

MAURITIUS TIMES

"Life imposes things on you that you can't control, but you still have the choice of how you're going to live through this." -- Celine Dion

Paradigme économique



Améliorer la capacité fiscale du pays

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Par Aditya Narayan * Voir page 3

Opinion

No, the end is not for any time soon



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By Paramanund Soobarah * See page 5

In Confinement



Are we in the phase of "reculer pour mieux sauter"? Maybe

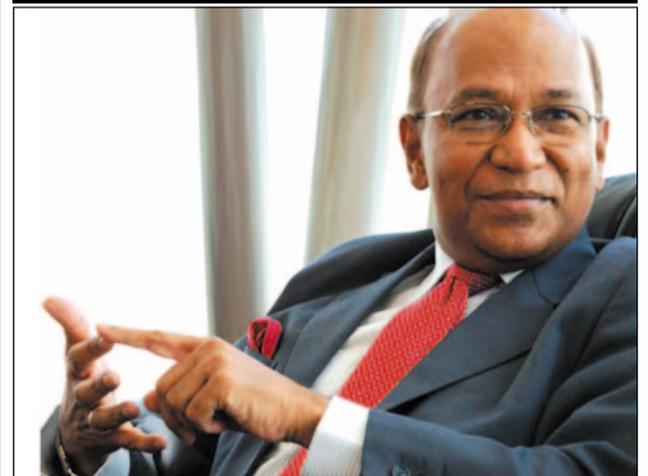
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"We need to have an oversight of how our money is going to be used..."

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'Putting food on the table': Agriculture on a war footing

During their interventions on the Covid-19 pandemic, several world leaders have said that we are 'at war' against an invisible enemy. The draconian measures that have had to be taken indeed reflect those that a war situation imposes. The pandemic has generated a parallel and as severe a crisis: that of food availability and access in this period of practically worldwide confinement.

It is undeniable that the single most important concern of people has been 'to put food on the table' – to use an expression heard over and over again in the richest country in the world, which is also the hardest hit: America. There can be no more poignant example of dramatic urgency of feeding self and family than that of an American lady, a banker, standing in front of her Cadillac among 10,000 such cars awaiting at a food bank. Divorced, her ex-husband unable to give her alimony because he had lost his job, and with two children to feed, she confessed that she had no shame in lining up to collect food packets.

The situation may not be as dire in Mauritius, but there are reasons why we will have to put agro-industry on a war footing: Covid-19 is going to be a long haul; jobs are going to be lost and unemployment is likely to go up; therefore thousands of people will not have enough money to buy enough food, with a risk of malnourishment which will itself impact the economy, as an unhealthy population always does; the majority of people will not be able to pay for long the exorbitant prices being charged now, that are adding up to nearly Rs 1000 per week – and there are other household expenses too.

In his article in this paper on April 14, Prof Sada Reddi discusses the problem of food crisis during World War II and how the colonial government had to set up a Food Control Board, and legislation passed making it mandatory for large land holders and the sugar industry to produce food crops instead of only sugar. As he notes, 'the failure to make the island self-sufficient in food was due to the dominance of King Sugar. The failure to provide adequate food supplies to the population intensified social conflicts, and these were to force the colonial government to address the issue of the health of

the population and put political reforms on the agenda'.

We surely do not want social conflicts and an impoverished, malnourished and therefore unhealthy population – who will inevitably be less productive – to complicate the already overwhelming Covid-19 crisis. Both the government and the people will have to do some hard rethink about priorities, and take a long-term rather than a short-term view. This is where the war footing paradigm comes in, for if we take things lightly the boat is going to sink all of us.

Government will have to activate and upgrade the Ministry of Agro-industry's Strategic Plan (2016-2020) which contains practically all the elements needed to ramp up that sector. Additionally, it has to revisit the allocation of 2000 acres that the earlier government had negotiated with the sugar industry, because there has been cronyism to players with no notion of agro-industry, resulting in large plots lying fallow despite visits and on site counselling by officers of the Ministry. Another rapidly doable thing is to do a cadastral survey of abandoned sugarcane lands and put them to use in food production. Yet another scheme is to enable small planters to grow interline crops, e.g. potatoes, in sugarcane fields at affordable prices. It is government that must negotiate and bring in legislation if need be.

As for householders, if they want to reduce the share of income going to food, there are any number of ideas and schemes that they can implement with help from e.g. FAREU for producing at least some of their own food. And this can be done on even small plots, with innovations such as household container techniques, vertical gardening, rooftop gardening etc. In fact, if we are realistic enough to grasp the extreme seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic and its coming sweeping impact on the country and across the world - which will equally seriously affect the country too as regards supplies - then we should not be waiting for the crisis to end to get going. Because nobody knows when this will happen. So both government and people - better start moving without any further ado.

Cars, even Cadillacs, cannot be eaten.

When should we lift the lockdown?

Ending pandemic restrictions too early could cause a second wave

The world is watching closely following the lifting of the public lockdown in the city of Wuhan, where the coronavirus pandemic started.

The lifting of the lockdown followed a gradual easing of the restrictions by allowing residents to leave their residences on a limited basis. But importantly, this was combined with a massive screening programme to test people at high risk from the disease or anyone who had been in close contact with infected patients. This enabled authorities to contain the infection and reduce the number of cases by 90%.

Similarly, lifting the lockdown in other countries will depend on their ability to contain the virus and protect the public once restrictions have gone. To assess this and decide when to end the lockdown, we need to answer three questions.

1. Have we suppressed the spread of the virus enough so that it won't produce a second surging wave in the future?

Answering yes to this is the most pressing item. It requires us to be sure that we have passed the peak of the disease, that infections are declining and that we haven't just temporarily suppressed the spread.

In mathematical modelling terms, this requires the average number of people to which every infected person spreads the virus (known as the basic reproduction number or R_0) to fall to and remain less than 1. The estimated value of R_0 for Covid-19 spreading through the population without restrictions is between 2 and 3. Bringing this number below 1 will lead to fewer people catching the disease than recovering from it, so the number of new infections will decline and the epidemic will die out.

This is where the lockdown and social distancing come in. Modelling studies suggest that travel restrictions in Wuhan brought R_0 down from 2.35 to 1.05 in two weeks. For the UK, an initial analysis suggests that R_0 has dropped by 73% since the lockdown began.

But another recent paper modelled the spread of the virus in China outside of Hubei province where Wuhan is located. It showed that relaxing the lockdown too early would mean R_0 would exceed 1 after restrictions are lifted and lead to a second wave of infections.

There are indications that some countries may be reaching the peak of the virus, but realistically it will be a while before we can be certain this is not just a temporary suppression. This is because there may be possible delays in the reported number of infections and deaths.

Importantly, by stopping the spread of the virus with current social distancing measures, we aren't just preventing people from dying. We are also buying time for



Ending lockdown too early could be disastrous.
Photo: Will Oliver/EPA

scientists to learn more about the disease and its pattern of spread, and to work on producing an effective vaccine.

2. Can we identify all infections and prevent new infections emerging?

To do this, we need to make sure everyone who has the disease is in isolation. Then we need a way to trace everyone they have recently come into contact with to see if they too need to be isolated.

But we also need to know whether people can carry the virus without showing any symptoms of the disease. Recent studies have suggested that this may be the case. But to be sure we need to urgently undertake large-scale antibody testing of the population.

3. What would happen if a second wave occurred once restrictions were lifted.

The only way to be sure the public would be fully protected is with effective antiviral drugs or a vaccine against the virus. Although progress has been made in this direction, an effective vaccine appears many months away.

If we want to lift the lockdown before then, we must make sure we have a strategy that will minimise the risk of a secondary pandemic wave that could cause more deaths. Second waves occurred in all four respiratory pandemics of the past century, in some cases killing more than the initial waves.

One way to do this would be to follow Wuhan's example of continuing some social distancing measures and protecting the most vulnerable after the strictest elements of the lockdown have been lifted. At the same time, we need to continue monitoring and modelling the disease to ensure we catch any second wave at its onset and act quickly to prevent its spread.

But before we get to this point, we still need to be sure we have passed the peak of the disease's spread and introduce a mass testing and contact-tracing programme.

Jasmina Panovska-Griffiths, Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer in Mathematical Modelling, UCL

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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

Paradigme économique

Améliorer la capacité fiscale du pays

Une réforme fiscale profonde est plus que jamais nécessaire afin de donner au Gouvernement les moyens de financer l'Etat-Providence et d'effectuer une redistribution des richesses sans encourager l'assistanat

Aditya Narayan

La pandémie du coronavirus a causé d'importants dommages collatéraux avec une contraction du Produit Intérieur Brut (PIB) estimée à 6,8% en 2020, selon le FMI. Dans la perspective d'une récession inévitable, la question est de savoir si le pays a la capacité financière de relancer l'économie une fois le confinement terminé. Il va de soi que tout le paradigme économique est à revoir de fond en comble si l'on veut que cette crise soit une opportunité de réforme fondamentale pour une meilleure société.

Le pays ne peut pas mobiliser les ressources financières nécessaires à la relance économique sans s'endetter davantage. Vu les limites de la politique monétaire (on ne peut pas baisser le taux d'intérêt directeur à 0,25% comme aux Etats-Unis et au Canada), le gouvernement devrait songer sérieusement à accroître sa capacité fiscale avec une réforme profonde de la fiscalité.

On mesure la capacité fiscale d'un pays par le ratio revenus fiscaux/PIB. En général, les revenus fiscaux comprennent l'impôt sur le revenu des particuliers, l'impôt sur les sociétés, la Taxe sur la Valeur Ajoutée (TVA), les cotisations à la Sécurité sociale, la taxe immobilière, la taxe sur la masse salariale (*payroll tax*) et d'autres taxes sur les produits et services. Selon les statistiques de l'OCDE, les revenus fiscaux en proportion du PIB varient de 16% à 46% pour tous les pays. La moyenne du ratio était de 34,26% en 2018 pour les pays membres de l'OCDE. Les pays scandinaves, avec un Etat-Providence généreux, ont un ratio en moyenne de 40%.

En revanche, Maurice avait un ratio de 19,8% en 2017, selon l'OCDE. Depuis, le ratio ne s'est pas amélioré parce que les impôts et autres taxes n'ont pas augmenté à Maurice. Le constat est révélateur: le ratio de Maurice est la moitié de celui des pays scandinaves (40%) et largement en dessous de la moyenne des pays de l'OCDE (34,26%).

Comment en est-on arrivé là? L'explication se trouve dans la fiscalité légère adoptée par les gouvernements successifs depuis 2005. L'impôt sur le revenu des particuliers et celui sur les sociétés furent réduits de 30% à 15% lors d'un changement radical qui a remplacé l'impôt progressif par l'impôt proportionnel.

La logique à l'époque était fondée sur l'hypothèse qu'une baisse d'impôts substantielle attire les investissements, encourage l'initiative privée, récompense l'effort personnel et donne un coup de pouce à la croissance. Cette hypothèse ne s'est pas vérifiée à Maurice et ailleurs.

Les économistes de tous bords débattent toujours du taux d'impôt optimal qui puisse assurer la croissance tout en gardant les caisses de l'Etat en équilibre. En tout cas, les pays riches s'en sortent bien avec un ratio revenus fiscaux/PIB beaucoup plus fort que celui de Maurice.

Pour emprunter une formule chère aux économistes, les évidences empiriques (*empirical evidence*) ne soutiennent pas la

théorie qu'une fiscalité légère apporte nécessairement une croissance plus élevée. La corrélation inverse entre taux d'impôt et taux de croissance n'est pas établie de façon irréfutable. S'il y a une chose que les faits empiriques prouvent, c'est que la fiscalité légère a exacerbé les inégalités de revenu et de richesse dans la société, a amputé considérablement la capacité fiscale de l'Etat et a diminué les moyens du Gouvernement de financer ses programmes sociaux sans l'endettement national.

Réforme fiscale

Que faire? Une réforme fiscale profonde est plus que jamais nécessaire afin de donner au Gouvernement les moyens de financer l'Etat-Providence, dont l'importance en temps de crise est indéniable, et d'effectuer une redistribution des richesses sans encourager l'assistanat dans la société ni pénaliser l'effort et la productivité des entrepreneurs.

Les axes de cette réforme sont les suivants :

1. L'impôt sur le revenu des particuliers

Il faudrait rétablir l'impôt progressif avec un taux de base de 15% et des taux d'imposition marginale de 22% et de 30%. Ce barème existe dans des pays à haut revenu. Par exemple, un revenu annuel de Rs 1 million serait imposable à 15% sur la tranche de Rs 200,000-Rs 500,000 (avec une exemption personnelle de Rs 200,000 pour les dépenses personnelles), à 22% sur la tranche Rs 500,000-Rs700,000, et à 30% sur la tranche Rs 700,000-Rs 1 million. Un contribuable ayant un revenu de Rs 1 million paierait un taux d'imposition en moyenne de 18% (voir calcul dans le tableau ci-après).

Income Rs	Tax rate %	Tax Rs
up to 200,000	0	
200,000 to 500,000	15	45,000
500,000 to 700,000	22	44,000
700 000 to 1,000,000	30	90,000
1,000,000		179,000
Average rate	18%	

2. L'impôt sur les sociétés

Le taux d'imposition sur les sociétés devrait rester à 15%. Toutefois, le taux d'imposition de 3% accordé aux sociétés d'exportation devrait être étendu aux nouvelles sociétés locales (*start-ups*) qui investissent dans la production alimentaire et les énergies renouvelables dans le cadre de la substitution d'importations.

3. La TVA

La TVA étant une taxe régressive sur la consommation qui pénalise les pauvres, il faudrait introduire un crédit de taxe (un remboursement de la taxe

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payée) à l'intention des ménages ayant un revenu mensuel de Rs 10,000 au maximum. Ce crédit existe dans les pays qui ont la TVA. Le paiement du crédit requiert au préalable l'inscription au fisc des contribuables, qui seraient appelés à remplir une déclaration annuelle de revenu simplifiée.

4. La taxe immobilière

Il faudrait introduire une taxe immobilière nationale qui prélèverait des fonds pour les collectivités locales en vue de financer leurs services. Cela économiserait au Gouvernement central quelque Rs 300 millions qu'il verse aux municipalités chaque année.

5. La taxe sur les plus-values

Il faudrait réintroduire la taxe sur les plus-values (*capital gains tax*) qui fut abolie en 2011. L'absence d'une telle taxe favorise la spéculation foncière et l'enrichissement de propriétaires de biens fonciers. Cette taxe serait imposée sur 50% ou 75% des gains en capital réalisés sur la vente d'une propriété foncière. Cette formule marche très bien dans les pays développés. Ainsi, si une propriété avec un coût d'achat de Rs 500,000 se revend à Rs 1 million, 50% ou 75% des gains de Rs 500,000 seraient imposés au taux d'imposition marginale sur le revenu qui serait applicable.

6. La taxe sur les dividendes

Il faudrait introduire une taxe sur les dividendes en conformité avec le principe de la fiscalité moderne qui veut que toutes les sources de revenu soient imposables (source principle of taxation). Cette taxe serait imposée aux taux d'imposition marginale sur le revenu. Il est temps que les actionnaires fassent leur contribution au fisc comme les contribuables salariés.

Faute de place, nous avons esquissé uniquement les grandes lignes d'une réforme fiscale. Nous y reviendrons en détail dans l'avenir.



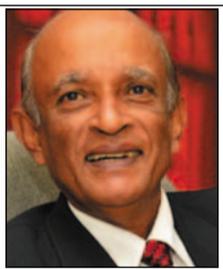
Photo - fee.org/media

Dans un premier temps, comme d'autres pays, Maurice a déployé les moyens conventionnels pour mitiger l'impact économique de la pandémie.

- Sur le plan monétaire, le taux d'intérêt directeur de la Banque centrale a été réduit à 1,85% pour rendre le crédit moins cher.
- Sur le plan fiscal, le Gouvernement a augmenté le déficit du budget courant pour accorder des subventions et des aides aux employés et aux entreprises. La proposition d'achat d'obligations de l'Etat par la Banque centrale en vue d'injecter de l'argent dans l'économie (*quantitative easing*) n'est pas une solution convenable dans le contexte local. Le Gouvernement a eu donc recours à un emprunt auprès du FMI pour avoir plus de ressources financières.

Ratio revenus fiscaux/PIB

Il est évident que la marge de manoeuvre du Gouvernement est limitée. Contrairement aux pays à haut revenu, Maurice est entrée en crise dans une position de faiblesse. Avec un ratio dette/PIB de 70% et une faible capacité fiscale, le



S. Callikan

A Plea for Collective Ownership

In these particularly difficult times, there may be wisdom therefore in widening the input and harnessing goodwill beyond the traditional political barriers



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As the health and sanitary carnage of the Covid-19 pandemic is slowly contained and starts being rolled back worldwide, most countries will be facing the tough calls on how and when de-confinement should take place. Striking the right balance between saving lives and livelihoods is not going to be easy for governments, with perhaps the notable exception of China and a few other autocratic regimes. All will be trapped in the triangular vortex between the con-

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Start-ups, SMEs, planters and livestock breeders, fishermen groupings may need rapid oxygen for our food sufficiency. There are those (like banks or insurance majors) that rarely need help even in these dire times. Others in the offshore, financial or IT sectors have survived or done well through the crisis...”

flicting desires of locked-down corporate economic operators, the SMES or the self-employed, the necessity to restore some buoyancy to battered macro-economic fundamentals or public finance and the need to keep a vigilant eye on possible resurgence of the coronavirus and protect the safety of their population as a whole.

If we, like most democracies, steer clear of Trumpian discord and political weaponisation as an exportable model for handling either the pandemic or the complex economic de-confinement issues, there would be benefit in engaging wider swathes of the population. In the common national battle on both the health and economic fronts, advice and contribution from all parties including parliamentary and non-parliamentary opposition voices, trade-unions, NGOs, media and other stakeholders can only build that needed sense of greater solidarity.

It would obviously promote social ownership of a slow rebuilding process that ultimately will be funded from our collective pockets, through more borrowing and debts, through currency depreciation, through income and company taxes, through excise duties, road and other taxes and through huge taxes on fossil fuel. And if such is the case, the Minister of Finance may forgive our crudely stated understanding that everyone has therefore an interest in the economy: in **how** it func-

tions, how **well** it functions, and in **whose interests** it functions. That is said without berating the advanced technical or theoretical constructs, the sophistication of econometrics or the so-called laws that laymen are often assumed to be in no position to grasp and which, occasionally, confound the best economic brains.

We are somewhere relieved when people who have to make important economic decisions over billions in revenues and expenses, or give important economic advice, are formally trained in economics or accounting but it is not a mysterious or politically coveted realm over which only those knowledgeable few in government circles have their say. Debates over economic issues are not technical debates, where technical expertise alone settles the day, as past Ministers may agree. They are deeply *political issues*, in the broad sense of that word: distinct groups of people have distinct interests, they know their interests, and they naturally work to promote them.

A Covid-19 hardship assistance scheme that, for instance, provides emolument relief up to Rs 25,000 per employee to the structured, formal private sector employers while dishing out a token Rs Rs 2,550 to the 40% or more in the informal and self-employed sector can be said to be a political rather than an economic decision. The continued inability to provide emergency humanitarian funds to, say,

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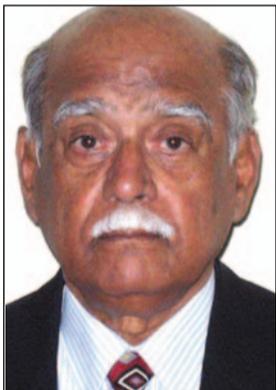
three selected embassies around the world for some 1000 of our stranded and desperate countrymen, even to a sum total of barely twenty million rupees, is equally a political decision which many have failed to sympathize with. Accepting the inevitability, given our parlous public finances and the depleted reserves at the Bank of Mauritius, of an 8-10% currency depreciation, will hit some population segments more than others and is therefore a political decision.

We trust, as UK MPs have put it, *“the British taxpayer is not made to bail out the Richard Bransons”*. More need not be said about this but obviously there are companies out there that do need help in the relaunch phase of the national economy for a variety of reasons. Start-ups, SMEs, planters and livestock breeders, fishermen groupings may need rapid oxygen for our food sufficiency. There are those (like banks or insurance majors) that rarely need help even in these dire times. Others in the offshore, financial or IT sectors have survived or done well through the crisis.

There are those where help in other forms (softer or restructured loans, utility bills, temporary waiver of payroll based contributions, extended export facilities, etc) may provide a more effective mix. And there are also those that have made enough profits or paid out enough dividends in the recent few years and may not consequently require the same level of taxpayer assistance or bailout. Although there are no representatives of SMEs, Opposition parties or wider society on the Covid-19 National Solidarity Fund, government owes the country a duty of transparency and accountability on a regular basis.

These are mere examples that have a strong bearing on what type of society we want to live in, what interactions, relationships and solidarity we want to nurture, what sense of pride we wish to have in ourselves as Mauritians and what legacy we want to leave to future generations. In these particularly difficult times, there may be wisdom therefore in widening the input and harnessing goodwill beyond the traditional political barriers, particularly when such offers have been on the table for some time.

No, the end is not for any time soon



Paramanund Soobarah

“ *The system put in place for keeping the nation informed of the current situation, namely the daily press briefings of Communications Committee of the Prime Minister's Office, has done excellent work. Some can point to issues like the omission of facilities like cooked food home delivery systems, with the appropriate safeguards, right from the beginning. But compared to the main issue, the protection of the health of the nation in a critical life-and-death situation, these are minor issues...* ”

The title of this article comes from Manou Bheenick's interview in the last issue of *Mauritius Times*. He was commenting on the possible end to the current sanitary and economic crises stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic. What he said is the most potent truth about the current pandemic. To that I will add: Life will not be the same again - no, not for a long time.

I don't know much about life in Mauritius, because for many years now I live practically in seclusion all the time. But I can recall the Underground in London during the rush hours, where people were packed tighter than sardines in a can: that will have to stop. I don't know how it goes with our Metro Express, but I doubt that it can be as bad as the London Underground. I also recall nightclubs in Montreal which were so packed that dancing couples necessarily had rub their bottoms against those of other couples.

We have all seen pictures of very large congregations similarly packed in several parts of the world, and of large crowds at political meetings vociferously approving what is being harangued. In our own country, I hear of private tuition "classes" where children are similarly tightly packed in garages. I hope the ministries concerned will clamp down on them. I also think the concepts of work from home and online schooling will stay in some measure. Schools will slowly become places of sports and games and theatricals; actual teaching and learning will be done online.

Some developments will be welcome, but others not so. There is no limit to human ingenuity in finding solutions to what is not welcome - but the point is, life is not likely to be same again for a long time.

In Mauritius we are all very fortunate that our government has stepped in at the right time and take the appropriate steps to stop, or at least restrain, the spread of the

virus. The credit for the lockdown must first and foremost go to the person constitutionally empowered to take such a momentous decision, namely Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth. Of course he was guided in this matter by the Minister of Health and his immediate technical advisers, namely the Director-General of Public Health Services and the several Directors who head the various branches. We all remember one of them, namely Dr Vasantrya Gujadhur, whose warnings and exhortations in the early days of the lockdown went a long way to apprise all of us of the seriousness of this menace.

The system put in place for keeping the nation informed of the current situation, namely the daily press briefings of Communications Committee of the Prime Minister's Office, has also done excellent work. Some can point to issues like the omission of facilities like cooked food home delivery systems, with the appropriate safeguards, right from the beginning. But compared to the main issue, the protection of the health of the nation in a critical life-and-death situation, these are minor issues. Hats off to the Prime Minister, his Minister of Health, the Cabinet and all officials involved in taking and implementing the decision. Judgements on past government actions like the Nine Year Schooling and the awful level crossings of the Metro Express must be set against the vitally more important decision of saving us from the Covid-19 pandemic, unlike what has happened in the UK and US.

Amidst all this, I came across an article from Dr N Gopee in a recent edition of *Mauritius Times* that dealt with the management of the Covid-19 threat by the authorities. I am a frequent reader of Dr Gopee's articles in MT because I find them interesting, instructive and well written, but his 'Open Letter to the Minister of Health' seemed to me too critical of the Government and of the Health minister.

Basically, Dr Gopee is pointing to the callousness or carelessness, or perhaps even of some simple oversight,

of some administrative personnel in the Health Services. This has always been the case in these services - it is not something new. While it is not the rule, the exceptions are not infrequent. I can personally recall a case way back in the sixties involving my wife who had just undergone a surgical intervention and was recovering from anaesthesia. More recently, on one occasion the results of my annual blood test were not presented to the doctor examining me during my six-monthly medical examination at the Cardiac Centre, so that I went for two years on the same medication. The following year the same thing happened: I kicked up a row and the results were finally produced for the doctor to see. However, I think that the medical and nursing staff in our country largely meet all the standards of care and sympathy required of them. The same cannot be said of other Health ministry employees like manual workers. I doubt if any Minister can change their behaviour in a few months.

I am not referring just to manual workers in hospitals. The admin people who sit in Ministries are no different. Look at the way they plan the accommodation and processing of outpatients in our hospitals. They do not have the least notion of statistics and rates of growth. The facilities they provide at any point in time are barely enough to cope with the overcrowding that had already taken place two years earlier. If we are to avoid Covid-19 infections in future, they had better smarten up. I am a regular patient at the Candos Cardiac Unit. I begin to worry about my safety once this lockdown is over - for the virus will be around for years until is finally killed off like polio. Let us hope that a vaccine will be available to protect us against it before that comes about, if ever.

About the Minister's reply to Dr Arvin Boolell, I can find nothing wrong with it. It was based on information available and practices being followed around the world at the time. Nor do I have anything about Dr Boolell - actually I look forward to his promotion as the Leader of the Labour Party.

Coronavirus: US faced with protests amid pressure to reopen



A protester in Indiana on 18 April, 2020.
Photo - Getty Images

Rallies in Arizona, Colorado, Montana and Washington state took place on Sunday, following earlier protests in half a dozen states. Agitation for easing restrictions has grown, despite the risk of a Covid-19 resurgence posed by reopening too soon. US President Donald Trump has signalled support for the protests.

The US has become the centre of the Covid-19 crisis, with over 735,000 cases and some 40,000 deaths - but signs have emerged that it is reaching the apex of the outbreak and that infection rates are slowing in some states.

In Washington state, an early US virus hotspot, hundreds of people - many of them ignoring social distancing guidelines

- gathered in the state capital to demand the governor relax rules restricting the economy.

Governors in several states have begun discussions to plan reopening amid signs of the slowdown, but other regions remain under strict lockdown.

California Governor Gavin Newsom was the first in the nation to issue a state-wide stay home order, shuttering the country's most populous state since 19 March. Neighbouring west coast states Washington and Oregon followed suit days later, putting their combined 11.5 million residents under a stay at home order since 23 March.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced this week that the state would

extend its stay home measures until 15 May. Speaking at his daily virus briefing on Sunday, Mr Cuomo urged caution to residents, beset with "cabin fever" and desperate for their state to reopen.

"We still have to make sure we keep that beast under control," Mr Cuomo said. "As we all get very eager to get on with life and move on."

"This is only halftime in this entire situation."

Mr Trump, a Republican, appeared to endorse protests against strict lockdown measures, which are needed to curb the spread of the virus; he said on Friday that orders in place in Minnesota, Michigan and Virginia were "too tough".

Washington Governor Jay Inslee called the president's support of the protesters "dangerous", tantamount to encouraging "insubordination" to state laws.

"To have an American president to encourage people to violate the law, I can't remember any time in my time in America we have seen such a thing," he said on ABC news on Sunday.

UK police must be ready for 'volatile and agitated society' after coronavirus lockdown restrictions lifted, senior officer warns

Police must prepare for "a more volatile and agitated society" after the UK's coronavirus lockdown comes to an end, a senior officer has warned. With the restrictions extended until at least 7 May, there are concerns about the effects of unemployment, mental health issues, abuse inside homes and a general need for "release" on the national morale, reports The Independent. "There's not been much debate at the moment about what the future looks like because we're



ASource - independent.co.uk/

all in the present," said chief superintendent Paul Griffiths. "There are going to be people who are out of work, businesses

that have not been able to sustain themselves and the impact on society will start to come through."

* * *

US oil prices drop to 21-year low as demand dries up

The price of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the benchmark for US oil, dropped 14% to \$15.65 in Asia trading on Monday.

The oil market has come under intense pressure during the coronavirus pandemic with a huge slump in demand, reports BBC.

US storage facilities are now struggling to cope with the glut of oil, weakening prices further.

The oil industry has been struggling with both tumbling demand and in-fighting among producers about reducing output.

Earlier this month, Opec members and its allies finally agreed a record deal to slash global output by about 10%. The deal was the largest cut in oil production ever to have been agreed.

But some analysts said the cuts were not big enough to make a difference.

"It hasn't taken long for the



market to recognise that the Opec+ deal will not, in its present form, be enough to balance oil markets," said Stephen Innes, chief global market strategist at Axicorp.

* * *

End note: If they had publicized Coronavirus caused impotency, not a single man would be on the streets. - Roxanne Davur

India's first paper-strip test for Covid-19, CSIR lab makes a breakthrough

In a major breakthrough, a team of Indian scientists have successfully developed a low-cost, paper-strip test which can detect the new coronavirus within an hour and address India's urgent need for rapid-testing.

The test uses the cutting-edge gene-editing tool- Crispr-Cas9 to target and identify the genomic sequences of the novel coronavirus in the samples of suspected individuals.

"We have been working on this tool for around two years. But, in late January, when the outbreak hit its peak in China, we began testing it to see if it can work for Covid-19. It took us around two months to come up with these results," said Dr Debjyoti Chakraborty, from the Institute of

Genomic and Integrative Biology (IGIB), CSIR's premier laboratory in New Delhi, reports Srishti Choudhary of Livemint.

The kit is similar to a portable paper-strip test used to confirm pregnancy and does not require any different specialized

skill to perform and is relatively less-sophisticated.

"Unlike most rapid tests require dedicated machinery, this can be performed using standard equipments available in every pathological laboratory. This is



important, because if number of infections shoot up drastically, we would need tests which can be done in local facilities. We will have to bring the tests closer to the patients to reduce transmission and this is what it does," said Dr Anurag Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-IGIB.

Unlike the real time PCR test currently being used for diagnosis of Covid-19 in India, costing about Rs 4500, the paper-strip test costs less than Rs 500. It also does not depend on expensive real-time PCR machines for RNA isolation, DNA conversion and amplification, which are already in limited supply.

While scientists in other countries including Stanford University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have been testing this approach, it is the first such indigenous testing kit based on CRISPR technology to be developed in India.

Compiled by
Doojesh Ramlallah



Dr Rajagopal Soondron

In Confinement

Are we in the phase of "reculer pour mieux sauter"? Maybe

Overnight we Mauritians have discovered how a common word like "confinement"

could suddenly assume such a devastating meaning and significance. Literate people are conversant with the term since their schooldays, but never was it thought that it would come to stir our psyche so much for so long.

Unfortunately our less educated compatriots may not have understood what the authorities really wanted to convey when the latter talked about confinement. The Oxford Dictionary defines 'confine' as "to keep or restrict someone or something within certain limits of space, scope, and time", which could imply an external agent curtailing one's freedom. While "to be confined" is to be "unable to leave one's bed or home".

Mentioning bed might stir some of us of the old school who may inevitably think of pregnant women – who, at the term of pregnancy, could be confined to bed and room at home when child delivery was the high point of a woman's life. In those days, it could have been a dangerous procedure – so our women ancestors were asked to rest, remain indoors long before delivery - and for some two weeks after that family event.

Stirring some foreboding feelings, confinement in our students' days meant an unfortunate afternoon arrest, which induced an uneasy sinking feeling in the pit of our stomach as we were forced to stay behind in the eerie atmosphere of an empty school when all our friends had left for home, rendering us all miserable.

Classes or, worst, oral examination forced us to face some sadistic examiner's difficult question; he showed signs of irritation, not appreciating our attempt at mental gymnastics to beat about the bush. So he would ask us to *confine* ourselves to his question. Only our shoes could tell how small we felt in those stressful moments of our student's life, how our toes reflexly extended and flexed themselves into a



"How to tackle this new challenge – and for how long? How long to wear a face mask? Who will have developed immunity? Who will fall prey in the months to come and contribute to a second peak of the pandemic? Will the senior citizens be the final sacrificial goats for the good of society? When will the long-awaited vaccine be available? Maybe in one year, we are told. And the state's finances? How bad will they be? How many people will lose their jobs? Are we heading towards a social crisis, instability and profound inflation?"

musical tempo; our brain struggled feverishly to escape from the trap it found itself in with our face muscles trying as best as they could to initiate some sympathetic smile.

Now and then our legal professionals may talk about confinement as a euphemism to indicate that the miscreants of our society are due to be sent to some physical restrictive places – some prisons or police cells. While to many of us cinephiles, we could conjure some underground hot, humid cells in some desert where our favourite heroes of "Légion d'honneur" fame were confined for a few days or hours during their risky adventures into enemy territory.

And what to say of those heartbroken, tear loaded heroines of bygone days movies who realized that their love affair with an outsider was anathema to the family's honour and social standing – and one good day they consequently found themselves locked up and confined to a room at home.

And finally we realised, with sinking feelings, that confinement also meant 'couvre-feu' and lockdown.

Confinement for four billions

None of us expected that one day we would be witness to such a tragedy as is happening now. Billions of people are confined to their homes, while many thousands are dying -- leaving their home for a last time as they go for treatment in health institutions, with the sadness that they may never see their close ones again and even denied proper religious rituals at the end of their life.

How we live our confinement will depend on each of us -- how young or old we are; how active have we been at home or away from home. Children are having a field day; being away from stressful school life is itself a God-sent manna. Some of us may love gardening - and so can plan our time accordingly; others love God - what better time to remind Him of our fear and worries than by

singing His glory. Still some of us were too busy at work and had neglected some long-standing pastime at home. We had always dreamt of reading some cherished books, but were always too tired. Or why not revisit old movies of the 50s and 60s which had kept us turbulent adolescents dreaming in those days of restricted pastimes. Why not play some games with our children, teach them the fun of chess, draught and domino, or tell them stories as in olden days?

But to many people confinement means a very stressful period of their life because as the sole bread winner of the family, being self-employed be it as a hawker, vegetable seller, or dholl puri vendor, life is extremely hard. And what to say of the drug addicts? Surely they won't like to be confined as withdrawal symptoms set in – and they ultimately become a social problem. During normal times they escaped 'our reality' to seek refuge in their own lazy, mystical virtual world. And today we the 'normal' people are becoming dazed and groggy with confinement at home: our routine everyday intercourse with different social strata – be they in our offices, the people we meet on the roads, our routine work, our ups and downs of life, our colleagues -- are all missed, playing a funny psychological trick on us. Making us to realize that we finally need all these mundane social interactions to build our psyche, internal stability, mental life and our personality.

De-confinement

How to tackle this new challenge – and for how long? How long to wear a face mask? Who will have developed immunity? Who will fall prey in the months to come and contribute to a second peak of the pandemic? Will the senior citizens be the final sacrificial goats for the good of society? When will the long-awaited vaccine be available? Maybe in one year, we are told. And the state's finances? How bad will they be? How many people will lose their jobs? Are we heading towards a social crisis, instability and profound inflation? Will we have learned some lessons or will we go back to our old habits?

The old, the weak, the immune deficient will pay the price in the months to come... for a better tomorrow and stronger civilization. As a species, are we in the phase of "reculer pour mieux sauter"? Maybe.

Coronavirus' Letter To Humanity

-- Vivienne R Reich

The earth whispered but you did not hear. The earth spoke but you did not listen. The earth screamed but you turned her off.

And so I was born...

I was not born to punish you
I was born to awaken you.

The Earth cried out for help...
Massive flooding. But you didn't listen.

Burning fires. But you didn't listen.
Strong hurricanes. But you didn't listen.
Terrifying tornadoes.

But you didn't listen.

You still don't listen to the earth when ocean animals are dying due to pollutants in the waters.

Glaciers melting at an alarming rate.
Severe drought.

You didn't listen to how much negativity the earth is receiving.

Non-stop wars.
Non-stop greed.

You just kept going on with your life...



No matter how much hate there was...
No matter how many killings daily...

It was more important to get that latest iPhone than worry about what the earth was trying to tell you...

But now I am here...

And I've made the world stop on its tracks.

I've made YOU finally listen.
I've made you take refuge.
I've made you stop thinking about materialistic things...

Now you are like the earth...
You are only worried about YOUR survival.

How does that feel?

I give you fever... as the fires burn on earth.
I give you respiratory issues... as pollution fills the earth air.
I give you weakness as the earth weakens every day.

I took away your comforts...
Your outings.
The things you would use to forget

about the planet and its pain.

And I made the world stop...

And now...

China has better air quality...
Skys are clear blue because factories are not spewing pollution into the earth's air.
The water in Venice is clean and dolphins are being seen.
Because the gondola boats that pollute the water are not being used.

YOU are having to take time to reflect on what is important in your life.

Again I am not here to punish you.
I am here to Awaken you...

When all this is over and I am gone... Please remember these moments...

Listen to the earth.
Listen to your soul.
Stop polluting the earth.
Stop fighting among each other.
Stop caring about materialistic things.
And start loving your neighbours.
Start caring about the earth and all its creatures.

Start believing in a Creator.
Because next time I may come back even stronger...

Signed,
Coronavirus

Interview: Manou Bheenick – Last Part

“We need to have an oversight of how our money is going to be used...

... since it is the taxpayer and the consumer who will foot the bill in the final analysis”

Mauritius Times: The view has been expressed that, as elsewhere, the Government will have to step in, as it's already doing to help pay part of the people's wages, but also to mitigate the hit of the Covid-19 on the Mauritian economy by injecting billions of taxpayers' money. Do you see a fiscal and debt crisis looming on the horizon?

Manou Bheenick : The fiscal/debt crisis was already here well before the last election and the outgoing government was well aware of it. Why else would it have done Greek-style massaging of debt and deficit figures? Why else would it have resorted to the subterfuge of setting up off-budget Special Purpose Vehicles to channel large inflows, escaping all accountability and transparency, to undertake very large projects that it had waved through to be implemented in total opacity?

When any economy is in an acute economic crisis, it is the duty of its government, drawing on its central bank resources and external resources as required, to backstop the economy and come to the rescue and save its citizens while minimizing damage to its financial and economic infrastructure. The debt metrics and other prudential guidelines that apply under normal circumstances are suspended pro tem.

To take an example, when Greece was in crisis, it fell foul of these guidelines and had to be nursed back to health with an austerity cure to purge it of the bad habits it had acquired. Without Covid, we would, in all likelihood, have run similarly afoul of applicable norms, and probably be considering some form of austerity at this time. If Covid were not a pandemic, and we were among a few countries affected, we would still have been in the same situation as Greece was.

Because Covid is a pandemic, affecting all countries, some of the applicable norms are no longer of primary concern and prudential guidelines are relaxed across the world.

We should, like every other country, suspend our normal concerns about public deficits and public debt, at least so long as we have access to the external resources required to pay our import bills— but we do so only temporarily, until humanity has won the battle against the virus, and normal fiscal discipline and macro-prudential guidelines gradually come back.

What it does not mean is that we can defy economic gravity with impunity. It may help with the window-dressing of past incompetence but it doesn't hand a Get-out-of-Jail-Free card to our bungling government. There will be a bill to pay. The adjustment that we would have been doing, had Covid-19 not happened, is not cancelled, only postponed— with the added uncertainty that we'll have to adjust to a new global trading environment whose contours we can only begin to guess.

We would, of course, have been much better placed to take on the challenge if we had not squandered our reserves buffer earlier.

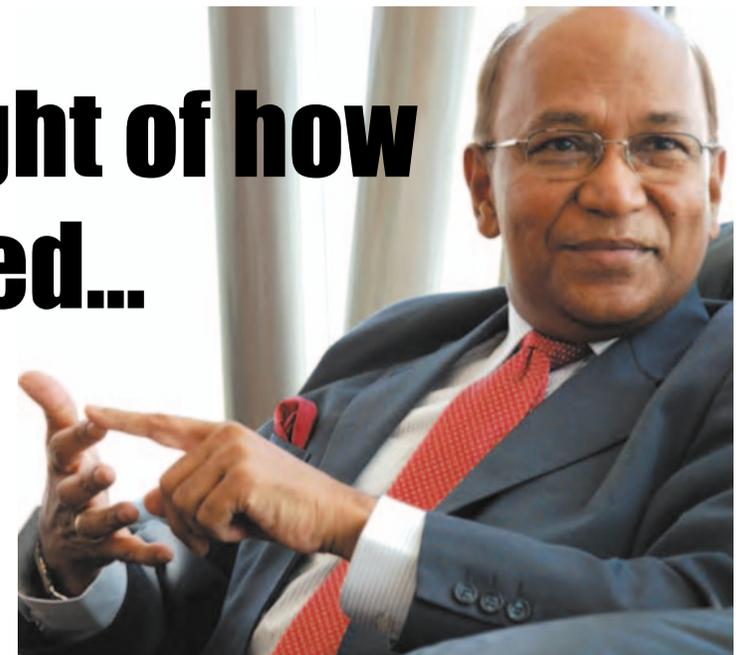
*** It's ultimately the public that will have to pay for the Government's intervention to save the economy, but shouldn't there be some form of democratic and popular control over that intervention so that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past – like we did with the Stimulus Package of 2008?**

I have never been a great believer in special stimulus packages targeting specific sectors, especially for ongoing activities, as it is the business of policy to be as neutral across various sectors of activity as possible. They may be alright, for limited periods, if you are trying to build up some new sector from scratch. Otherwise, if you resort to it as a normal practice to direct State largesse to your favourites, it only breeds inefficiency, lobbying, and corruption.

In both its origin and nature, the 2008 crisis may have been different but it was still a garden-variety old-fashioned financial and banking crisis — admittedly, a severe and systemic one, but still one — that monetary authorities could fix as the rest of the economic and social structure continued functioning.

The situation now is fundamentally different. We are confronted with a complex, unprecedented, multi-dimensional crisis, with some of its dimensions still unknown, and there's no monetary solution to it. With people locked down at home, work-places closed, and the very act of handling money itself, at least in its physical form, being a possible source of contamination, the transmission mechanism to make monetary policies, via bank intermediation, work may be broken. We cannot take time off to fix it. Which is why bank supervisory bodies have rolled out an array of measures aiming at regulatory forbearance, and relaxation of man-made rules, to ensure that banks don't go to the wall as their financial assets tank in the financial crisis so that attention can be focused on the struggle to overcome the disease with all the resources that it takes.

An unprecedented situation calls for out-of-the box thinking. Governments, and ours is no exception, will take on the task of helping their citizens survive. Ours has, predictably, bungled in its first responses. The size of the bungle is particularly striking for a country which only the other



“It is the taxpayer and the consumer, through his direct and indirect taxes, and by suffering a dose of depreciation/devaluation, and rising inflation, who will foot the bill in the final analysis. We therefore need total transparency in how we conduct our economic and financial affairs in this matter. We need to have an oversight of how our money is going to be used for bailing out various operators...”

day was mistaking itself for a tiger. It is even more evident when compared to how many other countries, including Madagascar!, are responding to the same situation by handing out cash handouts, resorting to job creation, offering Care and Support Packages and extra payment to lower-income households and the unemployed, and introduced in-kind transfers of basic food-

stuffs with door-to-door delivery every three days.

It is now that we need to spend, and keep on spending, until some semblance of normality returns, not just here in Mauritius but also, in the export markets that may fuel our restructured economy.

*** What about the taxpayer ultimately having to foot the bill?**

It is the taxpayer and the consumer, through his direct and indirect taxes, and by suffering a dose of depreciation/devaluation, and rising inflation, who will foot the bill in the final analysis. We therefore need total transparency in how we conduct our economic and financial affairs in this matter. We need to have an oversight of how our money is going to be used for bailing out various operators.

We must limit our efforts to sectors that have a reasonable chance of recovering. We should limit our involvement to a specified multiple of the recent tax payments of the beneficiaries. We should suspend dividend payouts of beneficiaries and of the financial intermediaries at least while our own debt repayments to the IMF, and to others who may be funding us in this exercise, are still outstanding. Every aspect of emergency expenditure and bailout must be done transparently and subjected to the closest scrutiny, amending audit requirements to legislate concurrent audits backer by the severest penalties, not the little rap on the knuckles in belated audit reports that come out when the harm is long done.

Since we are going to lean on taxpayer rupees to pull ourselves out of this crisis, the time may well be right to address some old thorny issues that successive governments have studiously shied away from. I am referring to the inherited inequities and the ownership concentration which overshadow our entire economic and production structure. Or should we again close our eyes, hold our nose, and just roll the old structure over? Which, in our local lingo, would be tantamount to a case of *Prend mo baton pou batte mo-même!* If we are serious about rebooting and resetting the system, this must also be addressed.

☞ Cont. on page 9

'The time's right to address old thorny issues relating to inherited inequities and ownership concentration'

☞ Cont. from page 8

We may very well need a new team to take on this monumental task if we are to have any running chance of being among the winners of the new post-Covid world emerging before our very eyes. The Supreme Court and the IMF hold some cards. But it is the people who has the final say. We should give them their say before we wreak irretrievable damage to ourselves and to future generations.

*** It has been argued the time has come for 'helicopter money' to help weather the Covid-19 storm. What's your take on that?**

I must confess my utter bafflement that so much energy is being spent on what is for me very much of a non-issue, as indeed also is the subsidiary question, which is also exercising some minds, of how to avoid classifying such money as central government debt.

Milton Friedman, the guru of monetarism, coined the term in the 1950s, in a half tongue-in-cheek manner, when he wrote about what to do in the extreme scenario when normal monetary policy instruments, operating through their usual transmission mechanism i.e. commercial bank intermediation, have stopped working.

We should recall that what Friedman had in mind was a country with a reserve currency that the rest of the world was prepared to hold in unlimited quantities and happily accept them in exchange for their exports of goods and services or add to their reserves. He assumed that the domestic — and also the greater part of the international — banking/trading/production/ supply/distribution/transport system, etc., were all open for normal transactions, i.e. everything was all right with the world, except for the little matter of the monetary authority of this one particular country, which had reached the zero-lower-bound in its policy rate, finding itself unable to make its monetary policy stick as it was effectively trying to *push on a string*. In those limiting circumstances, there was nothing left to do but to call out the helicopters, stack them with cash, and offload the cash in the back garden of consumers

“The time may well be right to address some old thorny issues that successive governments have studiously shied away from. I am referring to the inherited inequities and the ownership concentration which overshadow our entire economic and production structure. Or should we again close our eyes, hold our nose, and just roll the old structure over?”

to get them spending again, and thus get the entire economic machine back into gear in spite of a failure in the monetary transmission mechanism.

A lot has happened since to tweak the original proposal for circumstances approximating the conditions envisaged. Yes, the US has thrown out money from helicopters in occupied and war-torn countries. More relevant, for our present purpose, is how the 2008-2010 global economic crisis — at its core, a systemic financial crisis — which began as a debt-crisis, was actually fixed by the counter-intuitive method of *increasing* debt. This goes under the label of QE, or quantitative easing, and it took a US Treasury Secretary going down on his knees in Congress for it to happen. Friedman would have approved, had he been around. There was no one fixating about the level of public debt going through the roof in the countries whose central banks were at the origin of this flood of liquidity. There were bigger fish to fry.

The current crisis is much worse than the sub-prime crisis as we said earlier.

This crisis is taking the world into a deep recession, probably much worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s. The IMF forecasts negative global growth of minus 3% for this year. For Mauritius, the growth collapse is much worse at minus 6.7%. Next year may be worse. Recovery is not on the horizon anytime soon.

In a classic banking crisis, the lender of last resort is the central bank. If a central bank does not have the resources and is not up to the task, the government must reinforce its firepower by drawing on resources available to it, e.g. under IMF quotas or other such facilities, or recapitalize the bank. Note that the debt is assumed by the borrowing country, never mind the debt level which will be addressed after fixing the banking crisis. *Il faut parler au plus pressé*.

In a systemic banking crisis, this function is taken over by central banks of the affected countries acting in concert. We've just mentioned the US Fed and its critical role in providing international liquidity in the 2008-2010 economic crisis. It's playing that role in the present case too.

Taking care of only the financial half of the hydra-headed monster will not work. The pandemic part of it must also be addressed, as well as the economic part resulting from the fallout of the pandemic. Governments must step in because there is no one else.

It's the common citizen who backstops his government, having delegated to it, amongst others, the power to tax and spend. The ultimate burden rests on the citizen, not just the taxpayer. If the question were put to the man in the street, surviving



the pandemic will no doubt be his highest priority. So it must be for his agent, the government.

Just as central banking authorities are doing everywhere to save their financial and banking system, governments must also pull out all the stops to wage war against the other half of our hydra-headed monster, and protect the citizen. In a lockdown situation, Government must provide food and essential supplies, including income-support — not just for the low-income and unemployed but also for all the new unemployed such as daily-paid workmen, the self-employed who cannot work from home, taxi-drivers who cannot ply their trade, and so forth.

Government must pay or subsidize or postpone all utilities bills payments and pay the agencies directly, with safeguards to prevent abuse. Had Friedman been around this time, those helicopters would be dropping, not bank notes, but food parcels and other supplies — to cut out the financial intermediary and shorten the supply chain, support the lockdown, and minimize the risk of contagion. Some countries are delivering time-bound electronic vouchers — helicopter money 2.01?

How much it will cost? In the current state of knowledge where we don't know the duration of the crisis, it's like asking how long is a piece of string? We just don't know. What we do know is that it just has to be done; it requires total transparency and accountability, with the strongest possible penalties with mandatory prison sentences and reimbursements for those defrauding the system, profiteers, etc

We'll breach fiscal deficit targets and public debt ceiling? So what? So will everybody else! Targets and guidelines are man-made constructs to provide safety in these areas in *normal* times. In abnormal times like these, all such norms are implicitly or explicitly suspended. In the banking sector in the US, Europe and elsewhere, they

“The current crisis is much worse than the sub-prime crisis as we said earlier. If we may know how to fix a financial crisis, we know little about fixing the hydra-headed monster of a virulent pandemic-cum-economic crisis occurring simultaneously across the entire world, and possibly feeding on each other, especially when the state of scientific knowledge doesn't allow us to be at all confident that the current medical approach to combat the virus will work...”

have been explicitly lowered or made more flexible, with more to come if required.

We should not worry overmuch about debt/GDP or deficit/GDP ratios for now. We should focus on efficiency and transparency in delivering what it takes, for however long it takes, to tide our economy and our people over the crisis. Since, in my view, accepted norms will change post-Covid, it also matters very little whether we classify it as public debt or leave it on the central bank balance sheet. It matters little because every other country will be having recourse to similar final resort financing.

We could simply get an amendment to raise the limits currently applicable to central bank financing of public sector deficit. Or we could use an unusual provision in our central bank legislation — one which has always raised eyebrows with every new IMF staff-member taking over the Mauritian desk — which allows the central bank, with the approval of the Minister of Finance, to finance *development projects*.

I ask you: What greater development project can there be but to save our nation?

Liberté, transparence et démocratie

Nous savons d'ores et déjà que nous ferons face à une crise économique d'envergure, il ne faudrait pas rajouter à cela une crise de la démocratie

" Gardez la liberté ! Et gardez cette liberté qui va bien plus loin que l'impertinence. L'impertinence ce n'est pas la liberté ; la liberté, c'est de montrer ce que vous avez considéré qu'il fallait montrer. "

-- François Hollande à un journaliste satirique



Dr Avinaash Munohur

La suspension de Top FM pour une affaire remontant à plusieurs mois déjà et l'arrestation d'une citoyenne pour avoir posté un " Meme " humoristique sur sa page Facebook n'ont pas manqué de susciter l'émoi et l'inquiétude de beaucoup.

Il y a bien évidemment le droit que chaque citoyen se doit de respecter, mais les raisons légales évoquées dans ces affaires sont apparues aux yeux de beaucoup comme de vaines tentatives pour faire taire ce qui

pouvait apparaître comme contradictoire au discours officiel du pouvoir en place.

Le lien entre la liberté d'expression, le droit à l'information et la démocratie n'a jamais relevé uniquement de la bien-séance et de la bonne pensée. Il ne s'agit pas de quelque chose à être toléré ou non par le pouvoir, mais d'un lien structurel qui renvoie à la définition même de ce qu'est la démocratie dans son organisation moderne.

Il est aisé de constater que le régime des élections ne cesse de s'étendre dans le monde, mais nous voyons bien que la démocratie ne s'en porte pas forcément mieux. Des pays dont la tradition démocratique ne devrait plus être à prouver sombrent dans des pratiques indignes - notamment au niveau des représailles faites contre des lanceurs d'alerte, du fait de vouloir museler les médias et du fait d'imposer une surveillance parfois punitive sur la libre circulation des opinions et de la parole sur les réseaux sociaux.

Le principe d'une surveillance et d'une vigilance n'est pas en lui-même un problème - surtout à l'ère de l'hyper-circulation de l'information et des Fake News qui imposent que des limites soient posées - mais cette surveillance ne doit jamais ouvrir la porte à des abus dangereux du pouvoir.

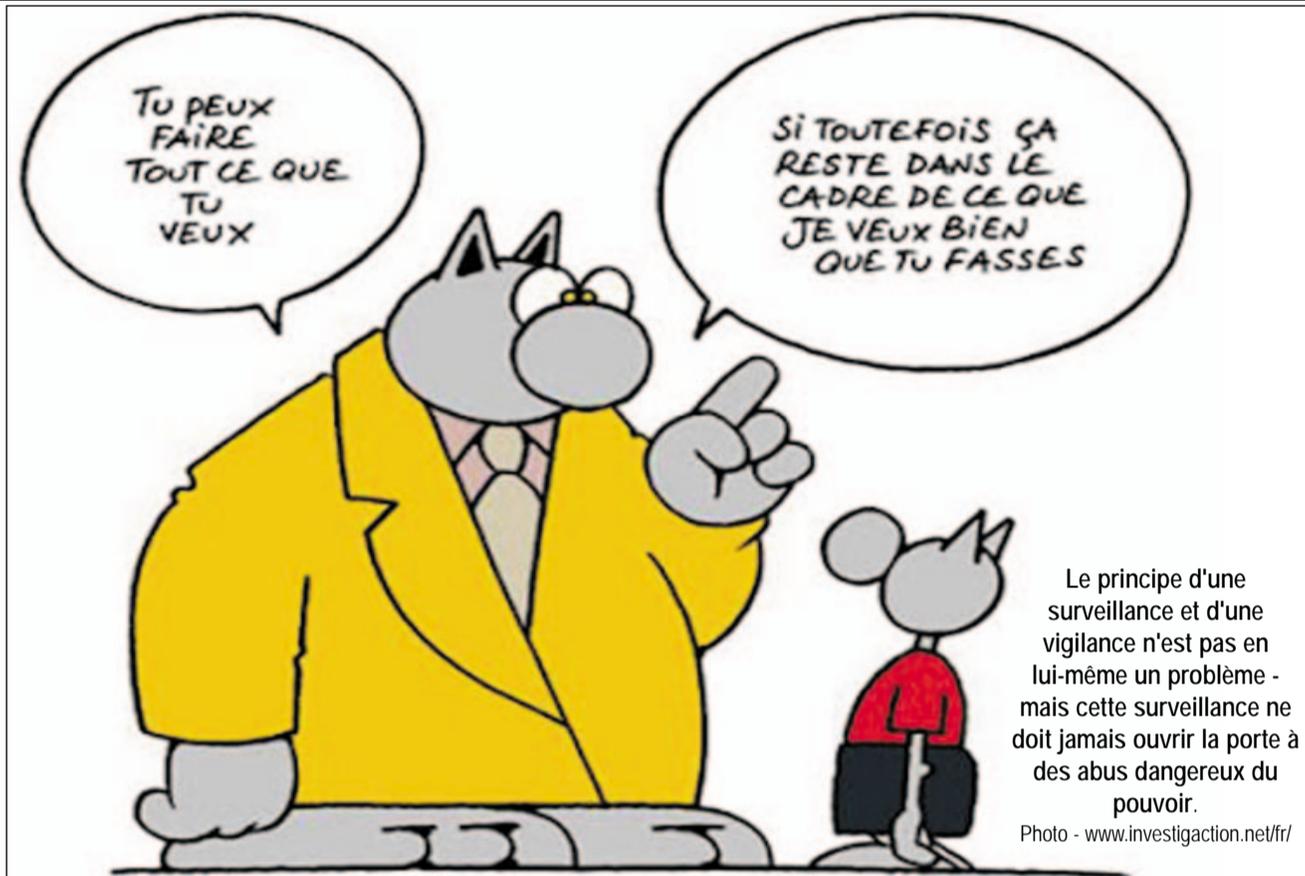
Ainsi certaines inquiétudes et certaines indignations sont justifiées, et appellent à une réflexion sérieuse sur les combats à mener pour que notre jeune démocratie puisse se renforcer contre cette tendance - sans toutefois sous-estimer que ces combats contre la répression trouvent parfois en face d'eux l'approbation revendiquée de certains à ces agissements du pouvoir.

Il y a ainsi - toujours là - différentes conceptions de la démocratie qui s'affrontent.

- D'un côté, il y a ceux qui voient dans la démocratie un système organisant les libertés.
- De l'autre côté, il y a ceux qui voient la démocratie comme un pur système de la représentation où les élus ont, par essence, le pouvoir d'agir selon le dictat du peuple.

Ces deux conceptions ne sont pas forcément contradictoires, mais peuvent le devenir si les pratiques du pouvoir dévient des règles et des lois organisant le système démocratique.

Dans son immense œuvre sur les démocraties modernes, Pierre Rosanvalon définit la démocratie comme le régime de la délibération publique. La délibération publique implique plusieurs choses, mais allons à l'essentiel : la



“ Le principe d'une surveillance et d'une vigilance n'est pas en lui-même un problème - surtout à l'ère de l'hyper-circulation de l'information et des Fake News qui imposent que des limites soient posées - mais cette surveillance ne doit jamais ouvrir la porte à des abus dangereux du pouvoir. Ainsi certaines inquiétudes et certaines indignations sont justifiées, et appellent à une réflexion sérieuse sur les combats à mener pour que notre jeune démocratie puisse se renforcer contre cette tendance... ”

délibération publique implique que les citoyens soient bien informés afin d'être capables de délibérer, de discuter, de débattre et d'échanger.

C'est en ce sens que la démocratie - comme régime de la délibération publique - repose sur l'implication des citoyens dans le débat public, et cette implication des citoyens requiert trois choses :

- la libre circulation des informations et des idées (liberté de la presse) ;
- la transparence des institutions (droit à l'information) ;
- et la libre parole des citoyens (liberté d'expression).

Ainsi la liberté d'expression, le droit à l'information et la liberté de la presse ne sont pas de simples pratiques des libertés individuelles mais les fondements même de l'organisation de la liberté publique sous le régime de la délibération qu'est la démocratie.

Il s'agit de rouages essentiels afin que le système fonctionne correctement. En effet, il n'y a pas de délibération possible sans libre circulation de l'information, des idées et des connaissances. Il n'y a également pas de délibération possible sans transparence. Et, enfin, il n'y a pas de délibération possible sans la liberté de délibérer, donc de s'exprimer.

Cela va plus loin même car la liberté de la presse, la liberté d'expression et le droit à l'information ont une fonction représentative toute aussi importante que la représentation politique. En effet, sans une presse libre, sans des citoyens qui soient capables de s'exprimer et sans l'accès à l'information, il est impossible de représenter les problèmes de la société, ce qui est fondamental au bon fonctionnement des institutions publiques et au bon fonctionnement de la justice sociale (dans tous les sens de ce terme).

Les journalistes, les divers médias, les lanceurs d'alertes et les intellectuels permettent ainsi une représentation élargie de la société et permettent aux citoyens de jouer activement leur rôle. Ils permettent aux citoyens d'être vigi-

lants, curieux des affaires publiques et impliqués dans les décisions qui les concernent. Ils permettent également aux citoyens d'y voir plus clair dans l'opacité des procédures étatiques et institutionnelles.

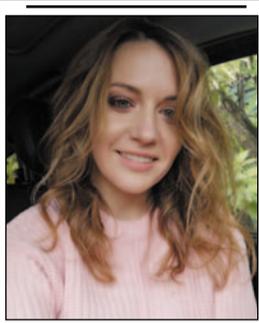
Ils permettent de transformer cette opacité des gouvernants en une lisibilité transparente, ce qui - à son tour - permet aux citoyens de comprendre les enjeux nationaux et d'avoir une visibilité sur l'avenir. Ils participent ainsi à rendre le pouvoir lisible et à mettre les actes du gouvernement en pleine lumière. C'est en ce sens qu'ils forment un contre-pouvoir essentiel.

Ainsi, lorsque l'on dit que la démocratie est un régime de la délibération publique, nous disons - dans le même temps - que la démocratie est un régime de l'organisation de la liberté publique, un régime de la vigilance collective et un régime de la lisibilité du pouvoir. Sans cette liberté, sans cette capacité de délibérer, sans cette lisibilité, nous serions plongés dans une opacité inquiétante et dangereuse : celle qui peut mener aux pires dérives totalitaires.

Cette crise sanitaire et ce confinement, qui ont démontré l'importance des médias et des réseaux sociaux dans le fait de garder les citoyens informés, ont également démontré qu'il reste beaucoup à faire afin de renforcer notre démocratie.

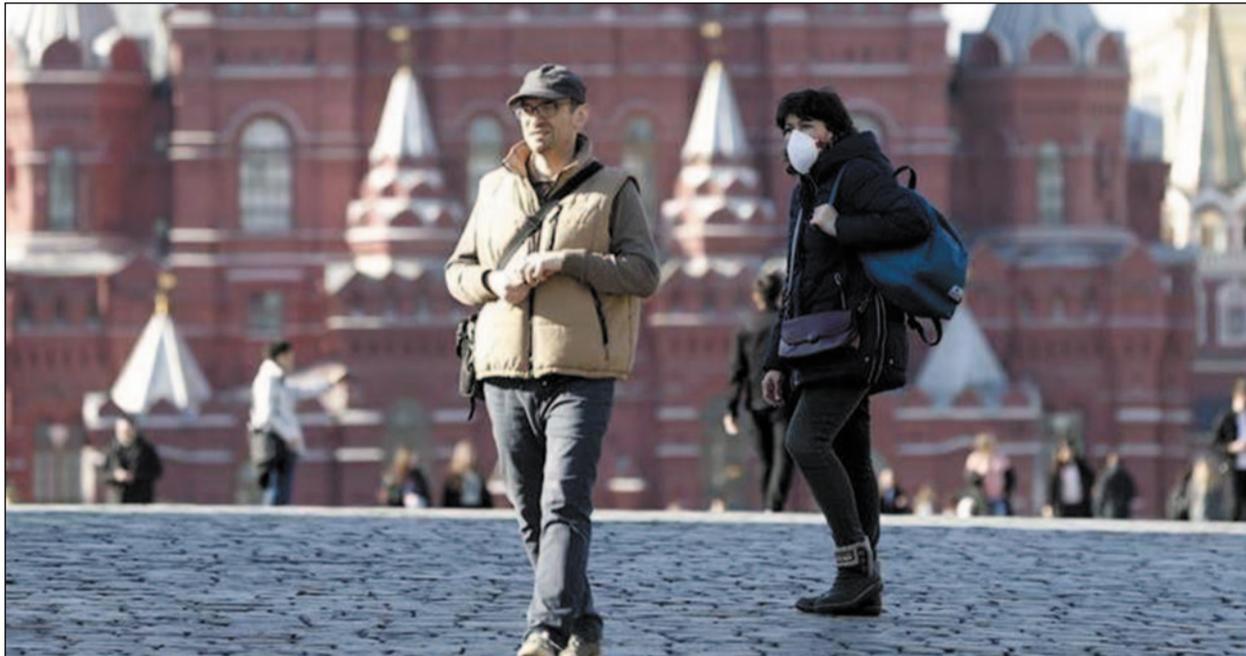
Ne serait-il pas enfin temps d'adopter une Freedom of Information Act, de modifier la MBC Act afin de la rendre indépendante du pouvoir (comme la BBC peut l'être), de revoir les lois répressives à l'égard de la liberté d'opinion des journalistes et d'amender certaines dispositions de l'ICTA pour favoriser la liberté d'expression tout en responsabilisant les utilisateurs des réseaux sociaux ?

Espérons que ces mesures seront prises par le Gouvernement au sortir de cette crise sanitaire. Nous savons d'ores et déjà que nous ferons face à une crise économique d'envergure, il ne faudrait pas rajouter à cela une crise de la démocratie.



Lyubov Sharkova
Pressenza

The Pandemic of Fear



Pandemic of Fear: 'We don't want the Italian and American scenario be repeated here.'

Photo - cdnuploads.aa.com.tr

In just a short period of time, the world in Russia has changed for everyone. I've started to notice how people around me are going mad. They've started blaming and avoiding other people, making social distance the priority of their lives. These people are well-educated, well-off, with flexible minds. It doesn't matter who they were in their life "before corona". Now all of them are afraid. And that's the reason for their madness.

They are afraid to go to the office, walk, meet with their friends and just do what they usually do. And all of them are repeating the same mantra – 'the situation is very serious; we don't want the Italian and American scenario be repeated here'. One person told my friend: "They cancelled the Cannes Film Festival." They never did that before. So it does mean the world is close to catastrophe.

Would you say it's the pandemic of coronavirus that is changing Russia?

No, I'd say it's the Pandemic of Fear that did it.

Of course, no politician wants to see all these human victims (and the fall in their own ratings). But do they really know what to do?

Here in Russia, the first statement on coronavirus was made by President Vladimir Putin on 25th March. He unveiled measures designed to slow the transmission of coronavirus, declaring the following week a non-working week for most people and urging people to stay at home. All entertainment venues in Moscow and some other cities were closed, as well as most schools, kindergartens and universities. But neither a quarantine nor a state of emergency was announced. So many people went for a walk during the sunny weekend. But then the mass media "exposed" them as "violators" of a non-existing quarantine. The reaction of the authorities to this panicky behaviour by the media was a total lockdown in most regions of Russia. It was then further prolonged until the end of April. The media and many so-called experts had pushed successfully for unnecessary action by the government.

The number of corona cases is increasing every day. But the fatality rate is less than 1%. A new Italian government health

report says that 99% of those who have died had pre-existing illnesses. It seems that the actions of the government are orchestrated by the Pandemic of Fear.

Because of the way epidemics work, most people are infected by the corona virus already or will be later. Will we panic more when that hits home among the general public and the politicians? An irrational fear could take over with consequences that we have yet to witness.

Today many Russian experts debate whether this virus had already been spreading in Russia since the end of last year. Actually, in November, we do know that there was an outbreak of pneumonia in some Russian regions. Some schools in Moscow were closed for quarantine in December because of community-acquired pneumonia. According to the state statistics' agency, Rosstat, in January the number of pneumonia cases in Moscow increased by 37% compared to 2019. The total number for the month was 6921. But no experts got worked up. Even now they can't say which virus caused the pneumonia. Nobody bothered too much.

We already know that today's lockdown is costing the Russian economy a lot. Some officials are making forecasts for 1.5-2% loss of GDP for each month of the quarantine. According to the latest online polls, the economic crisis has already had an impact on 60% of respondents. 45% have decreased incomes and 5% have already lost their jobs. Around 65% of Russian people don't have any savings at all. The Pandemic of Fear is taking a heavy toll.

The Russian government has already taken measures to support unemployed people, important enterprises and medical workers. But it's clear that they can't save all people.

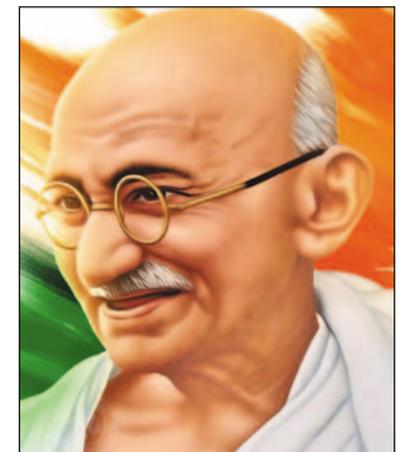
As a citizen, I want to know more concrete statistics about the severe cases that

lead to deaths. Do they really know who dies just because of coronavirus or because they have pre-existing conditions that would have led to their death in the not distant future? I want to see professional epidemiologists and the scientists who are guiding the politicians reveal more of their doubts about the way of counting deaths, as they have in Sweden. They are the ones who can stop the hysteria in the media and in everyday discourse. In Sweden, where the chief epidemiologist Anders Tegnell and the head of the Public Health Agency Johan Carlson make the important decisions and not the government – as the constitution mandates – they are balancing the choice between the progress of the disease on one side and the effect on the economy and human stability, even sanity, on the other. The death rate in world terms is relatively low although it is somewhat higher than neighbouring Denmark, Norway and Finland but the economy is still doing rather better and people feel less threatened by the possibility of unemployment, a big recession and a social crisis.

I don't want to live in this non-stop atmosphere of fear in Russia where politicians are following the Western pattern and seemingly reacting spontaneously to this crisis.

We will be able to analyze all that happened and all the unprecedented measures that were taken only when this pandemic is over and we get back to our normal lives. But we won't be able to revise the cost we paid for our mistakes. So maybe we should think first and then act, leaving our Pandemic of Fear behind.

Lyubov Sharkova
is a TV producer in Moscow.
She specializes in current affairs,
and writes for Pressenza



Keep your thoughts positive
because your thoughts
become your words.

Keep your words positive
because your words
become your behaviour.

Keep your behavior positive
because your behaviour
becomes your habits.

Keep your habits positive
because your habits
become your values.

Keep your values positive
because your values
become your destiny.

Mahatma Gandhi



Speed-cleaning to kill household germs

In the ongoing battle between you and **household germs**, you may think germs have the advantage. Unlike you, they can be just about everywhere at once. And when it comes down to hand-to-hand combat, you may be too rushed or tired or just have better things to do. They don't.

Yet keeping **household germs** at bay helps keep **colds, flu**, and other infectious illnesses from spreading. This on-the-go cleaning guide can help you get the upper hand with germs by focusing your efforts on the places where they lurk the most.

Where the germs are

As a rule of thumb, any area of your home with high traffic and surfaces that get touched a lot is a germ bank.

Not all germs are harmful. But where there are germ strongholds, the conditions are favorable for disease-causing viruses or bacteria to lurk.

One study found the kitchen sink had more bacteria than the toilet or garbage can. The only bathroom hot spot in the study's top 10 was the toothbrush holder. Why? Toothbrush holders are often near the toilet, and flushing sends a fine spray of mist onto them. Plus, it's easy to forget about them if you're focused on cleaning the toilet and more obvious germ hot spots.

Getting started: What you need to kill germs

Cleaning with soap and hot water removes dirt and grime and gets rid of some germs. It's usually enough for many surfaces. But you may want to disinfect areas that are home to a lot of germs.

A cleaner-disinfectant can be good for speed-cleaning because it combines the two steps. You can use it for most kitchen countertops and bathroom surfaces.

Clean areas with sticky spills and dirt with soap and water. Then disinfect. To make a cheap, effective disinfectant, mix up to 3 teaspoons of bleach in 1 gallon of water. Never pair bleach with ammonia or vinegar.

Apply it and leave on for 3 to 5 minutes. Rinse and let air-dry to save time. Or dry with a clean towel.

Always wear gloves and open some windows when you use products with bleach.

If you're using store-bought disinfectants, try not to breathe in the chemicals. Also remember to wipe down areas afterward with water or let cleaned areas, such as countertops, fully dry before you prepare food on them.

White vinegar or **hydrogen peroxide** are effective homemade cleaners. But never mix hydrogen peroxide and vinegar. And if you use hydrogen peroxide, test it first on an unseen surface to make sure it doesn't discolor or fade it.

Daily speed-cleaning for germs

You can take down some serious germ strongholds in a half-hour or less a day. If you don't have children or pets, it's even faster because you get to skip the last three steps. Start in the kitchen:

- Clean and disinfect countertops, sink faucet and handles, refrigerator handles, and cutting boards. Check the manufacturer's directions for specialty countertops.
- Clean with dishcloths you can throw in the washer with hot water. Replace towels and dishcloths daily.
- Clean spills on the kitchen floor so they don't attract more dirt and bacteria.
- Empty bathroom wastebaskets and those with dirty diapers. Take out the garbage. Spritz the containers with sanitizing spray.



- Clean and sanitize the bathroom sink faucet and handles.
- Put pet dishes in the dishwasher.
- If you have a child in diapers, clean and disinfect the changing table.
- If your child uses pacifiers, put them on the top shelf of the dishwasher if they're dishwasher safe. Otherwise, use soap and water on any toys your child puts in their mouth. Check toy cleaning labels first.

Weekly speed-cleaning for germs

Doing a daily speed clean makes weekly cleaning easier and faster. Once a week, follow these steps to wipe out more germs:

- Put the kitchen sink strainer in the dishwasher.
- If possible, remove and hand-wash the stove knobs.
- Clean and disinfect the kitchen sink.
- Wash the toothbrush holder and wipe with a disinfecting wipe, or put it in the dishwasher if it's dishwasher safe.
- Gather bathroom towels and bed linens. Don't fluff or shake them to so you don't spread germs and dust. Wash in hot water, if possible.
- Mop the floors and vacuum carpets.
- Clean the bathroom sink, bath, and toilet.
- Disinfect computer keyboards, light switches, telephones, and remote controls with a disinfecting wipe that doesn't contain bleach. Squeeze to remove excess moisture first. Always turn off computers before you clean them.

Monthly speed-cleaning for germs

These monthly chores take hardly any time:

- Wash pet toys: For hard toys, use hot, soapy water and disinfect. Rinse well before you let them dry. Wash soft toys on hot with other laundry.
- Pour a solution of 1 teaspoon bleach and 1 quart water

down the kitchen sink drain to sanitize the drain and garbage disposal. Or pour white vinegar down the drain.

- Clean the coffee maker.

Clean Sweep Shortcuts

For super speedy cleanups, try these shortcuts:

- Keep cleaning products together in a pail or basket. They're ready when you are, and they're easy to carry from room to room.
- While a disinfectant is sitting, tackle another chore.
- Use a plastic can liner to help control trash spills and leaking. It'll also speed up wastebasket and garbage can cleaning.
- Clean and sanitize refrigerator and floor spills as they happen. That way, they won't turn into a bigger mess.

Reviewed by Dan Brennan, MD



**Ne vous inquiétez pas....
ça va aller.....moi j'étais
confiné 9 mois. !!!**

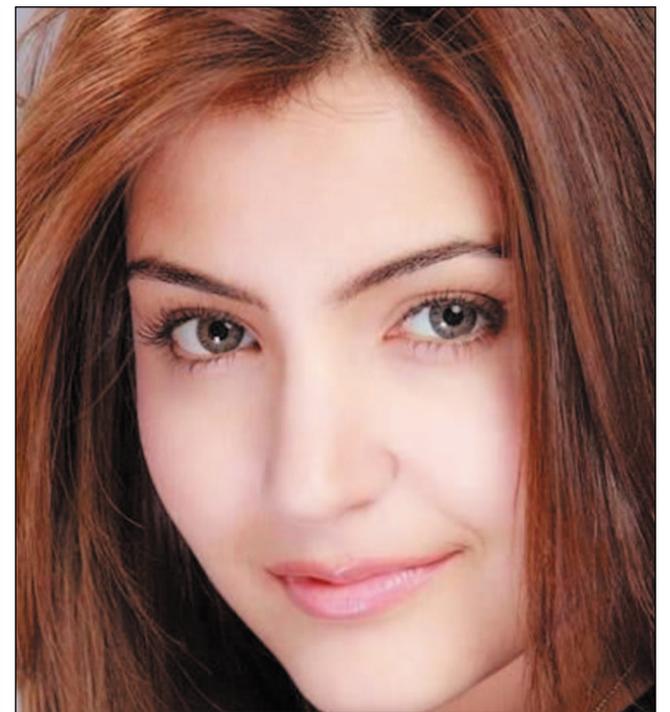
Sanya Malhotra has been spending time with THIS cutie



Amid the nationwide lockdown, Sanya Malhotra reached out to her 1.3 million followers on Instagram to share a glimpse of her "meow time". Seen cuddling with an adorable cat, the actress posted a series of black and white pictures.

Sanya made her debut with Aamir Khan-starrer 'Dangal' in 2016, and she has already shot for her se-venth film. The actress will be seen in three films this year, including Anurag Basu's anthology 'Ludo', followed by Vidya Balan-starrer 'Shakuntala Devi', and 'Pagglait'. Recently, during an interview with Bombay Times, Sanya said, "Anything to do with Anurag Basu sir is always special and interesting. It's a joy that I have such an amazing cast to work with in 'Ludo'. There's Rajkumar Rao, Abhishek Bachchan, Fatima Sana Sheikh and Aditya Roy Kapur with me. It's a cool bunch to work with."

"Getting a chance to work with Vidya Balan as her daughter is quite cool. 'Shakuntala Devi' is a biopic and I'm quite kicked about it. I play Anupama Bannerjee. Honestly, when I am offered a film, I look at the story, character, director, producer and co-actors while giving a nod," she added.



Anushka Sharma looks at the positive side of work from home as several companies contemplate the move; read details

Actress Anushka Sharma, who was last seen in 'Zero' with Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif, is trying to make the most of her free time with husband Virat Kohli during the lockdown. Both of them are usually occupied with their work and they hardly get time to spend with each other. From playing board games to turning hair stylist for Virat, both of them have been updating their fans on social media.

Today, Anushka shared an important message about betterment of nature on her Instagram account. Due to the lockdown, offices have advised their staff to work from home.

Because of that there are no cars seen on the road which has decreased traffic and pollution in the country. Sharing a strong thought about this, Anushka wrote, "I read that some companies are contemplating work-from-home as a new norm. Can you imagine how much it will lessen traffic and burden on infrastructure to contain the demands of traffic apart from cutting costs for the companies as well. Food for thought this morning. Good morning."

Meanwhile, Virat and Anushka contributed Rs 30 million nearly to PM's CARES Fund for the fight against the Coronavirus outbreak.



Anu Aggarwal: The original Aashiqui actress is set for a comeback! Deets Inside

She became an overnight sensation with the tragic love story *Aashiqui* (1990), starring Rahul Roy. Soon, Anu was seen in films like *King Uncle* (1993), *Khal-Naaikaa* (1993). The film that featured her last as an actress being *Return Of Jewel Thief* (1996). However, it was *Aashiqui*, that the actress is still remembered for. Despite enjoying huge popularity, Anu took sanyas and was living in an ashram. However, what followed changed her life completely. The actress had a fatal car accident, in which she was almost declared dead, had not the doctors pumped breath into her. After multiple surgeries on her body, including her face, Anu survived. She was living away from the media and public glare. News is that after so many years, Anu now wants to make a comeback as an actress. In fact she has been approached for a web show too. "I would like to act in web show. I mean there are already talks going on. The discussion was in full swing, but the Coronavirus outbreak happened. It is going to be something dhaamakedaar (laughs)," she reveals.

Janhvi Kapoor reveals why she feels every film is a biopic and not just 'Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl'

Janhvi Kapoor has been making her mark in the Bollywood industry, one hit film at a time. Although currently with just one film release under her belt, she has a long list of interesting films ready for their releases, including the biopic 'Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl'.

In her latest interview with Grazia, where she turned cover girl for the magazine, the actress got candid about topics ranging from nepotism, normalising the female protagonist, her take on films and more.

Speaking about her upcoming film and carrying the weight of the film on her able shoulders, the actress was quoted saying, "We need to normalise female protagonists so that it isn't a big deal anymore."

When quizzed about playing a real-life character like Gunjan Saxena, the actress weighed in the pros and cons of carrying the story of India's first female combat aviator and the responsibility that comes with it. "The way I look at it is that each character is beyond what they've been written out to be. For me, each character is a real person with real experiences, and in that sense, every film is a

biopic," she said while admitting it helped that Gunjan herself was present on set to guide her.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Janhvi will also be seen next in 'Dostana 2' co-starring Kartik Aaryan and Lakshya. She is awaiting the release of her film with 'Roohi Afzana' Rajkumar Rao and will also feature in Karan Johar's magnum opus 'Takht' that also stars Ranveer Singh, Vicky Kaushal, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Alia Bhatt, Bhumi Pednekar and Anil Kapoor.

I love making others cry with my negative roles: Reshmi Ghosh



Actress and former Miss India Earth Reshmi Ghosh, who often plays the antagonist's role in daily soaps, will retain her image in the upcoming *Maharakshak Aryan* fantasy show. She says she loves characters with a negative angle.

"I love to play negative roles and make others cry. Although it's different from my off-screen image, it helps me to perform in unique way and distress myself," said Reshmi.

Reshmi, who was crowned Miss India Earth in 2002, became a popular small screen face via her role as Bhoomi in the long-running soap *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*. She went on to feature in shows like *Karam Apnaa Apnaa*, *Kayamath* and *Shobha Somnath Ki* and also tried her luck in Bollywood with *From Sydney with Love*.

Now, she will be seen in *Maharakshak Aryan*, a superhero show. Reshmi will don the role of Vishkanya for the show.

Talking about the role, she said: "Vishkanya is a very different role, which I have not done in the past. I was not ready for this role, but my husband (Siddharth Vasudev) advised me to do it.

"Vishkanya talks in a poetic way... the flavour, costume and the way she speaks caught hold of my attention."

Meanwhile, the 27-year-old is currently enjoying sharing screen with her husband and actor Siddharth in *Buddha*. The duo married in February 2013.

She is glad that her husband is "extremely professional". "He is a different person on the set. He doesn't allow me any leniency onscreen. When I need him, he is there for me like he is for other co-stars."

Karan Patel to Krystle D'Souza, TV industry come together to request funds for daily wage workers

With all shoots coming to a screeching halt due to the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown, the film and television industries are losing millions of rupees every day. The daily wage workers and technicians are especially affected by this, with no means of earning their livelihood.

Producer Ekta Kapoor took to her Instagram account to share a video in which a number of personalities from the television industry came together to request funds for the relief of these daily wage workers, reports Hindustan Times.

The clip features child actor Ruhaanika Dhawan, actors Karan Patel, Aashka Goradia, Aly Goni, Suyyash Rai, Kishwer Merchantt, Shaleen Bhanot, Pooja Banerjee, Himanshu Soni, Manit Joura, Krystle D'Souza and Sahil Anand, writer Mushtaq Shiekh, filmmaker Tigmanshu Dhulia, choreographer Bosco Martis and producer Ekta Kapoor.

"JAI HIND. We on behalf of our Film Industry appeal to our fellow Artists, Technicians and the entire Fraternity to come forward and help the workers in the best possible way. Bank Details of FWICE is given at the end of the video. Would like to profusely thank all those who helped @chloeferns and i put this initiative together in less than 48 hours," she wrote in her caption.

"The impact of corona crisis is huge, unprecedented and multi-pronged. We all need to do things that will ease the hardships of people around us and of our country at large. It is my first & foremost responsibility to take care of the various freelancers & daily wage workers who work at Balaji Telefilms & who are going to suffer immense losses due to no shootings in the current scenario and uncertainty over the indefinite period to follow," Ekta Kapoor wrote in a statement shared on Instagram.



Kushal Tandon's new restaurant feels the lockdown impact

He says however: 'No loss is bigger than the loss of life'



It was a dream come true for actor Kushal Tandon, who after a year-long delay, managed to open his restaurant with much fanfare in Mumbai in February. However, fate had something else in store for him. Within a few days, all operations had to be put on hold due to the lockdown amid the coronavirus outbreak, reports Sangeeta Yadav of Hindustan Times.

"My restaurant was picking up and people were coming till the last day before the lockdown. And suddenly this happened and we again faced the brunt. Earlier also, I had to face the standing cost of a year and had to pay my staff for doing nothing," says the actor, who spent his "most isolated birthday ever" on March 28.

Despite all the losses he has incurred, the actor is making his ends meet and feels concerned about the daily wagers. "There are 40 people in my staff and I'll continue to pay them. They also have to bring food to the table at their home. Many people are facing the repercussions, especially the daily wage workers. Many jobs have been lost. Looking at their situation, I feel my problems are just nothing," says 35-year-old, who adds that three of his acting projects have come to a standstill.

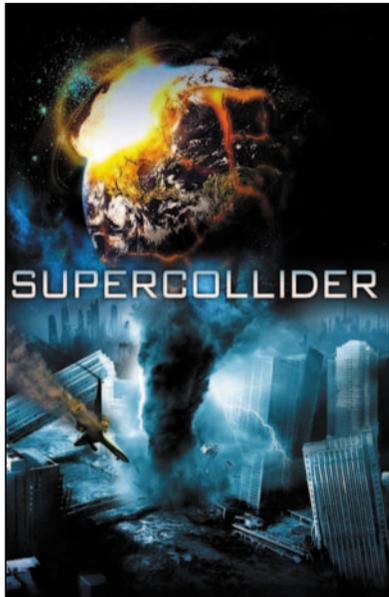
Taking everything in a positive stride, the actor feels that the need of the hour is to stay safe and save lives. "I keep telling people that jaan hai toh jahaan hai. Jaan bachegi tab paise bhi kamaa lenge. No loss is bigger than the loss of life. We can recover from all the financial losses, lekin agar jaan he nahi rahegi toh we'll not be able to do anything. It's like a world war going on against coronavirus and we all need to fight it by staying at home," Tandon signs off.



Mardi 21 avril - 14.41

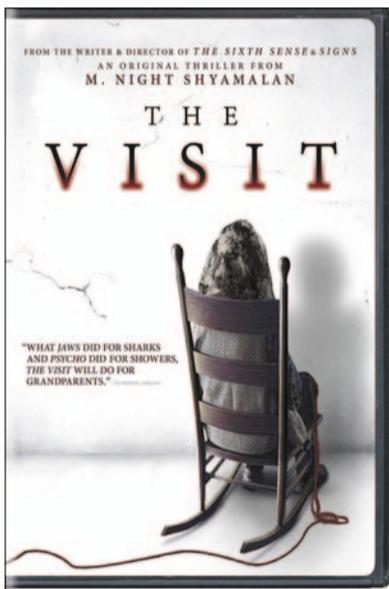
Supercollider

Avec: Robin Dunne, Amy Bailey, Mia Nordstrom



Mercredi 22 avril - 21.15

Avec: Olivia DeJonge, Ed Oxenbould, Deanna Dunagan



mardi 21 avril

mercredi 22 avril

jeudi 23 avril

MBC 1

- 06.30 Local: Encounter
- 07.05 Dessin Anime
- 10.29 Mag: Origami
- 11.15 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs
- 12.30 Comme Un Poisson Dans L'eau
- 13.30 Local: Passerelles
- 14.00 Local: Wellness By Trilo
- 14.30 D.Anime - Teenie Weenies
- 14.40 La Famille Blaireau
- 15.04 D.Anime: Kuu Kuu Harajuku
- 16.28 D.Anime: Trollhunters
- 17.00 Local: Aaj Ke Jawan
- 17.30 Local: Bhakti Saagar
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.00 Local: Press Conference
- 20.35 Local: Later Set Kouler
- 21.30 Serial: Unforgotten

- 05.50 Local: Rodrig Prog
- 06.32 Local: Encounter - No 80
- 07.00 Dessin Anime
- 10.29 Mag: Origami
- 10.45 Mag: Zoboomafo
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs
- 13.30 Local: Saver Kil Tirel
- 14.00 Local: Wellness By Trilo
- 14.05 Local: Rodrig Prog
- 14.30 D.Anime: Bugsted
- 14.40 La Famille Blaireau-Renard
- 17.00 Local: Chikitsa Aur Swasty
- 17.30 Local: Bhakti Saagar
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.00 Local: Press Conference
- 20.35 Local: Tam Tam
- 20.50 Local Prod: Faya Vibes
- 21.45 Serial: The Enemy Within
- 22.30 Serial Madam Secretary

- 07.00 Dessin Anime
- 10.28 Mag: Origami
- 10.45 Mag: Zoboomafo
- 11.15 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
- 11.30 Local: Arsvi MBC
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 14.30 D. Anime: Bugsted
- 14.31 D. Anime: Croque Nuage
- 14.40 La Famille Blaireau-Renard
- 15.27 D.Anime: Petit Creux
- 15.28 D.Anime: La Famille Passiflore
- 16.30 D.Anime: Trollhunters
- 16.50 Local: Prakriti Ki God Mein
- 17.30 Local: Bhakti Saagar
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.05 Local: Press Conference
- 20.35 Film: Ishqedarriyaan
- 23.00 Le Journal
- 23.35 Serial: Madam Secretary

MBC 2

- 04.30 Aastha TV
- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Serial: Tumhaari Natasha
- 11.19 Serial: MOL
- 12.04 Film:
- 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 Journal 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

- 04.30 Aastha TV
- 07.00 Film:
- 11.40 Good Morning Shanghai
- 12.00 Nanda Saukhya 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 Journal Kreol
- 19.30 DDI Magazine
- 20.05 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
- 20.21 Serial: Bitti Business Wali
- 21.00 Film:
- 23.15 DDI Live

- 04.30 Aastha TV
- 07.00 Film: Paapi
- 10.00 Local: Shree Durga...
- 11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai
- 12.00 Film:
- 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: Tiba Tiba Nu Avance
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.30 DDI Magazine
- 20.00 Serial: Maharakshak
- 20.42 Serial: Naagin
- 21.28 Serial: CID
- 22.15 Serial: Piya Rangrezz

MBC 3

- 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 06.44 Mag: World Stories
- 07.00 Mag: Voa Connect
- 07.27 Doc: A Question Of Science
- 07.32 Mag: In Good Shape
- 08.40 World Stamps
- 09.02 Live Educational Program...
- 14.05 Doc: 360 Geo
- 14.56 Mag: Global 3000
- 15.22 Doc: Light Pollution
- 16.05 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 16.34 Mag: Urban Gardens
- 16.38 Mag: Sur Mesure
- 16.52 Mag: World Stories
- 17.06 Doc: Voa Connect
- 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
- 18.26 Mag: Urban Gardens
- 18.31 Doc: Builders Of The Future
- 19.03 Mag: Check In
- 19.34 Mag: Made In Germany
- 20.02 Tamil Programme

- 06.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto..
- 07.00 Mag: Check In
- 07.27 Doc: A Question Of Science
- 08.03 Film: Horizon S
- 08.55 Doc: World Stamps
- 09.01 Live Educational Program...
- 14.04 Sos Animaux En Danger
- 14.56 Mag: CClose Up
- 15.24 Doc: Thailand
- 17.18 Mag: Urban Gardens
- 17.23 Doc: Builders Of The Future
- 18.00 Mag: Motorweek
- 18.25 Urban Garden
- 19.30 Doc: Garden Party
- 20.02 Programme In Marathi
- 20.29 Film: 7, Roshan Villa Marathi Film Starring Sonali Khare, Savita Malpekar, Prasad Oak
- 22.23 Digital Warriors Women
- 23.06 Mag: Motorweek
- 23.30 Mag: Urban Gardens

- 06.00 Mag: Motorweek
- 06.55 Mag: Arts.21
- 07.24 Doc: A Question Of Science
- 08.00 The Science Of Avalanches
- 08.42 Doc: World Stamps
- 08.42 Doc: World Stamps
- 09.01 Live Educational Program...
- 14.04 Doc: Japon 2019
- 14.41 Mag: Initiative
- 15.55 Mag: Japan Video Topics
- 16.00 Mag: Motorweek
- 16.24 Mag: Urban Gardens
- 16.58 Mag: Arts. 21
- 17.24 Doc: A Question Of Science
- 17.29 Doc: Garden Party
- 18.00 Mag: Eco India
- 18.26 Mag: Urban Gardens
- 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 19.56 Mag: Mon Histoire A Moi
- 20.02 Film: Justice Bao
- 21.36 Doc: World Stamps

Cine 12

- 03.05 Serial: NCIS - Los Angeles
- 05.13 Tele: Amanda
- 06.00 Serial: Dynasty
- 06.43 Film: Supercollider
- 09.00 Serial: Les Experts: Cyber
- 09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
- 10.10 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
- 10.35 Serial: NCIS
- 11.25 Tele: Dulce Amor
- 12.00 Film: Les Mensonges D'une...
- 13.30 Tele: Amanda
- 14.41 Film: Supercollider
- 16.45 Serial: Scorpion
- 17.25 Serial: Dynasty
- 18.09 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour
- 18.33 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
- 19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor
- 20.05 Tele: Totalment Diva
- 20.30 Serial: Dynasty
- 21.15 Film: Tumbledown

- 00.20 Tele: Peau Sauvage
- 01.34 Film: Tumbledown
- 03.07 Serial: NCIS
- 03.48 Film: Flower Shop Mystery
- 05.11 Tele: Amanda
- 05.53 Serial: Dynasty
- 06.35 Film: Apollo 13
- 09.00 Serial: Les Experts: Cyber
- 09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour
- 10.10 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
- 10.35 Serial: NCIS
- 12.00 Film: Flower Shop Mystery
- 13.25 Tele: Amanda
- 14.36 Film: Apollo 13
- 16.49 Serial: Mission: Impossible
- 17.31 Serial: Dynasty
- 18.13 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour
- 18.37 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
- 20.05 Tele: Totalment Diva
- 20.30 Serial: When Calls The Heart
- 21.15 Film: The Visit
- 22.45 Tele: Amanda

- 00.25 Tele: Peau Sauvage
- 01.31 Film: The Visit
- 03.03 Serial: NCIS
- 03.44 Film: Twister
- 05.33 Tele: Amanda
- 06.14 Serial: When Calls The Heart
- 06.56 Film: Ride To The Hangman's
- 09.00 Serial: Les Experts: Cyber
- 09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
- 10.10 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
- 11.47 Film: Twister
- 13.36 Tele: Amanda
- 14.45 Film: Ride To The Hangman
- 16.38 Serial: Les Experts: Cyber
- 17.21 Serial: When Calls The Heart
- 18.08 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: When Calls The Heart
- 21.15 Film: Jeu Trouble

Bollywood TV

- 09.30 Film: Aya Sawan Jhomm..
- 12.00 / 19.54 - Ek Deewana Tha
- 12.20 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
- 12.41 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
- 13.06 / 21.09 - Kaleerein
- 13.35 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 14.24 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan
- 14.45 / 22.25 - Ishqbaaz
- 15.03 Film: Singh Saab The Great
- Stars: Sunny Deol, Urvashi Rautela, Prakash Raj
- 17.30 Live: Samacher
- 18.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
- 18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
- 18.51 Piya Albela
- 19.13 Mere Angne Mein
- 19.34 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

- 09.10 Muquaddar Ka Sikandar
- 12.00 / 19.54 - Ek Deewana Tha
- 12.20 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
- 12.41 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
- 13.06 / 21.09 - Kaleerein
- 13.35 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 14.24 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan
- 14.45 / 22.25 - Ishqbaaz
- 15.29 Film: Veere Di Wedding
- Stars: Kareena Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor, Neena Gupta
- 17.30 Live: Samacher
- 18.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
- 18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
- 18.51 Piya Albela
- 19.13 Mere Angne Mein
- 19.34 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

- 09.30 Film: Upkaar
- 12.00 / 19.54 - Ek Deewana Tha
- 12.20 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
- 12.41 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
- 13.06 / 21.09 - Kaleerein
- 13.35 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 14.24 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan
- 14.45 / 22.25 - Ishqbaaz
- 15.15 Film: Angrezi Mein Kethe
- Stars: Sanjay Mishra, Pankaj Tripathi, Brijendra Kala
- 17.30 Live: Samacher
- 18.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
- 18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
- 18.51 Piya Albela
- 19.13 Mere Angne Mein
- 19.34 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

Mercredi 22 avril - 15.30

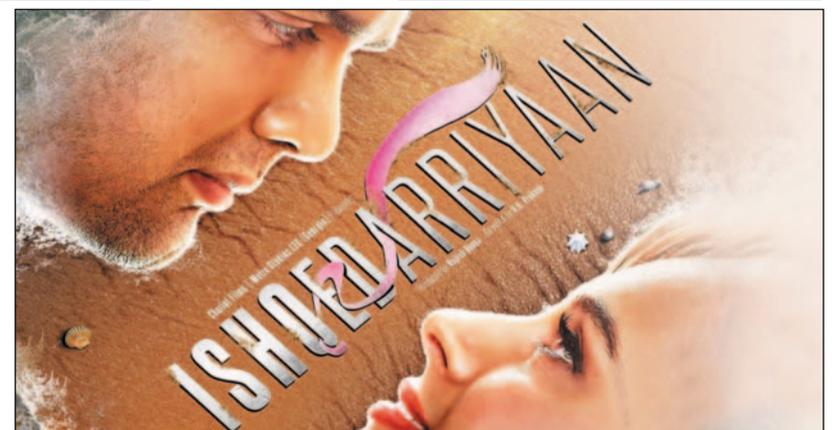


Stars: Kareena Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor, Swara Bhaskar, Shikha Talsania, and Sumeet Vyas

Jeudie 23 avril - 20.35



Stars: Mimoh Chakraborty, Evelyn Sharma, Kavin Dave, Mohit Dutta



History

1918 flu pandemic killed 12 million Indians

and British overlords' indifference strengthened the anti-colonial movement

When the 1918 influenza pandemic struck India, the death toll was highest among the poor

In India, during the 1918 influenza pandemic, a staggering 12 to 13 million people died, the vast majority between the months of September and December. According to an eyewitness, "There was none to remove the dead bodies and the jackals made a feast."

At the time of the pandemic, India had been under British colonial rule for over 150 years. The fortunes of the British colonizers had always been vastly different from those of the Indian people, and nowhere was the split more stark than during the influenza pandemic, as I discovered while researching my Ph.D. on the subject.

The resulting devastation would eventually lead to huge changes in India - and the British Empire.

From Kansas to Mumbai

Although it is commonly called the Spanish flu, the 1918 pandemic likely began in Kansas and killed between 50 and 100 million people worldwide.

During the early months of 1918, the virus incubated throughout the American Midwest, eventually making its way east, where it traveled across the Atlantic Ocean with soldiers deploying for WWI.

Introduced into the trenches on Europe's Western Front, the virus tore through the already weakened troops. As the war approached its conclusion, the virus followed both commercial shipping routes and military transports to infect almost every corner of the globe. It arrived in Mumbai in late May.

Unequal spread

When the first wave of the pandemic arrived, it was not particularly deadly. The only notice British officials took of it was its effect on some workers. A report noted, "As the season for cutting grass began ... people were so weak as to be unable to do a full day's work."

By September, the story began to change. Mumbai was still the center of infection, likely due to its position as a commercial and civic hub. On Sept. 19, an English-language newspaper reported 293 influenza deaths had occurred there, but assured its readers "The worst is now reached."

Instead, the virus tore through the subcontinent, following trade and postal routes. Catastrophe and death overwhelmed cities and rural villages alike. Indian newspapers reported that crematoria were receiving between 150 to 200 bodies per day. According to one observer, "The burning ghats and burial grounds were literally swamped with corpses; whilst an even greater number awaited removal."



Members of the British Raj out for a stroll, circa 1918. Fox Photos/Stringer via Getty images

But influenza did not strike everyone equally. Most British people in India lived in spacious houses with gardens and yards, compared to the lower classes of city-dwelling Indians, who lived in densely populated areas.



The spring of 1919 would see the British atrocities at Amritsar and shortly thereafter the launch of Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement. Influenza became one more example of British injustice that spurred Indian people on in their fight for independence

Many British also employed household staff to care for them - in times of health and sickness - so they were only lightly touched by the pandemic and were largely unconcerned by the chaos sweeping through the country.

In his official correspondence in early December, the Lieutenant Governor of the United Provinces did not even mention influenza, instead noting "Everything is very dry; but I managed to get two hundred couple of snipe so far this season."

While the pandemic was of little consequence to many British residents of India, the perception was wildly different among the Indian people, who spoke of universal devastation. A letter published in a periodical lamented, "India perhaps never saw such hard times before. There is wailing on all sides. ... There is neither village nor town throughout the length and breadth of the country which has not paid a heavy toll."

Elsewhere, the Sanitary Commissioner of the Punjab noted, "the streets and lanes of cities were littered with dead and dying people ... nearly every household was lamenting a death, and everywhere terror and confusion reigned."

The fallout

In the end, areas in the north and west of India saw death rates between 4.5% and 6% of their total populations, while the south and east - where the virus arrived slightly later, as it was waning - generally lost between 1.5% and 3%.

Geography wasn't the only dividing factor, however. In

Mumbai, almost seven-and-a-half times as many lower-caste Indians died as compared to their British counterparts - 61.6 per thousand versus 8.3 per thousand.

Among Indians in Mumbai, socioeconomic disparities in addition to race accounted for these differing mortality rates.

The Health Officer for Calcutta remarked on the stark difference in death rates between British and lower-class Indians: "The excessive mortality in Kidderpore appears to be due mainly to the large coolie population, ignorant and poverty-stricken, living under most insanitary conditions in damp, dark, dirty huts. They are a difficult class to deal with."

Change ahead

Death tolls across India generally hit their peak in October, with a slow tapering into November and December. A high ranking British official wrote in December, "A good winter rain will put everything right and ... things will gradually rectify themselves."

Normalcy, however, did not quite return to India.. A periodical published by the human rights activist Mahatma Gandhi stated, "In no other civilized country could a government have left things so much undone as did the Government of India did during the prevalence of such a terrible and catastrophic epidemic."

The long, slow death of the British Empire had begun.

Maura Chhun,
Metropolitan State University