

MAURITIUS TIMES

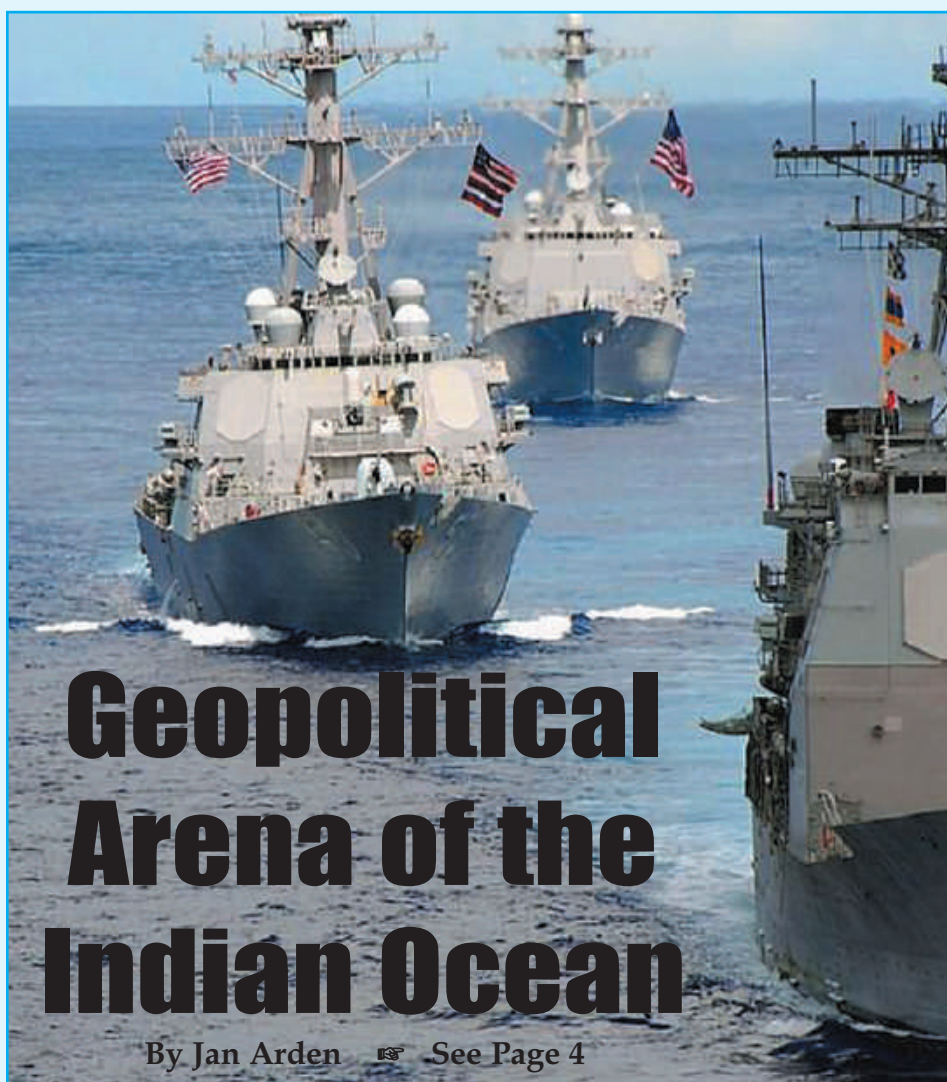
• "I'd rather regret the things I've done than regret the things I haven't done." -- Lucille Ball



The Integrity Reporting Services Agency

"It appears the IRSA has so far tracked down one individual: Navin Ramgoolam"

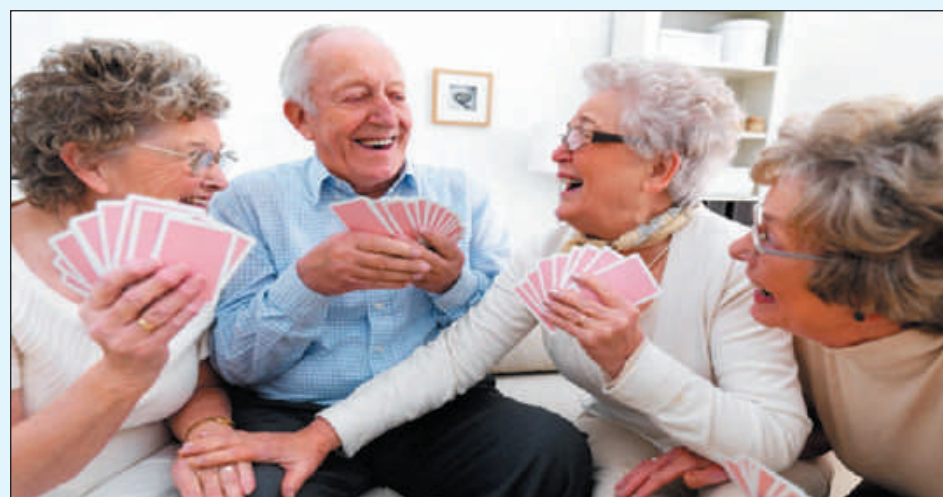
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Dangerous Portents

During their press conference on Saturday last, the opposition members making up the team covered a few topics, amongst which drugs and the serial episodes of violence that have become such a frequent occurrence in the country. Drugs have been the subject of multiple interventions by politicians of all hues, but so far without any sign of resolution of the problem despite the Lam Shang Leen Drug Commission Report and the Task Force that was set up to follow up on recommendations chaired by Sir Anerood Jugnauth. He is now out of the picture, and Lex in this week's Qs & As pertinently asks whether the Task Force has died a natural death.

As worrying as this is, compounded further by the ravages being caused by the epidemic of synthetic drug use, another equally dangerous phenomenon that has emerged and is spreading is what Nando Bodha has referred to as gang culture. This is the first time that this term is being used, and if indeed such gang culture is being 'institutionalised' in our social landscape, then we are in for very scary times ahead. As if the other crimes that are taking place are not enough! Delays in police investigations and action, with further lags caused by protracted and obstructive legal proceedings seem to have emboldened the perpetrators, and may be part of the explanation of why this gang culture is multiplying its criminal acts.

On the other hand, is the resurgence of cases of Covid, which have so far been isolated or small numbers in scattered areas across the country. All of a sudden now we are confronted with another large cluster of 28 cases in Vallee Pitot which has been declared red zone yesterday. This is the second largest number of cases detected in one locality after the one at Forest Side which led to the lockdown, and concerned a single family group, involving 42 cases, and that group had the unfortunate tragedy of losing loved ones to the Covid-19 bug.

As we await further developments and information from the authorities regarding this large new cluster, apprehension is growing as there are rumours that under pressure from the private sector, in particular the hotel lobby, the government is planning to open the frontiers as from the end of June, and perhaps even earlier, with all the risks that this decision may lead to as regards a further intensification of the pandemic locally. So many views have been expressed about the need to resume economic activities as the country's financial reserves are being drained, but treading the fine line between doing that and containing the pandemic is going to require a trapeze's skill!

Whether it is crimes or large clusters, the onus finally falls on the authorities. They have to beef up their surveillance and control mechanisms. They have to be more strict about compliance with gatherings in large numbers in defiance of what is recommended, as this endangers the whole country, with the spectre of further and complete lockdown hanging over our heads. Things seem to be getting worse and worse, and this is a dangerous trend.

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The Conversation

Talking politics in 2021: Lessons on humility and truth-seeking from Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin spoke and wrote in ways that, if taken up now, could begin to erode the polarization of the current era

The previous year in the United States was a turbulent one, filled with political strife, protests over racism and a devastating pandemic. Underlying all three has been a pervasive political polarization, made worse by a breakdown in civic – and civil – discourse, not only on Capitol Hill, but around the nation.

In a new year, with a new president and a new Congress, there appears to be opportunity. Americans, starting with the president, are talking about turning away from the division of the recent past and choosing a different direction: talking civilly and productively about the problems the country faces.

But how to do that? As a literary scholar, I appreciate the power of carefully crafted language, and I believe that Americans – from those in government to those around the dinner table – could take a lesson from one of this nation's founders and greatest communicators: Benjamin Franklin.

From 'positive Argumentation' to 'modest Diffidence'

Before he achieved fame as a statesman, scientist and diplomat, Franklin, who was born in 1706 and died in 1790, made his living in Philadelphia from words – as a printer, journalist and essayist.

Having worked early in his life in Boston for his brother James, a fiery journalist, he knew the kind of war that could be waged with words and had even made a hobby of debating with a young friend.

"We sometimes disputed," Franklin recalled in his autobiography, "and very fond we were of Argument, & very desirous of confuting one another."

Everything changed for Franklin, however, after he came across some examples of Socratic dialogue, in which questions figure prominently. "I was charmed with it," Franklin wrote, "adopted it, drop my abrupt Contradiction, and positive Argumentation, and put on the humble Enquirer & Doubter."

The inspired Franklin eventually changed his entire manner of discourse, communicating "in terms of modest Diffidence" instead of positive assertion, dropping words such as "certainly" and "undoubtedly" and substituting "I should think it so or so" and "it is so, if I am not mistaken."



Men arguing about COVID-19 restrictions at a protest in Woodland Hills, Calif. on May 16, 2020.
Pic - David McNew/Getty

After all, Franklin wrote, "a positive, assuming manner" tends to turn off an audience and thus undermines one's own intentions.

Such positive assertion can interfere with the exchange of valuable information. "If you wish information and improvement from the knowledge of others," Franklin wrote, "and yet at the same time express yourself as firmly fixed in your present opinions, modest, sensible men, who do not love disputation, will probably leave you undisturbed in the possession of your error."

In 2021, replacing positive assertions in conversations with some "terms of modest Diffidence" just might lead to exchanges that are not only more civil, but also more productive.

Pursuing truth, not victory

More important than modest expression is actual intellectual humility, and here again Franklin's example is instructive. Even before he turned his inquiring mind to groundbreaking discoveries in electricity, he showed a scientist's dedication to open, objective investigation with only truth as its object.

In 1727, when he was still in his early 20s, he founded a group called the Junto. Members, including a number of tradesmen like Franklin, took up political, philosophical and other questions such as "Does the Importation of Servants increase or advance the Wealth of our Country?" and

Mark Canada - Indiana University

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Health and Well-Being of Senior Citizens



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

As we are all aware, from the beginning of the Covid pandemic, a major concern has been the health of senior citizens. This is because Covid-19 being a coronavirus, it was expected to affect the elderly predominantly, like the 'flu. Indeed, that's what happened initially, and as deaths started to occur most of the victims were seniors, partly also because they had comorbidities like diabetes, heart disease or hypertension and so on. In fact, as health systems came to be quickly overrun with the surging numbers of patients infected with Covid, there were allegations that health services were being prioritized towards the younger patients to the detriment of the elderly – in nursing homes in the UK, for example. When vaccines first became available, seniors were on the priority list along with frontliners.

Within a short time, however, all age groups began to be infected, and Covid didn't care about the weather, continuing in all countries and climates its expansionist designs – by default or by design (as is currently being speculated) – on its preferred targets, us human beings. Although there are set medical criteria e.g. severity of disease based on symptoms and data from examination of the patient and the results of investigations, in an environment with shortage of beds and facilities, doctors are faced with an enduring dilemma of who to admit when young and old are equally in need of intensive treatment.

Sometimes this is resolved when there is an act of altruism – as happened in the state of UP in Bharat a few weeks ago, when an 80-plus year-old patient preferred to allow a young patient to be allotted the only bed available that he had been assigned, saying that he had lived his life and that patient was more deserving. His family respected his wish and took him home, where he passed peacefully after a few days.

Such acts of goodness may not necessarily be replicated widely, but if we arrive at three score and ten in the best of shapes, we diminish the risk of catching Covid – or any infection –, thus lessening the burden on the health system – which itself can be considered as an act of 'neutral,' collective, altruism – and make place for those more deserving. Again, as we all have been hearing from the experts, Covid is here to stay. Isn't it in order that we should prepare ourselves for it in anticipation? – whatever happens later, for not everything is in our hands after all!



The way to do this is of course to start early, by which I mean that you mustn't wait until you become senior citizen to begin thinking about your health. Well before that stage is reached, you must make up your mind to remain in the pink, i.e. from your young age.

That's why I salute the initiative of Global Rainbow Foundation to organize a webinar under the aegis of its U3AM (University of 3rd Age Mauritius), and willingly accepted to be the resource person for the event held on last Thursday 20th May, with the theme 'Health & Well-being of Seniors including Covid impact.' Although the audience consisted mainly of seniors, as expected, I made it a point to request them to pass the message to their families and friends about the importance of starting young to keep oneself fit so as to 'age healthily' when the time comes.

And that started, as I pointed out with, firstly, understanding what is meant by health, which most of us equate with absence of disease. In other words, because of this lack of knowledge of the different dimensions of health, as long as we feel well – which is the case at least for the first few decades of our life – we keep on indulging in goodies. And then one day disease strikes, and we ask 'what happened? I have been so well!'

Well, no. The body can take in a lot, and keep adjusting, but at some stage there is a breaking point. So I started by spelling out the definition of health according to WHO, which is: 'Health is a state of complete physical, mental & social well-being and not merely absence of disease.'

This meant therefore that one should provide good nourishment to the body (physical), the mind (mental) and nurture sound and happy relationships (social) at all times. In practice, this places a responsibility on parents to inculcate the habit of healthy eating to their children, avoiding fast foods and fizzy drinks, having plenty of greens, vegetables and fruits: but lead by example! Don't smoke, certainly not in front of children, and stick to being a social drinker if at all that is a requirement. Get out from in front of the screens and engage in physical activity in

fresh air. And have hobbies that give pleasure and can be shared across age groups, like reading or nature treks.

I briefly explained the changes that take place as one ages: most visible of course were those in the skin which thins out, becomes wrinkled, and then whitening of the hair with or without baldness. But these visible changes are accompanied by corresponding changes in the other bodily structures. And thus there is a slowing down, easy tiredness, and not being able to do as much as before. Vision diminishes, and bodily reflexes are not as prompt. There may be diminution of vision, as well as a slowing down of digestion, constipation, as well as urinary incontinence. On the other hand, familiar to all is forgetfulness. These are some of the main alterations-cum-deteriorations that take

place, and they can occur in the absence of any disease which, if present, can aggravate them depending on which organ is affected.

However, the good news is that most of these changes can to some degree be prevented, and certainly their onset delayed if in addition to the good habits adopted at early age – although it is never too late to start – they added: pranayama to improve lung function, and taichi to develop and maintain bodily equilibrium which is very important in old age to prevent falls that can cause fractures with disabling consequences. Further, they could take up yoga to maintain the suppleness of their joints and stimulate the hormonal glands, as well as its meditative practices to calm the mind and reduce stress. Moreover, to keep the mind sharp, they could read, do puzzles, solve crosswords or Sudoku.

Walking is a simple form of exercise that can help immensely. If one has friends to walk with and socialize with – remember social well-being? – nothing like that, especially if the friends are from different social, economic and occupational backgrounds. Or one could prefer to take a daily 'appointment with oneself' by walking alone, introspecting and retrospectively, and revel in nostalgia especially when loved ones are far away.

Additionally, one must be careful not to do stupid things like climbing ladders and fiercely 'karchering' and cleaning, or immediately upon retirement begin to overkill in long hours of unaccustomed exercise and activities such as gardening: be moderate in everything is the motto.

There must be acceptance of one's limitations and adjustment of one's lifestyle accordingly: slow down, take naps, be careful on stairs, organize a ground floor room and as regards bathroom get rid of fancy fittings and have handrails etc. Besides, jot down things to do; keep keys, money etc. in designated places, and be regular with medications, avoid self-stopping without medical advice, or self-medication except simple ones.

Voila! That should do for a start, and may it be a good start on joining the club!

Geopolitical Arena of the Indian Ocean

The PM's answers in Parliament are reassuring: No military base in Agalega, no long-term lease... The league of India-bashers, we suspect, will continue to fret

Jan Arden

Most of us know what we understand by the Indian Ocean, intuitively at least. More formally, the idea of a platform regrouping states bordering the Indian Ocean, and sharing common interests around peaceful and conflict-free development seems to have taken root around 1995 through the initiative of President Nelson Mandela and his Indian counterpart. Soon after, the multilateral treaty called the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) was officially launched in 1997 with seven initial signatories, later expanded to fourteen and now it seems at 23, with 10 additional "dialogue partners". Mauritius had the honour and privilege to host the event in 1997 as most of us would remember while agreeing perhaps that despite the best of intentions of its founding godmothers, the IOR did not mature and flourish.

However, it is being signalled upfront as a rejoinder to the "narrative" being pushed in some quarters, that somehow Bharat or India considers itself as some owner or privileged proprietor or naval and military guardian of the Indian Ocean. Whatever the geopolitical issues we have to consider in this zone, such a simplistic storyline runs counter to history and simple facts. There are indeed several major countries, whether from a population or GDP standpoint, that border the Ocean that colonizing powers termed Indian. Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia on the eastern front, South Africa, Madagascar and our brotherly ocean-bordering African states are neither mince-lings nor just pieces of cake for some type of pressure politics or maritime law imposed by a towering ogre, India. Narratives should not obscure facts nor run counter to them.

Diplomats will know better what factors were behind the floundering of the IOR-ARC, but we can take note of both the guiding intentions at birth and their relevance after a quarter of a century of geopolitical evolution. We can recall here that the IOR had identified six priority areas namely:

- maritime security,
- trade and investment facilitation,
- fisheries management,
- disaster risk reduction,
- academic and scientific cooperation,

and

- tourism promotion and cultural exchanges.

while the IOR-A identified two focus areas, namely Blue Economy and Women's Economic Empowerment.

Most of these could be said to be among the chief issues in regional cooperation and peaceful development even today and some significant achievements can be partly attributed to those original concepts: sharing and managing common fisheries resources of the zone and keeping predatory industrial fleets under close check is one of them. The last Council of Ministers Summit in Doha, UAE in 2019 stated "We recognise the importance of ocean health for a sustainable blue economy and well-being of Indian Ocean communities. We share concern about the pressures on our oceans, including the impacts of marine litter, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and climate change."

Resolving peacefully issues about maritime economic and extended zones, particularly between island nations, is another. Agreeing Seychelles, Mauritius, Comoros and Mayotte economic maritime zones has perhaps been made easier sailing. Clamping down maritime piracy around the Somali area and descending down the East African shores and strengthening regional cooperation against maritime piracy and drug trafficking has been another. Again, as summed up in Doha, "We underline our strong condemnation of terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirm the solidarity of Member States' in combating terrorism." It remains a threat despite the cooperation of several navies operating in the region.

The floods, monsoons, cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis to which the region's bordering states are prone, as evidenced by several recent tragic episodes, are certainly still another area of greater cooperation and rapid information sharing. The Indian Ocean is a climactic and seismologic area of concern. To quote from the IOR website: "The year 2018 and 2019 saw tsunamis and earthquakes in Indonesia, severe droughts in Madagascar, floods and landslides in India, seasonal cyclones in the Islands of the Indian Ocean, and many more calamities. The 2008 Super Cyclone in Myanmar and the December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami have forever been etched in public memory." In the IORA Action Plan 2017-2021, the development of Disaster Risk Management in IORA has been given focused direction, adds the website, although we



“What has changed is China's stupendous economic growth since the nineties with an insatiable demand for massive oil and raw materials from Africa and the Middle-East, to be necessarily routed through the Belt and Road Initiative and the Indian Ocean. It may have been one reason it leased Djibouti land for its first overseas military and naval base, allowing its naval fleet, including aircraft carriers and, reportedly nuclear-powered submarines, to offer some patrolling capacity towards international security in trade routes so vital to its own needs... without such naval expeditions eliciting alarm of the level and toxicity being arraigned here against India, a legitimate Indian Ocean country, much as Australia or South Africa...”

fail to see any evidence that such actions and coordination have had any effect in preventing the Wakashio digressing from its Southern Ocean route to head for a disaster on our coral reefs.

Unfortunately, then, the IOR has remained low profile, even though the organization is headquartered in Ebene, Mauritius which also provides all the support and secretarial staffing. But the geopolitical scene has evolved considerably in the past two decades and this may have contributed to the fact that the shared Indian Ocean Rim concept and initiative has not fully delivered on its initial expectations.

Security in the Ocean

It is no secret that either in 1997 or today, the USA remains the most formidable Western military and naval presence in the Indian Ocean, most notably through its Fifth fleet based in Bahrain, its military base in Djibouti known as Camp Lemonnier, guarding the Red Sea, and, of course, through its aero-naval base in Diego Garcia, leased as we know by a UN-condemned subterfuge from the excision operated by the British prior to our independence. Although, being a non-Indian Ocean bordering state, it had legitimate

claim to play a vital deterrent and defensive role in safeguarding security in the aftermath of the Iraq-Kuwait invasion and the generally volatile Middle East and as a key stabilizing force for ensuring safety in the North Indian Ocean Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) in a zone through which vital oil supplies are routed.

It is neither a secret that France, through its overseas departments and "territoires outre-mer" inside the Indian Ocean, notably Reunion, Mayotte and a string of small islands further south, has legitimate claims to have its fleet, submarines or nuclear-powered aircraft carriers patrolling this Ocean, and, in particular, the pirate-infested areas off the Mozambique channel and up the Somali coastline.

For much of our post-independence period, these two Tier-1 superpowers (those five countries with veto power in the UN Security Council) have in a way provided the shield and umbrella under which most trade and maritime traffic could flourish unhampered by conflicts elsewhere. Both were riverine powers through their bases and possessions although France only decided to join the IOR and was admitted in late 2020.

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The Integrity Reporting Services Agency

“It appears the Integrity Reporting Services Agency has so far tracked down one individual in great fanfare: Navin Ramgoolam”

• ‘Though the Agency can act on a report, that does not mean that it can or should remain passive and wait for reports from the other investigative agencies to act’

An important requirement in the fight against unexplained wealth or illicit enrichment is the efficacy of the institution/s tasked to investigate and take action against those found culpable. The crucial point of relevance is that such an institution must be totally independent and not be subjected to the influence or control of the Executive, not even by perception. Further, too many institutions pursuing the same objective can result in confusion and overlapping of roles that affect the delivery of expected outcomes.

LEX puts these issues, especially the tracking of unexplained wealth, in perspective.

LEX

* Snide comments have been made about the track record of the Integrity Reporting Services Agency (IRSA), which was set up under the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Act 2015, and which costs the public exchequer more than Rs 30 M annually. We have two foreign nationals with undeniable experience heading the Agency - Lord Phillips as Chairperson of The Integrity Reporting Board, and Paul Keyton as director and who comes with an impressive CV. Could there be something fundamentally wrong with the system in which the IRSA operates that does not allow it to deliver?

Prior to the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Act 2015 (GGIR), there already existed legislations to deal with illicit wealth, like the Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 in the case of ICAC, and the Financial Intelligence and Anti Money Laundering Act (FIAMLA). It would appear in the public perception that the bodies established under these legislations have not been delivering. Whether this is true or not, it is for these bodies to reassure the public about their record of delivery.

Instead of beefing up these institutions, the Government in 2014 with the then Minister of Good Governance Roshni Bhadain in the lead decided to amend the Constitution on the protection of property and enact the GGIR. What was the aim? To track down those who cannot explain their wealth or sources of their wealth.

It appears the Integrity Reporting Services Agency, established under the GGIR, has so far tracked down one individual in great fanfare when the former Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam was arrested for having a substantial amount of money in a safe at his place. We have not heard of any other case where the Agency has acted with such fanfare. Why? Is the law itself - the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Act 2015 - being used as a political



“Let us not mince words and be blunt. The removal of the DPP from the Recovery of Assets was a purely political move aimed at clipping the wings of the present DPP. It was not the aim of the government to strengthen the mechanism for recovery of illicit assets. Remember the Prosecution Commission Bill, that was destined to place the DPP and by extension the decision to prosecute or not to prosecute under the Executive...”

weapon? Maybe individuals are being tracked and assets seized, but we do not get to hear about them. Why?

* During debates on the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Bill, Paul Berenger had besides criticizing several measures proposed in the Bill as well as the amendments to the Asset Recovery (Amendment) Act and the Constitution, questioned the need for such a bill. His point was that our existing laws could have been amended to fight illicit enrichment. He might have been right, it would seem?

Paul Berenger was perfectly right. The existing laws would have been enough or could have been improved with some amendments. So why create this white elephant called the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Act that established two bodies - the Integrity Reporting Services Agency and the Integrity Reporting Board?

The weakness of these and other existing institutions lies in the fact that either those at the helm are not capable of delivering, as pointed out by the European Union that has blacklisted our financial sector, or could be at the beck and call of the government of the day - that's at least the perception.

* It would seem that the tracking of illicit enrichment/unexplained wealth was better taken care of when asset recovery fell under the purview of the Office of the DPP. But the law has since been amended to bring it under the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), which falls under the Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance - that is part of the Executive. Is the public interest best served when the Executive's power of

control over the institutions in charge of the fight against corruption is strengthened?

Let us not mince words and be blunt. The removal of the DPP from the Recovery of Assets was a purely political move aimed at clipping the wings of the present DPP. It was not the aim of the government to strengthen the mechanism for recovery of illicit assets.

Remember the Prosecution Commission Bill, that was destined to place the DPP and by extension the decision to prosecute or not under the Executive. Since Recovery of Assets has come under the purview of the FIU, we have not heard much about its performance on that score, unless action has been taken of which we are not aware.

* The IRSA may well be shielded from Executive/political interference, but how much can it do with a skeletal staff of apparently 4 executives - a far cry from the team of forensic accountants, auditors, lawyers and former senior civil servants, as advertised by the then Good Governance minister Roshni Bhadain when the Agency was in the process of being set up in 2016? Do the authorities want it to succeed in its mission?

If after three years of existence the track record of the institutions under the GGIR have failed to deliver, one would have expected those at the helm of these institutions to suggest and advise on reforms that could be undertaken to give more powers to the GGIR institutions. You do not stay put when the machinery is getting rusty.

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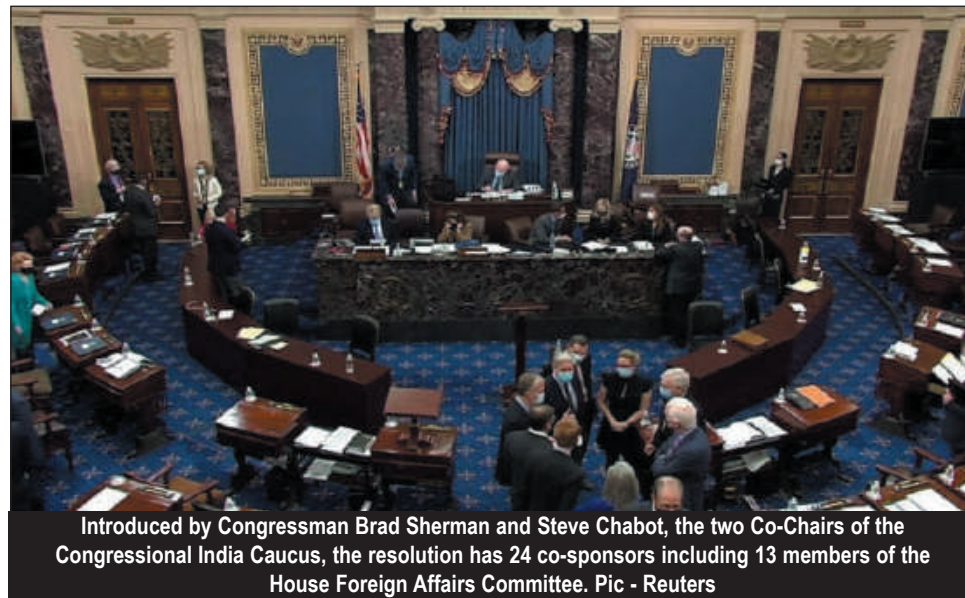
US Congressional committee passes unanimous resolution to express solidarity with India

A key Congressional committee on Wednesday unanimously passed a resolution that expressed solidarity with India during the Covid-19 crisis and urged the Biden administration to facilitate private, in-kind medical supply donations to India.

The resolution "Recognizing the devastating impact of Covid-19 in India and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to Covid assistance to India," was passed with unanimous consent by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, reports PTI.

Introduced by Congressman Brad Sherman and Steve Chabot, the two Co-Chairs of the Congressional India Caucus, the resolution has 24 co-sponsors including 13 members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The resolution recognizes the help offered by India to the US in the early part of the pandemic, India's important global role in vaccine production and its efforts so



Introduced by Congressman Brad Sherman and Steve Chabot, the two Co-Chairs of the Congressional India Caucus, the resolution has 24 co-sponsors including 13 members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Pic - Reuters

far to help other countries with Covid-19 vaccines.

Commending the response of the administration, private sector and the

Indian-American community in response to the situation in India, the resolution urges the administration to facilitate private, in-kind medical supply donations to India and

work to deliver additional, urgently needed medical supplies to India, including oxygen generator plants and cryogenic oxygen tankers and containers.

Recognizing the efforts of the administration to deliver urgently needed medical supplies and vaccine raw materials to India, the resolution calls on the President and the Secretary of State to work with partners around the world to quell the virus everywhere it persists.

The resolution comes in the backdrop of a sustained outreach at Congress by India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, and senior Indian diplomats.

Among top American Senators who have come out in support of India are Dick Durbin, John Cornyn, Mark Warner, Bob Menendez, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Ed Markey, Jim Risch, Dianne Feinstein, Chris Van Hollen, Cory Booker, Amy Klobuchar, Gary Peters.



The UK Home Secretary will announce the plans in parliament today as part of a wider overhaul of the country's immigration system. Pic - Reuters

UK home secretary Priti Patel to unveil US-style digital visas to 'count' migrants

UK Home Secretary Priti Patel is set to unveil a new US-style digital visa regime at the country's borders in order to measure immigration levels in and out of the country, according to UK media reports on Sunday.

The senior Indian-origin Cabinet minister is to confirm the so-called "sweeping changes" to the UK's immigration policy to "streamline" the way in which people come into the country on Monday, reports PTI.

The post-Brexit changes will include the border being managed digitally, which the government says will be easier to navigate for businesses and allow for the first time to accurately count people in and out of the UK.

"Our new fully digital border will provide the ability to count people in and out of the country, giving us control over who comes to the UK," Patel

was quoted as saying in the 'Observer'.

"Our new approach will make it easier to identify potential threats before they reach the border. The British people will have confidence that the strongest controls are in place to keep them safe," she said.

The UK Home Office hopes to make entry to the UK fully digital by the end of 2025.

It means people wanting to come into the UK without a visa or immigration status will have to apply for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA), similar to the US system, with 30 million applications expected to be processed every year.

As well as launching her latest immigration plans, Patel will also focus on failings in the asylum system and the need to crack down on people smugglers. Earlier in the week, she was filmed accompanying police as they arrested suspected ringleaders of a people smuggling gang that used minicab and lorry drivers to move migrants in and out of the UK.

The British government has said that in the past 10 days, more than 140 foreign criminals have been removed from the UK, totalling more than 700 so far this year.

First ever chair of Tamil studies to be established at a Canadian university

The Canadian city of Toronto will be the venue for the first ever chair in Tamil studies to be established at a university in the country.

The project, launched by University of Toronto along with Canada-based Tamil groups in 2018, is now a reality with sufficient funds having been raised to endow the position that will be located at the university's Scarborough campus.

Canada has the largest Tamil population outside the Indian subcontinent, numbering over 300,000 and with roots in India, Sri Lanka, and other nations such as Singapore and Malaysia.

The chair will foster scholarship and research into the language and as well as its cultural aspects.

The groups that participated in the initiative included Canadian Tamil Congress and Tamil Chair Inc, and among its supporters was the government of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

A total of \$3 million has been raised for the endowment to begin the process of formalising the programme.

Wisdom J Tetley, principal of University of Toronto's Scarborough campus (UTSC) told HT that the university will now embark on a global search to appoint the chair.

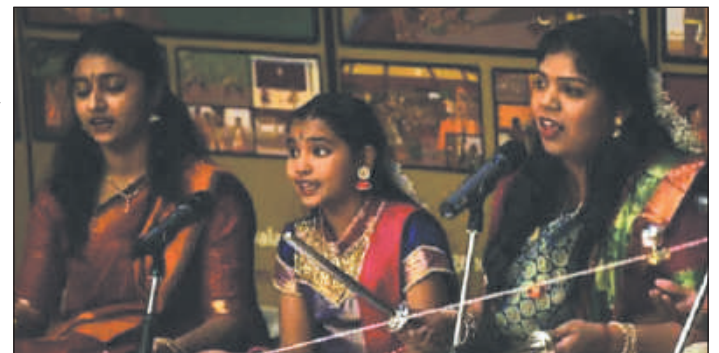
He said they will seek an "outstanding reputation and who can undertake research and connect with the community in ways that ensure co-learning and reciprocal interaction".

Among those who welcomed the move was accountant Sivan Ilangko, also president of

Canadian Tamil Congress. "The worldwide Tamil community is interested in both ancient and modern Tamil literature. There are also expectations that the Tamil chair will include interdisciplinary studies, cultural studies, classics, sociology, political science, anthropology, geography, linguistics, literature and fine arts. We expect there will be teaching and research in these areas," he said.

Ilangko pointed out that Tamil is among the oldest surviving classical languages with a tradition that is more than 2,000 years old. It is also a modern language spoken by over 80 million people in numerous countries.

UTSC principal Tetley felt that institutionalising Tamil studies will attract those even



A performance during Tamil heritage celebrations at University of Toronto's Scarborough campus in 2019. Pic - UTSC

beyond the Tamil community. "Tamil studies have different components - from language studies, to history and culture. As an institution with a global remit and perspective, the interest will be from a wide range of people around the world with different motivations," said Tetley.

"The chair's work in the context of Toronto, which has a huge community of Tamil origin with global connections, will support our vision of inspiring inclusive academic excellence and enriching our multicultural society by studying, promoting, and sustaining Tamil culture and heritage around the world," the UTSC principal said.

US waiting to see if North Korea wants to engage in diplomacy

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Sunday the United States is waiting to see if North Korea wants to engage in diplomacy over the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

U.S. President Joe Biden and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday injected fresh urgency into attempts to engage North Korea in dialogue over its nuclear weapons, with Biden saying he would meet its leader Kim Jong Un under the right conditions.

"We are waiting to see if Pyongyang actually wants to engage," Blinken said on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos"



US President Joe Biden on Friday said he would meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un under the right conditions. Pic - Reuters

program. "The ball is in their court."

"The best chance we have to achieve the objective of total denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is to engage diplomatically with North Korea," Blinken said.

North Korea has rebuffed U.S. entreaties for diplomacy since Biden took over from Donald Trump, who had three summits with Kim and famously exchanged "beautiful letters" with the third-generation leader.



New York AG's office opens criminal probe into Trump Organization. Pic - NBC News

NY Attorney General's Office "actively investigating Trump Organisation in a criminal capacity"

The New York Attorney General's Office has said it is expanding its civil probe into former President Donald Trump's business empire and that it is now "actively investigating the Trump Organisation in a criminal capacity". Attorney general Letitia James's office, which was already conducting a civil investigation of Mr Trump's company, suggested that the probe is in conjunction with an ongoing criminal investigation on him by the office of Manhattan district attorney Cyrus Vance Jr.

"We have informed the Trump Organisation that our investigation into the organisation is no longer purely civil in nature," said Fabien Levy, a spokesman for the attorney general's office. "We are now actively investigating the Trump Organisation in a criminal capacity, along with the Manhattan DA." For two years, the civil investigation has been probing whether the Trump Organisation manipulated property values to secure loans and obtain economic and tax benefits.

Holidaymakers in the UK are set to defy government orders

Millions of holidaymakers in the UK are set to defy government orders not to travel to "amber list" countries despite warnings that trips should only be made in exceptional circumstances, reports The Independent. Boris Johnson has been told to expect a flood of bookings if the EU opens its doors to fully vaccinated Britons without the need for Covid-19 tests or quarantine - a decision expected this week - amid mounting confusion over the rules.

The Independent calculates 5 million UK holidaymakers are booked to travel abroad to "amber list" destinations for the summer, which includes France, Greece, Spain and other holiday hotspots. The British travel industry has already reported a boom in bookings following the lifting of restrictions on international travel that came into effect on Monday.

Israel reopens borders to small groups of foreign tourists

Israel reopened its borders to foreign tourists on Sunday after a fall in Covid-19 infections but said it would take time for visitors to start arriving and to revive the tourism industry.

Under an easing of coronavirus restrictions, the government went ahead with a plan to start letting in small groups of tourists from countries using vaccines it has approved.

Foreign airlines are also resuming flights they suspended when Palestinian militants began rocket attacks on Israel this month. A ceasefire has now halted the fighting, helping the government meet

Sunday's target date for starting the plan.

Tourism in 2019 hit a record high of 4.55 million visitors, contributing 23 billion shekels (\$7.1 billion) to Israel's economy, mainly via small and mid-sized businesses.

Under a pilot programme due to continue until June 15, Israel gave the green light to visits by 20 groups of between 5 and 30 tourists from countries including the United States, Britain and Germany.

Another 20 groups were chosen to be on standby if any of the first 20 tour operators did not meet Israel's

conditions.

Israeli authorities believe that initially limiting tourism to small groups is the best way to monitor and contain the spread of Covid-19, especially new variants. The plan is to boost the number of groups in June and allow individual tourists to start visiting in July.

Visitors will need to show negative PCR tests before flying and to undergo further tests on arrival.

Israel has fully vaccinated about 55% of its population and Covid-19 cases have dropped sharply.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Geopolitical Arena of the Indian Ocean

Cont. from page 4

What has changed is China's stupendous economic growth since the nineties with an insatiable demand for massive oil and raw materials from Africa and the Middle-East, to be necessarily routed through the Belt and Road Initiative and the Indian Ocean. That is the core of Chinese anxiety: that its economic powerhouse might be throttled up by any other superpower through its exposure to the SLOC in northern Indian Ocean. It may have been one reason it leased Djibouti land for its first overseas military and naval base, allowing its naval fleet, including aircraft carriers and, reportedly nuclear-powered submarines, to offer some patrolling capacity towards international security in trade routes so vital to its own needs. The base was officially launched around September 2017.

"It is no secret that either in 1997 or today, the USA remains the most formidable Western military and naval presence in the Indian Ocean, most notably through its Fifth fleet based in Bahrain, its military base in Djibouti known as Camp Lemonnier, guarding the Red Sea, and, of course, through its aero-naval base in Diego Garcia... It is neither a secret that France, through its overseas departments and "territoires outre-mer" inside the Indian Ocean, notably Reunion, Mayotte and a string of small islands further south, has legitimate claims to have its fleet, submarines or nuclear-powered aircraft carriers patrolling this Ocean..."



It is worth noting that China is the only power which is entirely non-bordering of the Indian Ocean without such naval expeditions eliciting alarm of the level and toxicity being arraigned here against India, a legitimate Indian Ocean country, much as Australia or South Africa.

China, India and traditional allies in the IOR or wider in Europe, remain essential to our security and development. They are indispensable partners if we are really intent on maximizing opportunities offered by the Blue Economy or manage and safeguard the security and defense of our vast expanse of territorial waters. However, it should be understood that friends and allies understand each other's sovereign concerns, and this in itself pleads for far greater transparency in our government's dealings with India over Agalega. The PM's answers in Parliament are reassuring: No military base, no long-term lease and a PMO control over all operations, but they sound standard, perfunctory and extracted. Secrecy and confidentiality ends up being the object of amalgamation, accusations and suspicions on real motives.

The league of India-bashers, some of whom haunt our shores, we suspect will continue to fret. But secrecy has given it fuel and it continues to blur the larger picture of what should have been a cardinal meeting of both Mauritius and India needs in common maritime security enabling peaceful development of our outer islands and our potential in the future prospects of the Blue Economy.

Jan Arden

TikTok and geopolitics: how 'digital nationalism' threatens to entrench big tech



Joanne Gray
Queensland University
of Technology

The massive digital platform market has until recently been dominated by a handful of US-based companies such as Facebook and Google. However, as foreign governments and competing platforms try to erode this domination, platforms are becoming a new sphere of geopolitical manoeuvring.

The European Union wants to gain more control over international tech companies and achieve more independence in the digital arena. India has banned 177 Chinese apps on the grounds they are "prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India".

And in 2020, the then US President Donald Trump spent months attempting to ban the Chinese-made video-sharing platform TikTok or force its sale to an American owner. While some claimed Trump was piqued by a supposed prank against him by teenage TikTok users, a look at statements from US government officials over the course of the year shows geopolitical concerns were the main driver.

If governments are continuing to be driven by "digital nationalism", the US-based big tech companies are likely to continue to dominate.

TikTok is the first major non-US platform

TikTok is the first social media platform born outside the United States to become a significant rival to Silicon Valley incumbents such as Facebook and Instagram. The short-form video platform rose to prominence in 2019 and, by early 2020, was the most downloaded app globally.

Since its rise, TikTok has come under intense criticism from governments around the world, who question whether ByteDance, the company that owns TikTok, sufficiently protects users' data against access by the Chinese state.

However, the way TikTok treats user data is not very different from what its US counterparts do. There is little to suggest the platform poses any singular national security threat.

The company releases transparency reports similar to those of Google and Facebook. A CIA assessment reportedly concluded there was no evidence the Chinese

If we want to decentralise power online, governments will have to overcome their nationalistic impulses.



Protesters in America opposed the planned TikTok ban. Pic - STRF/STAR MAX/IPx/AP

government had intercepted TikTok data.

TikTok's Chinese origins can be used to oversimplify the platform's actual territorial connection to China. ByteDance was founded in China but it is incorporated in the Cayman Islands and operates as a multinational with subsidiaries in Australia, the US, the UK and Singapore.

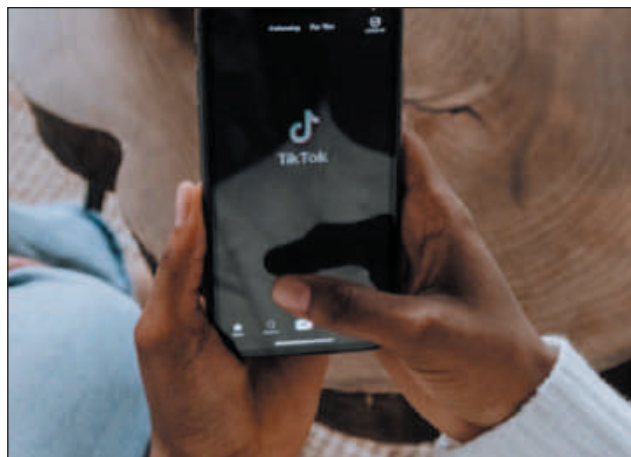
Platform geopolitics

The backdrop to Trump's stance towards TikTok was an intensifying contest between the US and China over the strategic value of the digital environment. Who gets to extract economic value from the platform economy? Who gets to exert ideological influence through vast socio-technical systems? Who enjoys strategic advantages from control over and access to data and infrastructure?

As today's global tech platforms have developed, they have largely mirrored the shape of classical geopolitics: the US has dominated. Recently, however, Chinese technology firms have flourished, expanding China's economic and strategic capacities.

Trump's TikTok challenge

TikTok teens may have successfully pranked Trump, but his actions and rhetoric fit within a geopolitical agen-



Pic - micky.com.au

da articulated by others within the administration.

On June 24, 2020, US national security advisor Robert O'Brien spoke publicly on the topic of the Chinese government's "ideology and global ambitions". He warned China posed a threat to US citizens and explicitly implicated TikTok.

Two weeks later, on July 6, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo suggested TikTok should be treated like Huawei, the Chinese telecommunications company that is effectively banned in the US.

On July 31, 2020, Trump announced he was planning to ban TikTok.

Several days later, Microsoft released a statement explaining that its representatives had spoken to Trump directly regarding the acquisition of TikTok. When questioned about his talks with Microsoft, Trump stated:

[...] it can't be controlled, for security reasons, by China. Too big, too invasive, and it can't be.

On August 5, 2020, the US Department of State announced an expansion of its Clean Network program, which has the stated objective of "guarding our citizens' privacy and our companies' most sensitive information from aggressive intrusions by malign actors, such as the Chinese Communist Party".

Expansions to the program included five policies aimed at reducing the presence of China in the US. These policies limited the use of Chinese telecommunication carriers, applications sold in app stores and pre-installed on devices, cloud services and undersea cables.

The following day, Trump issued an executive order forcing the sale of TikTok to a US company on the grounds that TikTok posed a threat to "the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States".

Ultimately Trump's executive orders were blocked in the courts and the ban and forced sale never implemented.

The rise of digital nationalism

TikTok provides welcomed competition to the platform incumbents. If real competition in the sector were to increase, requiring the incumbent platforms to compete for users, we might see further innovations in the platform market and a less concentrated tech sector.

So far, however, the US government has explicitly focused on the geopolitical implications of the rise of a Chinese platform. Whether the Biden administration will continue this approach remains to be seen.

Both the US and China have a long history of shielding strategically important industries. For those concerned with increasing competition and diluting the concentrated power of the dominant technology firms, the rise of digital nationalism is a new obstacle.

Moving forward, policymakers may need to overcome nationalistic impulses if they are to increase global competition in the international platform market. And both US and Chinese rule must be rejected if we are to decentralise power within the digital environment.

BBC Diana 'cover up' - why Lord Dyson's report is a body blow for broadcaster

Critics of the UK's public broadcaster will be sharpening their knives over the latest scandal



Tim Luckhurst
Principal of South College,
Durham University

The BBC is among Britain's most valuable cultural exports, representing soft power at its most effective. Newcomers including Netflix and Amazon have deeper pockets, but the BBC has set enduring standards in British radio and television production. Executives at Sky, ITV and Channel 4 acknowledge its role as a benchmark that has enhanced the reputation of British broadcasting. Long a trusted source of news for the discerning, it has a global reputation for accuracy and honesty.

So, we should not be astonished that the BBC is ridden with intense angst about Lord Dyson's report into the corporation's now infamous interview with Princess Diana, in which she detailed the breakdown of her marriage to the Prince of Wales. The report found that the BBC's reporter, Martin Bashir, "used deceitful behaviour" to obtain the interview, and that the BBC knowingly "covered up" what it subsequently learned about this behaviour.

The process whereby Bashir, then a reporter for the Panorama documentary series, got the interview every competitor wanted was a mystery when it aired in 1995. It is a scandal now that Lord Dyson, a senior retired judge, has found that the corporation "fell short of the high standards of integrity and transparency which are its hallmark".

It is now established as fact that Bashir commissioned fake bank statements and showed them to Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, in order to secure his trust and gain access to his sister. That Bashir subsequently lied to his employer does not mean that blame attaches to him alone. This is a very dark day for the corporation, not just for one disgraced former reporter.

Princess Diana's appearance on Panorama was a colossal coup for the programme and, ostensibly, for the BBC. More than 20 million viewers watched it on transmission. Many more saw it later. It was the moment when Diana spoke of there being "three of us" in her marriage to



Martin Bashir's interview with Diana, Princess of Wales was watched by millions when it aired in 1995

Prince Charles. She admitted having an affair herself and explained that Charles' affair with Camilla Parker Bowles (now his wife, the Duchess of Cornwall) had made her feel worthless.

Falling short

The interview provoked enormous debate and controversy. I was a BBC editor in 1995. I believed that a flagship programme transmitting such a significant story must have checked and checked again the accuracy and integrity of its journalism. The real shock at the core of the Dyson report, is that it had not. Still worse, the BBC had not compelled it to do so.

Bashir got away with his schoolboy trick, in part, because his editor, the late Steve Hewlett, wanted his reporter's story to happen. That said, Dyson's report categorically cleared Hewlett from the subsequent cover-up, writing that "his writ did not run beyond the programme" and that his wife, Rachel Crellin had offered "a detailed and strong response" to accusations that he was aware or involved in Bashir's behaviour.

Tony Hall, meanwhile - the BBC's director of news at the time, subsequently director general - gave Bashir the benefit of the doubt. Now Lord Hall, he has acknowledged that his 1996 internal inquiry that cleared both Bashir and Panorama "fell well short of what was required". Lord Dyson puts it more bluntly. He says that investigation was "woefully ineffective".

It is to the BBC's credit that it has accepted the Dyson Report unreservedly. Tim Davie, the director general, adds that it should have made "a greater effort to get to the bottom of what happened at the time". He confirms that it now has "significantly better processes and procedures"

than existed in 1995.

Those of us who retain our affection and respect for the BBC will hope he is proved right - not least because the BBC's critics and foes are circling. Their arguments have been strengthened by this most deplorable mistake and by the regrettable fact that it has gone uncorrected for much longer than was necessary. Newspapers, notably the Sunday Times, the Daily Mail and the Mail on Sunday, drew attention to the allegations that have now been shown to be correct.

Such watchdog reporting by others also identified the sad truth that BBC managers were more concerned about having whistleblowers than in investigating their evidence. Such failure may now mean that the BBC will be more extensively harmed than by any previous editorial

error.

Owning up

Given its scale, ambition and age, the BBC's major errors are not numerous. It worked too closely with the government during the General Strike of 1926. Panorama's 1984 documentary "Maggie's Militant Tendency" claimed Conservative MPs had links to far-right organisations and cost the BBC £290,000 in damages and costs.

BBC reporting of the US bombing raid on Libya in 1986 created fresh tension with Margaret Thatcher's government. More recently, the Jimmy Savile sexual abuse scandal inflicted deep wounds. George Entwistle resigned as director general following Newsnight's false implication that Lord McAlpine had been involved in the abuse of children at Bryn Estyn children's home in Wales.

Today, the BBC's humiliation coincides with acute hostility from Boris Johnson's Conservative government. The Financial Times reports that an influential group of authors, academics and film producers believes a government advisory panel may recommend substantial cuts in the BBC's income.

Intense competition from wealthy streaming services that have secured loyalty from young viewers increases the BBC's vulnerability. It needs friends today more than it has needed them at any time in its history. Enemies are circling - and the Dyson report has added blood to the water. The BBC cannot afford to alienate its friends with any further evidence that its journalism, the jewel in its crown, is less than entirely reliable.

Commerce Division Staff Welfare Association

Level 2, SICOM Tower, Wall Street,
Ebène Cybercity, Ebène 72201
Tel No: 460 2500

Registration Number: 15733

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of members for the above association will be held on **Wednesday 09 June 2021 at 12.00 hrs** in the Conference Room, Level 2, SICOM Tower, Ebene via the Zoom Platform.

Agenda:

1. Welcome address by the Ag. President
2. Treasurer's Report

3. Statement by Auditor
4. Approval of expenditures and refund of members where necessary
5. Election of new managing committee
6. Change of name of association
7. AOB

In strict observation of sanitary protocols, a limited number of members will be able to attend the meeting physically. The Secretary shall provide the Zoom login details to members in due course.

Members interested to form part of the managing committee should send their letter of candidature through registered post to the Secretary on the above address at latest by **Tuesday 08 June 2021**.

N. Jeetun
Secretary

21 May 2021

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4th Year No 163

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 20 September 1957

• *Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds. -- George Eliot*

Peter Ibbotson

The current revision of the Education Code affords the opportunity for justice to be done to the teachers of Mauritius. As a matter of equity and principle, all teachers should enjoy the same conditions of service and the same opportunities, whether they teach in a Government or an Aided school.

At present there are 76 Aided schools: 52 Roman Catholic, 17 Church of England, 5 Hindu and 2 Muslim. That means there can be only 76 head teachers; and the present policy of the Government prevents the Education Authorities from building any new schools. So the number of head teachers in Aided schools is fixed at this total of 76.

Only the Government can build new primary schools. A big (and let me remind readers, long overdue) programme of expansion in educational building is under way. That means the number of Government school head teachers will steadily rise as new schools are opened. The Government Gazette announced on June 29 that from July 1, the establishment of Government school head teachers would be raised to 109, and this number is provided for in the Estimates 1957-58 (see Appendix E) as against 95 the year before. The same Gazette announced the increase from 190 to 226 in the establishment of First Class teachers in Government schools; while from 1956-57 to 1957-58, the establishment of Second Class teachers has gone up from 874 to 1090, and the establishment of Third Class teachers from 425 to 566. Yet the total increase in the staffs of the Aided primary schools is only 9 - from 1133 to 1142.

In other words, increased opportunity for promotion is given to teachers in Government primary schools, while for Aided primary school teachers the status quo is maintained. Naturally, this is leading to much dissension among Aided school teachers. They have to wait long years for promotion to First Class teacher and then

Revision of The Education Code



to head teacher; but their colleagues in the Government schools, perhaps junior as regards seniority and perhaps also less efficient teachers, have not so long to wait for promotion. There are teachers in the Muslim schools with over 25 years service who are stagnating; promotion is passing them by. At the same time, there are Government primary school teachers who have been promoted First Class teachers after only 7 years' experience.

Teachers are governed by the same Government Orders as regards pay, leave, sickness, pension, discipline, etc. Why on earth cannot they also be governed by the same orders as regards promotion?

The Education Code, when it is being revised, ought to try and settle the discontent that is rife among the primary school teachers; especially among those who, not having been sponsored by the Education authorities, have none the less been posted to teach in Aided schools. Many of such teachers are asking to opt for Aided status; they can surely be afforded justice without having to take this drastic step.

I suggest that the new Code should provide for the best teachers, irrespective of the type of school (Aided or Government) in which they teach to be promoted. The corollary would be for a safeguard that teachers would not be posted to a school where the Education Authority had objection on religious grounds. Such a scheme would help to unify a profession which is still disunited despite the efforts of the Primary Teacher's Union to awaken its members' consciousness to the need for one united profession.

Another advantage would be the elimination of the dual handling of teachers for promotion; at present there is handling by

the Education Department and the Education authorities; the Public Service Commission Interviews Government teachers seeking promotion, and the Education Authorities Promotion Board sees Aided school teachers due for promotion. There should be a common promotion list, drawn up and handled by the Public Service Commission, a body whose impartiality is respected by teachers and public alike.

Another facet of education in the Aided schools also deserves attention in the revision of the Education Code - the matter of religious instruction. At present, all children attending Church of England primary schools have to undergo religious instruction according to the tenets of the Church of England. All children - whether Christian, Hindu or Muslim. There is a syllabus of instruction and an annual examination. The examination consists of two parts: written and oral, and all pupils must sit this examination. The new Code should pro-

vide for parents of non-Christian children to be able to withdraw their children from the periods of denominational religious instruction, and to withdraw their children from the annual examination, of course. This power of withdrawal exists in the UK, of course, for the Education Act of 1944 expressly states (remember that in the UK a "county school" corresponds to a Government school in Mauritius, and a "voluntary school" corresponds to an Aided school) that "If the parent of any pupil in attendance at any county school or any voluntary school requests that he be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship in the school, or from attendance at religious instruction in the school, or from attendance at both religious worship and religious instruction in the school, then, until the request is withdrawn, the pupil shall be excused from such attendance accordingly."

Where a pupil is withdrawn from religious instruction, he can (providing certain conditions are fulfilled) be excused from the school during such periods as are reasonably necessary for purpose of enabling him to receive religious instruction of a kind acceptable to his parents.

Such a provision in the new Education Code would satisfy the parents of those non-Christian children who for any reason attend a Christian school where religious instruction of a particular Christian denomination is compulsory.

I have known personally of the right of withdrawal being exercised by Catholic parents whose child attended a county school, by Jewish parents of children attending county schools, and by Methodist parents of children attending Church of England schools.





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1956-2020

The Integrity Reporting Services Agency

"It appears the Integrity Reporting Services Agency has so far tracked down one individual in great fanfare: Navin Ramgoolam"

☛ Cont. from page 5

* We have lately seen the IRSA take the unusual route of dragging another State institution - the ICAC - to court for allegedly failing to fulfil its statutory obligations, as prescribed by the law, to submit detailed reports instead of summary notes on suspected cases of unexplained wealth. Does this point to a breakdown in the system put in place to fight fraud and corruption, or don't we want the IRSA to fulfil its duties?

Under the GGIR the Board can request another agency to investigate. It appears that the ICAC true to its image has not lived up to the expectations of the GGIR, hence the court case. But it must be added that the Agency has wide powers under the GGIR.

* One wonders how the EU, which has blacklisted the Mauritius jurisdiction, would react to the fact that the IRSA has had to apply to the court in the tussle with ICAC?

All this will not look well in the eyes of the European Union and this may delay our removal from the blacklist. Ghana also was having issues with the EU, and surely it has taken corrective measures to the satisfaction of the EU which explains the removal of this country from the blacklist. In Mauritius, we hear every day that corrective measures are being taken or will be taken. It appears that these so-called correctives have not had any impact on the EU so far.

* There seems to be a problem of effective - or even resistance to - collaboration between investigative agencies operating in the fight against fraud and cor-



“If after three years of existence the track record of the institutions under the GGIR have failed to deliver, one would have expected those at the helm of the institutions to suggest and advise on reforms that could be undertaken to give more powers to the GGIR institutions. You do not stay put when the machinery is getting rusty...”

ruption or drug trafficking. Does it also explain why we have not heard much from the taskforce, set up in the wake of the Lam Sham Leen Drug Commission report, which was mandated to adopt a coordinated approach with a view to implementing the measures recommended by the Commission?

That's the difficulty when too many institutions are pursuing the same objective. The same powers are wielded by

them and at times there may be an overlapping of powers. The taskforce, if ever it came into existence, is either dormant and may wake up when it would be too late. Or, it could even be as extinct as the Dodo.

* Notwithstanding the IRSA's court action, the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Act 2015 allows for the Agency "to investigate on its own initiative" cases of unexplained wealth. It appears there is a huge underground economy lying down there. Does it seem that we are being able to grapple with this particular issue?

It is clear that the Agency can take the initiative to require a person to furnish particulars of his assets. Though the Agency can act on a report, that does not mean that it can or should remain passive and wait for reports from the other investigative agencies to act.

* The leader of the Labour Party has challenged the Good Governance and Integrity Reporting Act and the constitutional amendments preceding the introduction of the law on the ground that this would violate the principle of the separation of powers between the Executive, the Parliament and the Judiciary. Is he right?

It will be for the Supreme Court to determine whether Navin Ramgoolam is right or not. But nothing prevented him from challenging the constitutionality of the legislation. The right of any citizen to challenge the constitutionality of a piece of legislation is guaranteed by the Constitution.

LEX

Talking politics in 2021: Lessons on humility and truth-seeking from Benjamin Franklin

☛ Cont. from page 2

"Wherein consists the Happiness of a rational Creature?"

The goal of these discussions, as Franklin explained, was not victory – as it apparently had been for Franklin and his friend years earlier – but something far more valuable for all concerned. Franklin explained that the discussions were to take place "in the sincere Spirit of Enquiry after Truth, without fondness for Dispute, or Desire of Victory." Anyone who spoke too confidently or contentiously had to pay a small fine.

This preference for pursuing truth over seeking victory found expression in a question that initiates were required to answer: "Do you love and pursue truth for its own sake?" Franklin did, and the results speak for themselves.

Franklin also had a prescient understanding of biases that color humans' understanding of reality.

Today, scientists have shown that people are susceptible to mere exposure effect, a preference for information we have encountered multiple times and confirmation bias, an inclination toward information that aligns with a person's current beliefs. In an essay he published in the 1730s, Franklin wrote of the effect of "Prevailing Opinions" on the individual mind and observed, "A Man can hardly forbear wishing those Things to be true and right, which he apprehends would be for his Conveniency to find so." He added, "That Man only, who is ready to change his Mind upon proper Conviction, is in the Way to come at the Knowledge of Truth."

Franklin lived up to this principle. In 1751, he published an essay expressing reprehensible, racist views that were all too common in his era. Years later, however, he helped found schools to educate black children and, after visiting one, saw that the students were equal to white chil-

dren in their ability to learn.

He wound up changing not only his mind but also his essay when he reprinted it almost two decades later, changing the passage that said that most slaves were thieves "by Nature" to say that they were thieves because of slavery.

Near the end of his life, Franklin became president of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery and submitted to Congress a petition to abolish slavery and end the slave trade.

'Obliged by better information ... to change opinions'

At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Franklin expressed his belief in intellectual humility. As James Madison recorded his words, Franklin said, "For having lived long, I have experienced many instances of being obliged by better information, or fuller consideration, to

change opinions even on important subjects, which I once thought right, but found to be otherwise."

"It is therefore that the older I grow," he added, "the more apt I am to doubt my own judgment, and to pay more respect to the judgment of others."

Near the end of the speech, he implored others to adopt this same humility: "On the whole, Sir, I cannot help expressing a wish that every member of the Convention who may still have objections to it, would with me, on this occasion doubt a little of his own infallibility, and to make manifest our unanimity, put his name to this instrument."

As these words and experience testify, political polarization and dispute are nothing new. But Franklin managed to rise above the discord, biases and close-mindedness that are common in any era.

He spoke and wrote in ways that, if taken up now, could begin to erode the polarization of the current era: with modesty, diffidence, sincere consideration of others' positions, doubt in his own infallibility and love of truth for its own sake.

Mark Canada - Indiana University

Thirty minutes' exercise won't counteract sitting all day, but adding light movement can help - new research

Choosing the right "cocktail" of light activity, exercise and sitting, can improve health and decrease risk of premature death

Sebastien Chastin

Professor Health Behaviour Dynamics
of People, Places and Systems,
Glasgow Caledonian University

Keith Diaz

Assistant Professor of Behavioral
Medicine, Columbia University
Medical Center

It's recommended we do at least 30 minutes of exercise a day - or 150 minutes a week - to stay healthy. But 30 minutes accounts for just 2% of the day. And many of us spend most of the rest of the time sitting.

Research shows that sitting can be bad for our health in many ways - with some even suggesting it's as bad for us as smoking. And our new study has revealed that 30 minutes of daily exercise is not enough to overcome the health risks of sitting too much. But we also revealed that with the right balance of time spent exercising and moving, it may be possible to counteract the negatives of sitting.

We combined data from six different studies from the UK, US and Sweden, looking at a total of over 130,000 adults. Each of the studies used a physical activity monitor (like a Fitbit) to measure a person's movements and sitting time throughout the day. Each study then followed the participants for an average of four to 14 years to track whether any participants died.

As expected, we found that 30 minutes of daily exercise decreased the risk of



early death by up to 80% for those who also spent less than seven hours a day sitting. But it didn't have the same effect for people who spent between 11 and 12 hours a day sitting. In other words, it's not as simple as checking off the exercise box on the to-do list. A healthy lifestyle requires more than 30 minutes of exercise if you spend a lot of time sitting.

For those who sat a lot, 30 minutes of daily exercise would only lower risk of early death by 30% if combined with four to five hours of light movement a day (such as shopping, cooking, or yard work) - spending less than 11 hours sitting total. We can think of this mixture of light activity, exercise and sitting as a "cocktail". And when it comes to living an active lifestyle, there are different recipes you can choose to get the same benefits.

For example, one person might exercise daily for 30 minutes, move throughout the day for about six hours doing activities like housework or walking to work, but

spend around ten hours a day sitting. They would have the same risk of death as someone who exercised 55 minutes daily, moved throughout the day for about four hours, and sat for about 11 hours. In other words, different combinations of exercise and movement can be used to offset the harms of sitting.

Personalised recommendations

Our findings provide new insights on what constitutes a healthy and active lifestyle. For decades, scientists have studied the health benefits of exercise - but this research has largely ignored the fact that how you spend the rest of the day also matters. Instead of the recommendation that everyone should strive to achieve 30 minutes of daily exercise, our results show physical activity recommendations can be more personalised. People can adopt a mixture of activity that works best for them.

For many of us, our jobs require us to

sit for eight hours or more a day. But when you get home, exercising for one hour and doing light activities for a few hours in the evening (such as housework or yard work) could still yield health benefits. If you're a stay-at-home parent who's typically too busy to get to the gym, moving around throughout the day while doing essential tasks (such as playing with the kids or putting away groceries) can also improve your health.

The caveat, however, is that our study found that six minutes of light activity was equivalent to one minute of moderate to intense exercise. So you would need to do three hours of light activity to yield the same benefit as 30 minutes of exercise.

While our study adds important new insights about the ideal balance of movement, we are missing one ingredient: sleep. It's unclear if the health benefits of exercise and movement are the same if you don't get enough sleep. As well, key questions on how to spend your day - like whether you should wake up 30 minutes earlier to exercise - still need to be studied.

Ultimately, our findings show that a healthy and active lifestyle is more than just exercising for 30 minutes, and that there are many different ways of achieving better health and longevity. While exercise still provides the best "bang for your buck" in terms of the amount of time required, our findings are still good news for people who may not have the time, ability or desire to exercise. The road to an active lifestyle is more accessible and achievable than we thought - and is not just for gym regulars.

Life's Lessons

Don't we all?

Iparked in front of the mall sitting inside my car waiting for my son to get few items from the supermarket.

Coming my way from across the parking lot was what the society would consider a tramp.

From his looks, he had no car, no home, no clean clothes, and no money. There are times when you feel generous but there are other times that you are just not in the mood and don't want to be bothered.

This was one of those "don't want to be bothered times."

"I hope he doesn't ask me for any money," I thought.

He didn't. He came and sat on the curb nearby but he didn't look like he could have enough money to even get a good meal.

After a few minutes, he spoke. "That's a very nice car, you got there" he said.

He was ragged but he had an air of dignity around him.

I said, "thanks," and continued listening to the car radio.

He sat there quietly, and the expected plea for money never came.

As the silence between us widened, something inside me said, "Ask him if he needs any help."

I was sure that he would say "yes", but I held true to the inner voice.

"Do you need any help?" I asked.

He answered in three simple but profound words that I shall never forget.

We often look for wisdom in great men and women and we expect it from those of higher learning and accomplishments. I expected nothing but an outstretched grimy hand.

He spoke the three words that shook me.

"Don't we all?" he said.

I was feeling high and mighty, successful and important, until those three words hit me like a twelve-gauge shotgun.

Don't we all?

I needed help. Maybe not for bus fare or a place to sleep, but I needed help.

I reached in my wallet and gave him not only enough for bus fare, but enough to get a warm meal and few other things for the day.

Those three little words still ring in my ears till today.

No matter how much you have, no matter how much you have accomplished, you need help too.

No matter how little you have, no matter how loaded you are with problems, you can give help.

Even if it's just a compliment, you can give that.

You never know when you may see someone that appears to have it all. They are waiting on you to give them what they don't have: A different perspective on life. A glimpse at something beautiful. A respite from daily chaos, that only you through a torn world can see.

Maybe the man was just a homeless stranger wandering the streets. Maybe he was more than that. Maybe he was sent by a power that is great and wise, to minister to a soul too comfortable in themselves.

Maybe God looked down, called an Angel, dressed him like a tramp, then said, "Go minister to that man inside the car, that man needs help."

Don't we all?

Help somebody, you are only a custodian of whatever you possess.

We come; we go; the in-between defines who we truly are.

Laughter
is the **BEST**
Medicine



Hilarious story about British and French dogs

The British and French realized that, if they continued fighting, they would someday end up destroying the whole world. So, they decided to settle their dispute with an ancient practice: a duel of two, like David and Goliath. This "duel" would be a dog fight. The negotiators agreed each side would take five years to develop the best fighting dog they could. The dog that won the fight would earn its people the right to rule the disputed areas. The losing side would have to lay down its arms for good.

The French found the biggest, meanest Dobermans and Rottweilers in the world. They bred them together and then crossed their offspring with the meanest Siberian wolves. They selected only the biggest, strongest puppy of each litter, fed it the best food and killed all the other puppies. They used steroids and trainers in their quest for the perfect killing machine. When the five years were up, they had a dog that needed steel prison bars on its cage. Only expert trainers could handle this incredibly nasty and ferocious beast.

When the day of the big dog-fight finally arrived, the Britisher showed up

with a very strange-looking animal, a Dachshund that was 10 feet long! Everyone at the dogfight arena felt sorry for the Israelis. No one there seriously thought this weird, odd-looking animal stood any chance against the growling French beast. All the bookies took one look and predicted that the French dog would win in less than a minute. As the cages were opened, the Dachshund slowly waddled toward the centre of the ring, watching the French dog. The French dog leaped from its cage and charged the giant wiener-dog. As he got to within an inch of the Israeli dog, the Dachshund opened its jaws wide and swallowed the French beast whole in one go! There was nothing left but a small puff of fur from the French killer dog's tail floating to the ground.

The stunned crowd of international observers, bookies and media personnel let out a collective gasp of disbelief and surprise.

Eventually, the French along with the press approached the Englishman, muttering and shaking their heads in disbelief. "We do not understand," said the French, "Our top scientists and breeders worked for five long years with the meanest, biggest Dobermans, Rottweilers and Siberian wolves, and they developed an incredible killing machine of a dog! What did you do?"

The Englishman replied. "We gave a team of our plastic surgeons five years to make a crocodile look like a dog."

Alarming reports of Pfizer vaccine side effects continue to be received, this time from US state of Virginia.

The disaster happened to a 40-year-old woman, just a week after the first

Question By A STUDENT !!



If A Single Teacher Can't Teach Us All The Subjects, Then.. How Could You Expect A Single Student To Learn All Subjects??

vaccination: her husband left her for a 25-year-old unvaccinated nurse.

After reading this news, a plumber George took three shots of Pfizer vaccination.

But the wife never left...

A Mind Block

The human heart creates enough pressure when it pumps out to the body to squirt blood 30 feet.

O.M.G.!

A pig's orgasm lasts 30 minutes.

30 minutes. bloody pig! Can you imagine?

A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death.

Creepy. But I'm still not over the pig.

The flea can jump 350 times its body

length.

It's like a human jumping the length of a football field.

The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds.

What could be so tasty on the bottom of a pond?

Some lions mate over 50 times a day.

I still admire the pig... quality over quantity.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Something I always wanted to know.

The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.

Hmmmm...

Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.

If you're ambidextrous, do you split the difference?

Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.

Still... the pig

A cat's urine glows under a black light.

I wonder who was paid to figure that out?

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

I know some people like that.

Starfish have no brains.

I know some people like that too.

Polar bears are left-handed. If they switch, they'll live a lot longer

Humans & dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure.

What about that pig?

Life's LESSONS

They die!

The best of generations is dying.

Those who, without having long studies, have given everything for their children.

Those who without great resources have helped them and have gone through financial crises.

They are dying.

They have known times of war, restrictions, and settled for little.

They had pain and suffering but did not say it.

Sometimes they worked like beasts.

They were said to be more vulnerable than anyone.

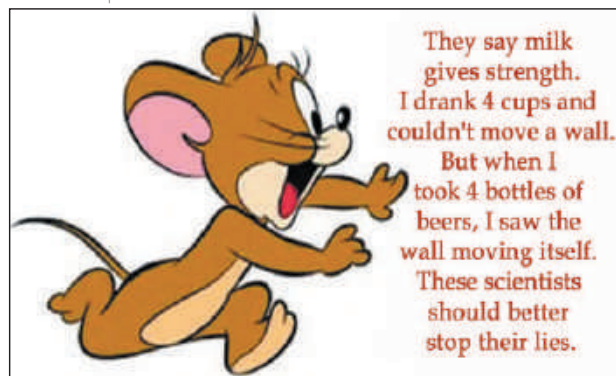
As it was for their life, in silence they die.

They were looking for simple pleasures like sharing a little of the lives of their grandchildren.

They leave without disturbing; they will always be those who disturb the least, they leave without farewell.

So, for those who complain all the time of being confined at home, because their hair-dressing salons, nail salons or even their gyms remain closed... that they cannot party, nor go on vacation and always demand more money from the State...

Out of respect for this generation which is leaving us silently... but with dignity, learn to be grateful to our elders.



Facts and Observations about "Playing Cards"

Did you know that the Traditional Deck of the playing cards are a strikingly coherent form of a calendar?

There are 52 weeks in the year and so are 52 playing cards in a deck.

There are 13 weeks in each season and thus there are 13 cards in each suit.

There are 4 seasons in a year and 4 suits in the deck.

There are 12 months in a year so there are 12 Court Cards (Those with faces namely Jack, Queen King in each suit).

The Red Cards represent the day, while the Black Cards represent the night.

If you let Jacks = 11, Queens = 12, and the Kings = 13, then add up all the sums of 1 + 2 + 3 +... to 13 = 91. Multiply this by 4, for the 4 Suits, therefore 91 x 4 = 364, Add 1 that is the Joker and you will arrive at the number 365

being the days in a year.

Is that a mere coincidence or a greater intelligence?

Of interest is the sum of the letters in all the names of the cards; e.g. add up the letters in "one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, Jack, Queen, King" = 52!

The Spades indicate ploughing/-working.

The Hearts indicates love thy crops.

The Clubs indicates flourishing and growth.

The Diamonds indicate reaping wealth.

Also, in some card games, 2 Jokers are used. Indicating the leap year.

There is a deeper philosophy than just merely a game of playing cards.

The mathematical perfection is mind-blowing.

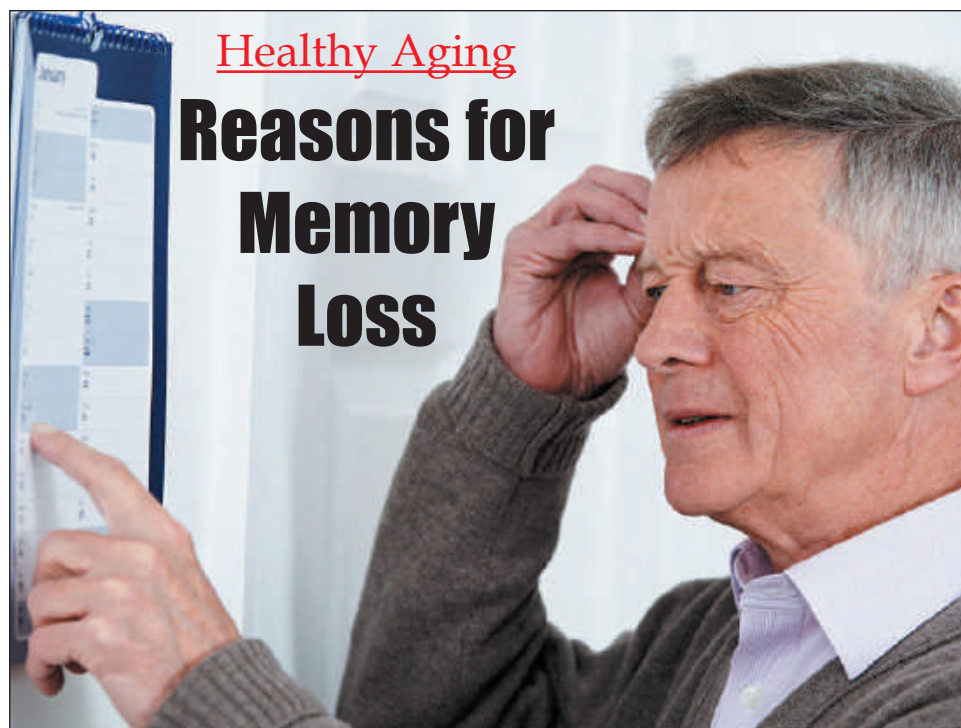
Lack of sleep: First, it's harder to recall things when you haven't slept. Second, sleep strengthens the bonds between brain cells that help you remember for the long term. Third, it's harder to form memories in the first place when your mind is wandering because of a lack of sleep. Good "sleep hygiene" can help: Shoot for 8 hours a night, exercise daily, stick to a regular sleep schedule, and avoid alcohol and caffeine late in the day.

Medication: Drugs that sedate you, like sleep aids and tranquilizers, can weaken your memory, as you might imagine. But so, can less obvious culprits, like blood pressure meds, antihistamines, and antidepressants. Plus, you may react differently than someone else to the same pill or combination of pills. Tell your doctor about any memory issues when you start a new medication. They may be able to adjust the dose or prescribe an alternative.

Diabetes: People with the disease are more likely to develop memory problems including dementia. It may be that high blood sugar damages tiny blood vessels called capillaries in the brain. Or it may be that high insulin damages brain cells. Scientists continue to study the issue. You might be able to slow this memory decline if you try to prevent or at least control your diabetes with medicine, exercise, and a healthy diet.

Genes: Genes -- traits you got from your parents -- help determine when and if your memory starts to fade and whether you get dementia. But it's not simple. Genetics seem to matter more in some types of dementia than others, and a gene that affects memory in one person might have no effect in another. A genetic test from your doctor might have some useful information.

Age: Memory tends to get worse as you get older. Doctors call it dementia when it starts to interfere with daily life. The number of people with Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia, doubles every 5 years after age 65. Your



Healthy Aging Reasons for Memory Loss

genes play a part in why this happens, but so do things like diet, exercise, social life, and illness like diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

Stroke: A stroke stops the flow of blood to part of your brain. Afterward, damaged brain tissue can make it hard to think, speak, remember, or pay attention. It's called vascular dementia. This can also happen with a series of small strokes over time. Things that raise your risk of stroke like high blood pressure, heart disease, and smoking may also cause this type of dementia. If you think you're having a stroke, remember FAST: Face drooping, Arm weakness, Speech problems, Time to call 911.

Smoking: Smoking seems to shrink parts of your brain that help you think and remember things. It also raises your risk of dementia, possibly because it's bad for your blood vessels. And it definitely raises your risk of stroke, which can damage the brain and cause vascular dementia. Talk to your doctor or a mental health profession-

al if you smoke and want to quit.

Heart disease: Plaque builds up in your arteries and slows blood flow to your brain and other organs. This is called atherosclerosis. It can make it harder to think clearly and remember things. It also could lead to a heart attack or stroke, which both also raise your chances of dementia. And even if you don't yet have heart disease, possible causes -- smoking, diabetes, high blood pressure -- make dementia more likely.

High blood pressure: Also called hypertension, it raises your risk of memory problems, including dementia, most likely because it damages the tiny blood vessels in your brain. It also can lead to other conditions like stroke that cause dementia. People who control their blood pressure with diet, exercise, and medication seem to be able to slow or prevent this brain decline.

Depression and anxiety: It's often harder to concentrate or recall things if you're anxious or depressed. Plus, you're

also more likely to develop dementia, though scientists don't yet know exactly why that happens. Talk to your doctor or therapist if anxiety or depression interfere with your enjoyment of normal daily life or you think of harming yourself. Therapy and medication can help.

Head injury: A hit to the head (traumatic brain injury) can affect short-term memory. You might forget appointments or feel unsure of what you did earlier in the day. Rest, medicine, and medical rehab can help you recover. Repeated hits to your noggin, as in boxing or football, raises your risk for dementia later in life. Get to the hospital if you hit your head and then pass out or have blurry vision, or if you feel dizzy, confused, or nauseous.

Obesity: If your body mass index (BMI) is over 30 in middle age, you have a higher risk for dementia later in life. And extra pounds anytime make heart disease more likely, which also sometimes leads to brain decline and memory problems. You can calculate BMI online with your height and weight. Talk to your doctor about the right weight for you. You may be able to improve yours with a healthy diet and regular exercise.

Lack of exercise: Regular exercise lessens the risk of brain decline, memory problems, and dementia. It also seems to improve brain function in those who already have dementia. You don't have to go out and run a marathon or take up pole vaulting. Just get out and garden, walk, swim, or even dance for 30 minutes on most days of the week.

Bad diet: Unhealthy eating can lead to heart disease, which can cause brain issues including memory problems and dementia. That's why the heart-healthy Mediterranean-style diet is good for your brain, too. It stresses whole grains, fruits, vegetables, fish, nuts, olive oil, and other healthy fats like avocado, and keeps the red meat to a minimum.

Hansa D. Bhargava, MD, WebMD

Weight Loss

Can we lose weight by only exercising?

Unfortunately, things do not work like that

Losing weight is basically about creating a calorie deficit - eating less and burning more calories. Theoretically, it makes complete sense to exercise for an extra hour while taking the same diet as it will help you create a calorie deficit and shed some kilos, right?

People who find it incredibly easy to spend an extra hour in the gym, but cannot resist the craving of eating their favourite food often wonder if they can lose weight by only exercising. Unfortunately, things do not work like that.

Two important factors necessary for shedding kilos

Dieting and exercising are cornerstones of any successful weight loss plan. By neglecting any one of them, you won't be able to shed kilos effectively. Exercising can certainly improve fitness, but when it comes to shedding

kilos, dieting is equally important. Rigorous exercising may help you lose weight initially, but you will soon hit a weight loss plateau. That too depends on the kind of exercise you are performing.

According to a 2018 review of research, published in 'Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases', a person can lose 0-1 per cent weight by resistance training, 0-3 per cent by aerobic exercise, 0-3 per cent by combining aerobic and resistance training and 5-10 per cent by combining dieting and aerobic exercise.

What research suggests

As per a 2014 study carried out by the researcher of Arizona State University study, exercising can increase the fitness level, but extra exercise cannot help you lose weight.

This was concluded as a result of a study in which 81 healthy but overweight women living a sedentary life were asked to do 30 minutes of treadmill walking three times per week for 12 weeks. Every time these volunteers exercised at 70 per cent of their maximum endurance, which means

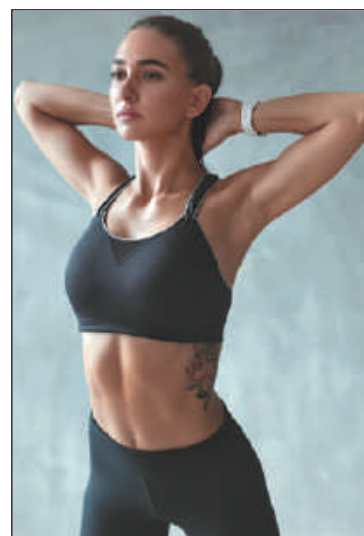
they worked out hard. Besides, all of them had oil-free food, without any specific changes in their diet.

Researchers tracked the exact number of calories each woman burned. In the end, it was found that exercising did not help the women shed kilos. They did not lose an inch from their waist, regardless of how many calories they burned. Moreover, 70 per cent of the participants gained weight during the study.

The right way to shed kilos

If you exercise and indulge in the same unhealthy food habits, all your efforts to shed kilos will go in vain. You will end up eating high-calorie food and that would balance out the number of calories you burned while exercising. This way you will gain weight or at least won't be able to shed kilos.

When we talk about weight loss, exercising and dieting go hand in hand. Only by following one, you won't be able to reach your weight loss goal.



Taapsee Pannu speaks about her break in the Hindi film industry

Taapsee Pannu has opened up on her break in the Hindi film industry and her acting roles in films. The actor has said that had she needed to struggle for roles in the cinema, she 'wouldn't have lasted' for so long.

In a recent interview, Taapsee also spoke about getting her first Hindi film *Chashme Baddoor*, directed by David Dhawan. While she made her acting debut in Hindi films in 2013, she had signed the Telugu film *Jhummandi Naadam* in 2010. Her Tamil film *Aadukalam* in 2011 won six National Film Awards.

Speaking to Vogue India, she said, "If I had to struggle for roles, I wouldn't have lasted in this field for so long." On getting signed on *Chashme Baddoor* without an audition, she said, "Thank God I wasn't auditioned. I haven't learnt the craft formally, my training is all on-set. I would have failed miserably. I was known as the girl who has the 'Preity Zinta vibe' which is why I even got a Bollywood break."



Speaking on her films and the characters she plays, she said, "People now expect my work to be interesting and worth their time, so I can't do four films a year and look and sound the same in all." Taapsee also added, "Being a female actor I cannot afford to do just one film a year. I wish I had that luxury. But I cannot turn my life upside down for a role. I bore quickly, so new roles and new places help. Fame is not important... I am the modern young woman. My roles represent that. People should be able to relate to my character."

In the last few years, she starred in several films such as *Pink*, *Badla*, *Thappad*, *Naam Shabana*, *Saand Ki Aankh*, *Mission Mangal*, *Manmarziyaan*.

The actor will also be seen in *Loop Lapeta*, slated for a theatrical release in October, and *Haseen Dillruba*, which will premiere on Netflix.

From Rekha to Madhuri Dixit

Ageless beauties of Bollywood who look much younger than their real age!



'Age is just a number' - we have often read and heard that adage. But there are few Bollywood actresses who truly epitomize 'ageless beauty'. They may be in their 40s or 50s but still manage to look much younger than their age. From Madhuri Dixit Nene and Tabu to the elegance personified Rekha, these actresses from the '80s and '90s still manage to rule hearts. *Janhvi Sharma of Bollywood Life* paints a profile of Bollywood's 'ageless' actresses who are aging gracefully.

Rekha

The evergreen actress Rekha is 67 years old and is still winning hearts with her charm. She is one of the most

versatile actresses who is considered the finest one in Bollywood. The actress is aging like fine wine and her pictures are proof. One can easily say that Rekha has not aged for the last 20 years and continues to remain ageless.

Bhagyashree

The actress gained a lot of attention with her performance in *Maine Pyaar Kiya* alongside Salman Khan. She became an overnight sensation but vanished from films. Bhagyashree who is now 52 years old, looks as graceful as ever.

Tabu

The critically acclaimed actress Tabu has always given exceptional performances on the big screen. Be it in *Andhadhun* or *A Suitable Boy*, Tabu has always managed to look graceful and how. She knows how to turn heads with her beauty, charm.

Madhuri Dixit Nene

Dance Deewane judge Madhuri Dixit Nene is a stunner at 54. Her sartorial choices will surely make your heart go Dhak Dhak. She carries herself with utmost grace and elegance.

Sangeeta Bijlani

We all know that Sangeeta Bijlani was a huge sensation in her 80s and continues to be one. The former actress is now 54 and we cannot take our eyes off her beauty.

Deepika Padukone reveals some details about her education



Deepika Padukone once opened up about her past life and education at the launch of veteran actor Hema Malini's biography 'Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl'. During her interaction with the audience and media, the actress said that she found it difficult to finish her 11th and 12th grade in her hometown of Bengaluru because of her modelling assignments. She was a successful model back then, and ultimately abandoned attempts to complete her college education.

This is what she said, "Even my 11th and 12th, I struggled to finish. I was already a very successful model, and I was based in Bengaluru but I had to keep travelling to Delhi and Mumbai for work. I couldn't keep up. Then I ultimately

finished my 12th and I tried to do one year of my degree. I couldn't do that, I then tried to do distance education, I couldn't complete that as well so I'm just a 12th pass."

She also added, "My parents back then had a big issue with that because they always wanted me only to start working after having a basic college degree. The very conservative Indian way of looking at it is that you need to have something to fall back on."

Deepika's parents Prakash and Ujjawala Padukone have since, presumably, made their peace with Deepika's decision, given that their elder daughter is the highest-paid female star in the film industry, allegedly charging a fee of Rs 120 million per movie.

On the work front, Deepika has an exciting line-up of projects in the pipeline, including '83', *Bajju Bawra* with Ranbir Kapoor, *Fighter* with Hrithik Roshan, *Sanki and Pathan* with Shah Rukh Khan, Shakun Batra's next, *Prabhas 21* with Pabhas and the Indian adaptation of 2015 hit Hollywood film *The Intern* opposite Amitabh Bachchan.

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Ruhaanika Dhawan

'I was looking for an inspirational character, found it in Rama'

Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur Saburi has always highlighted relevant topics that matter to society and are aimed at instilling a positive message to its viewers. Yet again, the show will focus on a very important topic pertaining to gender equality, reports Times of India.

In today's day and age, equality between a man and a woman is the need of the hour and women have time and again proved their mettle by excelling in every course of life.

Focusing on the same, talented and popular child actor Ruhaanika Dhawan has been roped in to play the role of a brave girl named Rama. An independent personality with a never-give-up attitude, Rama is on the lookout for her biological parents and is leaving no stone unturned in doing so.

Due to unfortunate incidents, her biological parents abandoned her outside a temple but Rama was given another chance at life when a lady who she lovingly calls Aiji adopted and nurtured her. Through the ongoing track, the show aims to teach viewers that gender should not pose a barrier when it comes to children. Be it a boy or a girl, a child will always remain a child and both deserve equal and unbiased amount of love and affection.

Sharing her thoughts on her role, Ruhaanika Dhawan aka Rama shares, "I have been watching *Mere Sai* as my mother is an avid viewer. There is so much to learn from every episode as it imparts great wisdom and learning. To



be a part of such a prestigious show is no less than a blessing to me. Moreover, I am very inspired by my on-screen character, who looks at the brighter side of life, even in the roughest times. I can say that I was looking for an inspirational character and I found it in Rama.

"More than enjoying my role, I received the chance to learn a lot and I hope through this show, we are able to impact many minds and bring in a positive change in society and give each individual the right they deserve."

Himani Shivpuri rues the absence of any provident fund for actors, as many face financial crisis



Himani Shivpuri says the stress is much more on many older actors as they do not have any income to fall back on at the time of such a crisis

The stalling of shoots and work coming to a halt in the entertainment industry yet again, has taken a toll on the livelihoods of many. Himani Shivpuri points out that the stress is much more on the older actors, as they don't

have any income to fall back on at the time of such a crisis, reports Juhi Chakraborty of Hindustan Times.

"It's very tough. We actors, especially the older ones, earn only when we work. But now, with work happening, it's a struggle. We have nothing to fall back on," she rues, adding, "They call this an industry but it hasn't given the status of film industry nor does it function like one. Our income now is zero as there's no work, but is it our fault?"

Calling it a "struggle" for the past one year, the 60-year-old shares, "Income has been very sporadic for people in our industry for the past one year now. It's really a bad scenario. Yes, we actors are probably not in a situation as bad as many others but struggle is struggle."

"We don't have a provident fund, we don't have any care fund or something that we can draw money from during these difficult situations. We don't have pension. What do we do?" she raises a pertinent question.

The actor, however, isn't losing hope just yet. "Now what we can do is keep healthy and survive this pandemic. Only when we survive, we'll be able to go out and earn our livelihood again," she says.

Neena Gupta plays mother to Kanjwaljit Singh's character in 'Sardar Ka Grandson' after the two famously played a married couple in Saans

In *Sardar Ka Grandson*, Neena plays the matriarch to a Punjabi family. Kanwaljit plays her son, and the father of Arjun Kapoor's character. Neena and Kanwaljit worked together on the television show *Saans*.



In an interaction with Bollywood Hungama, a fan's observation was posed to Neena. The fan had written, "Don't tell me Kanwaljit Singh is Neena Gupta's son in the movie? They were co-stars in the 90s. SMH." Neena responded with a laugh, "*Bhaiya yehi toh acting ka maza hai. Kal jo aapka lover tha woh aapka beta hai, yehi toh maza hai* (That's the joy of acting; someone could play both your lover and your son. It's fun)."

Saans revolved around married couple Priya Kapoor (Neena Gupta) and Gautam Kapoor (Kanjwaljit Singh), their teenage kids Akul and Mithi, and an extra-marital affair that threatens their relationship.

In a 2017 interview with Hindustan Times, Kanwaljit had said about the show, "I had always played an honest, positive guy which people expected from me. But I also wanted to try a new role. Despite that, I ensured that Gautam wasn't shown as a villain but as a grey character, who loved his kids and felt responsible for Priya."

Sardar Ka Grandson, directed by Kaashvie Nair, also features Soni Razdan, Rakul Preet Singh, Kumud Mishra, and others. The film opened to poor reviews on Tuesday.

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Dave Annable

MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
mardi 25 mai 07.00 Dessin Anime 10.35 Serial: Open Heart 11.00 Mag: Le Saviez Vous? 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.50 Doc: L'art Et La Matière 14.15 D.Anime: The Hive 14.23 D.Animes: Dragons 14.44 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau 14.56 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz and... 15.08 D.Anime: Pet Alien 15.45 Film: Comme Des Bêtes 17.05 Serial: Backstage 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.56 Local Prod: Charcha 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.35 African Film Festival 2021 21.20 Film: Dylan Dog 23.10 Le Journal	10.00 Serial: CID 10.48 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha 12.04 Film: Haqeequat Starring: Asrani, R. Babbar, B. Banerjee, Jeetendra, J. Pradha 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.25 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.45 Serial: Bava Maradullu 16.08 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal 16.29 Serial: Suno Chanda 16.49 Serial: Imtihaan 17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.34 Telugu - Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Raja Jani Star: Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Prem Nath	06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.52 Mag: Voa Connect 07.27 Mag: In Good Shape 07.53 Doc: Amazing Gardens 08.19 Mag: Future Mag 10.08 Mag: Global 3000 10.34 Doc: Can Green Investment... 11.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 11.29 Mag: Arts And Culture 11.55 Mag: Voa Connect 12.56 Doc: Amazing Gardens 13.22 Mag: Future Mag 13.51 Doc: Tresors Oublies De La... 15.12 Mag: Global 3000 15.38 Doc: Can Green Investment... 16.04 Mag: Eco@Africa 16.30 Mag: Arts And Culture 18.02 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 19.00 Open Univ: Student Support 19.31 Mag: Made In Germany 20.40 Doc: Ville En Fête	01.26 Film: Contract Killers 03.04 Serial: L.A.'s Finest 03.53 Film: Storm Et La Lettre De... 05.33 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.58 Film: Le Secret Du Grand... 09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire 09.45 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: L.A.'s Finest 12.00 Film: Storm Et La Lettre De... 13.34 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.15 Mag: Hollywood On Set 14.45 Film: Le Secret Du Grand... 16.41 Serial: Chicago Fire 17.23 Serial: Absentia 18.05 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: Absentia 21.15 Film: A Ghost Story 23.46 Tele: Muneca Brava	08.00 Film: U R My Jaan 12.04 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.26 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.48 / 20.32 Agniphara 13.09 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.51 / 21.59 - Naagin Season 3 14.33 / 22.25 - Ikyawann 15.11 / 22.56 - Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur Saburi 15.36 Film: Angel Starring: Nilesh Sahay, Maddalsa Sharma, Aruna Irani, Manoj Joshi, Vaishali Thakkar 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.52 Serial: Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka
mercredi 26 mai 07.15 Dessin Anime 10.40 Serial: Open Heart 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Doc: L'art Et La Matière 14.05 D.Anime: Dragons 14.30 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau 14.42 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz, And... 14.53 D.Anime: Pet Alien 15.00 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum... 15.30 Film: Jumanji 17.25 Magazine: Origami 17.35 Serial: Magic Mania 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.25 Prod Indepen: Lottotech 21.20 Film: The Legend Of Zorro 23.25 Local: Le Journal	07.00 DDI Live 09.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 09.24 Serial: Chota Bheem 10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha Meeth 12.00 Film: Gharonda 14.12 DDI Magazine 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.21 Aamhi Doghi 15.44 Bava Maradallu 16.10 Apoorva Raagangal 16.30 Serial: Suno Chanda 16.53 Serial: Imtihaan 17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.33 Serial: Kulvadhu 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Programme In Marathi 21.00 Film: YZ - Marathi Film 22.56 Live: DDI Live	06.00 Rev: The Global Auto... 06.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous 06.52 Mag: Check In 07.26 Mag: Made In Germany 08.19 Doc: Ville En Fête 10.05 Local: Klip Seleksion 10.47 Doc: The Jungle Midwives... 11.32 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 12.25 Mag: Check In 13.02 Mag: Made In Germany 13.51 Doc: Ville En Fête 14.17 Doc: Taste Hunters 15.12 Mag: Close Up 15.38 Local: Klip Seleksion 17.05 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 17.31 Mag: Vous Et Nous 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Shift 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.04 Mag: Tendence XXI 21.06 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 22.21 Mag: Focus On Europe	00.20 Serial: The Magicians 01.26 Film: Boone 03.44 Film: A Doggone Adventure 05.04 Tele: Muneca Brava 05.46 Serial: Absentia 06.28 Film: A Ghost Story 09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire 09.45 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: L.A.'s Finest 12.00 Film: A Doggone Adventure 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: A Ghost Story 16.40 Serial: Chicago Fire 17.20 Serial: Absentia 18.05 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: 19-2 21.15 Film: The Past Never Dies 22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.30 Serial: Chicago Fire	08.00 Film: Angel Starring: Nilesh Sahay, Maddalsa Sharma, Aruna Irani, M. Joshi, V. Thakkar 12.04 / 20.06 - Sanjivani 12.24 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna 12.44 / 20.02 - Agniphara 13.14 / 20.46 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.36 / 21.09 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 14.06 / 21.31 - Naagin Season 3 14.48 / 21.46 - Ikyawann 15.09 / 21.59 - Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur Saburi 15.34 Film: Khiladi 786 Starring: Akshay Kumar, Asin, Mithun Chakraborty 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka 19.16 Bhakharwadi
jeudi 27 mai 06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.45 Local: Sur Prise 08.56 D. Anime: Kung Fu Panda 10.15 D. Anime: Astrology 10.38 Serial: Open Heart 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 13.05 Local: Le Rendez Vous Avec... 13.44 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 14.14 D.Anime: The Hive 15.00 D.Anime: Pet Alien 15.18 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum... 15.40 Film: Bilal: A New Breed Of... 17.39 Serial: Magic Mania 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 Local: Tirth Yatra 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Film: Kalank Stars: Varun Dhawan, Alia Bhatt, Madhuri Dixit	10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 12.05 Film: Shankar Shamdhu Starring: Ajit, Master Bhagwan, Bindu, Feroz Khan 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.21 Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Bava Maradallu 16.05 Apoorva Raagangal 16.33 Serial: Suno Chanda 16.53 Serial: Imtihaan 17.09 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da... 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.10 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.36 Local: Evasion - Petra 21.06 Local Prod: Profil 21.19 Film: Amazing Grace Starring: Ioan Gruffudd, Albert Finney, Michael Gambon	06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.25 Mag: Shift 07.28 Doc: Garden Party 08.20 Doc: The World From Above 09.38 Mag: Business Africa 10.10 Mag: Focus On Europe 10.30 Doc: Tsunamis 11.15 Mag: Motorweek 13.35 Doc: The World From Above 14.54 Mag: Business Africa 15.20 Mag: Focus On Europe 16.31 Mag: Motorweek 18.03 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.41 Mag: Sur Mesure 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.05 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 20.30 Local: News (English) 21.32 Doc: The Miracle Of Hearing 22.14 Doc: Starting Strong	01.27 Film: The Past Never Dies 02.56 Serial: L.A.'s Finest 03.41 Serial: Island Doctor 05.13 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.40 Film: The Legend Of Zorro 09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire 09.45 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: L.A.'s Finest 12.00 Serial: Island Doctor 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.16 Mag: Hollywood On Set 14.48 Film: The Legend Of Zorro 16.50 Serial: Chicago Fire 17.29 Serial: 19-2 18.05 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: 19-2 20.42 Film: Armed Response 23.37 Tele: Muneca Brava	08.00 Film: Khiladi 786 12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.22 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.48 / 20.32 Agniphara 13.07 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.29 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.48 / 21.46 - Naagin 14.29 / 21.59 - Ikyawann 14.55 / 22.52 - Mere Sai 15.20 Film: Dharm Adhikari Starring: Dilip Kumar, Jeetendra, Sridevi 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka 19.16 Serial: Bhakharwadi 19.38 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak

BTV

Mercredi 26 Mai -
15.20Star: Akshay Kumar, Asin,
Mithun Chakraborty

mhc-1

Jeudi 27 Mai -
20.15Stars: Varun Dhawan, Alia Bhatt,
Madhuri Dixit



Niranjana Karthigairajan

On this Narasimha Jeyanthi, let's understand the philosophical implication of His incarnation. As stated in the sloka, **"ugram veeram maha vishnum jvalantam sarvato mukham,"** Narasimha assumes varied forms as Ugra Narasimha, Veera Narasimha, and Yoga Narasimha.

The paradoxical half-man and half-lion form of Lord Vishnu emphasizes the importance of co-existing with the dualities and differences one faces in life. For instance, situations like actual v/s expected skills at the workplace, disposable income v/s mounting expenditure, and differences of opinion in a family. In such

towards the Lord removes fear.

The Lord is patient when He is attacked but He can't tolerate when His bhakthas are tortured. In this article, we shall look at the three Simhams.

Narasimham

Hriyanyakashipu was chiding Lord Narayana for thousands of years. But the Lord appeared ferociously in the form of Narasimha only when His bhaktha Prahlada was assaulted. Moreover, when Hriyanyakashipu pointed out a pillar and asked Prahlada if Narayana is present in it, Prahlada asserted that Narayana is omnipresent. Narasimha came from the very same pillar - to make Prahlada's words come true.

Raghava simham

In Ramayana yuddhakanda, there was a steady exchange of arrows between Rama and Ravana. At the moment when Ravana was about to shoot an arrow at Hanuman, Rama got furious and immediately slayed Ravana in his chariot. Such is the love for the Lord towards His devotees.



life, but if you are challenging me as a warrior then I will fight until my last breath." Then Arjuna intervened and stopped Krishna from making his vow go wrong (Arjuna vowed that Krishna won't take arms during the war). Again, the Lord proved that He is bound to His devotees.

When Krishna is confronted by His divine qualities of **satyavaakyan** (truth-speaking) and **aashritha vatsalan** (humble to His devotees), the later takes the precedence in front of His devotees. He even goes to an extent of giving up His own vow in order to fulfil that of His devotees. Reflecting on this, Andal (only female Azhwar among the 12 Azhwar saints) hails Lord Krishna as simham.

Heart-melting Hymns on Narasimha

Narasimha might sound to us a ferocious incarnation of Narayana, but it is not so for the azhwars. In Periazhwar Thirumozhi, Periazhwar takes up the emotions of mother Yasodha and on seeing baby Krishna's tiny nails in those little fingers, wonders whether those tiny nails tore apart the chest of Hiranyakashipu?

And looking at the thighs of baby Krishna she says that she could see the mark of Hiranyakashipu being slayed on His thighs.

In Thiruvaimozhi, Namzhwar admires the beauty of Narasimha, surprisingly! Such is the compassion towards Srīman Narayana in spite of His ferocious nature as Lord Narasimha.

Opportunity to correct mistakes

Did you know that Narasimha laid Hiranyakashipu on His thighs and rubbed his chest with His hands before slaying him? The reason being, to check whether Hiranyakashipu's heart has changed at least in the last moment and whether he felt guilty of his misdeeds.

The Lord wanted to give him a chance and sought for any signs of the following regrets in Hiranyakashipu's mind:

1. Out of ignorance - Whether Hiranyakashipu felt wrong for saying Narayana doesn't exist even after he appeared before him.
2. Out of doubt - Whether he thought that though being a mighty asura, he couldn't kill Prahlada and so there must be something that protects him.
3. Out of fear - After looking at the ferocious nature of the Narasimha.
4. Out of guilt - Of not heeding Prahlada's advice.
5. Out of helplessness - Even for Ravana, Rama said "Go now, and come tomorrow" in the battlefield. But Hiranyakashipu didn't even have any other way out as he lay in the lap of Narasimha.
6. Out of realisation - That in spite of his entire boon that he must be indestructible by man or animals or by any weapons, the Lord had defied everything and appeared in a half-man and half-lion form.

The overall message here is that the Lord gives every one of us an opportunity to correct our mistakes. As we celebrate Narasimha Jeyanthi let's take oath to rectify our bad habits or deeds and surrender ourselves unto His lotus feet.



circumstances, one has to accept things as they come without any lament, even as one strives against all odds, much like the surfers ride on the waves and make the hurdles a stepping-stone to go higher. Worshiping Lord Narasimha and reciting His slokas relieves us from the stresses of such demanding circumstances.

Namazhwar (one of the twelve Tamil-poet saints of Tamil Nadu, India) in one of his hymns (Thiruvaimozhi 2.8.9) **"Iraniyan thoopudaipa * Angu appozhuthe avan viyath thondriya en singappiraan"** hails the greatness of Narasimha as how the furious Lord was unfearful for Prahlada, while even Brahma was terrified. Thus fear for Him emanates only if we seek Him for mere worldly attainments. True devotion

Yadava simham

In Mahabharatha, Krishna was certain to end the Kurukshetra war in two days and had vowed that He wouldn't pick up any arms. On the other hand, Bheeshma pledged that he would make Krishna break his vow.

The battle continued for days, unhurried, until Bheeshma aimed an arrow to strike Arjuna. On seeing this, ferocious Krishna got down from His chariot, took His Sudarshana chakra to annihilate Bheeshma (and broke his vow).

Bheeshma prostrated and said to Krishna, "Oh Lord, if you are approaching me as Lord Krishna, then you may take my

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