 3: The estuary is the lowest and final exit drainage point

er valleys inside) and indicates how everything discharges into the lowest point, which happens to be the estuary.

In this connection, there is a parallel with traffic flow. Unless the conveying capacity Q_{OUT} is greater than the incoming flow of traffic Q_{IN} , there is going to be a traffic jam. While this results in a halt or lower speed in the case of vehicles, unfortunately, with water, this higher inflow leads to non-stopping flow overtopping the drain and flooding the sides.

* What is the significance of the runoff coefficient?

The runoff coefficient C represents the percentage of rainfall that flows over the ground, in the equation, $\text{Rainfall} = \text{Evaporation} + \text{Infiltration} + \text{Runoff}$. Neither this runoff nor any of the other parameters is constant, though an annual average may be taken.

For example, during a hot sunny day, imagine that some rain falls. As the raindrops touch the ground (soil or road surface), water vapour can be seen rising in the air. Evaporation is actually occurring, live and direct! If it is light rain, the ground surface will dry up quickly. Either all rain-water evaporates on the road or some of the rain is absorbed into the earth: infiltration is taking place.

The end result is, however: there is NO runoff!

At the other end of the scale, even under the same sunny conditions, if there is heavy rain, there will be substantial runoff towards a low point (drain, river, pond) because the soil has reached its infiltration capacity. The soil is momentarily saturated. The ratio of this runoff to the measured rainfall is the runoff coefficient.

Typically, books give the average – over a long interval of time – for the runoff coefficient. However, for those people who have experienced cyclonic conditions, the situation is different. When there are heavy rains, rain might fall continuously/on and off, during several days. The soil is now saturated over a longer period, and sometimes, this can be felt even outside cyclonic conditions.

Imagine now a sudden, heavy rainfall under these conditions. This will just be runoff. There will be NO infiltration (saturated soil) and little evaporation (the air is saturated with water vapour). So now, the **runoff coefficient C** , taken as $C = 1$, is a worst-case scenario that needs to be considered.

Although this might be difficult to swallow, it is judicious to examine the situation in the light of actual experience. Mauritius is a tropical island with tropical heavy rains, not a desert where it rains 20 mm per year! If, on top of that (as in Port Louis), the ground surface consists of clayey soil or is mostly paved, again the runoff coefficient is going to be $C = 1$.

● Cont. on page 10

“There is no reason to believe that the officers of the Met Services are incompetent”



● Cont. from page 9

This factor will increase the design flow to be considered, for sure. However, though the engineer's job is to do an economical design, he should not underestimate the loading conditions (here, the possibility that the rain will not infiltrate at all, nor evaporate, is real. It does happen...). Furthermore, the drain is expected to be effective, not only when it rains slightly but particularly or mostly under extreme conditions.

*** But we do not have floods every time it rains. What type of rainfall does so?**

Normal rainfalls do not cause flooding to occur, but intense rainfalls do.

The **rainfall intensity i** is the average rate of precipitation in mm/hr from a storm having a duration equal to the time of concentration. It is assumed that runoff due to heavy rainfall will reach a peak at the time of concentration when the whole catchment is contributing to flow. Then, the duration of the design storm is equal to the time of concentration.

The **time of concentration t_c** is thus the time taken for water to travel from the catchment boundary to the point of interest (Points X, Y, or Z or estuary) in Figure 2. With the size of catchments in Mauritius, the times of concentration usually lie between 30 minutes and 2-4 hours.

In Mauritius, heavy rains with 100 mm/hr over an hour or so are not uncommon. More specifically, we had 91 mm at Line Barracks, Port Louis, between 2 and 3 pm on 30th March 2013. The rainfall collected over the first half-hour

“We take car insurances even when we believe that we are good drivers... The fishing and sugarcane industries have established insurances (or government compensation) in case of cyclones or bad weather. Although insurance companies might be interested in such insurances (they are to going to accept or refuse the claims for damaged cars), probably the best insurance against flooding would be to build better drains and establish a good forecasting system...”

was 50 mm – which amounts to an intensity of 100 mm/hour. How much we had on Monday 15th January 2024 in Port Louis is yet to be discovered or published.

*** Do we have intense rainfall on a regular basis?**

To introduce the subject, a 100 m sprinter runs at a speed of 36 km/h on a 10-second race, but the average speed is much lower (22 km/h) when another runner (or the same person) undertakes a 10,000 m (10 km) marathon.

Similarly, though rainfall may last several hours (a long-distance race), the critical condition to observe in drain design is the highest rain intensity (highest speed over a short-distance race).

So, we are concerned with rainfall intensity that occurs within the time of concentration over a period of **N** years, which is called the return period. Rather than saying that this given rainfall intensity will occur every **N** (e.g., 50) years, we consider rather its occurrence **x** (e.g., 10) times over a period of **Nx** (e.g., 500) years.

*** Is a Return Period of 50 years Acceptable?**

Many Codes of Practice indicate that one of the reasons for choosing a return period of 50 years has been that the average lifetime of most buildings and structures is near 50 years. Whether we should use a bigger value can be the subject of another debate.

Rainfall frequency and intensity records can be used to estimate the magnitude of rains and the ensuing flood flows. In this respect, it is important to note that there is a 26% probability that a 100-year rain will occur during the next 30 years (a generation).

In practical terms, this means that each generation has a 1 in 4 chance of experiencing flooding, even if an exceptional rainfall intensity of 100 years has been considered. Over a 75-year lifetime, the likelihood rises to 0.53, i.e., the average person has a 1 in 2 chance of experiencing flooding during his lifetime.

*** Is the population ready to accept this?**

Even if a higher return interval (e.g., 1,000 years) is taken, it is found that there is a 7.2% chance (not to be neglected as being small) that a 1,000-year flood will occur during a 75-year span – a man's lifetime.

*** Can we have insurance against damage caused by flooding?**

We take car insurances even when we believe that we are good drivers, to ensure that there will be funds available to cover expenses and compensation if there is an accident. The fishing and sugarcane industries have established insurances (or government compensation) in case of cyclones or bad weather. Although insurance companies might be interested in such insurances (they are to going to accept or refuse the claims for damaged cars), probably the best insurance against flooding would be to build better drains and establish a good forecasting system.

*** Can we have a good forecasting system?**

Over the years, technology has increased considerably. In the 1960s, the Met Services were using a lighter-than-air balloon carrying a *radio sonde* (sensors with a radio transmitter) which was being tracked by a ground radar at Vacoas. Since then, satellite technology has made its appearance.

*** What about backyard meteorologists?**

Presently, on the internet, anybody can buy an automatic weather station, for prices between Rs10,000 and Rs100,000. Just as people buy expensive cars as a hobby, there is also a market for these. Depending on the price, you can obtain more or less sophisticated equipment, and

you can collect quite some data, and make your predictions.

If your predictions from your station (plus data obtained from other international stations) are quite precise or reasonably accurate, understandably people would trust you (and might even be willing to buy them), and your predictions!

*** Could the Met Services forecast the heavy rains of Monday 15th January 2024?**

The Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS) did not have, in 2013, a radar station capable of detecting rainfall or heavy rainfall clouds. But now that they have it, the people of Mauritius expect that the MMS can provide useful information, namely advance warning of impending heavy rainfall. Mr Golaup, former MMS Director, was re-employed on contract because he was the only person who knew how to operate this radar station. If there is now nobody who can operate the station, or the said radar station is not operational, something is wrong somewhere! But not with the Mauritian public!

*** Do you think that the MMS officers have committed some blunder?**

“The Mauritius Meteorological Services did not have, in 2013, a radar station capable of detecting rainfall or heavy rainfall clouds. But now that they have it, the people of Mauritius expect that the MMS can provide useful information, namely advance warning of impending heavy rainfall. Mr Golaup, former MMS Director, was re-employed on contract because he was the only person who knew how to operate this radar station. If there is now nobody who can operate the station, or the said radar station is not operational, something is wrong somewhere! But not with the Mauritian public!”

There is no reason to believe that the officers of the MMS are incompetent. It is likely that many decisions (or conclusions/interpretations of weather data) are carried out collectively, but at the end of the day, we only learn through making mistakes. Much depends on the willingness to learn as a trainee. As a trainee engineer, I used to run after my mentors to ask questions or obtain possible explanations. Nowadays, as a mentor, I have to chase trainees to find out if they need any advice! (even when no payment is involved).

Among the first and hard lessons that you learn as a civil servant: (1) Your best friend will not stand by you in hard times. (2) Your boss will deny having given you an instruction if it is not on paper. So, the best policy is always to justify (what the French call *motiver*) your decisions. Whether right or wrong, the reasons you wrote down will themselves explain why you took or recommended the given decision. Of course, if you are given an oral and abnormal/unethical/improper instruction, either you get it written and signed or else, you can throw it to the winds.

*** What do you think about the recent Port Louis flood?**

Presently, in the absence of data (rainfall intensity, evidence from affected parties – shops, museum, Caudan Waterfront, etc.), the best proxy is to look at what happened in 2013.

● Cont. on page 11

'If you are given an oral and abnormal/unethical/improper instruction, either you get it written and signed or else, you can throw it to the winds'



● Cont. from page 10

The motorway was flooded at Caudan between Rogers House and the Waterfront on 11th February 2013, without much damage. There was a worse incident on 30th March 2013, with the loss of life. The rainfall recorded on 30th March 2013, at Line Barracks (less than 100 mm in 1 hour) would indicate a return period of some 50-100 years.

However, the fact that there was a similar flooding at Place d'Armes/Caudan (apparently without the underground pedestrian pathways getting submerged) on 11th April 2003 (Wright A., Moonien V., 2013) confirms that a 50-year flood does not occur every 50 years! It will certainly occur some 10 times during a period of 500 years but may also occur within the next 10 years!!!

*** Do you think flooding can occur again, and if so, how soon?**

The motorway from Montebello towards Port Louis is lined on both sides with concrete borders or walls, which are supposed to be very effective against cars attempting to collide with them. The walls are also equipped, at regular intervals, with weep holes intended to evacuate water into the side drains.

While these weep holes can be effective in handling low flows, their small size (some 30 x 10 cm to 40 x 15 cm) becomes inadequate during heavy rains and winds, as they can become blocked with gravel, leaves, and mud. When blocked, the bituminous motorway functions as a well-designed, bitumen-lined channel, as was evident during the heavy rains of March 30, 2013, when the motorway conveyed water supposed to be evacuated into the side drains.

*** As of the end of July 2013, the weep holes were still the same size. Have they been increased since then?**

Between Edith Cavell Street and the Government House, the lowest points in Port Louis are along La Poudrière Street. The two channels – Le Pouce stream and La Butte à Thonnier canal – are located on both sides of this road. The ground also slopes downward towards the sea, meaning any rainfall will be channeled towards these two canals and the sea.

The issue arises at the Harbour Front and Place d'Armes, where the motorway and the Caudan Waterfront Esplanade act as obstacles (Photos 1 and 2). This implies that if the peak discharge flow from heavy rainfall exceeds the channels' capacity, floodwaters will not go directly towards the sea until they have overtopped the motorway



Photo 1: Place d'Armes. The arrows indicate the slope direction

and the Caudan Waterfront Esplanade. This, of course, results in consequential ponding in the area between the Port Louis Museum and Place d'Armes. Again, this is simple logic, borne out by the events of April 11, 2003, and March 30, 2013.



Photo 2: The Caudan Esplanade (on the right) is at a higher level than Place d'Armes

Even assuming that the motorway constitutes a road-block in the evacuation of rainwater from Place d'Armes, historical records (Chelin 1989) show that floods have occurred several times before the construction of the motorway. This implies that the existing canals/streams are not sufficient or are inadequate to evacuate the water reaching Place d'Armes in case of heavy rainfall.

*** So, given that a rainfall intensity of 100 mm/hr is not uncommon, have we proposed any new canals to improve water evacuation?**

Over the past 200 years, Port Louis has been flooded more than 8 times, including twice in 2013.

In 2016, Normandie received 170 mm of rain (a monthly average) during only 2 days. The resulting peak flow increase in the Seine River takes 2 days to reach Paris. So, Paris had approximately 2 days to take or organize precautions, if any.

More recently, Pas de Calais has been flooded twice within 3 months (November 2023 and January 2024). Here, as in Port Louis, there wasn't enough time to organize any precautions because the time of concentration is short.

So, floods occur in other countries as well, sometimes against all odds.

*** What is the impact of climate change?**

At one time, La Chaussée Street was a "radier" to be crossed at low water level, and the sea was at this level. Further to landfilling and land reclamation, the sea front receded to the Caudan Waterfront. But, if you examine the Pouce canal, you will observe the sea water level reaching La Chaussée bridge, at high tide, or even further without any inflow from upstream! This means that the headroom

under the bridges at La Chaussée, A1 (John Kennedy) streets, and the motorway has been reduced.

Climate change has one important impact: the sea level rises, albeit a few millimeters every year. So, as time goes on, the headroom for the flow of water under the bridges will continue to decrease. Compound this with an abnormal high tide or sea waves during a cyclone!

*** Any conclusions that you wish to draw?**

On March 30, 2013, 152.6 mm of rain fell in the city of Port-Louis, resulting in a fatal flood. The most significantly flooded places were found to be those downstream of three canals, namely: Pouce Stream, Butte à Tonniens, and Ruisseau des Créoles. These are long-existing channels that drain the lower parts of Port-Louis and discharge into the sea at the Caudan Basin.

No major improvements have been made to the archaic drainage system in Port-Louis during the last 150 years, while massive urbanization has taken place. The extensive pileup of rubbish at Caudan Waterfront (Place d'Armes metro station) needs some investigation!

Historical data since 1840 also indicates that Port-Louis has been flooded many times in the past, on average every

“Over the past 200 years, Port Louis has been flooded more than 8 times, including twice in 2013. In 2016, Normandie received 170 mm of rain (a monthly average) during only 2 days. The resulting peak flow increase in the Seine river takes 2 days to reach Paris. So Paris had approximately 2 days to take or organize precautions, if any. Here, as in Port Louis, there wasn't enough time to organize any precautions because the time of concentration is short...”

20 years. It is, therefore, suspected that there has always been a deficiency in the drainage network of Port-Louis.

If the existing drains are inadequate, there is clearly a need, either to enlarge the existing canals (if possible, under existing roads) or to examine how to channel heavy rains from the Pouce mountains away from the town centre.

For example, Canal Dayot village would be safer if the St Louis River is diverted into the Grand River North West (GRNW) River, at the level where the old railway bridge crosses both rivers.

In a small country like Mauritius, it is difficult to give flood warnings in advance so that one can abandon a house and move furniture. Flooding might occur suddenly in the middle of the night, especially during a power cut.

The only solution to keeping dry feet would be to have adequate drainage. Is it acceptable for one's house to get flooded every 10 years? Or every 30 years? Or never at all during one's lifetime? The three alternatives will require drains of different sizes, with different costs.

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Saudi Arabia to recognise Israel? Its foreign minister says if Palestine's issue resolved

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said on Tuesday the kingdom could recognise Israel if a comprehensive agreement were reached that included statehood for the Palestinians, ambitious talk as the war between Israel and Hamas shows no sign of easing.

"We agree that regional peace includes peace for Israel, but that could only happen through peace for the Palestinians through a Palestinian state," Prince Faisal bin Farhan told a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Asked if Saudi Arabia would then recognise Israel as part of a wider political agreement, he said: "Certainly."

Prince Faisal said securing regional peace through the creation of a Palestinian state was "something we have been indeed working on with the U.S. administration, and it is more relevant in the context of Gaza".

Securing a normalisation deal with Saudi Arabia would be the grand prize for Israel after it established diplomatic ties



Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister.
Pic - The Washington Institute

with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco, and could transform the geopolitics of the Middle East, reports Reuters.

The Sunni Muslim kingdom, the most powerful country in the Arab world and

home to the most sacred sites in Islam, wields considerable religious clout across the globe.

After the eruption of war last October between Israel and the militant Palestinian group Hamas that rules Gaza, Saudi Arabia put on ice U.S.-backed plans for the kingdom to normalise ties with Israel, two sources familiar with Riyadh's thinking said, in a swift reordering of its diplomatic priorities.

Palestinians

Before Oct. 7, when Iran-backed Hamas fighters launched an attack on southern Israel, both Israeli and Saudi leaders had signalled they were moving steadily towards establishing diplomatic relations that could have reshaped the Middle East.

The Palestinians want a state in

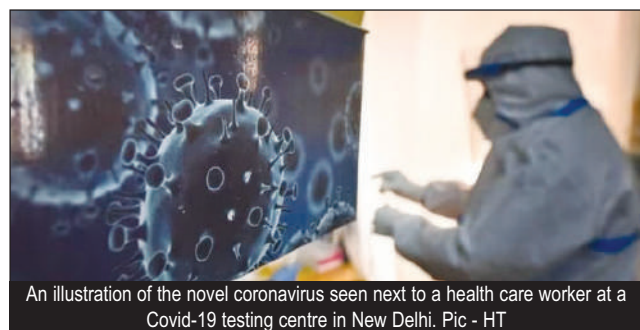
territories captured by Israel in a 1967 war, with East Jerusalem as their capital. U.S.-sponsored negotiations with Israel on achieving that stalled more than a decade ago.

Among the hurdles have been Israeli settlement of occupied land and feuding between Western-backed Palestinian authorities and Hamas Islamists who reject coexistence with Israel.

"There is a pathway towards a much better future for the region, for the Palestinians, and for Israel, that is peace, and we are fully committed to that," said Prince Faisal.

"... a ceasefire on all sides should be a starting point for permanent sustainable peace, which can only happen through justice to the Palestinian people."

Israel's hard-right government has played down the prospect of it making significant concessions to the Palestinians as part of any potential normalisation deal with Saudi Arabia.



An illustration of the novel coronavirus seen next to a health care worker at a Covid-19 testing centre in New Delhi. Pic - HT

Chinese scientists mapped Covid virus 2 weeks before world knew

Chinese researchers had mapped the Covid-19 virus in December 2019, at least two weeks before Beijing revealed it to the world, documents related to the US Congressional investigation accessed by *The Wall Street Journal* revealed.

The documents said Chinese researchers uploaded a nearly complete sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to the US government-run database on December 28, 2019. However, Chinese officials shared the data with the World Health Organisation (WHO) only on January 11, 2020.

The new revelation poses questions about the level of access China had to the deadly virus and the extent to which the outbreak, which caused millions of deaths in the months to come, could have been controlled had the world been aware of it just two weeks earlier, reports Hindustan Times.

Defending its government's administrative move, a Chinese embassy spokesperson told the US daily that their Covid response policies were "science-based, effective and consistent with China's national realities."

Chinese scientist Dr Lili Ren, who uploaded the Covid sequence in 2019, never responded to the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) request for more technical details. Eventually, the data was removed from the government database and was never published. Later, on January 12, 2020, the NIH published a fresh Covid virus it received from a different source.

'Killer drones, rockets': How Pakistan army carried out airstrikes in Iran

The Pakistani army on Thursday shared operational details of the airstrikes against hideouts inside Iran used by "terrorists" of two leading "Baloch terrorist groups".

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that it carried out precision air strikes in Iran using killer drones, rockets, loitering munitions and stand-off weapons, according to local media reports. The army said that it struck the hideouts of the Balochistan Liberation Army and the Balochistan Liberation Front in an intelligence-based operation, code-named 'Marg Bar Sarmachar'.

The army claimed that these hideouts were used by terrorists responsible for recent attacks in Pakistan. It added that targeted hideouts were being used by "notorious terrorists" including Dosta alias Chairman, Bajjar alias Soghat, Sahil alias Shafaq, Asghar alias Basham and Wazir alias Wazi, amongst others, according to Geo News.

The ISPR said armed forces' resolve to ensure that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan is respected and safeguarded against any misadventure, remains unwavering, reports Hindustan Times.

The development comes two days after Iran carried out strikes against "terrorist" targets in Pakistan which left at least two children dead. Islamabad expelled the Iranian envoy to the country and recalled its ambassador from Tehran.

Iran and Pakistan share a 900-km somewhat lawless border that enables militants to move freely between nations. Notably, it was the first missile attack on Iranian soil since the end of the gruelling eight-year Iran-Iraq War in 1988, according to the Associated Press.

The attack and counter-attack raise the threat of violence spilling over to other parts of the Middle East, which is already reeling under the ongoing Israel-Gaza war.



Pakistani army launching rockets. Pic - Dawn

* Contd on page 13



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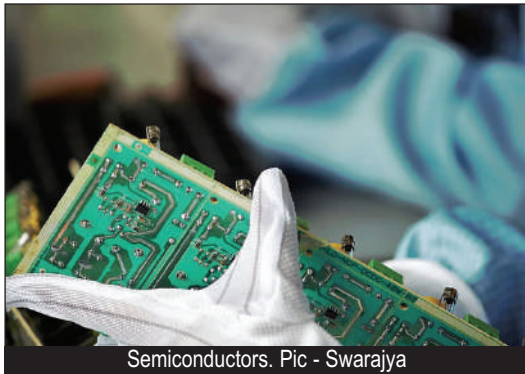
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India's semiconductor mission focussed on talent development, designing entire chip: Ashwini Vaishnaw



Semiconductors. Pic - Swarajya

Indian Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said that India's semiconductor mission is focussed on talent development and designing the entire chip.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum annual meeting, Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "The biggest priority is on design that's where we have a very big strength. We have as I said about 300,000 design engineers. In design, we are advancing from being a back office to actually producing the complete chip or rather designing the complete chip, two going out to the customers taking the concept and then developing the entire chip. So that's a very important journey. So this is a very big focus for us."

Speaking about India's semiconductor mission, Ashwini Vaishnaw said that in its semiconductor program India has announced and committed to developing 85,000 talents, which includes engineers, BTech, MTech, PhD and technicians for managing clean rooms, working out

machines, and the entire spectrum over the next ten years and within a short time.

He said, "We announced this policy in January 2022. It's just 24 months now and within this short time frame, we have tied up with 104 universities, redesigned the entire course curriculum, and tied up with international institutions including the University of Purdue. We have had the first plant, which was announced during Prime Minister Modi's US State visit on June 23. And within 90 days of that announcement, the construction of the first plant started in September 2023. So, it's a very rapid progress, very focused. Yes, unlike the US, which has USD 55 million, our program is at this point of time USD 10 billion."

Calling trust India's biggest capital, he said the entire world has developed a "very big amount of trust" in India. He stated that India has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with US, Europe and Japan. He further said that India is working with the South Korean government and companies on semiconductors.

Speaking about where New Delhi stands amid the battle between the West and China over chips, the minister said, "If you look at how India has conducted its foreign policy, its economic policy, the way it has conducted itself - the entire world has developed a very big amount of trust on India. That trust is what is our biggest capital. That trust gels the entire world in a very harmonious way."

Biden administration finalizes a \$1.1 billion aid package for California's last nuclear power plant

President Joe Biden's administration on Wednesday finalized approval of \$1.1 billion to help keep California's last operating nuclear power plant running.

The funding is a financial pillar in the plan to keep the Diablo Canyon Power Plant producing electricity to at least 2030 — five years beyond its planned closing.

Terms of the aid package were not released by the Energy Department.

In 2016, plant operator Pacific Gas & Electric, environmental groups and plant worker unions reached an agreement to close the four-decade-old reactors by 2025. But the Legislature voided the deal in 2022 at the urging of Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, who said the power is needed to ward off blackouts as climate change stresses the energy system, reports AP.

California is the birthplace of the modern environmental movement and for decades has had a fraught relationship with nuclear power. Environmentalists argued California has adequate power without the reactors and that their continued operation could hinder development of new sources of clean energy. They also warn that long-delayed testing on one of the reactors poses a safety risk that could result in an accident, a claim disputed by PG&E.

The fight over the seaside plant located midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco is playing out as the long-struggling nuclear industry sees a potential rebirth in the era of global warming. Nuclear power doesn't produce carbon pollution like fossil fuels, but it leaves behind waste that can remain dangerously radioactive for centuries.

Kate Middleton's abdominal surgery 'not a trivial matter', royal expert says

A royal expert highlighted the "seriousness" of Kate Middleton's health update as Prince Williams's wife has been admitted to hospital for a planned abdominal surgery, Kensington Palace announced saying that the procedure had been successful.

The Kensington Palace statement read, "Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales was admitted to The London Clinic yesterday for planned abdominal surgery. The surgery was successful and it is expected that she will remain in hospital for ten to fourteen days, before returning home to continue her recovery. Based on the current medical advice, she is unlikely to return to public duties until after Easter."



Kate Middleton. Pic - Town & Country Magazine

As the Princess of Wales will spend the next two to three months recovering from the surgery, royal correspondent Michael Cole said that Kate Middleton is "young and vigorous and very fit", stressing that the news is "not a trivial matter and is obviously quite serious".

"She has very conscientiously added in that quite full statement from Kensington Palace much more so than one would have perhaps expected on another occasion," the royal expert said, explaining, "It's going to be a long stay in hospital afterwards - these days they get the patients out of hospital as soon as possible back on their feet. So that also does indicate the seriousness of the nature of whatever it is that is ailing her."

The royal correspondent added that it would be "unwise" for royal fans to speculate as Kensington Palace has said that it will bring out "more details" as they deem fit, reports Hindustan Times.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah



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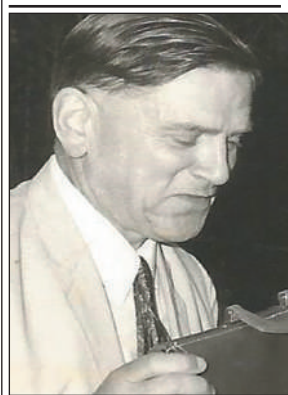
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From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 260

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 7 August, 1959

● *Error is worse than ignorance. — Philip James Bailey*

Peter Ibbotson

School Record Cards

At the outset, let me remind readers that education in England and Wales is administered by Local Education Authorities as partners with the Ministry of Education; but whereas in Mauritius the Education Authorities are religious in their composition, in England and Wales the Education Authorities (known as LEA's for short) are territorially composed. Each is responsible for the schools and pupils in a given area. Not all LEA's are large; the number of children for which a particular LEA is responsible ranges from 433,000 in London and 317,000 in Lancashire down to 6,600 in Eastbourne and 5,800 in Canterbury.

Each LEA can decide for itself just how to select children of 11 for grammar school education, i.e., for secondary education as the term is still regrettably still interpreted almost throughout the whole British colonial empire. But the pattern of selection follows a generally discernible trend: tests in English and arithmetic, with also an intelligence test. Coaching undoubtedly improves a pupil's possible performance in such tests; most LEA's recognise this by providing facilities for all pupils to have practise tests in school, so that the beneficent effects (to a few pupils) of coaching are in some degree negated. Research has found that there is an upward limit to the amount of improvement in performance which can be achieved by coaching in intelligence tests; and this limit can be reached by the small amount of practice allowed in schools.

A growing number of LEA's, however, relies on additional methods of selection for secondary education. One very popular additional method is the use of the school (or teachers') record card. In 1952 the National Foundation for Educational Research found that 29.6% of LEA's used record cards to help in selecting all pupils for secondary schools, and a further 7.6% used them to help with certain groups of pupils. By 1950, only four years later, 33.3% of LEA's, that is one in every three, were using record cards for all pupils, and many others consulted the record cards for certain pupils; for the "borderline" group, in fact — those who were on the fringe of a grammar school education. In their case the entries on the record card would supplement the evidence of the selection examination marks.

In a later article, I will deal with intelligence tests as a means of selection for secondary education. Now, however, I wish to deal with the school record card, since it is an innovation which, I feel, might commend itself to use in Mauritius. It would presumably be one of the matters to be considered by the Commission of Enquiry to which I referred, and which I suggested might profitably be set up, the other week — a Commission to enquire into the provision of secondary education in Mauritius with particular reference to means of selection.

A record card is a means whereby teachers can note,

throughout a pupil's school career, noteworthy data about their pupils. Where they are in use under a L.E.A., a card is opened for each child when it starts school — this being at the age of five or thereabouts. Regular entries on the card summarise the child's attendance during the school year; when the child is due to leave the infant school and go up to a junior school (or, if his school caters for both infants and juniors, when he is due to leave the infants' department for the junior department), his infant teacher enters on the card in the space provided an estimate of the child's attainment in 1 oral and written expression, reading, and in number.

The estimate is graded on a five-point scale, as it is called: **A** for well above average, **B** for above average, **C** for average, **D** for below average, and **E** for well below average. "Average" means average for the particular school attended by the particular child; since standards at different schools vary according to the social class from which the bulk of the pupils are drawn, it naturally follows that "average" for one school might well be equivalent only to a "below average" degree of attainment at another school whose children were cleverer. The infant teachers can also give a general assessment and thumbnail character sketch of each child, as well as give (if they wish, as many do) the point which the child has reached in his reading ability.

In the junior school or department, which the child enters in the September following his seventh birthday, the card is completed every year. On the record cards most widely in use in London, the child's junior school teachers grade him each year (again A, B, C, D, E, having the same meanings) in oral expression, written expression, reading, comprehension of English, Arithmetic, and such other subjects as they wish to specify in the spaces provided.

Normally these other subjects include Geography, History, Science, Art, Handicrafts and P.T. At the end of the child's junior school career, when he is eleven, a comprehensive entry goes on to the record card. The teacher summarises the child's activities and interests, his personal characteristics, and his abilities. The last is again according to the five-point scale A, B, C, D, E; the others can be the subject of a thumbnail sketch. Opportunity is also provided for the teacher to give a comprehensive study of the child in a section of the card headed "remarks" and many teachers use this to give a brief but pungent character study of their pupils.

When the child is graded A, B, C, D, or E in the various subjects each year during his junior school career, the teacher making the assessment of ability signs and dates the card and can amplify the assessment by remarks if he so wishes. Some teachers are adept at summing up a child in a minimum of words; who cannot, for example, picture the child whose performance in English is described by his teacher as "imperturbably inept"? whose arithmetic is described as "original but inaccurate"? whose outstanding characteristic is said to be "cheerful vacuity"?

The record cards accompany the children to their sec-



ondary schools, where for the first two years the teachers make entries similar to those made during the four junior school years. At the end of the child's first two years, another summary of his activities and interests, his characteristics, and his ability, is made comprehensively.

Space is also provided for medical records, which are relevant to any backwardness which may be present, and for explanations of long breaks in attendance. The whole card, when completed, gives an overall picture of the child's school career as seen through the eyes of his teachers who, to complete the cards carefully and accurately, spend a considerable amount of time (out of school, of course) carefully considering each child individually before making estimates of character and so on.

The card I have briefly described is that in use in London. Other LEA's have variations on this card or use a completely different card altogether. Some are much more comprehensive; the junior record card issued by the National Foundation for Educational Research, for example, asks teachers to comment (using the five-point scale) on seven temperamental qualities: prevailing attitude, self-confidence, self-criticism, sociability, co-operation, perseverance, and conscientiousness. Each grade of each quality is described by a brief pen-picture so that teachers may know what the compilers of the card had in mind. For example, grade E of co-operation is described as "churlish, sullen, not cooperative" — which suggests that Hon. Bissoondoyal wouldn't get high marks under this heading!

The record card used in Southampton (which is reproduced at pages 122-123 of J.J.B. Dempster's Selection for Secondary Education) selects a few contrasting adjectives that are important from the school's point of view — keen, indifferent, communicative, reticent, thorough, casual, equable, erratic — and asks teachers each year to tick whichever appears to them to fit their pupils. A tick means a noteworthy trait; the lack of a tick, that the child lacks noteworthy qualities.

A number of criticisms have been levelled against the use of the record cards; but the one big thing in their favour is, I submit, the opportunity they afford teachers to regard their pupils as individuals in their own right, not just as names on an exercise book. And this, which humanises education, is nothing but good.

The Unlucky Minister's Guide to Gift Etiquette

Dancing Through Corruption: A Socratic Comedy on Integrity

● Cont. from page 2

Eshwar: (laughs) Let's focus on ethical bestsellers, Cleopphantus. Lessons in virtue rather than vice.

Socrates: Eshwar, you faced accusations of receiving extravagant gifts. Were they perhaps wrapped in shiny paper with a bow?

Eshwar: (chuckles) If only, Socrates! Perhaps I should have insisted on plain brown paper to avoid such scandals.

Cleopphantus: (innocently) Or better yet, gift cards! Nothing says transparency like a piece of plastic with a predetermined limit.

Moris: (joining the banter) In Mauritius, we might consider coconut shells as gift containers – eco-friendly and scandal-resistant.

Socrates: (stroking his beard) A commendable idea! Now, let us ponder the challenges faced by Mauritius in the realm of integrity. How do you, ACC, keep the Commission unswayed by external pressures?

ACC: (with a twinkle in his eye) Socrates, we equip our investigators with an armour of wit and a shield of scepticism. Plus, a mandatory daily dose of laughter to keep the spirits high.

Cleopphantus: (laughs) The world could use more anti-corruption stand-up routines!

Eshwar: (nodding) Indeed, laughter is the best defense against the dark arts of corruption.

Socrates: Eshwar, what advice can you offer Moris in navigating the complex landscape of political influence?

Eshwar: Well, Socrates, perhaps they could introduce a "No Bribes, Only Punchlines" policy. A good joke can be mightier than a political connection.

Cleopphantus: (grinning) And if all else fails, they can hire stand-up comedians as integrity consultants!

Moris: (joining the laughter) A brilliant idea! A nation united by laughter is a nation resistant to corruption.

Socrates: (with a twinkle in his eye) And what of Singapore's lessons for Mauritius in building a resilient system of integrity?

Eshwar: Singapore, my friends, is like a well-oiled machine of virtue. We nurture leaders who understand that the real Grand Prix is the race for integrity.

Cleopphantus: (winking) So, no need for business class flights when you're flying on the wings of moral high ground!

Eshwar: (laughs) Precisely, Cleopphantus. We aim for a government so clean that not even a speck of dust can find a place to settle.



ACC: (joining the jest) In Mauritius, we're aiming for an anti-corruption force so sharp that even corruption trembles in its presence.

Socrates: (smiling) Let the wisdom of humour guide your efforts, my friends. In the pursuit of integrity, a well-timed joke can be as powerful as the sword of justice.

Moris: (reflectively) It's heartening to see humour intertwined with wisdom. In Mauritius, we often say, "Laughter is the best medicine, especially for corruption."

Socrates: (nodding) Wise words from Mauritius! Now, let us explore the role of public perception in the fight against corruption. Eshwar, how does Singapore maintain the public's trust amid allegations and controversies?

Eshwar: Ah, the delicate dance of public perception! We believe in full transparency. We're like a fish tank with no secrets – well, except for the fish's clandestine meetings, of course.

Cleopphantus: (laughing) Fishy business indeed! But how do you handle the skeptics who think the fish might be involved in some underwater corruption?

Eshwar: (grinning) We invite them for a tour of the tank. Transparency at its finest!

Socrates: And what of Mauritius? How do you ensure the public sees the ACC as a force for good?

ACC: We embrace the power of social media. We're considering launching an ACC TikTok challenge – dance away corruption, one viral video at a time!

Cleopphantus: (chuckling) A dance revolution against corruption! What a time to be alive!

Moris: (smiling) Laughter and dance – perhaps the antidotes to the poison of corruption.

Socrates: Eshwar, your resignation amid the charges speaks volumes about accountability. How does one balance personal integrity with the demands of public service?

Eshwar: (thoughtfully) It's a tightrope walk, Socrates. But personal integrity should always take the lead. As for the tightrope, we're considering installing safe-

ty nets made of integrity. A bit bouncy, but much safer.

Cleopphantus: (with a grin) A circus of ethics, complete with safety nets and dancing elephants!

Socrates: Eshwar, your sense of humour remains intact despite the challenges. Now, let us consider the lessons

for Mauritius in nurturing leaders who prioritize integrity.

Eshwar: Moris, my advice is to create a leadership academy where integrity is not just taught but danced, sung, and performed. Let the leaders be virtuoso musicians in the orchestra of honesty.

Cleopphantus: (chuckling) A symphony of integrity – the sound of corruption fleeing!

Moris: (with a smile) An academy of virtue! I shall propose it to our leaders. Perhaps we can have integrity poetry slams too.

Socrates: A poetic approach to ethics – a delightful suggestion, Moris. As we conclude our discourse, let us celebrate the power of laughter, dance, and wisdom in the pursuit of integrity. May your nations be guided by the light-hearted spirit of virtue.

Plutonix

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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

Le pape François condamne la pornographie

«Le diable entre par là», avait-il déclaré en octobre 2022



Pape François: «Le sexe n'est pas un monstre, mais un don de Dieu pour aimer». P - Sputnik Afrique

Dans une allocution franche, le pape François souligne l'importance de défendre l'amour et l'intimité physique face à l'influence des comportements addictifs engendrés par la pornographie.

Le pape a pris position sur l'importance du plaisir sexuel et les dangers de la pornographie lors d'une récente allocution aux fidèles.

Le pape François, âgé de 87 ans, a déclaré que « le plaisir sexuel est un don de Dieu » et qu'il devrait être apprécié, mais qu'il est corrompu par l'influence de la pornographie.

«Nous devons défendre l'amour », a-t-il déclaré, selon *The Guardian*. «Gagner la bataille contre la luxure peut être un engagement pour toute la vie.»

Le pape, né en Argentine, a déclaré que la pornographie pouvait engendrer des comportements addictifs et conduire à un «vice dangereux».

Il a ajouté : «La luxure pille, vole, consume avec hâte, elle ne veut pas écouter l'autre mais seulement répondre à son propre besoin et plaisir; la luxure juge chaque flirt ennuyeux, elle ne cherche pas cette synthèse entre raison, pulsion et sentiment qui nous aiderait à mener une existence

sage», selon le *Telegraph*. Il a également mis en garde contre le fait que la luxure peut amener à traiter l'autre comme un objet et tenter de le «posséder».

Ce n'est pas la première fois que le pape aborde la question de la pornographie. En octobre 2022, il avait avoué être au courant de prêtres et de religieuses regardant de la pornographie et les avait mis en garde, ainsi que les laïcs, en déclarant que « le diable entre par là».

Il leur avait conseillé: «Si vous pouvez le supprimer de votre téléphone, alors supprimez-le, vous n'aurez pas la tentation à portée de main.»

Les derniers commentaires du pape interviennent après la révélation que le cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez, à la tête du Dicastère pour la Doctrine de la Foi, avait rédigé un livre en 1998 détaillant l'orgasme masculin et féminin.

Le livre, qui n'est plus disponible, a été critiqué comme «scandaleux» par certains catholiques conservateurs qui ont appelé à sa destitution, selon le *Telegraph*.

Le pape a également défendu la récente décision de l'Église d'autoriser les bénédictions pour les couples de même sexe le dimanche.

Il a répondu aux critiques et à la résistance de certains prêtres qui refusaient de suivre les nouvelles règles, en déclarant: «Parfois, les décisions ne sont pas acceptées, mais dans la plupart des cas, lorsque les décisions ne sont pas acceptées, c'est parce qu'elles ne sont pas comprises.»

A. Bartleby



VACANCY

Forklift / Reach Truck Driver

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates who wish to be considered for appointment as Forklift/ Reach Truck Driver at the Mauritius Duty Free Paradise Co. Ltd.

Qualification and Requirements:

- (i) Studied up to secondary level.
OR
Equivalent qualification acceptable to the Board.
- (ii) A valid Forklift driving licence.
- (iii) Reckon at least 1 year of driving experience as Forklift/Reach Truck driver.
- (iv) A clean driving licence and police record.
- (v) Candidates should have reached their 18th birthday on the closing date.
- (vi) Candidates must be citizens of the Republic of Mauritius.
- (vii) Clean and valid Certificate of Character.
- (viii) May be required to work on a shift system.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- (i) To operate the forklift and reach truck.
- (ii) To unload incoming containers and to stack products on racks.
- (iii) To load trucks.
- (iv) To load and unload products onto or off pallets.
- (v) To effect mechanical verification of forklift and reach truck

Mode of Application

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications letters with a comprehensive CV and photocopies of the valid forklift driving licence, all academic and professional certificates plus evidence of work experience claimed.

The application should be sent by registered post to the **Manager, HR, Mauritius Duty Free Paradise Co. Ltd, P.O Box, 426, Port Louis on or before the closing date.**

The envelope should be clearly marked with "Forklift/ Reach Truck Driver" on the top left-hand corner.

Closing date:

Wednesday 14 February 2024

Note:

1. The Mauritius Duty Free Paradise Co. Ltd reserves the right to make alternative arrangement or not to proceed to any appointment following this advertisement.
2. Only the best qualified candidates will be called for the selection exercise. All applications will be treated in strict confidentiality.
3. Candidates are hereby informed that non-submission of documents as described under "Mode of Application" will entail rejection of application.
4. The onus for the submission of equivalence of qualification (if applicable) from the relevant authorities rests on the candidates.

Date: 19 January 2024



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Self-controlled children tend to be healthier middle-aged adults

Benefits include younger brains and bodies, better outlook on the years ahead

Self-control, the ability to contain one's own thoughts, feelings and behaviours, and to work toward goals with a plan, is one of the personality traits that makes a child ready for school. And, it turns out, ready for life as well.

In a large study that has tracked a thousand people from birth through age 45 in New Zealand, researchers have determined that people who had higher levels of self-control as children were aging more slowly than their peers at age 45. Their bodies and brains were healthier and biologically younger.

In interviews, the higher self-control group also showed they may be better equipped to handle the health, financial and social challenges of later life as well.

The researchers used structured interviews and credit checks to assess financial preparedness.

High childhood self-control participants expressed more positive views of aging and felt more satisfied with life in middle age.

"Our population is growing older, and living longer with age-related diseases," said Leah Richmond-Rakerd, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Michigan, who is the first author on the study.

"It's important to identify ways to help individuals prepare successfully for later-life challenges, and live more years free of disability. We found that self-control in



early life may help set people up for healthy aging."

The children with better self-control tended to come from more financially secure families and have higher IQ. However, the findings of slower aging at age 45 with more self-control can be separated from their childhood socio-economic status and IQ. Their analyses showed that self-control was the factor that made a difference.

financially, and socially," said Terrie Moffitt, the Nannerl O. Keohane Professor of Psychology & Neuroscience at Duke, and last author on the paper.

"We found people who have used self-control since childhood are far more prepared for aging than their same-age peers."

And childhood is not destiny, the researchers are quick to point out.

Some study participants had shifted their self-control levels as adults and had better health outcomes than their childhood assessments would have predicted.

Self-control also can be taught, and the researchers suggest that a societal investment in such training could improve life span and quality of life, not only in childhood, but also perhaps in midlife.

There is ample evidence that changing behaviours in midlife (quitting smoking or taking up exercise) leads to improved outcomes.

"Everyone fears an old age that's sickly, poor, and lonely, so aging well requires us to get prepared, physically,



How much money is there in the world?

We can look at the value of the things we buy and sell.

If we want to add up how much money there is in the world, a good place to start would be counting all the notes and coins out there – in people's wallets and money boxes and in cash machines.

Let's start with pounds. There is about £84 billion (or 84,000,000,000) of British money out there in coins and notes. There's also US\$2,236 billion in US money, €1,578 billion in the money of the European Union and ¥9,616 billion in Chinese money – plus money in many other currencies.

As money is not the same in every country, summing up all the coins and notes in the world means that you need to measure how much a US dollar, an Indian rupee, or a Chinese yuan is worth in Great British pounds. If this is done with the latest available data, then added up, you will find a total of £6,113 billion.

This amount could change very quickly and is probably already outdated at the moment you read this article.

This is partly because countries print more money all the time. But it's also because the exchange rate – how much a British pound, say, is worth in another currency, like US dollars – is not always the same. Today, £1 is worth around US\$1.30 – one dollar and 30 cents in US money. Ten years ago, it was much more: one dollar and 70 cents.

How many US dollars you get for a pound depends on how much people want



Bukhta Yuri/Shutterstock

to use British money. That's why when some people decide to create their own money, such as cryptocurrencies like bitcoin, they spend so much time trying to convince others to use it.

But counting coins and notes does not tell us everything about how much money there is in the world. For instance, people have money in their bank accounts that do not correspond to any specific coin. In the UK, around 96% of money exists only in electronic form. When you include that, the total is not £84 billion but £2,223 billion. If you add up again the figures available for the entire world – money in coins and notes, plus electronic money in bank accounts – you get roughly £46,557 billion.

Wealth – but not money

What's more, many things that are worth a lot are not money itself. Very rich

people keep only a little part of their fortune in cash. They prefer to also own things like businesses that are likely to make them even richer.

Perhaps a better way to count how much money there is in the world is to look at the value of the things we buy and sell. That is a tricky thing to do, because you don't want to double count anything. If farmers sell the milk of their cows to a cheese maker, who then sells cheese to a shop, which sells it to people, all the value – the milk, the cheese and the people selling it, is contained in what you pay at the shop: the final sale.

When you sum up all these final sales, you will find that last year, in the entire world, there was around £79,437 billion worth of value created.

But there are also a lot of things that have value and are not exchanged. If you

own a bag of diamonds and keep it in your bedroom, you are rich. But this is not money. And you are not exchanging it either. So it does not count in any of the numbers I have given you so far.

And sometimes, things that have value cannot easily be turned into money. Imagine that you own a beautiful forest, with a nice clean river to swim in during the summer, and some very rare birds and old trees. And underneath that forest, there is a lot of oil.

By owning this forest, you are very wealthy. Like the diamonds in your bedroom, owning the land and the forest and the oil makes you rich. But once you decide to turn your wealth into a lot of money, you will need to destroy the forest: cut down the trees for wood to sell, and drill into the earth to get the oil out.

People might have enjoyed spending time with friends walking in the forest, or paddling in the rivers. This has value, and it is lost when the forest is gone. And the wealth you held by owning the forest is gone too.

If we want the money we use to still be worth something in the future, we sometimes need to restrain from destroying what we own to get cash today.

Renaud Foucart

Senior Lecturer in Economics,
Lancaster University Management School,
Lancaster University



A man goes to the doctor to find the results of his medical tests.

"Mr Smith, do you want to hear the good news or the bad news?" the doctor asks.

"Give me the bad one first, doc," he replies.

"Okay, then, you have less than a week to live."

The guy is shocked and says, "Well — what's the good news."

The doctor smiles, "We are naming the disease after you."

A man walks into a mental hospital and asks the receptionist, "Excuse me, is there anyone in room 20?" The lady leaves the desk to check. She returns and says, "No, sir, there's no one there."

"Ah, that's fine, I must have escaped," says the man.

Another man is visiting his father in a mental hospital when he sees another patient moving his arms around and making beeping noises. "Excuse me, what are you up to?" he asks.

"Can't you see I'm driving?" replies the patient excitedly.

"You are not in a car; you are in a bed, my friend." A voice comes from the bed opposite, "Mate, shut up, will you? He's paying me twenty dollars a day to wash it."

John and Mary are parents in a mental hospital. One day, while they are walking past the swimming pool of the hospital, John suddenly falls into the deep end of the pool and sinks to the bottom. Mary promptly jumps in to save him. She swims to the bottom and pulls her husband out. When the head of the hospital hears of the heroic act, he immediately orders Mary to be discharged from the hospital, as he considers her to be mentally stable.

When he goes to inform Mary of his decision, he says, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is you're free to go, as you are able to rationally respond to a crisis by jumping in and saving the life of another patient. The bad news, unfortunately, is that John, whom you had saved, hanged himself in the bathroom with his bathrobe belt right after you rescued him. I am sorry, but he is dead."

She starts crying, "He did not hang himself — I put him there to dry. When can I go home?"

Man calls animal control to get rid of a gorilla

A man walks out on his front porch one day and sees a gorilla in the tree on his front lawn. He calls animal control, and about an hour later, a man shows up with a

ladder, a pit bull, and a shotgun.

The animal control employee tells the man, "I'm here to get the gorilla out of your tree. I'm going to use this ladder to climb up the tree and shake the branch the gorilla is on to knock him to the ground. The pit bull is trained to go after anything that falls from the tree and bites their balls, which calms the animal down so I can put him in the truck."

The man says, "Okay, I see what the ladder and the pit bull are for, but what is the shotgun for?"

The animal control employee says, "Oh, that's for you. In case I fall out of the tree instead of the gorilla, shoot the dog."

An elderly patient in a mental hospital

An elderly patient in a mental hospital was being reviewed for possible release. When asked what he would do if released, he replied, "I am going to make a slingshot and come back here and break every damn window in the place."

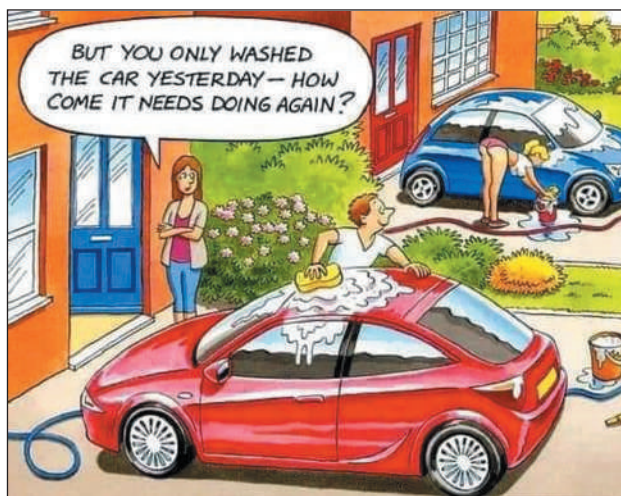
Obviously, his release was denied. Six months later, the board was again considering his release and again asked him the same question.

His reply was the same. "I am going to make a slingshot and come back here and break every damn window in the place." Again, he was turned down.

Several months later, he was complaining to a fellow patient that he could never seem to get released. The elderly patient asked him what he said when they interviewed him, and he told him.

The elderly patient said, "You will never get released with answers like that. Let me give you some advice on how to answer them when they ask you questions."

So, after considerable coaching, the man felt that he was ready. So when the board met again, they again asked him what he would do if they let him out. But this time he was ready.



He said, "I am going to get a job, find an apartment, and settle down."

"Good," they said, and then what?"

He said, "I want to meet a nice girl and start dating." They agreed he was making real progress and asked, "And then what?"

"One night when we are alone in my apartment, I am going to make passionate love to my girlfriend. I am going to take her dress off, and lie her down on the bed."

"Yes?" they said excitedly. "Then I am going to gently remove her panties," he continued. The board members were really getting excited now and asked, "Then what are you going to do?"

He said, "I am going to take the elastic out of those panties, make myself a slingshot, come back here and break every damn window in this place!"



Early Facebook

Three mice are enjoying a drink at the local pub. The first mouse, holding his glass of beer, turns to face the others and states, "I'm tough, you know how tough I am? Well, you know that poison they placed in the kitchen. I eat that stuff for breakfast, lunch, and dinner."

The second mouse looks unimpressed and says, "That's nothing. You know those big mousetraps they got all over the place? Well, I jump in and out of them for fun. That's how tough I am."

The third mouse knocks back his glass and heads for the door. "Where are you going?" asked the two mice. He replies: "See you guys later, I'm off home to frighten the new cat."

A guy who died recently is sent to the mortuary wearing an expensive three-piece black suit. The mortician asks the wife of the deceased how she would like the body dressed, pointing out that the man looks quite smart in his black suit. However, the widow insists on a blue suit, saying she always liked her husband in blue. Handing the mortician a big cheque, she adds, "I don't care about the cost, please put my husband in a blue suit for the viewing."

The lady returns the next day for the wake. To her delight, she finds her husband dressed in an expertly tailored Savile Row blue suit that fits him perfectly. She compliments the mortician and says, "You did an excellent job, and I'm very grateful. I don't care about the cost."

To her astonishment, the mortician returns her cheque. "There's no charge, madam," he says. "No, I must reimburse you for the cost of the blue suit," she insists.

"Honestly, madam, it cost nothing. You see, a deceased man of about your husband's size was brought in shortly after you left yesterday, and he was wearing an attractive blue suit. I asked his wife if she minded him going to his grave wearing a black suit instead, and she said it made no difference as long as he looked smart. After that, it was just a matter of swapping heads."

English is full of funny contradictions...

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Found Missing | 10. Original Copies |
| 2. Open Secret | 11. Exact Estimate |
| 3. Small Crowd | 12. Tragic Comedy |
| 4. Act Naturally | 13. Foolish Wisdom |
| 5. Clearly Misunderstood | 14. Liquid Gas |
| 6. Fully Empty | 15. Working Holiday |
| 7. Pretty Ugly | 16. "Social Distancing" |
| 8. Seriously Funny | |
| 9. Only Choice | |

*Forgot to mention:
Happily Married!*

Hilarious corporate rivalry; Beat this one!

Notice on entry gate of a Apple Store in New York: "Don't ever fart here; the smell will stay for ages. We don't have Windows"

And Tit for Tat from Microsoft in their premises: "Anyone visiting us here can be free to use Windows in case you need to release stale gas from yesterday's half eaten apple. We have been providing open window systems to the world since ages"

The Law of Success



By Napoleon Hill

Napoleon Hill's *'The Law of Success'* is a classic self-help book that explores principles for achieving success. Here are some key themes and concepts from the book:

1. **Definiteness of Purpose:** Having a clear and specific goal is essential for achieving success.
2. **Mastermind Principle:** Surrounding yourself with a group of like-minded individuals can amplify your success through collaboration and shared knowledge.

3. **Applied Faith:** Believing in yourself and your goals is crucial for overcoming challenges and achieving success.

4. **Habit of Saving:** Cultivating the habit of saving money helps in building wealth and financial stability.

5. **Initiative and Leadership:** Taking initiative and demonstrating leadership qualities are essential for standing out and achieving your goals.

6. **Imagination:** Creative visualization and imagining your success can help bring your goals to reality.

7. **Enthusiasm:** Maintaining a positive attitude and enthusiasm can drive your actions and contribute to your success.

8. **Self-Discipline:** Developing self-control and the ability to stay focused on your goals is essential for long-term success.

Thoughts to Live by

Not like those girls in the magazines



She was beautiful, but not like those girls in the magazines.

She was beautiful for the way she thought.

She was beautiful for that sparkle in her eyes when she talked about something she loved.

She was beautiful for her ability to make other people smile even if she was sad.

No, she wasn't beautiful for something as temporary as her looks.

She was beautiful deep down in her soul.

F. Scott Fitzgerald
From *'The Great Gatsby'*

* * *

Know Your Worth

A violinist played for 45 minutes in the New York subway. A handful of people stopped, a couple clapped, and the violinist raised about \$30 in tips.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. In that subway, Joshua played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth 3.5 million dollars.

Two days before he played in the Subway, Joshua Bell sold out a Boston theatre, and the seats averaged about \$100.

The experiment proved that the extraordinary in an ordinary environment does not shine and is so often overlooked and undervalued.

There are brilliantly talented people everywhere who aren't receiving the recognition and reward they deserve.

But once they arm themselves with value and confidence and remove themselves from an environment that isn't serving them, they thrive and grow.

Your gut is telling you something. Listen to it if it's telling you where you are isn't enough!

Go where you are appreciated and valued.

Know Your Worth.

* * *

You never intended to be in this world

I know, you never intended to be in this world. But you're in it all the same.

So why not get started immediately. I mean, belonging to it.

There is so much to admire, to weep over. And to write music or poems about.



Bless the feet that take you to and fro. Bless the eyes and the listening ears.

Bless the tongue, the marvel of taste. Bless touching.

You could live a hundred years, it's happened. Or not.

I am speaking from the fortunate platform of many years, none of which, I think, I ever wasted.

Do you need a prod? Do you need a little darkness to get you going?

Let me be as urgent as a knife, then, and remind you of Keats, so single of purpose and thinking, for a while, he had a lifetime.

Mary Oliver
From *'Blue Horses'*

Games People Play

By Eric Berne

1. Games are unconscious strategies that people use to get what they want. They are often repetitive and self-defeating.

2. There are three ego states: Parent, Adult, and Child. The Parent ego state is characterized by controlling and critical behaviour. The Adult ego state is characterized by rational and objective behaviour. The Child ego state is characterized by spontaneous and emotional behaviour.

3. Games are played in transactions, which are exchanges of communication between two people. A transaction can be complementary, in which each person's ego state matches the other person's ego state, or crossed, in which the ego states do not match.

4. There are three types of games: win-lose, lose-lose, and win-win. Win-lose games are those in which one person wins and the other person loses. Lose-lose games are those in which both people lose. Win-win games are those in which both people win.



5. People play games to avoid intimacy and to get their needs met. Games are a way of avoiding conflict and of getting what we want without having to ask for it directly.

6. It is possible to become aware of the games we play and to stop playing them. This can be done by understanding the ego states involved in the game and by learning to communicate in a more direct and honest way.

7. Games can be harmful to our relationships. They can create tension and conflict, and they can prevent us from getting our needs met in a healthy way.

8. It is important to be aware of the games that other people play. This can help us to avoid getting drawn into them and to protect ourselves from being manipulated.

9. We can learn to set boundaries and to say no to games. This can help us to protect ourselves and to maintain healthy relationships.

10. We can learn to communicate in a more direct and honest way. This can help us to get our needs met without having to play games.

These are just a few of the many lessons that can be learned from 'Games People Play: The Basic Handbook of Transactional Analysis' by Eric Berne.

Aging: What to expect

Personality Traits and Dementia Risk: Insights from Recent Research

New research suggests a potential link between personality traits and the risk of developing dementia, shedding light on how one's outlook on life may impact cognitive health. The study, published in the *Alzheimer's & Dementia* journal, analyzed data from eight research projects encompassing 44,531 individuals, with ages ranging from 49 to 81. The findings indicate that specific personality traits may influence susceptibility to dementia, offering valuable insights into potential protective patterns, reports Lisa O'Mary.

Personality Traits Examined

The study evaluated personality traits using the "big five" model and subjective well-being measures:

Big Five Personality Traits

- Openness to Experience: Linked to intellectual curiosity and creative imagination.
- Conscientiousness: Tied to organization, productivity, and responsibility.
- Extroversion: Associated with sociability and assertiveness.
- Agreeableness: Reflective of compassion, respectfulness, and trust in others.
- Neuroticism: Involves tendencies toward anxiety and depression.

Subjective Well-being Measures

- Life Satisfaction: Reflecting thoughts and feelings about life going well.
- Positive Affect: The frequency of experiencing positive emotions and moods.
- Negative Affect: The frequency of experiencing unpleasant and distressing emotions.



Findings and Dementia Risk

The study revealed a correlation between personality traits and dementia risk:

- High Neuroticism Scores: Linked to an increased risk of dementia.
- Low Conscientiousness and Extroversion Scores: Associated with a higher risk of dementia.
- High Openness to Experience and Agreeableness Scores: Indicated a lower likelihood of dementia diagnosis.

Subjective Well-being Measures and Dementia Risk

The research also explored the impact of subjective well-being measures:

- High Scores for Negative Affect: Increased the likelihood of dementia.

- High Scores for Positive Affect: Indicated a lower risk of dementia.

Implications and Behaviour-Health Connection

The study suggests that behaviour linked to personality traits may influence dementia risk. For example, individuals scoring high on conscientiousness may be more inclined to adopt healthy habits, potentially offering long-term protective effects.

Understanding the relationship between personality traits and dementia risk is crucial for prevention and treatment strategies. Previous research has already established connections between physical,

social, and cognitive engagements and healthier cognitive aging. The study underscores the need for further exploration into why some individuals exhibit cognitive signs of dementia while others do not, potentially paving the way for more effective preventive measures.

What you can do

- Include physical activity in your daily routine. Physical activity increases blood flow to your whole body, including your brain.
- Eat a healthy diet. A heart-healthy diet may benefit your brain. ...
- Stay mentally active.
- Be social.
- Treat cardiovascular disease.
- Quit smoking.

Being Mom & Dad

The Surprising Approach to Fostering Children's Success

In the pursuit of their children's success, parents often grapple with worry that can escalate into anxiety, negatively impacting both parental and child mental health. Jennifer Breheny Wallace, a parenting researcher, reveals that excessive concern about a child's future, particularly regarding academic achievements, may hinder rather than help. Anxiety, transmitted through emotional contagion, can lead to mental health issues in children.

The counterintuitive solution, as proposed by Wallace, is for parents to model effective stress coping mechanisms. By reframing their outlook and managing their own anxiety, parents can avoid putting undue pressure on their children. Wallace emphasizes the importance of belief in a child's resilience and unconditional love as key factors for long-term success.

To address parental anxiety, Wallace introduces the "smoke detector principle," likening it to a false alarm triggered by overreaction to perceived threats, such as the pressure to attend a prestigious college. Reframing the mindset and recognizing these concerns as false alarms can alleviate unnecessary worry.

4 key parenting questions to ask your-



self to see if you're on the right track

In her book, Wallace spoke to Tina Payne Bryson, a pediatric and adolescent psychotherapist, who offered up four questions parents can ask themselves in order to reflect on the anxiety they're transmitting to their own children:

* **What extracurricular activities are on your child's calendar?** "How are they spending their time? Is it a lot of achieve-

ment-oriented activities, tutoring [and] things like that?" Wallace says.

* **What are you spending money on for your child?** "Is it tutoring and coaching and travel sports leagues?" she says.

* **What do you ask your child about every day?** Do you only care whether they aced their math test, or are you showing concern for how they're doing

and what they care about?

* **What do you argue with your child about?**

"Those four questions [tell you] a lot about what you are signalling to your kids," Wallace says.

These questions revolve around extracurricular activities, spending habits, daily discussions, and areas of disagreement. By addressing these aspects, parents can gauge whether they contribute to the pressure and stress felt by their children.

Ultimately, Wallace encourages parents to focus on building a child's sturdy sense of self rather than linking their value to performance. Unconditional love and acceptance, rather than achievement-oriented pressure, are crucial for supporting children's mental well-being and fostering long-term success.

Jennifer Breheny Wallace is the author of the book "Never Enough: When Achievement Pressure Becomes Toxic — and What We Can Do About It," for which she worked with a researcher at the Harvard Graduate School of Education to survey 6,500 parents across the US (She herself also holds a degree from Harvard.)

Bollywood's \$1.3 billion comeback year in 2023 was one of its best of all time

India's Hindi language movie industry made an impressive recovery after a pandemic-driven slowdown, audience fatigue with big studio productions and Bollywood megastars, and streaming platforms taking away a large chunk of viewership.

According to consultancy firm Ormax Media, the cumulative box office in 2023 pulled in \$1.3 billion, making it one of the best-grossing years of all time, reports Vineeta Deepak and The Associated Press in Fortune magazine.

Indian moviegoers — both the masses and niche film lovers — were back in theaters and the massive commercial success of big-ticket Bollywood films has set at ease fears that Mumbai's glitzy dream factory was losing its shine.

As one of the largest film producers in the world, India rolls out more than 1,500 movies yearly, its diverse storytelling traditions reflected in its prolific cinematic entertainers.

The films that made the cut this year were a mixed bag of visual delights. Some



portrayed the classic Bollywood larger-than-life spectacles, others were action-filled spy thrillers with top-billing movie stars. Many included stylized special effects, slickly choreographed romantic songs filmed in stunning locales, and pulsating music that had fans cheering and dancing in cinema halls.

The year began with Shah Rukh

Khan's movie "Pathaan," which made more than \$100 million worldwide, according to The Numbers website. Then came "Jawan," which raked in nearly \$136 million worldwide. And the year is ending with yet another, titled "Dunki."

Other blockbusters of the year include the heavily criticized "Animal" featuring actor Ranbir Kapoor, "Gadar 2" with actor

Sunny Deol, and Salman Khan's "Tiger 3."

It was also a year when hyper-masculinity overwhelmed Bollywood, often wrapped in misogyny and aggressive nationalism.

Angry young men have always been a staple of Indian movies but the excessive, fantasized screen violence this year took it to another level. Almost all 2023 Bollywood hits were filled with anger and violence, and led by alpha male protagonists with rippling muscles and blazing guns brandished on screen as they went on a bone-crunching rampage to vanquish their enemies.

However, other successful films this year showcased a less angry, more accommodative masculinity.

Karan Johar's "Rocky aur Rani kii Prem Kahaani," or "Rocky and Rani's love story," won praise from most critics for its gender politics and for challenging male stereotypes and prejudices. The film went on to make nearly \$45 million at box offices worldwide, according to the Bollywood Hungama website.

Filmfare Awards 2024 nominations

Shah Rukh Khan, Ranbir Kapoor vie for Best Actor award; Alia Bhatt, Deepika Padukone contend for Best Actress



The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards, a prestigious star-studded event commemorating the best of Hindi cinema, is scheduled to take place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on January 28, 2024. The show will be hosted by filmmaker-producer Karan Johar. Ahead of the awards, the organisers unveiled the list of nominations.

Notable contenders in the Best Film category include Vidhu Vinod Chopra's *12th Fail*, Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Animal*, Atlee Kumar's *Jawan* and Karan's *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*.

Competing for the Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male) include Shah Rukh Khan (*Dunki* and *Jawan*), Ranbir Kapoor (*Animal*) and Ranveer Singh (*Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*), while the race for Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female)

include contenders like Alia Bhatt (*Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*), Deepika Padukone (*Pathaan*) and Bhumi Pednekar (*Thank You for Coming*).

Here is the list of nominees for the Filmfare Awards 2024:

Best Film:

12th Fail
Animal
Jawan
OMG 2
Pathaan
Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani

Best Film (Critics):

12th Fail (Vidhu Vinod Chopra)
Bheed (Anubhav Sinha)
Faraaz (Hansal Mehta)
Joram (Devashish Makhija)

Sam Bahadur (Meghna Gulzar)
Three Of Us (Avinash Arun Dhaware)
Zwigato (Nandita Das)

Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male):

Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
Ranveer Singh (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Shah Rukh Khan (Dunki, Jawan)
Sunny Deol (Gadar 2)
Vicky Kaushal (Sam Bahadur)

Best Actor (Critics):

Abhishek Bachchan (Ghoomer)
Jaideep Ahlawat (Three Of Us)
Manoj Bajpayee (Joram)
Pankaj Tripathi (Omg 2)
Rajkummar Rao (Bheed)
Vicky Kaushal (Sam Bahadur)
Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)

Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female):

Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Bhumi Pednekar (Thank You For Coming)
Deepika Padukone (Pathaan)
Kiara Advani (Satyaprem Ki Katha)
Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway)
Taapsee Pannu (Dunki)
Best Actress (Critics):
Deepti Naval (Goldfish)
Fatima Sana Shaikh (Dhak Dhak)
Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway)
Saiyami Kher (Ghoomer)
Shahana Goswami (Zwigato)
Shefali Shah (Three Of Us)

Best Director:

Amit Rai (Omg 2)
Atlee (Jawan)
Karan Johar (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
Sandeep Reddy Vanga (Animal)
Siddharth Anand (Pathaan)
Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)





Vendredi 19 janvier - 21.22



Samedi 20 janvier - 20.30



dimanche 21 janvier - 20.30



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 19 janvier

MBC 1

- 05.39 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 06.00 Serial: Knight Rider
- 07.04 Film: A Star Is Born
- 08.55 Serial: Galactica
- 09.41 Tele: Amour Secret
- 10.28 The Gardener's Daughter
- 10.50 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 11.13 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Tele: Barbarita
- 13.25 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 13.50 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 14.13 Le Livre Perdu Des Sorti...
- 15.21 Film: L'Or Noir De L'Oklahoma
- 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar
- 20.30 Film: The Last Of The Mohicans
- 22.21 Tele: Barbartia

MBC 2

- 07.05 Local: Mots & Ecrits
- 08.33 Local: Artizan
- 09.12 Local: Generations J
- 09.39 Local: Radio Vision
- 10.30 Local: J'ai Faim
- 12.19 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 14.03 Local: ONG An Eta Dalert
- 14.21 Local: Groov'in
- 15.49 Local: Artizan
- 16.53 Local: La Sosiete
- 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret
- 19.27 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
- 19.45 Local: Enn Semenn Dan...
- 21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 22.03 Local: La Sosiete
- 22.58 Journal Kreol
- 23.20 Local: Parkour
- 23.47 Local: Voyage Au Feminin
- 00.14 Local: Rodrig Prog

MBC 3

- 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 08.00 Local: Amrit Vaani
- 08.45 Local: Khoobsurat
- 09.22 Local: Sepcial Sandesh
- 10.00 Serial: Agniphera
- 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Daasi
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave
- 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron...
- 16.44 Serial: Bhakharwadi
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 19.02 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 20.31 Serial: Special Sandesh
- 20.33 Serial: Vidrohi
- 21.03 Film: Saathi Sanghati
- 23.38 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 00.04 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

Cine 12

- 06.26 Mag: Eco India
- 06.26 Mag: Shift
- 07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
- 07.52 Doc: The Great Meat Debate
- 08.22 Doc: The Battle Of The Hurtgen Forest
- 10.38 Doc: Made To Measure
- 11.24 Mag: Eco India
- 11.52 Mag: Shift
- 12.52 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 14.30 Mag: N*Gen
- 15.00 Serial: Hi Opie!
- 15.11 D.Anime: Giving Tales
- 15.18 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory...
- 17.00 Serial: Lost & Found Music
- 17.21 Mag: Kids' Planet
- 18.42 Mag: Her: Women In Asia
- 19.00 Student Support Prog....
- 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Doc: The Return Of Whales..

Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 15.00 Gadget Guru Lagte Hai 2
- 15.30 Film: Ek Tha Raja Starring: Sunil Shetty, Saif Ali Khan, Aditya Pancholi, Neelam Kothari
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.01 Udaariyaan
- 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
- 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 20.30 Radha Krishna
- 21.01 Anupamaa
- 21.30 Mere Sai
- 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
- 22.59 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 23.30 Film: Ek Tha Raja Starring Sunil Shetty, Saif Ali Khan, Aditya Pancholi, Neelam Kothari

samedi 20 janvier

- 03.16 Serial: F.B.I
- 04.37 Tele: Airwolf
- 06.22 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 06.49 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 07.15 Serial: Pearson
- 08.00 Serial: Rookie Blue
- 08.42 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 09.20 Serial: Riviera
- 09.59 Serial: Airwolf
- 10.50 Serial: F.B.I
- 11.35 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 13.23 Tele: Sublime Mensonge
- 15.20 Film: Fast And Furious
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Dance India Dance Little...
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Code Mercury
- 22.21 Serial: Suits
- 23.02 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis

- 06.04 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
- 06.51 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 08.01 Local: Parkour
- 08.38 Local: Animalia Nos Amis Les Animaux
- 08.54 Local: Zanford Nou Pei
- 09.33 Local: La Sosiete
- 11.01 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 12.00 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
- 12.34 Local: Lir - Ekirir Kreol
- 13.00 Local: Voyage Au Feminin
- 13.56 Local: Zanford Nou Pei
- 14.09 Local: Ala Nou Vini
- 15.07 Local: La Sosiete
- 16.00 Local: Son Ladan Mem
- 16.49 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
- 19.20 Mag De L'emploi...
- 22.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
- 22.49 Local: La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur
- 23.20 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL

- 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 08.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 10.15 Mag: DDI Mag
- 10.36 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.21 Film: Kala Bazaar Starring: Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, Farha Naaz, Kimi Katkar
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 19.02 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah
- 20.12 Local: Special Sandesh
- 21.04 Film: Dhaakad Starring: Kangana Ranaut, Arjun Rampal, Mihir Ahuja
- 23.15 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 23.41 Duniya Mein Is Saptah
- 01.26 Film: Dhaakad
- 03.42 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 04.01 Duniya Mein Is Saptah

- 06.24 Serial: Rainbow Rangers
- 06.46 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
- 09.06 D.Anime: Wonder Grove
- 10.00 Serial: Superstore
- 11.18 Mag: Her: Women In Asia
- 14.30 Mag: N*Gen
- 15.00 Serial: Hi Opie!
- 15.30 D.Anime: Zoonicorn
- 15.40 D.Anime: Kids Songs
- 15.46 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
- 16.07 D.Anime: Akedo
- 16.35 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 16.58 Serial: Lost & Found Music
- 18.03 Mag: In Good Shape
- 18.40 Serial: Kojak
- 20.01 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
- 21.40 Film: Save Me From Everything With Paige Henderson, Brendan McCay

- 08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
- 10.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 10.18 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 12.15 Udaariyaan
- 14.05 Anupamaa
- 16.05 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
- 18.31 Film: Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam Starring: Salman Khan, Ajay Devgan, Aishwarya Rai
- 20.30 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 20.50 Serial: Porus

dimanche 21 janvier

- 04.13 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 05.37 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 06.02 Film: Code Mercury
- 07.55 Serial: The Good Doctor
- 08.40 Film: Fast And Furious
- 10.50 Serial: F.B.I
- 11.35 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Film: L'Or Noir De L'Oklahoma
- 14.20 Serial: Scorpion
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.25 Film: The Quake
- 17.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa
- 19.16 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Legacy Stars : Louis Mandylor, Luke Goss, Elya Baskin

- 06.45 Local: Aktiv
- 08.05 Local: Rhythm In The Mood..
- 09.38 Local: Zanford Nou Zil
- 10.04 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
- 11.03 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.18 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 14.00 Local: Elle
- 14.31 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 16.11 Local: Festival Kiltir Ek Langaz Kreol Morisien
- 17.04 Local: Aktiv
- 17.18 Local: G'war Dantan
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.20 Local: Elle
- 20.03 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse
- 21.30 Local: Le Challenge
- 21.45 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 23.00 Journal Kreol
- 23.21 Local: Arshiv MBC
- 23.33 Local: Mangeons Veg

- 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 07.32 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi
- 08.11 Local: Hamar Fitness...
- 12.02 Film: Khel Starring Sunny Deol, Sunil Shetty, Celina Jaitley
- 14.59 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 17.00 Local: Ekta
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.29 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi
- 19.29 Local: Tohar Farmaish
- 20.00 Local: Special Sandesh
- 20.32 Serial: Porus
- 21.02 Serial: Crime Patrol
- 21.42 Serial: Naagin Season 4
- 22.28 Serial: Bahubali
- 23.07 Bhaag Na Bachhe
- 00.00 Planet Bollywood

- 07.49 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 09.02 D.Anime: Wonder Grove
- 09.09 D.Anime: La Petite Ecole D'Helene
- 10.00 Serial: Superstore
- 10.40 Mag: In Good Shape
- 11.21 Doc: Cuisine Sauvage
- 12.59 Mag: Afrimaxx
- 15.00 Serial: Hi Opie!
- 15.41 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
- 16.02 D.Anime: Akedo
- 16.53 Serial: Lost & Found Music...
- 17.17 D.Anime: Kid's Planet
- 17.41 Mag: Music Maestra
- 18.00 Doc: A Mediterranean...
- 18.45 Serial: Kojak
- 19.34 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.02 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
- 21.40 Film: Bloodshot Avec Vin Diesel, Eiza Gonzalez

- 00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 02.05 Udaariyaan
- 04.00 Anupamaa
- 06.06 Kuch Rang Pyar Ka Aise...
- 08.00 Tenali Rama
- 08.12 Patiala Babes
- 10.02 Kundali Bhagya
- 12.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.31 Film: Pink Starring Amitabh Bachchan, Tapsee Pannu, Kirti Kulhari, Andrea Tariang
- 21.02 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 21.20 Enter: Dance India Dance Little Masters
- 22.22 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 00.07 Serial: Patiala Babes

lundi 22 janvier

- 05.10 Tele: Amour Secret
- 07.19 Film: Legacy
- 08.53 Serial: Kojak
- 09.38 Tele: L'Amour A Mort
- 10.04 Tele: Amour Secret
- 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 10.52 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 11.16 Serial: La Reina Del Flow
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Barbarita, Les Couleurs..
- 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 14.10 Serial: Kojak
- 15.20 Film: La Prophetie De L'Horloge
- 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.25 Serial: Pearson
- 21.15 Serial: Rookie Blue
- 22.00 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans

- 06.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 09.29 Local: Elle
- 09.51 Local: Rodrig - Komanter
- 10.50 Le Challenge
- 13.51 Local: Clin D'oeil
- 14.00 Local: Elle
- 14.30 Local: Arshiv MBC
- 15.04 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse
- 15.30 En Forme : Adopter
- 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret
- 19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi
- 20.00 Eclairage Economique
- 20.45 Metie : - 2024 : No 01
- 21.00 Local: Tous Egaux : Aprim
- 21.13 Radio Vision
- 22.05 Lir - Ekirir Kreol Moris
- 23.00 Journal Kreol
- 01.44 Entrepreneurait Au Feminin
- 02.11 Rodrig Prog
- 02.51 Voyage Au Feminin
- 03.32 Metie : - 2024 : No 01

- 07.12 Serial: Tik Tak Tail
- 08.27 Local: Tohar Farmaish
- 08.53 Local: Yaadein
- 09.53 Serial: Bahubali
- 10.33 Bhaag Na Bachhe
- 11.30 Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Ram Rajya Starring: Bina Rai, Kumar Sen
- 15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
- 16.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Local: Sankranti Ke Rang Bhojpuri Geet Ke Sangh
- 19.30 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen
- 20.01 Local: Vaad Vivaad
- 20.30 Film: Raaste Pyar Ke Starring: Jeetendra, Rekha, Shabana Azmi
- 22.29 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 22.51 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

- 07.38 Mag: Art Unveiled
- 08.46 Doc: Albania's Last Trains
- 09.32 Doc: A World Without Cash
- 10.15 Doc: Northern Lights
- 12.21 Doc: Expedition Kachgar
- 13.18 Mag: Art Unveiled
- 14.30 Mag: N*Gen
- 14.56 Serial: Hi Opie!
- 15.14 D.Anime: Fireman Sam
- 15.27 D.Anime: Best Furry Friends
- 15.38 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
- 16.00 D.Anime: Ultimate Archade...
- 16.28 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 16.50 Serial: Lost & Found Music
- 17.14 D.Anime: Kids' Planet
- 18.05 Mag: Eco Africa
- 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 20.30 Live: News
- 21.42 Film: The Rodeo Thief
- 23.07 Mag: Tomorrow Today

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.30 Film: Jamai Raja
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Serial: Udaariyaan
- 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi
- 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 20.30 Radha Krishna
- 21.00 Anupamaa
- 21.30 Mere Sai
- 22.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 23.30 Film: Jamai Raja Starring Hema Malini, Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit



Mardi 23 janvier - 20.30



Mercredi 24 janvier - 21.57



Mercredi 24 janvier - 15.30



Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 23 janvier 04.45 Tele: Amour Secret 05.11 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 07.15 Serial: Pearson 08.09 Serial: Rookie Blue 08.50 Serial: NCIS 09.30 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.15 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.10 Serial: Gout De L'Amour 15.25 Film: The Last Of The Mohicans 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 20.30 Film: The Escape Room	mardi 23 janvier 06.00 Feminin Pluriel 06.51 Aktiv - Saison 2 No 6 07.09 Eclairage Economique 07.32 Metie : - 2024 : No 01 07.47 Tous Egaux : Aprim 08.53 Rodrig Prog - Zenn Aktif 10.22 Local: Rodrig: Saver Lokal 11.09 Local: Le Rendez Vous 12.00 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 12.37 Voyage Au Feminin 13.13 Eclairage Economique 13.43 Tous Egaux : Aprim 14.21 Local: Itinerer Moris 15.16 Lir - Ekirir Kreol Morisien 15.55 Rodrig Prog : Zenn 16.52 Le Rendez Vous - Roc Band 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.28 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Magazine De L'emploi 22.20 Mots & Ecrits	mardi 23 janvier 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 07.31 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi 09.59 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.02 Film: Pathar Ke Sanam 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.30 Badki Malkaain 16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 17.28 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.36 Local: Tark Vitark 19.00 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 19.30 Local: Theatre 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 20.35 Film: Piya Ka Ghar 22.45 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.00 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 23.47 Local: Tark Vitark 00.13 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 01.35 Serial: Badki Malkaain 01.53 Local: Tark Vitark	mardi 23 janvier 08.46 Mag: Tomorrow Today 09.40 Doc: Nos Cinq Sens 11.18 Mag: Eco Africa 11.44 Mag: The 77 Percent 12.10 Mag: Africa 54 12.42 Mag: In Good Shape 13.08 Doc: Archipel De Feu 14.30 Mag: N*Gen 15.11 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 15.36 D.Anime: Best Furry Friends 15.46 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 16.09 D.Anime: Akedo 16.14 D.Anime: All Hail King Julien 16.37 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.27 D.Anime: Kids' Planet 17.47 Mag: Japan Video Topics 18.00 Mag: REV 18.31 Mag: Healthy Living 19.31 Mag: Global Us 20.02 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow	mardi 23 janvier 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Yeh Teraa Ghar Yeh Meraa Ghar Starring Sunil Shetty, Mahima Chaudhry, Paresh Rawal 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.38 Radha Krishna 21.08 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.08 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.55 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Yeh Teraa Ghar Yeh Meraa Ghar 02.07 Kundali Bhagya
mercredi 24 janvier 05.50 Serial: Blue Bloods 07.00 Film: L'Or Noir De L'Oklahoma 08.45 Serial: Kojak 09.35 Tele: Amour A Mort 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.25 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.15 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Serial: Kojak 15.21 Film: The Escape Room 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 21.15 Serial: Billions 21.57 Film: Doom	mercredi 24 janvier 06.00 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef 06.17 Son Ladan Me 06.32 En Forme - Health & fitness 07.22 Spiritual program 07.56 Seabirds - Round Island 08.14 Priorite Sante 08.34 Paroles Agricole 09.34 Profil - Angelito Mathieu 09.47 Rodrig Prog: Rod'art 10.24 Radio Vision: Le Mag 11.04 Koze Zom - Featuring 12.00 Music Tour 2023 12.58 Nu Rasinn 13.12 Local: Priorite Sante 13.53 Local: Koze Zom 15.53 Glwar Dantan 16.22 Mots & Ecrits 16.56 Extraits Du Festival Lamisik 18.01 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.28 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Local: Rodrig Spor	mercredi 24 janvier 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 08.26 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 08.56 Local: Theatre 09.17 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 10.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Mahaadev Starring: Vinod Khanna, Meenakshi Sheshadri, Raj Babbar 15.30 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave 16.01 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar... 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.39 Local: Yatra 19.00 Local: Darshan 19.37 Local: Hindi Sahitya 20.02 Local: Virasat 20.32 Film: Naagdev 22.25 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.23 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	mercredi 24 janvier 06.26 Mag: Healthy Living 07.26 Mag: Global US 09.42 Mag: Business Africa 09.35 Doc: The Golden Fiber 10.20 Doc: Nos Cinq Sens 11.17 Mag: REV 13.59 Mag: Business Africa 14.30 Serial: Apple Tree House 14.58 Serial: Hi Opie! 16.36 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.00 D.Anime: Kids' Planet 17.30 Mag: REV 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Choices 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Doc: A Passion For Helping 20.00 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 21.42 Film: A Farewell To Arms 00.17 Mag: Close Up 00.43 Mag: Focus On Europe	mercredi 24 janvier 14.25 Radha Mohan 14.58 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.27 Film: Mehbooba Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Ajay Devgan, Manisha Koirala 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.06 Anupama 21.36 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie ittefaq Sey 23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.26 Film: Mehbooba 02.05 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Serial: Udaariyaan
jeudi 25 janvier 04.32 The Gardener's Daughter 07.15 Serial: The Good Doctor 08.09 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 08.45 Serial: Riviera 09.30 Tele: Amour A Mort 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.15 Serial: The Inbetween 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.05 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 15.25 Film: Downton Abbey 17.15 The Gardener's Daughter 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar 20.30 Film: Rocketry Starring : R. Madhavan, Simran, Rajit Kapoor	jeudi 25 janvier 06.00 Rodrig Spor 06.55 Aktiv - Saison 2 07.32 Agir Ensemble 08.09 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou 08.34 En Forme: Lexersis Miskiler 08.47 Rodrig Prog 09.00 Proze Dime 10.58 Les Klips 12.00 Local: Rodrig Spor 12.26 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 13.15 En Forme 13.28 Agir Ensemble 16.48 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 17.08 Tele: Amour Secret 18.16 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 20.02 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.33 Emotion En Avant Plan 20.48 Evasion 21.03 Local: Radio Vision 22.00 Zournal Kreol 23.21 Groov'in: Mama Jazz 00.48 Local: Klip Seleksion	jeudi 25 janvier 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 07.12 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 07.32 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi 09.28 Local: Gyan Vigyan 10.01 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Ek Kunwari Ek Kunwara Starring: Pran, Leena Chandavarkar, Rakesh Roshan 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 16.03 Serial: Agniphera 17.31 Radha Krishna 18.31 Local: Amrit Vaani 18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.02 Swami Dayanad Saraswati 20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.28 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.28 Mag: Dharam Yatra 21.59 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 22.20 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	jeudi 25 janvier 07.22 Mag: Japan Video Topics 07.30 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 09.30 Le Legende De Manolo 11.32 Mag: Choices 12.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.27 Doc: Mervel 14.09 Film: Zorro, La Legende Continue 15.37 Serial: Hi Opie! 15.44 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 15.49 D.Anime: Brewster The Rooster 15.49 Brewster The Rooster 17.30 Mag: Motorweek 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.45 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Mag: Border Crossing 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.00 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 21.40 Film: Mamma Mia	jeudi 25 janvier 14.25 Radha Mohan 15.21 Film: Indrajeet Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Prada, Kumar Gaurav, Neelam 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.02 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.59 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.24 Film: Indrajeet Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Prada, Kumar Gaurav, Neelam 02.00 Kundali Bhagya

BTV Jeudi 25 janvier - 15.21

Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Prada, Kumar Gaurav, Neelam



Jeudi 25 janvier - 20.30

Stars: R. Madhavan, Simran, Rajit Kapoor





Kul Bhushan

New Ram Temple enables Global Hindus to celebrate two Diwalis this year

Over one billion Hindus around the world may well celebrate two, instead of one Diwali this year. Diwali is scheduled on 29 October, but a special Diwali will also be celebrated on 22 January to mark the inauguration of Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya, in Uttar Pradesh, the capital of Lord Rama's kingdom in ancient times.

A temple marked the birthplace of Lord Rama, the hero of the ancient epic Ramayana, in Ayodhya. It was destroyed by the Mughal invader Babar who built a mosque over it almost 500 years ago. Destroyed by a large group of Hindu activists in 1992, it became the center of a major and prolonged legal battle which ended in 2019 with this site being allocated to Hindus and another site allocated to Muslims for a mosque.

Construction started and now the temple's ground floor is ready to be inaugurated on 22 January. In the epic, Ayodhya celebrated Diwali by lighting lamps on the return of Lord Ram after fourteen years, Hindus have been prompted to celebrate Diwali by lighting lamps on 22 January. For 1.1 billion Indian Hindus, it is a humongous religious landmark and has also stimulated the Hindu communities worldwide in over 80 countries to celebrate Lord Ram with non-stop reading of the Ramayana, special prayers in temples and street processions.

Starting with Nepal, the birthplace of Ram's wife Sita, the devotees have marched to Ayodhya with gifts for their daughter consisting of gold jewelry, silk garments, and household goods. Carrying them in baskets over their heads while singing devotional songs, they came in droves. In Nepal, a Hindu state until 2015, all temples plan special prayers. Then there is Sri Lanka where Lord Ram went to rescue Sita and battled its king Ravana. Here again, the Hindu temples will have special prayers.

Down under in Australia, special prayers and celebrations will be organized in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and New South Wales. The first Hindu temple in Australia, Sri Mandir in Sydney, starts the ceremonies on 20 January with non-stop Ramayana recitation and climaxes with live telecast from Ayodhya followed by prayers and prasad. The Hindus of Victoria state have announced similar celebrations at 25 temples.

In Bali, Lord Ram has always been prominent as a Ramayana ballet is staged every day for the tourists and Lord Ram is worshipped in temples all over this island. So, the Balinese will watch the inauguration without fail. Malaysia has huge Hindu temples and Lord Ram is worshipped and this event becomes a major celebration.

Thailand's monarch is styled as Rama X and this nation



worships Lord Rama in music, dance, art and everyday life. Thus, this event will be hailed and celebrated by Thais with fervor. Lord Ram is also prevalent in Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and other South East Asian nations.

Coming to Africa, Kenya has an active Hindu population with the capital boasting of a Ram Temple for over half a century which will host a non-stop Ramayana reciting from 21 January ending with the inauguration of Ayodhya temple on 22 January followed by prayers and holy food. A grand procession will start from the premises of the Hindu Council of Kenya, the apex body of local Hindus, to visit eleven Nairobi temples and culminate at the biggest temple in Nairobi, Shree Sanatan Dharam Sabha, followed by special prayers with 100 hawan kunds (holy fire offering), prasad (sacred food), fireworks, and a laser show. Prayers are also being held at all Hindu temples in other Kenyan towns. Uganda and Tanzania have smaller Hindu populations but are equally important to mark this event.

Mauritius with almost half Hindus of its 1.3 million people has officially granted two hours off from the working day on 22 January to watch this inauguration. This announcement made a headline news on all Indian TV news channels. Plus, cultural shows are to be held by many religious and social bodies. Of course, all temples will hold special prayers.

Dubai has friendly relations with India. Its ruler, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, is a close friend of Prime Minister Modi, who will inaugurate the temple. He visited Gujarat a few weeks ago and renewed this bond. Modi has been invited to inaugurate a huge new temple in UAE on 14 February so Dubai will celebrate the inauguration of Ram Temple with enthusiasm, perhaps lighting Burj Khalifa with this happening.

In Paris, a Ram procession will move out from the Place de la Capelle, an arena in the northern part of the city, to the iconic Eiffel Tower. This procession will start after a service, chanting of Ram and fire ceremony at a local temple and touch local landmarks.

With a committed Hindu as its Prime Minister, Britain will celebrate this memorable event at all the temples in all major towns with non-stop recitation of the Ramayana, special services, and singing sessions. The event will be telecast live on huge screens at community gatherings especially in London, Leicester, and Birmingham.

All across North America, week-long celebrations will take off in small and big temples on 15 January culminating with live telecast of the event, notably in Times Square, New York. The apex body of US Hindus is Hindu Mandirs Empowerment Council (HMEC), it has more than 1,100 temples and more than half of the temples have signed up for the two-day event and hundreds more are signing every day. On 15 January, Ram chanting begins followed by popular holy songs, and temples will be lit up on 21 January. A 26-poster exhibition, 'Ramayana Around the World' has been created for display at temples. Every participant will get a certificate and holy prasad or food.

In Washington DC, a car and bike rally has been organized with around 1,000 participants on January 20 at the Shri Bhakta Anjaneya Temple. "It is our fortune and blessings that we are a part of this phenomena as our dream is getting materialized after centuries of wait and struggle," said Tejal Shah of HMEC.

Kul Bhushan worked as a newspaper Editor in Nairobi for over three decades and now lives in New Delhi



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Being Hard On Ourselves

When we are hard on ourselves, we send our bodies the message that we are not good enough

One of the key components of human consciousness that most of us need to address and change is our tendency to be hard on ourselves. We do this in ways that are both overt and subtle, and half the work sometimes is recognizing that we are doing it at all. For example, if we find it difficult to graciously accept compliments, this is probably a sign that we tend to be hard on ourselves. Other ways in which we

express this tendency include never feeling satisfied with a job well done, always wanting to be and do better, and getting mad at ourselves for getting sick. Getting mad at ourselves at all indicates that we need to rescue ourselves from our learned ability to be unkind to ourselves.

In essence, when we are hard on ourselves, we send our bodies the message

that we are not good enough. Whenever we do this, we do damage that will need to be addressed later, and we sap our systems of much-needed energy. Being hard on ourselves is a waste of precious time and energy that we could use in positive ways. To begin to understand how this works, we can think about times when someone made us feel that we weren't good enough. Even just thinking about it will create an effect in our

bodies that doesn't feel good. We may be used to the feeling, but when we really tune into it, we instinctively know that it is not good for us on any level.

Like any bad habit, being hard on ourselves can be a challenging one to release, but the more we feel the burden it places on us, the more motivated we will be to change. At first, just noticing when we are doing it and how it makes us feel is enough. As our awareness increases, our innate impulse toward health and well-being will be activated, moving us out of danger and into a more positive and more natural relationship with ourselves.