

MAURITIUS TIMES

"I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet." Mahatma Gandhi

Interview : Jocelyn Chan Low - Historien



“Le ML et Ivan Collendavelloo ne pèsent plus grand-chose
que ce soit en termes de députés ou de soutien électoral”

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The Seedy Face of Normality



The pitfalls ahead and the choice facing the nation are clear if we want to stall the risk of being pilloried again and sullied by new instances of poor governance

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Will Ivan Collendavelloo resign?

Prime Ministers are usually not wont to sack their own ministers because they must maintain the support of key factions within their party or risk putting their own position in jeopardy. It's even more complicated when it comes to a minister who happens to be the leader of an ally in government given the consequences that may follow and which may endanger the survival of the government itself or the alliance.

These considerations obviously did not come into play in the decision of Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth as regards the leader of the Muvman Liberater and Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Collendavelloo. Even if it appeared that the PM was dragging his feet and biding his time and undoubtedly assessing during that time the harm that the St Louis affair - which involved the award of a contract to Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSN) with financing from the African Development Bank - was causing to his government, he could not stay put any longer without compromising both the survival and reputation of his government. Especially in light of the partial report which has been made available to him by the African Development Bank's Integrity Oversight Committee in relation to the CEB-BWSN tender dealings, wherein Ivan Collendavelloo and others have been named.

Given the comfortable government majority and the political weight of the Muvman Liberater, for Pravind Jugnauth Ivan Collendavelloo was politically "expendable", and he might have seen him as not adding any contribution of value to his government. Pravind Jugnauth's attitude towards his deputy has therefore been guided by considerations of specific political utility and interest, not mutual loyalty, given their personal rapport - Ivan Collendavelloo is known to have been closer to Sir Anerood Jugnauth than to Pravind Jugnauth. His continuation in office could have harmed him politically and weakened the government already tainted with a series of scandals since its early days in office.

Many questions however remain unanswered as regards the CEB-

BWSN tender. We have mentioned in an earlier editorial the long list of pending inquiries at Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). This does not bode well for the country's reputation at global level, especially in light of the European Commission's decision to place Mauritius on the list of high risk jurisdictions. And also, at a time when all funding agencies will be scrutinising our response to what appears to be a clear-cut case of corruption involving a "conplot" at our administrative levels to thwart the public procurement process. It also highlights the absence of a credible and respected investigative agency capable of handling white collar crime independently of political proximity.

One therefore cannot help posing the query of whether it is the right thing to assign ICAC to conduct the inquiry into this matter. Granted, the point made by the PM, namely that ICAC has the necessary power and authority to seek information from equivalent investigative agencies abroad, as will most probably be needed. However, given ICAC's track record, there is nothing that prevents the government - given its majority in Parliament - to amend as deemed necessary to equip a Commission of Inquiry with such powers and authority as to allow it to proceed as ICAC would have done. And inform the ADB and any other jurisdictions potentially involved accordingly.

On the other hand, for much less, Ivan Collendavelloo resigned from the National Assembly in 1989 in the wake of the controversy surrounding his endorsement of the then Sun Resorts' boss Sol Kerzner's passport application. The honourable thing for him to do following his humiliating sacking by the Prime Minister would be to resign his parliamentary seat and, if he so wishes, redeem his honour in an ensuing by-election besides fighting it out in court - if it comes to the crunch.

This is the only way that Ivan Collendavelloo can salvage his honour. The ball is in his court: either to accept the ignominy - so damning for a senior minister who is, to boot, leader of a coalition party - or to regain his mandate from the people.

The Conversation

Coronavirus has brought the welfare state back, and it might be here to stay

Governments across the developed world have responded to the COVID-19 crisis by making welfare states vastly more generous. Historical parallels suggest that this munificence may endure even as the pandemic recedes.



Millions of people are struggling financially because of coronavirus. Andrew Milligan/PA

Welfare states will only, however, become permanently more generous if voters believe this pandemic poses an enduring risk to their incomes and if they make common cause with the people who have been worst affected.

The most pertinent historical parallel to the current situation is the second world war. After the conflict, governments dramatically increased both the number of people covered by the welfare state and the value of the payments they received. At that time, people were demanding greater social insurance in the face of universal risks and pervasive uncertainty.

The late 1970s marked the end of this golden era. Technological advances, demographic change and globalisation led to increased fiscal pressures and cuts to the generosity of modern welfare states.

Alongside these structural pressures, automation and trade were also destroying mid-skill manufacturing occupations. Labour markets became segregated into high- and low-skilled jobs. And while high-skilled workers didn't feel the need for an expanded welfare state, those working in low-skilled professions were too small a constituency to make a difference at the ballot box.

In short, structural pressures were making the welfare state more expensive and governments faced little electoral incentive to be generous.

Later, the impact of the recession that followed the 2007-8 financial crash was concentrated among low-skilled workers. Governments did not increase the generosity of the welfare state in response. The total amount spent on social security payments did temporarily increase as unemployment rose, but the individual payment amounts did not.

What makes COVID different?

The impact of the current economic crisis is much wider. Both the pandemic and the corresponding public health measures - the forced closures of businesses and schools - have taken their toll on people's ability to work across the income distribution. The figure below shows that the increases in unemployment claims literally go off the old charts.

Just as with the second world war, the universal impact of this crisis and the subsequently greater risks it poses has led to a correspondingly large increase in the generosity of the welfare state.

The particular hazards this pandemic poses has also led to changes to specific social in-

surance payments. The risks to people's health have increased demand for sick pay among workers. Everyone who could potentially be infected is advised to stay away from work for between one and two weeks, and governments have been stepping up and cover that cost. Even the US, which had no nationally mandated sick leave prior to this crisis, finally introduced some sick pay in response to the pandemic.

A new consensus on welfare

This pandemic will only, however, lead to a permanently more generous welfare state if electorates believe it poses an enduring risk to the livelihoods of themselves or those they care about and subsequently vote for governments who will protect their incomes. If enough voters now feel that this pandemic or a future crisis could suddenly and dramatically hit their incomes, then they will demand significantly higher social insurance payments as protection. Political parties will then feel pressure to deliver on these demands in order to win elections.

But here we sound a note of caution. This pandemic will not necessarily lead to a more generous welfare state. While its impact has been universal, the economic and health risks have been, and will continue to be, most severe for the poor. It has been low-paid workers in sectors such as tourism, hospitality, retail and transport who have been the most likely to lose their jobs. High-skilled workers may still demand higher social insurance payments either because they are concerned for their own incomes or feel an affinity with the worst affected, but this is not guaranteed. If it is only the low-skilled few who demand a more generous welfare state, then governments will feel little pressure to deliver it.

COVID-19, by posing a universal risk and forcing us to engage in a common cause, has the potential to forge a new consensus on the welfare state. A majority of voters could now demand that political parties supply social insurance payments that are significantly more generous than before the crisis hit. When this pandemic passes, electorates may not be content to reduce sickness-related social security payments knowing that they could have needed it, or may do, in the future. They may not be satisfied that social security payments to a now-essential grocery store worker are too low to allow them to escape poverty.

Just as with the second world war, "one happy consequence of this otherwise desperately unhappy experience," may be a more generous welfare state that insures us all against the risks posed by illness and poverty.

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Billions: Where does that leave the masses?

Far from us to hope for any divinity to prevail in the country. But at least some compassionate understanding of the woes of compatriots could be a beginning towards providing them hope

We had naively imagined that just as Nature, meaning the environment that nourishes and sustains us, had visibly become cleaner and purer during the period of lockdown because of the Covid-19 pandemic, that state of affairs would continue as the new normal once the restrictions were lifted.

“Many households must be spending sleepless nights in stressing about the job situation, car and house loans that have to be reimbursed, children's education to be catered for, over and above meeting the routine expenses for feeding the family and paying utility bills. One wonders how many of our decision makers would be losing any sleep at all figuring out how to discharge the responsibility they have assumed of ensuring the livelihood of the masses...”

How foolish we were to entertain such an illusion. Fact is, we didn't reckon with human nature: modern man, the creature that is the product of the Industrial Revolution, saw himself as being apart from Nature. He felt entitled to exert dominion over Her, and exploit Her to the maximum for his needs and his pleasure. Very soon needs morphed into greed – and then there was no limit to the extent that man would go into such exploitation, including exploiting and manipulating other human beings, situations and institutions to satiate his cravings which grew and grew. Which are, in fact, limitless.

Ever since the lockdown was lifted here daily the news has been about suspected cases of corruption and scandals that are to be reckoned in the billions. This seems to be *our* new normal, and instead of the sanitization – cleaning up -- that we had looked forward to, what we are being served are dirty dishes which get murkier with every new revelation. And as the details are spelt out, the presumed or alleged players involved do not even deign to react by so much as feigning the batting of an eyelid.

Every time a corruption scandal erupts, we tell ourselves that we have reached rock bottom and cannot get any lower – and then comes another one that drags us

down further. This downward spiral is, it would seem, endless, and the dark pit it leads into fathomless.

How else, pray, can we explain the blacklisting by the European Union or the reported refusal of the African Development Bank to share its report on the so-called St Louis Gate scandal with ICAC?

It is well known that the country is already heavily indebted, that the prospects for economic growth are dim given that a global recession is in the making, and that the spectre of losing jobs is facing thousands of our workers and cadres. In such a bleak context, the expectation and hope is that the authorities will put in all their energies in leading by example to begin with, and to demonstrate concretely that there is a dedicated and sincere commitment towards finding a clear way out of the impasse.

All efforts in this direction, if any, are drowned under the tsunami of the billions that are alleged to be elsewhere rather than being where they ought to be: in the national treasury, under rigorous oversight and meant for rising the tide that will lift both the yachts *and* the boats. Alas, the nays – the boat people – are destined to sink, for the tide is unlikely to rise enough to keep everybody afloat.

“Far from us to hope for any divinity to prevail in the country. But at least some compassionate understanding of the woes of compatriots could be a beginning towards providing them hope and much needed comfort and support. Sadly, in light of the events that are unfolding, one cannot but conclude that the priority is elsewhere and that amassing wealth has become enshrined as a directive principle...”

Many households must be spending sleepless nights in stressing about the job situation, car and house loans that have to be reimbursed, children's education to be catered for, over and above meeting the routine expenses for feeding the family and paying utility bills. One wonders how many

selves in.

This is the phase through which the country is passing, with the people at their mercy. Because they would be busy doing things more for themselves than for the people, as they had pledged they would do.

In the Bhagavad Gita, we learn that - That mind which grabs, shrinks. The other mind that gives, grows in plenitude. Life at the base level thrives by grabbing, life at the divine level fulfils itself by giving. Man's height of glory is in the contribution that he makes and not in the wealth that he amasses.

of our decision makers would be losing any sleep at all figuring out how to discharge the responsibility they have assumed of ensuring the livelihood of the masses and fulfil the loud promises made when the latter's votes were being sought.



It is commonly believed that whenever someone is going astray, s/he will be pulled back by the conscience – that little inner voice that is the voice of sanity and reason. It is also believed that everybody possesses such a conscience. Unfortunately, I have not found this to be the case. There is the perception that many are those who do not have a conscience, and that they couldn't care less for the suffering of others. This is more pronounced when they find themselves in a position of power from where they can dictate – whichever the political dispensation they find them-

Far from us to hope for any divinity to prevail in the country. But at least some compassionate understanding of the woes of compatriots could be a beginning towards providing them hope and much needed comfort and support. Sadly, in light of the events that are unfolding, one cannot but conclude that the priority is elsewhere and that amassing wealth has become enshrined as a directive principle. The choice has been made for minds that shrink, not minds that expand in mutual plenitude.

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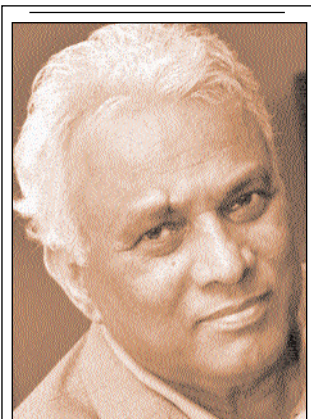
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The Seedy Face of Normality

The pitfalls ahead and the choice facing the nation are clear if we want to stall the risk of being pilloried again and sullied by new instances of poor governance



Mrinal Roy

The lockdown had masked the sordid realities of the country. The lull imposed by Covid-19 was short-lived. The end of the lockdown has brought them back to light with unabashed effrontery. The serious allegations of corruption underpinning the Rs 4.3 billion contract (hiked by Rs 700 million in the space of a year) allocated by the Central Electricity Board (CEB) to Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC), a Danish firm, in March 2016 for the redevelopment of the St Louis power plant has been highlighted in the findings of an inquiry carried out by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the funding agency of the project.

In its findings, the AfDB's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption concluded on 8 June that 'Evidence supports a finding that Burmeister & Wain, on a balance of probabilities, financially rewarded members of the Mauritian administration and others, through the intermediary of third parties, for providing access to confidential tender-related information which allowed them to tailor the technical specifications of the tenders to its offering, thus gaining an undue competitive advantage over other tenderers'.

As a consequence, the

African Development Bank has debarred Burmeister & Wain for 21 months for fraudulent and corrupt practices. The debarment renders Burmeister & Wain ineligible to participate in AfDB-financed projects or to benefit from its financing during the debarment period.

tigation to nab as stated in the AfDB findings 'members of the Mauritian administration and others who were financially rewarded'.

Burmeister & Wain had publicly revealed the case of suspected corruption in February 2019 and had informed the man-

CEB... The investigation was limited as it did not and could not interview third parties.'

Against such a backdrop, the country is now faced with the tall claim that the government and its key leaders came to know of the allegations of corrupt and fraudulent practices in relation to the CEB project only on the 8 June 2020. To crown it all, the African Development Bank has refused to share a copy of its investigation report on the alleged improprieties at the CEB with the government and the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), the Mauritian agency responsible to fight corruption in the country. This says it all.

Sullied

For too long the standing and repute of Mauritius has been sullied by poor governance and the incapacity of regulatory institutions very often manned by political appointees or cronies instead of seasoned and competent career professionals driven by a high sense of probity, to put in place the necessary bulwarks against corruption and costly botched decisions detrimental to public interest. Too often the country has been let down by the cohort of political appointees heading state owned companies and key institutions of the State.

The list of questionable and costly decisions and lack of rigorous due diligence whether at Air Mauritius or the allocation of operating permits to the likes of Alvaro Sobrinho, the wanton distribution of scarce state lands to cronies and politicians, the exposure of the State Commercial Bank of Mauritius to allegedly bil-

lions of Rupees of risky loans which necessitated substantial impairment provisions, the significant cost overruns and the lack of transparency and accountability on infrastructural projects such as the Midlands Dam, the Cote d'Or multisport complex or the Safe City project valued at some Rs 16 billion. This list also includes the decried and questionable policy decision to grant extremely generous fiscal incentives amounting to billions of rupees of forfeited tax revenue since 2015 to promoters of smart city and high end real estate development projects.

In the wake of the last general elections, defeated candidates of the ruling party have been blithely nominated as ambassadors in key countries or as head of important institutions of the State. On retirement, the Commissioner of Police is nominated Commissioner of Prisons whereas the latter on retirement is nominated as an advisor to the PM Office, all at public expense. Will transparent rules of merit based promotion within the hierarchy of the government Establishment be systematically thwarted by nepotism and favouritism? Will the talented and bright not be promoted? The musical chair of appointees of the party faithful even includes such key constitutional posts such as that of the Speaker. The outcome of such inane political interference is highly detrimental to the country.

The people are therefore alert and apprehensive of the governing rules and the manner the Rs 140 billion advanced by the Bank of Mauritius to Government and the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC) will be used. Will this colossal sum of scarce resources be rigorously allocated on the basis of strict business savvy decisions and commercial and financial best practice norms to ensure that these are secured by sound guarantees and provide a fair return?



“Despite the damning indictment of the African Development Bank and Burmeister & Wain that there were corrupt and fraudulent practices in relation to the CEB St Louis redevelopment project, the government and the relevant investigating agencies in Mauritius are, despite the rhetoric that there would be no cover up, yet to initiate a credible investigation...”

Damning indictment

Despite the damning indictment of the African Development Bank and Burmeister & Wain that there were corrupt and fraudulent practices in relation to the CEB St Louis redevelopment project, the government and the relevant investigating agencies in Mauritius are, despite the rhetoric that there would be no cover up, yet to initiate a credible inves-

agement of the CEB accordingly since 15 February 2019. On 14 March 2019, Nicolaj Holmer Nissen, CEO of Burmeister & Wain officially advised the CEB management that the St Louis project 'was among other projects subject of the investigation.' He added in the letter that 'we intentionally did not specify this in the press release to protect the reputation of clients such as the

Has the image and repute of Mauritius been dented by systemic poor governance and the questionable choice of appointments to head key institutions of the country by successive governments and its recurrent inclusion over the years in the damaging Panama Papers, the Paradise Papers and the Mauritius Leaks? For years, Mauritius has been running behind the elusive objective of setting up a robust legal and supervisory framework which aligns and benchmarks the Mauritius international financial services sector on the highest norms prevailing and approved by key regulatory institutions such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, the OECD,

Dented image?

the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulating the capital markets industry or the European Commission.

The European Commission (EC) has recently included Mauritius in its revised list of high-risk countries with strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing frameworks. These are serious deficiencies. The classification of Mauritius as a high risk country in respect of terrorist financing and money laun-

dering should have jolted and alerted the government and the regulatory authorities on the serious shortcomings of our jurisdiction in terms of stricter legal framework and rigorous oversight of the global business to stem any risks of our international financial services sector acting as a conduit for illicit money laundering and terrorist financing.

In this regard, the EC referring to shortcomings relating to Mauritius in its official Journal in particular highlights '(1) deficiencies in demonstrating that the supervisors of its global business sector and Designated Non-Financial Business and Professions implement risk-based supervision;

Mrinal Roy

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Economie et image internationale

Le pays dans une course contre la montre pour relever un double défi

Le combat contre la fraude et la corruption requiert une approche globale (whole-of-government approach). Seuls les résultats probants obtenus de cet effort de nettoyage inlassable convaincront les institutions de la bonne foi du gouvernement

Aditya Narayan

Alors que Maurice s'évertue à mobiliser sur le plan local toutes les ressources nécessaires à la relance de son économie dans le sillage de la pandémie qui a causé une contraction du PIB et des pertes d'emplois, elle se trouve confrontée à un autre défi majeur. Celui de redorer son blason sur le plan extérieur afin de projeter l'image d'un pays propre qui se conforme aux règles internationales en matière de fiscalité et de lutte contre la corruption et le blanchiment d'argent. C'est une course contre la montre pour relever un double défi.

Sur le plan intérieur, le pays tentera de remonter la pente grâce aux plans de soutien aux entreprises, financés par l'injection de Rs 80 milliards dans l'économie par la Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC). Pour sa part, le gouvernement est parvenu à trouver les moyens de financer son budget en 2020-21 avec la contribution de Rs 60 milliards obtenue de la Banque centrale, ce qui lui permet de maintenir les dépenses de fonctionnement, notamment dans la santé, l'éducation et la sécurité sociale. En même temps, les subventions des salaires dans le secteur privé ont permis d'éviter une explosion sociale en assurant la subsistance des employés en chômage technique, tout comme l'aide accordée aux travailleurs indépendants.

Test de volonté

Sur le plan international, certains développements sont venus éblouir la réputation du pays à un moment inopportun. Nous en relèverons trois notamment: (a) le communiqué de la Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD) affirmant que des pots-de-vin ont été probablement payés par la firme danoise BWSC pour obtenir le contrat d'installation de moteurs à la station thermique de Saint Louis du CEB; (b) la décision de l'Union européenne d'inscrire Maurice sur la liste des pays à hauts risques en matière de combat contre le blanchiment d'argent et le financement du terrorisme; et (c) la décision de la Zambie d'abroger son son traité de non-double imposition fiscale (DTAA) avec Maurice.

Si la paix sociale assurée sur le plan local remplit une condition sine qua non de la relance économique, l'effort à faire en vue d'effacer les éblouissements à la réputation du pays à l'extérieur est gigantesque. Comment le gouvernement s'y prendra dans le proche avenir sera un test de sa volonté

d'agir fermement et efficacement pour prouver qu'il est sérieux dans le combat contre la corruption sous toutes ses formes et le blanchiment d'argent.

Or, les premiers signes ne sont pas encourageants. Après avoir refusé d'instituer un comité d'élite de l'Assemblée nationale ou une commission d'enquête pour faire la lumière sur l'affaire de corruption alléguée du CEB, le gouvernement se fie entièrement à l'ICAC, dont la performance dans bien des dossiers est en deçà des attentes du public. La BAD ayant opposé une fin de non-recevoir à la demande de l'ICAC d'avoir un exemplaire du rapport sur le contrat du CEB, cette dernière n'a d'autre recours que de solliciter la coopération directe de la BWSC pour toute enquête. Entretemps, les explications du gouvernement ou du CEB ne convainquent personne. C'est dire que l'accumulation d'affaires de corruption non-élucidées jusqu'ici ne dissipe pas le soupçon.

«Il ne suffit pas d'avoir des lois, encore faut-il pouvoir les appliquer rigoureusement. Sinon elles resteront lettre morte. C'est là que le bât blesse. En dépit de l'arsenal légal existant, les affaires de corruption se sont multipliées au fil des années parce que les enquêtes entamées finissent trop souvent en eau de boudin faute de poursuites ou d'inculpation des coupables. Les institutions de régulation, de surveillance et de contrôle manquent d'indépendance ou sont parfois carrément incompétentes dans la façon dont elles traitent certains dossiers...»

Le combat contre la fraude et la corruption requiert une approche globale (*whole-of-government approach*) qui engage toutes les institutions (ICAC, FSC, MRA, Banque centrale, Police, Bureau de l'Audit) dans une campagne coordonnée visant à déceler les pratiques de corruption et de blanchiment d'argent et mettre hors d'état de nuire les corrupteurs et les corrompus à la fois. Seuls les résultats probants obtenus de cet effort de nettoyage inlassable convaincront les institutions internationales (OCDE, Groupe d'Action Financière, Union européenne) de la bonne foi du gouvernement et inspireront confiance dans ses déclarations d'intention.

Double inscription

Les nuages qui s'amoncellent sur le secteur des services financiers, y compris l'offshore, ne sont pas de bon augure. Après avoir été placée sur la liste grise du Groupe d'Action Financière (GAFI) en raison des carences stratégiques dans le dispositif de lutte contre le blanchiment d'argent et le financement du terrorisme, Maurice se voit maintenant inscrite sur la liste noire des juridictions à hauts risques de l'Union européenne pour les mêmes raisons. Cela aura sans doute des répercussions en ter-

mes d'investissements transfrontaliers entre Maurice et les pays européens dans la mesure où la réputation du centre financier international est ternie par cette double inscription. L'Europe voudrait que Maurice sorte de la liste grise du GAFI avant de demander son retrait de la liste noire.

Pour répondre aux exigences internationales, le gouvernement est venu avec un projet de loi - *Anti-Money Laundering and Combatting the Financing of Terrorism (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2020 (AML/CFT)* - en vue de remédier aux lacunes dans la législation contre le blanchiment d'argent et le financement du terrorisme. Le projet de loi compte étendre la supervision à d'autres secteurs où les risques de blanchiment sont réels, notamment la bijouterie, les jeux de hasard ou l'immobilier.

Ce projet de loi apporte des amendements à une vingtaine de lois couvrant divers secteurs d'activités. Ils vont, entre autres, des institutions bancaires, avec la *Banking Act*, aux magasins de bijouterie, avec la *Jewellers Act*, en passant par les opérateurs de paris (*Gambling Regulatory*

Authority Act) ou encore, du foncier et de l'immobilier (*Notaries Act*). D'autres lois, comme la *Financial Services Act*, la *Dangerous Drugs Act*, la *Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act* (FIAMLA) ou encore, la *Financial Reporting Act*, figurent sur cette liste de lois qui seront renforcées.

Le projet de loi impressionne par la diversité et la quantité d'amendements proposés. Toutefois, il ne suffit pas d'avoir des lois, encore faut-il pouvoir les appliquer rigoureusement. Sinon elles resteront lettre morte. C'est là que le bât blesse. En dépit de l'arsenal légal existant, les affaires de corruption se sont multipliées au fil des années parce que les enquêtes entamées finissent trop souvent en eau de boudin faute de poursuites ou d'inculpation des coupables. Les institutions de régulation, de surveillance et de contrôle manquent d'indépendance ou sont parfois carrément incompétentes dans la façon dont elles traitent certains dossiers. On connaît les autorisations ou permis accordés à des investisseurs dont les fonds sont d'origine douteuse (Sobrinho, Dos Santos) ou à des sociétés incorporées dans le secteur offshore dont les vrais pro-

priétaires sont inconnus.

Politique de l'autruche

Le secteur offshore a été l'objet de critiques pendant longtemps, mais les compagnies de gestion et les régulateurs ont adopté la politique de l'autruche pour faire accroire que tout y va bien. La révision du DTAA entre Maurice et l'Inde afin de permettre aux autorités indiennes de taxer les gains en capital réalisés en Inde par des sociétés résidentes à Maurice aurait dû être une opportunité de reconsidérer l'approche mauricienne en matière de traité de non-double imposition fiscale. Le partage des droits de taxation sur les investissements entre la juridiction de source (où l'investissement est fait) et la juridiction de résidence (d'où provient l'investissement) a été un problème pour l'Inde et l'Afrique.



Photo: Internet Sources

Après le Sénégal, la Zambie vient d'abroger son DTAA avec Maurice, mécontente de perdre des revenus fiscaux à l'avantage de Maurice sur les investissements effectués sur le sol zambien. La Zambie se plaint que le DTAA ne lui donnait pas le droit de taxer les dividendes, les intérêts et les redevances (*royalties*) tirés de l'exploitation de son territoire mais payés aux résidents mauriciens.

Le principe de base de la fiscalité transfrontalière veut que les revenus de l'établissement stable de l'investisseur situé dans la juridiction de source y soient taxés parce qu'ils proviennent de l'exploitation des ressources dans ce territoire. C'est une des règles fondamentales du plan de l'OCDE visant à combattre l'érosion de la base fiscale et l'attribution du profit (*Base Erosion and Profit Shifting*). Or, les clauses du DTAA ne permettent pas un partage équitable des droits de taxation entre les deux juridictions.

Aujourd'hui, le positionnement de Kigali, capitale du Rwanda, comme un centre financier de référence en Afrique subsaharienne, représente potentiellement une concurrence sérieuse au centre offshore de Maurice.

Il est temps que les opérateurs du secteur offshore réalisent que le DTAA n'est pas une voie à sens unique. Le DTAA ne saurait être un simple instrument d'optimisation fiscale (minimiser la taxe exigible), encore moins un outil d'évasion fiscale pour une société résidente. L'Afrique veut des investissements mais aussi des revenus fiscaux. Comme le commerce international qui est censé fondé sur des termes de l'échange justes, les investissements transfrontaliers doivent être profitables aux deux parties prenantes. Prétendre le contraire, c'est faire preuve d'inconscience ou d'égoïsme.

Coronavirus: EU considers barring Americans from travel list



Europe's internal borders began reopening to travellers on 15 June. Photo - bbcnews.com

A number of European countries are keen to open up to tourists but others are wary of the continued spread of coronavirus.

The 27-member bloc must first agree the measures that non-EU countries should meet before deciding on a safe list, reports BBC News.

The virus is spreading in the US, so it is likely Americans would be barred.

Brazil, Russia and other countries with high infection rates would also be left off a safe list, according to reports from Brussels.

The EU is not yet thought to have agreed how they will assess which countries meet health standards - one of the criteria for entry. Part of the problem is assessing reliable health data, reports say.

Comparing infection rates with other countries

Latest figures from the EU's health agency, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, highlight Brazil, Peru, Chile, Panama and Saudi Arabia as countries with the highest "case notifica-

tion rate".

Russia and the US have a lower rate of cases per 100,000 inhabitants but are still higher than most of Europe. The US has seen 2.3 million infections and 120,000 deaths and cases are climbing in several states.

The European Commission is advising ambassadors only to consider countries that are comparable or better than the EU average when it comes to new infections, the trend in new infections, as well as testing and tracing.

Reports said member states were assessing two different lists. The Politico website said one covered countries with fewer than 16 cases per 100,000 people and the other with up to 20 cases, which would include Canada and Turkey. The New York Times said the list would be revised every two weeks, so the US could be added later.

Other criteria also being considered are reciprocity and links to the EU. France wants the EU to give access only when it is reciprocated by other countries, while Spain is said to be keen to reopen the border with neighbouring Morocco.

Earlier this month the European Commission also stressed that reopening borders with non-EU states in the Western Balkans was a priority from 1 July.

The US may also be a problem diplomatically, as on 14 March President Donald Trump unilaterally closed US borders to countries in the EU's Schengen border-free zone. The EU condemned the move at the time.

Why Trump's H-1B visa freeze will hurt India most



Indians get around 75% of H-1B visas. Photo - bbcnews.com

Now President Donald Trump is making "legal immigration a scapegoat" with an eye on the upcoming election, says Poorvi Chotani, a managing partner at Law Quest, an immigration law firm with offices in the US and India.

"How can the US recover more than 17 million lost jobs due to the pandemic by keeping out a little more than half a million foreign workers for the rest of the year?" she told Soutik Biswas of BBC.

Ms Chotani is mainly alluding to the H-1B visa programme that currently admits 85,000 immigrants each year, many for skilled jobs in the tech industry. On Tuesday, Mr Trump suspended this and other work visas that allowed foreigners to work in the US until the end of 2020, reports Soutik Biswas of BBC News.

The move will hit India hard.

Three quarters of the H-1B visas issued every year still go to India-born workers although the top seven Indian tech companies now pick up only 6% of the total visas under this programme.

Rise of Indian-Americans

"This is testimony to the skill sets of Indian nationals. And it has little to do with immigration. The H-1B is about temporary movement of high skilled workers. It doesn't impact net immigration numbers," Shivendra Singh, vice president of global trade development at Nasscom, the Indian technology industry trade group, says.

The H-1B visa programme is also the reason for the "rise of Indian-Americans into the highest educated and highest earning group, immigrant or native in the US," say the authors of The Other One Percent, a study of Indians in America.

US-based researchers Sanjoy Chakravorty, Devesh Kapoor and Nirvikar Singh found that by the early 2010s, some 60% of the 100,000 India-born people entering the US each year through skilled-based paths were on the H-1B programme. They were mainly employed in computer-related occupations.

Nearly half of a million H-1B visas

issued between 2004 and 2012 went to Indians. Along with their dependants they accounted for more than a fourth of the Indian-American population, which is currently around 3 million.

The new entrants, the researchers noted, spoke different languages, and lived in different places from earlier Indian immigrants.

Hindi, Tamil and Telugu language speakers increased in size. Traditional Indian-American clusters in New York and Michigan were replaced by larger clusters in California and New Jersey. In many ways, the skilled visa programme, led to the birth of a "new map of Indian-Americans".

The future is beginning to look uncertain now.

Bridging the skills gap

What puzzles Indians is the objective behind Mr Trump's move, which has already met resistance from tech firms like Google.

Mr Trump says the move will create jobs for Americans hurting economically due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Indian experts say, Mr Trump had been reducing legal immigration even when there were enough jobs. And at a time when the US is truly staring at millions of people out of jobs due to the pandemic, unemployment in computer occupations has actually declined from 3% in January to 2.5% in May. As of 14 May, there were 625,000 computer occupation jobs vacancies in the US.

"The numbers tell you a completely different story. The H-1B workers bridge a critical skills gap. And now they will become essential workers in the post Covid recovery process in every field - cyber security, online education, vaccine research and so on," says Mr Singh.

Many in India say that Mr Trump's measure is part of a plan to make permanent changes to immigration laws to discourage foreign workers.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

BeiDou: China launches final satellite in challenge to GPS

China has successfully put into orbit the final satellite in its BeiDou-3 navigation system, further advancing the country as a major power in space.

Tuesday's launch will allow China to no longer rely on the US government-owned Global Positioning System (GPS), reports BBC News.

The \$10bn (£8bn) network is made up of 35 satellites and provides global navigation coverage.

It comes as tensions between Beijing and Washington are increasing over the coronavirus, trade and Hong Kong.

The launch had been scheduled for last week but was delayed after technical problems were found with the rocket in pre-launch tests.

The third version of the Beidou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) offers

an alternative to Russia's GLONASS and the European Galileo systems, as well as America's GPS.

China's space programme has developed rapidly over the last 20 years as Beijing has provided significant funding to develop the country's own high-tech systems.

In 2003, China became only the third country to launch its own crewed space mission. Since then it has built an experimental space station and sent two rovers to the moon.

The moves are seen as preparation for a permanent space station, a potential crewed flight to the moon, and a possible first attempt to send an orbiter and rover to Mars.

That would make China a serious contender to America in space exploration.



Sada Reddi

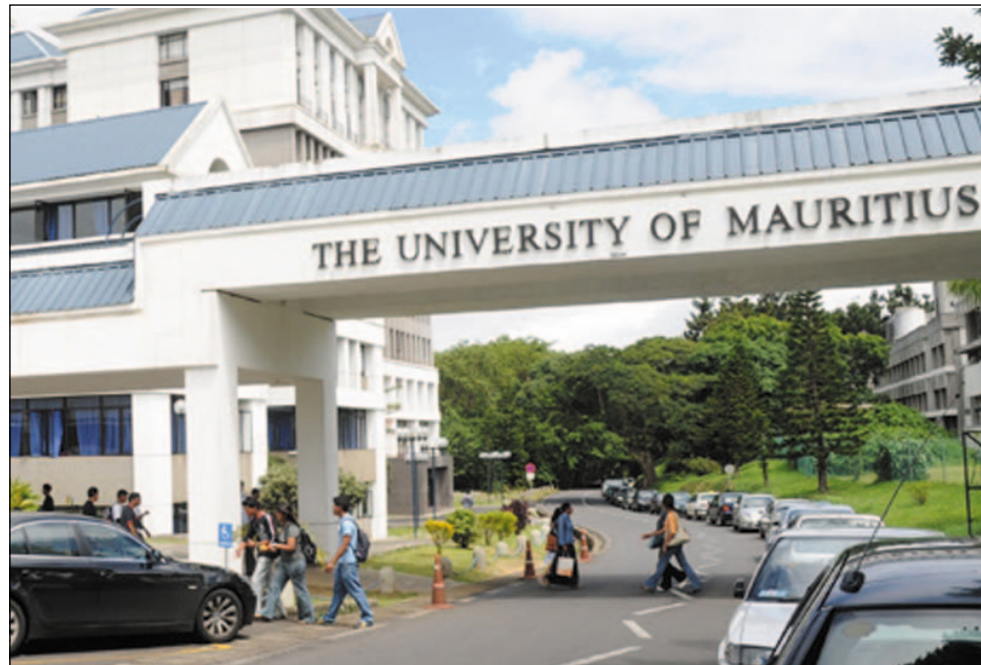
The preposterous decision of the University of Mauritius to bring before a disciplinary committee Ragen Narsinghen, an academic from the law department, has shocked the whole country. What he is being blamed for amounts to exercising his academic freedom to speak on a number on public issues. Academics in the past and even today have always given their views publicly on many controversial issues, for truth is always multi-dimensional. It is a well-established practice at the University that academics can exercise their academic freedom, for this is grounded in the nature of their work and forms part of the mission of the University to increase and develop new knowledge for the benefit of students and for society in general.

It was in order to allow the University to function free from political interference and to fulfil its mission that its autonomy was guaranteed right from the start. When the University Provisional Bill was being debated in the Legislative Assembly in 1965, there were concerns raised about the autonomy of the university. In fact clause 17 of the bill provided for the minister to give directions to the university. Responding to these concerns and to ensure the autonomy of the University, the Minister of Education, Veerasamy Ringadoo, decided at Committee Stage to delete Clause 17 and was congratulated for doing so by Maurice Lesage, a member of the opposition. Since then, the autonomy of the University has been well safeguarded.

It was the consensus of the time that the University of Mauritius became an autonomous institution, and like universities all over the world, it provided its academic staff and students with the freedom to fulfil its mission - to discuss, debate and contest any views and create new knowledge in their search for truth. New knowledge in any field - whether in arts, science, social science, law and politics - can only be created when there is a perpetual questioning of received knowledge.

It has thus become a matter routine for academics and students to actively engage in expressing, debating and contesting ideas from any source. At a time when our universities are making great efforts to develop creativity and encourage students and academics to become innovative so as to contribute to the development of the country, it is an aberration in the policy of the University to clamp down on academic freedom.

There have always been criticisms that academics do not engage themselves



“ It was in order to allow the University to function free from political interference and to fulfil its mission that its autonomy was guaranteed right from the start. When the University Provisional Bill was being debated in the Legislative Assembly in 1965, there were concerns raised about the autonomy of the university. In fact clause 17 of the bill provided for the minister to give directions to the university. Responding to these concerns and to ensure the autonomy of the University, the Minister of Education, Veerasamy Ringadoo, decided at Committee Stage to delete Clause 17...”

enough in society and the University should not be an ivory tower. Yet, when academics come forward to put forward their views and ideas to the public, there are attempts made to muzzle them. Nowadays there are changes taking place in the role of universities. New concepts, ideas and research findings generated by universities are no longer confined to learned journals but are disseminated into the wider society. Academics are regular speakers and commentators in the media. There are conferences and workshops where they are invited to participate actively. They are respected and honoured. In the recent Honours List awarded on Independence and Republic Day was a Mauritian historian, an academic from Oxford University. One of the criteria for promotion at the University includes the academic's

contribution to society.

It must be strange that a university that has academic freedom as its core value should take the unfortunate step to undermine its credibility and tarnish its image. This is happening at a time when the University is trying very hard to develop excellence in research and wants to attract foreign students. It must be extremely embarrassing for academics and particularly for the Vice-Chancellor to have to carry the burden of guilt for being unwittingly perhaps a party to a decision that is a blot not only on the prestige of the University and an inefaceable stain on one's academic career. No one would like to go down in the pages of history of the University as having been among the diggers of academic freedom.

Perhaps the decision was taken by one or two people who may not have grasped the importance of the University and its wider role in developing the values of a free society. It is not too late to remedy the situation for academic freedom is intrinsically linked to our fundamental rights enshrined in the Bill of Rights in our Constitution, namely the freedom of speech and thought. It is a human right that is cherished by the whole nation.

The widespread support that Mr Narsinghen has received across the nation is testimony of the importance of his struggle for the country. Students from several universities, academics, trade unionists, NGOs, prominent opinion leaders in our society, the media and Members of the National Assembly were all present last Monday to express their solidarity and support. This suggests the issue is of national importance. It is not simply an academic fighting for his academic freedom. It symbolizes the wider struggle of a nation to safeguard its democratic rights. Like in 1984, when journalists were not only protesting against the amendments to the Newspapers and Periodicals Act for their

In any society, freedom, democracy and development are all closely linked. Neither democracy nor development can be achieved without civic right and freedom

“ There have always been criticisms that academics do not engage themselves enough in society and the University should not be an ivory tower. Yet, when academics come forward to put forward their views and ideas to the public, there are attempts made to muzzle them. Nowadays there are changes taking place in the role of universities. New concepts, ideas and research findings generated by universities are no longer confined to learned journals but are disseminated into the wider society...”

survival but mostly at the attempt to stifle the freedom of the press. Later this amendment was abrogated.

Just like press freedom, academic freedom is an essential ingredient in a democratic society. We have been reminded by no other person than Amartya Sen, the Nobel Prize winner, that freedom and democracy are essential elements for the development of society. Political and civil rights have an instrumental and constructive role in the development of a country. Freedom provides opportunities to draw the attention of government forcefully to the general needs of society and government's response to these needs does make a difference. Have we not heard academics and many other people bringing to the attention of the government numerous problems facing the people during the lockdown? And have we not seen the authorities responding to these grievances with some solutions?

In any society, freedom, democracy and development are all closely linked. Neither democracy nor development can be achieved without civic right and freedom. Freedom and democracy contribute significantly in identifying and tackling problems and issues. People exercise their civil rights - criticizing, protesting and demanding solutions. Government and the authorities respond to such pressures and such protesting does make a real difference.

Let us hope that the decision makers have by now realized the harm they are inflicting on the University of Mauritius by lowering its prestige among higher education institutions and many university associations across the world and that academic freedom matters. We hope they will be prompt enough to salvage the damage to the reputation and prestige of the University of Mauritius - and restore academic freedom.

Interview : Jocelyn Chan Low - Historien

“Le ML et Ivan Collendavelloo ne pèsent plus grand-chose

que ce soit en termes de députés ou de soutien électoral”

Dans le monde entier, plusieurs groupes de citoyens réclament le renforcement de la lutte contre la corruption. Si tout le monde est concerné, les parlementaires ont aussi le devoir de se battre pour assurer la mise en place et l'implémentation de la bonne gouvernance. Jocelyn Chan Low, historien et observateur politique de longue date, explique l'importance du renforcement des mécanismes d'imputabilité et de transparence dans le monde contemporain. La survie économique de la République est en jeu.

Mauritius Times : Le budget 2020-2021, venant dans le sillage de la Covid-19 Act, a suscité d'autres controverses avec ses propositions concernant l'impôt progressif, le recours aux fonds de la Banque de Maurice pour financer la relance par le biais de la Mauritius Investment Company, la réforme du système de pension avec l'abolition du NPF, les permis de résidence qui seront accordés aux expatriés et leur accès à l'immobilier, etc. Voyez-vous le Gouvernement réussir son pari de relancer l'économie dans les circonstances actuelles avec de telles mesures?

Jocelyn Chan Low : D'abord, il faut souligner la dimension exceptionnelle de la situation présente. Si l'on se réfère aux prévisions du FMI en ce qu'il s'agit de la croissance et du chômage, c'est presque identique à la situation de 1983. En outre, Maurice étant une économie ouverte, qui a grandement bénéficié de la mondialisation, la relance dépendra en majeure partie de la reprise économique internationale. Mais il n'y a aucune visibilité à ce niveau.

Prenez le secteur du tourisme. Qui peut prédire actuellement la manière dont le tourisme va évoluer au niveau international, surtout que l'épidémie de la Covid-19 est loin d'être dernière nous? L'OMS met en garde contre une nouvelle vague de contamination. Il ne faut oublier l'épidémie de grippe espagnole à la fin de la Première Guerre mondiale qui se déclina en plusieurs vagues successives. Beaucoup dépendra de la disponibilité d'un vaccin contre le virus. Mais nous sommes là dans l'inconnu.

En ce qu'il s'agit des mesures prises par le Gouvernement, évidemment il était nécessaire que l'Etat emprunte massivement et laisse filer le déficit afin de limiter la "casse sociale". A mon avis, l'investissement massif dans la construction est un bon choix car, au moins, il y a une certaine visibilité car tout cela se fait au niveau local. Quant à la ponction sur les grosses compagnies et les gros salaires, on ne peut pas parler de solidarité et refuser d'ouvrir le portefeuille... Mais au sujet de la réforme du système de pension, il fallait des négociations avec les syndicats.

Quant aux permis de résidence accordés aux expatriés, le niveau des investissements requis nous paraît définitivement trop peu élevé. Gare à une réaction anti-étrangers des Mauriciens.



L'attractivité de Maurice est en grande partie due au sens de l'hospitalité des Mauriciens mais si les jeunes professionnels mauriciens se sentent lésés par l'arrivée massive d'expatriés, il est quasi certain que tout cela changera.

*** Les choses se compliquent sur le plan économique : après la décision de l'Union européenne de placer Maurice sur la liste noire des centres financiers, voilà la Zambie qui a annoncé mardi dernier la fin de son accord de non-double imposition fiscale entre nos deux pays. Tout cela se passe dans un contexte de crise économique mondiale qui, selon la plupart des experts, risque de s'aggraver dans les jours à venir. Voyez-vous des jours difficiles devant nous sur le plan social?**

Evidemment, le pire est devant nous. Par exemple, le secteur touristique prendra sans doute plus d'une année pour se relever. Cela étant dit, non seulement le secteur était déjà en difficulté bien avant la pandémie mais les prévisions pour le long terme ne sont guère reluisantes. Si l'on se fie aux prévisions du *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework* de

2013 préparé par le Dr Andrea Basi et financé par le gouvernement japonais à travers le Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD), d'ici 2050 une grande partie de nos plages et de nos lagons seront complètement bouleversés.

Il y est précisé que les vulnérabilités de Maurice au changement climatique comprennent, entre autres, les zones côtières et le tourisme qui y dépend grandement : le niveau de la mer ira en augmentant et cela affectera les plus belles plages, à travers l'intensification de l'érosion côtière, causant la disparition de certaines d'entre elles. Il serait judicieux de songer déjà à un plan de sortie de ce modèle qui, si l'on se fie aux prédictions de scientifiques sérieux, est compromis dans le long terme.

Après le tourisme, les prévisions paraissent aussi sombres pour Maurice en tant que centre financier international. Déjà l'abrogation du traité de non double imposition

Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor. Il paraît qu'il y a là suffisamment d'ingrédients pour semer le doute sur la bonne gouvernance à Maurice, non ?

Le scandale est à plusieurs niveaux.

D'abord les pots-de-vin accordés à 'l'administration mauricienne.' Quand? Et à qui? Seule une enquête indépendante le déterminera.

A ce niveau il est à souhaiter que la BWSC et les autorités danoises collaborent pleinement avec les institutions mauriciennes. Il reste que le silence sur cette affaire, qui a été révélée à la direction du CEB en février 2019, est quand même assourdissant et intrigant. S'il n'y avait pas eu le communiqué de la BAD, le public n'aurait rien su ! Et le public peut légitimement s'interroger sur la manière dont d'autres contrats ont été alloués.

Le drame, c'est qu'il y a une institution anti-corruption payée des fonds publics mais qui est loin de faire l'unanimité, notamment en raison de la manière dont le directeur est choisi. Tout cela nuit à la bonne gouvernance et à la réputation de Maurice, et peut provoquer à la longue un divorce total entre les élites et le citoyen mauricien moyen. Comment justifier l'expulsion brutale des squatters, surtout les *genuine cases*, en plein confinement alors que les puissants se remplissent les poches à travers un système de corruption bien rodé?

Faut-il rappeler que depuis l'indépen-

“Les allégations de corruption ont émergé rapidement durant ce mandat de Pravind Jugnauth mais, comme je le disais : aucun gouvernement depuis l'indépendance n'en a été épargné. Mais souvent le Premier ministre arrivait à s'en sortir en poussant ceux sur lesquels le public avait de forts soupçons à 'démissionner'. Mais tout est aussi une question de rapports de force. Dans ce cas précis, le ML et son leader ne pèsent plus grand-chose, que ce soit en termes de députés ou de soutien électoral...”

avec l'Inde avait amené une remise en question de la durabilité et de la fiabilité de ce secteur économique. Mais l'*African Strategy*, disait-on à l'époque, constituait une bouée de sauvetage. Mais voilà que la Zambie et le Sénégal remettent en question des traités fiscaux établis alors que le Rwanda se positionne déjà comme le prochain centre financier international de l'Afrique.

On oublie que nous évoluons dans un monde impitoyable, extrêmement compétitif. Et que des pays africains sont extrêmement dynamiques. Or, nous avons péché par excès de confiance. Et le Gouvernement a trop tardé à réagir avec des mesures adéquates en termes de législation et de création d'institutions solides capables de prévenir les fraudes. La médiocrité n'est plus de mise, et nous l'avons appris à nos dépens.

*** Au-delà des revers subis par le pays avec la décision de l'UE de placer Maurice sur la liste noire des centres financiers, c'est maintenant au tour de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) de pointer du doigt l'administration mauricienne par rapport à l'attribution du contrat d'installation de moteurs à la station électrique de Saint Louis à**

dance tous les gouvernements ont été éclaboussés d'une façon ou d'une autre par des allégations de fraude et de corruption? Le problème est systémique, et il faudrait renforcer les pouvoirs du Parlement comme chien de garde de la bonne gouvernance et des dépenses publiques. Pour cela, il faudrait aussi que les parlementaires ne soient pas restreints à leur fonction de députés...

*** On se posait la question, quelques semaines de cela, si la fraude et la corruption constitueront le talon d'Achille de l'actuel Gouvernement, mais dans l'immédiat il y a le problème d'embarras politique que pose l'affaire St Louis pour le Premier ministre. Il n'a pas encore dit son dernier mot, semble-t-il ?**

Les allégations de corruption ont émergé rapidement durant ce mandat de Pravind Jugnauth mais, comme je le disais plus tôt : aucun gouvernement depuis l'indépendance n'en a été épargné. Mais souvent le Premier ministre arrivait à s'en sortir en poussant ceux sur lesquels le public avait de forts soupçons à 'démissionner'. Mais tout est aussi une question de rapports de force.

Pots-de-vin accordés à 'l'administration mauricienne': 'Quand ? Et à qui?'

Seule une enquête indépendante le déterminera'

☞ Suite de page 8

Dans ce cas précis, le ML et son leader ne pèsent plus grand-chose, que ce soit en termes de députés ou de soutien électoral. L'arrivée d'autres anciens du MMM, certes en ordre dispersé, a considérablement réduit sa marge de manœuvre et son utilité pour le MSM. Déjà, il y avait des rumeurs qui circulaient quant à un éventuel *ditching* du VPM, mais Pravind Jugnauth ne semblait pas pressé et jouait la carte 'légaliste'. J'apprends à l'instant que le PM a révoqué Ivan Collendavelloo, mais on ne connaît pas à ce stade les détails par rapport à cette révocation. Mais le ML apparaît définitivement aujourd'hui comme un 'has been'.

*** En ce qui concerne l'ICAC et son 'track record' en matière d'enquêtes dans des affaires impliquant des membres ou des proches du gouvernement, la pression va s'accroître dans les jours à venir par rapport à l'affaire St Louis. Ivan Collendavelloo a été révoqué, mais que va donner l'enquête, selon vous?**

Evidemment, l'opposition et une grande partie de l'opinion publique sont très remontées en ce moment surtout quand on connaît la faible crédibilité de l'ICAC. En outre, des copies de ce fameux rapport existent à la BAD, à la BSWG, peut-être aux mains des autorités danoises. On peut donc s'attendre à des révélations à n'importe quel moment...

Par ailleurs, l'opposition parlementaire et même extra-parlementaire semblent parler d'une même voix sur le sujet. En même temps, il est aussi vrai qu'à Maurice un 'scandale' en chasse un autre...

Cela étant dit, diverses oppositions ont donné rendez-vous au grand public pour des manifestations de rue dans les jours à venir. On verra si un grand nombre de Mauriciens auront le courage de manifester physiquement leur indignation face au Gouvernement sur plusieurs sujets en venant grossir les rangs des manifestants...

*** Ailleurs dans le monde, en Europe comme aux Etats-Unis, les manifestations déclenchées après la mort de l'Américain noir George Floyd, asphyxié par un policier blanc fin mai, et au nom du mouvement 'Black Lives Matter' se sont succédé et des centaines de milliers de personnes ont défilé lors de rassemblements largement pacifiques. Or, il n'y a eu aucune résonance de ce mouvement à Maurice malgré l'Histoire de notre pays marquée par l'esclavage et celui de l'engagisme. Cela vous a-t-il surpris ?**

Oui et non. D'un côté, le racisme est bien présent à Maurice tout comme les brutalités policières que nous avons pu constater pendant le confinement. Des policier/gardes chiourmes ont été arrêtés dans le cadre des enquêtes que l'on connaît.

A un moment donné, on a vu émerger sur les réseaux sociaux le hashtag 'Creole Lives Matter' surtout en réaction à l'expulsion brutale des squatters et à des décès suspects en prison. Cependant, le mouvement a été d'une extrême timidité. Et, à ma connaissance, il n'y a pas eu un mouvement de solidarité aux manifestations de 'Black Lives Matter' et aussi en hommage à Georges Floyd, à part quelques "posts" sur Facebook.

En même temps, cette timidité en dit long sur le chemin parcouru depuis l'émergence du discours du malaise créole dans les années 90. On ne peut nier qu'il y a eu un gros travail de réparation mémorielle qui a été effectué depuis, à l'instar de la proclamation du 1er février et du 2 novembre comme jours fériés. L'Aapravasi Ghat et le Morne ont été érigés au statut de patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO ; l'esclavage et l'engagisme sont enseignés à l'école tout comme le Kreol ; une Commission Justice et Vérité a vu le jour et a soumis son rapport ; un Musée international de

l'esclavage est en voie d'être mis sur pied, etc.

Mais il est vrai que le sentiment d'être victime de discrimination est très présent dans le groupe qui se dit "descendants d'esclaves". Nous l'avons constaté à travers des enquêtes de terrain dans le cadre d'un projet sur l'histoire orale des descendants d'esclaves pour la *Truth and Justice Commission*. Mais c'est surtout l'Etat qui est mis en cause par les personnes interrogées et non le gros secteur privé ou autres barons sucriers. D'ailleurs, si l'on étudie de très près les cibles des émeutiers pendant les émeutes Kaya, c'étaient les symboles de l'Etat qui avaient été visés et non les symboles du gros capital.

Finalement, quand on examine les associations dites 'créoles', on voit un plus grand engagement des prêtres du diocèse qu'auparavant. Ce qui explique sans doute la stratégie d'éviter des confrontations directes avec qui que ce soit.

*** Notez-vous une certaine complaisance à Maurice vis-à-vis des anciens colonisateurs et de leurs collaborateurs sur le sol?**

C'est la configuration ethno-politique de Maurice qui a contribué grandement à cela. A l'époque où la notion de lutte des classes dominait le discours politique, l'esclavage et l'engagisme étaient perçus à juste titre comme tributaire d'un ordre économique et social qu'on voulait détruire.

Puis, dans les années 80, nous sommes passés à ce qu'on pourrait appeler l'*identity politics* et on a carrément mis de côté toute référence au système capitaliste, au gros capital qui s'est constitué sur l'esclavage et l'engagisme dans les analyses, à part évidemment les analyses provenant de la gauche radicale.

*** Le mouvement 'Black Lives Matter' a rouvert le débat autour des monuments liés à l'esclavage, dont plusieurs ont été mis à terre ou vandalisés aux Etats-Unis. Même la statue de Roosevelt devant le Muséum américain d'histoire naturelle et dont la composition est considérée comme "raciste" par le musée et la ville a été enlevée lundi dernier. JB David avait mené campagne pour l'enlèvement de la statue d'Adrien d'Epinay au jardin de la Compagnie, et on pointe du doigt ces jours-ci Mahé de Labourdonnais. Faut-il ou non déboulonner ces statues ?**

Feu James Burty David était un grand intellectuel qui avait un très grand sens de l'Histoire et il nous avait grandement soutenus à l'époque où nous avons organisé, en 1998, le colloque international 'Mémoire et Vécu d'hier et d'aujourd'hui. L'esclavage et ses séquelles à l'île Maurice'. Mais le débat autour du déboulonnement ou non des statues de figures controversées de l'histoire coloniale est très complexe.

D'un côté, il y a ceux qui postulent, comme le Professeur Prosper Eve, universitaire réunionnais qui a beaucoup travaillé sur l'esclavage, qu'il faut surtout replacer ces personnalités dans le contexte de leur époque, où l'esclavage était un fait banal dans la plupart des sociétés coloniales, tout en ajoutant qu'on ne saurait résumer leur œuvre à la seule dimension pro- esclavagiste.

Prenons l'exemple de Mahé de Labourdonnais. Il est vrai qu'il a participé à la traite négrière et a réorganisé la maréchaussée en une milice redoutable contre les marons. Une répression féroce va s'abattre sur ces derniers. On assiste ainsi à la capture et à l'exécution de Sans Souci, un chef d'esclaves marron malgache. Mais c'est aussi Mahé de Labourdonnais qui va sauver la colonisation de l'île de France de l'échec...

Quant à Adrien D'Epinay, certes, il a été le fer de lance



☞ **Il y a une institution anti-corruption payée des fonds publics mais qui est loin de faire l'unanimité, notamment en raison de la manière dont le directeur est choisi. Tout cela nuit à la bonne gouvernance et à la réputation de Maurice, et peut provoquer à la longue un divorce total entre les élites et le citoyen mauricien moyen. Comment justifier l'expulsion brutale des squatters, surtout les *genuine cases*, en plein confinement...** ☞

hommes au passé controversé, surtout que la présence même de ces statues semble occulter leurs méfaits passés.

La solution serait, outre un travail de conscientisation sur les faits de l'Histoire, de multiplier dans l'espace public les références, à travers des statues ou des noms de lieux, dédiées aux grandes figures de la lutte anti esclavagiste ou contre l'engagisme.

*** Tout ce mouvement est en train de se produire à un moment où l'on parle de plus en plus du début du démantèlement de l'hégémonie culturelle européenne, de la déracialisation de l'Histoire, de l'ère post-coloniale... Quelle analyse faites-vous de ce qui est en train de prendre forme de par le monde?**

Il est incontestable que nous sommes à un tournant de l'histoire économique, politique et culturelle du monde. Un nombre de plus en plus grandissant d'historiens reconnaissent aujourd'hui que l'hégémonie européenne s'est construite autour de '*weak empires*' sur une période de pas moins de 200 ans. Mais durant cette période, L'Europe a érigé ses valeurs et sa culture comme un dogme universaliste. Aujourd'hui, on commence à comprendre, par exemple, le rôle prépondérant de l'Asie, de la Chine en particulier, dans l'économie-monde jusqu'au 19ème siècle de même que son rayonnement culturel et intellectuel.

Au niveau géopolitique, il est évident que les Etats-Unis ne peuvent plus aspirer à être les seuls maîtres du monde et l'Afrique, grâce à ses ressources naturelles et à son dynamisme démographique, est à juste titre considérée comme le continent du futur.

En outre, la pandémie de la Covid-19 a fait exploser, une nouvelle fois, le mythe de la supériorité européenne. On s'attendait à des bouleversements politiques, géopolitiques et économiques. Mais la mort de Georges Floyd dans les circonstances que l'on sait a été le catalyseur d'un mouvement socioculturel très profond, ce qui nous amène effectivement vers un monde véritablement post-colonial.

Le temps des discours et des narrations mettant le '*White European at the centre of the stage*' est révolu. Il y a effectivement un retour à la provincialisation de l'Europe avec les conséquences culturelles qui en découlent.

Aux peuples trop longtemps opprimés économiquement, politiquement et culturellement, Bob Marley chantait '*We are coming in from the Cold*.' Ce temps est enfin arrivé.



Preamvada Dookhun

Confinement: The view from Australia

How I revived my bucket list during confinement!

Australia is such a beautiful country. For me and my family, this place is full of adventures and experiences to relish. Such a treat. We love the food, the multi-cultural diversity, the mystery of the Aborigines, the love for music, the laid-back attitude, the people.

When we came to Australia, the coronavirus was not yet a global concern. We really thought we would be able to pull it off and make the most of our second time here. And then coronavirus hit! Suddenly it was all about adjusting to many things - a deadly unimaginable pandemic, closed international borders, lockdown, and being somehow stuck in a foreign land with not many acquaintances and friends inland.

My biggest coping weapon became WhatsApp as I connected with families and friends on a daily basis once we understood the difference in hours between Australia and the other places. We even celebrated a live birthday through WhatsApp with dear ones from different locations in a curfewed (back then - mid May) Mauritius, Germany and Canada. It was a bit chaotic but the joy of connecting during those few minutes was fantastic!

Me-time to self-discovery

The confinement, or lockdown as we call it here, has had a constructive impact on me and my family life, especially after the initial scare of the pandemic. Suddenly I discovered that I had full 'me-time' to do all the things that I always wanted to. I did have to adjust my bucket list, cutting down on my dream travel plans.

Coming back to my bucket list, I realized it was an important thing to revive to cope in this unprecedented time of fear, losses and pain, in order to maintain a healthy mental, physical, emotional and spiritual state. The lockdown has turned out to be the beginning of my journey of self-discovery.

Well, firstly, I learnt that cooking could be fun! And the variety of healthy food options available at affordable prices with the big supermarkets promoting their products through their monthly food recipes magazine simply opened doors of possibilities that I never dreamt of, not that I became a Chef. But when my son gives one hundred million over 100 for my oat cookies and my daughter relishes bowls of my 'dals' and soups, and my husband asks for more than his usual share, I do feel good - as good as my dear sisters who always make exceptional dishes.

Cooking also connected me to my mother. My siblings and I had the privilege of getting freshly made hot savouries and food whenever we used to come back from school, college and then work... Those were the golden days of 'lakaz mama'.

My second big discovery was Yoga! Well, it does not make me proud to say this, but I used to think that yoga was for the elderlies and the celebrities like Shilpa Shetty and Jennifer Aniston. I was somehow put off by those tortuous and torturous body postures. Yoga was not for me! Well, I was utterly, completely, and 'definitely' wrong! Not that I can do headstands now but I have learnt to appreciate the power of 'Pranayam', the breathing techniques, and workout of the 'Surya Namaskaar', the Sun Salutation and the benefits of so many postures. I am ever grateful for this, 'cause you see 'Yoga is the Journey of the self, through the self, to the self'.

What truly matters...

The confinement came with its challenges too. Being far away from parents, friends and colleagues can make one feel helpless and lonely at times. One of the first alarms that was raised after the lockdown here was the need for support to victims of domestic violence, mental health and the lonely elderlies. The untimely death by suicide

of Sushant Singh Rajput, brilliant Bollywood actor, left me shocked but pained at the tormented thoughts that one could have in the darkest moments of despair and loneliness.

In this era of social media, where we have virtual connections, I realized that what truly matters are the ones whom we called to speak to (not only just messaged), or the ones we messaged every other day (different from the likes, shares of Facebook, LinkedIn or forwarded GIFs). My bucket list allowed me to explore ways of keeping myself and my family busy and healthy - physically, mentally and emotionally.

Another thing that I realized is that we can well live a frugal life, without a hairdresser/barber, cinemas, restaurants and weekly fast foods. My kids even learned to do their beds, and give a helping hand on our 'Clean up Saturdays', the day we all deep clean the house together. We also tried our hands at growing seedlings and plants but now have to wait for the freezing winter to pass. For us Mauritians, even 10 degrees can feel freezing.



Family walks during Autumn

We learnt to appreciate family moments like our daily meals together at the table, our weekly movie sessions (Thank you Netflix and Amazon Prime) and our latest favourite programme which runs on Sunday and Monday nights, the Australian musical craze - *The Voice*, where a panel selects budding and established artists to mentor and coach them. It's fantastic to discover and appreciate music of all genres from opera to rock to country music.

Today, Monday 22 June, it was a little more special as one of the contestants who cleared the second challenge, Roxanne Lebrasse turned out to be a Mauritian-born Australian singer who is none other than the granddaughter of our good old Serge

Lebrasse! Nothing feels more patriotic, especially when we are abroad! Yip yip, hooray!

Coping strategies for the new normal

Amidst all my efforts to make my days joyous and fun, I am also painfully aware that the situation is dire. People around us are struggling and like so many other nations, Australia is also learning to cope with Covid-19. The Morrison government has been working hard to review and implement policies and measures to support the people, and businesses, such as the jobseeker and jobkeepers allowances, special Covid packages, especially the one-off package announced this week to support those who do not have paid sick leaves and have to self-isolate. It is estimated that 1 in 3 workers do not have paid sick leaves, forcing casual workers who show symptoms to still report to work as they have bills to pay and families to feed.

Plans to ease restrictions had hardly started to take shape, when now fears of a second wave have begun. Latest news show that Victoria has been reporting two-digit increases in new cases of Covid-19 infections since last week, causing frustrations among business owners, families, and individuals. With school holidays as from next week, domestic tourism, staycations being promoted and the ski season officially kickstarted today, it is understandable. State Premiers and health authorities are clear about it - there is no lockdown but people are warned not to venture to new hot spots, reconsider travel and vacation plans and are encouraged to think and be Covid safe, whenever they decide to go out.

No doubt, the times are unprecedented, and no one can know for sure how things will evolve in the future, what will be the post-Covid new normal. I have learnt to take it one day at a time. I have also learnt to appreciate the little things that bring us happiness and peace within. But above all, I have learnt to take care of myself and my family, physically, and mentally as just like everything else Nothing Lasts Forever, This too shall pass!

Dented image?

● Cont. from page 4

(2) failure to ensure access to accurate basic and beneficial ownership information by competent authorities in a timely manner; (3) failure to demonstrate that law enforcement authorities have capacity to conduct money laundering investigations, including parallel financial investigations and complex cases; (4) failure in implementing a risk-based approach for supervision of its non-profit organization sector to prevent abuse for terrorist financing purposes, and (5) failure to demonstrate adequate implementation of targeted financial sanctions through outreach and supervision.'

“The European Commission (EC) has recently included Mauritius in its revised list of high-risk countries with strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing frameworks.

These are serious deficiencies...”

It is pointless to enact new laws to beef up and align our financial legal framework governing the international financial services sector in consultation with FATF or the European Commission if we do not at the same time ensure that all the regulatory institutions are not only manned by internationally renowned and seasoned professionals but are also administered with the highest standards of due diligence and rigorous oversight to stem any risk of money laundering or terrorist financing. Being consistently rapped on the fingers by the SEBI or the EC or listed in Panama and other papers does not help build the unimpeachable standing and repute of Mauritius as a clean and transparent jurisdiction which prompts top world operators to do business in.

Good governance and trust

The European Commission's critical appraisal of the serious deficiencies of our international financial services sector and the refusal of the African Development Bank to share the findings of its investigation with the government and ICAC are damning indictments of the poor state of governance in the country and trust in the competence and rigour of its institutions.

Covid-19 has significantly weakened the economy. The status quo is therefore patently not a viable option for the future. Only a radical change in governance benchmarked on lofty values of probity, equity, transparency and accountability coupled with the highest managerial competence at all levels in both the public and the private sector can turn the tide of plummeting standards and under-performance. The pitfalls ahead and the choice facing the nation are clear if we want to stall the risk of being pilloried again and sullied by new instances of poor governance.

Mrinal Roy



COMMUNIQUE

GOVERNMENT WAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME and SELF-EMPLOYED ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) informs the public that the Government Wage Assistance Scheme (GWAS) and the Self-Employed Assistance Scheme (SEAS) have been extended for the month of June 2020 to operators having the necessary licence/permit from the relevant authorities to operate the following activities:

(a) Tourism sector

1. Hotels, guest houses, tourist residences and domains;
2. Tourist enterprises other than restaurants, pubs and tables d'hôtes;
3. Pleasure crafts engaged in commercial nautical activities;
4. Travel agencies, tour operators, tourist guides or canvassers, and
5. Businesses deriving at least 90% of their income from goods sold or services provided, to persons engaged in tourism activities as listed at (a)(1) to (4) above.

Note: A self-employed is entitled only to GWAS in respect of activities falling under item (5) above.

(b) Premises that remained closed or activities that were not allowed to be carried out under Covid-19 Regulations 2020

1. Fitness centres (gymnasium/sports complex);
2. Horse racing, bookmakers, casinos and gaming houses;
3. Leisure parks, amusement centres, including aquariums;
4. Multi-purpose halls, including wedding halls;
5. Nightclubs and private clubs licensed by the Tourism Authority;
6. Professional sports, and
7. Theatres and cinema halls.

(c) Self-employed

1. Artists;
2. Haberdashers operating in a market fair;
3. Holders of a license, certificate or permit issued by the Tourism Authority or Beach Authority other than for skippers, restaurants, pubs, tables d'hôtes or non-commercial pleasure crafts
4. Persons making handicrafts;
5. Persons working in school canteen, and
6. Taxi drivers operating at the airport, or based at a hotel.

All employers and self-employed persons who satisfy the conditions for the Government Wage Assistance Scheme and the Self-Employed Assistance Scheme as applicable, and who are engaged in the above mentioned activities, may submit their applications through the MRA website: www.mra.mu for financial support.

For any additional information, applicants may phone MRA helpdesk on: **207 6000**.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

24 June 2020

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Well-being

14 things no one tells you about aging

They're called the golden years for a reason. Getting older has its perks. For one, you're good at using what you've learned. This is called crystalized intelligence, and it keeps getting better, even when you're 65 or 70. Read on:

Mr Nice Guy

Turns out you might not be a grumpy old man (or woman), after all. You'll probably get more agreeable as you age, at least through your 60s. You're also likely to be happier and less inclined to get angry. Scientists haven't figured out exactly why this happens, but they do have some theories. Older people might control their emotions better, and focus more on how to make the most of life.

Play well with others

You're more in tune with other people's emotions in your 40s than at any other time in your life. That insight into how others think and feel can make living with your loved ones easier and help you get along better with your coworkers, too.

Better sex

Older women may have sex less often than when they were younger, but apparently they make it count. In a study of women 40 and over, researchers found that sexual satisfaction improved with age. Women over 80 were more likely than those between 55 and 79 to say they were satisfied during sex.

A taste for life

As you age, medications, illness (colds, flu, gum diseases, etc.) and allergies all



can change your sense of smell and taste. And that can affect your diet and health. If you find things need to be spiced up, try some olive oil, herbs like rosemary and thyme, garlic, onion, peppers, or mustard. Just stay away from the salt.

What's that doing there?

Around the time the hair on your head starts to disappear, it can show up in the strangest places. This can mean large hairs in older guys' noses and ears. Older women may notice small hairs on their chins. This is all caused by changes in our hormones.

Rise and shine

There's a good chance you'll become the morning person you've always wanted to be -- in your 60s. Our sleeping patterns can shift as we age, so we get sleepier earlier and wake up earlier. That seems to work out well. One study showed that even

though folks over 65 tend to wake up during the night, most said they regularly get a good night's sleep.

Bye-bye migraines

Once you hit your 70s, those migraines you may have had much of your life may go away. Only 10% of women and 5% of men over 70 still report migraines. Even better news: If you do have a migraine, it may not actually come with the headache. As people age, some may experience migraines as visual or sensory disturbances without pain.

Don't quit your day job

Early retirement might not be the best thing for your health -- unless you have a fun second career. A study called the Longevity Project found that people who work hard at a job they enjoy live the longest. That, along with good friends and a good marriage, could be the key to

sticking around a while.

Fear is not your friend

You may worry more about breaking bones as you age. But you're more likely to take a tumble if you're scared of falling. One study found that about a third of adults over 65 have that fear. And it's understandable, because falls are the leading cause of injuries for older people.

Self-confidence

Self-esteem soars as you age, studies show, and increases with wealth, education, good health, and employment. But it takes a dip after 60. That may be because people begin to have health issues and start searching for a new sense of purpose following retirement. With increasing life spans, healthier lifestyles, and working to an older age, we may see that change.

Less stress

Baby boomers and older adults report less stress than their younger counterparts, according to the American Psychological Association's annual 'Stress in America' report. That doesn't mean, it goes away. Health and money problems still crop up. But, the APA says, 9 of 10 older adults say they're doing enough to manage it.

Weight of the world

The longer you're alive, the more gravity brings you down. The spaces between the bones in your spine -- called vertebrae -- get closer together. That can make you about an inch shorter as you get older.

WebMD



COMMUNIQUE

PAYMENT OF TAX BY COMPANIES IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) informs all companies engaged in tourism activities, with accounting period ended on any date between 01 September 2019 and 30 June 2020, and which are eligible to the Government Wage Assistance Scheme (GWAS) for the month of June 2020, that they may avail themselves of an extended delay to pay any tax due in accordance with their annual income tax return, as follows:

- half of the tax shall be payable on or before 28 December 2020; and
- the remainder shall be payable on or before 28 June 2021.

Any tax payable by the above mentioned companies under the Advance Payment System (APS) during the calendar Year 2020 may also be paid as per the extended delay specified above.

For any additional information, the MRA helpdesk may be contacted on: **207 6000**

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

25 June 2020

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Remembrance

Lakshmeekant and Kokila Devi Deepchand



*"Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
so loved, so missed, so very dear"*

Our Pranam from

Satyen, Poonam & Shalini, Hema, Rajesh
and Preetam, Geerhina, Pooja, Siddharth,
Kapish, Pallavi and Iraj

In A Light Vein

On Vacation in Goa

Two priests decided to go to Goa on vacation. They were determined to make this a real vacation by not wearing anything that would identify them as clergy.

As soon as the plane landed, they headed for a store and bought some really outrageous shorts, shirts, sandals, sunglasses, etc.

The next morning they went to the beach dressed in their 'tourist' garb.

They were sitting on beach chairs, enjoying a drink, the sunshine and the scenery when a 'drop dead gorgeous' blonde in a bikini came walking straight towards them. They couldn't help but stare.

As the blonde passed them she smiled and said: 'Good Morning, Father. Good Morning, Father', nodding and addressing each of them individually, then she went on her way.

The priests were both stunned. How in the world would she know they were priests?

So the next day, they went back to the store and bought even more outrageous outfits. These were so loud you could hear them before you even saw them!

Once again, in their new attire, they settled down in their chairs to enjoy the sunshine.

After a little while, the same gorgeous blonde, wearing a different coloured bikini, taking her sweet time, came walking toward them.

Again she nodded at each of them, said: 'Good morning, Father. Good morning, Father,' and started to walk away.

One of the priests couldn't stand it any longer and said, 'Just a minute, young lady.'

'Yes, Father?'

'We are priests and proud of it, but I have to know, how in the world do you know we are priests, dressed as we are?'

She replied, 'Father, it's me, Sister Phillomena!'

New Proverbs

likely to be included in the English language...

1. Divided we live, united we die!
2. A sneeze, in time... infects nine!
3. All that sniffles has caught a cold!
4. Homestay is the best policy!
5. One man's mask is another man's poison!
6. An unmasked guy is the Covid's work shop!
6. As you spray, so shall you reap.
7. Better to be poor and healthy than being rich and sick!
8. Curiosity killed the doctor!
9. Don't count your chickens before next March!
10. Every cough has its spray!
11. Rome wasn't infected in a day!
12. When the cough is away, you can come out & play!

Life's Talk

From Mikhail Gorbachev's Autobiography

In his younger days, while studying in Europe, Mikhail Gorbachev used to study along with two Japanese students.

He writes: The 2nd World War had come to an end and Japan had been destroyed, and was facing crippling economic sanctions as well.

During the classes, these two Japanese students used to take turns to write the notes, while the other student would mend the pencil and keep it ready for use. In those days, the Japanese pencils used to be of inferior quality and the lead tip of the pencil which was very brittle, used to break frequently.

Fellow students advised them to use the far superior pencils made in England, which were not expensive either.

With tears in their eyes the Japanese students said: "If we ourselves do not purchase and use our own products however bad they may be, then who else will buy them and how will our people and industries develop? We don't deny that we do not have good quality today, but there will soon definitely be a day when the whole world will use our Japanese pencils."

Time to think for ourselves now.



Life's Lessons

Old Fashioned Strawberry King

An unemployed man applied for position of Janitor at Microsoft quite a few years ago. He was interviewed by HR and successfully passed all of the prerequisite tests.

He was then asked for an email address so that the employment package could be sent through.

The man panicked and confessed to the HR Manager that he didn't have an email address.

The manager responded that if he didn't have an email address, then he virtually did not exist and could not possibly work for a company like Microsoft. The man left the interview distraught and broke.

Down to his last \$10 he walked into a supermarket and bought 10 pounds of strawberries. He then went from door to door selling the strawberries, doubling his money in a couple of hours. He repeated the process a few times and ended the day with \$60 in his pocket.

Encouraged by his small success, he got up earlier the next day and worked hard selling strawberries, making more money every day.

Over time, he was able to invest in a wheelbarrow, then a truck and after a while he had a fleet of trucks delivering produce.

As the years went on, he became the owner of a chain of stores, and became a terrific success story from such humble beginnings.

As he was now quite wealthy, the man considered his future and his family and investigated getting some life insurance. He contacted an agent and chose a policy that met his needs.

At the conclusion of the conversation, the agent asked for his email address so that he could send him a confirmation of the policy.

The man responded, "But I do not have an email address."

The agent was surprised and said, "That is amazing! You have no email, yet you were able to build this empire. Just imagine where you would be if you had an email address."

The man thought for a moment and replied, "Yes, I would be cleaning toilets at Microsoft."

The story is an eye opener that while placing emphasis on modern technologies like social media and smart phones we should not forget the value of hard work and resilience.

Trends will come and go, but a strong work ethic will always be valuable.

CYCLING IS BAD FOR THE ECONOMY



Hilarious but true too

A cyclist is a disaster for the country's economy -
He does not buy the car & does not take a car loan -
Does not buy car insurance - Does not buy Fuel -
Does not send his car for servicing & repairs -
Does not use paid Parking - Does not become Obese

Yes,.....and well, damn it !! Healthy people are not needed for economy. They do not buy drugs. They do not go to Hospitals & Doctors. They add nothing to country's GDP. On the contrary, every new fast food outlet creates at least 30 jobs - 10 Cardiologists, 10 Dentists, 10 weight loss experts apart from people working in the outlet. Choose wisely: A Cyclist or a KFC ? Worth thinking about!!

PS: Walking is even worse. They do not even buy a bicycle!!

Scarlett Johansson says her 'husky voice' was a disadvantage early on in her career

Black Widow actor Scarlett Johansson, who made her movie debut at the age of nine with the film *North*, said she always wanted to work in musical theatre but casting directors did not give her a chance due to her deep voice

Marriage Story star Scarlett Johansson says she faced a lot of rejection initially in her career due to her now-famous "husky voice".

The actor, who made her movie debut at the age of nine with the film *North*, said she always wanted to work in musical theatre but casting directors did not give her a chance due to her deep voice.

"When I was a little kid, I trained as a singer because I really wanted to do musical theatre, but my voice was so deep it was impossible for me to get cast! So I went into acting instead," Johansson, 35, told *Candis* magazine.

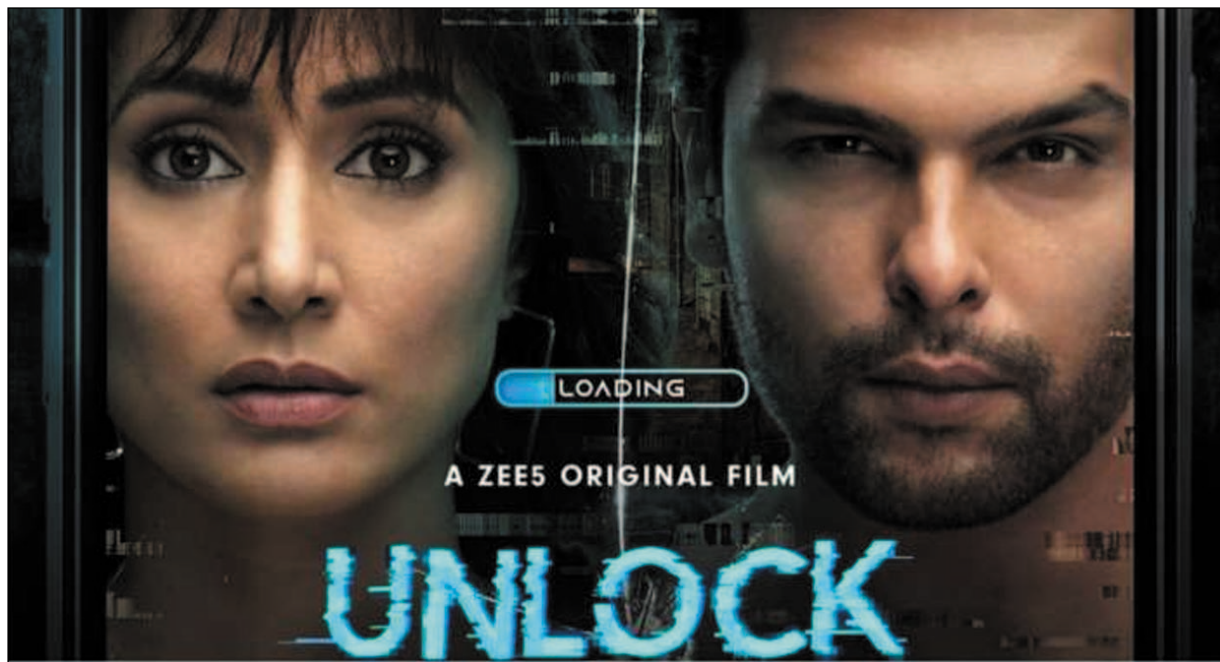
"I'd go on auditions, I was this cute little blonde girl, then I'd open my mouth and say (in a deep voice), 'Buy this product, it's fantastic!' It was quite a disadvantage at the time. I lost count of hearing casting directors ask me if I had a sore throat," she added.

Johansson will next be seen in Marvel Studios' *Black Widow*, which is scheduled to be released on November 6.



Unlock teaser: Hina Khan and Kushal Tandon promise a twisted film

Unlock, starring Hina Khan and Kushal Tandon in the lead roles, will begin streaming on ZEE5 from June 27.



The teaser of upcoming thriller *Unlock*, featuring Hina Khan and Kushal Tandon in the lead roles, is out. The video shows Hina Khan's character coming across an app, which fulfills the user's commands, as extreme as getting someone killed.

Hina and Kushal, who unite on screen for the first time in the ZEE5 original film, took to Instagram to unveil the teaser. "The genre of dark web is not explored in Bollywood and is extremely synonyms to the times we are living in. The reality is getting blurred with digital advancement and who knows, soon we will have an assistant voice as our best friend! *Unlock* premieres on 27th! what if your three wishes are granted, but with a price," Kushal wrote alongside the teaser.

Reposting the ZEE5 post, Hina Khan wrote, "Got a dark side you want to #Unlock? We'll make your wish come true. Releasing 27th June only on ZEE5."

Unlock has been helmed by Debatma Mandal and produced by Wind Horse Films and Krasnaya Corporation. It also stars Aditi Arya and Rishabh Sinha. The film will begin streaming on ZEE5 from June 27.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 31

A favourable week to discover a passion in the artistic field and you'll indulge in it joyfully. There'll be perfect harmony with the loved one if you're clever enough to hide your susceptibility or tolerant enough not to be picky; beware of jealousy.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 20

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

A good week for putting everything in order within yourself, in your home, and around you; get rid of everything that has been blocking you until now. At work, you'll easily find quick and efficacious solutions to get out of difficulties and avoid complications.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 12, 17, 24, 26, 30

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

If you encounter an obstacle in your job, there will be an occasion for you to find a solution of which no one had thought before. In your couple, try to take the other one's desires into account and to settle family matters with tact.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 19, 21, 33, 35, 40

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Rivalries in your professional milieu might arise; put yourself resolutely above these petty schemes. You'll have to think of reinforcing the natural defenses of your organism, otherwise you'll be subject to a lot of minor miseries.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 4, 8, 15, 26, 27

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

In your amorous quest, don't dash into the dark; let your tender feelings work on your beloved one. Don't disdain the small profits that pass within your reach - the one who doesn't bend down to pick-up a penny doesn't deserve to find a pound.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 11, 13, 20, 22

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Whatever your present sentimental situation may be, this time you'll find true and solid love. For your good nervous equilibrium, give yourself a daily ration of solitude. The week will be particularly favourable to students.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 6, 10, 12, 16, 20

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You won't dare to declare your ardour to a cherished one who, however, is just simply waiting for this move; take courage and go ahead! It will be the moment to cultivate useful relations; some influential people could be very much interested in one of your most ambitious projects.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 6, 11, 17, 20, 30

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You'll have a very busy schedule and tend to forget to live! Also, you're likely to waste your energy in having arguments with certain members of your family. Concerning love, don't engage yourself during this week, let things become clearer.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 18, 20, 24, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Extremely satisfactory week for the heart - in every small event of life, you'll know how to give pleasure to your beloved one. Single people will make new acquaintances. Relaxed family climate; you'll know how to listen to your children whenever they wish.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 15, 21, 33, 34

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Don't be too credulous, especially if someone asks you for a helping hand or for a loan. At work, delays and annoyances will get on your nerves; nevertheless, try to control yourself. Differences of opinion with one of your best friends.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 15, 19, 23, 26, 27

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You'll have good inspirations and will be able to consolidate your material situation. Clear renewal of vitality in the domain of love; you'll feel more inclined to share your spare time, and a relationship to which you give great importance is going to take place.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 11, 24, 29, 31

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Take the necessary time to take stock of the situation instead of letting yourself react impulsively. Beware of negative thoughts - they will greatly increase the gravity of your problems without helping you to find a solution.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 23, 24, 31, 33, 39

Gurmeet and I would actually fight about who would get into the makeup seat first: Debina Bonnerjee

Mythological show 'Ramayan' starring Debina Bonnerjee and Gurmeet Choudhary has received a warm welcome from the audiences on its rerun amidst the lockdown. While people are happy to be watching it on air once again, many are also now wanting to know the back stories of how the shooting would take place, and actress Debina Bonnerjee revealed some secrets from the show's shoot back then, reports Times of India.

Debina revealed that getting into the costumes of Ram and Sita was initially the most challenging part of the shoot for Gurmeet and her, because it took a lot of effort and time to get into the character's attire.

Speaking about some makeup room secrets, Debina shares, "I remember how taxing the first few days of the shoot were for Gurmeet and I, because getting into our costumes with all the excess makeup and jewellery took really long. Though over time we managed to get ready really fast, because we then finally got used to the routine and somehow



it increased our speed of getting into our attire as well. But due to the long hour shoots, we were always low on sleep.

'Gurmeet and I would actually fight about who would get into the makeup seat first, so the other could catch up on some sleep in the meantime. Though we would just aim at getting ready as quickly as we could, to rest for a while before getting onto set for the day.'



Mouni Roy recalls her Devi Sati days from the show 'Devon Ke Dev Mahadev'

Mouni Roy took a trip down the memory lane and found a few clicks of herself as Devi Sati from the mythological television show, *Devon Ke Dev Mahadev*. The actress played the character of Devi Sati in the drama.

Mouni is an ardent follower of Lord Shiva and has professed about it through her Instagram posts. Since Monday is considered as Lord Shiva's day, Mouni shared these pictures on social media. She was paired opposite actor Mohit Raina in this show.

Mohit and Mouni's onscreen chemistry was so powerful that they were often rumoured to be in a romantic relationship with each other. However, in an interview with Times of India, Mohit had earlier said, "I said that I hope to get married by the end of this year, I never mentioned Mouni. She is a great co-star and she is doing some fabulous work. I wish her all the best. Actually, I was never in a relationship with Mouni. My marriage will happen when Almighty sends a message."

On the other hand, in one of the interviews, Mouni had said that they (Mohit and her) were not even friends anymore. Mouni has quit television and has shifted focus to Bollywood. The actress has done films like *Gold* with Akshay Kumar and *Made In China* with Rajkumar Rao.

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TV SERIAL

Kulfi Kumar Bajewala

Friday 26 June: Sikander is arrested after Kulfi declares that she has lost trust in him. Meanwhile, Vikram plots to trap Sikander using a video.

Monday 29 June: Sikander begs Kulfi to return home but she accuses him of murdering her mother. Later, Amyra's statement shatters Sikander.

Tuesday 30 June: Amyra ruins her uniform while Kulfi is delighted at the thought of attending school. Later, Sikander makes a plan to bring his two daughters closer.

Wednesday 1 July: Peter decides to help Sikander direct the play. Later, he is stunned by Amyra's performance while Kulfi witnesses a miracle.

Thursday 2 July: After a stiff competition, Kulfi receives some good news while Amyra is in a dilemma. Later, Sikander puts forth a condition in front of Peter Scott.

Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

Friday 26 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.

Monday 29 June: Preeti and Naina are going through Naina's wedding album and Vanita and gang come out of nowhere and they start asking about Naina's husband which turns out to be another lie.

Tuesday 30 June: All the society members interrogate Naina whether she is fine as she had vomited in the function last night. All of a sudden, the person with the test reports arrives and Naina faints.

Wednesday 1 July: One of the society members gets a person named Aamir who is Naina's husband according to them but actually he is not. When he arrives in the society everybody thrashes him for leaving Naina alone.

Thursday 2 July: After the arrival of Raghav, a new problem arises about revealing the truth. Raghav requests Naina, her father and Sameer to continue the same lie as it is at least till he gets his offer for the job. Without any way left, they decide to continue.

Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

Friday 26 June: Rohit holds Sonakshi accountable for Pooja's wardrobe malfunction. Naren slaps Pooja while Pari's confession scares Sonakshi.

Monday 29 June: Sonakshi makes a deal with Ashish to stop Pooja's news from being published. Next day, the Sippys are shocked to read the newspaper.

Tuesday 30 June: Rohit yells at Sonakshi for his mistake while Pari is shocked to hear about Pooja's new opportunity. Later, Sonakshi's search leads to a vital clue.

Wednesday 1 July: Sonakshi and Sumit get into a heated conversation while Rohit berates YK's actions. Later, she is shocked by Rohit's drastic decision.

Thursday 2 July: A furious Nishi throws YK out of the room while Rohan slaps Ajit for misbehaving. Later, Sonakshi confesses the truth to Rohit regarding the ramp walk.

CINE 12

Vendredi 26 juin - 21.15

Second In Command

Avec: Jean-Claude Van Damme, Julie Cox, Alan McKenna

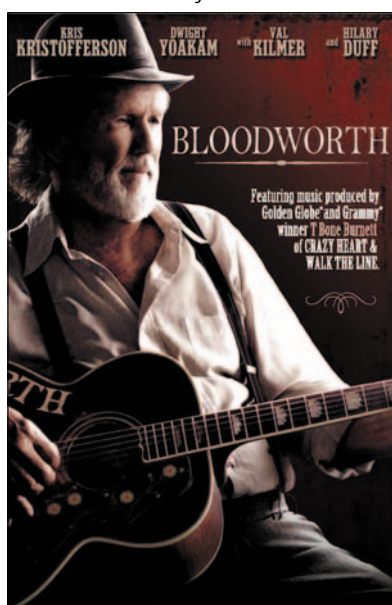


CINE 12

Samedi 27 juin - 21.15

Bloodworth

Star: Val Kilmer, Kris Kristofferson, Hilary Duff



CINE 12

Dimanche 28 juin - 21.15



vendredi 26 juin

MBC 1

06.00 Local: Art Live
07.00 Dessin Anime
10.22 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 Local: Satrangi
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod Inde: Komiko
21.45 Serial: Chicago Police...
22.29 Local: Glwar Dantan
00.10 Le Journal

MBC 2

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: JIS Desh Mein Ganga...
Starring: Raj Kapoor, Padmini and Pran



MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.44 Mag: Shift
07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.29 Doc: A Question Of Science
07.37 Mag: Tomorrow Today
09.00 Live Educational Program...
16.03 Entertain: Micheal Jackson
17.17 Mag: Strictly Street
18.04 Doc: The Melting Arctic
18.40 Mag: Urban Gardens
19.00 Live: Journal Kreol
19.24 Doc: A Question Of Science
19.58 Serial: MOL
21.00 Local: Anjuman
21.26 Local: Urdu Programme
22.26 Doc: The Legacy Of Courage
23.08 Doc: The Truth About Lying
23.51 Mag: Urban Gardens
23.56 Mag: Arts And Culture
00.09 Mag: Global 3000
00.35 Doc: A Question Of Science

Cine 12

03.01 Serial: S.W.A.T
03.42 Film: Le Retour De Mon Ex
05.05 Tele: Amanda
06.02 Serial: When Calls The Heart
06.42 Film: Pixels
09.00 Serial: Line Of Duty
09.59 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
10.23 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
10.48 Serial: S.W.A.T
11.30 Tele: Dulce Amor
12.00 Film: Le Retour De Mon Ex
13.30 Tele: Amanda
14.45 Film: Pixels
16.26 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: Second In Command

Bollywood TV

09.25 Film: Humkadam
12.04 / 19.54 -
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.26 / 20.11 -
Kulfi 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 - Chota Bheem
15.20 Film: 100 Days
Starring: Jackie Shroff,
Madhuri Dixit, Laxmikant
Berde, Moon Moon Sen
17.30 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
18.51 Piya Albela
19.13 Mere Angne Mein

samedi 27 juin

06.00 Dessin Anime
09.23 Mag: Origami
09.35 D. Anime: Power Rangers
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Local: People - No 68
12.35 Doc: Zenith
14.05 Local: Itinerer Moris
14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
14.45 D.Anime: Astrology
14.47 D.Anime: Hogie The Globe...
14.56 D.Anime: Mia
16.03 D.Anime: Delilah Et Julius
16.27 D.Anime: Linkers
17.00 Local: Satrangi
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Entertainment: Nach Baliye
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod Inde: Lottotech
20.05 Local: Resonances
21.05 Film: Missing Daughter
23.00 Local: Le Journal

08.00 Karm Phal Data Shani
08.50 Zoom TV Live
20.00 Karm Phal Data Shani
20.45 Film: Sasural
Starring: Rajendra Kumar,
B. Saroja Devi



23.29 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: The Truth About Lying
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
10.16 The Legacy Of Courage
11.44 Mag: Musical Concert...
12.48 Doc: L'ame Des Chefs
13.38 Ma Vie De Femme D'ailleurs
15.25 Live Football: English
Premier League: Aston Villa
V/s Wolverhampton
17.18 Doc: A Question Of Science
17.22 Mag: Arts And Culture
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.23 Doc: Japon 2019
20.02 Doc: Bebe Babouin Et Son...
20.55 Doc: World Stamps
20.58 Doc: 360 Geo
21.51 Doc: Programmed To Kill
22.38 Doc: Mining Treasure Island

01.35 Film: Second In Command
03.47 Film: Do No Harm
05.14 Tele: Destiny
05.59 Serial: The Magicians
06.41 Film: Tickle Me
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Film: Pitch Perfect 2
11.08 Film: Vampire Sisters
12.42 Serial: Chicago Fire
13.21 Tele: L'esclave Blanche
14.01 Tele: La Premiere Dame
14.49 Mag: Hollywood News Feed
15.05 Film: S.W.A.T
17.00 Serial: The Magicians
17.45 Film: All The Kings's Men
19.34 Mag: Hollywood News Feed
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Series: The Magicians
21.15 Film: Bloodworth
22.45 Tele: Eva Luna
00.00 Mag: Hollywood News Feed

04.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
04.26 Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala
04.43 Radha Krishna
05.05 Zindagi Ki Mehek
05.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
05.47 Chhanchhan
06.14 Chota Bheem
06.29 Kumkum Bhagya
06.50 Piya Albela
07.12 Mere Angne Mein
08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek
09.56 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai
12.30 Film: Padman
Starring: Akshay Kumar,
Radhika Apte, Sonam
Kapoor
14.54 Bin Kuch Kahe
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.30 Film: Game
20.39 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
21.24 Serial: Naagin Season 2
22.10 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek

dimanche 28 juin

06.00 Dessin Anime
09.22 Mag: Origami
10.05 Au Pays Des Merveilles
11.05 Local: Un Rasinn
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Prod: Komiko
14.35 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur
14.46 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
14.55 D.Anime: Astrology
15.15 D.Anime: Kuu Kuu Harajuku
15.40 D.Anime: Astrology
16.33 D.Anime: Linkers
17.00 Local: Satrangi
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local Prod: Sunehre Geet
19.30 Le Journal
20.05 Local: Faya Vibes
21.05 Film: Quid Pro Quo
Stars: Nick Stahl, Vera
Farmiga, Leonardo Nam

08.00 Karm Phal Data Shani
08.50 Zoom TV Live
20.00 Karm Phal Data Shani
20.45 Film: Janam Se Pehle
Starring: Raj Babbar, Farah



23.16 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Horizon
06.55 Doc: Olivia's Garden
07.44 Doc: Bebe Babouin Et Son...
08.37 Doc: World Stamps
10.19 Doc: Mining Treasure Island
11.04 Doc: Horizon S
11.55 Entertainment: Dr. Dre
13.10 Doc: 360 GEO
15.35 Doc: Horizon
16.27 Doc: Olivia's Garden
18.02 Doc: The Bitter Price Of...
18.30 Live: News
19.05 Journal Kreol
19.30 Mag: Mixeur, Les Gouts Et...
20.06 Doc: Soul Of The Icepack
20.55 Doc: World Stamps
20.58 Doc: 360 Geo
21.50 Doc: Can Electric Cars Save...
22.34 Doc: Medical Research On
The Move
23.40 Doc: Garden Party

00.24 Tele: The Magicians
01.31 Film: Bloodworth
03.01 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
03.39 Film: Labyrinthus
05.30 Tele: Destiny
06.00 Serial: The Magicians
06.52 Film: Bernie The Dolphin
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Film: Le Retour De Mon Ex
10.50 Film: Labyrinthus
12.15 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
13.18 Tele: L'esclave Blanche
13.40 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: Money Monster
22.50 Film: Le Retour De Mon Ex

00.35 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
02.14 Bin Kuch Kahe
04.15 Pavitra Rishta
05.40 Film: Game
08.06 Motu Patlu
08.16 Chhanchhan
10.05 Itna Karo Na Mujhe Pyaar
12.30 Film: Raazi
Starring: Alia Bhatt, Vicky
Kaushal
15.00 Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.00 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Mr Bechara
Starring: Anil Kapoor,
Nagarjuna Akkineni, Sri
Devi, Anupam Kher
20.30 Entertainment: Nach Baliye
21.35 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.25 Ishqbaaz

Samedi 28 juin - 18.30

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Radhika Apte, Sonam Kapoor



Samedi 28 juin - 18.30

Stars: Abhishek Bachchan, Kangana Ranaut, Anupam Kher



There was a thinker who used to go to the temple regularly - he was not a believer, but he liked the preacher and the way he talked about things.

Somebody asked him: You are neither a believer nor a religious man, why do you go to the temple so regularly? He said: I like to see a person who really believes, a person who has impeccable faith in God. I do not have any faith, but this preacher is a man of faith. He is eloquent, maybe he is in a delusion. He has resolved what I am arguing about within myself. I just go there to look at him.

One day the preacher declared that people who are good, virtuous and believe in God will go to heaven.

After his sermon, the thinker asked the preacher:

'What about people who are good and virtuous, but do not believe in God? Where will they go? Will they also go to heaven?

'If you say non-believers can go

Food for Thought

The Train to Heaven

to heaven, then to believe in God is not necessary. If a person can go to heaven just by being virtuous, then what is the point of belief?

'And if you say that people who are virtuous and good and do not believe in God will have to go to hell, then what is the point of being virtuous and good? Just believing in God will do.'

The question put the preacher in a dilemma. He said: 'Give me time to find out what exactly happens.'

He researched extensively for seven days but could not find the answer, because there was a primordial catch. If he says Yes, then there is a problem. If he says No, then too there is a problem.

On the seventh day he came to the temple, much before his ser-



Photo: By Lopes - www.toonpool.com

mon and went to the terrace. While he was brooding with his eyes closed, he fell into sleep and had a dream.

In the dream he saw himself going in a train somewhere. He asked: 'Where is this train going?' Passengers replied: 'We are going to heaven.'

Preacher felt: This is a godsent opportunity. I will ask where those people are who were virtuous and

good, for example Charvak, Ajivika, Jains, Buddhists or Socrates - atheists, good, virtuous, but who never believed in God; where are they?

So, he went into heaven. But he did not like the look of the place. It looked sedate, no happiness, no excitement and looked very quiet. He could not believe that this was heaven.

Then the preacher asked: 'When does the train for hell leave?' The train was ready, so he entered.

He went to hell. He could not believe his eyes again, because things were really immaculate. Beautiful trees, greenery, flowers, birds singing, and everybody was happy.

Preacher felt that there was something wrong! This seems to be like heaven. He went to town and asked the people: 'Is Charvak and Socrates here?' They said, 'Yes, they must be in the garden working on flower beds.' He met both of them strolling.

He said: 'You were good and virtuous, but you did not believe in God? So, you have been thrown in hell?'

They replied in one voice: 'We do not know about hell at all, but since we came here, we have turned it into heaven.'

Shocked, his eyes opened.

The thinker was waiting downstairs. The preacher called him and said: 'I want to share with you the story of a dream I had. In the dream I came to realize that people who are good and virtuous, wherever they go - that place becomes heaven. People who are not virtuous and good, even if they believe in God, wherever they go, that place becomes a hell. This has been revealed to me in my dream.'

Man is the architect of past, present or future hell or heaven, expiry date is not necessary for a visit. Those who are good or virtuous or believe in God, design their own heavens.

Programme des Courses

2e Journée - Samedi 27 juin 2020

1 THE PORT AU PRINCE-MARYE PIKE CUP

Distance: 1400 m Rating [0-15] Time -12h15

1	APPLE JACK	CR	4-5-4-7-8	61	R.Joorawon	1	550
2	BIOMETRIC	SPN	9-7-6-10-3	61	S.Bussunt	2	2500
3	DESERT THIEF	RG	5-4-6-4-6	61	D.David	5	550
4	GOT TO FLY	SN	R-10-7-9-8	61	K.Ghunowa	7	2800
5	SPUN OUT	SH	2-5-2-5-6	60.5	J.Allyhosain	3	800
6	NAIZAK	PM	3-9-10-9-9	60	C.Segeon	6	2500
7	SEVEN CARAT	SN	10-7-6-2-N	60	D.Bheekary	4	340
8	DOYLES	F	4-3-10-7-2	59.5	J.Bardottier	8	380
9	BLUNDERBUSS	CR	6-4-3-7-5	59	R.Boutanive	10	1500
10	RIGHT TO TANGO	JMH	3-9-4-9-6	58	B.Bhaugerothee	9	1600
11	VALERIN [EA]	CD	3-5-6-2-1	62	-----	11	---

2 THE DR. J. EDOUARD BRUNEL CUP

Distance: 1400 m Benchmark [31] Time -12h50

1	PRIDE ROCK	CD	4-6-8-3-7	60	O.Sola	6	1400
2	HITHIMAGAINCHUCK	P	3-4-3-5-7	59.5	R.Joorawon	9	3300
3	JAMA	AS	9-4-2-1-3	59.5	J.Allyhosain	7	2500
4	ANZA- BORREGO	SPN	C-1-4-3-1	59	S.Bussunt	8	700
5	DONNAN	SN	0-0-0-0-2	59	D.Bheekary	1	570
6	KAYDENS PRIDE	RM	nouveau	59	S.Rama	4	280
7	WATCH ME DAD	GR	3-1-3-5-2	59	N.Juglall	11	300
8	MOSCHINO	VA	2-1-5-4-3	54.5	A.Roy	2	1000
9	ROMANUS	G	6-1-3-1-7	58	J.Bardottier	3	1200
10	TIGER'S BOND	PM	11-5-10-7-8	58	C.Segeon	5	3300
11	MINALOUSHE VENTURE [EA]	AS	4-4-1-4-8	59.5	-----	10	---

3 THE RENE MAINGARD CUP

Distance: 1450 m Benchmark [36] Time -13h25

1	AFRICAN PHARAOH	PM	0-0-0-7-8	61	C.Segeon	10	4000
2	OVERDOSE	AS	2-4-2-1-1	61	R.Joorawon	9	2500
3	ROCK ON GEORDIES	RG	4-4-6-3-6	61	D.David	11	1700
4	SIBERIAN HUSKY	CR	0-7-8-8-2	61	R.Boutanive	6	1600
5	BOUCLETTE TOP	G	7-2-4-6-1	60.5	J.Bardottier	12	2200
6	NORTHERN SPY	SJ	0-1-2-1-2	60.5	J.Allyhosain	1	315
7	TARANAKI	GR	1-2-8-4-3	60.5	N.Juglall	4	670
8	INTERNET KID	VA	0-0-0-0-7	60	S.Bussunt	7	3300
9	WORDBUSTER	VA	4-1-9-7-1	56	A.Roy	5	770
10	SEATTLE KID	CD	0-0-0-3-2	59.5	B.Sooiful	8	330
11	MEMPHIS MAFIA	RM	3-8-4-9-2	56.5	S.Rama	2	730
12	TILL DAWN [EA]	AS	3-1-2-3-3	59	-----	3	---

4 THE JEAN HALBWACHS CUP

Distance: 1500 m Benchmark [41] Time -14h00

1	CHOIR OF ANGELS	JMH	6-1-R-3-1	60.5	R.Joorawon	3	330
2	DRIVEN FORCE	GR	nouveau	60.5	N.Teeha	6	1000
3	THE GREY CRUSADER	RG	7-2-1-4-3	60.5	D.David	12	550
4	EUROKLIDON	CD	3-1-3-6-2	60	B.Sooiful	7	1100
5	JET STREAM	AS	nouveau	60	J.Allyhosain	1	1200
6	WEST COAST WARRIOR	RG	3-3-2-9-4	60	B.Bhaugerothee	11	4000
7	ALSSAKHRA	G	6-2-1-6-9	59.5	J.Bardottier	5	2000
8	BARAK LAVAN	SN	4-7-4-7-4	59	K.Ghunowa	2	1000
9	CYBER SPECIAL	GR	1-2-3-4-6	59	N.Juglall	10	380
10	HADARAT	PM	9-1-9-9-R	59	C.Segeon	8	2200
11	EIGHT CITIES	VA	6-1-7-5-8	52.5	A.Roy	4	2200
12	BURG [EA]	SN	4-5-4-5-3	59	-----	9	---

5 THE DR. J. EDOUARD BRUNEL CUP

Distance: 1400 m Benchmark [31] Time -12h50

1	DOLLAR TRACTOR	CD	1-1-2-5-3	61	B.Sooiful	9	630
2	TRIP TO THE SKY	SJ	0-0-0-5-7	61	J.Allyhosain	5	1300
3	UNBELIEVABLE LAD	AS	7-7-7-8/4	61	R.Joorawon	10	1400
4	ALL ABOUT THE BASS	SH	0-0-5-1-2	60.5	S.Rama	11	1000
5	HAKEEM	CR	0-0-0-3-8	60.5	R.Boutanive	7	2500
6	IDITAROD TRAIL	GR	1-2-3-5-1	60	N.Juglall	1	200
7	CHARLESTON HERO	VA	4-4-4-2-2	55	A.Roy	4	700
8	LUMBER JACKAROO	PM	nouveau	59	C.Segeon	2	1300
9	TEXAS SKY	SN	5-9-1-6-7	59	G.D.Aucharuz	6	1100
10	DECLARATOR	RG	5-3-5-2-5	57	D.David	3	2500
11	MIND BLOWING [EA]	GR	2-1-1-4-2	60.5	-----	8	---

6 THE COURTESY CUP

Distance: 1450 m Benchmark [56] Time -15h10

1	VASCOSTREETTRACTOR	SJ	3-1-1-1-2	61	J.Allyhosain	8	320
2	LICKERIO	AS	6-5-3-5-1	60.5	R.Joorawon	2	330
3	STREAM AHEAD	CD	nouveau	60.5	B.Sooiful	5	1400
4	FOOLS GOLD	RM	nouveau	59.5	S.Rama	9	470
5	MAMBO ROCK	GR	1-6-3-4-2	59	N.Teeha	3	1200
6	SILKEN PRINCE	SH	1-1-2-3-1	59	K.Kalychurun	10	1500
7	WAVEBREAKER	SN	4-5-6-1-10	59	K.Ghunowa	4	2500
8	SENATLA	GR	3-8-6-4-1	58	N.Juglall	1	1100
9	PROTEA PARADISE	RG	nouveau	57.5	D.David	7	1400
10	PROMISSORY	VA	1-6-1-6-5	54.5	O.Sola	6	2500

7 THE DUCHESS OF YORK CUP -Distance:1400m

Valeur P. d'Age - Open - G.2 Time -15h50

1	AFRICA RISING	G	nouveau	58	J.Bardottier	10	800
2	UNDERCOVER AGENT	RM	nouveau	58	S.Rama	2	275
3	MADE TO CONQUER	G	nouveau	58	S.Bussunt	8	1400
4	PUGET SOUND	CD	nouveau	58	B.Sooiful	3	1200
5	PIETRO MASCAGNI	SN	nouveau	58	K.Ghunowa	9	1100
6	MORNING CATCH	SPN	nouveau	58	N.Teeha	5	2200
7	THE SULTANS BAZAAR	PM	nouveau	58	C.Segeon	1	1200
8	ALYAASAAT	GR	nouveau	58	N.Juglall	4	280
9	PALACE CHAPEL	SJ	nouveau	58	J.Allyhosain	6	1200
10	EHSAAN	G	nouveau	56.5	R.Joorawon	7	600
11	ARABIAN AIR [EA]	JMH	nouveau	58	-----	11	---

8 THE JASON ESPITALIER NOEL CUP

Distance: 990 m Valeur [0-20] Time -16h25

1	FREDDIE FLINT	SJ	8-8-8-4-9	61.5	J.Allyhosain	10	700
2	ITALIAN WAY	VA	2-10-8-4-7	57.5	A.Roy	8	570
3	NEW ABBEY	SH	nouveau	61.5	K.Kalychurun	3	450
4	STRAIGHT	CD	0-0-0-0-8	61.5	B.Sooiful	2	650
5	SPECIAL FORCE	SPN	7-9-10-9-10	61	V.A.Bundhoo	7	3000
6	BYPASS	SPN	5-10-8-5-8	60.5	O.Sola	4	4000
7	VERY VARY	SN	10-5-3-2-5	60.5	G.D.Aucharuz	1	340
8	BIG SMOKE	CR	0-9-9-6-8	60	R.Boutanive	12	600
9	PHILOSOPHER	P	7-6-4-7-8	59.5	S.Bussunt	9	2000
10	SIERRA REDWOOD	JMH	6-6-5-9-8	59	R.Joorawon	5	2100
11	TAKE OFF MODE	SN	8-8-7-10-6	59	K.Ghunowa	6	3500
12	PICK EIGHT CAPTAIN [EA]	G	nouveau	61.5	-----	11	---

9 THE GREAT GUSTO PLATE

Distance: 1500 m Valeur [0-25] Time -17h00

1	DEER PARK	G	nouveau	61	J.Bardottier	11	600
2	MIDNIGHT ORACLE	CD	6-5-R-3-8	60.5	B.Sooiful	7	600
3	REDWOOD VALLEY	RM	10-5-3-2-2	60.5	S.Rama	1	350
4	SLIGHTLY SCOTTISH	AS	10-10-10-7-10	60	R.Joorawon	4	3300
5	VOLATILE ENERGY	SN	2-3-10-2-3	60	N.Teeha	10	650
6	DAREDEVIL AVIATOR	JMH	0-9-10-8-10	59	K.Kalychurun	3	3000
7	MAJESTIC MOON	SPN	9-9-7-1-9	59	G.D.Aucharuz	8	1800
8	SIR CAPERS	PM	6-6-11-3-7	59	C.Segeon	9	1700
9	NETFLIX	VA	2-2-3-5-6	54.5	A.Roy	12	1600
10	RED INDY	RG	3-7-8-7-4	58	D.David	5	400
11	GREENSTREETTRACTOR	P	9-4-3-7-7	57	N.Marday	2	2000
12	MACKBOOL [EA]	VA	0-0-0-0-9	59.5	-----	6	---

SELECTIONS

1. SEVEN CARAT, DOYLES, BIOMETRIC
2. KAYDENS PRIDE, WATCH ME DAD, JAMA
3. NORTHERN SPY, SEATTLE KID, TARANAKI

4. CYBER SPECIAL, CHOIR OF ANGELS, EUROKLIDON
5. IDITAROD TRAIL, DOLLAR TRACTOR, CHARLESTON HERO
6. VASCOSTREETTRACTOR, LICKERIO, SENATLA

7. ALYAASAAT, UNDERCOVER AGENT, THE SULTANS BAZAAR
8. VERY VARY, NEW ABBEY, FREDDIE FLINT
9. REDWOOD VALLEY, VOLATILE ENERGY, RED INDY



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

A highly connected world spreads information as fast as lightning mainly from liberal democratic countries to every other country and their citizens. How news is understood and interpreted is a complex issue which the quick delivery system of press and online media does not address. If they did, it would give more data to help create a balanced view of events which hit headlines. Media outlets are on constant look-out for fresh news, so a pedagogical approach for deeper analysis to enlighten readers and viewers is not on their agenda. Now if their job is mainly to attract viewers with eye-catching titles and pictures, and create sensation and a lot of noise, you might as well take the flow of information with a pinch of salt. Forget about impartiality and fairness. Keep away from the sheep mindset in emotional chain reaction to sensitive issues.

The general outcry triggered by recent events which are presented as the ugly face of racial prejudices in the world's oldest democracy has led to a grotesque polemic on statues of historical figures in a few countries. Minority groups feel emboldened to bring down statues without any warning to the authorities. Which groups are justified to rise against past figures or not in their respective countries is also a sensitive issue.

Pulling down of statues

The statue of Edward Colston, a slave trader in Royal African Company who is honoured for his contribution to the prosperity of the town and his philanthropic works in the 18th century, was toppled in Bristol, England, by citizens of African descent because it is considered as a standing insult to Black people. The toppling of the historical figure was a disturbing act to other sections of public opinion, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson expressed his regrets at the act of vandalism. There was a mild claim to mete out the same treatment to the statue of Winston Churchill.

If claims aired from various groups are not to be given the green card for a destructive spree, British authorities will have to speak out fearlessly without sweeteners of political correctness on the meaning of a country, its people, history, and cultural foundations and development. Whose prerogative is it to decide which historical figures represent the country's past and should be honoured? Should groups hailing from migrant stocks accept the host country with its own vision of history or not? The free-spiritedness which characterizes

A Wave of Mindless Mimicry?



Statues have been pulled down in Minnesota, Virginia and Florida. The statue of Christopher Columbus in Minnesota, a gift donated by Italian-Americans in 1931, was pulled from its granite base by Native Americans objecting to honouring someone whose expeditions led to colonization and genocide. Photo - video.cgtn.com

British people and the uncompromising guiding principles in the running of the country's affairs are likely to have the final say on the topic.

Countries should be self-confident enough not to succumb to obliterating symbols of their history, Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand opines. Cheering spectators looked on while the bronze statue of Captain John Charles Hamilton, a naval commander who fought against Maoris in the 19th century, was brought down by anti-racist groups following requests from Maoris. The statue is considered culturally offensive to indigenous Maoris. The PM Jacinda Arden considers making the study of New Zealand wars compulsory in schools. The deputy PM deplores the wave of idiocy which makes people feel the need to mimic mindless action imported from overseas.

The 'wave of idiocy' rolled back to the epicentre of the outrage in the US. Statues have been pulled down in Minnesota, Virginia and Florida. The statue of Christopher Columbus in Minnesota, a gift donated by Italian-Americans in 1931, was pulled from its granite base by Native Americans objecting to honouring someone whose expeditions led to colonization and genocide of their ancestors. A key military figure of the Confederates, who opposed the abolition of slavery in the civil war of 1860-1865, was vandalized to the dismay of President Trump. In the US, as in Britain and New Zealand, due importance is given to statues as key figures who represent landmarks to present and future generations in the study of history.

Ambivalent views

Such events might bring grist to the mill of far right-wing movements and spark a backlash which no governments wish to handle right now. A gathering of Black Lives Matter was cancelled in Hyde Park. France forbade demonstration of African associations in front of the American embassy. Other minority groups jump on the bandwagon of protests to air victimhood dis-

“The general outcry triggered by recent events which are presented as the ugly face of racial prejudices in the world's oldest democracy has led to a grotesque polemic on statues of historical figures in a few countries. Minority groups feel emboldened to bring down statues without any warning to the authorities. Which groups are justified to rise against past figures or not in their respective countries is also a sensitive issue...”

courses, express wish for toppling French statues and claim entry to illegal migrants. For once, all of this is brushed aside by the government. There are ambivalent views on slavers and colonial military figures who are reassessed worldwide. One narrative has to predominate as regards the self-definition of a country by its people bound by history, language and cultural ethics, and on the other hand, the relation to the host country of people of migrant stock.

While some groups are angry with statues in response to general outcry sparked by police brutality in Minneapolis, others in Africa do not join the chorus of protesters. Media presentation of black and white picture and a binary vision of aggressors and victims fail to take on in the African continent. An African journalist explains that policemen and prison guards are pitiless with their own people; arbitrary arrests and killings are commonplace, and attempts to address wrongdoings and demand justice are an arduous task as compared to advanced democratic western countries.

As of today, thousands of Africans have migrated to the US where they can seize opportunities to carve out a living for themselves. They have equal access to law like other migrants to settle any grievance within the framework of democracy. The US has been home to countless numbers of refugees from several countries, fleeing persecution and seeking a better life for the past two centuries.

'We can't breathe' could have come out of the mouths of thousands of children who died from chemical weapons in Syria. But atrocities committed on people by their own kind does not suit the self-flagellation mode of western editorialists who favour a sectarian approach in presenting world events, run down their Establishment, cajole minorities and focus on race relations in its black and white version. Political leaders in the West are expected to queue up and issue a public apology to all and sundry. This posturing may embolden various groups to run wild and tear down the very fabric of democracy in host countries. The very Christian inclination to apologize and repent has to draw the line somewhere.

Giving the whole picture

Police brutality is rampant in loads of countries, but it is much more mediatised in democratic societies. Several cases of policemen assaulting unarmed black men to death occurred during President Obama's term of office, but they did not trigger an outcry. The presidency was spared of any criticism. A white president fits better into the picture of the oppressor and the oppressed. President Trump commented on how delinquency may end up in some cases. A stance which does not condone brutality and homicide.

The middle-aged African-American already served a five-year sentence for drug dealing, and was recently tailed for circulating fake dollars. It all happens in a crime-ridden area of Minneapolis. In the wake of the outrage from various corners, the Adama Traore case was brought in the limelight in France and a mass demonstration of 20,000 people gathered in the centre of Paris. The conditions in which the 24-year old breathed his last are totally different from the recent case in the US. There was no pinning down for 8 minutes on the ground. After being handcuffed he managed to escape and was caught in an apartment of a North African friend who gave him away. He was held down only to be handcuffed again. He was breathless and exhausted from the running, and said to have had a respiratory issue because of drug addiction.

The police were tracking down his brother Bagui for extortion of money and drug peddling when they ran into him. Adama also spent some years in jail for drugs and was accused of rape on a cell inmate. In the hot city of Val d'Oise several rival gangs of African and North African origin settle scores with one another. The Traore clan is well-known for violent reprisals against other gangs.