

MAURITIUS TIMES

There are many on the front lines, who while risking their lives, are making sure we are safe. We need to be thankful for all of them! -- Curlytales

Matter of Life and Death



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Pandémie du coronavirus **Deux Tests de Leadership pour les Dirigeants**



L'histoire jugera quel système de gouvernement aura été le plus efficace pour endiguer la pandémie, et quels leaders se seront montrés à la hauteur en intervenant à temps avec des plans de communication fiable, des plans d'aide financière aux plus vulnérables de la société

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Move Cautiously

We should be getting worried if mischief-makers ignite further social discontent, triggered by the scattered sparks from insensitive and brutal police overreaction that's been going round on social media these days.' This response gleaned from online sources speak of the unease of members of the public who have taken cognisance via their smart phones and tablets of different video clips which show what look like instances of brutal police interventions in some places. We understand that some of these are faked videos of instances of police brutality having taken place elsewhere, but are being wilfully and criminally used here to rouse public anger against the police. The police is taking action in this matter, has assured the PM at his press conference. No videos showing policemen being attacked whilst attending to their duty during these difficult times have found their way on social media, though this is also happening according to the police authorities.

What is causing annoyance however are the video clips depicting real-life situations involving a number of police officers manhandling some members of the public who would have not respected the curfew rules. That the Commissioner of Police has deemed it necessary to come out and take a strong stand in this matter would indicate that the Government and the police are very much alive to the harm that irresponsible and insensitive behaviour on the part of some police officers can do to public peace and harmony. There may be good reasons for the police to deal with particular situations the way they are presently going about it, or there may be none at all. The disturbing thing about this is that such videos might create a negative perception of excessive police brutality being directed against a section of the population.

It takes very little to whip up a 'soulèvement', especially during these stressful times when psychosocial stress caused by home confinement

for a number of days may be exacerbated by householders' legitimate concern regarding a secure and regular supply of food for their families at a time when vegetable markets, round-the-corner shops and supermarkets have been ordered to close down. Lots of families of the working class go buy their 'rations' at the end of each week, so they might not have foodstuffs stocked at home. There are also people who buy food items on a day to day basis at the local corner shop. These are ground realities that, understandably, may have been overlooked in the urgency of implementing the restrictions to stop the spread of COVID-19. The distribution of food packs will hopefully mitigate the problem. We understand from the Prime Minister's press conference last evening that the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry is preparing a plan of how to go about distributing food and we hope that the needs of such people as mentioned above will be considered.

On the other hand, we must realise that, other than the medical and health dimensions, there is another aspect of equally critical concern: that the provision of food, especially vegetables, is also a matter of livelihood for hundreds of small to medium scale vendors who meet the daily needs of those categories of people who do not have the means to do bulk buying at supermarkets. As no one knows how long this crisis will last and the restrictions maintained, some serious thinking will have to be done involving the vegetable growers' representatives, and work out how to make sure that our citizens have access to vegetables and fruits, as well as ensuring the livelihoods of those engaged in this sector.

In the meantime, while we can very well understand that there are no two ways to contain the pandemic, we will make an appeal to the police to not aggravate an already tense situation, and to citizens to act more responsibly for the sake of the maintenance of peace, law and order.



Dr R. Neerunjun Gopee

Greatest asset Covid-19 has given us

Covid-19 has made us realise that at the end of the day what we are really after is time to be with ourselves and with our near and dear ones

Hi. No apologies for this informal tone. Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. But in my case it's about, rather, being out of the ordinary – what I mean is that given my, ahem, age, normally I do tend towards the more formal style. More seriousness than levity kind of, white hair and balding head oblige. But we are in extraordinary times, aren't we, courtesy Covid-19. So I will be a little more indulgent towards myself and a little more relaxed towards my readers as long as we are in sanitary lockdown.

Over with preamble, now we get down to business.

To start with, another three lessons revealed by Corona-ji.

First: Our basic *survival* needs are Health and Food. Without either we are kaput, dead.

Second: Everything that humanity has done from time immemorial has been attempts at organising ourselves to ensure that these two survival needs are met. Yes or no? Think about it.

Three: If death is the great *leveller*, then disease is the great *equalizer*. Currently the candidate that is taking all the medals is Covid-19. It has no preferences, is colour blind and feels equally at home in anyone's respiratory apparatus – yellow, brown, black or white, or any combination thereof.

Given some thought to the second lesson above as yet? If not, no worry, take your time. For Covid-19 has made amends by granting you the greatest asset that you never realized you possess: TIME.

One usually thinks of assets in terms of material possessions: property, money, personal belongings such as ornaments especially those made of precious metals and so on. Or intangible assets such as name, fame, glory, power. Covid-19 has made us realise that all these have only relative worth because, at the end of the day, what we are really after is time to be with ourselves and with our near and dear ones.

How often have we heard the complaint: I can't find time for this or that, or I don't have time. Well, time is freely available isn't it – just like the space that stretches towards the sky. We just have to make use of it properly, which we often don't. And Covid-19 will have taught us, hopefully, that there is plenty of it around and what we do – or don't do – during our waking hours is what gives quality and value to our lives.

We speak of quality of life, quality time – which have become buzz words these days. We have been provided with a golden opportunity to ponder on the actual meaning and value of time, and I'll share some thoughts on that.

For a start, time is familiar to everyone, yet



hard to define and understand. For all of us, time means hours, minutes, seconds. But that's only *measures* of time, isn't it. So WHAT is time in absolute terms? Does time exist? In any case, what *does* exist mean? So upon a little reflection, we realise that there's much more to time than the name we attach to it!

But we leave such interrogations about the nature of time to science, philosophy, religion, and the arts, which have different definitions of time. The only thing that is relatively consistent is the system of measuring it, and that's the seconds, minutes, and hours as mentioned above, with which we are familiar and which we look for in clocks and watches. And in our naivete, we think that that's where time resides, don't we!

Among scientists, it is the physicists who have delved into the question most profoundly, and the most famous among them, Albert Einstein, has come up with the Relativity Theory, which is all about time, his conclusion being that time is relative. For anyone interested, Covid-19 has given us plenty of... time to look that up! I hope some of you will do.

For us ordinary mortals, let's stick to the simple definition given to us by physicists, namely that time is the progression of events from the past to the present into the future.

This accords with our common experience: we say that time passes when we see change taking place. It happens to us to begin with, as we observe the changes taking place in our body, which we call ageing.

But time is not something we can see, touch, or taste, though we can measure its passage – through the changes, effects or manifestations upon us. So basically, or 'something is unchanging, it is timeless, or 'eternal'.

Apply this reasoning to Covid-19, and we find similarities: we cannot see, touch, taste, smell it. But we are suffering from its effects – on our bodies, and on all the systems we have put in place.

When we are all gone someday, Covid-19 will still be around. Maybe in a mutated form, but at its core, unchanging, beyond and through time.

Think of that. Spooky.

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*This epaper has been produced with the assistance of
Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy*

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

Matter of Life and Death

A sustainable future will depend on whether we can draw potent lessons from past blunders in respect of climate change, inequality, a fairer sharing of the fruits of prosperity, governance or of arrogantly trying to play god



Mrinal Roy

The world is in a state of emergency owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that the global spread of the virus is accelerating. Across the world more and more governments are realizing, in the light of the exponential spread of Covid-19 in their countries, that a total lockdown of their country, social distancing and a strict confinement of people in their homes as well as rigorous hygiene precautions are the only efficient measures to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and the rising toll of deaths. However, what is particularly galling is that large swathes of people still throng the streets or crowd public places and supermarkets despite governments' calls to the people in various countries to remain confined at home to prevent the spread of the disease through human contact in crowds and mass gatherings.

The upshot of such irresponsible behaviour is that instead of being contained, Covid-19 is spreading exponentially. Blatant indiscipline by people in applying strict confinement measures is causing more persons to be infected and more casualties especially among the elderly, who, statistics reveal, are more vulnerable to the disease. This is akin to the irresponsible behaviour of those corporations who despite the potent risks of an impending climate change catastrophe continue to belch carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

Such wanton behaviour by some is causing Covid-19 to spread to more and more countries, infecting more and more people and causing more deaths every day. The statistics are grim. In the face of such irresponsible behaviour, an increasing number of countries are therefore enacting new laws to give powers to the police to enforce the confinement at home rules and prose-

cute those who do not abide by the law.

Strict confinement at home

More than 2.5 billion people or about 32% of the world population are now confined to their homes in more than 35 countries by mandatory government lockdown orders. France, Italy, Spain, Belgium and other European countries have ordered people to stay at home, threatening fines and other sanctions in some cases. The success of the strict confinement measures imposed by China on people in the Hubei province following the outbreak of Covid-19 in its capital Wuhan, to contain the spread of the disease in the country is acting as a model which is being emulated by many countries in the world.

This week, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a complete three-week lockdown of the United Kingdom, in the wake of evidence that thousands of people continue to gather in large numbers in public parks and elsewhere in the country in defiance of the government's calls to stay at home to contain the pandemic. Henceforth, people will not be allowed to leave their homes except for a few specific and essential reasons such as buying food or seeking medical treatment, etc.

In the United States, more than 75 million people representing about a quarter of the US population have been ordered by states such as California, New York, Illinois, Connecticut or New Jersey to stay in confinement at home to enforce social-distancing measures. As elsewhere in the world, they are only allowed to go out for specific reasons such as to buy groceries or medicine.

In India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has imposed a 21-day lockdown until 14 April on 1.3 billion people in the fight against Covid-19. Delivery of all

essential goods including food, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment will be effected through e-commerce.

The lockdown imposed by more and more countries to fight Covid-19 aims at saving lives. In a bid to prevent the spread of the disease though large gatherings of athletes and people from all over the world, the Tokyo 2020 Olympics have logically been rescheduled to 2021 and will be

be extended. Crowds at supermarkets enhance the risks of person to person contamination.

The virus is now in the country. It has entered the country through visitors from abroad and Mauritians working on cruise vessels. We must remember that humans are the carrier and vector of propagation of Covid-19. Contact tracing has helped map out the footprint and the spread of the disease in the country. Its

national solidarity and safeguard each other from the risk of contamination by Covid-19 by staying confined at home during the whole of the curfew period until no new cases are detected, we can quash the threat of the pandemic in the country. This battle could however be longer than expected.

Positive fallout

A major positive fallout of the confinement of people at home and the reduction or shutting down of industrial output across the world is that carbon emissions and air pollution levels have



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held by summer 2021.

Breaking the chain of contamination

Mauritius has also ordered people to remain confined at home and has imposed a complete lockdown on the country till 2 April. The lockdown was decreed as some people were still flouting the confinement rules and therefore facilitating the spread of Covid-19 and endangering their lives and those of other people in the country. The law has thus been amended to give powers to the police to enforce the confinement at home rules and prosecute those who do not abide by the law. Supermarkets should in the context of the lockdown envisage putting in place a delivery service for groceries ordered on an e-platform to prevent people from leaving the safety of their homes during the lockdown, especially as the confinement period could

spread can only be contained by preventing person to person contact among people through a strict confinement of people in their homes, social distancing, a rigid control over the movement of people and rigorous hygiene precautions such as regularly washing our hands with soap. People must keep at a distance of 1-1.5 metre from other persons. Social distancing must in particular protect the elderly who are more vulnerable to the disease.

It is evident that if people adopt strict confinement measures and eliminate person to person contact by adopting a rigorous social distancing protocol and rigorous hygiene precautions, the chain of contamination of the virus can be broken and its spread in the country halted. The life span of the virus is short. If the virus cannot contaminate other persons, its spread will be thwarted. If as a nation we show

fallen drastically in some of the most polluting countries in the world. The European Space Agency released new video footage this weekend which shows that air pollution is markedly lower in South Korea, Italy, the UK and China during the Covid-19 lockdown than in the same period last year. For climate scientists, this is a real world scale experiment and reality check of the immense benefits of a ban on the use and burning of highly polluting coal and fossil fuels by industrial countries on air pollution and on eliminating their adverse impact on climate change.

According to Stanford Earth Sciences Professor Marshall Burke the two months of coronavirus lockdown had saved the lives of 77,000 Chinese children and elderly from air pollution alone.

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Pandémie du coronavirus

Deux Tests de Leadership pour les Dirigeants

L'histoire jugera quel système de gouvernement aura été le plus efficace pour endiguer la pandémie, et quels leaders se seront montrés à la hauteur en intervenant à temps avec des plans de communication fiable, des plans d'aide financière aux plus vulnérables de la société

Aditya Narayan

La pandémie du coronavirus a plongé le monde dans une crise inattendue, semblable à la crise financière de 2008, avec des conséquences économiques et sociales à court et à long termes. Au-delà de son aspect purement sanitaire, cette crise provoque une nouvelle réflexion sur la capacité de l'économie libérale à faire face à un choc exogène. Plus fondamentalement, elle remet en question certains principes de l'économie de marché à travers le questionnement de vieilles certitudes, des valeurs conventionnelles et de la vision d'un monde globalisé.

En effet, cette crise pose deux tests de leadership à travers le monde peu importe le système politique en place dans les pays concernés : primo le leadership politique et, secundo, le leadership économique.

Leadership politique

D'abord, la crise a mis en exergue la problématique du leadership politique face à l'adversité. Dans les moments d'incertitude générale, tout le monde se tourne vers les leaders nationaux et l'Etat pour chercher du réconfort et de l'aide. Angoissés et désespérés, les peuples veulent des leaders pleins d'empathie et de compassion, quitte à ce qu'ils soient autoritaires ou moins démocratiques, car en temps de crise, on se rabat sur la vieille maxime qui veut que l'on limite les dégâts à tout prix. Il semble que la Chine et le Singapour aient mieux maîtrisé l'épidémie sur leur sol grâce à leur système autoritaire qui permet le contrôle social. En revanche, dans les pays où la démocratie libérale requiert la recherche du consensus préalable en faveur des mesures d'urgence et d'exception (le confinement et la fermeture des services non-essentiels), la réaction des autorités a été un peu lente et laborieuse.

L'histoire jugera quel système de gouvernement aura été le plus efficace pour endiguer la pandémie et sauver des vies humaines, et quels leaders se

seront montrés à la hauteur en intervenant à temps avec des plans de communication fiable, des plans d'aide financière aux plus vulnérables de la société et des plans pour remédier à l'épidémie.

Un premier enseignement à tirer de la crise est que tous les experts, de quelque bord politique qu'ils soient, ont appelé à une intervention rapide et massive de l'Etat pour venir au secours des employés subitement privés de leur gagne-pain et des entreprises menacées de faillite. En temps normal, lorsque tout va bien, les milieux d'affaires ont tendance à se plaindre de l'Etat-régulateur omniprésent (*Big Government*) qui prélève trop de taxes et étouffe l'initiative privée par une réglementation démesurée. En temps de crise, ils sont les premiers à réclamer le soutien du gouvernement afin de ne pas tomber dans le gouffre. C'est dire que la main invisible du marché (selon Adam Smith) ne peut pas régler tous les problèmes dans la société.

Il y a certain services essentiels (les soins de santé, l'éduca-



Coronavirus: séance noire à Wall Street

tion et la sécurité publique) que seul le gouvernement peut dispenser efficacement. Aux Etats-Unis, ces jours-ci, on découvre les insuffisances cruelles d'un système de santé privé, financé par les polices d'assurance médi-

cale souscrites par des individus, qui n'arrive pas à fournir les tests de dépistage du virus en demande. Par contre, au Canada, le système de santé publique financé par les impôts arrive à égaliser l'offre à la demande. Le même secteur privé qui critique à longueur d'année l'Etat-Providence, qu'il accuse de promouvoir l'assistanat et le moindre effort, se rue aux portillons du gouvernement central pour demander des plans de sauvetage financier aux frais des contribuables (*corporate welfare*).

Leadership économique

Dans certains pays affectés par la pandémie, le gouvernement central n'a pas hésité à utiliser la politique monétaire (baisse du taux d'intérêt directeur pour rendre le crédit moins cher) et la politique fiscale afin de maintenir la consommation. Il a mis en œuvre des plans d'aide divers, quitte à augmenter considérablement le déficit budgétaire et alourdir la dette nationale. Il s'agit de maintenir la demande sur le marché pour que le pays ne bascule pas dans une récession aux effets désastreux même si certains pans entiers de l'économie (le tourisme, l'hôtellerie, la restauration, les lignes aériennes) ne sortiront pas de l'auberge de sitôt.

L'éventail des plans d'aide est

vaste. Aux employés, le gouvernement ouvre les vannes de l'assurance-emploi (pour ceux qui ont droit à l'allocation-chômage) ou offre une subvention directe des salaires (*wage subsidy*). Aux entreprises, le gouvernement offre des lignes de crédit sans intérêt, des fonds non-remboursables dans certains cas, des prises de participation de l'Etat dans de grandes entreprises et le report du paiement des impôts à une date ultérieure (*tax deferrals*).

Cependant, la précarité économique induite par la perte d'emploi touche aussi les travailleurs indépendants et les opérateurs dans le secteur informel qui n'ont pas de revenu stable comme les employés. La précarité économique a remis sur le tapis la question du revenu de base universel (*universal basic income*), lequel est essentiel à la subsistance de toute famille risquant de tomber en-dessous du seuil de pauvreté.

En 2008, les gouvernements dans beaucoup de pays, y compris Maurice, avaient accordé une aide financière (*stimulus package*) à certaines entreprises en difficulté sans se soucier de se faire rembourser quand la reprise économique aura commencé.



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Deux Tests de Leadership pour les Dirigeants

● Suite de la page 4

C'était la méthode qui consiste à privatiser les profits (les entreprises gardent leurs bénéfices en temps de vaches grasses) et socialiser les pertes (les contribuables assument les pertes d'entreprise en temps de vaches maigres) dans la plus pure tradition du "corporate welfare".

Cette fois-ci, échaudé par l'expérience amère de 2008, le gouvernement - dans certains pays - ne veut plus déboursier des fonds sans condition. Aux Etats-Unis, cette semaine, les démocrates ont croisé le fer avec les républicains sur les conditions à imposer en lien avec le plan de sauvetage des entreprises. Il n'était pas question pour les premiers d'accorder une autre baisse d'impôts ou une aide financière sans ficelle qui permettrait aux sociétés de racheter leurs actions sur le marché boursier (*share buybacks*) au lieu de l'investir dans l'entreprise. Faut-il aussi rappeler qu'en 2008 bien des canards boiteux liés aux politiciens furent sauvés aux frais des contribuables selon une illustration parfaite du capitalisme de copinage (*crony capitalism*).

Démondialisation

La crise a fait voler en éclats les certitudes liées aux bienfaits de la mondialisation, qui implique le libre mouvement des produits, des services et des hommes à travers les frontières. L'interdépendance économique des nations est bâtie sur la "théorie des avantages comparés" selon laquelle les pays se spécialisent dans la production de produits et services qui leur coûtent le moins par rapport aux fournisseurs concurrents.

A ce jeu, la Chine a démontré qu'elle est imbattable avec une main-d'œuvre abondante, disciplinée et bon marché à telle enseigne qu'elle est devenue l'atelier/l'usine et l'entrepôt du monde. Les exportations bon marché de la Chine ont anéanti des industries entières de production et de transformation dans beaucoup de pays au point de les rendre dépendants des fournisseurs chinois. Il a fallu d'un fichu virus pour que toutes les chaînes de valeur internationales (*supply chains*) en biens de consommation et bien intermédiaires soient rompues dans certains pays, causant des pénuries d'articles courants.

Bien des pays se rendent compte aujourd'hui qu'ils ne peuvent plus être tributaires des fournisseurs chi-



"Il y a certain services essentiels (les soins de santé, l'éducation et la sécurité publique) que seul le gouvernement peut dispenser efficacement. Aux Etats-Unis, ces jours-ci, on découvre les insuffisances cruelles d'un système de santé privé, financé par les polices d'assurance médicale souscrites par des individus, qui n'arrive pas à fournir les tests de dépistage du virus en demande. Par contre, au Canada, le système de santé publique financé par les impôts arrive à égaliser l'offre à la demande. Le même secteur privé qui critique à longueur d'année l'Etat-Providence, qu'il accuse de promouvoir l'assistanat et le moindre effort, se rue aux portillons du gouvernement central pour demander des plans de sauvetage financier aux frais des contribuables (*corporate welfare*)..."

nois pour leur approvisionnement stratégique. Il y va de leur survie économique tout simplement. De nombreuses sociétés occidentales ont délocalisé leurs usines en Chine pour prendre avantage des coûts de production bas. Aujourd'hui, des voix s'élèvent pour réclamer le relocalisation de ces usines dans leurs pays d'origine non seulement pour assurer la production sur le sol national, mais aussi pour assurer l'emploi à la population locale non-qualifiée. La crise n'entraînera pas une dynamique de démondialisation pour autant dans l'avenir prévisible.

Self-reliance

Conceptuellement, le débat est focalisé sur la capacité d'un pays d'assurer un minimum de sécurité alimentaire et de sécurité énergétique à sa population en tout temps sans être pris au dépourvu par une rupture des chaînes d'approvisionnement internationales causée par des facteurs exogènes (une épidémie, par exemple). Auparavant, bien des pays pouvaient compter sur leurs propres forces (*self-reliance*) pour assurer l'auto-suffisance ali-

mentaire à leur peuple. Paradoxalement, c'est la Chine, aujourd'hui fournisseur du monde, qui s'était fait le champion de cette politique durant la guerre froide entre l'Est et l'Ouest.

La libéralisation du commerce international a favorisé l'adoption du modèle de développement fondé sur l'exportation (*export-led development*), en ligne avec la spécialisation internationale du travail, dans les pays en mal de devises étrangères. Cela s'est fait au détriment de l'industrie locale de substitution d'importations. On croyait qu'il suffisait d'exporter des produits et des services pour se payer les importations alimentant la société de consommation. Or, comme le cas de Maurice le prouve, le modèle d'exportation dépend de la compétitivité des prix et il y a beaucoup de fournisseurs concurrents plus dynamiques sur le marché international. Les exportations ne seront jamais suffisantes pour couvrir la note d'importations. Il est temps de donner une nouvelle impulsion à l'industrie locale de substitution d'importations.

Aditya Narayan

Matter of Life and Death

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A new mode of governance

Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of mankind to a tiny virus which is wreaking havoc in the world. This week has seen the totality of the 195 countries of the world infected. The virus has forced lockdowns, the confinement of people at home, grounded airlines, shut down economic activities and disrupted trade flows and supply chains. All these unprecedented and extreme actions were taken to combat the virus and save humanity from the pandemic. They have dire consequences on the world economy.

Why have such robust actions not been taken as yet by the polluting countries of the world to halve global carbon emissions by 2030 and reach Net-Zero by 2050 in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C and save Planet Earth from the dire fallouts of an impending climate change catastrophe? Is Covid-19 Nature's backlash against wanton corporate polluters who are responsible for the havoc being wreaked by climate change? Is it not therefore time for retrospection and reflection on the manner in which we tinker with and despoil the environment and endanger our homeland, Planet Earth?



"Carbon emissions and air pollution levels have fallen drastically in some of the most polluting countries in the world. The European Space Agency released new video footage this weekend which shows that air pollution is markedly lower in South Korea, Italy, the UK and China during the Covid-19 lockdown than in the same period last year. For climate scientists, this is a real world scale experiment and reality check of the immense benefits of a ban on the use and burning of highly polluting coal and fossil fuels by industrial countries on air pollution and on eliminating their adverse impact on climate change..."

Life on earth is a delicate balance. The insatiable thirst for Mammon and the decried actions of those responsible for the dire consequences of climate change on Earth are putting this balance in jeopardy. A sustainable future will therefore depend on whether we can draw potent lessons from past blunders in respect of *inter alia* climate change, inequality, a fairer sharing of the fruits of prosperity, governance or of arrogantly trying to play god.

The battle against Covid-19 and the dire fallouts of climate change on the future of the young and mankind are matters of life and death. It is only when the battle against Covid-19 is won that we will be able to comprehensively tackle the resulting economic crisis. Will it not then be imperatively time to adopt a new approach, a new mode of governance and make game changing choices for a new policy framework which not only reverse the adverse fallouts of climate change on Earth but also assure a future for all which is sustainable, inclusive, progressive and in harmony with nature?

Mrinal Roy



Prof Sheila Bunwaree

Covid 19: Recalibrating Perspectives for Our Common Humanity

Societal shocks can break different ways, making things better or worse

Covid-19 has terrified the entire planet and revealed how unprepared the world is for the outbreak of such infectious diseases. This invisible enemy also brings with it 'des sourdes violences', to borrow a term from Cardinal Maurice Piat. The latter's *Lettre Pastorale 2020* shows us how these 'sourdes violences' shake the very fabric of our society. Amidst these diverse violences, new complex forms of poverty and inequality highlight the different pains of our fellow citizens. Sufferings and hardships will more than likely grow in these very trying times, posing new challenges for governance, social cohesion and durable peace.

While the virus infests people regardless of wealth, status, race, class, ethnicity, gender and religion, the poor and the vulnerable are bound to be the most hit. Handwashing and 'social distancing' and 'self isolation where necessary', undeniably the most important measures to prevent one from contracting the disease, are not always easy when one lives in deprived, crowded and unhygienic conditions - often sharing the same bath and toilets. Compounding the problem are water shortages and even soap in certain cases. Improvement in the Gini coefficient and introduction of minimum wages are no doubt good signals, but the failure to address deeper structural inequalities will have serious consequences for the disadvantaged during the Covid period. They run the risk of being trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty in the aftermath of Covid. The implications of such inequality call for an urgent recalibrating of our perspectives so that our common humanity is salvaged.

A 2018 Norwegian Research Institute study by researcher Sverre Erik Mamelund found that socio economic differences among individuals who contracted the 1918 Spanish flu ended up playing a key role in survival rates. In his paper, Mamelund says that he is surprised that politicians and public health officials don't do more to take social inequalities into account when forming international preparedness plans. By ignoring these inequalities, everyone is worse off.

The Minister of Finance shrugging off a journalist's question regarding informal sector workers is shocking. Informal sector workers, albeit not a homogenous group, consists of people who not only fend for their livelihoods on a daily basis but also contribute significantly to turn the wheels of the economy. A government which cares cannot do otherwise than provide equitable treatment to all its citizens. My thoughts also go to all those who may be deprived of food because of absence of cash in hand before the complete lockdown. We are lucky that we are a small country and delivery of food packs to these people should



"Improvement in the Gini coefficient and introduction of minimum wages are no doubt good signals, but the failure to address deeper structural inequalities will have serious consequences for the disadvantaged during the Covid period..."

not be a herculean task.

Jonathan Quick, author of 'The End of Epidemics: The Looming Threat to Humanity - How to stop it', in a recent interview tells us that the world has now developed a Global Health Security Index (GHSI). Using six different dimensions, namely (1) the prevention of the emergence or release of pathogen, (2) early detection and reporting epidemics of potential international concerns (3) rapidly responding to and mitigating the spread of an epidemic, (4) sufficient and robust health system to treat the sick and protect health workers, (5) commitments to improving national capacity financing and adherence to norms, and (6) risk environment and vulnerability to biological threat, the GHSI is expected to establish individual country needs, boost compliance with international standards and create better understanding of global capabilities to prevent, detect, and respond to biological threats.

Contrary to other indices which Mauritian authorities usually select to boast of Mauritius's performance, very little is said, if at all, about this particular index. Mauritius ranks 116th on the Global Health Security Index while Singapore, which Mauritius often compares itself with, ranks 24. Discussing the Singaporean case with the *Mauritius Times* (Issue 20 March 20), Prof Sing Fat Chu, a Mauritian national notes: '...Singapore has strategically developed into a leading biomedical hub. As of 6 March, it has been using its own Covid-19 test kits developed through a collaboration of public and private agencies and which deliver results within 3 hours'.

He also refers to the discipline prevailing in the Singaporean nation and rightly arguing that discipline does not equate authoritarianism. The persistent absence of 'responsible and ethical citizenship' in school curriculum is largely responsible for the indiscipline that we have witnessed these past days.

Getting test kits and doing massive testing is perhaps as important, if not more

than confinement. A recently released paper by French researchers/scientists Nathalie Bontoux and Marie Claude Potier also highlight the urgency of massive testing, resonating with WHO Executive Director, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus's: '...We have a simple message for ALL countries: Test, Test, Test...' There is growing recognition that even those who without symptoms can be the carriers of the virus. Breaking the chain of transmission thus becomes even more difficult with the existence of these 'asymptomatic carriers'.

Mauritius's low level of preparedness as revealed by the different scores obtained on the different dimensions of the GHSI, coupled with the exponential growth of infected cases, has no choice than come together as ONE. But engaging in a collective effort to combat the enemy demands a certain kind of leadership. This is not the time for blame game or negative criticisms, but acknowledging our weaknesses and accepting the truth can go a long way in making the call for solidarity meaningful.

"As the coronavirus spreads, it is going to wreak more havoc. It will however force us to reconsider who we are and what we value, and in the long run, it could help us rediscover the better version of ourselves..."

Sing Fat Chu also rightly points out that in times of crisis: 'Leadership must be visible, decisive, exemplar and above all caring.' Allow me to add that leadership must also be humble, transparent, competent and compassionate.

The economic, social and psychological fall out of this pandemic has no room for partisan politics but rather calls for collective effort to address real problems. An article featuring in a recent issue of *The Economist* titled 'The Politics of Pandemics' notes:

'...worried voters may well have less of an appetite for the theatrical wrestling match of partisan politics.

They need their governments to deal with the real problems they are facing - which is what politics should have been about all along'.

Conclusion

Societal shocks can break different ways, making things better or worse. As the

coronavirus spreads, it is going to wreak more havoc. It will however force us to reconsider who we are and what we value, and in the long run, it could help us rediscover the better version of ourselves. But for now here are some humble proposals as to how to get Mauritius on track again once we have shot down the enemy. But we need to start now:

1. The setting up of a Covid-19 solidarity fund with all parliamentarians as well as current and former presidents accepting a 25% to 40% cut in their salaries/monthly allowances to go into that fund. Ordinary citizens can also make contributions to the fund. This should last for at least one whole year.
2. The setting up of a Coronavirus Strategic Team/Desk at the level of each ministry.

The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Land, Ministry of Local Government and the Agricultural Marketing Board should urgently identify arable lands and get seeds rapidly distributed to planters and ordinary citizens to encourage self sufficiency in food.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should engage with China for immediate assistance. Given the exponential growth of the disease, medical equipments and hospital beds are bound to go short. Getting immediate assistance can enhance our preparedness.

3. The Ministry of Social Security in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Integration and Ministry of Commerce should draw up a list of the poor, the elderly and the vulnerable, an exercise which can be rendered easy by the existing Social Register. Then get the SMF or other relevant authorities to deliver food packs (rice, grains, canned food, milk and some other basic necessities) to families in poverty stricken areas.

4. The Ministry of Education should ensure that more online courses are delivered to both primary and secondary school students while schools remain closed. Tertiary institutions should also ensure that courses/lectures are being delivered.

The development of a short compulsory module for primary, secondary and university students (adapted to each level) on 'Responsible and Ethical Citizenship'. This could be disseminated via the MBC and private radios. Such a module could go a long way to get the much sought after behavioural change that we are aspiring too.

5. The Ministry of Arts and Culture could work together with the MBC to present documentaries and innovative cultural programmes on different aspects of **our history, museums, art**, etc., of the country. With the help of the Council of Religions, it could also organise online universal prayers which could have the added benefit of making Mauritians bond and develop a strong sense of patriotism.

While the world waits for a vaccine to shoot down the enemy, we need to move on and continue to support all those battling on the front line and putting their lives at risk for us. We salute them and express gratitude to each and every one of them. We cannot thank them enough and continue to pray that they be safe and protected.

En considère qu'une ma-ladie entre en phase pandémique lorsque sa transmission se fait de manière prolongée, efficace et continue, simultanément au sein de plus de trois régions géographiques différentes. Nous sommes déjà entrés en phase pandémique en ce qui concerne le COVID-19. Mais cela ne signifie pas pour autant que nous sommes condamnés à mort : le fait qu'un virus soit à l'origine d'une pandémie ne reflète pas sa létalité, mais uniquement sa transmissibilité et son extension géographique.

J'insiste, nous faisons face à un grave problème. Cependant, il faut se souvenir que l'une des premières victimes du coronavirus aura été l'économie. S'il est important de rendre compte de l'évolution de la situation, il faut également mettre l'accent sur les informations positives. Et elles existent aussi : voici huit bonnes nouvelles concernant le coronavirus.

1. Nous savons ce qui est à l'origine de la maladie

Après la description des premiers cas de sida en juin 1981, plus de deux ans ont été nécessaires pour identifier le virus à l'origine de la maladie, le VIH. Concernant le nouveau coronavirus, les premiers cas de pneumonie sévère ont été signalés en Chine le 31 décembre 2019. Le 7 janvier, le virus responsable avait déjà été identifié. Au jour 10, la séquence de son génome était disponible.

Nous savons déjà qu'il s'agit d'un coronavirus appartenant au groupe 2B, autrement dit de la même famille que le SRAS, et nous lui avons donné un nom : SARS-CoV-2. La maladie qu'il provoque est elle aussi baptisée : Covid-19. Ce nouveau virus est apparenté à un coronavirus de chauves-souris. Les analyses génétiques ont confirmé qu'il est d'origine naturelle, qu'il a émergé récemment (entre fin novembre et début décembre), et que, bien que les virus s'adaptent en mutant, la fréquence de mutation du SARS-CoV-2 n'est pas très élevée.

2. Nous savons comment détecter le coronavirus

Dès le 13 janvier, un test RT-PCR permettant de détecter le virus a été rendu accessible à tous. Ces derniers mois, les tests de ce type ont été perfectionnés, et leur sensibilité et spécificité évaluées.

3. 81 % des cas sont bénins

La maladie ne provoque aucun symptôme ou est bénigne dans 81% des cas. Dans 14% des cas, elle peut provoquer une pneumonie sévère et dans les 5% restant, elle peut devenir critique, voire mortelle.

4. Les gens guérissent

Les médias ont parfois tendance à ne rendre compte que de l'augmentation du nombre de cas confirmés et du nombre de décès. Néanmoins, la majorité des personnes qui ont été infectées sont guéries. On dénombre en effet 13 fois plus de guérisons que de décès, et cette proportion est en augmentation.

5. Les enfants ne sont (presque) pas affectés

Seul 3% des cas concernent des jeunes de moins de 20 ans, et la mortalité chez les

personnes de moins de 40 ans n'est que de 0,2%. Chez les enfants, les symptômes sont si légers qu'ils peuvent passer inaperçus.

6. Le coronavirus est facilement inactivé

Le virus peut être efficacement inactivé en nettoyant pendant une minute les surfaces contaminées avec une solution d'éthanol (alcool à 62-71%), de peroxyde d'hydrogène («eau oxygénée» à 0,5%) ou d'hypochlorite de sodium (eau de javel à 0,1%). Le lavage fréquent des mains avec du savon et de l'eau est le moyen le plus efficace pour éviter les transmissions.

7. Il existe déjà des prototypes de vaccins

Notre capacité à concevoir de nouveaux vaccins est spectaculaire. Plus de huit projets ciblant le nouveau coronavirus ont déjà été montés. Proposer un prototype de vaccin va très vite. Certains groupes qui travaillaient sur des projets de vaccination contre des virus similaires au SARS-CoV-2 n'ont eu qu'à réorienter leurs recherches vers ce nouveau virus. Le développement est cependant ralenti par les indispensables tests visant à évaluer la toxicité ou les effets secondaires potentiels des candidats-vaccins, ainsi que leur sécurité, leur immunogénicité (capacité à induire une réponse immunitaire) et l'efficacité de la protection qu'ils confèrent. Plusieurs mois ou années pourraient donc s'avérer nécessaires pour aboutir à un vaccin commercialisable, mais des prototypes sont déjà en cours de mise au point.

C'est par exemple le cas du vaccin ARNm-1273 de Moderna, qui consiste en un fragment d'ARN messager permettant de produire une protéine dérivée de la glycoprotéine S de surface du coronavirus. La société Moderna avait déjà travaillé sur des prototypes similaires pour d'autres virus tels que le virus respiratoire syncytial (VRS, ou HRSV pour Human Respiratory Syncytial Virus), le métapneumovirus humain, le virus parainfluenza de type 3, le virus de la grippe A(H7N9), le cytomégalovirus, le virus Zika ou le virus d'Epstein-Barr.

La société Inovio Pharmaceuticals a quant à elle annoncé travailler sur un vaccin à ADN synthétique ciblant le nouveau coronavirus. Baptisé INO-4800, il est également basé sur le gène de la glycoprotéine S de surface du virus.

De son côté, Sanofi utilisera sa plateforme d'expression de baculovirus recombinants pour produire de grandes quantités de l'antigène de surface du nouveau coronavirus.

Le «groupe vaccin» de l'Université du Queensland, en Australie, a quant à lui

8 Informations Rassurantes à Propos du Coronavirus

Certes, la progression de l'épidémie de coronavirus est préoccupante. Mais il faut rester optimiste. En effet, jamais l'humanité n'a été aussi bien préparée à affronter une pandémie



annoncé qu'il travaillait déjà sur un prototype utilisant la technique appelée «pince moléculaire» («molecular clamp»). Cette nouvelle technologie consiste à créer des molécules chimériques capables de maintenir la structure tridimensionnelle originelle de l'antigène viral. Cela permet de produire des vaccins en un temps record, en utilisant le génome du virus.

Une autre société de biotechnologie, Novavax, a également annoncé mener des travaux sur le coronavirus. Elle possède une technologie permettant de produire des protéines recombinantes assemblées en nanoparticules qui, avec leur propre adjuvant, constituent de puissants immunogènes. En Espagne, le groupe de Luis Enjuanes et Isabel Sola, du CNB-CSIC, travaille depuis des années sur des vaccins contre les coronavirus.

Certains de ces prototypes seront bientôt testés chez l'être humain.

8. Plus de 80 essais cliniques concernant des antiviraux sont en cours

Les vaccins sont préventifs. Dans l'immediat, il est important de mettre au point des traitements permettant de soigner les personnes déjà malades. Plus de 80 essais cliniques visant à évaluer l'efficacité de traitements contre le coronavirus sont en cours. Il s'agit d'antiviraux qui ont été utilisés dans le cadre d'autres infections, qui sont déjà approuvés, et que nous savons sûrs.

Le remdesivir fait partie de ces antiviraux déjà testés chez l'être humain. Cet antiviral à large spectre, toujours à l'étude, a été employé contre Ebola et les coronavirus SRAS et MERS. Il s'agit d'un analogue de l'adénosine. Incorporé dans la chaîne d'ARN viral, il inhibe sa réplication.

La chloroquine est une autre candidate. Ce médicament antipaludéen s'est aussi

révélé avoir une puissante activité antivirale. On sait que la chloroquine bloque l'infection virale en augmentant le pH de l'endosome (une sorte de petite structure sphérique délimitée par une membrane), nécessaire à la fusion du virus avec la cellule, inhibant ainsi son entrée. Il a été prouvé que ce composé bloque le nouveau coronavirus in vitro. La chloroquine est déjà utilisée chez des patients atteints de pneumonie causée par coronavirus.

Le Lopinavir et le Ritonavir sont deux inhibiteurs de protéase utilisés comme traitement antirétroviral dans la lutte contre le VIH, dont ils inhibent la maturation finale. Étant donné que la protéase du SARS-Cov-2 s'est avérée similaire à celle du VIH, cette combinaison a déjà été testée chez des patients atteints du coronavirus.

Parmi les autres essais proposés, certains sont basés sur l'utilisation de l'oseltamivir (un inhibiteur de la neuraminidase utilisé contre le virus de la grippe), de l'interféron bêta-1b (une protéine à fonction antivirale), d'antisérums de personnes déjà rétablies ou d'anticorps monoclonaux pour neutraliser le virus. De nouvelles thérapies mettant en œuvre des substances inhibitrices ont aussi été proposées, telle que la baricitinib, un médicament déjà autorisé dans le traitement de la polyarthrite rhumatoïde dont l'efficacité potentielle contre le coronavirus a été identifiée grâce à l'intelligence artificielle.

En 1918, la pandémie de grippe avait fait plus de 25 millions de morts en moins de 25 semaines. Est-ce qu'une telle situation pourrait se reproduire aujourd'hui ? Probablement pas. En effet, jamais dans notre histoire nous n'avons été mieux préparés à lutter contre une pandémie.

Ignacio López-Goni
Universidad de Navarra

Aging: What's normal?

After age 40, most of us have a hard time seeing things less than 2 feet away. You may first notice it while trying to read a menu. Almost all adults get a vision problem called presbyopia, which means you have trouble seeing close up. It often starts in your early 40s.

Non-prescription reading glasses usually help. Their lenses magnify things, and you can find an inexpensive pair at your local drugstore/optician. If you already wear glasses or contacts for distance, consider getting bifocals or "no-line" progressive lenses.

This fiery feeling that starts in your upper chest and moves up into your throat could come on more often as you age. Heartburn is more common in older people and pregnant women. Over-the-counter antacids can usually help for mild symptoms. But tell your doctor if heartburn keeps coming back, you have it more than twice a week, or it's severe.

Achy joints are a part of getting older

Not everyone will have stiff, sore joints, but your chance of getting arthritis does go up as you age. Half of people 65 and older have it, and most of them have osteoarthritis. It happens when the tissue that protects bones in your joints starts to wear away. When there's none left, the bones rub against each other. You're most likely to have pain or stiffness in your hands, neck, back, knees, or hips.

You may have a harder time hearing, especially women's and kids' voices

Women and children naturally have



Are things like achy joints and hearing loss just a part of getting older?

higher-pitched voices. These types of sounds are often the first to go. Over time, the hair cells inside your ear that send sound waves to the brain become less sensitive. That makes it hard, for example, to distinguish "P" from "T." The condition, called presbycusis, is sometimes passed down in families, but it can also be caused by loud noise, smoking, or illness. Sometimes it's a side effect of antibiotics or aspirin.

You'll get shorter

Between ages 30 and 70, men can lose an inch of height. Women sometimes lose as much as 2 inches. After age 80, both groups might shrink even more. Why? The cartilage between your joints wears out and pushes your spine together. Your muscles get weaker and don't hold you up as well. Thinning bones are often a culprit, too.

Getting shorter too quickly can be a warning sign that you're at a greater risk for hip and spine fractures, so talk to your doctor if you notice a big or sudden change.

Older people are more likely to get constipated

Anyone can have trouble going to the bathroom, but it's a pretty common problem as you age. Lack of exercise, changes in diet, medicines, and health problems all play a role. If you use laxatives too often, your body can forget how to go on its own. What can you do to get regular? Keep active. Eat more fruits, veggies, and whole grains. And drink at least six to eight glasses of water a day.

Both men and women may end up growing unwanted hair

Women: After menopause, you may lose some hair on your head and grow it on your chin or upper lip. This happens in part because you have less estrogen to counter the effects of testosterone. It's just part of the aging process.

Men: Aging may change your hair, too. You might lose it on your head and gain

some in your ears and nose.

Older people are more optimistic than younger ones

Older folks are more likely to look on the sunny side of life. They generally get less negative and remember events more positively than younger people do. Thinking about the past puts many of them in a good mood.

Your thinking abilities decline after your early 20s

Your brain reaches its maximum size in your early 20s, and then it starts to shrink slowly. Blood flow also decreases over time. But some types of memory can improve throughout life, like your ability to recall concepts and facts. Talk to your doctor if you have memory lapses that interfere with your day-to-day life. Losing your keys once in a while is normal. Forgetting what they're for is not.

WebMD

Boost Your Immunity

Spices and herbs that can help you stay healthy

No meal or snack should be naked: That's what dietitian Monica Auslander Moreno tells her clients. "Herbs and spices make food tastier while boosting your health," says Moreno, an adjunct professor of nutrition at the University of Miami and a dietitian for the Miami Marlins. "You should be cooking with herbs and spices regularly -- and, if possible, using several at a time," reports Camille Noe Pagán of WebMD.

Herbs like garlic are parts of a plant, while spices like cinnamon are usually made from the seeds, berries, bark, or roots of a plant. Both are used to flavour food, but research shows they're chock-full of healthy compounds and may help prevent illness and disease. "All herbs and spices fight inflammation and reduce damage to your body's cells," says Moreno. "That's because each one is rich in phytochemicals, which are healthful plant chemicals."

Adding herbs and spices to your diet has another benefit: "Because they're so flavourful, they make it easier to cut back on less healthy ingredients like salt, sugar, and added fat," says Adrienne Youdim, MD, an associate clinical professor of medicine at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine.

Choose the Real Thing

You may have noticed that some herbs and spices are sold as supplements

(oregano oil or capsules of cinnamon extract, for example). Unless your doctor recommends otherwise, "it's best to eat the herb or spice instead of taking it in pill form," Youdim says.

If you're new to cooking with herbs and spices, Moreno recommends trying a pinch at a time to figure out which ingredients and flavor combinations you like. "Even small amounts can offer health benefits," she says.

Here are some standouts to think about adding to your next meal:

Cardamom: This sweet, pungent spice is in many pumpkin spices mixes. It's known to soothe an upset stomach, and lab studies show it may also help fight inflammation, lower blood pressure, and play a role in preventing the growth of cancer cells. One more perk? "Of all spices, cardamom is especially high in minerals like magnesium and zinc," says Moreno.

Chili peppers: Fresh, dried, or powdered, chilies will give your food a kick. They also may boost your metabolism and help keep blood vessels healthy. One possible reason is capsaicin -- the compound that makes them spicy.

Cinnamon: "Cinnamon is great because it's sweet but very low in calories and sugar-free," says Moreno. "Plus, it's easy to find and not expensive, and you can add it to

almost anything, including coffee and tea."

Lab studies show that cinnamon also may help with inflammation, fend off free radicals that can damage your cells, fight off bacteria, and even protect against conditions that affect your brain or nervous system, like Parkinson's disease or Alzheimer's disease.

And some research suggests it may help lower blood sugar in people who have diabetes or are likely to get the disease, but other studies don't back that up. "It can be a part of a healthful diet, but don't mistake it for a diabetes cure," says Moreno.

Cumin: Used worldwide and known as a key ingredient in many Indian dishes, cumin is naturally rich in iron. It may play a role in weight loss, too. One study of 88 overweight women found that those who ate a little less than a teaspoon of cumin a day while on a low-calorie diet lost more body fat and weight as those on the same diet who didn't add cumin.

Garlic: This plant has a powerful compound called allicin. Lab studies have shown that it may lower your chances of getting heart disease, and it may even help stop the growth of cancer cells. And other research shows that eating garlic regularly may help with high cholesterol and high blood pressure. But to get the benefits, you have to chop or crush the clove: Allicin is formed only

after the cells in the garlic have been cut or crushed.

Ginger: Yes, ginger really can help with an upset stomach. "It has a calming effect on the lining of your digestive system, and can ease nausea, too," says Moreno.

Lab studies also show that ginger has anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, and may play a role in preventing diseases like cancer.

Rosemary: An ultra-fragrant herb, rosemary is rich in antioxidants that prevent cell damage, says Moreno. Even sniffing it may be good for you: One study found that people who got a whiff of rosemary performed better on memory tests and other mental tasks, compared with those who didn't. Researchers think one of its compounds, called 1,8-cineole, may boost brain activity.

Turmeric: This yellow spice gets a lot of hype, and for good reason. It's a good source of curcumin, an antioxidant that eases inflammation. Research suggests that curcumin may help ease pain and lower the chances of heart attacks, too. And other research shows that eating even small amounts of turmeric regularly may help prevent or slow down Alzheimer's disease, possibly by helping prevent the brain plaques that lead to dementia.

Hollywood

'Contagion' chief consultant tests positive for coronavirus



The chief medical consultant who worked on the 2011 film 'Contagion', has tested positive for coronavirus.

Ian Lipkin, a researcher and director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity, as well as a professor of epidemiology, neurology, and pathology, announced the news on a television show on Tuesday.

Calling it "miserable", he also said that if it could hit him, it could affect anybody. According to reports,

Lipkin went to China in January to investigate the virus and went under quarantine on his return home. He went on to state that it didn't matter where he caught the virus as it has spread all over the USA.

He went on to share some precautionary measures and emphasized on the importance of social distancing and confinement, saying that these are the "very best tool we have."

Lipkin was the scientific consult for Steven Soderbergh's 'Contagion', which followed the spread of a global virus that originated in China. Starring Kate Winslet, Marion Cotillard, and Matt

Damon, the film was noted for its scientific accuracy. It has even become the most downloaded film amidst the pandemic due to its eerie accuracy to the current world situation.

Reports also state that Ian Lipkin was instrumental in identifying the West Nile virus as the cause of the encephalitis epidemic in New York in 1999 and also assisted the World Health Organization in China during the SARS outbreak in 2003.

Daniel Craig: I dreamed of playing Superman or Spider-Man

However, he didn't dream of playing Bond when he was a kid

James Bond star Daniel Craig says as a kid it was his dream to play Superman or Spider-Man on screen. In an interview with Saga magazine, Craig, who is gearing up for the launch of his final outing as 007 in *No Time To Die*, spoke about his dream of playing Superman, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"People are always saying to me, 'You must have dreamed of playing James Bond when you were a kid'. The answer is no. I never did. I dreamed of being all sorts of other things - Superman, Spider-Man, the Invisible Man, even a good old-fashioned cowboy. But Bond so much, which seems ironic now," he said.

No Time To Die is Craig's fifth portrayal as James Bond. He has essayed the role in *Casino Royale* (2006), *Quantum Of Solace* (2008), *Skyfall* (2012) and *Spectre* (2015).

The release date for the upcoming James Bond film is postponed until November amid fears around coronavirus. The film was due to be released in April.

He will be seen sporting grey hair in the film. In the film's trailer, Craig, who has played the spy in the last four movies, sports his grey locks but also appears to have hints of several other hair colours, reports mirror.co.uk. Commenting on the different styles, one fan commented: "It was really odd looking at the trailer -because -It looked like I was watching different movies. I get that they want to keep Bond looking young but actually Bond with a salt and pepper look is really cool." Also, Craig is the first ever James Bond to have grey hair. He will also be seen sporting at least eight different looks in the



film.

No time To Die is the 25th Bond flick, and is directed by new-age maverick and Emmy-winner Cary Joji Fukunaga, who made mark calling the shots on *True Detective*.

YOUR STARS

SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

You'll have a very pessimistic view of life: this one will seem to you particularly harsh and unjust. Nevertheless try to take it with humour if you want to recover your serenity of soul. Don't let yourself be drawn into a fabulous financial adventure by a crony.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 30

CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

If your heart is still free, you'll surely experience great joy and unrivalled felicity by meeting the person whom you've been always looking for. If you want to be sure of success, make the necessary studies so that you'll leave no important element of the situation in shadow.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 15, 17, 20, 27

AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

In the family domain, you'll live pleasurable moments in serene intimacy. You'll forget your society activities so as to devote yourself wholly to your job; but things won't all be easy. The energy which you possess now will incite you to try to dominate everyone, sometimes even unduly.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 4, 9, 13, 17

PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

You must beware of exaggerations which you might be led to commit in all domains. However, on the whole, the perspectives of your future will remain good. Your finances will be good; you should be able to get money in and also to know how to make good returns on it.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 14, 15, 20, 27, 30

ARIES: MAR 21 - APR 19

The ideas which you'll have concerning others might turn out later on to be quite right. You're going to benefit by the support of the stars; this can consist of solid encouragements in your career or an improvement of your social and material situation.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 14, 18, 20, 29, 30

TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Your social life will prove disappointing this time; you'll realize that true friends are rare; think to be a true friend yourself. Numerous projects will take form in your mind, and you'll only have difficulty choosing the best of them.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 20, 24, 26, 30, 40

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Easy love affairs won't interest you very much; but don't systematically look for the impossible! You'll make use of phenomenal energy; what you want, you'll get it, and your entourage will be full of admiration for you.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 17, 20, 30, 31, 36

CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

If you work in association or in a team, you'll try to impose your will, but the resistances will be strong and therefore there may be risks of disputes. You must be particularly cautious in all your financial investments and real estate transactions. Do some savings.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 11, 14, 18, 33, 36

LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

You'll show iron willpower despite your smile and rather urbane manners. Whatever your objectives, you'll reach them because you'll throw all your live forces into the fight. Your nervous balance will be threatened by contradictory influxes; you'd better carefully control all that you'll do.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 13, 19, 20, 21, 23

VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

You'll have the desire to work in a team, to hatch out important projects with your near ones or, quite simply, to have constructive exchanges of ideas with your entourage. Everything will suddenly seem easy to you; immediately put your dearest plans into execution.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 9, 12, 14, 30

LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

With tact but also with authority and firmness, you'll show tremendous ardour in your work, and this will allow you to exploit the positive opportunities that will present themselves. Ignore provocations and attach no importance to ill-intentioned criticisms.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 14, 25, 30, 36, 39

SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

You won't know how to react if you find yourself faced with important choices. But don't worry: you can recover all your capacities if you exercise more control over your emotions. Don't let anyone mingle with your private life, and discard nuisances, whoever they may be.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 15, 19, 21, 26, 28

TV SERIAL

Kulfi Kumar Bajewala

Friday 27 Mars: Digging deeper into the past, Miya allows Kulfi and gang to participate. Later, she has a plan to make Sikander confess the truth.

Monday 30 Mars: While Amyra and Kulfi team up to defend Sikander, Miya leaves no stone unturned to get the truth out in the open, severely hurting Kulfi.

Tuesday 31 Mars: Kulfi gains consciousness while Miya plans to reveal that she is Sikander's daughter. Later, Sikander promises Amyra that he won't bring Kulfi back home.

Wednesday 1 April: Sikander is taken aback as Kulfi is unable to sing, which also worries Miya as the viewers are eager to watch her performance.

Thursday 2 April: Sikander sings a song for Kulfi while Miya has an idea to get her voice back. Unable to communicate, Kulfi writes a message for Sikander.

Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

Friday 27 Mars: Anand announces to Bela and Preeti that he is going to get another chance to go to America and this time he wouldn't be going alone and is taking Bela with him for a long duration of three months.

Monday 30 Mars: While troubling each other, Naina spills water on aunts face and she is not happy about it. She screams at Naina for being reckless in the house and criticises her for being like this as she has never been in a house that big. Sameer apologises for the fault.

Tuesday 31 Mars: Both Sameer and Naina are preparing for their respective exams. Elsewhere, Anand's elder brother calls Anand and asks him to get all the jewellery that Bina had received from her mother-in-law, so that they can be divided.

Wednesday 1 April: One of the daughters goes missing and the other daughter is about to suicide as she says that she committed a crime, stay tuned to find out what happens to the family and the girl.

Thursday 2 April: Sameer and Naina spend the night in the lawn as they lost their keys. Kaanchi bhaiya wakes them up and tells Naina that he like to work at their place more than any other household. That's when Naina realises that their lifestyle is quite unique from other people.

Ek Deewana Tha

Friday 27 Mars: At the party, Madhvi and Rajan are baffled seeing Krish, who bears an uncanny resemblance with Shiv. Rajan tries to console Madhvi by informing that it is merely a coincidence that Krish resembles Shiv.

Monday 30 Mars: Krish feels something strange in Shivani's house so he decides to take a walk around. He notices some people beating up Suvarna and goes to rescue her. Suvarna sees Krish and can't believe what she is seeing.

Tuesday 31 Mars: Krish is intrigued after meeting Shiv's mother. He tries to remember but the memories are too feeble. Later, Krish during the process of painting Shivani ends up painting Sharanya.

Wednesday 1 April: Krish wonders whose painting he drew while watching Shivani and is intrigued by it. Shivani is woken up by someone's touch but when she wakes up all she sees is a shadow. The first day of shooting starts and Akash, Shivani, and Krish reach there for the opening ceremony but a surprise waits for them at the shooting site.

Thursday 2 April: Krish is shooting an action sequence. Seeing large crowd he decides to perform his own stunts. Shooting the entire event of a video camera is a woman who resembles Sharanya.

Saiyami Kher opens up on the projects she has lost out on: 'I was supposed to do a film with Mani Ratnam right after *Mirzya*'

In an exclusive interview with BollywoodLife, Saiyami Kher opened up about losing out on a Mani Ratnam film no less, and how she'd still love to work with the director



Saiyami Kher had as big a launch in Bollywood as any newcomer could hope for. Her debut film, *Mirzya*, was directed by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra of *Rang De Basanti*, *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag* fame, featured music by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, lyrics by Gulzar and had Anil Kapoor's son, Harshvardhan Kapoor, cast opposite her, also in his debut feature. Launch vehicles in Bollywood



seldom get bigger than this. Sadly, the film failed to click both with critics and at the box office, which, had kind of a ripple effect on her future projects.

In an exclusive interview with BollywoodLife, Saiyami Kher revealed how the poor box-office collection of *Mirzya* led to talks falling through midway with a number of big producers. She also opened up about losing out on a Mani Ratnam film no less.

"I wasn't signed on the dotted line, but there were two to three films, where we kind of had done workshops and we were pretty much into the process of signing up and because the film (*Mirzya*) didn't make money, they kind of fizzled out. Unfortunately, that's how the industry works and that's how it is, that's the harsh truth. We are so used to seeing the glamour and the glitz and everyone on the outside thinks it's such a glamorous place to be and it's not just me, it's everyone who has gone through it. Actually, I was supposed to do a film with Mani Ratnam right after *Mirzya*. It was a bilingual, a Tamil-Telugu film, and it wasn't because of the fate of *Mirzya* that it did not happen. Again we had done workshops and stuff like that, but that film didn't work out because the male actors...one or two of them...had dropped out, something to that effect had happened. But I feel that he's a maker I'd love to work out. I really love his work. So fingers crossed on that."

That being said, Saiyami also mentioned how fortunate she felt to work with Director Neeraj Pandey early in her career, for her first web series, *Special Ops*, which has received rave reviews till now, with Saiyami's performance being lauded by one and all. The show has already premiered and been given binge-watching status. Other than this, the actress will next be seen in *Wild Dog*, a Telugu film opposite the legendary Nagarjuna, beside an Anurag Kashyap film later on.

Kanika Kapoor tests coronavirus-positive second time



Singer Kanika Kapoor has been tested positive for the novel coronavirus for the second time. She is reported to be stable as of now

Bollywood singer Kanika Kapoor tested positive again in a second test for Covid-19 conducted on Monday. The singer's sample was tested again at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences here after her family members raised questions about the initial test reports.

Kanika is reported to be stable as of now. The police are tracing all those who came in contact with her in the last few days. Reportedly, 160 persons came in her contact in three parties after she returned from the UK.

Earlier, the Lucknow police booked Kanika on charges of negligence for attending various social events in the city last week despite being infected with coronavirus and having been instructed by the authorities to isolate herself at her home.



Vendredi 27 mars - 21.19

Underworld Awakening

Avec: Kate Beckinsale, Michael Ealy, India Eisley

Lorsque les forces humaines découvrent l'existence des clans Vampire et Lycan, une guerre visant à éradiquer les deux espèces commence. La guerrière vampire Selene mène la bataille contre l'humanité.



Samedi 28 mars 21.15

ANACONDA 3

Avec: David Hasselhoff, Crystal Allen, Ryan McCluskey

A mercenary-for-hire accepts a mission from a billionaire to capture a dangerous snake that could possibly help cure a terminal illness.



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 27 mars	07.00 Dessin Anime 10.30 Massive Monster Mayhem 11.30 Local: Rodrig Prog 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Local: Eye On SADC 13.15 Local: Glwar Dantan 14.35 D. Anime: Teenie Weenies 14.59 D. Anime: Petit Creux 15.09 D. Anime: Medemoiselle... 15.14 D. Anime: Little People 15.25 D. Anime: Teenie Weenies 15.28 D. Anime: Yakari 15.40 D. Anime: Croque Nuage 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 20.00 Journal & La Meteo 20.15 Local: Arabesque 20.45 Local Production 21.45 Serial: Mike Hammer 23.00 Le Journal 23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC	04.30 Aastha TV 07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Tumhaari Natasha 11.19 Serial: MOL 12.04 Film: Last Chance 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Honaar Soon Mee Hya... 15.43 Mooga Manasulu 16.03 Apoorva Raagangal 16.30 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun 16.53 Serial: Gangaa 18.00 Serial: Dr. Quin 18.30 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 19.50 Local: Yaadein 20.20 Serial: Mah-E-Tamaam 21.25 Local: Anjuman 21.26 Local: Urdu Programme 22.37 DDI Live	06.00 Mag: Eco India 06.44 Mag: Shift 07.34 Doc: Tomorrow Today 07.58 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 08.53 Doc: 360 GEO 09.48 Mag: Strictly Street 10.11 Doc: Life Behind The Stars 11.00 Mag: Eco India 11.26 Mag: Urban Gardens 11.44 Mag: Shift 12.33 Mag: Tomorrow Today 12.57 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 13.53 Doc: World Shamps 14.48 Mag: Strictly Street 16.00 Mag: Eco India 16.26 Mag: Urban Gardens 16.44 Mag: Shift - Living In The... 17.00 Mag: Border Crossing 17.25 Doc: A Question Of Science 17.31 Mag: Tomorrow Today 18.00 The Death Train To Freedom	00.20 Tele: Peau Sauvage 01.47 Film: Bad Boys II 04.08 Film: Do No Harm 05.36 Tele: Amanda 06.17 Serial: When Calls The Heart 06.59 Serial: The Quest 09.00 Serial: Scorpion 09.45 Telenov: Au Nom De L'amour 10.35 Serial: Mike Hammer 11.25 Telenovela: Dulce Amor 12.00 Film: Do No Harm 13.30 Tele: Amanda 14.48 Serial: The Quest 16.47 Serial: Scorpion 17.25 Serial: When Calls The Heart 18.10 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour 18.31 Tele: Mariana et Scarlett 19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor 20.05 Tele: Totalment Diva 20.30 Serial: The Magicians 21.19 Film: Underworld Awakening	08.00 Film: Mahaanta 12.00 / 20.10 - Ek Deewana Tha 12.27 / 20.31 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 12.46 / 20.47 Radha Krishna 13.06 / 20.50 - Kaleerein 13.28 / 21.15 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.38 / 21.36 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.03 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan 14.35 / 22.25 - Ishqbazz 14.55 / 22.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.13 Film: Vivah Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao, Anupam Kher, Alok Nath 18.00 Live: Samacher 18.30 Kumkum Bhagya 18.50 Piya Albela 19.12 Mere Angne Mein 19.33 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai
samedi 28 mars	06.00 Dessin Anime 09.40 Serial: Grandpa In My Pocket 10.40 Serial: Waffle The Wonder Dog 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: Rodrig: Ecozone 12.55 Doc: 360 Geo 14.35 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies 14.36 D.Anime: Strawberry 14.57 D.Anime: Petit Creux 15.05 D.Anime: Mademoiselle Zazie 15.17 D.Anime: Little People 15.25 D.Anime: Yakari 16.12 D.Anime: Raju The Rickshaw 16.21 D.Anime: Petit Creux 17.20 Magazine: Zoboomafoo 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Entertainment: Dance 19.30 Journal / La Meteo 20.10 Local: Lottotech 20.15 Local: Groov'in 21.15 Serial: Chicago Med 23.05 Le Journal Teveise	04.30 Aastha TV 07.00 Film: Peecha Karo 11.40 Good Morning Shanghai 12.00 Nanda Saukhyia Bhare 12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 12.48 Serial: Brundavanam 13.10 Serial: Annakodiyum Ainthu 13.35 Serial: Anu Pallavi 14.05 Entertainment: Dil Hai Hindu 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Film: Imtihaan 18.00 Mag: Check In 18.30 Mag: Eco@Africa 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.05 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 20.21 Serial: Bitti Business Wali 21.00 Film: Rudraksh Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Sunil Shetty, Bipasha Basu 23.15 DDI Live	06.00 The Death Train To Freedom 06.47 Mag: Arts And Culture 07.00 Mag: Global 3000 08.33 L'île De La Cite Engloutie 09.25 Doc: Beautiful Minds 10.14 Doc: Goodbye Yellow Sea... 11.08 Local: Turf Time 12.00 Direct Du Champ De Mars 17.02 Mag: Global 3000 17.28 Doc: A Question Of Science 19.03 Doc: Olivia's Garden 19.33 Mag: Mixeur, Les Gouts.... 19.55 Doc: Japon 2019 21.00 Live: News 21.25 Doc: Tea War, The Adventures... 22.17 Doc: Amazing Gardens 22.42 Doc: It's In Our Genes 00.20 Mag: Japan Video Topics 01.11 Doc: Japon 2019 01.18 Doc: Amazing Gardens 01.44 Doc: It's In Our Genes 02.27 Doc: Horizon	00.44 Tele: Peau Sauvage 01.32 Film: Underworld Awakening 02.56 Film: Bernie The Dolphin 04.24 Serial: The Bletchley Circle 05.09 Telenov: Destiny 06.00 Serial: The Magicians 06.45 Film: Beethoven 08.30 Serial: Seal Team 09.11 Film: Sherlock 10.41 Film: Hailey Dean Mysteries 12.17 Serial: The Bletchley Circle 13.04 Tele: L'esclave Blanche 13.47 Tele: La Premiere Dame 15.05 Film: Bernie The Dolphin 17.00 Serial: The Magicians 17.45 Film: Twister 19.36 Hollywood On Set 20.05 Tele: Totalment Diva 20.30 Serial: Midnight, Texas 21.15 Film: Anaconda 3 22.50 Tele: Eva Luna	04.05 Ek Deewana Tha 04.26 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 05.10 Kaleerein 05.32 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 05.51 Chhanchhan 06.19 Ishqbazz 06.37 Kumkum Bhagya 07.03 Piya Albela 07.25 Mere Angne Mein 08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek 09.52 Motu Patlu 10.00 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai 12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 14.00 Kaleerein 16.00 Pavitra Rishta 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Hera Pheri Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal, Suniel Shetty, Tabu 20.50 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 21.29 Naagin 22.14 Zindagi Ki Mehek
dimanche 29 mars	06.00 Dessin Anime 10.00 Au Pays Des Merveilles 10.30 Local: Voyage Au Femini 12.30 Local: Sekirite Lor Sime 12.45 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 13.00 Local Prod: Elle - No 105 14.00 Local Prod: Fam Model 14.35 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies 15.00 D.Anime: Petit Creux 15.17 D.Anime: Little People 15.31 D.Anime: Yakari 15.43 D.Anime: Croque Nuage 15.51 D.Anime: Gadget And The... 17.20 Mag: Zoboomafoo 17.50 Mag: Learning English 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local Prod: Baar Baar Dekho 19.30 Journal / La Meteo 20.25 Local: Faya Vibes 21.20 Film: Brush With Danger 23.00 Local: Le Journal	04.30 Aastha TV 07.00 Film: Paapi 10.00 Local: Shree Durga... 11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai 12.00 Film: Fannee Khan Stars: Anil Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Rajkumar Rao 15.00 Samachar 15.20 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 15.40 Serial: Eka Lagnachi Teesri 16.06 Apoorva Raagangal 16.28 Local: Yaadein 16.54 Serial: Mahakali 18.00 Lettre Pastorale Careme 18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Serial: Maharakshak 20.42 Serial: Naagin 21.28 Serial: CID 22.15 Serial: Piya Rangrez	07.00 Doc: Olivia's Garden 07.54 Doc: L'evolution En Marche 09.44 Doc: Amazing Gardens 11.54 Doc: Olivia's Garden 12.20 Mag: Mixeur, Les Gouts... 13.45 Doc: World Stamps 18.45 Mag: Shift 19.00 Doc: Builders Of The Future 19.31 Mixeur, Les Gouts Et Les... 19.56 Doc: Set One 20.56 Doc: World Stamps 21.00 Live: News 21.25 Local Prod: Tour De Piste 22.32 Doc: Where People Read 23.17 Doc: The Volcano That... 23.59 Doc: Grand Gibier Sur Les... 00.54 Mag: Mixeur, Les Gouts... 01.20 Doc: Japon 2019 01.24 Doc: Gutenberg 02.16 Doc: World Stamps 02.19 Local: Tour De Piste	00.22 Tele: Peau Sauvage 01.36 Film: Anaconda 3 03.11 Serial: Hawaii 5-0 03.53 Film: Twister 05.08 Tele: Destiny 06.26 Serial: Midnight, Texas 07.08 Film: My Mother's Murder 08.33 Serial: Seal Team 09.12 Bienvenue Dans La Jungle 10.55 Film: Twister 12.43 Serial: Hawaii 5-0 13.25 Tele: L'esclave Blanche 13.10 Tele: La Premiere Dame 15.05 Film: All The King's Men 17.08 Serial: Midnight, Texas 17.50 Serial: Hawaii 5-0 18.24 Film: Une Illusion D'amour 20.05 Tele: Totalment Diva 20.30 Serial: Counterpart 21.20 Film: L'intouchable Drew... 22.55 Film: My Mother's Murder	04.06 Pavitra Rishta 05.33 Film: Hera Pheri 08.12 Chhanchhan 10.00 Itna Karo Na Mujhe Pyaar 11.50 Ishqbazz 13.30 Ek Deewana Tha 15.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.00 Punar Vivaah 18.30 Film: Shaadi Ke Side Effects Farhan Akhtar, Vidya Balan, Vir Das 21.29 Bade Acche Lagte Hai



Samedi -
28 mars - 17.45

Avec: Helen Hunt, Bill Paxton, Cary Elwes

Twister

Bill et Jo Harding, deux chasseurs de tempête sur le point de divorcer, doivent s'unir pour créer un système d'alerte météorologique avancé en se mettant dans le tassement de tornades extrêmement violentes.



Samedi 28 mars - 18.30

Hera Pheri



Dimanche 29 mars- 18.30

Shaadi Ke Side Effects

Stars: Farhan Akhtar, Vidya Balan, Vir Das

A complicated relationship develops between a man and woman after getting married and having a baby.



Total Confinement



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

May we remind the authorities that total confinement in China implied that no one was allowed to venture out of their homes after a few days

of authorizing citizens to go out and do their shopping during restricted hours with masks and gloves? Henceforth, the shopping list was ordered and payment was made online, and items were delivered by young volunteers of the Communist Party at citizens' doorsteps. Confinement in 60 to 70 square metres is no doubt an ordeal with short-term pain - but was necessary. After nearly three months, a few dozen cases are still being recorded in Beijing and Shanghai.

Most countries are not equipped with an army of Communist volunteers to effectively carry out the authorities' national policy. But still, there are other ways to put in place an effective organization in times of national crisis. Neither is online shopping with supermarkets located at 100 metres away from homes a common practice.

On Thursday, news of infected cases caught citizens by surprise in Mauritius, and not everyone has gloves and masks to protect themselves in public places. Strict measures forbidding relatives to go to the airport, and the latest decision to take deceased patients directly to the crematory or cemetery are indeed necessary.

Press conferences held by the government aim to sensitize the public on the serious threat to public health caused by the deadly virus. The next step to put off irresponsible elements not abiding by the regulations is to tell the whole truth to the public: how 'stable' conditions deteriorate after nine days to a point of no return; how the unlucky ones are killed by the virus; how it multiplies by millions in the body, launches a deadly attack on the lungs and stifles a patient till the heart gives in. The trajectory of millions of viruses feasting on the human body till they stop the pulse from beating can be best illustrated with a drawing of the anatomy and shown during prime time news on television.

Negative tests which might turn out to be positive after a second testing is an important piece of information as well.

Analyst and original thinker Nassim Nicholas Taleb opines that it is better to panic than not to panic just in case you might be right in panicking in a given situation one day.

* * *

Struggle for survival

The deplorable incident in the Czech Republic, where more than 400,000 items of medical equipment in a planeload of 800,000 from China heading to Italy went missing and were said to have been diverted and sold away by unscrupulous individuals, is indicative of worse possible scenarios imagined in extreme cases when the very essence of humanity is put to test. Not an ounce of empathy for Italian citizens who are dying at an incredibly fast pace every day. Italy is among the core members of the European Union which give away a high percentage of their national budget to the construction of the Union, by empowering new members and building modern infrastructure in the new member states from among the former Soviet Bloc of Eastern Europe, of which the Czech Republic is a beneficiary.

Some time back, whereas other European countries refused, Italy allowed a plane from China to land on its territory. Paying a deadly price for misplaced indulgence?

It shows how individualist selfish interests overweigh all other considerations of moral principles in times of great anxiety and fear for the life of the population of a country. Why, it is even envisaged that an end-of-the world scenario might result in cannibalism, people eating people. In the light of the terrible scenario, raiding supermarkets and overstocking foodstuffs in one's home might sound only irresponsible for the time being.

Objectification of animals

How men view themselves in relation to nature around and other beings largely

"Total confinement in China implied that no one was allowed to venture out of their homes after a few days of authorizing citizens to go out and do their shopping during restricted hours with masks and gloves? Henceforth, the shopping list was ordered and payment was made online, and items were delivered by young volunteers of the Communist Party at citizens' doorsteps.

Confinement in 60 to 70 square metres is no doubt an ordeal with short-term pain - but was necessary. After nearly three months, a few dozen cases are still being recorded in Beijing and Shanghai. Most countries are not equipped with an army of Communist volunteers to effectively carry out the authorities' national policy. But still, there are other ways to put in place an effective organization in times of national crisis..."

depended on several factors, climate and cultural conditions. The West and the Middle East inherited a tradition influenced by scriptures that place men at the top of the pyramid of beings, women lagging far behind, and animals at the lowest rung of the ladder which men can domesticate, dominate and use at their will. Hence the idea of superiority of men over all beings.

In ancient traditions in Africa, India and native tribes in the American continent, men are part of Nature, part of nature's chain of beings. Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore wrote that in the chain of beings, men are superior only in their capacity for compassion for other beings.

While domestication cuts across countries and cultures since times immemorial, the use of animals for consumption varies according to cultures. By now, the methods applied in the industrial production of meat for mass consumption are well documented - how pigs and geese are force-fed with water blended with other stuffs, in what conditions cows are made to produce milk, cattle are slaughtered and all parts of their body are cut out for sale, and sheep selected to be killed for tender lamb meat, and small live chickens crushed by machines and thrown in garbage. Animal food to herbivorous animals for greater profits led to the 'mad cow disease' in Britain.

The treatment of animals like objects knows no bounds. Wild animals are also imported and consumed to fight against sexual impotence in a few far eastern Asian countries. The pangolin, a sweet-looking prehistoric animal is considered as sacred in some African countries, and is mercilessly butchered in other parts of Africa for local consumption, and for a high percentage of export to China and Vietnam where it is widely used to cure impotence. It happens to be put on sale with meat of other wild animals like the civet in open air markets in Hubei province, and it is presumed this practice may have led to the emergence of the virus.

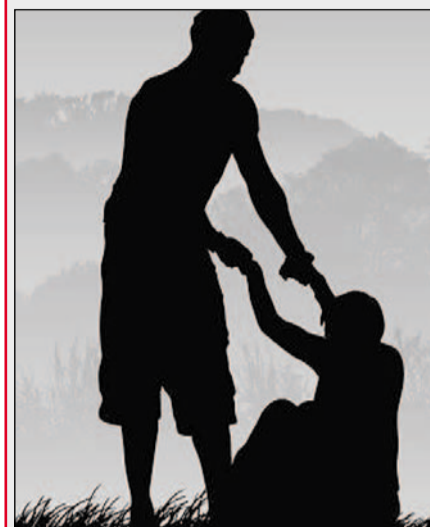
Men still belong to the animal kingdom. Is it the message sent by the merciless attack launched by the genes of wild animals?



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Relying on Others



A deep feeling of gratitude can emerge, as we open to the experience of being helped.

Most of us pride ourselves on our self-sufficiency. We like to be responsible for taking care of ourselves and pulling our own weight in the world. This is why it can be so challenging when we find ourselves in a situation in which we have to rely on someone else. This can happen as the result of an illness or an injury, or even in the case of a positive change, such as the arrival of a newborn. At times like these, it is essential that we let go of our feeling that we should be able to do it all by ourselves and accept the help of others.

The first step is accepting the situation fully as it is. Too often we make things worse either by trying to do more than we should or by lapsing into feelings of uselessness. In both cases we run the risk of actually prolonging our dependency. In addition, we miss a valuable opportunity to practice acceptance and humility. The ego resists what is, so when we move into acceptance we move into the deeper realm of the soul. In needing others and allowing them to help us, we experience the full realization that we are not on our own in the world. While this may bring up feelings of vulnerability, a deep feeling of gratitude may also emerge as we open to the experience of being helped. This realization can enable us to be wiser in our service of others when we are called upon to help.

It takes wisdom and strength to surrender to our own helplessness and to accept that we, just like every other human being, have limitations. The gifts of surrender are numerous. We discover humility, gratitude, and a deepening understanding of the human experience that enables us to be that much more compassionate and surrendered in the world.