

MAURITIUS TIMES

"Power does not corrupt. Fear corrupts... perhaps the fear of a loss of power." -- John Steinbeck

Facts and ideology

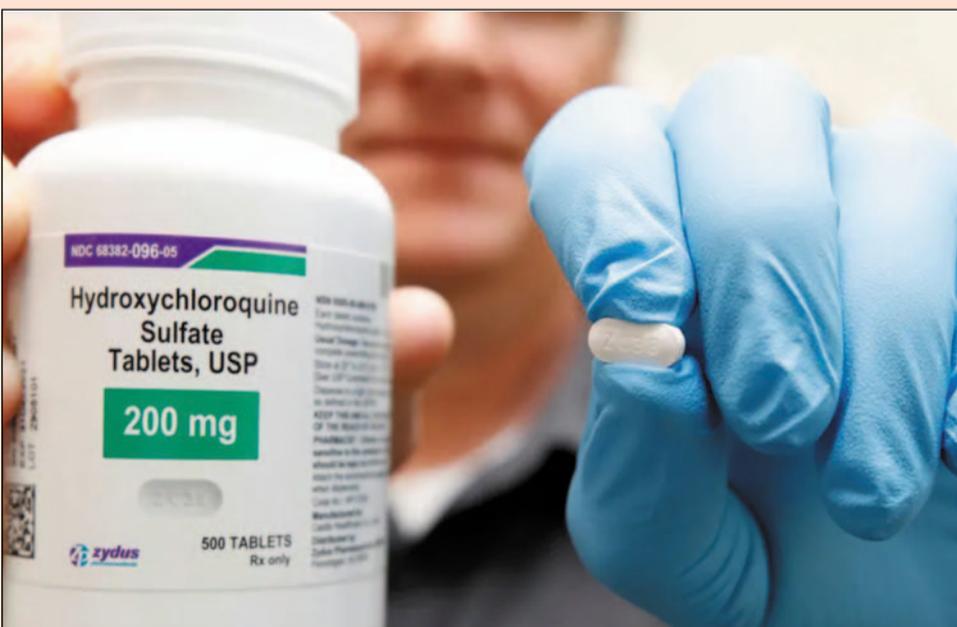
Progressive taxation under concerted attack



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Breakthrough in treatment of Covid-19



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"The St Louis Gate is only the tip of the iceberg..."

Will the government disclose what happened on the Gas turbine project or investigate on CWA and Huawei?"

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China-India Face-off & Miscalculations

China's actions in the past weeks achieved precisely the opposite of what it wanted - it has pushed India into much closer partnerships with the



Demonstrators hold placards and shout slogans as they protest against the killing of Indian soldiers by Chinese troops, in Ahmedabad, India on June 16, 2020.

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Food Security, Budgets and the Land Question

If the government is serious about food security, laws relating to food, land and water cannot remain fragmented and dispersed nor is it sufficient to revise the Agricultural Marketing Board Act



By Prof Sheila Bunwaree See Page 7

St Louis Gate

As more details are coming out about the involvement of different parties in what is now known as the St Louis Gate, the latest piece of depressing news that has been publicized by the Mauritian media relates to the African Development Bank's refusal to pass on copy of its report on the St-Louis investigation to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). That decision followed after the ICAC made a formal request to the ADB. It would appear that the ADB, however, redirected the ICAC to Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC), which according to the African bank is also in possession of a copy of its investigation report.

Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor had won a contract of Rs 4.3 billion from the Central Electricity Board (CEB) for the redevelopment project of the Saint-Louis power plant. Allegations of fraud and corruption surrounding the case surfaced last week after the ADB made it public in a press release. This is a matter of shame for the country, especially coming as it does in the wake of the decision of the European Commission to place Mauritius on the list of countries with strategic anti-money laundering deficiencies. The ADB's position vis-à-vis the ICAC's request for information will surely be taken note of by the EU.

It has always been said that laws may create institutions but what matters the most are those who man these institutions. In our Tuesday's issue, we referred to the long list of pending inquiries which, unfortunately, highlight the perceived incapacity of the national investigative agency to handle white collar crime, whether in relation to the Dufry scandal (2015); the Alvaro Sobrinho scandal (2018); the Sugar Insurance Fund Board's highly excessive overpayment of land v/s valuation scandal (2018); the Choomka affair (2017); the Yerrigadoo/Bet 365 scandal (2018); the Glen Agliotti affair (2019), and finally the Serenity Gate/Film Rebate Scheme scandal (2019). As matters stand, it is yet to be known where ICAC's inquiries stand, and this inevitably puts into question its credibility.

Given the seriousness of these cases and their reach and implications for the country both nationally and globally, the least that one expects is that at the minimum ICAC would come up with a status report and give an indication of some timelines as regards the completion of the respective investigations in those cases that have been entrusted to it for investigation. But the complete absence of any information whatsoever adds to the already negative image that is it is tarnished with. This is in sharp contrast to countries like Singapore, which our political class is fond of eliciting as a model to emulate, which have derived a lot more strength from the efficient operation of their institutions than we have done, have consistently aimed to do the very best they can independently of political influence.

Singapore's track record in fighting corruption has lent to it an image of a reliable place in which to do business. This has contributed to the country's advancement among the top rankers of the world according to several indices of good performance. With a global economic environment that is getting more difficult, it is in our interest to keep on the right side of the fight against corruption, and the sooner the pending cases in ICAC's custody are resolved the better it will be for the country. Otherwise the consequences are likely to be such as to cause extensive damage not only to the country's image but consequentially to its economy as well. The ball is in the government's court.

The Conversation

Global poverty: Coronavirus could drive it up for the first time since the 1990s

As Covid-19 slows in developed countries, the virus's spread is speeding up in the developing world. Three-quarters of new cases detected each day are now in developing countries. And as the pandemic spreads, governments face juggling the health consequences with economic ones as this shifts to becoming an economic crisis.

Our research shows that the poverty impact of the crisis will soon be felt in three key ways. There is likely to be more poverty. It is likely to become more severe. And as a consequence, the location of global poverty will also change.

Having looked at estimates from a range of sources – including the Asian Development Bank, Goldman Sachs, IMF and OECD – we considered three possible economic scenarios stemming from COVID-19, where global income and consumption contracted by 5%, 10% or 20%. We found that the economic shock of the worst-case scenario could result in up to 1.12 billion people worldwide living in extreme poverty – up from 727 million in 2018.

This confirms our earlier estimates that the coronavirus could push up to 400 million people into extreme poverty, defined by the World Bank as living on less than US\$1.90 per day – the average poverty line in low-income developing countries. This number rises to over 500 million if using the World Bank's higher average poverty lines for lower middle-income (US\$3.20) and upper middle-income (US\$5.50) developing countries.

The potential increase is driven by millions of people living just above the poverty line. These people are likely to be badly affected because many of them work in the informal sector, where there is often little in the way of social security. Such a rise in extreme poverty would mark the first absolute increase in the global count since 1999 – and the first since 1990 in terms of the proportion of the global population living in poverty.

On the intensity of the poverty, the resources needed to lift the incomes of the poor to above the poverty line could increase by 60%, from US\$446m a day in the absence of the crisis to above US\$700m a day. For the existing extreme poor and those newly living in extreme poverty, their loss in income could amount to US\$500m per day.

In terms of where poverty is located, it is likely to increase dramatically in middle-income developing countries in Asia, such as India, Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines. This points to the fact that much of the previously poor population in these countries moved to just above the poverty line. In other words, these countries' recent economic progress has been relatively fragile. We'll also likely see new poverty in countries where it has remained relatively high over the last three decades, such as Tanzania, Nigeria, Ethiopia and the DRC.

How to respond to the poverty pandemic

Covid-19 poses a significant threat to developing countries, as their health systems tend to be weaker. More severe cases have also been linked to high blood pressure, diabetes and air pollution, all of which are prevalent in developing countries. Meanwhile, there are suggestions that Covid-19 could hinder the treatment of other illnesses such as



TB, HIV/AIDS and chronic malaria.

But developing countries generally have a lower proportion of people at high risk from Covid-19 in terms of age (>70 years). As such, economic shocks may pose a greater relative risk to their populations. The question emerges as to whether lockdowns are the best option to contain the virus in developing countries if they entail severe income losses. Estimates of the share of jobs that can be performed at home is less than 25% for many developing countries – much lower than the ~40% recorded in, for example, the USA and Finland. It's as low as ~5% in countries such as Madagascar and Mozambique.

Consequently, there's also a clear need for a range of social safety-net policies. These already exist in many developing countries, but their coverage and funding needs to be expanded substantially. Such policies include cash transfer programmes, universal one-off cash payments, in-kind food/vouchers, school feeding schemes and public works programmes. In middle-income developing countries, these are funded by the national government, whereas in low-income countries these are often co-funded by donors. Any set of policies should also incorporate "pay to stay home" or "pay to get tested" schemes.

The long crisis

Looking further ahead, the poverty impacts beyond 2020 are closely related to if or when an effective vaccine is developed. Even if we take the best-case scenario and a vaccine is discovered later this year, it's uncertain how long it would take to reach the entire global population. It could take years.

There is no guarantee developing countries would get access to the vaccine at a reasonable cost, or if everyone in developing countries would get the vaccine for free. We could end up living in a new Covid-19 apartheid, with the vaccinated and non-vaccinated residing in separate areas and working in different labour markets. This is a startling but very real possibility that no one is talking about much yet.

While this might sound far off, there are already some countries – such as Chile – issuing "immunity passports". Such passports might determine what work people can do by determining where they can go. This could leave the poorest without access to earning opportunities or only with lower-income opportunities if their movement is restricted.

The crisis is increasingly looking like a long crisis. If so, it will have repercussions on global poverty for years to come.

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Breakthrough in treatment of Covid-19

Surprises are never far behind in medicine. Still, this is a major advance while awaiting more specific antiviral therapy

Ever since the declaration of the Covid-19 pandemic by WHO at the beginning of March, and its unrelenting spread across the world, the only comforting piece of news that came our way after several weeks was that at least a few countries had been able to contain it by rigorous application of measures recommended.

These, as is well known by now, included contact tracing and scaling up testing, and the sanitary precautions like physical distancing, wearing of face mask, frequent hand washing/use of sanitisers among others. Thus Vietnam, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore stood out as examples of such successful containment, although the latter two countries have had to face a second wave subsequently. New Zealand declared itself Covid-19 free last week - but a few days ago has reported two cases imported from the UK.

Now we can include Mauritius too, as we have been able to date not only to limit the spread but to remain free of any new case for nearly a month, and that allowed us to gradually lift the lockdown.

“We have to have many teams around the world focusing on different aspects of the disease and adopting a variety of approaches, and then sharing experiences by direct contacts or through publications. As new observations and findings emerge, decisions about prevention and treatment inevitably undergo modifications that reflect the dynamically evolving situation. That is why at times so-called 'controversies' are reported (about the use of hydroxychloroquine for example) - but these must be viewed as the serious and sincere attempts being made to find effective solutions as rapidly as possible...”

Two days ago came a piece of breaking news from a team of scientists at Oxford University, UK which could prove to be a game changer in the treatment of the disease. In a clinical trial involving 2100 patients, they have found that the drug dexamethasone has a significant effect on the mortality rate of patients who are severely affected.

In fact, the strategy of control of Covid-19 is the same as that for any infectious disease: prevention, treatment, vaccination. Prevention is a very effective tool, and yet is the most difficult to apply because it means compliance with public health measures by the people, who are often reluctant to abide by the rigorous measures needed. That is why, guided by the scientific and medical evidence available, authorities have to combine a mix of soft incentivizing and harder legal provisions to deal with the problem, especially when the disease assumes epidemic or pandemic proportions.

Vaccination and treatment present a different order of challenges and difficulties, more so when the disease is a new one. To start with, after identifying the infective agent - in this case a virus - it has to be 'characterised', that is, its structure and properties have to be studied in great detail and its mode of transmission worked out.

Further, the symptoms it produces have to be observed and catalogued, followed by deeper study of the disease patterns that

are evolving and the organs affected, and the 'how' and 'why' of the underlying processes understood in detail. This will involve carrying out post-mortems as well, to get a clearer picture of the changes that take place in the organs concerned.

By putting all this information together, scientists and doctors

are able to by the by obtain a more coherent picture of the disease and the possible treatment options that may be available, based on experience with previous medications as well as



WHO welcomes 'breakthrough' UK study on treatment of severe Covid-19. Photo - phototass1.cdnvideo.ru

being able to think of possible new ones according to the findings gathered.

It will be appreciated that all this cannot happen overnight, and that is why we have to have many teams around the world focusing on different aspects of the disease and adopting a variety of approaches, and then sharing experiences by direct contacts or through publications. As new observations and findings emerge, decisions about prevention and treatment inevitably undergo modifications that reflect the dynamically evolving situation. That is why at times so-called 'controversies' are reported (about the use of hydroxychloroquine for example) - but these must be viewed as the serious and sincere attempts being made to find effective solutions as rapidly as possible.

Because vaccine development is both uncertain - at least initially - and takes a longer time, in particular because of concerns about efficacy and safety, that is why much hope is pinned on what is more familiar to the doctors

busy treating the disease (clinicians) rather than preventing it (public health specialists). At the beginning, an attempt is made to treat the symptoms, and this is usually possible with familiar medicines.

The problem is that there are very few specific treatments for viruses, unlike in the case of bacteria for which a large range of antibiotics are known. Whether or not an anti-Covid-19 antibiotic will

which results in the release of a number of substances which as well as fighting against the virus actually cause much damage to the lungs, what is referred to as an 'overdrive' of the immune system. This is part of the overall inflammatory response to the presence of the virus.

One category of drugs which have powerful anti-inflammatory effects is steroids, and dexamethasone is one such medication that is widely used and well-known in terms of its effects and side-effects. In the Oxford study, it has reduced the death rate for patients on ventilators by a third, and by a fifth for those on oxygen therapy. However, it has no benefit for patients who are not so severe as to require oxygen or ventilators. The medical authorities in the UK are recommending its use on the basis of these promising results, moreover because the drug is both readily available and relatively cheap.

It goes without saying that caution will still be needed as dexamethasone is rolled out for treatment of the virus, because surprises are never far behind in medicine. Still, this is a major advance while awaiting more specific antiviral therapy, and a most welcome development in the management of disease that will definitely save a lot of lives.

Another first was recorded last week, when in Chicago lung transplant surgeon Dr Ankit Bharat carried out the procedure in 20-plus young woman who had no hope of recovery otherwise - an operation that lasted nearly 10 hours because it took much time to separate the lungs from the other tissues to which they were stuck by the inflammatory reaction. This is obviously an operation that will not be available to everybody, and the treatment with dexamethasone will hopefully prevent the progression of disease so as to obviate the need for such extreme surgeries of last resort.



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Progressive taxation under concerted attack

Progressive taxation is not a socialist scheme, still less a Machiavellian or Manichean move to penalize high income earners. It is a well-balanced system that exists in most capitalist countries of the OECD

Aditya Narayan

The 2020-21 budget proposed to inject some measure of progressivity in the personal income tax system with a 25% Solidarity Levy on the highest income earners, which would have set a top marginal tax rate of 40%. However, facing a backlash from the richest segments of society, the government backtracked to limit the proposed levy to 10% of the total net income of the taxpayer. Effectively, the top marginal tax rate will now be 25% (15% plus 10%) instead of 40%. Still, some critics are claiming that Mauritius has become a high-tax jurisdiction. Really?

Following the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance where he announced an increase in the Solidarity Levy from 5% to 25%, the original proposal faced a concerted attack from the private sector with its official spokesmen taking turns in the media (radio, web tv and newspapers) to describe it as an "unjust tax grab". Employer organizations, accounting firms, some opinion leaders and neoliberal economists (all of them on the right of the political spectrum) called in unison for a reversal of the proposal. They predicted doom and gloom for the local economy, which they said would suffer from a brain drain, a loss of foreign investment and a lack of tax competitiveness vis-à-vis other jurisdictions.

Scare tactics

The pressure was so intense on the minister that finally he agreed to compromise and tone down the measure originally proposed. While buckling to scare tactics from the well-heeled people is not good for any government, it shows how public policy can sometimes be hijacked by vested interests. We knew about State capture by powerful lobbies; now we have fiscal policy capture by the high net-worth individuals (HNWIs).

Actually, what the government proposed was not really a fully progressive income tax system. Before the bud-



Tax heaven for tax dodgers - Photo - ei.marketwatch.com

get, personal income tax was based on a basic rate of 10%, a first marginal tax rate of 15% and a second marginal tax rate of 20% (15% plus the Solidarity Levy of 5%) on income in excess of Rs 3,5 million per year, including dividends. The budget proposed to increase the Solidarity Levy from 5% to 25%, which means that the second marginal tax rate would have been 40% (15% + 25%).

Ideally, as some unions and progressive economists suggested, a fairly progressive income tax would have a

basic rate of 10% and marginal tax rates of 15%, 20%, 25%, 30% and 35% on higher income brackets. The government was expected to adopt this system but, in its wisdom, decided to impose a higher solidarity levy on the HNWIs (citizens of Mauritius only) instead of widening the tax base across the board. The proposal was expected to raise additional revenue of Rs 3,5 billion per year.

The proponents of a low flat tax (15%) have been successful in their campaign to scare the HNWIs to the extent that they disingenuously confused the people about the basic tax rate and the marginal tax rates. They focused on the proposed top marginal tax rate of 40% as if all HNWIs were going to pay 40% tax on their total income. That's far from the truth. The proposed 40% marginal tax rate was going to apply only to the excess of income over Rs 3 million per year, including dividends. A basic calculation shows that a taxpayer making Rs 4 million per year would have paid on average 20% of tax on total income before deductions and 17,4% of tax on net income after deductions (see table 1).

Table 1: Original budget proposal

Income bracket (Rs)	Taxable income Rs	Tax rate %	Tax Rs
Up to Rs 700,000	700,000	0.10	70,000
From Rs 700,000 to Rs 3 M.	2,300,000	0.15	345,000
From Rs 3 M to Rs 4 M.	1,000,000	0.40	400,000
Total	4,000,000		815,000
Average tax rate		20%	

Confusing marginal and average rates

However, the opponents of progressive taxation conveniently did not talk about the average tax rate (the total amount of tax paid as a proportion of total income). They kept harping on the top marginal tax rate of 40%, which confused and scared the layman. The amount of intellectual dishonesty injected in the debate was shocking, specially coming from people who claim to be economists.

A crisis creates an opportunity for reform. The present crisis was an opportunity to engage in a meaningful tax reform in order to put the country back on the path of fiscal sustainability without going to the extreme. Progressive taxation is not a socialist scheme, still less a Machiavellian or Manichean move to penalize high income earners and deprive them of their hard-earned money. It is a well-balanced system that exists in most capitalist countries of the OECD and is supported by all mainstream economists, including progressive economists who have won the Nobel Prize in Economics, such as Paul Krugman, Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo.

Undoubtedly, the low flat tax regime, wherever it exists, has widened income inequality as high income earners pay the same proportional tax rate as lower income earners. It does not make sense for a millionaire to pay the same tax rate of 15% as a low or middle-income individual.

In absolute terms, 15% of tax on Rs 1 million (Rs 150,000) is higher than 15% of tax on Rs 500,000 (Rs 75,000), but that is not progressive taxation, which is predicated on the idea of taxing high income earners at

higher marginal rates with a view to curbing excessive income and wealth accumulation in the hands of 1% of the population.

The 3000 HNWIs who will pay the top marginal tax rate of 25% represents only 0,2 % of the population. The 25% top marginal tax rate compares favourably to the top marginal tax rate in other countries such as India (30%), Canada (46%), USA (43%), France (55%), Denmark (56%) and the UK (45%).

Government has made another concession: foreign residents will now be subject to the same Solidarity Levy on their taxable income, thereby ending a suspected discrimination against Mauritian citizens. With a top marginal tax rate of 25%, a taxpayer with annual income of Rs 3,4 million (including dividends) will pay an effective tax rate of 15.15% (average rate) before deductions and 13.6% on net income after deductions, as illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2: Final budget proposal

Income bracket (Rs)	Taxable income Rs	Tax rate %	Tax Rs
Up to Rs 700,000	700,000	0.10	70,000
From Rs 700,000 to Rs 3.0M	2,300,000	0.15	345,000
From Rs 3.0 M to Rs 3.4 M	400,000	0.40	100,000
Total	3,400,000		515,000
Average tax rate		15.15%	

Ideological backlash

The backlash against progressive taxation is purely ideological. Neoliberal economists complain about "tax and spend" policy in their crusade against what they call Big Government, which they claim steals the rich to spend on the poor, regulates the so-called wealth creators and penalizes personal productivity. However, through low taxation, they try to "starve the beast" (as it is said among conservatives) by depriving the State of sufficient fiscal revenue.

When the government struggles with a structural deficit (due to low tax revenue), they advocate deep expenditure cuts, including cuts to the Welfare State for the poorest. They gladly quote Arthur Laffer, the American supply-side economist who theorized that a high marginal tax rate causes tax revenue to peak and then decline in an inverse U-shape curve, in their defense. However, trickle-down economics does not ensure that a rising tide will raise all boats at the same time.

The fierce debate over the merits of flat taxation versus progressive taxation is overcharged with emotion and preconceived ideas and it overlooks economic evidence. As early as 2004, the IMF and the World Bank have sounded the alarm over the country's narrow tax base. In 2004, a WB report stated that direct taxes (on income and profits) had not accounted for more than 3% of GDP over the past five years. Personal income tax in proportion to GDP has varied from 1.46% in 2006 to 2.10% ten years later. Total taxes (direct plus indirect) as a percentage of GDP was 18.7% in 2006. The tax/GDP ratio has not exceeded 19% since then. No country can survive with a low tax/GDP ratio without incurring debt to finance public expenditure.

The same people who say that the country is too indebted don't want to contribute their fair share to national revenue. The same politicians who lambasted the government for not paying the promised PRB compensation increase for civil servants want to deprive the State of the means to raise revenue. Where will the money come from? At least public sector unions came out in favour of progressive taxation. The same ex-MLAs who draw a non-contributory parliamentary pension are against a tax-and-spend policy. How hypocritical?

China-India Face-off & Miscalculations

China's actions in the past weeks achieved precisely the opposite of what it wanted - it has pushed India into much closer partnerships with the West

TP Saran

After a violent skirmish between Chinese and Indian troops at an altitude of 16000 feet in the Himalayas, in the Galwan valley on Tuesday last, that left 20 Indian army personnel (a number that may go up) and at least 43 on the Chinese side dead, there has been a calming down after intense diplomatic and higher level efforts.

Following the 1962 war in which India suffered a humiliating defeat by the Chinese army, the latter had to beat a retreat five years later when, in 1967, they lost 400 soldiers after they launched an attack on Indian territory at Noku La. After a last major confrontation in 1975 there was no incursion until two years ago in Doklam in the north eastern border, and that was also resolved with India maintaining its stand as regards its territorial limits.

In his first mandate, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed President Xi Jinping with open arms in India and they inked a number of collaborative ventures. Unfortunately, this latest confrontation with loss of lives has now come to change all the parameters of the positive engagements that were under way between these two Asian powers. By all accounts, it is China that stands to lose more than to gain from this misadventure on its part.

There is no doubt that China has made tremendous strides after Deng Xiao Ping took the determining step in 1979 to open up the Chinese economy. While maintaining the communist regime, he changed gears to the market model, enabling China to emerge as a technological giant and a

“India's *Economic Times* has perhaps captured the realistic atmospherics in its observation that ‘on a larger scale, China lost to India on Tuesday.’ Speculating about ‘why China undertook these intrusions into Indian territory’ the paper avers that that ‘the best guess scenario involves punishing India for its greater involvement with “anti-China” allies like the Quad. It could be a consequence of Xi Jinping needing to divert attention away from a series of troubles like Hong Kong, economic slump and a slow decoupling with the US...”

superpower rivalling the USA and USSR. With the advances it made in the technological fields, such as telecoms and AI, it was not surprising that China should expand its military capacity to try and bring it to the level of the two other superpowers. It still falls short but nevertheless has achieved considerable armed strength on the ground, in the air and at sea.

Pursuing its ambition to become a global power to reckon with, it started to impose itself in the South China seas, irking neighbouring countries such as Japan, Vietnam, the Phillipines, Malaysia,



Demonstrators hold placards and shout slogans as they protest against the killing of three Indian soldiers by Chinese troops, in Ahmedabad, India on June 16, 2020. Photo - cdn.cnn.com

Cambodia and other countries with an interest in the region such as Australia and the USA. China has made no secret of its expansionist plans on all fronts: military, technology, and economy - the latter with its One Belt One Road initiative (OBOR) whereby it has envisaged a ‘reopening’ of the old Silk Route. Awash with money, China has pledged trillions of dollars into this project, and this money goes into building infrastructure in the countries that have signed in, in Asia and Africa.

However, of late, this ‘dollar diplomacy’, as it has been called, is being increasingly questioned as countries have realized they may land up with enormous debts that they will be unable to reimburse. ‘Repayment’ will be in the shape of a takeover by China of whatever infras-

tructure was built, e.g. the Hambakota port in Sri Lanka. Already there is a backlash building up, and the initial enchantment with OBOR is fading.

But what kicked off Chinese ire was US President Donald Trump's decision to impose tariffs on Chinese goods and to force companies to return manufacturing to the US. Naturally, there was Chinese riposte, and this has soured relations between these two countries. Matters have worsened since the Covid-19 pandemic, with the US accusing China of hiding information about the outbreak that

China ‘expects the epidemic to intensify European discussions about industrial policy. The globalization of putting everything where production is the most efficient, that is over’.

Given these developments, where does this leave the India-China relationship? India's *Economic Times* has perhaps captured the realistic atmospherics in its observation that ‘on a larger scale, China lost to India on Tuesday.’ Speculating about ‘why China undertook these intrusions into Indian territory’ the paper avers that that ‘the best guess scenario involves punishing India for its greater involvement with “anti-China” allies like the Quad. It could be a consequence of Xi Jinping needing to divert attention away from a series of troubles like Hong Kong, economic slump and a slow decoupling with the US. It could also be a way to send a message to the US and other countries that China believes is ranged against it...’

It goes on to say that ‘China may have seriously miscalculated. For one, India is

“Following the 1962 war in which India suffered a humiliating defeat by the Chinese army, the latter had to beat a retreat five years later when, in 1967, they lost 400 soldiers after they launched an attack on Indian territory at Noku La. After a last major confrontation in 1975 there was no incursion until two years ago in Doklam in the north eastern border, and that was also resolved with India maintaining its stand as regards its territorial limits...”

originated in Wuhan and WHO of succumbing to Beijing's diktat.

And then came the violent demonstrations in Hong Kong, and the spat with Taiwan which absolutely refuses to bend to Chinese claims about its sovereignty. Besides these, Covid-19 has thrown up a new reality faced by the US and EU: the unsustainable dependency on China on supply chains. In fact, in its issue of February 29 2020, *The Economist*, an English newspaper, had an article on this topic, ‘Globalisation under quarantine’ wherein we read that ‘...the world is growing warier of China’ and the EU's head of the Chamber of Commerce in

now almost politically bound to take action, if the Modi government isn't to be seen as a global walkover. Second, China's actions in the past weeks achieved precisely the opposite of what it wanted - it has pushed India into much closer partnerships with the West. Third, much more than a military retaliation, India is likely to take more economic steps against China’.

If China had chosen to continue on the path of cooperation rather than belligerence, both countries would have had much more to gain. As matters stand, it looks as if China will be the greater loser.

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Trump had no idea UK was a nuclear power

An explosive new memoir by Donald Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton alleges the US president had no idea the UK was a nuclear power, reports The Independent.

A copy of Mr Bolton's book, 'The Room Where it Happened' - the release of which has been tied up in a pre-publication review by the White House - was obtained by several newspapers who shared the anecdote in which Mr Trump seemed surprised to learn that the UK possessed nuclear weapons.

Another extract also finds Mr Bolton alleging that the President pleaded with Chinese Premier Xi Jinping to assist with his re-election effort when the two men met at a G20 summit in June last year.

* * *

A controversial statue of British imperialist Cecil Rhodes at an Oxford University college is set to be removed following anti-racist protests.

Oriel College's governing body announced its wish to remove the statue of the 19th century mining magnate and said it was launching an independent inquiry into the key issues surrounding the monument.

Demonstrations have recently taken place outside Oriel calling for the statue to be removed from the High Street entrance of the building.

* * *

The UK's government's shielding programme for high risk coronavirus patients could be wound down in July, it has emerged. More than two million people are currently classed as extremely vulnerable to Covid-19 and have been "shielded" and warned to avoid all unnecessary contact with others.

To ensure they have been properly protected they have been eligible for food parcels and other support, although charities have previously warned that many in the group are suffering badly

from the isolating effects of lockdown. Government sources indicated that they were reviewing what to do with the shielding programme after the end of next month.



Donald Trump with Boris Johnson

India-China clash: Modi says soldiers' deaths 'will not be in vain'

India's prime minister has said the deaths of at least 20 soldiers in a fight with Chinese troops in a disputed Himalayan border area "will not be in vain".

Narendra Modi said India would be "proud that our soldiers died fighting the Chinese" in the clash in the Ladakh region on Monday.

Soldiers reportedly brawled with sticks, bats and bamboo sticks studded with nails. No shots were fired. Both sides blamed each other.

It is the first deadly clash between the two sides in the border area, in the disputed Kashmir region, in at least 45 years. India's army said China also suffered casualties but Beijing has given no details.

The Indian statement notes that injured soldiers were "exposed to sub-zero temperatures in the high altitude terrain".

As each side traded accusations, India said China had tried to "unilaterally change the status quo". Beijing accused Indian troops of "attacking Chinese personnel".

The two armies later held talks to try to defuse tensions, reports BBC.

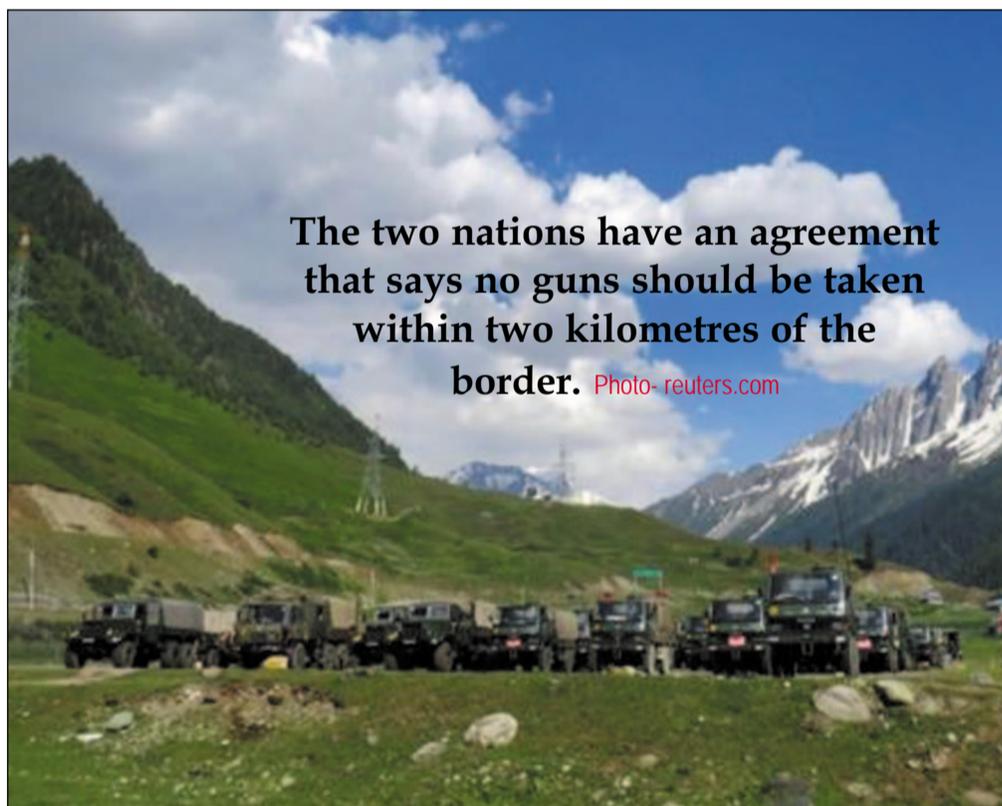
What happened?

The fighting occurred in the precipitous, rocky terrain of the strategically important Galwan Valley, which lies between China's Tibet and India's Ladakh.

Indian media say soldiers engaged in direct hand-to-hand combat, with some "beaten to death". During the fight, one newspaper reported, others fell or were pushed into a river.

The Indian army initially said a colonel and two soldiers had died. It later said that "17 Indian troops who were critically injured in the line of duty" and died from their injuries, taking the "total that were killed in action to 20".

Indian forces appear to have been massively outnumbered by Chinese troops.



The two nations have an agreement that says no guns should be taken within two kilometres of the border. Photo- reuters.com

A senior Indian military official told the BBC there were 55 Indians versus 300 Chinese, who he described as "the Death Squad".

"They hit our boys on the head with metal batons wrapped in barbed wire. Our boys fought with bare hands," the officer, who did not want to be named, said.

His account, which could not be verified, tallies with other reports in the Indian media detailing the savagery of the combat. The clash has provoked protests in India, with people burning Chinese flags.

Addressing the confrontation for the first time in a televised address on Wednesday, Prime Minister Modi said: "India wants peace but when provoked, India is capable of giving a fitting reply, be it any kind of situation.

He said he wanted to "assure the nation" the loss of the soldiers would "not be in vain". "For us, the unity and sovereignty of the country is the most important," he

added.

China has accused India of crossing the border onto the Chinese side. Its foreign ministry said on Wednesday it wanted to avoid further clashes but gave no further details.

This is not the first time the two nuclear-armed neighbours have fought without conventional firearms on the border. India and China have a history of face-offs and overlapping territorial claims along the more than 3,440km (2,100 mile), poorly drawn Line of Actual Control (LAC) separating the two sides.

At the root of this is a 1996 bilateral agreement that says "neither side shall open fire... conduct blast operations or hunt with guns or explosives within two kilometres of the Line of Actual Control".

But there have been tense confrontations along the border in recent weeks. In May Indian and Chinese soldiers exchanged physical blows on the border in the north-eastern Indian state of Sikkim.

India has accused China of sending thousands of troops into Ladakh's Galwan Valley and says China occupies 38,000 sq km (14,700 sq miles) of its territory. Several rounds of talks in the last three decades have failed to resolve the boundary disputes.

There are several reasons why tensions are rising again now - but competing strategic goals lie at the root.

The two countries have devoted extensive money and manpower to building roads, bridges, rail links and air fields along the disputed border.

Both India and China see each other's construction efforts as calculated moves to gain a tactical advantage, and tensions often flare up when either announces a major project.



Prof Sheila Bunwaree

Food Security, Budgets and the Land Question

If the government is serious about food security, laws relating to food, land and water cannot remain fragmented and dispersed nor is it sufficient to revise the Agricultural Marketing Board Act

The Government Programme 2015-2019 mentions the word land 6 times, food 3 times and security 13 times but food security as such is never mentioned. The Government Programme 2020-2024 has zero mention of food; security is mentioned 7 times but again not in connection with food. Land is mentioned 9 times. These two consecutive MSM-led Government Programmes have largely ignored the food security question and yet so important for a small, highly vulnerable and dependent economy like ours. Value of food imports has reached an estimated Rs 40.1 billion, representing almost 83% of the country's food requirement in 2019 (L'express, 29 April 2020).

In the midst of all the gloom, Covid-19 has the merit of creating a 'food security consciousness.' The recent and ongoing parliamentary debates bear testimony to this. But whether the budgetary measures proposed will enable the nation become 'food secure' is a question worth posing, considering 'the Politics of Land' in this country. The question becomes even more pertinent at this critical juncture. On the one hand, fellow citizens/squatters, struggling to eke out a living, cruelly thrown out from their 'illegal' shelter into the wintry open, and on the other two major scandals: the St Louis Gate and State land privileges for the politically connected. These highlight how our lands are being disposed of in a cavalier manner with huge implications for Land Justice and Social Cohesion, let alone food security.

Food security

The first explicit acknowledgment of the importance of food security was made at the World Food Conference in Rome in 1974. The report emanating out of this conference notes: 'Every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop fully and maintain their physical and mental faculties... Accordingly, the eradication of hunger is a common objective of all the countries of the international community...' The concept has not stopped evolving since. The World Food Summit 1996 notes: 'Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences...'

Amartya Sen's book 'Poverty and Famines', broadened the definition, making the point that the starving are often denied access to food rather than suffering

because food is unavailable. In so doing, Sen introduced the idea of 'entitlements to food.' With the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting supply chains, blocking freights, increasing the risk of food becoming unavailable, 'food entitlement' takes a new significance, and makes food security even more complex.

Arif Husain, Chief Economist at the UN World Food Programme tells us that the numbers of 'food insecure' people would rise from 130 million to nearly 300 million people due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are perhaps lucky in that we are a small nation with only some 1.2 million people to feed. But our rapidly depreciating rupee, rising debt level and endemic corruption with **land** often at the heart of it, leads to some serious concern.

Distributing food packs to the poor and needy in times of great difficulty shows solidarity and is laudatory, but this should not become a regular long-term feature of our society, enabling a segment of the political elite to continually chant their own praise of how caring they are and appease their conscience while the poor remain oppressed. What is most needed at this point is an economic and ecological strategy which can create jobs for the greatest number and not one which kills jobs as the 2020-2021 Budget does.

Budgetary and government programme debates

The Government Programme 2015-2019 states that: 'A New Strategic Land Use Planning Framework' will be developed to achieve major social and development objectives...'. During the debates, the then Minister of Agro Industry noted:

'... D'un côté, il ya des entrepreneurs et cultivateurs qui cherchent désespérément

des terres pour des projets agricoles et, de l'autre côté, des grandes superficies de terres sont à l'abandon. Donc **mon ministère va accélérer la création d'une Land Bank** pour enregistrer les terres abandonnées et les allouer aux agriculteurs intéressés.' The so-called '**accélération**' has not only slowed down but seems to have resulted in some kind of natural death.

A Strategic Plan for the non sugar sector was developed with the overall objective of reducing dependence on food imports. Instead, locally produced food crop declined from 121,106 tons in 2012 to 93,736 in 2019, hectares of land under crop cultivation dropped from 8124 to 7334. Seed production has fallen from 4.5 tons in 2013 to 2.2 tons in 2019.

“Our rapidly depreciating rupee, rising debt level and endemic corruption with **land** often at the heart of it, leads to some serious concern. Distributing food packs to the poor and needy in times of great difficulty shows solidarity and is laudatory, but this should not become a regular long-term feature of our society, enabling a segment of the political elite to continually chant their own praise of how caring they are and appease their conscience while the poor remain oppressed...”

Referring to cattle and milk production, the former minister notes that "...en dépit des fonds substantiels disponibles pour le **Food Security Fund** et des projets mis en oeuvre... la production du lait et la viande a régressé..." But some six years later, the situation has hardly improved, with some Rs5 billion being spent on imported dairy products. (Défi Quotidien, 22 April, 2020)

Paragraph **72 of Budget 2016-2017** notes:

'...First we must put agricultural land to modern and productive use. In that context, the **MCIA will set up an Agricultural Land Management System** to bring unutilised abandoned land of small farmers to productive use.'

Has the idea of the **Land Bank** shifted to a **Land Management System**? Total confusion!

Budget 2017-2018 speaks of the introduction of drone technology in agriculture and macadamia plantations as a new export niche. No one seems to know what

happened to these? And Para 86 refers to the introduction of a national biosecurity plan for notifiable animal diseases... and again the fate of this plan is unknown to most.

Responding to Xavier Duval's comments during the Debates, regarding the decline in food crop output over the last few years, the former Minister of Agro Industry argues that the output produced under the 'sheltered farming' scheme has not been computed by Statistics Mauritius, implying that the said scheme constituted some kind of game changer. However, 'sheltered farming' is nowhere to be found in the 2020-21 budget although claims are made about '...continuation of work' by the current Agro-Industry Minister. The latter tells us: '...there is continuation in the work which

has been started by mon illustre prédécesseur, Honourable Seeruttun'. What does this 'continuation of work' imply? Wait for yet another report since he himself informs us that the Ministry is expecting a Report from the African Development Bank regarding the non sugar sector. Why go to the ADB when there is so much talent and expertise at UOM's Faculty of Agriculture?

The 2020-21 budget comes up with a long list of measures for the agricultural sector, amongst which we read at para 48: '**A centralised digital Land Bank of State and Private Agricultural Land will be set up** under Landscape Mauritius Ltd...' And at Para 50: 'Upon approval of Landscape Mauritius Ltd, a small planter, having up to 10 acres of agricultural land will be allowed to convert up to 10 percent of his land for residential or commercial purpose.'

With such measures and heavy emphasis on the construction sector, more IRS/RES and other prestigious projects are likely to come up exacerbating the existing pressure on land. Coupled with the further opening up of the economy to foreigners, land speculation will inevitably arise, impacting negatively on our food security potential.

If the government is serious about food security, laws relating to food, land and water cannot remain fragmented and dispersed nor is it sufficient to revise the Agricultural Marketing Board Act. It should come up with some new comprehensive legislation making it mandatory for land-owners to engage in food production or lease their lands to government, opening up the way for modern technologically oriented agribusiness cooperatives absorbing the young unemployed men and women, instead of relegating the latter to growing crops in their back gardens.



Food security. Photo - caricom.org

Interview: Ragen Valayden

“The St Louis Gate is only the tip of the iceberg...”

Will the government disclose what happened on the Gas turbine project or investigate on CWA and Huawei?”

Ragen Valayden, Chief Editor of Capital Media, environmental and social activist, opines that the country's dire situation can be traced back to poor governance, as well as corruption which is endemic in both the public and private sectors. For him, the problems we are facing date back to well before the pandemic, and the latter should not have been used to foist on the population ultraliberal measures that are to the detriment of the population and especially the workers.

Mauritius Times: As a social activist often seen raising issues of public interest how do you view the CEB's St Louis scandal?

Ragen Valayden: I am glad you still call it a scandal, because our government believes there is none. Nonetheless let's play the game and plunge into facts made public. The Independent Review Panel ruling (22/15) clearly indicates the second tender, launched in 2015, does offer an advantage to Burmeister and Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC), given the deviations listed in Tender 1 have been inbuilt in Tender 2. So there is no ambiguity as to which contract is being referred to in the scandal.

My concern rests on the eligibility of BWSC to participate in the exercise. This is what precisely caused a stir in Malta when former Leader of Opposition Joseph Muscat revealed a similar collusion between BWSC and senior government officials. The primary question of the people and media was how come the government could offer a contract to a company already tainted by corruption.

But the most outrageous part would be the *modus operandi* to activate the St Louis redevelopment Phase 2. The Mott Macdonald report which is the basis of our energy strategy clearly underlines there would not have been any need for the installation of the additional engines, as proposed under Phase 2, should the power plant at Pointes aux Caves gone live. Which implies CT Power was an obstacle to the St Louis project and had to be cast away. The way CT Power was ousted and propaganda carried out to justify an emergency procurement is a master class every aspiring criminal should learn from.

I have been the first to stand up against CT Power. My claim rested on environmental concerns and the need to create the right conditions to attract investments in clean energy projects. The battle against CT Power was fierce, and I absolutely wanted to win. Yet today I feel uneasy given the unfairness and cowardly manner in which the government has acted against CT Power. Even more scandalous when MPs bang on the table when such admission of guilt is proffered at the National Assembly.

*** In the meantime however, the Acting General Manager has been suspended, and the Board of the CEB summarily revoked by the Prime Minister. The ICAC has stepped in with an investigation into the matter. What's your take on that?**

It's a tragedy of errors. Why did the board suspend the Acting General Manager if they believe he has acted fairly? Why did the Prime Minister sack the Board if there were

no reasons to believe an offence had been committed? Now that Pravind Jugnauth has been seemingly convinced by Ivan Collendavelloo, would he reinstate the board members? There is much more to unfold in this scandal.

While he was busy with his theatrics at the National Assembly, an adviser to the government was giving instructions to 'collaborators' in the newsrooms of mainstream media on how to take the Deputy Prime Minister down. Hours later these media

“What the country needed was a multipronged strategy. The first to revamp our obsolete model. The second to repair the structural damage done since 2015 and thirdly to deal with contemporary challenges. Instead we have been fed with stale measures. Some even going back to MMM manifesto of 1976. We cannot repair the foundations of our economy by some superficial adjustments. It's like treating a patient. If the diagnosis is wrong, the treatment prescribed can never be effective...”

which usually had a bias towards the government, turned hostile. Journalists always sitting on the fence started posting hard hitting opinions on social media.

As for ICAC, I wouldn't be surprised if they even tow the St Louis engines to their compound, with the MBC making a whole 7-meal course out of it.

*** The long list of pending inquiries at the level of ICAC, which is doing the round on social media, highlights the absence of a credible investigative agency capable of handling white collar crime independently of political proximity. It has thus been argued that the alternative to sending the case to ICAC is the setting up of a commission of enquiry. What do you think?**

Honestly, I believe we would deliver more justice to the people of this country by closing down ICAC and saving hundreds of millions annually. ICAC is a white elephant headed by a mahout trying to teach his pet somer-



saults. Let alone its posture in the MedPoint case but the presence of its director general at the Privy Council is a total disgrace.

ICAC keeps saying we should differentiate between "Corruption" and "Perception of Corruption" yet billions are continuously disappearing. Maybe in the case of St Louis they would conclude it's the Ghost of Hamlet which benefited from kickbacks. Seriously, nothing would surprise me. But to be fair, we should also recognise that the dysfunctionality of ICAC has been inbuilt. The genius who designed the framework came up with a brilliant invention which satisfies everybody. It's like a "beware of Dog" signage which even barks, but in fact there is no dog.

The public statement by the Prime Minister justifying his decision not to set up a Commission of Inquiry merely because he believes it would fail to obtain a copy of the report from the African Development Bank, is devoid of any sense. It is the best piece of testimony you could have on the current weightage of the government.

BWSC has been involved in dozens of such questionable deals across the world and Mauritius will be the only country where it would have not faced any inquiry. Even if

the ADB is tied through a non-disclosure agreement with BWSC, there are numerous ways of securing the key elements of the initial report.

The St Louis Gate is only the tip of the iceberg. Will the government disclose what happened on the gas turbine project or investigate on CWA and Huawei? I would be the happiest of all if I am proved wrong. But we all know how bad the situation is out there. It's time to bell the cat

*** Besides the politics of energy proper, it would seem the politics of big business with the IPPs and 'blackout' narratives in the background has come into play in the St Louis case with the assistance of party leaders. That would make an interesting case study starting from the travails of CT Power, isn't it?**

In 2006, after five years in office, out of which two years he served as Prime Minister, Paul Berenger set himself on a pilgrimage reciting the mantra "blackout". Backed by a fanatic mainstream media which kept spinning dark stories of an imminent failure of our power supply. Bizarrely, the vociferous claims of the leader of the MMM coincided with the renewal period of contracts between the State & Independent Power Producers (IPPs), historical oligarchs who rule freely over 70% of the economy.

For 16 years Paul Berenger has been spinning the imminent "blackout" scare by flashing reports of World Bank (WB) and the Country Strategy Paper of the African Development Bank. A diligent fact checking by the media would have allowed to call the bluff. Every single report is based on specialized publications, interaction with operators, institutions and consultants. If they all convey the same message based on a common interest, then obviously the findings and recommendations contained in the reports would be strongly influenced.

For example, one of the grievances from the private sector made to the representatives of World Bank relates to "inadequate infrastructure" in the energy sector, which they observe as a problem for doing business in the country. An obvious recommendation from WB would be to remedy the situation, which in turn simply implies more contracts to the aggrieved operators. More so we do have the vivid evidence that most pharaonic projects splashed out in successive budget speeches are nothing but publicity stunts geared at renewing the annual hype. Which distorts the information and supposed facts submitted to international agencies.

'We cannot repair the foundations of our economy by some superficial adjustments.'

If the diagnosis is wrong, the treatment prescribed can never be effective'

* Contd from page 8

Another interesting finding in the ADB report which is clearly deleted by those lobbying for fossil energy projects relates to the recommendations made on clean energy. Despite an increase in supply from (430) MW in 2012 to (525) MW in 2018, the scare of an imminent "blackout" still serves the purpose of some people. In an interview published on 19th March 2016, Ivan Collendavelloo states there is no risk of any "blackout". Yet in the same interview he boasts of his decision to go for emergency procurement for the turbines.

*** The St Louis scandal has quietly crowded out the budgetary measures from public debates. Worse, the Opposition also has been unable to go deep into the details as regards these measures at the level of the Committee of Supply in the National Assembly following their suspension by the Speaker, and the Budget has been voted. Why the hurry?**

I have been saying it for a while now, this country has become a circus. If you need evidence, just look at the parliamentary debates. The conduct of last Tuesday's session is a vivid proof on how matters are expedited. The Opposition parties are running out of steam and are committing strategic blunders which some backseat pilot on the government side is making the most of.

But the whole concept of this government boils down to the phenomena around Pravind Jugnauth - "Only his life matters". So it all starts from there! While everything is done to shield or promote, real issues have been neglected. Institutions are left to rot, cronies are moving around like in a supermarket picking up freely whatever they want. We are in a total state of anarchy.

However there is a fundamental flaw in our country's political model. The majority of the government MPs form part of both Legislative and Executive. We have 25 ministers, 10 PPS and a Deputy Speaker, which leaves out only a few who enjoy their role as cheer leaders. Let's set aside the quality of the MPs; given there is no scope for separation of powers there can be no provision for checks and balances. So let's not be surprised that not a single MP from the government wanted to get into details of the budgetary allocations.

*** The view had been expressed prior to the Budget that if the Government does not come forward with wide ranging and drastic reforms in certain key sectors that are of critical importance to the country, then we would get back to business as usual. That seems to be the case, isn't it?**

First and foremost we should underline the fact that this budget would not have been possible without the Covid-19 act which entails a string of repressive measures impeding on both republican and human values. For years now, the budget presentation is merely an annual PR exercise for the government.

What the country needed was a multi-



“There is a fundamental flaw in our country's political model. The majority of the government MPs form part of both Legislative and Executive. We have 25 ministers, 10 PPS and a Deputy Speaker, which leaves out only a few who enjoy their role as cheer leaders. Let's set aside the quality of the MPs; given there is no scope for separation of powers there can be no provision for checks and balances. So let's not be surprised that not a single MP from the government wanted to get into details of the budgetary allocations...”

pronged strategy. The first to revamp our obsolete model. The second to repair the structural damage done since 2015 and thirdly to deal with contemporary challenges. Instead we have been fed with stale measures. Some even going back to MMM manifesto of 1976. We cannot repair the foundations of our economy by some superficial adjustments. It's like treating a patient. If the diagnosis is wrong, the treatment prescribed can never be effective. Most of the issues are prior to Covid-19 and by shifting all responsibilities onto the pandemic, we are deliberately turning a blind eye to the true reasons which have led to the deterioration of our economy.

Getting funds by hook or by crook is not the issue. But it is how and for what purpose these funds will be used which matters. There is an interesting saying by American engineer and author Edward Deming which goes - "It is not enough to do your best; you must know what to do, and then do your best". Minister Padayachy's admiration for Macron will prove to be very expensive.

*** We presume that Business Mauritius would not want to be perceived as dictating economic policy, but when you hear noises from that organisation against some particular budgetary measures, that usually would suggest that those measures might indeed be in the public interest...**

These are not noises, but the mews of the fat cats who only enjoy been cuddled and hate getting pinched. Prior to the budget, the advisers leaked out information on possible increase in VAT or immediate abolition of old-age pension. They created a mass hysteria which ended up creating a catapult effect in their favour.

Lobbying has always existed and is absolutely legitimate. While most people believe power rests within our National Assembly, in reality it is wielded on the other side of the street, at the Plantation House and MCB. The show is only meant to fool the masses.

*** Whilst there are big challenges facing the country, we find the government amending labour laws that will facilitate redundancy and lead to greater commotion. What's your take on that?**

While the Covid-19 should have been a moment of self-assessment and realisation of what matters most to human life, it is been churned into a perfect alibi to commit the most insane crimes. One of the fundamental questions which Covid-19 raises relates to relation of humans and the economy. Do we exist for the benefit of the economy, or shouldn't it be vice-versa?

The advocates of ultra-liberalism have used the opportunity to reset the clock and send back the working class to the dark ages. In simple terms we have been told: 'To save jobs we need to have layoffs'. With our people losing their smile, our hospitality sector has experienced a steep decline. Instead of giving billions to owners, we should rather invest in sustaining employees and embarking them on capacity-building pro-

grams. This would yield an improved workforce in the months to come.

However our biggest challenge remains lack of governance and high prevalence of corruption. Though members of our parliament relentlessly hammer that corruption is invasive in various sectors, management of public affairs has only worsened. The widespread corruption is to an extent that we tend to believe it is deeply rooted in our culture, preventing honest countrymen from quenching their thirst for trust, better livelihood and equality.

Let me tell you a story. Last year nor far away from St Louis Station at Pailles, a 17-year old boy died in an accident because of a pothole in a road that had cost hundreds of millions. This is the result of corruption which many fail to see. The use of substandard materials by phony contractors is rampant. Despite billions invested in public health service, we still cannot draw satisfaction. You name any sector, corruption is omnipresent. Can you imagine a government contracts billions in loans and can't explain where the money has gone?

*** How do you view the billions coming from the Bank of Mauritius to fix the economy and keep everybody happy?**

That sounds like kids playing monopoly. The Bank of Mauritius is one of the front runners dashing straight into the storm. Its decision to turn into policy the fantasy classroom exercise of Milton Friedman is a clear hint of a government running out of ideas on how to jumpstart the economy and tow it out of the deep slump. Let's cast aside the futile terminological debate on what's helicopter money or how does it differ from quantitative easing. Let's rather remain on the unchallengeable statement by the very same Milton Friedman - There is no such thing as a free lunch.

The malicious amendments slipped into Covid-19 Act allowing the BOM to depart from traditional policy, not only undermines the independence of the central bank but also entails both governance as well as compliance issues. With whistleblowers drawing attention to financial concerns and an incestuous political relationship between the government & BOM, a diligent focus should be laid on consequences of these decisions on other key aspects within the BOM. The distribution of unrealized gains and its impact on accounting practices, audit standards and fiduciary duties of BOM directors are issues of extreme concern.

The shady moves of creating Special Purpose vehicles or distributing unrealized gains can be interpreted by any sane person as a violation of the BOM Act, given the role of directors is to "ensure the security, liquidity and return of the foreign reserves". Though the BOM Act does cater for the protection from liability of directors, the blatant offences and consequences thereof giving rise to popular unrest, should reasonably trigger reaction from the directors. In any case they will be remembered for decades to come.

African countries need to seize opportunities created by US-China tensions

African policymakers should strenuously safeguard their right to choose from the widest possible range of technology options that suit their countries' development needs

The unfolding US-China power rivalry bears a striking resemblance to the tensions between the US and the Soviet bloc during the Cold War years. Back then, African countries were positioned like pawns on a grand chessboard. Their social and economic progress was hampered because they expended energy aligning themselves with either of the superpowers in the battle for world supremacy between communism and capitalism.

With notable exceptions, African states generally failed to exercise positive agency for their own development. They also eroded the institutional and governance foundations vital for economic success.

In the current context of rising geopolitical tensions between the US and China, African countries may find themselves repeating the same mistakes unless they proactively shape their own destinies.

The tensions between the two great powers, characterised by a vicious trade war, are deepening at a time when the world economy is under enormous strain due to COVID-19. At the same time African countries are facing their worst economic crises since independence.

Africa is institutionally under-prepared to weather the combined effects of the health pandemic and severe economic recession. Its leaders will need to consciously design strategies of engagement that will help them to manage the ongoing superpower tensions to their advantage. They should do so without taking sides. This requires that they deal with each of these great powers based on pragmatic – rather than ideological – choices.

Despite their institutional under-preparedness, African countries can – and indeed must – be highly strategic and tactical in how they respond to the US-China tensions. Failure to do so will inevitably



The unfolding US-China power rivalry bears a striking resemblance to the tensions between the US and the Soviet bloc during the Cold War years. Photo - www.ipeclub.co

mean sacrificing their own interests.

There are three arenas of challenges and opportunities for the African continent in the current geopolitical climate. The first involves technological frontiers, the second is global supply chains, and the third is trade integration and economic cooperation.

New technological frontiers

There is overwhelming evidence that technological innovation is the key driver of



A mural of presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping in Berlin. EFE-EPA/Omer Messinger

economic growth. Therefore, access to and exploitation of new technologies such as 5G is vital to Africa's development. Fifth generation technologies are important options for a continent like Africa where mobile technology has leap-frogged more traditional technologies.

Access to technologies like 5G offers access to universal broadband, which is critical for the continent's advance to a digital economy.

In May last year the US government put the Chinese firm Huawei, the world's leading supplier of 5G network infrastructure, on its list of entities deemed to pose a significant risk to national security and foreign policy interests.

Huawei was effectively banned from importing and incorporating key US technologies into its products and services. This included both hardware, such as high-tech semiconductor components, and software, like Google Mobile Services (GMS). The ban was later extended to key technologies from non-US firms. These included the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, a major Huawei supplier.

In the month following the initial ban, the CEOs of four major South African telecommunications operators – Telkom, Vodacom, MTN and Cell C – wrote a joint letter to South African president Cyril Ramaphosa requesting his urgent intervention on the US action against Huawei. Their aim would have been to lend diplomatic weight to prevent damage to South Africa's telecommunications sector.

In July last year Ramaphosa came out in support of the four operators as well as Huawei. He said the ban was: *an example of protectionism that will affect our own telecommunications sector, particularly the efforts to roll out the 5G network, causing a setback on other networks as well.*

This was an example of pragmatism on the part of the South African government.

African policymakers should strenuously safeguard their right to choose from the widest possible range of technology options that suit their countries' development needs. And they should insist on acquiring and developing new technologies like 5G based on pragmatism.

Global supply chains

The second theatre of struggle for African countries is in global supply chains.

The COVID-19 reality, combined with

the ratcheting up of US-China tensions over trade, technology and supply chains, has opened up opportunities that African countries should exploit.

Combined, they have exposed serious problems in supply networks across various sectors. These include digital products, food, pharmaceutical and medical supply chains.

These sectors represent opportunities for African countries to develop new products, services and capabilities. They could, for example, provide answers to safeguarding Africa's food security needs, local production of essential drugs and medicines, low-cost medical tests and equipment, and logistics.

But African countries will need to work more collaboratively to develop thriving economic sectors and cross-border industrial linkages. Trade will, in our view, be a critical enabler for this.

This leads us to the third domain, namely the need for African countries to deepen trade integration and economic cooperation. This will provide a basis for diversifying from over-reliance on export markets such as China and the US, and to build internal resilience.

Intra-Africa trade

Intra-African trade accounts for just 16% of total African trade. This compares with 52% in Asia and 73% in Europe. African trade is highly concentrated on a few economic hubs: China and Europe together account for 54% of total African trade, with China being Africa's single largest trading partner. It accounts for over 14% of total African trade.

The African Continental Free Trade Area creates the institutional and infrastructural framework for Africa to strengthen intra-African trade, diversify its trading partners and implement long-overdue trade policy reforms.

Covid-19 has induced significant delays in the implementation of this trading arrangement. It should, in fact, have magnified a sense of urgency. But instead of showing adaptability, African leaders pressed a pause button. As a result, the continent could miss an opportunity to accelerate development of cross-border value chains in medical supplies and equipment and other areas.

Imagination and courage

African countries should seize the opportunities presented by deepening tensions between China and the US to realise positive agency and chart their own future. They will need to be more proactive and adaptive under the fluid and uncertain global environment. This will require a great deal of imagination and courage.

African countries face a daunting set of challenges and constraints. But policymakers always have options.

Mzukisi Qobo & Mjumo Mzyece,
University of the Witwatersrand

4 things you should never say to your partner

Your spouse cannot "unhear" what you spew out of anger - even if you apologize. Those hurtful words can wedge their way into your spouse's mind and heart, creating mistrust and doubt. Attempts to repair the harm may not be successful, and repeated attacks will create an ever-deepening wedge between you.

While watching every word you say is no way to have an open, caring relationship, you may find it helpful to avoid five phrases that will inevitably damage your relationship:

I want a divorce. Unless you really mean it, just don't go there. Saying those words will undermine the connection between you. By holding true to your commitment to each other, you more likely weather the stormy times together.

Instead, tune into what you are feeling and express that. For instance, you might say that you feel angry, furious, hurt, mistrustful, or betrayed. Labelling these emotions expresses how you feel without attacking your spouse or your marriage.

I hate you. This phrase can imply a level of animosity toward your spouse's character that has some staying power. Do you really loathe, detest, or abhor your spouse? If so, then maybe it's time to truly consider divorce. If not, then don't say it.

A couple of slightly different versions of this are: "I never loved you," and, "I never should have married you." These comments may cause your spouse to doubt



your true feelings even after your momentary hostility passes.

Instead, pay attention to your emotions along with what is causing them. For instance, you might say that you are angry or even furious with your spouse for, say, ignoring your calls and texts when out with friends. If you feel compelled to use the word hate, be sure to attach it to your spouse's behaviour rather than your spouse. You might say, "I hate when you

walk out of the room when I talk to you!"

You are (negative character trait). When you label and attack your spouse's character, you don't allow for the chance that they'll change. For instance, think about what it means to call your spouse stupid, heartless, or worthless. In considering the last insult, if your spouse really is worthless, then there is nothing of value they can offer you or your relationship.

Instead, talk about the behaviours that

bother you. You might say that when they do none of the housework, it leaves too much on your plate and you feel resentful. This allows the possibility of your spouse changing their behaviour.

You never (positive action). When you say that your spouse never does some behaviour, you are probably discounting some time when they actually did do that behaviour. This firmly puts them in the "bad guy" camp and is an invitation for them to argue with you. It's just not a good way to encourage them to change.

Similarly, it is problematic to say, "You always (criticism)" - as in, "You always ignore me."

Instead, be specific about the problem and the change you'd like to see while also sharing your feelings. "When you spend every weeknight on the computer and barely register my existence, I feel really hurt and unloved. It's also why I've been so angry with you. If you talked or watched a movie with me at least a couple of nights a week, I would feel like you loved me and I wouldn't be so angry with you."

If you recognize that you use any of the above phrases, try making the changes suggested and your spouse will be more likely to really hear you. You'll have a much better chance at having a constructive conversation and ultimately feeling happier together.

Dr Becker-Phelps - WebMD

Your body

Ever had that moment where you wonder if you smell, well, not so great? It happens. But you can do a few things to make body odour go away.

1. Keep yourself squeaky clean

Shower at least once a day, and you'll wash away sweat and get rid of some of the bacteria on your skin.

Sweat by itself is basically odourless. But when the bacteria that live on your skin mix with sweat, they multiply quickly and raise quite a stink.

Washing thoroughly, especially the areas where you tend to sweat, can help with body odor.

2. Use antibacterial soap

Washing thoroughly with an antibacterial soap bar will help get rid of some bacteria, which can help with the odour.

Look for the word "antibacterial" on the soap's packaging.

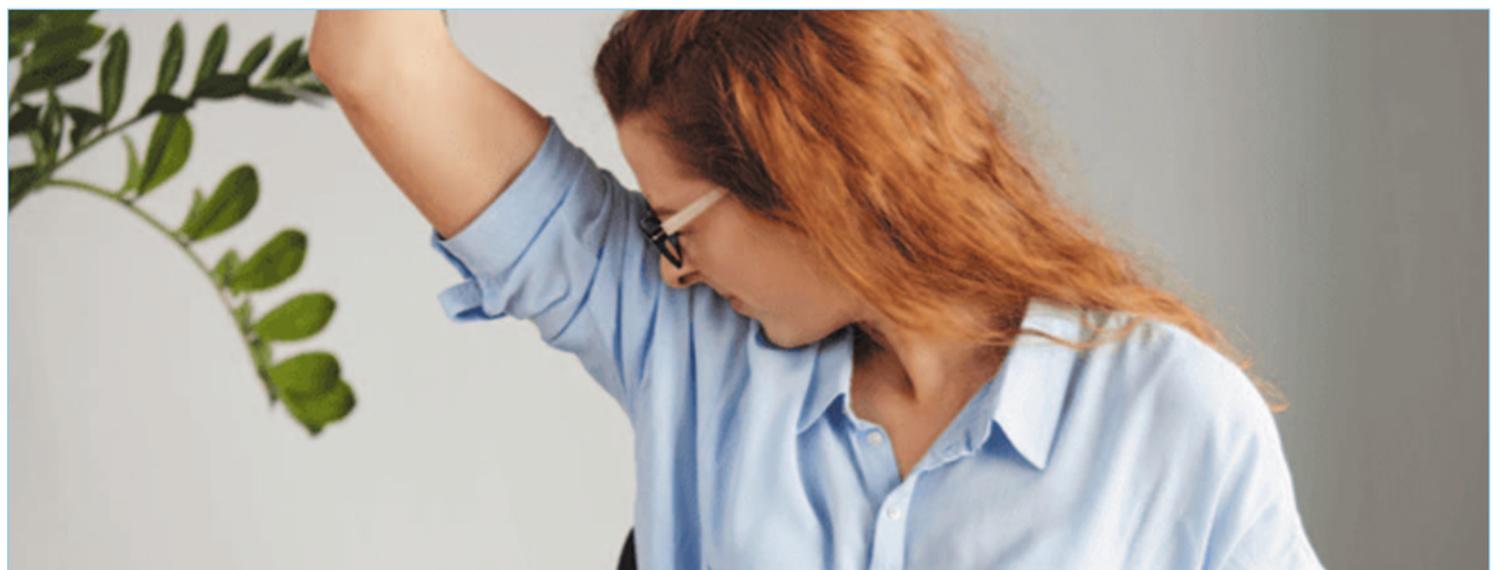
3. Towel off well

Once you've showered, dry yourself completely, paying close attention to any areas where you sweat a lot.

If your skin is dry, it's harder for bacteria that cause body odour to breed on it.

4. Use 'industrial strength' antiperspirants

Once you're clean and dry, use a strong



6 tips for reducing body odour

antiperspirant on your underarms. These have aluminum chloride, a chemical that helps keep sweat at bay, and they often also have a deodorant in them. Use it twice a day -- once in the morning and once in the evening.

You don't need a prescription to get a powerful antiperspirant. Look for ones that say they're higher strength.

If you think you need more help, ask your doctor about prescription antiperspi-

rants.

5. Keep your clothes clean

Change clothes often when you're sweating heavily. Fresh clothes help keep body odour down.

Be sure to change your socks as well, especially if you tend to have foot odour. Use deodorant powders in your shoes, replace insoles often, and go barefoot when possible.

6. Cut out or cut back on certain foods or drinks

What you eat affects your body odour. Foods that tend to make you sweat more, such as hot peppers or other spicy foods, might also lead to body odour. And the aroma of foods like onions or garlic can be carried in your sweat. Drinks with caffeine or alcohol may also make you sweat more.

WebMD

Why activists are vandalizing statues to colonialism

In 2018, statues of Edward Cornwallis and John A. Macdonald were removed from their respective pedestals in Halifax and Victoria. Across Canada, colonial statues have also been vandalized as an act of protest.

Statues and monuments have become major flashpoints of political conflict over the past decade.

After the 2015 Charleston Massacre, in which a neo-Confederate white supremacist murdered nine African Americans at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, a movement to remove Confederate monuments and place names swept across the United States.

Another wave of Confederate statue removals and place renamings occurred in the aftermath of the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017.

In South Africa, the #RhodesMustFall movement led to the removal of a statue honoring the British imperialist Cecil Rhodes at the University of Cape Town in 2015. This inspired efforts to challenge Rhodes's legacy elsewhere as well.

Monument controversies are not unique to the 21st century. Commemorative landscapes have been radically transformed during political regime changes throughout history. Following the Second World War, monuments to the Nazi regime were toppled. Similarly, the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of apartheid in South Africa led to significant changes to the memorial landscape.

The legacies of settler colonialism

Settler colonialism is a process of colonization based upon the replacement of Indigenous or colonized peoples with a settler society. This involves both the dispossession of Indigenous land and the erasure, either through assimilation or elimination, of Indigenous peoples.

Colonial statues and place names are part of the political infrastructure of settler place-making in Canada. As a result, they have become focal points for challenging settler-colonial power and testing the limits of reconciliation.

On Jan. 31, 2018, the Cornwallis statue was taken down from its pedestal in Halifax. As an honorific commemoration for the "founder" of Halifax, Mi'kmaw elders have long viewed the statue as a sign of the ongoing dispossession of Indigenous peoples and called for its removal.

As if answering the East Coast, the John A. Macdonald statue was removed from the entrance to City Hall in Victoria



A crowd looks on as the statue of imperialist Cecil Rhodes is removed from its perch at the University of Cape Town in 2015. Schalk van Zuydam/The Associated Press

on Aug. 11, 2018. The decision to remove the Macdonald statue was made as part of the city's formal reconciliation process with the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.

As Canada's first prime minister, Macdonald was chief architect of its residential school system and promoted genocidal policies against Indigenous peoples. His monumental presence at the entrance to City Hall was a major barrier to reconciliation efforts.

A year later, the city of New Westminster followed suit, removing a statue of the "Hanging Judge" Matthew Begbie from the grounds of the provincial courthouse.

Those opposed to the removal of statues often propose adding historic plaques as a way to recontextualize statues while leaving them in public spaces. Some activists, however, have chosen a different option: vandalism.

Vandalizing colonial statues and monuments

Across Canada, contentious statues and monuments linked to settler colonialism have been targeted with vandalism. In Montréal, the John A. Macdonald and Queen Victoria monuments have been regularly spray-painted. Macdonald statues have been vandalized in Kingston and Regina as far back as 2012.

Accompanying the campaign to remove the Cornwallis statue in Halifax were several incidents of vandalism as well.

These are not random acts of hooliganism. The vandalism of colonial statues is an expression of political protest against

genocide.

In their communiqué, the Montréal May Anarchists made reference to previous acts by #MacdonaldMustFall, inspired by the #RhodesMustFall campaign and the Delhi-Dublin Anti-Colonial Solidarity Brigade.

Citing other monument controversies and social struggles, these communiqués place themselves as part of a broader activist community. These groups frame their acts of vandalism as an expression of their commitment to anti-colonial and decolonization movements internationally.

The future is not cast in stone

The removal of statues and monuments is often equated with "erasing history." But history itself is a process that has witnessed countless changes to commemorative landscapes.

In settler-colonial societies such as Canada, the creation of monumental landscapes celebrating colonialism has played a significant role in the process of erasing Indigenous histories and ties to the land. There is a difference between the repressive erasure by dispossession that colonialism has unleashed and the restorative erasure of removing colonial statues to restore an Indigenous sense of place.

Colonial statues are a visible barrier to decolonization and reconciliation because they embed white supremacy in public spaces.

Various far-right groups have rallied to defend colonial monuments subject to controversy. For example, members of the Proud Boys disrupted a Mi'kmaw protest against the Cornwallis statue. Similarly, the right-wing group Students for Western Civilisation bemoan what they see as an erasure of European culture. Commemorating colonialism with monuments aligns with the goals of a growing number of white supremacist groups in Canada.

Reuben Rose-Redwood &
Wil Patrick
University of Victoria



In A Light Vein

Fight between husband and wife

With both of them with MA in English literature, instead of resorting to shouting, abusing or physical force, they write poems to each other

Wife

I wrote your name on sand it got washed...

I wrote your name in air, it was blown away.

Then I wrote your name on my heart & I got heart attack.

Husband

God saw me hungry, he created pizza.

He saw me thirsty, he created Pepsi.

He saw me in the dark, he created light.

He saw me without problems, he created YOU.

Wife

Twinkle twinkle little star

You should know what you are

And once you know what you are

Mental hospital is not so far

Husband

The rain makes all things beautiful.

The grass and flowers too.

If rain makes all things beautiful

Why doesn't it rain on you?

Wife

Roses are red; Violets are blue

Monkeys like you should be kept in the zoo.

Husband

Don't feel so angry you will find me there too

Not in cage, but laughing at you!!

They walk among us

A guy bought a new fridge for his house.

To get rid of his old fridge, still in working condition, he put it in his front yard and hung a sign on it saying: 'Free to good home. You want it, you take it.'

For three days the fridge sat there without anyone looking twice.

He eventually decided that people were too mistrustful of this deal.

So, he changed the sign to read: 'Fridge for sale \$50.'

The next day someone stole it!

One day I was walking down the beach with some friends when someone shouted, "Look at that dead bird!"

Someone looked up at the sky and said "Where?"

While looking at a house, my brother asked the estate agent which direction was North because he didn't want the sun waking him up every morning.

She asked, 'Does the sun rise in the North?'

My brother explained that the sun rises in the East and has for some time. She shook her head and said, 'Oh, I don't keep up with all that stuff.'

My colleague and I were eating our lunch in our cafeteria, when we overheard an admin girl talking about the sunburn she got on her weekend drive to the beach. She drove down in a convertible, but said she "didn't think she'd get sunburned because the car was moving."

My sister has a lifesaving tool in her car which is designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped. She keeps it in the car trunk.

I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area and went to the lost luggage office and reported the loss.

The woman there smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional and said I was in good hands. 'Now,' she asked me, 'Has your plane arrived yet?' I work with professionals like this.

While working at a pizza parlour, I observed a man ordering a small pizza to go. He appeared to be alone and the cook asked him if he would like it cut into 4 pieces or 6.

He thought about it for some time, then said "Just cut it into 4 pieces; I don't think I'm hungry enough to eat 6 pieces."

And last, but not the least...

A noted psychiatrist was a guest speaker at an academic function where Donald Trump happened to appear.

Mr Trump took the opportunity to schmooze the good doctor a bit and asked him a question with which he was most at ease.

'Would you mind telling me, Doctor,' he asked, 'how you detect a mental deficiency in somebody who appears completely normal?'

Nothing is easier,' he replied. 'You ask a simple question which anyone should answer with no trouble. If the person hesitates, that puts you on the track.'

'What sort of question?' asked Trump.

'Well, you might ask, Captain Cook made three trips around the world and died during one of them. Which one?'

Trump thought a moment, and then said with a nervous laugh, 'You wouldn't happen to have another example, would you? I must confess I don't know much about history.'

Sadly, they walk among us!

Inspirational

Swedish proverb: The pillow is the best adviser.

Meaning: Sleep over a problem and see how you feel in the morning.

Kenyan proverb: When elephants fight, it is the grass that gets hurt.

Meaning: Fights of the powerful hurt only the little guys.

Ancient Roman proverb: Hunger is the best sauce.

Meaning: Everything tastes better when you are hungry.

Japanese proverb: A frog in a well does not know the great sea.

Meaning: There is more going on than you know, try and see the big picture.

Turkish proverb: If the world flooded, it would not matter to the duck.

Meaning: Things that are bad for you aren't always bad for everyone.

Filipino proverb: Leave it to the

batman.

Meaning: Some problems require superheroes to solve.

Russian proverb: To live with the wolves, you have to howl like a wolf.

Meaning: In dangerous situations, try and blend in.

French proverb: A hungry stomach has no ears.

Meaning: You can't concentrate without food in your tum.

Kenyan proverb: Slippery ground does not recognise a king.

Meaning: Even the most powerful people are just human deep down.

Gaelic proverb: A cat in mittens won't catch mice.

Meaning: Being careful and polite doesn't always get things done.

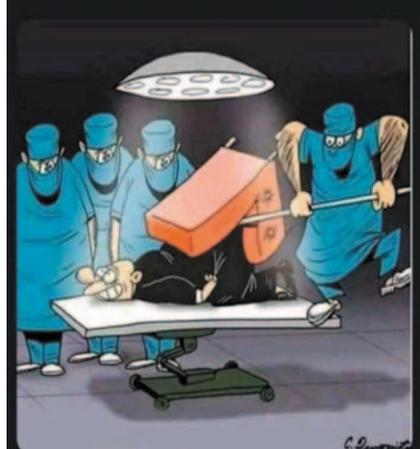
African Proverb: An erection has no conscience.

Meaning: To be blinded by desire or lust.

Si ton fils donne ces signes, ne crains rien, c'est un futur parlementaire.



This is the most complicated surgery in Africa. The separation of a man and the political seat.



Minissha Lamba to make Punjabi debut

Actress Minissha Lamba is the latest Bollywood starlet to join the Punjabi film industry. Minissha, who is starring in *'Black Currency'* with Nawazuddin Siddiqui, is now entering Punjabi industry opposite Punjabi actor Roshan Prince in the underproduction film, *'Ishq Dot Com'*. Minissha joins the expanding line of actresses from Bollywood, albeit with Punjabi roots, like Mahie Gill, Tulip Joshi, Neeru Bajwa, Kulraj Randhawa, Gul Panag, Simran Kaur Mundi, Gracie Singh, Divya Dutta, Juhi Chawla among others, who have explored Punjabi films.

Ishq Dot Com, directed by Sarvdeep Singh Munna, also casts veteran actors from Bollywood like famous villain, Ranjeet, Sharat Saxena. This film also marks the comeback of sorts for Comedy Circus star, Sudesh Lehri.

Expected to be in the genre of an emotional romantic film, Minissha's debut vehicle in Punjabi is speculated as a big release with producer Gurjeet Sidhu.

Though some actresses like Neeru and Mahie's performances in Punjabi films have been successful, not all Bollywood actresses have gained success here. Let's hope Minissha's Punjabi debut isn't as forgettable as that of some of the others.

Bryce Dallas Howard happy to go back on 'Jurassic World' sets



Actress Bryce Dallas Howard feels safe to return to the sets of *'Jurassic World: Dominion'* in the post COVID-19 era, and says she is grateful that she has a job.

'Jurassic World: Dominion' is set to resume filming next month in the UK.

Bryce said that she is looking forward to getting back to work and feels things are being handled with precaution. She opened about getting back to sets in *SiriusXM's 'EW Live'*.

"There's been a lot of communication. They are going above and beyond. We would never be going back to work if we didn't feel safe. And, you know, we're taking it one day at a time and I'm very grateful to have a job," Bryce said.

In the film franchise, Bryce is seen as Claire Dearing, who she portrayed in 2015's *'Jurassic World'* and then again in sequel *'Fallen Kingdom'* three years later.



'Jurassic World: Dominion', also featuring Chris Pratt, will be the first large studio production to start filming in England following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sixth film in the *Jurassic Park* franchise began shooting in Canada earlier this year, but production had to be suspended following the virus crisis.

The film also stars Sam Neill, Jeff Goldblum and Laura Dern.

Will Smith to star in slave thriller 'Emancipation'

Hollywood star Will Smith will feature in Antoine Fuqua's upcoming slave thriller *'Emancipation'*.

The film scripted by William N. Collage is based on the true story of a runaway slave named Peter, who has to survive ruthless hunters and a vast stretch of punishing swamp if he must escape to freedom, reportedly.

Production is expected to start early in 2021. The unit of the film, co-produced by Smith, was halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Smith also had to pause filming of the biopic *'King Richard'*, where he portrays Richard Williams, the father and coach of tennis superstars Venus and Serena Williams.

Fuqua on the other hand was in post-production on the action thriller *'Infinite'*.



YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You'll probably have some reasons for being concerned about your children, especially if they're teenagers. You can let yourself commit a small folly so as to give yourself some courage and keep up your joy of living.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 12, 15, 16, 20

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

You could favourably resume a friendship that has become a little slack because of a recent quarrel; don't hesitate to take the first step. You should go from success to success in work. Follow your intuition.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 9, 15, 20, 30

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

In love, don't unearth the hatchet and waste your time stirring up old frictions. Moral qualities at work will lead to brilliant successes. Unexpected opportunities or contacts can favour your introduction into a new environment.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 15, 20, 22, 29, 33

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Finances won't be bad, but you'll be tempted to throw money out of the window just for pleasure. You must beware of your passions, which could lead you well beyond your desires.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 12, 16, 19, 23, 27

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Avoid taking sides in family quarrels, especially if they involve your brothers and sisters. It would be the wrong moment for legal differences. Have faith in life, and so you'll attract good luck.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 4, 5, 11, 15, 21

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You'll see things with optimism, which will allow you to have high hopes. Professional success will be yours, but it'll only be transitory if you lack courage and perseverance. Good financial gains.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 17, 12, 30, 37

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You'll have very easy contacts in your various steps and formalities. You'll also be able to consolidate your material and professional position. Within your couple, harmony and serenity will reign.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, 15, 23, 24, 26

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Hardly affected by fatigue, you'll be capable of making steady and even hard efforts. Be careful in your relations with members of your family; the atmosphere within your home will be electrifying and an awkward word or gesture could have an explosive effect!

Lucky Numbers: 16, 18, 24, 29, 31, 34

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You'll have painful financial restrictions but there'll be no way for you to get out of this situation quickly and without efforts. Beware of some people who only think about shamelessly taking advantage of you

Lucky Numbers: 17, 18, 19, 20, 31, 36

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Your present tendency to postpone everything to a later moment is destructive, and you'll have to make an effort to fight it if you want to acquire real success. In your career, you'll be able to start over again on new and solid bases.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 12, 14, 17, 18

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You'll finally see your most cherished aspirations carried out, and you'll have few worries to grapple with. There will certainly be some money problems or legal complications. But on the other hand, there'll be very happy affective moments.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 15, 24, 26, 39

Scorpio: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You will take less at face value all that people tell you. Heart wise, stunning love-at-first-sight affairs, passionately lived adventures, and beautiful bonfires of love - but don't engage yourself now!

Lucky Numbers: 11, 15, 18, 20, 30, 40

Sayantani Ghosh: On working with 'Naagin 4' girls Nia Sharma and Jasmin Bhasin



Sayantani Ghosh shared a great bond with her co-stars in both *Sanjivani 2* and *Naagin 4*. In a live chat with ETimes TV, she speaks about her bond with Nia Sharma, Jasmin Bhasin, Anita Hassanandani, Surbhi Chandna, Mohnish Bahl and Rohit Roy.

With the leading ladies of *Naagin 4*

I shot maximum scenes with Jasmin (Nayantara) and then Nia (Brinda). By the time I got to work with Anita, my role kind of wrapped up. Anita and I have known each other. We have been in the industry together. She is a sweetheart. With some people you might not be in touch on a regular basis but when you connect, you pick it up from where you have left. Anita (Vishakha) is gorgeous. Every time I look at her, she is so stylish. I am in awe of her.

With her on-screen daughters Jasmin and Nia

Nia and Jasmin, I got to work with them for the first time because of *Naagin 4*. They are names themselves and have a huge fan following. They have been so kind towards me. Once I posed a dance video on social media and Nia wrote some encouraging words for me. Jasmin and I also share an amazing bond. They are quite established and they don't act like 'we know it all'. They are quite receptive. That's the best part. I had a great time working with Nia and Jasmin.

Learning to be *bindaas* from Jasmin

I began the journey with Jasmin and ended with Nia. At times you don't need much time to form a bond. It's just instant. It was a mutual admiration club and also a lot of respect for each other. There is so much to learn from Jasmin. She is a *bindaas* girl and likes to live in the moment, be happy and not think a lot. I would tell her to teach me how to be such *bindaas* as I am an over-thinker.

'Nia motivated me'

Nia is very confident and knows what she is doing. There is always so much to learn from each other. I remember once we had to shoot a 'taandav' sequence and Nia had already

done one solo 'taandav' before me. So, Nia was worried about our performance together. I told her that we would be fine. But still she came for a rehearsal and I was motivated by her. So even after our pack up (after 12 hrs of shoot) we were rehearsing till late night. And next day it went great.

'Surbhi is like Basanti'

Surbhi is one of the most super-energetic people I have ever met. With her on sets, there will be no dull moment. She is like Basanti and lifts up the mood just like that. She has the vibrant energy around her. I knew who Surbhi Chandna is; she has a huge fan following after *Ishqbaaz*. So, you may think that the person might come up with this air 'I am Anika'. But she is so down to earth. We have nicknamed each other. She calls me Puch and I call her Puchki. She is also very well-mannered and respects people. She would address Mohnishji and Rohit as 'Sir'. Even on our first creative meeting, she called me 'Ma'am'. I told her to call me by my name. That's the amazing part about her. She is a great talent and we are fond of each other.

On the father-daughter bond in *Sanjivani 2*

My character of Dr Anjali in *Sanjivani 2* was quite complex. She was not a villain and her major struggle was with her dad (Dr Shashank played by Mohnish Bahl). She always felt very neglected. Her entire existence was this validation from her father. And that was one of the key elements. Personally, Mohnishji is a stalwart in the industry. I was so amazed and mesmerised with his performance. But never felt he is a big star, he was always up for rehearsals. It was a great learning experience.

The Bong connection with Rohit Roy

Rohit and I have been a part of the industry for quite long. And both of us being Bengalis, we start talking in Bangla. With Rohit there was a great comfort. He always has the betterment of scenes in mind and also opens to suggestions from co-stars. Initially, we didn't know that we would be paired up. But people liked the silent energy between us.

TV SERIAL

Kulfi Kumar Bajewala

Friday 19 June: Gunjan and Loveleen get into a heated argument while Murphy Singh's anger puts him in trouble. Later, Loveleen learns a shocking truth about him.

Monday 22 June: Vikram forces Kulfi to perform in an odd outfit. This makes Murphy Singh to take a bold step. Later, Sikander is infuriated by Amyra's distasteful act.

Tuesday 23 June: Sikander comes up with a plan to lighten Kulfi's mood by asking his friend for a favour. Later, Kulfi is overwhelmed to meet Murphy Singh's family.

Wednesday 24 June: Kulfi and Murphy spend a memorable day together. Later, Kulfi sings a song while Sikander is shocked by Vikram's odd plans.

Thursday 25 June: Kulfi longs for Murphy's company as Vikram takes her to the party. Later, Murphy's violent attack on Jimmy leads to a shocking scenario.

Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

Friday 19 June: Sameer has no more doubts regarding his method acting as he feels more comfortable around Aditya as his acting companion. Naina has some good news to share.

Monday 22 June: Naina tries to talk with Sameer but he ignores her. Sameer finds Naina crying at home. Naina tells Sameer that she is pregnant. When Naina and Sameer give this news to Naina's father he gets excited. Preeti buys a pager as a gift for Naina without telling her mother-in-law or husband.

Tuesday 23 June: In today's episode of *Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai*, Sameer, and Naina are staying away from each other and try talking to each other in sign language through the window at night.

Wednesday 24 June: Now that Naina is expecting and Rakesh and Sameer both know about it, they are being extra cautious to take care of Naina. Meanwhile Naina gets an invitation to attend a kitty party.

Thursday 25 June: In today's episode of *Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai*, Sameer, and Naina are staying away from each other and try talking to each other in sign language through the window at night.

Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

Friday 19 June: Sonakshi gets a surprising offer while a desperate Rohit makes a mysterious phone call. Later, Pari is left in tears after a dispute with Suman and Sonakshi.

Monday 22 June: Sonakshi is unable to get over Pari's words while Rohit is determined to make things right. Later, she is stunned by Karan's outrageous demand.

Tuesday 23 June: Sumit manipulates a designer so that Pari has a wardrobe malfunction. Later, Sonakshi and Rohit get into a heated argument before the event.

Wednesday 24 June: While Sumit berates Rohit, Karan has an evil plan up his sleeve. Later, Sonakshi's dance performance leaves everyone in awe.

Thursday 25 June: Pooja is devastated following a wardrobe malfunction during the ramp walk. Later, she shoots sharp accusations at Sonakshi.

CINE 12

Vendredi 19 juin - 21.15

Les Misérables

Avec: Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway

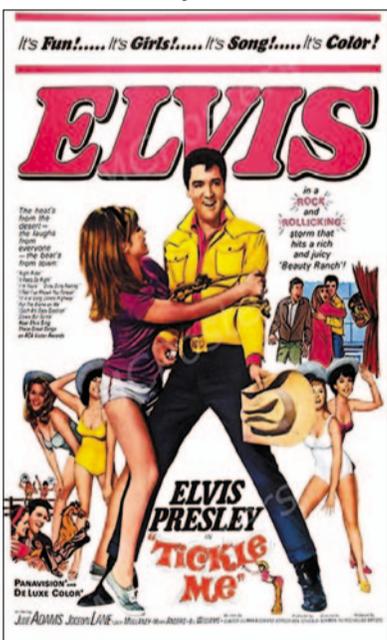


CINE 12

Samedi 13 juin - 21.15

Tickle Me

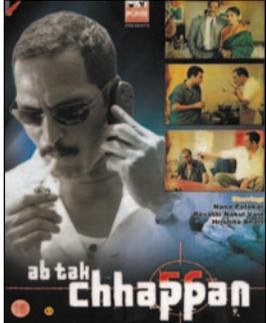
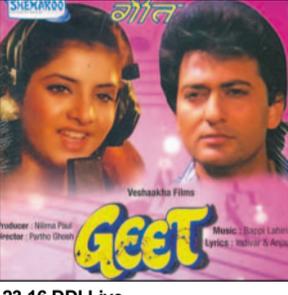
Star: Elvis Presley, Julie Adams, Jocelyn Lane



CINE 12

Dimanche 21 juin - 21.15

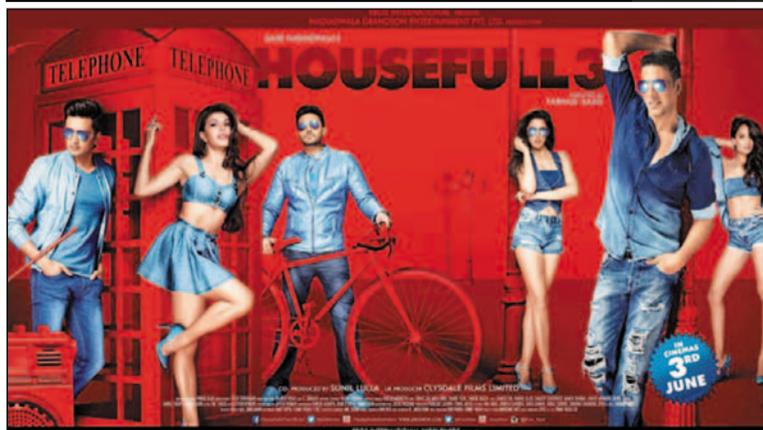


	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 19 juin	06.00 Local: Art Live 07.00 Dessin Anime 10.30 Mag: Origami 10.45 Mag: Zoboomafoo 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Doc: Autour Des Valeurs 12.35 Mag: Eye On SADC 13.01 Doc: Sur La Route Des Vin 14.26 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur 14.37 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack 14.41 D.Anime: Astrology 15.07 D.Anime: Kuu Kuu Harajuku 16.32 D.Anime: Linkers 17.00 Live Press Conference 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.00 Local: Press Conference 20.35 Prod: Komiko 23.25 Serial: Chicago Police... 00.10 Le Journal	08.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 09.00 Live Educational Grade 1 11.40 Live Educational Grade 3 14.00 Live Educational Grade 8 17.00 Zoom TV Live 20.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 20.45 Film: Madhumati Starring Dilip Kumar, Vyjayanthimala, Pran 	06.00 Mag: Eco India 06.44 Mag: Shift 07.00 Mag: Border Crossing 07.29 Doc: A Question Of Science 08.53 World Stamps 09.00 Live Educational Program... 16.03 Mag: Strictly Street 17.17 Doc: The Emperor Of The... 18.04 Doc: Toiling In Paradise 18.40 Mag: Urban Gardens 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.24 Doc: A Question Of Science 19.58 Serial: MOL 20.43 Serial: Karb 21.03 Local: Anjuman 21.51 Local: Urdu Programme 22.51 Fascia - The Mysterious... 23.34 Mag: Urban Gardens 23.39 Mag: Arts And Culture 23.52 Mag: Global 3000	01.27 Film: S.W.A.T: Firefight 02.52 Serial: S.W.A.T 03.34 Film: Bring It On 05.05 Tele: Amanda 06.02 Serial: When Calls The Heart 09.00 Serial: Line Of Duty 09.47 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour 10.11 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett 10.35 Serial: S.W.A.T 11.27 Tele: Dulce Amor 12.00 Film: Bring It On 13.30 Tele: Amanda 14.45 Film: A Gift Horse 16.37 Serial: Line Of Duty 17.24 Serial: When Calls The Heart 18.07 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour 18.31 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett 19.10 Tele: Dulce Amor 20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 20.30 Serial: The Magicians 21.15 Film: Les Misérables	09.25 Film: Chitchor 12.04 / 19.54 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam 12.26 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna 13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe 13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.52 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.14 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan 14.35 / 22.25 - Ishqbaaz 15.20 Film: Rajdhani Express Starring Leander Paes, Sudhanshu Pandey, Priyanshu Chatterjee 17.30 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kumkum Bhagya 18.51 Piya Albela 19.13 Mere Angne Mein
samedi 20 juin	06.00 Dessin Anime 10.05 Local: Zanfan Nou Pei 11.05 D. Anime: Power Rangers 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: People - No 58 12.35 Last Night A DJ Saved My... 14.10 Mag: Women Who Changed 14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur 14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack 14.45 D.Anime: Astrology 14.47 D.Anime: Croque Nuage 14.56 D.Anime: Zou 16.03 D.Anime: Chicken Town 16.34 D.Anime: Linkers 17.00 Live Press Conference 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Entertainment: Nach Baliye 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.00 Local: Press Conference 20.35 Local Prod: Groov'in 21.35 Film: Pitch Perfect 2 23.25 Local: Le Journal	08.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 08.50 Zoom TV Live 20.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 20.45 Film: AB Tak Chhappan Starring Nana Patekar, Mohan Agashe, Revathi  22.45 DDI Live	06.00 Fascia-The Mysterious... 06.48 Mag: Arts And Culture 07.29 Doc: A Question Of Science 08.03 Doc: L'ame Des Chefs 08.48 Doc: World Stamps 08.55 Ma Vie De Femme D'ailleurs 10.19 Doc: When Paul Came Over 11.44 Mag: Urdan Gardens 12.03 Enter: Taylor Swift 13.52 Doc: World Stamps 13.58 Ma Vie De Femme D'ailleurs 15.22 Doc: When Paul Came Over 16.47 Mag: Urban Gardens 18.04 Doc: No-Holds-Barred 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.31 Mag: Mixeur, Les Gouts et... 20.02 Doc: Johnny Clegg 20.55 Doc: World Stamps 20.58 Doc: 360 Geo 21.47 Doc: Monuments Men... 22.33 Doc: Soyalism 23.15 Doc: Horizon S	01.22 Film: Les Misérables 03.59 Film: A Bunch Of Amateurs 05.36 Tele: Destiny 06.21 Serial: The Magicians 07.03 Film: Life's A Breeze 08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer 09.18 Film: The Gabby Douglas... 10.40 Film: L'île Aux Sorciers 12.25 Serial: Chicago Fire 13.02 Tele: L'esclave Blanche 13.45 Tele: La Premiere Dame 14.39 Mag: Close Up 15.46 Film: S.W.A.T 17.00 Serial: The Magicians 17.45 Film: Mamma Mia 19.34 Mag: Hollywood News Feed 20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 20.30 Series: The Magicians 21.15 Film: Tickle Me 22.45 Tele: Eva Luna 23.57 Mag: Hollywood Best Film	04.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum 04.26 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 04.43 Radha Krishna 05.05 Zindagi Ki Mehek 05.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 05.47 Chhanchhan 06.07 Ishqbazz 06.29 Kumkum Bhagya 06.50 Piya Albela 07.12 Mere Angne Mein 08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek 10.11 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai 12.30 Film: Housefull 3 Starring: Akshay Kumar, Nargis Fakhri, Jacqueline Fernandez 14.54 Bin Kuch Kahe 16.00 Pavitra Rishta 18.30 Film: Khuda Gawah 21.35 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 22.20 Serial: Naagin Season 2 23.05 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
dimanche 21 juin	06.00 Dessin Anime 09.35 Serial: Grandpa In My Pocket 10.05 Au Pays Des Merveilles 11.05 Local: Un Rasinn 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Prod: Komiko 14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur 14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack 14.55 D.Anime: Zou 15.30 D.Anime: Astrology 15.40 D.Anime: Caillou 16.33 D.Anime: Linkers 17.00 Live Press Conference 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local Prod: Chalte Rahe Zindagi 19.30 Le Journal 20.05 Local: Press Conference 20.35 Local: Faya Vibes 21.35 Doc: How The Beatles Changed The World	08.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 08.50 Zoom TV Live 20.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 20.45 Film: Geet Starring Divya Bharti, Avinash Wadhawan, Shakti Kapoor  23.16 DDI Live	06.00 Doc: Horizon 06.55 Doc: Olivia's Garden 07.44 Doc: Johnny Clegg 08.41 Doc: World Stamps 10.19 Doc: Soyalism 11.04 Doc: Horizon S 11.55 Entertainment: Dr. Dre 13.54 Doc: 360 GEO 15.25 Doc: Soyalism 16.14 Doc: Horizon S 17.05 Doc: Olivia's Garden 18.02 The Threatening Volcano 18.30 Live: News 19.05 Zournal Kreol 19.34 Mag: Mixeur, Les Gouts Et... 20.06 Doc: Myopia Boom 20.55 Doc: World Stamps 20.58 Doc: 360 Geo 21.50 Doc: Top Of The World 23.14 The Threatening Volcano 23.40 Doc: Garden Party	00.24 Tele: The Magicians 01.31 Film: Tickle Me 03.01 Serial: Hawaii 5-0 03.42 Film: Mamma Mia 05.30 Tele: Destiny 06.18 Serial: The Magicians 06.52 Film: Lucky Dog 08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer 09.18 Film: Bring It On 10.50 Film: Mamma Mia 12.37 Serial: Hawaii 5-0 13.18 Tele: L'esclave Blanche 14.01 Tele: Premiere Dame 15.06 Serial: S.W.A.T 17.09 Serial: The Magicians 18.30 Series: Mission: Impossible 19.16 Mag: Hollywood News Feed 20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 20.30 Serial: Counterpart 21.15 Film: Jem Et Les Hologram... 23.14 Film: Bring It On	00.35 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 02.14 Bin Kuch Kahe 03.34 Pavitra Rishta 05.00 Film: Khuda Gawah 08.06 Motu Patlu 08.16 Chhanchhan 10.05 Itna Karo Na Mujhe Pyaar 12.30 Film: Banjo Starring: Riteish Deshmukh, Nargis Fakhri 14.50 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.00 Punar Vivaah 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Andhadhun Starring: Tabu, Ayushmann Khurrana, Radhika Apte 20.30 Entertainment: Nach Baliye 21.12 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 23.02 Ishqbazz

Samedi 18 juin - 18.30 Stars: Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Lisa Haydon, Boman Irani



Dimanche 19 juin - 18.30 Stars: Tabu, Ayushmann Khurrana, Radhika Apte



Self Discovery

Awakening the Tiger Within

The other day I was reading a favourite story of Swami Vivekananda. I read it again and again and an enlightening vision unfolded. It is the story of Master being a catalytic agent.

The parable is:

A tigress died while giving birth to a cub, and the cub was brought up by goats. Of course, the tiger believed himself to be a goat. It was natural; brought up by the goats, living with the goats, believing that he was a goat. He adopted the cultural merits and demerits of the herd, turned vegetarian and chewed grass. Not even in dreams he could think of being a tiger.

Then one day an old tiger saw this herd of goats and could not believe his eyes. A young tiger was walking amidst the goats! Neither were the goats afraid of the tiger nor were they aware that the tiger was walking amongst them like a goat.

The old tiger clutched the young one. Scared he tried to escape - he cried, he screamed. He was afraid, he was

shivering with fear. All the goats escaped and he was also trying to escape with them, but the old tiger did not let go and pulled him towards the lake. He was scared to death, crying and weeping, but the old tiger forced him to look at his reflection.

The lake was silent like a mirror. He forced the young tiger to look into the water. The youngster with tearful eyes - saw a vision that was not clear but the vision was there - that he looked just like the old tiger. Tears disappeared and a new sense of being arose; the goat started disappearing from the mind. He was no more a goat, but he could not believe his new transformation. Still the body was shivering a little, he was afraid. He was thinking, "Maybe I am imagining. How can a goat turn so suddenly into a tiger? It is not possible; it never happens that way." He could not believe his eyes, but now the first ray of light had entered into his being. He was no more the uninitiated. The shell had cracked.

The old tiger took him to his cave. Now he was not so resistant, not so reluctant, not so afraid. By and by he was

getting bold, gathering courage. He started walking like a tiger as he went to the cave. The old tiger gave him delicacies of tigers to eat. It was nauseating, almost impossible, but the old tiger would not listen. He forced him to eat. On tasting it, something happened: from the smell, something stirred deep in his being which had been fast asleep. He was pulled, attracted towards the delicacies, and he started relishing. Once he continued, a roar burst through his being. The goat disappeared in that roar, and the tiger was there in his beauty and splendour.

Recognising one's true image is a heart-breaking ordeal. Unprejudiced reflection induces fear of faiths and beliefs being shattered; self-chiselled idol decimated. Most individuals are afraid of unbiased mirrors, fearing that realization of truth may awaken the slumbering conscious.

Sanskars are an external sheath and cannot become the soul. The wrapper will remain wrapper. Guidance of a Guru is essential to wipe off dust on the mirror and return to self-knowledge.

Programme de Courses

1ère journée samedi 20 juin 2020



Pronostics

- HIT THE GREEN, G. A SWINGER, SEVENTH SILVER
- KING'S EMPIRE, STAR OF ZEUS, MIDDLE PATH
- KAMADEVA, LAGACIO, SILVER HERITAGE
- NINOTTO, DARK FORCE, CANDY APPLE

- INAUGURATION, THE JAZZ SINGER, H. OF DARKNESS
- LANZA, TOWER OF WISDOM, HUYSTEEN
- B. STREET, RULE THE NIGHT, HAYLOR
- WENDYLLE, NEWSMAN, GUNNER RUNNER
- BOUND BY DUTY, AFTER THE ORDER, YANKEE FORCE

1 LE GRAND PRIX DU CHAMP DE MARS-MARYE PIKE CUP						
1450 m Valeur [0-20] 11h40						
1. KALI'S CHAMP	CR	6-3-9-2-1/	60	R.Boutanive	1	550
2. SACRED NIGHT	VA	11-9-6-5-7/	60(-4)	A.Roy	2	1600
3. SEVENTH SILVER	RG	3-2-7-5-10/	60	D.David	5	465
4. G. A SWINGER	PM	9-4-4-3-9/	59.5	C.Segeon	7	430
5. M. MESSENGER	PN	5-6-7-6-4/	59.5	N.Teeha	3	800
6. MISTY ROLLER	CD	7-5-10-2-1/	59.5	B.Sooful	6	600
7. HIT THE GREEN	RM	7-5-9-2-7/	59	S.Rama	4	600
8. KIMBERLEY	SN	8-5-3-2-4/	59	D.Aucharuz	8	3000
9. CHESTER'S WISH	AS	8-5-3-2-4/	58.5	J.Allyhosain	10	1300
10. N. REBEL	JMH	3-R-7-3-6/	58.5	R.Hoolash	9	2500
11. GREENSTREETTRACTOR [EA]	P	9-4-3-7-7/	58.5	-----	11	

4 THE DR. JOCELYN MAINGARD CUP						
990 m Valeur Benchmark 36 13h40						
1. VISION OF TRUST	PN	3-6-9-3-1/	60	B.Sooful	8	1300
2. CANDY APPLE	GR	nouveau	59.5	N.Juglall	9	670
3. DARK FORCE	RM	1-3-1-8-1/	59.5	S.Rama	7	550
4. KU DU TU	VA	7-10-8-5-7/	59.5	N.Teeha	5	2200
5. TROJAN QUEST	JHM	3-5-7-2-2/	59	G.D.Aucharuz	11	2500
6. FARIHA	CD	nouveau	58.5	O.Sola	10	2000
7. ROMAN DANCER	G	2-1-4-3-5/	58.5	J.Bardottier	4	450
8. SHADOWING	AS	nouveau	58.5	J.Allyhosain	6	900
9. CARLAS MAMBO	SJ	0-7-10-2-5/	58	V.A.Bundhoo	1	1200
10. NINOTTO	RG	nouveau	58	D.David	2	280
11. BLACK INDY [EA]	PM	5-4-10-3-3/	58	-----	3	

7 THE NOBLE SALUTE CUP						
990 m Valeur [60+] G.3 15h40						
1. RULE THE NIGHT	GR	1-1-2-1-4/	61	N.Juglall	5	350
2. WALL TAG	VA	1-1-6-2-1/	60	J.Bardottier	7	400
3. PROCAL HARUM	SH	0-10-9-8-2/	59	K.Kalychurun	2	700
4. PEROVSKIA	RM	0-6-7-5-10/	58.5	S.Rama	6	1600
5. AL MARIACHI	SJ	2-8/2-2-10/	56.5	V.A.Bundhoo	3	1600
6. HAYLOR	SJ	3-3-2-1-1/	54	B.Sooful	4	1000
7. B. STREET	RG	1-1-1-2-1/	52.5	D.David	1	240

2 THE 'DEANAN' DOYAL CUP						
1500 m Valeur [0-26] 12h20						
1. CAPTAIN MOSS	P	9-1-4-5-7/	61	S.Bussunt	11	1800
2. E. AND BEWARE	SJ	0-0-0-7-2/	61	J.Allyhosain	8	3000
3. KINGS EMPIRE	SH	2-7-3-2-2/	61	N.Teeha	1	330
4. MR MOGAMBO	As	nouveau	61	R.Joorawon	7	1400
5. VAR EXPRESS	G	nouveau	61	J.Bardottier	9	600
6. W. WOULDN'T YEW	RM	9-7-6-4-6/	60	S.Rama	2	430
7. DEALER'S CHARM	VA	5-7-8-7-8/	59.5(-4)	A.Roy	4	1500
8. STAR OF ZEUS	PM	6-R-6-3-5/	59.5	C.Segeon	3	650
9. BARKING IRONS	SN	4/8-7-7-9/	59	D.Bheekary	10	1100
10. MIDDLE PATH	RG	4-2-7-4-3/	59	D.David	6	1000
11. SECRET IDEA [EA]	CD	6-3-7-7-7/	61.5	-----	5	

5 THE FANNY CUP						
1400 m Valeur Benchmark 41 14h20						
1. BORYA	G	2-3-3-2-4/	60	J.Bardottier	9	400
2. SUBTROPICAL	CD	6-10-7-8-9/	60	O.Sola	10	2500
3. THE JAZZ SINGER	SH	0-0-1-1-1/	60	J.Allyhosain	8	550
4. INAUGURATION	PM	5-1-1-1-4/	59.5	C.Segeon	5	280
5. CAPTAINOF THESEA	RG	2-7-7-10-6/	59	D.David	1	650
6. H. OF DARKNESS	SN	9-7-8-1-5/	58.5	D.Bheekary	4	3500
7. IRON WOLF	GR	1-6-3-1-9/	58.5	N.Juglall	3	800
8. GREAT STOIVANEN	AS	nouveau	58	S.Rama	7	2500
9. S. ORATOR	CR	0-5-8-8-7/	58	R.Boutanive	6	4000
10. W. CONNECTED	VA	3-R-1-8-4/	58(-4)	A.Roy	11	1050
11. BURG [EA]	SN	4-5-4-5-3/	58	-----	2	

8 THE FULL CHARGE CUP						
990 m Valeur Benchmark 31 16h20						
1. GORDONSTOUN	SN	2-6-R-1-9/	60	K.Ghunowa	11	4000
2. NEWSMAN	RG	6-8-5-8-6/	59.5	D.David	2	900
3. ZENZERO	SH	1-2-3-5-3/	59.5	R.Hoolash	3	420
4. DUNZIE	CD	8-9-6-6-4/	59	B.Sooful	9	3000
5. RIVER THAMES	SJ	0-0-0-0-8/	59	V.A.Bundhoo	4	2000
6. TEMP THE TIGER	PN	nouveau	59	R.Joorawon	8	1400
7. WENDYLLE	AS	6-2-5-1-5/	59	J.Allyhosain	1	275
8. GUNNER RUNNER	GR	nouveau	57.5	N.Juglall	10	400
9. STREETBOUNCER	VA	5-7-6-5-4/	57.5(-4)	A.Roy	5	800
10. GROBAN	RM	nouveau	57	S.Rama	7	1000
11. M. VENTURE [EA]	AS	4-4-1-4-8/	59.5	-----	6	

3 THE OWNERS CUP						
1450 m Valeur Benchmark 31 13h00						
1. MANETHEREN	SN	5-3-5-4-4/	60	G.D.Aucharuz	9	950
2. TWEAK THE WIND	CD	1/4-3-4-7/	60	B.Sooful	2	2500
3. CARLTON HEIGHTS	AS	1-2-9-4-1/	59.5	R.Joorawon	10	2200
4. CASH CALL	SH	0-1-2-3-R/	59.5	J.Allyhosain	7	900
5. KAMADEVA	RG	0-0-0-1-2/	59.5	D.David	5	310
6. LAGACIO	G	0-0-0-1-R/	59.5	J.Bardottier	1	280
7. JET PATH	VA	8-9-4-5-4/	59	N.Teeha	8	2500
8. SILVER HERITAGE	RM	10-3-1-2-6/	59	S.Rama	3	800
9. SENOR'S GUEST	GR	5-5-2-2-1/	58.5	N.Juglall	6	1000
10. TYRIAN	PM	7-6-2-4-6/	58.5	C.Segeon	4	1500
11. H. OF THE PACK [EA]	PN	0-11-8-6-6/	59	-----	11	

6 THE LALL SEESURRUN CUP						
1400 m Valeur Benchmark 51 15h00						
1. CAPTAIN SWAROVSKI	P	3-4-3-5-9/	61	S.Bussunt	2	1000
2. LANZA	GR	0-0-0-8-2/	60.5	J.Bardottier	3	350
3. SPRING MAN	RM	7-9-1-7-1/	60.5	S.Rama	4	650
4. GUNSTON	SH	4-2-2-1-1/	60	R.Hoolash	5	650
5. TOWER OF WISDOM	GR	6-2-9-1-2/	60	N.Juglall	1	270
6. RED MARS	SJ	5-6-3-6-2/	59.5	B.Bhaugeerothee	7	1200
7. HUYSTEEN	RG	4-8-5-3-3/	59	D.David	6	1000
8. TRIPOD	PM	nouveau	59	C.Segeon	9	2000
9. UNBELIEVABLE LAD	AS	7-7-7-7-8/	59	J.Allyhosain	11	3000
10. ONE DIRECTION	JMH	6-6-10-2-7/	57.5	K.Kalychurun	10	3000
11. PROMISSORY [EA]	VA	1-6-1-6-5/	57	-----	8	

9 THE KING SWEEP PLATE						
1400 m Valeur [0-25] 17h00						
1. BOUND BY DUTY	RM	nouveau	60	S.Rama	4	420
2. FAIRBANKS	VA	0-0-5-7-5/	60(-4)	A.Roy	7	1200
3. KALGOORLIE	G	nouveau	60	J.Bardottier	1	300
4. YANKEE FORCE	RG	nouveau	60	D.David	9	600
5. ZIGI ZAGI ZUGI	SN	0-0-3-10-1/	60	K.Ghunowa	5	650
6. AFTER THE ORDER	CR	6-2-4-3-4/	59	R.Boutanive	2	900
7. ARTAX	AS	4-2-4-10-6/	59	S.Bussunt	3	1600
8. GREATFIVEEIGHT	CD	R-10-10-5-1/	59	O.Sola	8	3000
9. XANTHUS	PM	6-9-8-8-8/	59	C.Segeon	6	850



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Academics and scientists at University College of London express shock and fury at the tragic end of a herbal medicine specialist from the Maya community in Guatemala. Ancestral knowledge in Mayan herbal medicine is much valued in pharmaceutical research work in the West. Will the United Nations, UNESCO and international media draw world attention to this particular horrendous assassination perpetrated by the religious fanaticism of Evangelists - highlighting their teachings, methods and proselytism worldwide? As major world powers in the 21st century, both India and China have a key role to play in speaking up on proselytism and its disastrous consequences on social cohesion and harmony at international level, and impose their rights to decide what is acceptable to their old civilisational ethos in their respective countries.

In a joint research project by UCL on biodiversity use in Mayan medicine in partnership with Universidad del Valle in Guatemala, alongside the Council of Mayan elders and government authorities working with Indigenous Biodiversity and the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species, Domingo Choc Che was asked to participate on account of his vast knowledge in local plants and herbs used in traditional Mayan medicine.

On Wednesday June 10th he was rounded up by a mob of Evangelists. He was beaten up and tortured for several hours by four men. They then poured petrol over his body and burned him alive in front of everyone. The whole scene was filmed and broadcast on the internet. He was accused of witchcraft by the propaganda peddled by Evangelist churches, which are spreading across Guatemala. It is a tragic case of ignorance and unwillingness to understand by Evangelist obscurantists.

Domingo Choc Che was an expert in natural medicine, committed to preserving and transmitting his ancestral knowledge. He was a Mayan 'q'eqchi', spiritual guide and traditional healer in Chimay, Guatemala. He collaborated on a UCL pharmaceutical project. Guatemala President Alejandro Giammattei was terribly shocked and vowed to bring the culprits to Court. The authorities together with University College London and the Council of Mayan elders said they were appalled and speechless at the 'incredible atrocity' which took the life of a great wise man who was sharing ancestral knowledge. The project supports the local development of resources and is planning for ways to

Evangelist zealots kill a wise man

The tragic death of a Mayan elder recalls its encounter with Spanish Conquistadores, the imported epidemic that decimated its population in the 15th century followed by genocide and the Inquisition set up by Catholic Spain in Central America



Mayan priests hold a ceremony in memorial of the late, well-known Mayan spiritual guide and natural medicine expert, Domingo Choc Che, in Constitution Plaza in Guatemala City, Wednesday, June 10, 2020 (AP Photo/Moises Castillo)

improve local livelihood. His murder sparks outrage and demand for justice for Mr Domingo Choc Che as well as the Maya community.

The tragic death of a Mayan elder stirs memories of the brilliant old Mayan civilization, its bright white cities and social organizations, system of beliefs, astronomy, cosmogony and mysticism. It recalls its encounter with Spanish Conquistadores, the imported epidemic that decimated its population in the 15th century followed by genocide and the Inquisition set up by Catholic Spain in Central America.

History shows that the encounter of old faiths and beliefs with new religions and sects emanating from the monotheist family has brought killings, sufferings and misery in every part of the world.

“The murder of a great wise learned man from an old civilization and culture by bigots of a 19th century sect in 2020 should urge the UN and UNESCO to take the issue of proselytism and conversion seriously. It is a concept that was promoted by the leaders of mainly Western countries where Christian proselytism is common practice. It paved the way for sects of all hues to roam freely in other countries and cultures, and peddle hallucinating discourses on godliness with a little book, and a poor and limited knowledge...”

'Witch hunt' is a term that refers to mainly the persecution of women who were considered as witches because their know-

ledge in healing and advising folks was viewed through the prism of male power in the official established religion which tried to strengthen its hold on people. They were burnt alive during the 14th century in Spain, and so-called witches were persecuted, tortured and put to death in England, France and other countries. In the late 17th century any innocent white woman reading the future in cards was sent to the gallows in the early Puritan colony of Salem in Boston, Massachusetts; not to mention female African slaves practising their ancestral rites at nightfall who were randomly accused of witchcraft. In most cases it all boiled down to male clerics of established religion trying to claim the monopoly of healing souls and seeing other men and women healers as rivals.

The Evangelists are a branch of the original Protestant Puritanism in the United States and started expanding their influence and power in the US in the 19th century. With growing influence and financial support from rich American individuals and companies, they spread across Europe, Africa and Asia throughout the 20th century, and are very active in proselytism and conversion everywhere in the world today. They have become experts at targeting illiterate backward poor people of different religions by peddling the Jesus-loves-you-all, Jesus-can-cure-you propaganda everywhere and deceiving them, in Indian villages, for instance, with presenting their verses as shlokas from Hindu scriptures and convincing them that they are similar so that the poor illiterate villagers can comfortably cross the floor to Evangelist delirium. Clap your hands together, sing the praises of God's Son on a weekly basis, supervised by priests from Brazil, America, Africa and Asia, who work hard to alienate converts from their community and their ancestral religion, drive a wedge and divide people of the same community and create confusion and enmity within a society.

They manage to disguise their delirium

into a supremacist religion and convince the poor souls to reject their forefathers' beliefs and follow the only true God. Add the angry Father in Heaven who distributes punishments and rewards to all and sundry, and you get the broader picture of the narrowly limited vision of divinity these indoctrinated minds are imbibed with.

The murder of a great wise learned man from an old civilization and culture by bigots of a 19th century sect in 2020 should urge the UN and UNESCO to take the issue of proselytism and conversion seriously. It is a complex issue because after the World War II the new international body pledged to promote freedom of religion for all. It is a concept that was promoted by the leaders of mainly Western countries where Christian proselytism is common practice. It paved the way for sects of all hues to roam freely in other countries and cultures, and peddle hallucinating discourses on godliness with a little book, and a poor and limited knowledge.

By now the UN should acknowledge that harmony between different religions is a 20th century concept that has remained a façade. Ground realities show a different picture which UN and UNESCO can explain rationally not by cajoling everyone and giving equal weight to their beliefs but by educating the world on historical evolution of faiths and cultures. They should, definitely, take stock of realities; face them squarely by listening to all stakeholders.

Natives in Canada, North and Central America, originally bundled up as 'Indians' by colonizers are of Asian origin. They all have gone through hard times in living side by side or in 'reservations' under the rule of foreign occupiers. The tragic death of Domingo Choc Che should prompt debates on extreme consequences of ignorance of blind faiths which regard older beliefs as 'idolaters', a common view held by fanatics. It should highlight the confusion, division and disharmony caused by preachings of foreign faiths.

China and India can find a common ground at the UN to help promote the cause of Natives of North and Central America at international level. Instead of muscle-flexing and wrangling, both countries have core interests around which to cooperate. They would thus mutually strengthen their moral muscle, and use it to raise their voice on world platforms and claim their rights to shape the future of their respective age-old civilizations on their own terms as regards beliefs that should be allowed or banned, without being intimidated by foreign leadership, partisan NGOs and the rhetoric of international media. Both countries face the onslaught of all kinds of sects and are self-confident enough to tackle these as they wish. There should be combined efforts to preserve the harmony of their respective societies in a manner which is in tune with their age-old civilizations.