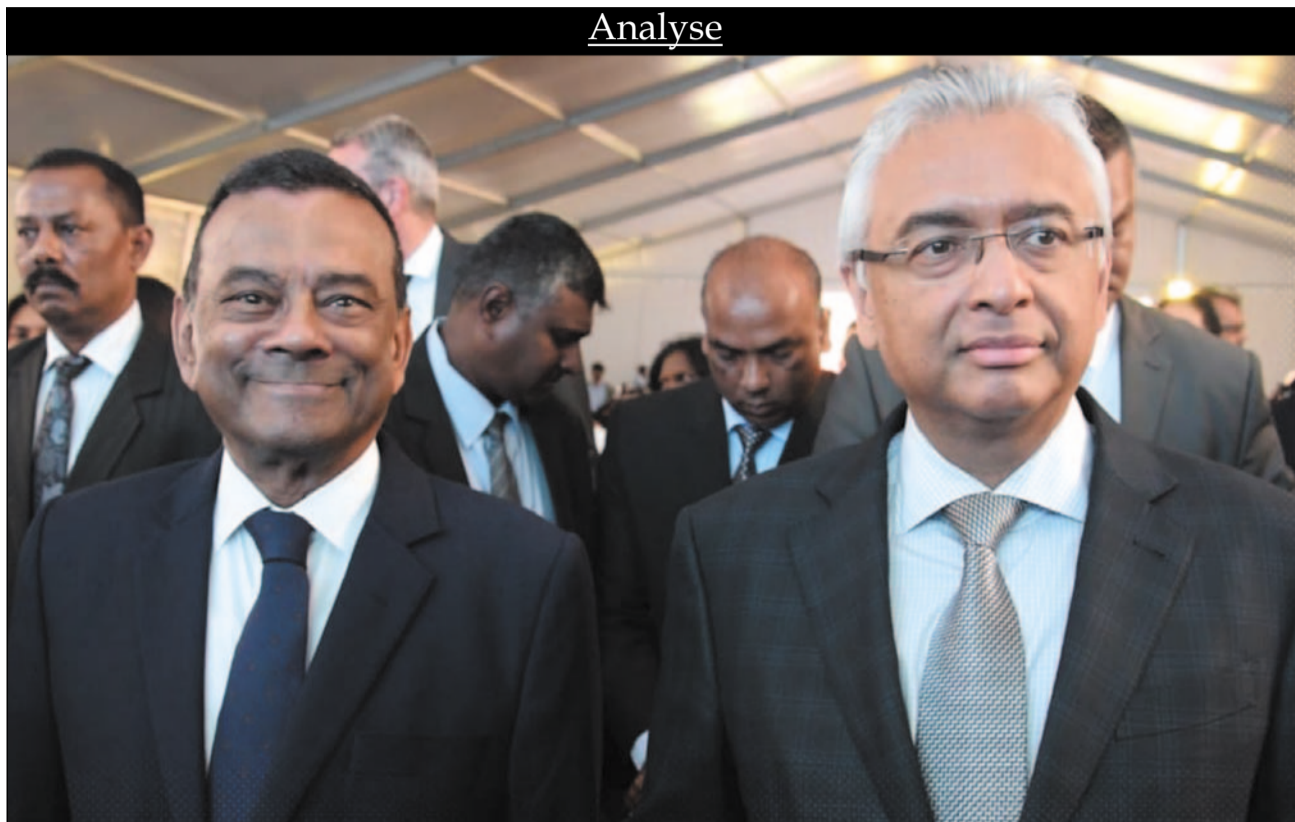


# MAURITIUS TIMES

*"Anyone who wants to tackle corruption must be willing to go all the way. There are no shortcuts." -- Oby Ezekwesili*

Analyse



## Saint-Louis Gate : Les zones d'ombres s'épaississent

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## La Saga Bad Boys

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Coordinator - The Chagos Islands  
All-Party Parliamentary Group

**"The UK claim to sovereignty was compromised long ago"**



'The future of the US base on Diego Garcia is guaranteed under Mauritian sovereignty and for a much longer period with Mauritius' offer of a 99-year lease'

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## Future Uncertain

**T**he crowds that have flocked to the beaches, invaded the popular malls, and taken over the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre to seek bargains at the *Salon de la maison* over the past weekend may give the impression to any visitor to the island that things have gone back to normal after the lifting of the lockdown. In fact, this perception would probably be reinforced on learning that the country fairly rapidly gained control over the Covid-19 pandemic and was free of any new case for nearly a month before activities were allowed to resume in a phased manner.

It is true that the country can boast of an honourable record, compared to other countries that are more developed and have more resources, as regards its handling of the pandemic. However, this relative success and positive picture projected in one sector is not matched by an equivalent performance in many of the remaining aspects of the country's running. Indeed, events that have been unfolding since even before the pandemic came on the scene show that we still have serious problems that are undermining the country's viability and stability. If these are not addressed with the degree of seriousness and honesty - by squarely confronting the realities - that is required, we are afraid that the downward spiralling may cause irreversible damage to the polity.

The win at the polls of December 2019 which was propelled by the series of the outgoing regime's achievements - launching of the flagship Metro project, much mediated visit of the Pope, holding of the Indian Ocean games at the billion-rupee Cote d'Or stadium, victory in the case of Chagos at the ICJ, pensions hike, etc - was no sooner over than very serious allegations of electoral corruptive practices were made by the opposition candidates and cases entered in court where they are still pending.

As if Covid-19 was not enough trouble, more of that came in the form of the blacklisting by the European Union, the crashing of profit at SBM even as board members were walking away with no less than a total of Rs 32 M while profits stood at Rs 15!!, the debacle of Air Mauritius to be followed by the accusative report from the African Development Bank in what has come to be known as St Louis Gate, and the latest being the termination by Zambia of the DTA Agreement. If we add to that the roaring debt of the country and the recession that IMF and World Bank have warned is coming, it should be clear to all but the most obdurate defender of the *status quo* as to how the country is being managed that, to put it mildly, we do not present a pretty picture nor a reassuring one to attract capital.

How can we? After all, all these preceding matters have uncovered major lacunae in governance and accountability at all levels of the national or corporate/ State Owned Enterprises which only can

explain their failure to fulfil their respective mandates. Inevitably, one cannot negate the widespread perception that there has been dereliction of duties by functionaries, boards and top management in the way certain important decisions have been taken and approved over the years. These have seriously damaged the financial status and integrity of these organizations in terms of good governance and sound management practices. And there hasn't been down the years any holding to account of those who might have failed to exercise due diligence in the performance of their duties that has resulted in the damage and prejudices caused. Is it because the messing up arises from the connivance between board/management and the successive governments, and a preference to maintain the *status quo* which served their interest instead of that of the organizations they were responsible for?

An absence of independent and reliable scrutiny exercises carried out to investigate any major decision-making and approval process, along with wrongful HR practices and a rubberstamping culture have neutered the accountability that is central to an effective governance culture. Whereas in fact these concepts of Good Governance and Accountability ought to have been living values, part and parcel of the governmental and organizational culture. It is not simply a matter of laws - these values of personal and professional ethics ought to be practised alongside the legal framework.

Besides the heavy-handed politicization under every government in terms of appointments and interference in strategic decision-making that kept undermining all the sound principles of governance and management, there was also the gap in competent leadership succession planning. Instead, political prerogative and political loyalty held sway: every new government meant a new CEO, a new Board with new chairperson, a new clan with new protégés ruling the roost. To the extent that what mattered was not what one brought to the organization but to whom one was connected in the political power hierarchy and inside the organization.

No one among our politicians who have been or are in power will confess and own up to their share of responsibility in the chronic mismanagement or crash of institutions and State Owned/Controlled Enterprises. However, political interference does not explain all nor does it absolve individual responsibilities in failing to uphold personal integrity and exercise of due diligence when fulfilling one's duty. Many have abused of political patronages or other high-level connections and wreaked havoc in governance and finances.

Unfortunately, there is little evidence of the will to turn things around and usher in a new era of governance and holding to account. Unless this is done, the country is set to remain on foundations that do not bode well for the future.

## The Conversation

## Free thought: can you ever be a truly independent thinker?

**I**n his poem 'Invictus', William Ernest Henley wrote: "It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."

While being the lone "captain of your soul" is a reassuring idea, the truth is rather more nuanced. The reality is that we are social beings driven by a profound need to fit in - and as a consequence, we are all hugely influenced by cultural norms.

You'd expect advertisers to exaggerate the effectiveness of advertising, and scholars of advertising have typically made more modest claims. Even these, though, may be overestimates. Recent studies have claimed that both online and offline, the methods commonly used to study advertising effectiveness vastly exaggerate the power of advertising to change our beliefs and behaviour.

This has led some to claim that not just half, but perhaps nearly all advertising money is wasted, at least online.

There are similar results outside of commerce. One review of field experiments in political campaigning argued "the best estimate of the effects of campaign contact and advertising on Americans' candidates choices in general elections is zero". Zero!

In other words, although we like to blame the media for how people vote, it is surprisingly hard to find solid evidence of when and how people are swayed by the media. One professor of political science, Kenneth Newton, went so far as to claim "It's Not the Media, Stupid".

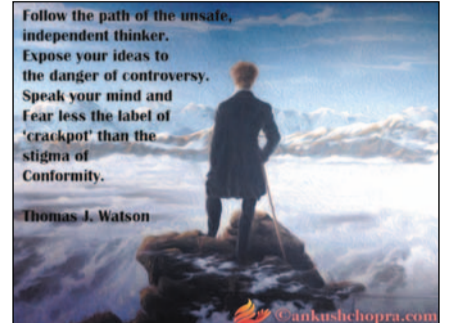
But although advertising is a weak force, and although hard evidence on how the media influences specific choices is elusive, every one of us is undoubtedly influenced by the culture in which we live.

### Followers of fashion

Fashions exist both for superficial things, such as buying clothes and opting for a particular hairstyle, but also for more profound behaviour like murder and even suicide. Indeed, we all borrow so much from those we grow up around, and those around us now, that it seems impossible to put a clear line between our individual selves and the selves society forges for us.

Two examples: I don't have any facial tattoos, and I don't want any. If I wanted a facial tattoo my family would think I'd gone mad. But if I was born in some cultures, where these tattoos were common and conveyed high status, such as traditional Maori culture, people would think I was unusual if I didn't want facial tattoos.

Ultimately, I'd argue that all of our



desires are patterned by the culture we happen to be born in.

But it gets worse. Even if we could somehow free ourselves from cultural expectations, other forces impinge on our thoughts. Your genes can affect your personality and so they must also, indirectly, have a knock-on effect on your beliefs.

Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, famously talked about the influence of parents and upbringing on behaviour, and he probably wasn't 100% wrong. Even just psychologically, how can you ever think freely, separate from the twin influences of prior experience and other people?

From this perspective, all of our behaviours and our desires are profoundly influenced by outside forces. But does this mean they aren't also our own?

The answer to this dilemma, I think, is not to free yourself from outside influences. This is impossible. Instead, you should see yourself and your ideas as the intersection of all the forces that come to play on you.

Some of these are shared - like our culture - and some are unique to you - your unique experience, your unique history and biology. Being a free thinker, from this perspective, means working out exactly what makes sense to you, from where you are now.

You can't - and shouldn't - ignore outside influences, but the good news is that these influences are not some kind of overwhelming force. All the evidence is compatible with the view that each of us, choice by choice, belief by belief, can make reasonable decisions for ourselves, not unshackled from the influences of others and the past, but free to chart our own unique paths forward into the future.

After all, the captain of a ship doesn't sail while ignoring the wind - sometimes they go with it, sometimes against it, but they always account for it. Similarly, we think and make our choices in the context of all our circumstances, not by ignoring them.

Tom Stafford  
University of Sheffield

## Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah - Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah / Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee  
This paper has been produced with the assistance of

Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy

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# Saint-Louis Gate : Les zones d'ombres s'épaississent

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Aditya Narayan

**L**a saga du Saint-Louis Gate, concernant l'attribution du contrat d'installation de turbines à la station thermique de Saint-Louis du CEB à la firme danoise Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC), nous réserve des péripéties époustouflantes.

Alors que l'on croyait que cette affaire se limitait à ceux qui avaient adjugé un marché à la firme danoise et ses sous-contracteurs, elle prend l'allure d'un scandale politico-financier.

Au fur et à mesure que les dessous de cette affaire sont révélés au grand jour, les zones d'ombre s'épaississent. Il est difficile de voir clair dans cet imbroglio si l'on se fie uniquement aux informations officielles qui ont été diffusées à ce jour parce que ces dernières, par manque de détails, suscitent plus de questions qu'elles ne donnent de réponses.

Une brève chronologie s'impose pour mieux comprendre le fil des événements.

- **Le 8 juin 2020** : la BAD a publié un communiqué indiquant que la firme danoise BWSC a fort probablement soudoyé des membres de l'Administration mauricienne par l'intermédiaire de tierces parties, et que des preuves soutiennent la conclusion. Le terme "administration mauricienne" sous-entend le CEB et le ministère de tutelle, celui des Utilités publiques.
- **Le 11 juin 2020** : en réponse au PNQ du leader de l'opposition, le Premier ministre a dit qu'il ignorait tout de cette affaire. Il a ajouté que la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) partagerait son rapport confidentiel seulement avec un organisme d'investigation (ex: l'ICAC) qui se saisira de l'affaire. Or, par la suite, lorsque l'ICAC a demandé un exemplaire du rapport à la BAD, elle a reçu une fin de non-recevoir.
- **Le 16 juin 2020** : l'ex-ministre Ivan Collendavelloo s'est défendu au Parlement dans un discours où il promettait des développements à venir. Un développement significatif subséquent a été la révocation du conseil d'administration du CEB et son remplacement par un autre mis sous tutelle du ministère des Finances.
- **Grande surprise le 26 juin 2020** : lors d'une conférence de presse, l'ex-ministre a annoncé sa "révocation". Le Premier ministre a reçu une lettre de la BAD lui informant que la firme danoise a versé des pots-de-vin à des intermé-

diaires pour être remis à lui-même (Ivan) et au leader du MMM (Béranger).

L'ex-ministre a qualifié la lettre de "farfelue". Mais il ne semblait pas être bouleversé outre-mesure, affirmant même qu'il reste un député de la majorité en attendant que la fin de l'enquête de l'ICAC.

Plus tard, le Premier ministre a confirmé le départ d'Ivan Collendavelloo du conseil des ministres.

Réagissant à chaud le même jour, le leader du MMM a émis la thèse que la révocation de Collendavelloo était une "mise en scène" pour mettre le ministre sur la touche en attendant que l'enquête de l'ICAC le blanchisse éventuellement. Il souligne que le Premier ministre et l'ex-ministre sont en faveur d'une enquête par l'ICAC et non pas une commission d'enquête, comme le réclame l'opposition. Paul Béranger devait balayer d'un revers de la main la mention de son nom dans la lettre de la BAD.

- **Le 27 juin 2020** : Paul Béranger a lancé trois défis au Premier ministre :

- (1) rendre public tous les noms mentionnés dans la lettre de la BAD, y compris ceux des intermédiaires ;
- (2) rendre public la lettre et autres documents reçus de la BAD ; et
- (3) instituer une commission d'enquête pour faire toute la lumière sur l'affaire.

A Paul Béranger, le Premier ministre a répondu qu'il ne pouvait pas divulguer cette lettre, qui est entre les mains de l'ICAC, en vertu d'un accord de non-divulguation avec la BAD. Donc seuls le Premier ministre, l'ex-ministre et le directeur de l'ICAC ont lu cette lettre.

La question légitime qui se pose est la suivante : si le ministre a pu lire la lettre, pourquoi ne pas permettre au leader du MMM, un ancien Premier ministre, de la lire puisqu'il est aussi incriminé? Comment se défendra-t-il contre une allégation sans prendre connaissance du contenu de la source authentique et de ses éléments? En effet, le MMM voit des "mesquines intrigues" dans cette affaire qui touche à l'honneur de son leader.

La politique mauricienne nous réserve bien des surprises. Dans le passé, lorsqu'un leader de parti avait été révoqué par le Premier ministre, il avait claqué la porte du gouvernement, et tout son parti

contre l'allégation. S'il se défend uniquement sur le plan politique, comme il le fait en ce moment, il n'aurait pas raison de ses détracteurs.

En politique, sous-estimer des adversaires qui ont les leviers du pouvoir est une erreur et une faiblesse. Puisque l'affaire se joue sur le plan institutionnel, Paul Béranger aura à envisager des options légales. Elles sont notamment :

- (a) déposer devant l'ICAC avec le con



“La politique mauricienne nous réserve bien des surprises. Dans le passé, lorsqu'un leader de parti avait été révoqué par le Premier ministre, il avait claqué la porte du gouvernement, et tout son parti était allé dans l'opposition. En 1993, lorsque SAJ avait révoqué Paul Béranger comme ministre, le MMM avait quitté le gouvernement MSM-MMM. Même Madan Dulloo avait quitté le gouvernement MSM en 1993 après sa révocation par SAJ pour cause de divergences sur la centralisation de l'industrie sucrière... Cette fois-ci, le leader du Muvman Liberater (ML) est révoqué, mais il demeure au Gouvernement comme backbencher et il enchaîne des déclarations pour professer son amitié pour le Premier ministre...”

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Cette fois-ci, le leader du Muvman Liberater (ML) est révoqué, mais il demeure au Gouvernement comme backbencher et il enchaîne des déclarations pour professer son amitié pour le Premier ministre. Celui-ci, de son côté, dit regretter l'absence du leader du ML au conseil des ministres. En effet, le leader du ML entretient l'espoir, sinon la confiance, de retrouver son poste de ministre dans l'éventualité où il serait blanchi par l'ICAC. Il l'a dit en autant de mots dans une déclaration dans un quotidien.

## Stratégie du MMM

Comment l'ICAC va-t-elle procéder par rapport au leader du ML et au leader du MMM? Va-t-elle convoquer les deux hommes pour répondre à des questions? Le leader du ML acceptera sans doute de déposer devant l'ICAC, mais le leader du MMM le fera-t-il, lui qui ne croit pas à l'indépendance de cette institution?

Quoi qu'il en soit, le leader du MMM est coincé et devrait réviser sa stratégie pour monter une défense crédible et efficace

cours d'avocats compétents ;

- (b) intenter un procès de diffamation à celui qui a dit que la lettre de la BAD l'incrimine afin de faire produire la lettre en Cour ; et
- (c) demander légalement à la BAD de lui remettre une copie du rapport qui l'incrimine au nom de la transparence et de l'équité.

On voit mal la BAD refuser une telle demande si elle veut être prise au sérieux.

Vu la performance passée de l'ICAC, il n'y a pas de doute que seule une commission d'enquête présidée par un juge, avec les pouvoirs de demander des informations à la BAD, à la BWSC ou au Gouvernement danois par voie rogatoire, pourra élucider toute cette affaire de corruption alléguée, identifier les suspects et recommander les mesures nécessaires au Directeur des Poursuites publiques.

Si tous les partis d'opposition, Transparency International et la société civile sont d'accord pour une commission d'enquête, c'est clair que l'opinion publique a indiqué ses préférences.

Au moment où le pays doit faire la preuve de l'indépendance de ses institutions dans la lutte contre la corruption et le blanchiment d'argent auprès de l'Union européenne afin de sortir de la liste noire des juridictions à hauts risques, cette affaire lui offre l'occasion de démontrer qu'il est sérieux dans son effort de redorer son blason. A cet égard, l'institution d'une enquête indépendante libre de toute ficelle est un passage obligé.



Sameer Sharma

# Zombies in Paradise

*Mauritius too has many more Zombie companies than we wish to admit. More worryingly, the growth in Zombie companies means low job creation, low investment and low growth for a long time to come*

Over the past few months, businesses have been put under a large amount of stress to say the very least. The lockdown forced many companies to shut down and others to limit their operations. The tourism and leisure sector was perhaps the most affected. The significant drop in revenue forced many companies to take drastic measures which they would normally never take and that is why we are seeing the creation of a new phase of the economic crisis, a crisis which leads to slow and painful deleveraging of corporate balance sheets and yes invariably a slower recovery to come.

“Mauritius too has many more Zombie companies than we wish to admit and this number is increasing. Some companies loaded with debt including structured notes and corporate bonds will see multiple covenant breaches and the reality is that no one really knows when a meaningful recovery will take place. Any changes in the payment cash flows of a bond is a soft default and should be treated as such. More worryingly, the growth in Zombie companies means low job creation, low investment and low growth for a long time to come...”

In the early 1990s, Japan was a powerhouse. World War II had caused the destruction of 40% of Japan's infrastructure but during the post-war recovery, the Japanese were able to rebuild their economy from scratch, investing in new and more efficient factories than those of the rest of the world for example which gave them an advantage compared to the global competition. Japan also underwent a period known as the “gifts from heaven” wherein Japan became a democracy, workers obtained labour rights, women obtained the right to vote, farmers were allowed to own their own land, and the ability to do business was liberalized. These factors when coupled with high levels of Japanese productivity turned Japan into an economic powerhouse.

Japan in the 1980s was viewed in the same way as we view the China of today. However, the 1980s also saw the Bank of Japan impose loan growth quotas, major adjustments to the exchange rate and various other factors which led to the creation of asset bubbles which all came back home to roost by the early 90s. In fact the stock market index has never recovered since 1989 in real terms. A large

portion of Japanese companies which were loaded with debt could not on their own withstand a long period of low or negative growth and turned into Zombie companies.

What essentially happened was that large Japanese firms which were loaded up with debt had these restructured in such a way that they would only pay the bare mini-mum. Many kept on borrowing at lower rates in order to survive. In order to just get by, Japanese companies either had debt restructuring or got partial bailouts. The problem with the Zombie companies was that they were still too debt ridden to expand and recover. The companies were in essence Zombies and were only being kept alive with debt. Japan has never recovered since. (The paper “Zombie Lending and Depressed Restructuring in Japan” by Ricardo J. Caballero, Takeo Hoshi and Anil K. Kashyap led the way in focusing on the existence of these zombie companies as the cause behind the long-term stagnation of the Japanese economy.)

In 2005, 2.5% of all companies in the US were defined as Zombie companies. Post the 2008 Great Financial Crisis, this figure began to increase and by 2019 it stood at 16%. Over the past two months alone, the figure has increased to 19%, a figure comparable to that of Japan in the 1990s. A long period of near zero interest rates may be to blame as companies continued to restructure and pile on debt. US companies have borrowed more than a trillion dollars of debt during this crisis, 9 times higher than usual. There should be no doubt that the growth outlook for this decade is not rosy.

Allowing Zombie companies to linger in fact may not be good for long term growth. The problem is that allowing these companies to die destroys jobs too and takes the economy into a sharper contraction in the short run. One can argue that, in the long term, this may bring more competition and a sharper recovery, but that assumes that we survive a social crisis. No one can wait for years. This is the dilemma we find ourselves in.

Large and mid-sized Mauritian non financial firms, especially those with large land banks have typically had concentrated all in the family equity structures and have relied heavily on frequent asset revaluations and bank debt. A small and saturated market, an overly passive shareholder base and a Jack of all trades approach by some captains do not play well for Mauritius.

In recent years, large amounts of

excess liquidity in the economy allowed some large firms to issue long term bonds at mispriced credit spreads. Credit ratings were also quite flattering and remain so today. Worse, an analysis of non financial firms with turnover above Rs 100 Million would showcase the fact that the return on capital employed of these companies are on average lower than their weighted average cost of capital and in some cases



even the cost of debt. While too many tend to focus on net profits which are in any event not spectacular when you strip off financial companies in Mauritius, free cash flows tend to be quite poor while asset values tend to be too high. The less said about valuation standards and its functioning in Mauritius the better.

Mauritius too has many more Zombie companies than we wish to admit and this number is increasing. Some companies loaded with debt including structured notes and corporate bonds will see multiple covenant breaches and the reality is that no one really knows when a meaning-

ful recovery will take place. Any changes in the payment cash flows of a bond is a soft default and should be treated as such. More worryingly, the growth in Zombie companies means low job creation, low investment and low growth for a long time to come.

In order to respond to the Zombie dilemma, many companies will need to be recapitalized and debt burdens reduced as long as they are deemed to hold promise on the viability front. Asset values just like they went up too much will need to be re-evaluated to more realistic levels based on fundamentals but that process

will need to be gradual given the potential negative impact of steep valuation drops on the creditors.

The idea of creating a Central Bank funded special purpose vehicle (SPV) to re-capitalize viable firms will be politically difficult but necessary. The idea would be to engage in special situations investing and in many cases provide quasi equity funding in the form of convertible preferential shares and other funding to deemed viable firms allowing them to restructure themselves and become healthier and over time more performance driven. In such special situations, private equity players also negotiate heavily with banks for haircuts because they too must bare part of the responsibility.

Mauritian companies have relied too heavily on debt and have kept their capital too closed and this model will not work in the post-Covid world. Should majority shareholders have money abroad, conditions should be imposed for them to bring their money back before any bailouts. The reality is that all sides will need to take some pain. The SPV will need to review its return targets to realistic levels because if they push for too many bank haircuts, then bank capital will be impacted, the banks in turn will need to accept some pain while the shareholders of distressed companies will need to inject more equity, become more performance driven or eventually accept equity dilutions. All the pain should not be borne by taxpayers but we do need to recognize and understand that allowing more Zombies to crop up is not a good end game for paradise.

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Dr Rajagopal  
Soondron

Coming from a joint family, well surrounded by mother, two aunts, five sisters and three cousin sisters, it was never expected of the boy to go and help in the kitchen. That would have been a blatant attempt to introduce a spy in the female's realm. In those days boys were meant to help the uncle at the shop or the grandmother at the market place.

University life did me no good either: with a student mess to cater for food, I was shut off forever from any good culinary philosophy society might have had in store for me.

After marriage my wife monopolized the kitchen - to my great relief, while after tying the knot my cousin D discovered the obsessive pleasure of doing the dishes... to the utter joy of his better half. My indifference was palpable, not ready to sanction that fellow's attitude. But what to say of his nephew K, my son-in-law? He takes after his uncle; I just closed my eyes,

“Confinement reduced our activities by about 75% - so that home life and its multiple well-known hidden traps swept me into another reality. Our maids were intelligently kept away; and my better half found herself loaded with work - not that this frightened her. Far from it. That should have made me feel relaxed and comfortable. But instead a guilty conscience started seeping in - the very same that has so often prompted me to hint to my wife that one day she would be awarded a Nobel Prize for perpetually inventing house chores. Which guilt finally had the better of me and burst the cocoon I was living in. It drove me to the kitchen sink...”

looked away for my daughter's sake. Being of the modern generation maybe they belonged to another permissive hippy, freedom-loving feminism era.

Fancy my astonishment and utter embarrassment years later during my overseas visit to my friend G's place; having been my faithful doppelganger since our bachelor days when the kitchen was *persona non grata* to us, he had somehow negotiated a 180 degree turn, becoming a wonderful cook; and who says cook also means an addiction to kitchen and house cleaning. All this was to my great apprehension - for my wife might raise her eyebrows, airing what this good-for-nothing hubby of hers was waiting for to imitate his pal. She would never appreciate the excuse that my professional commitment always pushed me towards economizing my energy when at home!

#### The straw that broke...

...the camel's back: For New Year's Eve, the other good friend N invited us for an end of year party. And about one hour before 2020 peeped in, my faculty of surprise was put severely to test when the

# Of Soap, Water and Sink

groggy N announced he would go to the sink for a much awaited session! Sure enough he soon headed to the kitchen enthusiastically, challenging my speculative theory that men who love outdoor gardening, like N, would stay far away from indoor activities -- just to keep God's good world in perfect equilibrium. Like his brother G, he was out to prove me wrong. Feeling my basic convictions going down the drain, I finally made my way to the kitchen to make a last attempt to save the day -- but lo! There was my smiling chump happily soaping, rubbing, twisting, plunging vessels and dishes under the opened tap - as a duck would take to water.

I experienced a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach - lest my wife should walk in and fall into a plaintive, comparative study of husbands; I guiltily had to reckon that I might after all be out of phase with my generation. But my stubborn bias drove me to a final attempt to restore my failing equanimity, so without hesitation I told N jokingly: *"To pe gate travaille - mon cher!"* But that would be as good as throwing water on a duck's feathers. N was happily enjoying the last minutes of 2019.

Everyday saw me there sponging utensils, plates and cutlery - that I have taken for granted for some 70 years; not that I was enjoying myself as D, N or G - but I was nearly there, taking some sense of duty and mild pleasure to execute the job. Perhaps my subconscious had found the right formula to satisfy the health authorities' recommendations: keep washing the hands regularly with soap. And here I was - killing two birds with one stone three times a day.

Should you would giggle that soap and water have at last wrecked my archaic, biased philosophy you would be forgiven. For I had lucidly started the hand washing ceremony when I was about 3 years old: building one's immunity by running barefooted, playing in the soil of the compound. I had to take an evening bath with soap under the only tap below the longan tree there. And my faculty to compare had already gripped me at that age. I could never understand why my motherly 'modiste' neighbour - 'Tantine Marazine' - had such clean, huge white hands while mine looked dirty and puny. So every day at dusk after my overenthusiastic rubbing and washing with soap and cold water with a "Coto Maiye" below the tree, courtesy mum, I would run to my lady neighbour to compare my hands with hers, much to her amusement and delight.

Was the scene set for later obsessive-compulsive behaviour? Maybe. And fate did drive the nail further. Decades later I found myself in a professional speciality



"It's only fair to warn you, I've joined the Union Of Dishwashers."

where I wash my hands 5 to 10 times daily, most times with alcohol and at others with soap and water! This practice was further encouraged by my ex-boss' anecdote of his postgraduate days. It appears that his consultant - a world authority in the subject - challenged him to anaesthetize three patients to the best of his capacity. He did it brilliantly and was congratulated by the supervising professor; except for one reproach - he did not wash his hands in-between the cases!!!

So finally that ritual of hand washing is stuck to us forever. Too much alcohol would rob them of beneficial protective secretions; so stick to soap and water, Covid-19 *oblige*. And as for those who could go to the kitchen sink twice or thrice daily: pray continue - for two birds are always better than one. While waiting for the second wave of Covid-19 -- God forbid!

#### Confinement

Confinement reduced our activities by about 75% - so that home life and its multiple well-known hidden traps swept me into another reality. Our maids were intelligently kept away; and my better half found herself loaded with work - not that this frightened her. Far from it. That should have made me feel relaxed and comfortable. But instead a guilty conscience started seeping in - the very same that has so often prompted me to hint to my wife that one day she would be awarded a Nobel Prize for perpetually inventing house chores. Which guilt finally had the better of me and burst the cocoon I was living in. It drove me to the kitchen sink.

#### Food for Thought

### The Unsung Indian behind Remdesivir

Remdesivir has been making the news of late as a drug to be used in the treatment or at least mitigation of symptoms arising from Covid-19. However, not many know of the back story of the drug, its discovery and name.

Remdesivir is developed by Gilead Science, a pharmaceutical based in Foster City, California. The drug was developed by a team led by Czech scientist Tomas Cihlar primarily for treatment of Ebola Virus.

This drug is actually named after Ramesh E.M. Desigan, the lead scientist in the team of Tomas Cihlar. Ramesh hails from Rasipuram near Salem in

Tamil Nadu.

Coming from a poor family, Ramesh received a scholarship to study at Madras Christian College, followed by a PhD in Pharmacology from JNU, New Delhi. In 2002 Ramesh moved to California to work for Gilead sciences and was instrumental in identifying the viral pathways that could be blocked by anti-viral drugs.

Initially called Ebpantuvir, the name was changed in honour of the inventor of the drug to REMDesiVir. Additionally in honour of this discovery Gilead donated \$2 million to the Rasi international school where he did his primary education.

# Coronavirus cases surpass 10 million worldwide, as deaths approach 500,000



Coronavirus cases surpass 10 million - Photo - www.dw.com

**T**he global total of coronavirus cases passed 10 million on Sunday, according to a New York Times database, as countries around the world struggled to keep new infection rates from reaching runaway levels while simultaneously trying to emerge from painful lockdowns.

The number of confirmed infec-

tions, which took roughly 40 days to double after hitting five million in May, may be substantially underestimated, public health officials say. Data released last week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicated that the actual figures in many regions of the United States are probably 10 times as high as reported.

In April, roughly a month after the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a pandemic, global virus deaths topped 100,000. That figure then climbed to 250,000 in early May and has nearly doubled in less than two months. More than a quarter of all known deaths have been in the United States.

Other countries are also being hit with a wave of new infections.

Brazil, which has reported the second highest total of infections, has seen its caseload surge significantly in June. The country has over 1.3 million cases and over 57,000 deaths.

Dozens of countries that took early steps to contain and track the pandemic have been able to control the virus within their borders. But experts fear that fatigue with lockdowns and social distancing has allowed the virus to spread with renewed intensity across many corners of the world.

## Fiji markets itself as retreat for billionaires during pandemic



A view of a beach at a resort at Natadola Bay in Fiji on November 20, 2019. Fiji Prime Minister Josaia "Frank" Voreqe Bainimarama has offered an open invitation to billionaires wishing to visit the country. Photo - Aileen Torres-Bennett/Getty Images

**W**ith the tourism industry gradually reopening around the world, Fiji has made an unusual appeal to billionaires looking for a retreat during the pandemic.

The South Pacific country, which is made up of some 300 islands, relies heavily on tourism, which typically accounts for 40% of its gross national product.

After telling the Fijian parliament last week that his vision for a "post-Covid society" included a gradual resumption of its travel sector, Prime Minister Josaia "Frank" Voreqe Bainimarama has offered an open invitation to billionaires wishing to visit the country.

In a frank statement on Twitter earlier this week, he wrote: "So, say you're a billionaire looking to fly your own jet, rent your own island, and invest millions of dollars in Fiji in the process -- if you've taken all the necessary health precautions and borne all associated costs, you

important to do that," the Attorney General added.

Fiji has also started an initiative called "Blue Lanes" to welcome tourists arriving by yacht.

Sayed-Khaiyum said that travellers could serve their 14-day quarantine period on board their private vessels prior to arrival or docked in Fiji. They would then be free to "roam around" the country after a negative Covid-19 test result.

He added that Fiji would also welcome movie and television crews as long as they followed quarantine measures.

Fiji has confirmed 18 coronavirus infections in total, according to the World Health Organization. There have been no deaths from the virus and no new cases have been diagnosed since mid-April.

may have a new home to escape the pandemic in paradise."

The country's Attorney General, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, confirmed on Thursday that a group of high-net-worth individuals had been given permission to travel to Fiji.

Speaking during a national budget consultation, Sayed-Khaiyum said that around 30 individuals from "a very well-known company" would soon arrive in the country by private aircraft, before taking a seaplane to their final destination, where they would stay for three months, reports Rory Sullivan of CNN.

"From our perspective, this is a balancing between managing our health risks and also opening up the economic pathways; it's critically

## India opens one of the world's largest hospitals to fight coronavirus



Medical professionals and health workers during the inauguration of Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital in New Delhi, India, on June 27, 2020. Photo - edition.cnn.com

**I**ndia has opened one of the largest hospitals in the world to help fight coronavirus, as health authorities announced the country's biggest one-day increase in the number of new infections.

The Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre, the largest facility of its kind in India, became partly operational on Sunday, with 2,000 of its 10,000 beds available, according to the Delhi government.

The remaining 8,000 beds at the facility, which is located in the Chattarpur area of Delhi, will be in use from Wednesday, reports Rory Sullivan of CNN.

India's Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited the care centre on Saturday ahead of its launch.

The administration and operations of the facility will be run by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Shah confirmed.

The opening of the hospital coincided with the release of India health ministry data on Sunday which showed the largest rise in the daily number of new Covid-19 cases.

The country reported 19,906 new infections and 410 new deaths from the virus, bringing the total to 528,859 positive cases and 16,095 fatalities.

Delhi became the country's worst-hit city on Wednesday, surpassing Mumbai's coronavirus tally. Only the west India state of Maharashtra with 159,133 cases has had more infections than the capital.

\* More on Page 7

# Afghanistan war: Russia denies paying militants to kill US troops

**R**ussia has denied reports that it offered Taliban-linked militants bounties to kill US troops in Afghanistan.

Citing US officials, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *Wall Street Journal* reported that a Russian military intelligence unit offered the alleged bounties last year.

The same unit has been linked to assassination attempts in Europe.

The Russian embassy in the US said the claims had led to threats to diplomats.

The Taliban also denied doing any deal with Russian intelligence.

The reports come as the US attempts to negotiate a peace deal to end the 19-year war in Afghanistan.

The unnamed officials cited by the *New York Times* said US intelligence agencies had concluded months ago that a unit of Russia's GRU military intelligence agency had sought to destabilise its adversaries by covertly offering bounties for successful attacks on coalition forces.

Islamist militants, or armed criminal elements closely associated with them, were believed to have



Some 13,000 US troops are still stationed in Afghanistan, 18 years after the US intervention to oust the Taliban.

Photo - ichef.bbc.co.uk

collected some money, the newspaper said.

According to the *Times*, President Donald Trump was briefed on the reports in March. Mr Trump denied having been briefed, writing on Twitter on Sunday that neither he nor the vice president had been told "about the so-called attacks on our troops in Afghanistan by Russians".

In a series of Twitter posts, the Russian embassy in the US accused the paper of promoting fake news, reports BBC.

Twenty American troops died in Afghanistan in 2019, but the *New York Times* said it was not clear which deaths were under suspicion.

A spokesman for the Taliban also called the accusations baseless.

"Our target killings and assassinations were ongoing in years before, and we did it on our own resources," Zabihullah Mujahid told the *New York Times*.

He added that the Taliban had stopped attacking US and Nato forces after they agreed in February to a phased troop withdrawal and to lift sanctions. In return, the Taliban said they would not allow extremist groups to operate in areas they control.

## Decision on reopening borders delayed as EU struggles to agree on list of 'safe countries'



EU leaders pose for a group photo during a summit in Brussels on December 12 of last year. Photo - AP

**T**he EU cannot agree on a list of "safe countries" from where travellers could visit Europe in July, with some member states requiring more time to decide, diplomats said Saturday.

After days of talks, EU envoys on Friday agreed to propose a list of 14 countries to their national governments, with the United States, where the coronavirus is still spreading, to remain excluded.

Croatia, which currently holds the EU's rotating presidency, requested that countries offer feedback by Saturday at 1600 GMT, with hopes the matter could then be put to a vote among the 27 member states.

"There are still ongoing consultations, which will continue until Monday," an EU source told AFP.

"There is no visibility on where this will go, but the presidency still hopes to put this matter to a vote on Monday," the source added.

The proposed "safe" list contains just fourteen countries: Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Rwanda, Serbia, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia and

Uruguay.

Crucially, travellers from China would be approved to enter, but under the condition that Beijing would do the same for Europeans.

Non-essential travel to the EU has been banned since mid-March, but only after member states closed their national borders in confusion and without coordination as the pandemic grew.

The restrictions are to be gradually lifted starting July 1, as the infection rate recedes -- at least in Europe -- and some countries hoped for close EU coordination.

Whatever is decided in Brussels will exist only as a recommendation since border control remains a national competence and a limited number of flights to and from banned countries have continued throughout the crisis.

Talks dragged on with some EU members wanting to limit the reopening to countries with an epidemiological situation "comparable or better" than that in the bloc -- that is with 16 or fewer cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 inhabitants over the past two weeks.

Under that criterion, travellers from the United States, Brazil and Canada would remain banned.

However, the health-based criteria have collided with geopolitics, with some countries reluctant to collectively ban the US while welcoming visitors from China, where the pandemic began.

## Chinese firm says coronavirus vaccine candidate shows promise in human test



Chinese companies and researchers have been allowed to test eight vaccine candidates in humans at home and abroad. Photo - reuters.com

**C**hina National Biotec Group (CNBG) said on Sunday that early human test results for a coronavirus vaccine candidate suggested it could be safe and effective, the second vaccine candidate from the firm to show encouraging results in a clinical trial.

The experimental shot, developed by a Beijing-based unit of CNBG, has induced high-level antibodies in all the inoculated participants in a Phase 1/2 clinical trial, CNBG said, without disclosing specific readings, reports Reuters.

Chinese companies and researchers have been allowed to test eight vaccine candidates in humans at home and abroad, making China a major front-runner in the race to develop a shot against the virus that has killed nearly 500,000 people globally.

CNMG, affiliated to the state-owned China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm), said earlier this month that another vaccine candidate produced by its Wuhan-based unit also triggered high-level antibodies safely in clinical trial participants based on preliminary results.

A vaccine has to prove its effectiveness in "Phase 3" human test where thousands of participants are recruited in order to be cleared for sale.

CNMG said on Tuesday it will run a Phase 3 for its vaccine candidate in the United Arab Emirates, without specifying which shot will be tested.

David Snoxell, Coordinator - The Chagos Islands All-Party Parliamentary Group

# The UK claim to sovereignty was compromised long ago

*by its long-held commitment to return Chagos to Mauritius 'when no longer needed for defence purposes'*



**Mauritius Times: The Foreign Office rejection of the 2019 International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion that the UK should end its "administration" of the Chagos Islands and the UN General Assembly resolution endorsing it suggest that the UK will remain unyielding as regards its claim of sovereignty over the Archipelago. Why do you think it is maintaining a hard line?**

**David Snoxell:** Every government weighs up the pros and cons of a policy. Even though the FCO appears to be intransigent, it is likely that the Chagos policy remains under regular scrutiny. One can only guess that a mix of factors are driving the present intransigence, including inertia, vexation that its arguments before the ICJ were rejected and that it was isolated in the UN, but most importantly a belief that in the last resort it can always rely on the support of the US. That is no longer certain.

**\* It looks as if the way ahead remains long and far from an early resolution. How long and how far do you think the UK can go in maintaining that position?**

With the ever rising tide of indignation

across the world and in the media at the obstinacy of the British government over Chagos, it cannot be long before the FCO and Government accept that the current policy is doing untold damage to Britain's reputation for promoting human rights and

“The supposed imminent China ‘threat’ in the Indian Ocean is more imaginative than real and seems to have been deployed recently by those seeking to support the UK’s refusal to return the islands. The UK has, so far as I know, not deployed this argument publicly. Furthermore, the future of the US base is guaranteed under Mauritian sovereignty and for a much longer period with Mauritius’ offer of a 99-year lease...”

upholding international law. This is critical in a period when we can no longer rely on our European allies because of Brexit, and the US because it no longer plays even lip service to the ‘Special Relationship’ with the UK.

The continuing decline of Britain’s standing on the world stage makes it very difficult to maintain a policy that the rest of the world largely rejects. A tipping point has been reached in which the arguments in

**D**avid Snoxell, Coordinator of The Chagos Islands All-Party Parliamentary Group gives an outline of his proposal for the return of Chagossians to the Outer Islands of the Archipelago as part of a negotiated settlement, which he feels it is in the reputational interest of the UK to agree to. This is more so in light of the context of its relations with European countries because of Brexit, and with the US which is no longer unconditional given the recent developments that bring focus on the rights of colonised peoples.

favour of an overall settlement of the issues now substantially outweigh the arguments which the government deploys against Chagossian resettlement and Mauritian sovereignty. I feel that we are therefore getting closer to a resolution.

**\* The UK’s position has remained consistent in its claim to sovereignty over the Archipelago for the last five decades. Is it the FCO which has the last word or is it the politicians? Or is the British Government acting at the behest of the US due to the Diego Garcia base?**

Policy is made by Ministers on the advice of officials. The lead department is the FCO but other departments such as Defence, Home Office, Cabinet Office and its National Security Council are involved in the policy making process. The final decision on Chagos rests with the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Parliament is largely ignored.

In public the US has always sat on the fence regarding Chagos, telling Mauritius that it should deal with the UK. Increasingly

tor for the US, but there is an increasing groundswell from within the US that it needs to negotiate with Mauritius in order to secure a long-term future for the base. Mauritius could provide the same level of assurance as the UK and this could be enshrined in an agreement.

**\* Could it be that the British Government has chosen to bide its time for another 16 years, that is until 2036, when the 1966 UK/US Agreement comes to an end and then deal with the sovereignty issue?**

There will be those in government who hope that the UK could evade the issue for the next 16 years, long after those officials and ministers have left the scene, but this is a forlorn hope. The political and reputational damage to the UK would be considerable and the international pressure, especially if the US were to join it, overwhelming. The UK would be forced to agree a settlement with Mauritius, rather as we were forced to leave Suez in the 1956 Suez Crisis when the US abandoned the UK.

Additionally, the current international climate of ‘Black Lives Matter’ is forcing a reassessment of the impact of colonialism and imperialism.

The people of Chagos and many Mauritians are descended from former African slaves and Indian indentured labourers. They have experienced at first-hand the benefits and oppression of the British Empire. Returning Chagos to Mauritian sovereignty and enabling Chagossians to resettle in their islands would be seen as a just response and making amends for the colonial attitudes and misrule of the past. It would also open up a productive relationship with Mauritius and free up the UK to take a more prominent role in the Commonwealth and UN.

however parts of the US Administration appear to be less supportive of the UK’s rejection of the ICJ and UNGA decisions. We should not forget that the US has always been uncomfortable with the perpetuation of colonies where self-determination has not been exercised.

The stability and freedom of operation that the UK has afforded to the base on Diego Garcia must still be a significant fac-

# 'The UK would be forced to agree a settlement with Mauritius,

rather as we were forced to leave Suez in the 1956 Suez Crisis when the US abandoned the UK'

☞ Cont. from page 8

**\* In an article published by *The Interpreter* on 26 June, you suggest a "compromise solution - a staged transfer of the Outer Islands to Mauritius, leaving Diego Garcia for future discussions". You also mention that "the US does not in principle object to resettlement" in the Outer Islands. Do you think the British Government would be willing to return the Outer islands without compromising its sovereignty claim to Diego Garcia?**

This was a proposal put to Jack Straw, the UK Foreign Secretary by Paul Berenger, the Deputy PM in 2001. So it is not a new idea. The point of a compromise is to enable both sides to begin negotiations. It is not in itself the final solution, but it can be a useful stage towards an overall agreement. It makes discussion more limited but a successful outcome more attainable. Both sides need to help each other to resolve the impasse.

Such a proposition would help the FCO to sell it to those in Parliament and in government whose mindset is geared towards hanging on to sovereignty at all costs. Far from diminishing the UK's standing, the transfer of the Outer Islands to Mauritius would enhance it and remove this millstone from around the neck of British diplomacy.

☞ **Not every member (of the The Chagos Islands All-Party Parliamentary Group) is agreed on the sovereignty issue, but they are unanimous on the need to restore the right of return and abode to Chagossians and thus make resettlement possible. Members acknowledge that resettlement is far more likely to take place under Mauritian, rather than British sovereignty. The Group's position is to advocate resettlement and a negotiated settlement, concerning sovereignty, with Mauritius...**

I also think it would be the easiest way forward for the US and therefore provide a quick solution. It will have been considered by the FCO before but today there is a different alignment of the stars which makes the idea much more attractive. The UK claim to sovereignty was compromised long ago by its long-held commitment to return Chagos to Mauritius 'when no longer needed for defence purposes'.

**\* You have based your "compromise solution" on a precedent when the UK returned three BIOT islands to Seychelles in 1976 at independence. But that was made in a different context?**

Nonetheless it is a helpful precedent for all parties, but a compromise is based more on the realpolitik of the situation, i.e. what is a practical way out of the impasse in which no party loses face or is humiliated.

**\* Besides the threats coming from the Middle East, there is now talk of a China "threat". Do you perceive China as a threat to the resolution of the Chagos dispute which might delay matters further?**

The supposed imminent China 'threat' in the Indian Ocean is more imaginative than real and seems to have

been deployed recently by those seeking to support the UK's refusal to return the islands. The UK has, so far as I know, not deployed this argument publicly.

Furthermore, the future of the US base is guaranteed under Mauritian sovereignty and for a much longer period with Mauritius' offer of a 99-year lease. This could lead to a close political and strategic relationship between Mauritius and the US and continued stability in the region.

A key point that emerged during discussions at the US think tank 'Centre for Naval Analyses' in Arlington was that "Appearing to downplay the ICJ's recent Advisory Opinion on Chagos risks undercutting US efforts to encourage the rule of law, especially in the South China Sea."

**\* The ICJ's Advisory Opinion recognised Mauritius' sovereignty over the Archipelago. The Chagos Islands All-Party Parliamentary Group's focus appears to be mostly on resettlement of the Chagossians, not on supporting Mauritius' claim to sovereignty. Why is that so?**

The registered purpose of the APPG is "To help bring about a resolution of the issues concerning the future of the Chagos Islands and of the Chagossians." It is true that resettlement is more its focus than restoring sovereignty to Mauritius. This is because this Group of 53 members has representation from all 7 political parties in Parliament, ranging from right to left, the only APPG to do so. Not every member is agreed on the sovereignty issue, but they are unanimous on the need to restore the right of return and abode to Chagossians and thus make resettlement possible. Members acknowledge that resettlement is far more likely to take place under Mauritian, rather than British sovereignty. The Group's position is to advocate resettlement and a negotiated settlement, concerning sovereignty, with Mauritius.

**\* Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth told the BBC last December that his government was considering bringing charges of crimes against humanity against individual British officials at the International Criminal Court as a result of the UK's failure to abide by the ICJ Opinion and UNGA resolution. Wouldn't that be deeply humiliating for the UK?**

This is a very difficult issue for the UK to accept.

Psychologically we do not see ourselves as a nation that perpetrates crimes against humanity, rather as a nation that condemns such crimes and which has been a major architect of the United Nations, the rules-based order, international law and the legal institutions such as Nuremberg, the ICJ, although we no longer have a UK judge on it, and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Although I think that taking the plight of the Chagossians to the ICC is an unlikely prospect, it is not impossible. The UK therefore needs an overall settlement on Chagos with Mauritius.

**\* Finally, what is it that you personally can bring to a resolution of the issues?**

I can only point out the obvious, but it is based on fifty years of experience. At university one of my two specialist subjects was India's road to Independence in the 20th century. My first job in 1969 in FCO was to attend UNGA and sit on the Decolonisation Committee (C-24) when we still had 32 colonies. Thereafter I served in UN Department



☞ **The people of Chagos and many Mauritians are descended from former African slaves and Indian indentured labourers. They have experienced at first-hand the benefits and oppression of the British Empire. Returning Chagos to Mauritian sovereignty and enabling Chagossians to resettle in their islands would be seen as a just response and making amends for the colonial attitudes and misrule of the past...**

of the FCO, Islamabad, the UK Mission in Geneva, dealing with human rights, later in New York as Director of British Information Services, in FCO as Deputy Commissioner of BIOT, returning as Ambassador to Senegal where I had been a UNA volunteer in 1967/8, and finally as High Commissioner to Mauritius.

In retirement from 2008 I was appointed Coordinator of the Chagos Islands (BIOT) APPG. So I can claim, perhaps uniquely, to have seen the issues from several angles - the UN, UK, Mauritius, the US, the Chagossians, Parliament, and the litigation in the English courts, ECtHR and the ICJ.

My ambition is to see the UK emerge from its isolation, redeem its reputation in the international community for promoting and respecting international law, norms and human rights and championing its former ideals; also the Chagossians treated with dignity and allowed to return to their islands, along with the reunification of Chagos with Mauritius.



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# What doctors know about lingering symptoms of coronavirus

*Is it possible that people who recover from COVID-19 will be plagued with long term side effects from the infection? An infectious disease physician reviews the evidence so far*

**W**ith over 2 million cases in the US since the coronavirus pandemic began in late December, there are now many people who have recovered from Covid-19. At the same time, there have been reports of people who continue to have long-term side effects from the infection. I am a professor and physician and I specialize in infectious diseases of adults. I not only care for patients with bacterial, parasitic and viral infections - including COVID-19 - but actively teach and perform research into diseases that infectious pathogens cause.

Here I offer a summary of what is known today about recovering from Covid-19- and where there are important gaps in our knowledge. Much of this information, which has been gleaned from studies that began after the 2003 SARS outbreak, is important for those recovering and their family and friends who should know what to anticipate.

## Confusion or the post-intensive care syndrome

In the most seriously ill patients who receive care in the ICU, there is a substantial risk of delirium. Delirium is characterized by confusion, difficulty in paying attention, reduced awareness of person, place and time, and even the inability to interact with others.

Delirium is not a specific complication of Covid-19 but unfortunately is a common complication of ICU care. Risk factors in addition to being in the ICU include advanced age and pre-existing illness. Some studies say as many as 75% of patients treated in the ICU experience delirium. The problem is not only with confusion during the hospitalization, but for months after. For example, at three and nine months after discharge many of those who recovered still had difficulty with short-term memory, the ability to comprehend written and spoken words and to learn new things. Some even had difficulty knowing where they were and what today's date was. And, executive function scores were significantly worse in those who had suffered from delirium.

Physicians are dedicating considerable effort to reduce delirium in patients in the ICU. Approaches that may help include reducing the use of sedatives, repeated reorientation of the patient to date, time and location, early mobilization, noise reduction and cognitive stimulation.

## Lungs - will there be chronic shortness of breath?

The most severely ill patients with Covid-19 often suffer from pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome, or ARDS, while ill. Doctors have not followed patients who have recovered from the new coronavirus long enough to know if there will be long-term problems with breathing.

However, a study of health care workers in China who contracted SARS, caused by the SARS-CoV coronavirus which circulated during the 2003 outbreak, are reassuring. Lung damage (measured by interstitial changes seen on CT scans of the lung and pulmonary function test results) mostly healed within two years after the illness.

## Smell and taste

Most patients with Covid-19 experience a loss of taste and or smell. Only a quarter of patients had noted some improvement in a week's time, but by 10 days most patients had recovered.

## Post-infection fatigue syndrome

While again it may be too early to tell, in the case of the original SARS outbreak almost half of survivors interviewed more than three years after recovery complained of fatigue.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria for diagnosis of the chronic fatigue syndrome were met in a quarter of Covid-19 patients. It will likely be important to target mental health interventions to Covid-19



survivors to help them deal with a prolonged convalescence characterized by fatigue.

## Blood clots

Blood clots may arise in up to a fourth of critically ill Covid-19 patients. Blood clots can cause serious long-term complications if the clots break loose from blood vessels and migrate to the lung and cause a pulmonary embolism or go to the brain and cause a stroke.

To prevent blood clots, physicians are now instituting blood thinners prophylactically when there is a rise in the concentration of the D-dimer, which is a fragment of fibrin - a protein that makes blood clot.

## Heart

In one study, inflammation of the heart muscle, called myocarditis or cardiomyopathy, was observed in a third of severely ill Covid-19 patients. Arrhythmias - an irregular

heartbeat - are also seen. It is not known if this is due to direct infection of the heart or secondary to the stress caused by the inflammatory response to this infection.

Most importantly, the long-term consequences in survivors are not understood.

## Diabetes

Diabetics are at increased risk of severe Covid-19, which may in part be attributable to an overreaction from immune response to the infection.

But the Covid-19 and diabetes interaction may go in the other direction as well. Elevations in glucose are seen in severe cases of Covid-19 in some patients who do not have a prior history of diabetes.

Because the virus interacts with the angiotensin-converting enzyme 2, or ACE2, on human cells, it is plausible that changes in ACE2 activity could be one cause of diabetes in patients with the new coronavirus. In any case, it will be important long-term to follow up.

The bottom line is that the new coronavirus infection has profound effects on many different organ systems in the body. The good news is that we expect that the damage caused by Covid-19 will heal in the vast majority of patients. However, it is important to appreciate that some long-term conditions can be anticipated, and prevented or managed to benefit patients.

**William Petri,**  
University of Virginia

## Food for Thought

# Catching Wild Pigs

**K**arl Marx once said, "Remove one freedom per generation, and soon you will have no freedoms and no one will have noticed."

One day while the class was in the lab, a professor noticed one young man kept rubbing his back and stretching as if his back hurt.

The professor asked the young man what was the matter. The student told him that he had a bullet lodged in his back. He had been shot while fighting communists in his native country, who were trying to overthrow his country's government and install a new communist regime.

Then, the student looked at the professor and asked a strange question, "Do you know how to catch wild pigs?"

The professor thought it was a joke and asked for the punch line. The young man said that it was no joke.

"You catch wild pigs by finding a suitable place in the woods and putting corn on the ground. The pigs find it and begin to come every day to

eat the free food.

"When they are used to coming every day, you put a fence down one side of the place where they are used to coming. At first, they are scared, but when they get used to the fence, they begin to eat the corn again and you put up another side of the fence.

"They get used to that and start to eat again. You continue until you have all four sides of the fence up with a gate in the last side.

"The pigs, which are used to the free corn, start to come through the gate to eat that free corn again. You then slam the gate on them and catch the whole herd.

"Suddenly, the wild pigs have lost their freedom. They run around and around inside the fence, but they are caught. Soon they go back to eating the free corn. They are so used to it that they have forgotten how to forage in the woods for themselves, so they accept their captivity."

The young man then told the professor, "That is exactly what we see happening in many countries. The

governments keep pushing us towards communism/socialism and keep spreading the free corn out in the form of programmes such as supplemental income, tax credit for unearned income, tax exemptions, tobacco subsidies, dairy subsidies, payments not to plant crops, welfare entitlements, medicine, drugs, etc., while we continually lose our freedoms, just a little at a time."

One should always remember two truths:

1. There is no such thing as a free lunch, and
2. You can never hire someone to provide a service for you cheaper than you can do it yourself.

If you see that all of this wonderful government 'help' is a problem confronting the future of democracy, there is hope.

If you think the free ride is essential to your way of life, then God help you when the gate slams shut!

"Most of the problems we face today are there because the people who work for a living are now outnumbered by those who vote for a living!

# 19 secrets women wish men knew

**W**hat do women want? For those who've ever pondered this question, here are 19 relationship secrets. They're based on the study of healthy, happy couples and our changing gender roles. Secret No. 1: Women appreciate a guy with a sensitive side, especially when they're upset. Put your arm around her and hand her a tissue. Nurturing is a powerful way to connect.

## Chivalry still has a place

When it comes to romance, many women do like men to take a traditional masculine role. This is especially true in the wooing stage of a relationship, according to psychologist Diana Kirschner, PhD, who's written several books about love. She's perfectly capable of pulling out her own chair or opening a door, but if you see her hesitate, she might just be waiting for you to be the gentleman.

## Dress to impress

Styles come and go, but a man's attention to his grooming and clothing should be long lasting. It's important to women from the first flirtation through the honeymoon and beyond. "You've got to figure out if there's a certain look that she likes," says Kirschner. "If she likes a guy in tight jeans, you wear tight jeans."

## Guy wears red, guy gets girl

OK, this tip doesn't come from women, but from clever testing by psychologists of women's subconscious preferences. One intriguing study found that the color red made men seem more powerful, attractive, and sexually desirable to women. There's a caveat, though. Red doesn't make guys appear nicer or kinder. That part is up to you.

## Don't hide your flaws

Nothing captures a woman's heart quite like a good man who wants to be a better man, according to love guru Kirschner. "Women love personal growth, they love a man who is thoughtful and sensitive." She likes it when her man recognizes a flaw -- a short temper, for example, or a regularly sullen mood after work -- and loves it when he makes an effort to address it.

## Don't try to fix her world

When something's bothering her, she wants your ear, not your advice. "Men feel the need to fix things because they are solution-oriented," says Kirschner. "But to a woman, really listening is a wonderful, wonderful thing that deepens the relationship."

## Nodding is not enough

Listening is important, but she also wants to know that she is being heard. Nodding along won't cut it. When she pauses, she's giving you a cue to respond in a compassionate, caring way, says Kirschner. If she tells you that she is upset because her boss gave her a tough time, she wants to hear you say, "I'm sorry that work was such a drag for you today." And remember: Resist the urge to offer solutions.

## Date no. 3 is not a bedroom key

The three dates before sex rule is an urban legend. Women don't set a timeline on when they'll invite a potential partner into the bedroom. Some women will want to



have many dates before sex. A good rule of thumb is to give the relationship at least two months to grow before entering the sexual arena

## Women like the slow lane

Guys often want to take the quickest path to sex. But many women prefer the scenic route. "Women want sex but they get to it in a different way," says psychologist Kirschner, who has helped hundreds of couples achieve a more rewarding relationship. "They want to feel connected and understood, they want to be romanced." That means time and talking and touching - in other words, foreplay.

## Safe sex is a turn-on

This is something both of you need to focus on, but Kirschner says that women appreciate it and feel more protected when the guy makes it clear that it's a concern to him -- and then shows her that he practices what he preaches.

## Learn what she wants in bed

Women do like to talk to about what's going on in the sack, and they want to please their man -- and a tactful approach is often best. Ask her what she likes. Be sure to ask for what you want in a positive and validating way. Kirschner advises saying something along the lines of, "I would really love if you [fill in the blanks]."

## Performance anxiety is shared

When you have an off night and can't perform, she feels bad, too. She might worry that she no longer turns you on and she will want assurance that that is not true. She will want to talk about what's going on and what you are doing about it, especially if it's a recurring problem. "It's a touchy thing for both of you," says Kirschner, "but talking about it is a plus."

## Mirroring is a barometer of love

Remember the saying "imitation is the highest form of flattery"? A woman often conveys how she feels about you by mirroring your moods and moves. She may order a meal that pairs with yours, wear your favoured colour, or smile or cross her arms when you do. Mimicking is her way of putting you at ease and letting you know she is charmed.

## Your shirt may be a love magnet

Does your partner curl up in your sweater or sneak into your work shirt?

Some researchers have found that the scent of a man's perspiration has a relaxing effect on women.

## Say it, again and again

Women like to be told they look nice, and they like a man who notices without being told. When she's wearing a sexy new dress, for example, she'll give you major points for saying how hot she looks, especially if you mention the dress before she does. If she's looking particularly attractive, if she has a new haircut, if she's looking more fit -- let her hear about it.

## Don't fear the relationship talk

When your woman wants to talk about the relationship, it doesn't mean you did something wrong (well, not necessarily).

Kirschner says that many women like to talk about the "state of the union" -- what's going right, what's going wrong, or simply what's going on. This is a good thing. An honest, wide-ranging talk can bring the two of you closer.

## Look your partner in the eye

You may feel more comfortable sitting side by side, but many women prefer face time -- and we don't mean the latest mobile video chat technology. Kirschner says that women prefer their men to make eye contact with them as they're talking. And looking her in the eye during sex will deepen the relationship outside the bedroom.

## Don't miss the moment

How do you know if she is ready to commit? She'll say so. This is something that women are often quite up front about. But they don't want to have "the talk" too often. If she's ready and she's given you time, the next time the subject comes up, be prepared to step up or step off.

## Romance is simple; keep it coming

Romance is something she will always want, whether you've been together two months or 20 years. Flowers, an intimate dinner, a few lines of love poetry -- don't worry, they don't have to be your own -- might sound cliché, but Kirschner insists that most women appreciate such simple romantic gestures and often show their appreciation after the lights go down.

WebMD

## In A Light Vein

**S**ingapore Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew said there were two options for him:

Either... I get corrupted and I put my family in the Forbes list of the richest people in the world and leave my people with nothing.

Or... I serve my country, my people and let my country be in the list of the best ten economies in the world. I chose the second option.

Our politicians said, there were two options for us too, but the second option was already taken by the Singaporean Prime Minister.

\* \* \*

Post corona, romance novels might read something like this:

Hands glistening with sanitizer, he reached out and gently removed her mask... As he pressed closer against her, she felt a certain hardness near his front pocket.

"Is that what I think it is?" she asked breathlessly.

"Yes," he replied. "I brought my digital thermometer in case we need to take our temperature."

\* \* \*

There was a group of women gathered at a seminar on how to live a loving relationship with their husband.

The women were asked, "How many of you love your husbands?"

All the women raised their hands. Then they were asked, "When was the last time you told your husband you loved him?"

Some women answered today, some yesterday, some didn't remember.

The women were then told to take their cell phones and send the following text to their respective husbands: I love you, sweetheart.

Then the women were told to exchange phones and read the responding text messages. Here are some of the replies:

1. Eh, mother of my children, are you sick?
  2. What now? Did you crash the car again?
  3. I don't understand. What do you mean?
  4. What did you do now? I won't forgive you this time!!!
  5. ???!!!
  6. Don't beat about the bush, just tell me how much you need?
  7. Am I dreaming?
  8. If you don't tell me who this message is actually for, you will die today!
  9. I asked you not to drink anymore!!
- And the best one: Who is THIS???

## In A Light Vein

# Nothing to declare

An attractive young woman on a flight from Ireland asked the priest beside her, 'Father, may I ask you a favour?'

'Of course child. What can I do for you?'

'Well, I bought for my mother an expensive hair dryer for her birthday. It is unopened but well over the Customs limits, and I am afraid they will confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through Customs for me? Hide it under your robes perhaps?'

'I would love to help you, dear, but I must warn you, I will not lie.'

'With your face, Father, no one will question you.'

When they got to Customs, she let the priest go first. The official asked, 'Father, do you have anything to declare?'

'From the top of my head down to my waist, I have nothing to declare.'

The official thought this answer strange, so asked, 'And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?'

'I have a marvellous Instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused...'

Roaring with laughter, the official said, 'Go ahead, Father. Next Please...'

\*\*\*

Mother: Son, I'm sorry my husband is not your dad. I had an affair 23 years ago with a man. And that person is your real father.

Son: Mum, what rubbish! How am I to deal with this?

Mother: I am sorry he was my first love and I could not marry him because we are from different religions. He is on the phone right now and wants to speak with his son. Come talk to him.

Son: No I am not speaking to anyone. My dad is the only father I know and so will that be.

Mother: Please don't be so upset. Just talk to him.

Son: Ok, but I will not accept him my dad...

Phone: Morning, Son, this is Mukesh Ambani.

Son: Ohhh Teri !!! Dad! Dad! Dad !!! Thank God! Ohhhhhhhhhhhh Thank God!!!!!! Luv u so much Dad!!!! I always knew there was something special about me... Thank you soooo much dad. You are the best dad in the whole world!"

**Moral:**

*Na Biwi Na Bachha. Na Baap Bada Na Bhaiya.*

*The Whole thing is - Sabse Bada Rupaiya!*

\*\*\*

While cutting hair, the Barber asked the Health Minister: Sir, what is this Hyperpharm issue?

Minister shouted: Are you cutting my hair or conducting an inquiry?

Barber said: Sorry Sir, I just asked.

Next day, while cutting his hair, he asked the Deputy Prime Minister: Sir, what is this St Louis II issue?

The minster shouted, 'Why did you ask me this question?'

Barber said: Sorry Sir, I just simply asked.

Next day, the CID interrogated the barber.

CID Officer: Are you an agent of ICAC?

Barber: No, Sir.

CID: Are you an agent of the opposition?

Barber: No, Sir.

CID: Are you anti-national?

Barber: For God's sake, no Sir. I am an innocent and simple barber.

CID: Then, while cutting the hair, why did you ask these VVIPs about Hyperpharm & St Louis II issues?

Barber: Sir, I do not know why, but when I ask about Hyperpharm or St Louis II, their hair stand up straight; that helps me to cut the hair easily. That's why I keep asking.

## Life's Lesson

# Chauffeur Knowledge

Max Planck, after he won the Nobel Prize of Physics in 1918, went around Germany giving a same standard lecture on the new Quantum Mechanics.

Over time, his chauffeur memorized the lecture and said, "Would you mind, Professor Planck, because it's so boring to stay in our routine, if I gave the lecture in Munich and you just sat in front wearing my chauffeur's hat?"

Planck said, "Why not?" And the chauffeur got up and gave this long lecture on quantum mechanics.

After which a physics professor stood up and asked a perfectly ghastly question.

The speaker said, "Well, I'm surprised that in an advanced city like Munich I get such an elementary question. I'm going to ask my chauffeur to reply."

The reason for this story is not to celebrate the quick-wittedness of the chauffeur but to understand that, in this world, there are two kinds of people with knowledge:

One is **Planck Knowledge**, that of the people who really know. They've gone through the grind and they have the

aptitude.

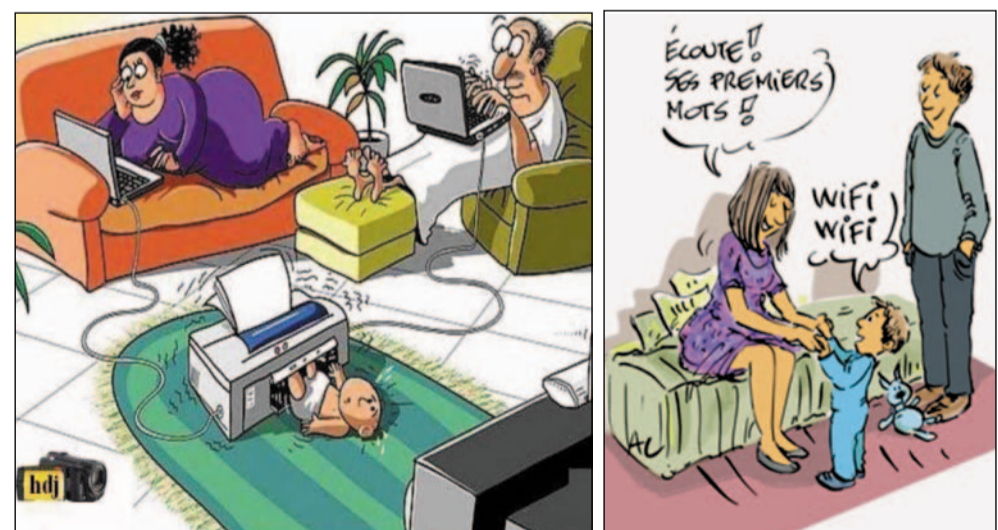
Then we've got **Chauffeur Knowledge**. They have learned to prattle the talk. They often have fine timbre in their voices. They make a big impression. But in the end what they've got is chauffeur knowledge masquerading as real knowledge.

In the real world, it is critical to distinguish between the 'Max Plancks' and the 'Chauffeurs'.

Building Planck knowledge takes deep commitment and large amount of time and effort. Chauffeur knowledge comes from people who have learned to put on a show. Their talks sound impressive and entertaining, they have a good voice and may even ooze great charisma but their knowledge is not their own. In fact, the more eloquent and articulate someone sounds, the higher the odds of him having chauffeur knowledge.

Richard Feynman, a celebrated scientist and the winner of Nobel Prize in Theoretical Physics, beautifully describes it as "the difference between knowing the name of something (chauffeur knowledge) and knowing something (Planck knowledge)."

## L'APHABET POUR LES ENFANTS D'AUJOURD'HUI



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## Anushka Sharma: Was clear that I'd back genuine talent



experiences for my production company with Karnesh (her brother). Right from my debut film, I worked really hard so that I could get a chance to collaborate with some of the best filmmakers of our country. My desire was to always try and work with the best writers and directors," said Anushka, who started her own production house Clean Slate Films, when she was 25.

The actress, who comes from an army background, always rooted for talented people.

"When I became a producer at 25, I was clear that I would back genuinely talented people who give their everything to make a mark with their raw talent and who are looking for a foot into the business of films," she added.

Anushka's brother Karnesh said they wanted to work with fresh talent. "We have continuously done so with actors, directors and technicians. The energy and fresh ideas that new talent bring to the project is invigorating and we intend to keep doing the same. We are also very passionate about chasing stories that are off the beaten track and keep searching for such ideas that push the envelope."

Anushka and Karnesh has backed popular projects like 'NH10', 'Pari', 'Phillauri'.

"Along with all the success that our projects have witnessed, which we are very proud of, for us what matters most is that we have been

the studio that has tried to constantly discover fresh talent," Anushka said.

The actress stressed that she would continue with this endeavour. "Because we feel the more we have varied voices in the industry, the fresher it will become in ideas and attitude, and we will produce more clutter-breaking content and artistes, which is definitely necessary."

She made her debut in Hindi cinema in 2008 with 'Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi' having no backing in Bollywood. Actress-producer Anushka Sharma minces no words when she says she was clear that she would back genuine talent in her ventures.

"I have had a very interesting journey in Bollywood and I have tried to apply these important learnings from my

## Late Sushant Singh Rajput's Last Film to Release in July



Late Sushant Singh Rajput's untimely demise has come as a big blow to the entire country. He died by suicide and his death has given birth to several debates and discussions among the common populace and even with the film industry circles. The latest reports around the actor are about his last film which is titled *Dil Bechara*. The Hindi remake of *Fault in Our Stars* has been helmed by Mukesh Chhabra and will mark his directorial debut. *Dil Bechara* is a romantic film and stars Sanjana Sanghi alongside Sushant.

Mukesh even posted about the same on social media and wrote...

Fans of Sushant had requested the makers to release the film on the big screen, however, due to the ongoing pandemic, the film has been scheduled to release digitally on July 24. The platform on which it's releasing has made it free for everyone as an ode to the actor.

## Shah Rukh Khan on completing 28 years in Bollywood: My passionism will see me through many more years of service

*The superstar took to Instagram and shared a picture of himself along with a note for his fans*

Shah Rukh Khan has completed 28 years of his journey in the film industry. That's a long time, right? The superstar took to Instagram and shared a picture of himself along with a note for his fans. He wrote, "Don't know when my passion became my purpose and then turned into my profession. Thank u all for so many years of allowing me to entertain you. More than my professionalism I believe my passionism will see me through many more years of service to all of you. 28 years and counting."

He also thanked his wife Gauri Khan for the pic. "And thank u @gaurikhan for capturing this moment," he wrote.

The actor made his Bollywood debut with *Deewana* opposite Divya Bharti and Rishi Kapoor. Before entering the films, Shah Rukh acted in TV shows like *Circus* and *Fauji* to name a few. He was seen in hit films like *Baazigar*, *Karan Arjun*, *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, *Yes Boss*, *Pardes*, *Dil To Pagal Hai* to name a few. He even featured in negative roles in the films *Darr*, *Anjaam* that was loved by the audience and critics alike. On completion of 28 years in the film industry, fans recently trended #28GoldenYearsOfSRK on Twitter.

Speaking about his next projects, SRK said, "This time, I didn't feel like doing it. I thought, this time, I will take out time to watch films and listen to scripts and read books. My kids are also finishing their college life. Suhana is still in college, Aryan will hopefully pass his college in a year. I want to spend more time with my family. I only act when it comes from my heart, but this time I don't feel like doing it. A lot of people are telling me stories, I've heard 15-20 stories, I liked 2-3 of them. But I haven't decided yet which film to do. Because the moment I take a decision, I will have to start working on films. I will completely be engrossed in it."



# Naagin 4's Vijayendra Kumeria: 'Nia Sharma is always high on energy'

Vijayendra Kumeria has been winning hearts as Dev Parikh in Ekta Kapoor's supernatural thriller - *Naagin Bhagya Ka Zehreela Khel*. The actor's chemistry with Nia Sharma, who plays the role of Brinda, has also caught everybody's attention. Popularly known as #BrinDev, this *jodi* is quite a hit on-screen. In an exclusive live chat with ETimes TV, he spoke about the struggles of being a part of television industry, stealing chocolates from his daughter and many other interesting anecdotes from his life, reports Sukarna Mondal of Times of India.

## On Nia Sharma being high on energy

Nia Sharma is very energetic also hypered at times. Her energy level is too high. She keeps the energy on the sets high. She loves to finish off her scenes quickly. It is good to work with such people. Also, she is very good with her lines and doesn't forget. So, I also have to remember the lines to match up to her level.

Spot on chemistry with three actresses - Nia, Rashami and Anita

We are properly briefed about scenes. Also, all of them are good actors. And it is not difficult to build a good chemistry with them as they also know what they have to do. So it is easy.

## Being a part of *Naagin* franchisee

Undoubtedly, *Naagin* franchisee is one of the biggest on TV and this is my first Balaji show. As an actor, I feel very happy to be in the space right now. People liking the show is like an icing on the cake. Even after this season gets over, I would like the makers to bring another season and would wish that to be a hit as well. I feel happy to know that people of all ages watch this show. As an actor you get a high to know that even people from the industry watch *Naagin*.



## Journey from being a supporting actor to leading actor

I started acting in 2011 and did a few shows in Doordarshan. I am glad that I did those shows because I got to learn a lot. It was in 2014, when I got to play the lead character in *Shastri Sisters*. *Udaan* was the turning point in my career. After that my career graph has gone up.

## On switching careers to be an actor

I was in the aviation industry before entering TV industry. The industry is very uncertain hence don't keep your hopes too high. There is glamour of course, but that comes after a lot of hard work. You need to keep yourself secure and keep in mind that you have a future. Invest and spend money wisely. You should be ready for the highs and lows.

## Uncertainties and struggles of TV industry

Not only acting, but there's always better to have a second option. Don't jump into things. I have a production house as well. My wife is a part of it. Before investing in anything, make proper research. Financial flow in the industry is not certain, hence you should know about the pros and cons before taking any step.

## Family's support throughout his career

My family has never stopped me from pursuing my dreams. They have always supported my choices. I was 19 when I got into aviation. When I entered acting, I had spoken to them and given myself two years. Had I not earned a name, I would have gone back. But thankfully I didn't have to.

## On stealing his daughter's chocolates

I love dark chocolates and sometimes I crave for them. Then I steal them from my daughter's (Kimaya) collection. However, she is too young to notice and I replace the chocolates.

# Chetan Hansraj: I've completed 40 years in the industry, I started when I was five



Not many know that the young Balram's character in BR Chopra's *'Mahabharat'* was played by Chetan Hansraj. In fact, Chetan has been getting a lot of calls from people, who have watched the rerun of the mythological show during the lockdown.

"Many were surprised to see me because they didn't know that I was a child artiste. I acted in *'Mahabharat'* when I was 14. I still remember shooting for it; there was something very special about the show."

However, Chetan started acting even before that, at the age of five, and has completed a good four decades in showbiz. "Yes, it's been 40 years in the industry," he smiles. So, how did it all begin for him? "I saw my cousin Jugul Hansraj's photograph in a magazine and told my mother that I wanted to follow suit. So, we got some photographs clicked and she sent them out, it was all her hard work. I did 250 print media ads, 50 TV commercials and seven-eight movies, too. Then I did *'Mahabharat'* after which I took a break. A few years later, I got into modelling and eventually returned to acting," Chetan recalls.

Talking about his journey as an actor and the ups and downs in this field, he shares, "It's been an exciting journey. You can never be

sure of anything because there's always something new that's happening. Sometimes, you may feel that you have no work and suddenly, a call comes and you are all charged up. I don't think about where my next work will come from, I always leave it to God. I'm just happy that I am in a profession where I get to play multiple characters, so it's almost like I live multiple lives in one life. I started at five and I'm 45 today. I am looking forward to exploring different kinds of roles, including in the web space."

# Vikram Singh Chauhan & Aditi Sharma's 'Yehh Jadu Hai Jinn Ka' gets extension thanks to TRPs!



Gul Khan's show, *Yehh Jadu Hai Jinn Ka*, a popular show on television, has been getting great ratings since its inception. The 4 Lions Films' show was supposed to end in February after completing the good run of 100 episodes. It was also said that YJHJK will be replaced by Mahesh Bhatt's new serial, *Jannat* that will feature Rahil Azam and Shruti Seth. But it looks like the replacement might not happen, as Vikram Singh Chauhan and Aditi Sharma's starrer has got an extension!

As per IWMBuzz report, YJHJK might be extended by another 100 episodes. Since the show is doing good on TRP chart, the channel had to drop the idea of ending the show.

About the show doing well on TRP chart, Vikram told Pinkvilla, "Everybody is so happy because when you get acknowledged for your work, it is just a happy feeling for everybody. It's happy to be on the top across all channels."

## CINE 12

Mardi 30 juin - 21.15

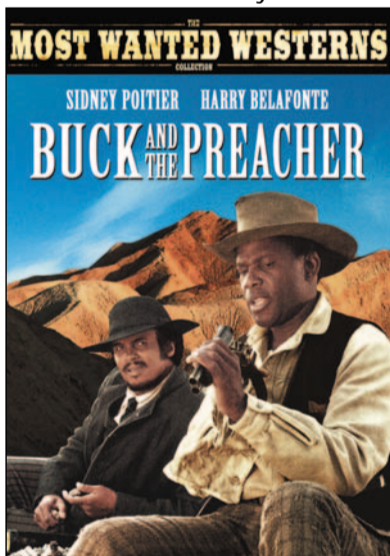
## Cold Comes The Night

Star: Alice Eve, Ursula Parker,  
Logan Marshall-Green

## CINE 12

Mercredi 1 juillet - 21.15

## Buck And The Preacher

Avec: Sidney Poitier, Harry  
Belafonte, Ruby Dee

## CINE 12

Jeudi 2 juillet - 21.15

## En Quarantaine 2



## MBC 1

06.00 Local: Rodrig Prog  
07.00 Dessin Anime  
10.35 Mag: Origami  
10.40 Mag: Zoboomafooo  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Doc: Autour Des Valeurs  
12.35 Doc: Comme Un Poisson...  
13.30 Local: Un Patrimoine En...  
14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur  
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack  
14.44 D.Anime: Astrology  
15.10 D.Anime: Kuu Kuu Harajuku  
16.28 D.Anime: Linkers  
17.00 Local: Satrangi  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jamaï Raja  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.00 Local: Priorite Sante  
21.10 Serial: Unforgotten  
21.55 Serial: Chicago Police...  
23.00 Le Journal

## MBC 2

08.00 Karm Phal Data Shani  
09.00 Live Educational Channel  
17.00 Zoom TV Live  
20.00 Karm Phal Data Shani  
20.45 Film: Elaan-E-Jung  
Starring: Dharmendra, Jaya Prada  
22.45 DDI Live

## MBC 3

07.26 Doc: A Question Of Science  
08.00 The Exploitation Of Jungle  
09.00 Live Educational Program...  
11.03 Mag: Eco@Africa  
11.48 Doc: World Stamps  
11.54 Mag: World Stories  
12.06 Mag: Voa Connect  
12.33 Doc: A Question Of Science  
12.39 Mag: In Good Shape  
13.08 The Exploitation Of Jungle  
13.50 Doc: 360 Geo  
14.43 Mag: Global 3000  
15.09 Mag: Made In Germany  
15.38 Doc: The Alaska Highway  
16.20 Magazine  
17.11 Mag: World Stories  
17.53 Mag: Set One  
18.25 Mag: Urban Gardens  
18.30 Live: News  
18.44 Doc: Set One  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol

## Cine 12

01.28 Tele: Esmeraldas  
02.13 Serial: The L.A. Complex  
03.48 Film: Hannah's Law  
05.11 Tele: Amanda  
06.39 Film: She's The Man  
09.00 Serial: NCIS - Los Angeles  
09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour  
10.10 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett  
10.36 Serial: Chicago Med  
11.25 Tele: Dulce Amor  
11.58 Film: Hannah's Law  
13.30 Tele: Amanda  
14.45 Film: She's The Man  
16.41 Serial: NCIS - Los Angeles  
17.25 Serial: Shades Of Blue  
18.08 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour  
18.35 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett  
19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue  
21.15 Film: Cold Comes The Night

## Bollywood TV

09.10 Film: Aye Din Bahar Ke  
12.04 / 19.54 -  
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam  
12.26 / 20.11 -  
Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala  
12.46 / 20.32 Radha Krishna  
13.08 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe  
13.30 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.52 / 21.46 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.14 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan  
14.35 / 22.25 - Chota Bheem  
15.10 Film: Andaz Apna Apna  
Stars: Aamir Khan, Salman  
Khan, Raveena Tandon  
18.00 Live: Samacher  
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya  
18.51 Piya Albela  
19.13 Mere Angne Mein  
19.35 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

mardi 30 juin

mercredi 1 juillet

jeudi 2 juillet

06.39 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne  
07.35 Local: Priorite Sante  
08.55 Local: Itinerer Moris  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs  
12.35 Doc: Les Porteurs D'espoir  
14.10 Local: Priorite Sante  
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...  
14.59 D.Anime: MIA  
16.03 D.Anime: Chicken Town  
16.30 D.Anime: Delilah Et Julius  
17.30 Mag: Zoboomafooo  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jamaï Raja  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.00 Prod: Lottotech  
21.10 Serial: The Enemy Within  
21.55 Serial: Chicago Police...  
23.06 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha Meetha  
11.31 Suhani Si Ek Ladki  
12.00 Film: Bundal Baaz  
14.30 Mag: DDI Magazine  
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street  
15.30 Honaar Soon Mee Hya  
Gharchi  
16.00 Mooga Manasulu  
16.30 Apoorva Raagangal  
17.00 Mehadhi Tohra Naam Ke  
17.30 Ki Jaana Mein Kaun  
18.00 Dear Prince  
18.30 Kulvadhu  
19.00 DDI Magazine  
20.00 Marathi Local Prog  
20.30 Coming Up Graphics  
20.30 Film: Fists Of Legends II -  
Chinese Film  
Starring Jet Le, Chin-Kun Li  
23.00 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto  
06.26 Mag: Urban Gardens  
07.26 Doc: A Question Of Science  
07.31 Mag: Made In Germany  
08.03 Doc: Horizons S  
08.49 Doc: Urmila, My Memory...  
09.34 Mag: Close Up  
10.44 Doc: Life After Crude  
11.29 Mag: Rev - The Global Auto  
11.55 Mag: Urban Gardens  
12.01 Doc: Builders Of The Future  
12.52 Doc: A Question Of Science  
13.24 Doc: Horizon S  
14.16 Doc: World Stamps  
15.01 Mag: Close Up  
15.31 Doc: Guardians Of The...  
16.14 Doc: Life After Curde  
17.22 Mag: Urban Gardens  
17.58 Mag: Motorweek  
18.30 Live: News  
18.44 Mag: Shift  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol

01.26 Film: Cold Comes The Night  
03.00 Serial: Chicago Med  
03.34 Film: The Social Network  
05.30 Tele: Amanda  
06.12 Serial: Shades Of Blue  
06.53 Film: Witchslayer Gretl  
08.22 Mag: Hollywood No Set  
09.00 Serial: Line Of Duty  
09.59 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour  
10.35 Serial: Chicago Med  
11.18 Tele: Dulce Amor  
11.42 Film: The Social Network  
13.38 Tele: Amanda  
14.26 Film: Hollywood On Set  
14.45 Film: Witchslayer Gretl  
16.40 Serial: Mission Impossible  
18.03 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour  
19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Series: When Calls The Heart  
21.15 Film: Buck And The Preacher  
22.54 Tele: Amanda

08.00 Film: Andaz Apna Apna  
12.04 / 19.54 -  
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam  
12.26 / 20.11 -  
Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala  
12.46 / 20.32 Radha Krishna  
13.08 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe  
13.30 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.52 / 21.46 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.14 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan  
14.35 / 22.25 - Chota Bheem  
15.10 Film: Amanaat  
Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Akshay  
Kumar and Heera Rajgopal  
17.30 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
18.00 Live: Samacher  
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya  
18.51 Piya Albela  
19.13 Mere Angne Mein  
19.24 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai  
20.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

06.00 Klip Seleksion  
07.00 Local: Arsiv MBC  
09.00 Local: Memwar Dan Ros  
09.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Doc: Visite Guidee  
14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur  
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack  
14.59 D.Anime: MIA  
15.10 D.Anime: Dinofroz  
15.35 D.Anime: Astrology  
15.40 D.Anime: Cam And Leon  
16.06 D.Anime: Chicken Town  
16.36 D.Anime: Delialh Et Julius  
17.30 Mag: Zoboomafooo  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Jamaï Raja  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.06 Film: Bhavesh Joshi  
Superhero  
22.30 Chicago Police Department

10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani  
12.00 Film: Ulljhan  
Starring : Ashok Kumar,  
Sanjeev Kumar, Sulakshana  
Pandit, Ranjeet  
14.30 Mag: DDI Magazine  
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street  
15.30 Honaar Soon Mee Hya  
Gharchi  
16.00 Mooga Manasulu  
16.30 Apoorva Raagangal  
17.00 Mehadhi Tohra Naam Ke  
17.30 Ki Jaana Mein Kaun  
18.00 Ghar Pahucha Da Devi  
Maiya  
20.00 Film: Bhavesh Joshi  
Superhero  
Starring: Harshvardhan  
Kapoor, Priyanshu Painyuli,  
Ashish Verma  
22.35 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Motorweek  
06.26 Mag: Urban Gardens  
07.26 Doc: A Question Of Science  
07.30 Doc: Garden Party  
08.40 Doc: World Stamps  
09.43 Mag: Initiative Africa  
10.12 Mag: Focus On Europe  
10.38 Doc: Incredible India  
11.22 Mag: Motorweek  
12.19 Mag: Arts.21  
13.21 Doc: Black Is The Colour  
14.13 Doc: World Stamps  
15.06 Mag: Initiative Africa  
16.01 Doc: Incredible India  
17.11 Mag: Urban Gardens  
17.51 Doc: Set One  
17.58 Mag: Eco India  
18.24 Mag: Urban Gardens  
18.30 Live: News  
18.43 Mag: Shift  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol

01.03 Film: Legends Of The Fall  
03.10 Serial: Chicago Med  
03.46 Film: An Hour Behind  
05.11 Telenovela: Amanda  
05.53 Serial: When Calls The Heart  
06.38 Film: All The King's Men  
09.00 Serial: NCIS - Los Angeles  
09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour  
10.45 Serial: Chicago Med  
11.29 Tele: Dulce Amor  
12.00 Film: An Hour Behind  
13.30 Tele: Amanda  
14.45 Film: All The King's Men  
16.48 Serial: NCIS  
17.30 Serial: When Calls The Heart  
18.14 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour  
18.36 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett  
19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Serial: When Calls The Heart  
21.15 Film: En Quarantaine 2

08.00 Film: Amanaat  
12.04 / 19.54 -  
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam  
12.26 / 20.11 -  
Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala  
12.49 / 20.32 Radha Krishna  
13.10 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe  
13.32 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.53 / 21.46 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.15 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan  
14.38 / 22.25 - Chota Bheem  
15.26 Film: Chalho Driver  
Stars: Kainaz Motivala,  
Vickrant Mahajan, Prem  
Chopra, Manoj Pahwa, Tariq  
Vasudeva, Juhi Pande and  
Silky Khanna.  
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya  
18.52 Piya Albela  
19.14 Mere Angne Mein  
19.36 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai



Jeudi 1 Juillet - 20.06

## Bhavesh Joshi Superhero

Stars: Harshvardhan  
Kapoor, Priyanshu Painyuli,  
Ashish Verma

Jeudi 2 juillet

- 15.26

Stars: Kainaz Motivala, Vickrant Mahajan, Prem Chopra, Manoj  
Pahwa, Tariq Vasudeva, Juhi Pande and Silky Khanna.



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Un pavé dans la mare, censé éclabousser quelques-uns à col blanc immaculé, est-ce bien à cela que se réduit toute cette affaire qui défraie la chronique ? Les principaux concernés se rebiffent, certains jouent aux vierges effarouchées tant leur innocence est indiscutable, un est contraint de vider les hauts lieux, un autre disparaît du radar de l'ICAC, mais tous sont prêts à montrer patte blanche.

Nous voilà rassurés ? Eh bien, non. Pour le public qui se rend aux urnes tous les cinq ans, ceux qui réclament des commissions d'enquête à tout bout de champ et ceux qui aiment les commissions sont interchangeables. C'est l'épine au cœur du problème.

Il faut croire que le pays arc-en-ciel est doué pour figurer sur les listes des instances internationales - noire, grise ou rouge. Les accusations de blanchiment d'argent sont rejetées en brandissant la juridiction qui régule le transfert des capitaux et les compagnies offshore. Difficile de convaincre une institution financière mondiale peu encline à entrer dans le jeu de séduction des acteurs locaux !

En même temps, la transparence proclamée par les gouvernants laisse un goût mi-figue mi-raisin à un public qui s'interroge sur la volonté des gouvernants de fermer les yeux parfois sur la légalité des flux financiers d'investissement.

Le ministre de la Justice de la République démocratique du Congo, l'équivalent de l'Attorney General, se fait épingler pour faux et usage de faux et est sommé de démissionner en attendant son procès. Ici, il y a quelques années, un ministre avait fait fi de l'interdiction de voyager émis par la police à un trafiquant impliqué dans le blanchiment d'argent et avait autorisé, par courrier ministériel, le malftrat à reprendre son périple vers des destinations douteuses.

Aucun procès n'a été intenté à ce ministre qui s'est autorisé à pavoiser tout sourire et sans gêne au Parlement. Ce comportement toléré par un laxisme certain indique une grave crise morale rongant le pays. C'est l'absence même de tout sens moral. Avec de tels boulets, il serait présomptueux de jouer l'innocent auprès de l'Union européenne (UE) et consorts.

Quant au financement du terrorisme, silence radio alors qu'il faut répondre au blâme porté par l'UE. Quelle suite a-t-on donné à la cargaison d'armes qui

# La Saga Bad Boys



“Il faut croire que le pays arc-en-ciel est doué pour figurer sur les listes des instances internationales - noire, grise ou rouge. Les accusations de blanchiment d'argent sont rejetées en brandissant la juridiction qui régule le transfert des capitaux et les compagnies offshore. Difficile de convaincre une institution financière mondiale peu encline à entrer dans le jeu de séduction des acteurs locaux alors même que la transparence proclamée par les gouvernants laisse un goût mi-figue mi-raisin à un public qui s'interroge sur la volonté des gouvernants de fermer les yeux parfois sur la légalité des flux financiers d'investissement...”

apparemment se dirigeait vers Port-Louis il y a quelques années de cela ? C'est la responsabilité et le devoir du gouvernement de faire toute la lumière sur cette affaire. Des actions ponctuelles discrètes et sans bruit menées par les services de renseignement montreraient qu'il y aurait

une volonté de surveiller et de traquer toute association de malfrats malintentionnés et de veiller à préserver la paix.

Mais que l'Etat garde l'œil sur les allées et venues des personnes suspectes locales et d'autres expédiées des contrées peu fiables, cela ne suffit pas. Faut-il encore savoir repérer ceux qui propagent une idéologie radicale sous couvert d'un discours en apparence modéré et soft surtout quand les colonnes de la presse leur sont ouvertes pour les articles et interviews, et qu'entre eux et leurs groupies journalistes, les compliments s'échangeraient en toute réciprocité.

Commissions, pots de vin, enrichissement à coup de baguette magique, campement à Rs 40 millions : le public est témoin de plusieurs cas où la politique serait la porte d'entrée d'un Eden où l'argent pousse sur les arbres. Avec un peu de cynisme, on pourrait presque conseiller aux jeunes diplômés et les sans diplômes de s'engager en politique car c'est la voie royale au favoritisme et à l'argent facile. D'abord comme agent politique car il faut récompenser tous les *canvassers*, colleurs d'affiches, organisateurs de réunions politiques en période électorale.

Les quelques cas impliquant les partis aux couleurs différentes qui parviennent à nos oreilles laissent pantois. Une générosité débordante pour un simple moniteur de sports, plusieurs lots de terrains dans un quartier résidentiel huppé plus une maison. La vie en rêve bleu...

Un receveur d'autobus se retrouve entrepreneur dans la construction depuis une bonne dizaine d'années avec contrats obtenus sous parrainage politique. Acquisition des biens à une vitesse éclair. Un changement de fortune qui suscite des interrogations. Au changement d'équipe aux élections, aucune hésitation de se

tourner là où le soleil brille encore pour lui.

Cet autre aurait obtenu depuis des années, en échange de contribution financière en période électorale et de loyauté du *vote bank* de minorité, des contrats octroyés par l'Etat pour l'approvisionnement de l'essence et la livraison de ciment. Une enquête, quartier par quartier, lèverait-elle le voile sur la fortune inespérée des biens de certains proches du pouvoir politique, et ce, par conflit d'intérêt et favoritisme ?

Les cas des Seniors Grade 3 nommés et, ensuite, promus chefs par favoritisme politique dans les corps paraétatiques, CWA et Sécurité sociale valent qu'on en fasse un véritable rapport depuis des années que le même parti laxiste agirait par clientélisme. Le hic, c'est que ces nominés qui restent au ras des pâquerettes dans leur fonction ne peuvent plus être délogés au changement d'équipe gouvernementale. Et tout passerait alors sous silence...

Et allez prêcher la bonne parole aux étudiants et vantez les vertus de la méritocratie. C'est quand même terrible de voir les médiocres hissés au rang de chef et diriger des gens plus méritants. C'est le plus grand fléau qui freine un véritable développement de ce pays dans différents domaines.

Pris au dépourvu par les récentes révélations sur la saga des *bad boys*, les indignés et indignées habituels ont perdu de leur verve, quelque peu déstabilisés par la tournure que prend l'accusation de pots-de-vin autour des turbines. Les voix se font petites, la prose moins agressive. Le public se pince le nez devant un énième cas de pot de chambre nauséabond. D'autres cas sont passés inaperçus pour le grand bonheur des bénéficiaires, se dit-on. Dans la série des *bad boys* les nouveaux noms s'ajoutent à la fratrie et ne font qu'assurer la continuité pour ne pas rompre avec une pratique clandestine qui se monnaie par millions, entend-on.

C'est un peu le flou qui entoure le résumé expédié par la Banque africaine de développement, et livré au compte-gouttes.

S'il s'avère que tout cela n'est pas farfelu, cela aura l'effet d'une bombe. A se demander quel degré de connivence existe entre les gouvernants et l'opposition dans les coulisses du pouvoir étant donné les tractations. Cette affaire en cachera-t-elle d'autres ? Si oui, on peut dire : *You ain't see anything yet*.

Tout cela ne présage rien de bon pour l'image du pays, la confiance dans la gouvernance et le moral du public, qui tire vers la morosité en cette période post-pandémie. La confiance du public s'orientera plutôt vers la justice du Danemark, ce pays du Nord qui ne plaisante pas avec les cas de corruption et sur lequel on peut compter pour faire éclater toute la vérité.