

National Mathematics Contest 2026

The prize giving ceremony of the fourth edition of the National Mathematics Contest 2026 was held in June at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre (RGSC) in Bell Village, where outstanding students and schools



Dr Aman Kumar Maulloo, Director of the RGSC

The Director of the RGSC, Dr Aman Kumar Maulloo; the Deputy High Commissioner of India, Mrs Aparna Ganesan; students; and educators were present to celebrate excellence in mathematical thinking, problem-solving and innovation.

Organised by the RGSC in collaboration with the High Commission of India and the Mauritius Institute of Education, the National Mathematics Contest aims to foster a positive and engaging image of mathematics among young learners while strengthening their logical reasoning, analytical skills and creativity. The initiative also encourages teamwork, communication and the application of mathematical concepts to real-life challenges.

The 2026 edition comprised two categories: a Mathematics Quiz for Grade 9 students and a Mathematical Challenge for Grade 12 students. The Mathematics Quiz tested participants' general mathematical knowledge, logical thinking, reasoning and problem-solving abilities through preliminary and final

rounds. A total of 206 students from 64 secondary schools took part in the preliminary round held on 10 June 2026, with the 17 highest-performing students advancing to the final stage.

In the Mathematics Quiz category, Junwen Huang of Le Bocage International School was crowned overall winner. Justin Yun Zhong Hau Hok King, also from Le Bocage International School, secured the first runner-up position, while Prayanj Aarush Teewaree Ramnarain of Ebène Boys State Secondary School finished as second runner-up. Special Jury Prizes were awarded to Lakshay Wadhwa of St Joseph's College, Djameela Roopun of France Boyer de la Giroday State Secondary School, and Vihaan Krish Bannoo of Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed State Secondary School.

The Mathematical Challenge, reserved for Grade 12 students, encourages teams of three to apply mathematical modelling and analysis to address real-world issues related to sustainability, innovation and community development. Participants were required to identify

a contextual problem, develop a mathematical solution supported by data and present their findings through a written report and oral presentation.

A total of 46 teams, involving 132 students and 41 educators, participated in this component. Following the evaluation of the reports, 12 finalist teams were selected to present their projects on 23 June 2026.

The team from Droopnath Ramphul State College won the top prize. The first runner-up award went to the team from Queen Elizabeth College, while Doha Academy secured the second runner-up position. Special Jury Awards were presented to teams from Royal College Curepipe and Lady Sushil Ramgoolam State Secondary School.

Winners received cash prizes, shields and certificates in recognition of their performance. Through initiatives such as the National Mathematics Contest, the RGSC continues to promote mathematics as a dynamic and essential discipline that supports innovation, scientific advancement and informed decision-making, while inspiring the next generation of Mauritian mathematicians, scientists and problem-solvers.

GIS

A Man in A Hurry The Prime Minister, Navin Ramgoolam seems to be a man in a hurry. He has been proposing some legislations, including the Pensions business, which are considered as measures tabled in Parliament without any public consultation. Pension right is one among other issues which are causing a lot of frustration in the country. Trade unions are organising public protests in the country causing the Government to become extremely unpopular while accusing the PM of taking dictatorial decisions. They say he is surrounded by a horde of yes-men and women. However, there are some elements within Government itself who are disavowing certain governmental decisions.

As a matter of fact, PM Ramgoolam is a very powerful leader. He is heading a coalition government which scooped all the 60 parliamentary seats at the last General Election which was held in November 2024, His 2026-27 Budget is attracting opposition from several quarters. He is being compelled to review and revise certain proposed measures.

Suresh Coonjeebeeharry

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

THE MAN BEHIND THE BOWLER HAT

From Mylene



Switzerland's tranquil lakeside towns have long attracted famous residents including Freddie Mercury, Roger Moore, James Mason, Noel Coward and Charlie Chaplin

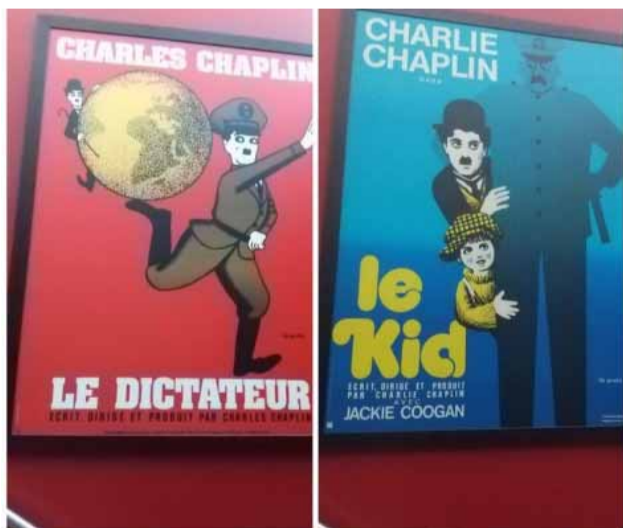
Charlie Chaplin (1889 -1977) was an English actor, comedian, filmmaker and composer who rose from humble beginnings in London to become one of the world's most famous entertainers.



Scene from City Lights (wax figures)

He spent his final years in Corsier-sur-Vevey, a village overlooking Lake Geneva in western Switzerland. Today, his former home is a museum called Chaplin's World. As I was staying nearby, I decided to visit.

From Vevey station, it's a short bus ride, with a

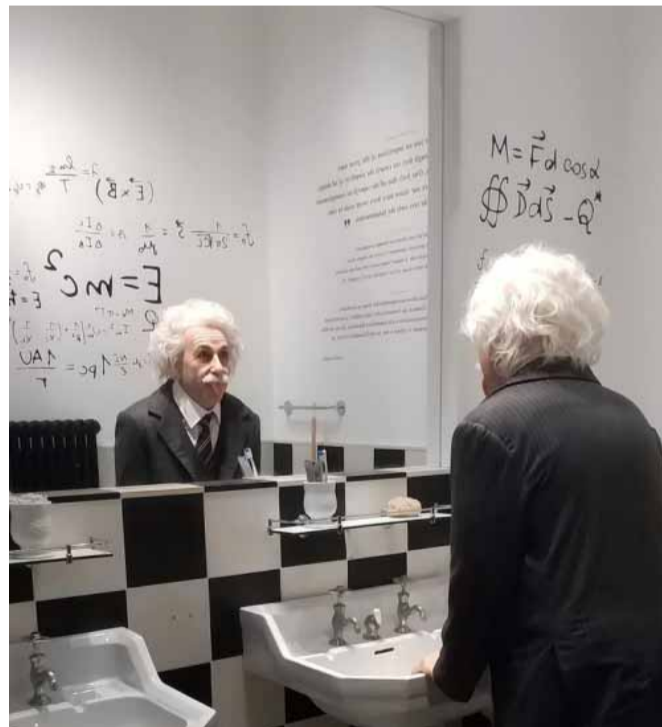


stop conveniently located right outside the museum entrance. Inside, the first section is devoted to Chaplin's early slapstick comedies and films, featuring original props, life-size figures, recreated film sets, photographs and vintage movie posters.

The mansion sits in several hectares of parkland overlooking Lake Geneva and the Alps. There is a swimming pool and tennis court on the estate, which I didn't see as I probably didn't venture far enough. What I did notice were some of the tallest trees I have ever seen.

The mansion itself is enormous, and every room is beautifully furnished. It is here that you begin to get a sense of the man behind the famous character. Throughout the house, the museum has placed wax figures and recreations of many well-known people from Chaplin's life. One surprise was finding Albert Einstein in a bathroom, a nod to the friendship between the two men.

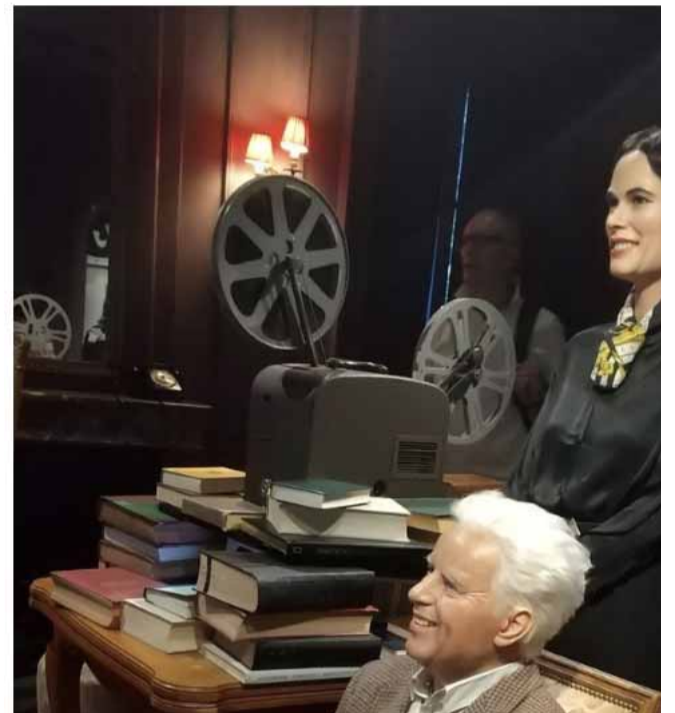
Chaplin married his fourth wife, Oona O'Neill, the daughter of the Irish-American playwright Eugene O'Neill, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature. She was 18 (three of his four wives were teenagers) and he was 54 when they married. Together they had eight children, and



Einstein in bathroom (wax figures)

the many photographs and displays throughout the house reflect what appears to have been a devoted family life.

While the museum celebrates Chaplin's career, it also touches on the more difficult chapters of his life. It explores the social themes that ran through many of his films and explains how his political views made him a controversial figure during the McCarthy era, eventually leading to his exile from the United



Charlie and Oona Chaplin at home watching films (wax figures)

States.

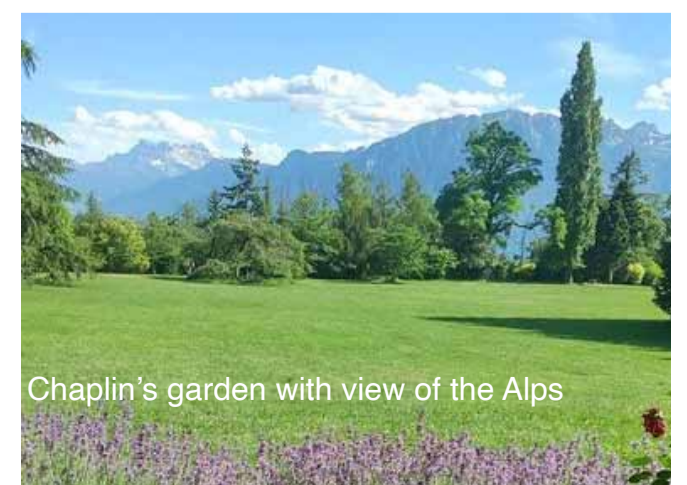
His exile did not end his career. He continued to make films and remained a respected figure in the cinema world. In 1972, he returned briefly to the United States to receive an honorary award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The standing ovation he received at the Oscars lasted several minutes.

Charlie Chaplin never spoke a word on screen, yet his silent films crossed borders, languages and cultures, touching millions of people around the world.

More than a century later, his influence on cinema and comedy can still be seen today.



Chaplin's Mansion House



Chaplin's garden with view of the Alps

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The Rodrigues Newsletter

*From Paul Draper,
Port Mathurin*



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Recently we were privileged to have the visit of Mrs. Arekion, now representing the Special Education Needs Authority based in Mauritius, and was visiting the SEN Schools and Centers in Rodrigues that are operating and Registered with SENA, and receiving financial support through the Rodrigues Commission for Education.

We were able to take up an number of issues that concern us with regard to some 'mismatches' between the Financing which is set out on paper, and the actual financing that we receive through the RRA Commission for Education and hope that the issues raised will be sorted out soon.

Happily we learned that in the 2026-27 Budget, there is provision for an increased allocation of funds to the SENA.

We were also pleased to see Mrs. Anita Ghoorah, the Ombudsperson for Children, and to show her the site and successful felling of the trees, which were on adjacent ground owned by the government. They had been for some years threatening our premises, should they come down during bad weather and cyclones.

Mrs. Ghoorah has, among others, intervened on our behalf with the Rodrigues Authorities to have the trees removed and this has now been done.

Jenny Auguste, one of our Teachers is involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme which operates in Mauritius and Rodrigues. 17 of our GPL School children compete in the various stages of the Award scheme programme.

These competitors from our Centre have already completed the Bronze Medal and Silver Medal stages – and are now going for Gold.

We wish them success – more news coming next time as to their accomplishment.

At Care-Co (Rehabilitation and Production workshop, we have

two slogans. One is "We fight poverty...We Work!" The other motto we have is our aim to enable the disabled to live a more or less normal life through employment and support. It is gratifying when we see that in action.

A number of our disabled workers have got married, have children, have travelled, and built their own houses. Some have purchased motorbikes.

However, we got a nice surprise. One of our beekeepers who also works full time for us, who has the use of only one arm, has recently purchased a car! A very nice automatic-drive car.

May the trend continue!

And now! Bees behind bars!

On the ENSMAN front Birgit reports that the 'pilot projects' that we are engaged in are making progress. One of these is to ensure the distribution to beekeepers on the island a supply of 'melliferous' plants for them to nurture so that the island has more sources of nectar for the bees. The other pilot project has taken us into a new and unusual area of our activities as Birgit has set up a number of Hives in the Island's Prison compound. Charles our beekeeping and honey consultant has also been involved in this and although our main aim and 'mission' on Rodrigues is to provide aid and training assistance to the disabled, we have felt that to be engaged in rehabilitation and training to prisoners can be justified, and is a meaningful extension of our work to those in need.

Thank you for your interest and support, and my apologies once again for the printed news, which cannot replace personal contact, but promise that if you should email me a response, I will definitely reply.

Paul

A Slap to Trump: President Ronald Reagan Last Speech

Since this is the last speech I will give as President, I think it is pretty fitting to leave one final thought and observation about a country which I love. It was stated best in a letter I received not long ago. A man wrote to me and said: You can go and live in France but you cannot become a Frenchman. You can go and live in Germany, or Turkey, or Japan, but you cannot become a German, a Turk or a Japanese. But anyone from any corner of the Earth can come and live in America and become an American.

Yes, the torch of Lady of Liberty symbolises our freedom and represents our heritage. The compact with our parents, our grand parents and our ancestors, It is that lady that gives us our great and special place in the world for it is the great life force of each generation of new Americans that guarantees that America's triumph shall continue next century and beyond. Other countries may try to compete with us, but in one vital area as a beacon of freedom and opportunity that draw the people of the world, no country in the world come close. This I believe is one of the most important sources of America's greatness.

We lead the world because, unique among nations, we draw our people, our strength from every country and every corner of the world. By doing so we continuously renew and enrich our nation