

MAURITIUS TIMES

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." -- Colin Powell

Matters of the Moment

CEB-BWSC Affair



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The Repute of Mauritius on the Line

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**"Once the Star and the Key
of the Indian Ocean,
Mauritius is a mere shadow
of its former self"**

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Saint-Louis Gate



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Le MMM est-il coincé ou saura-t-il rebondir ?



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World's largest Covid hospital?

For when - the Freedom of Information Act?

What is today known as the St Louis Gate scandal might not have surfaced at all, if it had not been for the African Development Bank's communiqué of 8 June 2020, wherein its Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption concluded that Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC had financially rewarded members of the Mauritian administration and others, for providing access to confidential tender-related information. As a result of which BWSC had won the Rs 4.3 billion contract for the CEB's St Louis power plant redevelopment project.

Scandals usually come to the surface following whistleblower tip-offs - which in this case led to the investigation by BWSC into allegations of misconduct in some of its projects, including the ST Louis power plant; or following government splits in the wake of which the public will be gratified with a volley of mutual insults and accusations by the two sides which have parted company. Potential scandals would otherwise be swept under the carpet, and the public kept in the dark. Ultimately it is the same public which has in the long term to pay the price for questionable decisions and corruptive practices in the public sector in connivance with private sector operators.

If we go by the long list of scandals that have hogged the headlines over the last few years, it would seem that we are well on our way to touch the bottom. Among others are the Dufry scandal, the Alvaro Sobrinho scandal, the Yerrigadoo/Bet 365 and Glen Agliotti affairs, later the purchase by Government of a private hospital which was revalued barely weeks after it had known an initial valuation which went on to swell up disproportionately the acquisition price for the government. There was also the earlier Bel Air Sugar Estate IRS affair which came to the forefront on a suspected case of bribe taking. All these are blatant examples of questionable practices usually resulting from departures from pre-established norms - such departures being shielded from public scrutiny or made possible thanks to the absence of public information on sensitive public matters and decision-taking.

It should have been the normal practice, in all such cases generally, for departures from pre-established norms to be duly documented in files in such a manner

as to make them tamper-proof. This would allow for subsequent inquiries to gather sufficient corroborative evidence to successfully indict one or more persons for acting contrary to law. For long, it has been suspected that ministers or some top bosses in the public sector give verbal instructions so as not to record embarrassing facts. Where public servants act on such verbal instructions, they do so at their own risk and peril. The lessons learnt from the many cases in the past should have made them alive to the dangers of acting outside an established order just to please so-and-so who are usually not available to give support when investigators or auditors close in on actions taken contrary to establishment rules.

Let's consider the CEB- BWSC affair. The public and media attention has focused on the names of politicians and intermediaries that are allegedly cited in the report of the investigation undertaken by the ADB's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption. It would appear that we also have some serious problems with the public procurement process. There are allegations of irregularities having been unearthed at the level of the Central Procurement Board with the discovery of fake bid securities repeatedly submitted in the past by some bidders in relation to the construction of schools and infrastructure works at the airport, etc. What is unknown to this day is what police inquiries would have established in these cases. There are also the pending cases before the ICAC. The outcome of many of its inquiries therein remain unknown to this day.

Such aberrations as are evident in these cases have been going on most probably because of arbitrary discretion exerted by certain persons who are in a position to take or influence decisions. In most cases where questionable dealings are suspected, there is one common factor: the absence of transparency. This is a practice that successive governments have been bequeathing to each other for a long enough time without redressing the situation.

For a long time we have been promised a Freedom of Information Act, which could have acted as an important deterrent against abuse. Why is it not materialising? The answer perhaps lies in the question itself - and the public will surely draw its own conclusion.

The Conversation

A post-pandemic world is unlikely to focus on meeting need over human greed

How often has it been said that 'the world will never be the same again after the Covid-19 pandemic'? If so, the question is, how might it change? Might it not change much at all? The questions have given rise to speculative debate, with optimists and pessimists offering their predictions.

On what grounds do the optimists look to a future in which social justice, environmental sustainability, and reduced inequality are prioritised?

First, it is argued that the pandemic has exposed neoliberalism's failure to provide an adequate response to the twin health and economic crises.

Second, the pandemic has highlighted the need for greater international cooperation in addressing global crises.

Third, the pandemic has starkly exposed the failures of elected right-wing governments to tackle the pandemic - the US, UK and Brazil being the most obvious examples.

The overall optimist view has been stated pithily by one analyst - there can be no return to normality after the pandemic, because normality has long been the problem. Before the pandemic Nobel laureate in economics Joseph Stiglitz offered a sharp assessment of what is wrong, pointing to three major crises in the world: inequality, climate change, and the crisis of democracy. The latter crisis, he argued, is that democracies are not tackling the other two crises. The optimists hope the pandemic will force a more concerted attempt to address these global challenges.

The pessimists, on the other hand, hold out little hope for a more progressive, internationalist, post-pandemic future.

First, they see corporate power being little diminished. They recall how optimists believed that the 2008-2009 financial crisis would bring fundamental change in its wake, but in the event the neoliberal order survived.

The continuing power of the market is shown up in two recent, telling US economic indicators, which viewed together seem utterly bizarre. In April the US stock market recorded its biggest monthly gains since 1987. In the same month US unemployment rose by over 20 million - the largest monthly rise since the 1930s. It is estimated that during the months of the pandemic the wealth of US billionaires has grown by a staggering \$565 billion, while the total number of unemployed in the country rose above 42 million during the same period - bearing out

Second, pessimists foresee the continuing rise of right-wing, populist nationalism in more parts of the world - a trend characterised by xenophobia, racism, and the scapegoating of those deemed responsible



for the pandemic.

Third, with the rise of nationalism will come anti-internationalism. Trump is showing the way with his scorn for international organisations like the World Health Organisation. Some observers fear what is being called 'vaccine nationalism' - the country that first develops an effective Covid-19 vaccine denying access to it for perceived enemies or rivals.

Which is more likely?

Which is the more likely: the optimistic or the pessimistic scenario? Any firm prediction is clearly impossible. There are variables to be considered, the chief one being the length of time it takes to bring Covid-19 under control. The longer it takes, the more far-reaching the economic devastation.

The overall death count will not itself be a major driver of change. An underlying, callous ageism may give rise to the view, not openly articulated of course, that the vast majority of those who have died have been the aged and infirm, doomed to die anyway in the near future. The loss of this cohort would have a minimal economic impact - in cold, materialistic terms such people are expendable. This kind of thinking is probably already guiding Trump's cavalier approach to the pandemic.

A full-blown economic depression, however, would have far-reaching consequences, bringing massive unemployment and social discontent, bankruptcy, and heavy government indebtedness. In such a context the predictions of the optimists and the pessimists become possible - a government response along the lines of Roosevelt's New Deal, or a slide into fascism? Maybe one or the other in different parts of the world? Or perhaps neither? Will there be austerity programmes, with cut-backs in social security prioritised? Might there be a progressive approach, with heavy taxes on wealth and a clampdown on tax havens, as recommended by the likes of Stiglitz and Piketty? Will countries wholly prioritise their own recoveries, neglecting the plight of poor countries?

The likelihood is that there will be a drive on the part of political and economic power-holders to return to normality.

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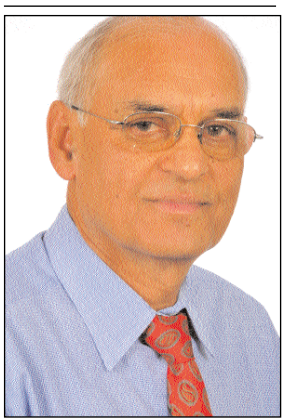


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World's largest Covid hospital?



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

The specificities of the Indian health, medical and epidemiological contexts are contributing to the robustness of the Indian response, which has so far been able to maintain a low fatality rate of 3% and a recovery rate that is nearing 60%

globe in their national immunization programs, saving millions of lives throughout the world.

On the other hand, the Union Health Ministry has revised the guidelines for blood transfusion to include the collection of convalescent plasma under the protocol of the clinical trial from people who have recovered from infection by the Sars-CoV-2 virus, which causes the coronavirus disease. The important point to retain is that all the treatment modalities are being carried out within the framework of strict

acres have been dedicated to a quarantine centre;

- It can accommodate 10,200 beds and 10% of these beds will have oxygen cylinders for serious patients;
- All beds in the facility are made out of cardboard and have mattresses of foam. The beds are biodegradable;
- Over 3000 doctors and nurses have been roped from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and other Central Armed Police Force

toiletry kit, individual charging facility;

- Multiple LED screens have been installed at the facility for entertainment purposes;
- The facility is centrally air-conditioned and will be under CCTV surveillance of Delhi Police;
- More than 18,000 tons of air-conditioners have been installed at the facility to keep it cool;
- An infrastructure capable of withstanding an 18-MW load and comprising 22 km of underground cables and 20 transformers will power the Covid-19 quarantine facility.

The Centre is being set up by the Delhi government for treating mild and asymptomatic patients, in particular for people who are asymptomatic but cannot afford home isolation. It will also be attached to hospitals, in case any patient's condition deteriorates and requires access to urgent higher scale hospital facilities.

In several interviews aired in the media since the beginning of the pandemic in India, Dr Randeep Guleria, Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, has given a very objective, balanced, realistic and reassuring picture of the evolving situation in India.

In so doing he has also taken a broad overview of what is happening around the world and explained how the specificities of the Indian health, medical and epidemiological contexts are contributing to the robustness of the Indian response, which has so far been able to maintain a low fatality rate of 3% and a recovery rate that is nearing 60%.

This new Covid mega-facility comes at a time when it is most needed, and may well be a model for replication elsewhere in India if the situation so demands.

According to the Johns Hopkins University's tracker as at July 1, there are about 10.5 million Covid-19 cases and nearly 511,000 people have died due to the disease across the world.

In India the comparable figures from the Union Health Ministry data are 585,000 and the death toll 17,400. In absolute numbers these figures may look alarming, but when we look at the US, for example, with four times less population there are over 2.5 million confirmed cases and nearly 126,000 deaths. Nevertheless, as India is the fourth worst-hit country in the world, the authorities are taking no chances and are ramping up testing in all States and especially in the most affected ones which are Delhi and Maharashtra. Besides, in order to cope with the increasing demand for hospital beds to treat patients who need admission, hotels and even private clubs have been taken on board to put their facilities at the disposal of the State government.

A number of other developments are under way as part of the ongoing measures to control the transmission of the virus. These include India's first Covid-19 vaccine candidate by Bharat Biotech Ltd, named Covaxin, which has received the central drugs controller's approval for human clinical trials. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reviewed India's preparations for vaccinating its population against the coronavirus

CHARGED UP

12,50,000 sq ft (almost equivalent to 22 football fields) Area of the Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre that has come up at Radha Soami Satsang Beas on the outskirts of south Delhi



10,000 No. of beds
100 No. of subsections, with 100 beds each
1,000 Beds to have oxygen points
1,000 Approx no. of doctors, nurses and paramedics to be deployed



1,000 Commodes and urinals
4 Water pumps installed to drain out water if needed

22km Length of underground cables
24 Transformers to power the centre
4 Power substations installed
23,000 kW Power load
100 BSES staff working round the clock

India gets world's largest Covid care centre in Delhi. Photo - timesofindia.indiatimes.com

disease (Covid-19) once a vaccine becomes available, and said vaccination must be affordable and universal as he directed officials to start work on a detailed plan for carrying out the exercise and review preparations in place.

It may be noted here that the Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd., based in Pune Maharashtra, is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by number of doses produced and sold globally (more than 1.5 billion doses). Vaccines manufactured by the Serum Institute are accredited by the World Health Organization, Geneva and are being used in around 170 countries across the

guidelines and protocols (and clinical trials where these are being carried out), and they are constantly reviewed and updated as new findings and recommendations come up from different studies around the world, and are evaluated in the local context and weighed against local experience.

A major recent development has been the operationalisation of a Covid facility in South Delhi's Chhatapur area. Probably the largest Covid temporary hospital in the world, it has been named Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre and Hospital. It has been built on a staggering lot equal to 22 football fields, located on grounds belonging to the Sikh spiritual organization Radha Soami Beas in Chhatapur. The facts and figures about this hospital are simple staggering:

- The entire facility has been built on 300-acre land while 70

(CAPF) to look after the smooth functioning of the facility;

- There are more than 500 urinals and 450 bathing rooms including bio-toilets;
- Over 57 ambulances and 50 e-rickshaws have been deployed at the Covid centre;
- Each patient will be given a separate bed, tool, chair, plastic cupboard, dustbin,

“A major recent development has been the operationalisation of a Covid facility in South Delhi's Chhatapur area. Probably the largest Covid temporary hospital in the world, it has been named Sardar Patel Covid Care Centre and Hospital. It has been built on a staggering lot equal to 22 football fields, located on grounds belonging to the Sikh spiritual organization Radha Soami Beas in Chhatapur. The facts and figures about this hospital are simple staggering...”



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Mrinal Roy

The Repute of Mauritius on the Line

There should be no quarter. There is no room for failure. There is no alibi for procrastination to fluff the issue or to scuttle the CEB corruption investigation

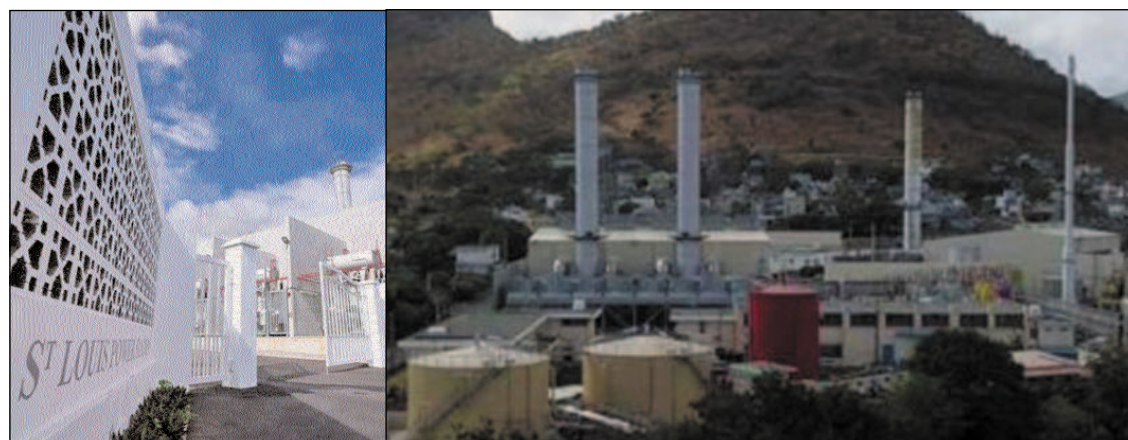
The case of corruption exposed through the findings of investigations by the Danish contractor, Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC) and the funding agency, African Development Bank (AfDB), in the Rs 4.3 billion contract allocated by the Central Electricity Board for the redevelopment of the St Louis power plant has seriously tainted the international reputation and standing of Mauritius. Chest thumping about the ran-king of Mauritius in various performance league tables cannot mask this deplorable development. It has also put the repute of the government and the standard of governance in the country on the line.

Last week, the Prime Minister received under conditions of strict confidentiality a summary of the conclusions of the investigation carried out by the Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption of the AfDB. This report is based on an evaluation of the findings of the inquiry carried out by Burmeister & Wain on the allegation of corruption and bribery in the case of the St Louis power plant contract.

Chronology of events

In a press release on 27 July 2018 Burmeister & Wain had publicly announced shortly after the inauguration of the new St Louis power plant in March 2018 that the company had mandated the law firm Poul Schmith to carry out an investigation into allegations of misconduct in some of its projects made by an anonymous whistleblower. On 6 February 2019, Burmeister & Wain advised the public that their investigation had concluded 'that certain employees of BWSC have violated the company's code of conduct for cooperating with local advisors and contractors in connection with sale of projects in Africa.' As a consequence, 'five employees have been evicted from the company and two persons have been reported to the Danish police as the investigation gives reason to suspect that criminal actions have occurred, including bribery.'

Burmeister & Wain also self-reported the case to the AfDB and other relevant stakeholders and publicly revealed the case of suspected corruption in February 2019. It informed the management of the CEB



“The facts regarding bribery and corruption seem explicit enough. They have been established in independent investigations by two of the key protagonists of the CEB case. The employees of BWSC who have been in cahoots with local advisors and contractors and suspected of criminal actions including bribery have been identified and sanctioned. The gist of the investigation has been done. Mauritius now needs to dot the i's and cross the t's...”

accordingly since 15 February 2019. On 14 March 2019, Nicolaj Holmer Nissen, CEO of Burmeister & Wain officially advised the CEB management that the St Louis project 'was among other projects subject of the investigation.'

After carrying out its own investigation on the findings of Burmeister & Wain probe into the case of alleged corruption in the context of the CEB St Louis power plant contract, the AfDB's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption concluded in a press communiqué released on 8 June 2020 that 'evidence supports a finding that Burmeister & Wain, on a balance of probabilities, financially rewarded members of the Mauritian administration and others, through the intermediary of third parties, for providing access to confidential tender-related information which allowed them to tailor the technical specifications of the tenders to its offering, thus gaining an undue competitive advantage over other tenderers'.

Shameful indictment

The upshot is that two independent investigations carried out by the contractor and the funding agency have established a patent case of corruption and bribery involving members of the Mauritian administration and others on a major public utility contract allocated through international tender procedures. This shameful indictment has been aired in public press releases. From the chronology of events it is evident that the primary source of information on the case of bribery and corruption is Burmeister & Wain and not the African Development Bank.

The diligence, rigour and

competence with which Mauritius carries out its own investigation to nab 'members of the Mauritian administration and others who were financially rewarded' is therefore under the scrutiny of the African Development Bank, other international financial institutions, traditional trade partners such as the EU and friendly countries that have unswervingly supported the country's development efforts. What are also under scrutiny are the standards of propriety, ethics and governance in the country. The credibility of the government and its commitment to transparency and accountability are also on the line. The hour is grave. This is not therefore the time for petty and abject politicking to distract attention from the thrust of the CEB corruption case investigation.

Names of persons involved in the corruption and bribery have reportedly been spelled out in the investigation reports. Mauritius must therefore request a copy of



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the investigation report from Burmeister & Wain. According to a press release issued on 21 March 2018 on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of the St Louis new power plant, BWSC stated that it 'has delivered 10 power plants to CEB over a 20 year period'. Mauritius should therefore have the leverage to obtain full cooperation from Burmeister & Wain to identify all those who allegedly rigged the tender exercise and benefitted from it through bribes. AfDB's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption has also written to the CEO of BWSC to request him to provide all information required to enable the Mauritian authorities get to the bottom of this sordid affair.

Explicit facts

The facts regarding bribery and corruption seem explicit enough. They have been established in independent investigations by two of the key protagonists of the CEB case. The employees of BWSC who have been in cahoots with local advisors and contractors and suspected of criminal actions including bribery have been identified and sanctioned. The gist of the investigation has been done. Mauritius now needs to dot the i's and cross the t's.

It is equally important to investigate the tall claim of government and its key leaders that despite the official press communications of Burmeister & Wain on the outcome of the investigation of corruption in the St Louis power plant contract in February 2019 and the official advice given to the management of the CEB, they came to know of the allegations of corrupt and fraudulent practices only on 8 June 2020. This raises fundamental questions of credibility and exposes the systemic failures of an appalling state of governance in the country.

For too long the country has been afflicted and undermined by patent and pervasive poor governance. For too long licence condoned by those in power has held sway. The St Louis power plant corruption case provides a unique opportunity for the nation to stay mobilized to put an end to a culture of wanton licence and deplorable governance which has systematically sapped and continue to sap the prospects of the country.

No quarter

The CEB corruption investigation is also under the scan and scrutiny of the people who want all culprits involved in the corruption case to be arraigned and sentenced. There should be no quarter. There is no room for failure. There is no alibi for procrastination to fluff the issue or to scuttle the investigation. The blemished reputation of the country can only be restored by ensuring that all those that have sullied its name and standing be swiftly nabbed and brought to book.

Saint-Louis Gate

Le MMM est-il coincé ou saura-t-il rebondir ?

Aditya Narayan

Dans l'affaire Saint-Louis Gate, où le nom de Paul Bérenger est apparemment cité dans un document de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD), reçu par le Premier ministre, la stratégie du MMM nous rend perplexes. En effet, elle est déroutante.

Elle indique soit un refus de confronter directement les détracteurs du leader du MMM sur le plan juridique, soit un optimisme béat quant à la probabilité que l'enquête de l'ICAC le blanchisse faute de preuves, ou encore une incapacité de mesurer les risques politiques posés par la prétendue mention de son nom dans un document de la BAD comme allégué par le Premier ministre.

Personne ne sait à ce stade si le document de la BAD cité est une lettre, un résumé du rapport de la BAD sur l'affaire Saint-Louis ou une autre forme de communication (par exemple, un courriel) entre la BAD et le bureau du Premier ministre.

Personne ne le saura sans doute dans la mesure où le Premier ministre refuse de publier le dit document en invoquant l'argument qu'un accord de non-divulgaration avec la BAD ne lui permet pas de le faire.

“En attendant la fin de l'enquête de l'ICAC, laquelle peut durer un ou deux ans, les attaques contre lui de la part des partis au pouvoir continueront, relayées sans doute par la MBC. Bérenger est-il devenu un adepte de SSR, qui de son vivant n'avait jamais poursuivi ses adversaires en Cour malgré toutes leurs allégations frivoles, en tablant sur le fait que le temps lui donnera finalement raison? *“Truth is the daughter of time, not of authority”*, avait écrit Francis Bacon quatre siècles de cela...”

Si l'ex-ministre révoqué, qui est légiste réputé de surcroît, a qualifié le document de “farfelu”, on se pose des questions sur le contexte dans lequel son nom et celui du leader du MMM sont cités.

Document confidentiel

L'opposition conteste la crédibilité même du dit document. Le député Shakeel Mohamed, faisant état d'une correspondance avec la BAD, a déclaré au Parlement le 30 juin 2020 que le directeur de l'*Integrity and Anti-Corruption Department* de la BAD, M. Alan Bacarese,

n'a pas confirmé avoir remis un document au Premier ministre. Le député a dit que la BAD l'a informé qu'elle ne pouvait partager un rapport confidentiel avec quiconque afin de ne pas porter préjudice à des tierces parties.

En réponse au PNQ du leader de l'Opposition le 30 juin 2020, le Premier ministre a déclaré ceci à l'Assemblée nationale: *“On 29th of June we requested permission to quote the findings of the report of the Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption in the National Assembly. But the ADB stated that we are not allowed to quote any part. I cannot reveal any details thereof.”*

Or, le 26 juin 2020, s'adressant à la presse, le Premier ministre a choisi de citer seulement les noms de Collendavelloo et de Bérenger parmi tous ceux qui seraient mentionnés dans le document de la BAD.

On note que l'opposition, tous partis confondus, est solidaire avec le leader du MMM. Lorsque celui-ci a été expulsé du Parlement mardi, tous les députés de l'opposition ont fait un walk-out en signe de solidarité. Le MMM, le PTr et le PMSD sont unanimes à réclamer une commission d'enquête pour faire la lumière sur cette affaire. Peu importe que ce consensus au sein de l'opposition soit tactique ou stratégique, tous les partis d'opposition disent n'avoir pas confiance en l'ICAC, qui est chargée d'élucider l'affaire de corruption alléguée relativement au contrat du CEB.

Le leader du PMSD est allé plus loin, lors d'une conférence de presse, pour affirmer que seules deux institutions sont indépendantes à Maurice, notamment le Directeur des Poursuites Publiques (DPP) et le judiciaire. Non sans rappeler que le PMSD avait quitté l'Alliance Lepep en raison de son opposition au projet de création d'une *Prosecution Commission* qui aurait réduit les pouvoirs du DPP. Le PMSD avait alors compris les dangers d'un pouvoir sans garde-fous.

Recours légal

Aujourd'hui, le leader du MMM se voit sous un soupçon, justifié ou non. En attendant la fin de l'enquête de l'ICAC, aucune charge ne pèse contre lui. Mais politiquement, les partis dirigeants tentent de le clouer au pilori.

Cela nous rappelle la situation du leader du PTr après les élections de 2014. Des charges furent logées contre Navin Ramgoolam dans 10 procès, dont 9 ont été rayés en Cour faute de preuves probantes. Il reste un seul procès en attente d'une décision de la Cour. Ramgoolam a monté une défense solide contre toutes les charges en faisant confiance à la justice.



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Aussi Pravind Jugnauth a combattu la charge de conflit d'intérêts contre lui dans l'affaire Medpoint en allant jusqu'au Conseil Privé de la Reine, alors que l'ICAC avait entretemps changé de fusil d'épaule.

En revanche, le leader du MMM ne semble pas vouloir, à ce jour, choisir la voie légale pour se venger de l'attaque contre son honneur. Selon un quotidien du 30 juin, il a déclaré à une réunion du Bureau Politique de son parti “que les enquêteurs de l'ICAC finiront par trouver d'eux-mêmes qu'il n'y a aucun lien entre les protagonistes de cette affaire et lui.”

Sur quoi cet optimisme béat est-il fondé? S'il s'estime innocent, il a encore plus de raisons de contester le prétendu document de la BAD en Cour en intentant un procès de diffamation contre ceux qui font peser le soupçon sur lui. Pour quelle raison refuse-t-il l'option légale? Cela dépasse l'entendement.

En attendant la fin de l'enquête de l'ICAC, laquelle peut durer un ou deux ans, les attaques contre lui de la part des partis au pouvoir continueront, relayées sans doute par la MBC. Bérenger est-il devenu un adepte de SSR, qui de son vivant n'avait jamais poursuivi ses adversaires en Cour malgré toutes leurs allégations frivoles, en tablant sur le fait que le temps lui donnera finalement raison? *“Truth is the daughter of time, not of authority”*, avait écrit Francis Bacon quatre siècles de cela.

Risques politiques

Il va de soi que le leader du MMM minimise les risques politiques de cette affaire, dont notamment l'amalgame ethnique entre lui et un autre protagoniste savamment distillé par des thuriféraires de

la majorité. Sinon l'option légale aurait été annoncée en vue de mettre un bémol sur les allégations quotidiennes contre lui.

L'affirmation de Bérenger que l'ICAC ne décelera aucun lien entre les protagonistes de l'affaire et lui pourrait être fondée sur cette conscience innée de pouvoir rebondir de toute épreuve avec l'honneur intact. Il est vrai qu'il a subi des défaites politiques dans le passé, certaines plus amères que les autres. Mais finalement il a pu s'en sortir seul ou en alliance avec un autre parti avec la réputation d'un survivant avec une longue longévité politique.

Auparavant, tous les procès politiques que ses adversaires lui ont faits étaient liés à la politique économique qu'il avait pratiquée durant son passage au pouvoir ou étaient des procès d'intention disant qu'il voulait faire ceci ou cela. Cette fois-ci, la nature du défi est différente. On le vilipende, sur la base d'une apparente mention, telle que alléguée par le PM, de son nom dans un document confidentiel de la BAD, et non des moindres, mais dont on ignore le contexte précis ou le contenu exact.

Comment dissiper un soupçon émis à partir d'un document d'une institution internationale? Le minimum que le leader du MMM puisse faire, c'est de demander à la BAD une copie du rapport qui l'incrimine. Toute personne qui s'estime lésée par les conclusions d'une enquête sur les pratiques de fraude ou de corruption de la firme danoise serait en droit de connaître la source des allégations, leur nature et leur contenu.

Dans notre Etat de droit, tout suspect a le droit de connaître les charges spécifiques qui pèsent sur lui, n'en déplaise aux procureurs politiques.

Flu virus with 'pandemic potential' found in China



Nasal swabs from more than 30,000 pigs in China over 7 years found an increase in an avianlike influenza virus that has swapped genes from several strains. Honglei Sun. Photo - sciencemag.org

A new strain of flu that has the potential to become a pandemic has been identified in China by scientists. It emerged recently and is carried by pigs, but can infect humans, they say. The researchers are concerned that it could mutate further so that it can spread easily from person to person, and trigger a global outbreak.

While it is not an immediate problem, they say, it has "all the hallmarks" of being highly adapted to infect humans and needs close monitoring. As it's new, people could have little or no immunity to the virus.

The scientists write in the journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences' that measures to control the virus in pigs, and the close monitoring of swine industry workers, should be swiftly implemented.

Pandemic threat

A bad new strain of influenza is among the top disease threats that experts are watching for, even as the world attempts to bring to an end the current coronavirus pandemic.

The last pandemic flu the world encountered - the swine flu outbreak of 2009 - was less deadly than initially feared, largely because many older people had some immunity to it, probably because of its similarity to other flu viruses

that had circulated years before.

That virus, called A/H1N1pdm09, is now covered by the annual flu vaccine to make sure people are protected.

The new flu strain that has been identified in China is similar to 2009 swine flu, but with some new changes.

So far, it hasn't posed a big threat, but Prof Kin-Chow Chang and colleagues who have been studying it, say it is one to keep an eye on.

How worried should we be?

The virus, which the researchers call G4 EA H1N1, can grow and multiply in the cells that line the human airways.

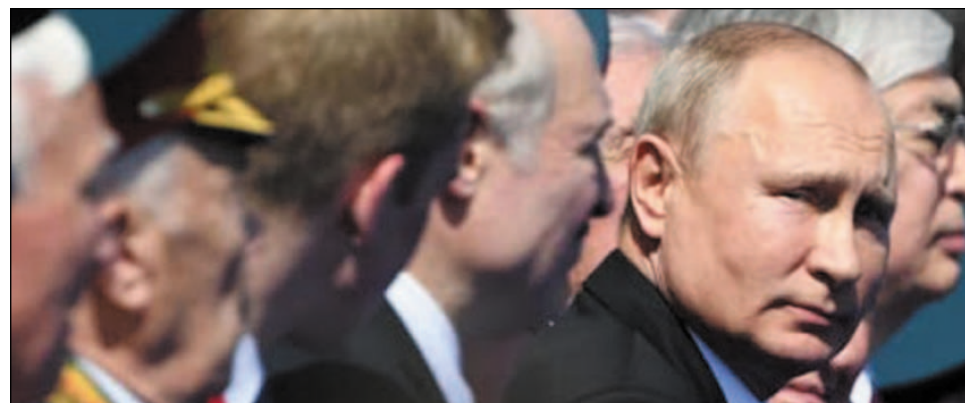
They found evidence of recent infection in people who worked in abattoirs and the swine industry in China when they looked at data from 2011 to 2018.

Current flu vaccines do not appear to protect against it, although they could be adapted to do so if needed.

Prof Kin-Chow Chang, who works at Nottingham University in the UK, told the BBC: "Right now we are distracted with coronavirus and rightly so. But we must not lose sight of potentially dangerous new viruses."

While this new virus is not an immediate problem, he says: "We should not ignore it."

Russia reforms: Putin strongly backed by voters, partial results



Russian voters approved changes to the constitution that will allow President Vladimir Putin to hold power until 2036. Photo - lh3.googleusercontent.com

Russians have strongly supported constitutional reforms that could keep President Vladimir Putin in power until 2036, partial results indicate.

With about 87% of ballots counted, more than 77% of voters backed the measures, the electoral commission said, reports BBC.

The reforms would reset Mr Putin's term limits to zero in 2024, allowing him to serve two more six-year terms.

Opposition members have said he is trying to become "president for life", a claim Mr Putin denies.

Top Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny dismissed the announced results as a "big lie" which did not reflect real public opinion in the country.

There is no independent scrutiny of the seven-day vote, and copies of the new constitution appeared in bookshops during the week.

The last polling stations to close in the vast country spanning 11 time zones shut their doors at 18:00 GMT in the western enclave of Kaliningrad on Russia's Baltic coast.

Even before the vote had ended, the internal affairs ministry said there had been no violations that could affect the result, Interfax reported.

Several hundred opponents of the constitutional changes staged protests in Moscow and St Petersburg.

The Russian president and his supporters say the reforms - in total, more than 200 changes - are needed to ensure national stability.

Mr Putin, aged 67, has not said he will run again for the presidency when his latest term runs out in 2024 - but has said it is vital he has the option to do so.

He has been in power in Russia, either as president or prime minister, for 20 years.

Other conservative reforms include a ban on same-sex marriage and introduce a reference to Russia's ancestral "faith in God".

Both Russia's houses of parliament have already adopted the changes, but President Putin ordered a public vote in a bid to legitimise the reforms. It was delayed from April due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Russian polling stations are usually lively places with music, food stalls and entertainment.

But this vote was far more subdued with temperature checks at the door and staff handing out facemasks against the coronavirus.

Joe Biden names Indian-American Medha Raj as his campaign's digital chief

Indian-American Medha Raj has been named by Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden as his digital chief of staff, a key role in his election campaigns which are entirely going virtual due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the US.

In this capacity, Ms Raj will work across all facets of the digital department to streamline and coordinate how to maximise the impact of its digital outputs, Joe Biden's campaign said.

Ms Raj comes from Pete Buttigieg's campaign, who has now endorsed Joe Biden.

The news was first reported by CNN, which the news channel said is part of the efforts of the Biden campaign to adapt to an almost entirely virtual campaign trail brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

The US is the hardest-hit country by the coronavirus



Medha Raj has been named by Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden as his digital chief of staff. - Photo - theharshdigital.com

pandemic, with more than 2.64 million official cases and over 128,000 deaths.

A graduate in international politics from Georgetown University, Medha Raj has earned her MBA from Stanford University.

Joe Biden, 77, is challenging the 74-year-old Republican incumbent President Donald Trump in the November 3 US presidential elections.

Former US Vice President Joe Biden would formally accept his Democratic presidential nomination at the party's scaled back convention in Wisconsin's Milwaukee city on August 20.

According to some of the latest opinion polls, Joe Biden is leading by more than eight percentage points over Donald Trump.

* More on Page 7

Australia seeks long-range missiles in Indo-Pacific defence shift

Australia says it will significantly increase military spending and focus on the Indo-Pacific region amid rising tensions between the US and China.

PM Scott Morrison pledged A\$270bn (£150bn; \$186bn) to Australia's arms budget over 10 years - a 40% boost.

He said Australia would acquire long-range missiles and other capabilities to "deter" future conflicts, reports BBC.

It was necessary because the region was the "focus of the dominant global contest of our age", he added.

Mr Morrison named several areas of tension including the border between India and China, and conflict over the South China Sea and East China Sea.

It follows deteriorating relations between Australia and China - which are widely seen to be at their worst in decades.

Why does Morrison say this is necessary?

He said tensions between the US and China had accelerated in recent years and their relations now were "fractious at best".

The pandemic had worsened these tensions and put the



Australia would acquire long-range missiles and other capabilities to "deter" future conflicts - Photo - m.economicstimes.com

global security order at its most unstable point in decades. The region was also seeing "military modernisation" at an unprecedented rate, he said.

"The largely benign security environment... that Australia has enjoyed, basically from the fall of the Berlin Wall to the global financial crisis, that's gone," he said.

"The risk of miscalculation - and even conflict - is heightening."

He said Australia would vigorously defend its democratic values and those of others in the region, adding that increasing military capabilities would help "to prevent war".

Under the 2016 strategy, military priorities had been split equally across that region but also on operations with Western allies, such as US-led missions in the Middle East.

Many have also interpreted the shift as Australia taking a more defined opposition to China's increasing influence in the region.

Relations with its biggest trading partner have further deteriorated in recent months, following Australia's push for a global probe into the origins of the Covid-19 virus.

Coronavirus cases still rising in 36 areas of England

With a swathe of lockdown restrictions due to be lifted on "Super Saturday" this weekend, new statistics have shown that there are still 36 parts of England where coronavirus cases are increasing, reports The Independent.

Release from lockdown was put on hold in Leicester as authorities moved to damp down an upsurge in infections that saw the Midlands city record 10 per cent of all positive cases in England in the past week. Its infection rate of 135 cases per 100,000 over the seven-day period was three times higher than the next worst-affected city in the country.

But figures from Public Health England show that other areas have also experienced increases in positive cases between the weeks of 13-19 June and 20-26 June.

The UK economy is on course for a "V-shaped" recovery after a faster-than-expected rebound from the lockdown slump, according to the Bank of England.

Andy Haldane, the Bank's chief economist, said early evidence suggested Britain was benefitting from a surge in consumer spending after coronavirus restrictions were eased.

He said that if the rebound continued on the same path then the loss in annual GDP might be far lower than first feared, at 8 per cent compared to the 17 per cent forecast last month.

The NHS faces a possible exodus of doctors before the second wave of coro-

navirus arrives, a leader of the British Medical Association has warned - with Brexit making it harder to replace them.

A new survey of doctors found almost one in seven is planning to quit the NHS or retire when the current crisis subsides, with many more saying they aim to cut back on hours and almost a third complaining of mental health problems related to four months of relentless struggle against Covid-19.

More than 12,000 UK jobs are set to be lost after a stream of high street retailers and aviation companies announced cuts due to the impact of the pandemic. The John Lewis Partnership warned of store closures and job cuts, while luxury department store Harrods is reportedly set to lose around 700 members of staff. The former said in a statement it was "highly unlikely" the company would reopen all of its stores as it had "too much store space for the way people want to shop now".

A 24-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage by police investigating the toppling of a statue of 17th century slave trader Edward Colston in Bristol.

The bronze memorial was pulled down during a Black Lives Matter protest on 7 June and thrown into Bristol harbour. No arrests were made at the time but Avon and Somerset Police subsequently released 15 images of people they wished to speak to after reviewing footage of the monument being pulled down with ropes.

Hong Kong: First arrests under 'anti-protest' law as handover marked



Hong Kong police have made their first arrests under a new "anti-protest" law imposed by Beijing, as crowds marked 23 years since the end of British rule.

Ten people were held accused of violating the law, including a man with a pro-independence flag. About 360 others were detained at a banned rally.

The national security law targets secession, subversion and terrorism with punishments up to life in prison.

Activists say it erodes freedoms but China has dismissed the criticism.

Hong Kong's sovereignty was handed back to China by Britain in 1997 and certain rights were supposed to be guaranteed for at least 50 years under the "one country, two systems" agreement.

The UK has now said up to three million Hong Kong residents will be offered the chance to settle in the UK and ultimately apply for citizenship.

On Wednesday, thousands gathered for the annual pro-democracy rally to mark the handover anniversary, defying a ban by authorities who cited restrictions on gatherings of more than 50 people because of Covid-19.

Police used water cannon, tear gas and pepper spray on demonstrators. Seven officers were injured, including one officer who was stabbed in the arm by "rioters holding sharp objects", police said. The suspects fled and bystanders offered no help, they added.

One of the 10 arrested under the new law, adopted in the wake of last year's widespread unrest, was holding a "Hong Kong Independence" flag. However, some Twitter users said the picture appeared to show a small "no to" written in front of the slogan. The man has not been identified, and it was not clear whether he would be prosecuted.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Kugan Parapen

“Once the Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean, Mauritius is a mere shadow of its former self”



Mauritius Times: Things at times get messier before they get neater, but that does not seem to be the case here if we go by the list of events and scandals that have been unfolding since some time now: blacklisting by the European Union and termination of DTA agreement by Zambia, crashing of profit at SBM, crash of Air Mauritius. The latest: the ADB's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption report concerning the St Louis redevelopment project, which led to the sacking of ML leader Ivan Collendavelloo. Do you see a common denominator in all of these cases?

Kugan Parapen: When it rains, it pours! Some will have us believe that the common denominator is the Covid-19 but given the cascade of events we've witnessed so far in 2020, it is obvious that there is more to it than what they will have us believe.

In so many ways, we are witnessing the slow demise of a socio-economic monster. A monster that nourished itself on the flames of deceit, cronyism, corruption, nepotism, opacity and blatant lies. While we have had some eminent upstanding politicians gracing our Parliament over time, the general perception is that most governments since Independence have engaged in corrupt practices at some point or the other, be it in a legal or an illegal manner. This perception has become so prevalent that corruption is even tolerated by a significant segment of the population, if not the majority of it.

You ask about the common denominator of our recent tragedies: while the accusing finger will automatically be pointed at the traditional political class, we cannot make abstraction of the guilty status of the electorate. Or even of those who stand for right values and principles but are unable to federate into a meaningful political force.

Beyond the common perpetrators, there are unfortunately the usual victims and the usual suspects...

Kugan Parapen is an economist by profession and also a member of Resitans ek Alternativ. In this interview he shares his views on problems currently hitting the country hard, such as corruption and the feeble-minded efforts to combat it by the national anti-corruption agency. He also comments on the degradation of the polity as well as the citizenry and the lack of opportunities for the present generation who see no hope for their future in this country. He also makes some observations on the global business sector. Nevertheless, he sees in the concurrent crises that the country is undergoing an opportunity to bounce back to our untapped potential provided there is the right leadership and will to do so.

* Let's consider the St Louis affair. The Prime Minister said he acted on the ADB's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption summary report, the contents of which he will not disclose because of a confidentiality agreement with the ADB. The plot however gets thicker when he discloses that the name of Paul Berenger, amongst others, has also been mentioned in that report. What is he playing at?

The Prime Minister has clearly dropped the ball there. The Leader of the Opposition is right in pointing out that by providing crucial information to his Deputy Prime Minister, he has potentially weakened any potential criminal case which could be brought up against Collendavelloo in the future. The same applies for Paul Berenger.

Time will tell whether the Prime Minister is bluffing or not by bringing the leader of the MMM in this quagmire. However, his argument that he was obliged to communicate with his Deputy Prime Minister about the content of the summary report is flimsy to say the least and probably hints at the lack of seriousness given to this blatant alleged act of corruption.

“Hopefully the EU blacklisting can act as a wake-up call and ensure that remedial action is taken to address the core issues. What some term as Global Business, others call fiscal paradise. And the blacklisting unfortunately adds credential to this perception. Until and unless we are able to forge a reputation as a respected, diligent and serious jurisdiction, we will repeatedly face the same hurdles...”

In most previous cases of alleged corruption in the allocation of public tenders, the protagonists were given the benefit of the doubt on account of the absence of a court ruling or a guilty plea. Should the ICAC determine that the case be closed and that there are no grounds for criminal charges, it would in effect mean that our local authorities are dismissing the findings of an important supranational body like the African Development Bank and also exonerating the employees at the Danish company - the same employees who, if we recall correctly, have already pleaded guilty to corrupt practices and have parted ways with the company! That would be 'farfelu', wouldn't it?

It will be interesting to know who takes the bullet in

Mauritius and for whom!

* Politicians are as usual playing politics with the so-called St Louis affair, hurling accusations and counter accusations at each other. But isn't there a case for a commission of inquiry for a broader and more extensive examination of the public procurement process down the years?

“The emergence of a new world order in the East has somewhat aroused the interest of foreign nations in Mauritius again but for different reasons. With its vast maritime territory and numerous islets, the country could play a key role in the global balance of power. We can be sure that foreign ambassadors along with the staff of embassies are compiling reports on the degrading local economic and social conditions...”

The tentacles of corruption can never be established without a proper independent investigation. In the St Louis affair, who can establish the boundaries of the corruption practices? Can one be certain that the Ministers are not involved? Can one exonerate them completely too? Such claims can only be made after a fully independent enquiry has established the truth.

The ICAC has little credibility in the eyes of the population, especially after its U-turn in the MedPoint case. It is perceived as a political instrument used to whitewash wrongdoings of members of the government, irrespective of the government.

Given that it is the Prime Minister who plays a crucial role in nominating the Director of the ICAC, how on earth can we expect the Director of the ICAC to enquire about the Prime Minister? Isn't there a compelling case of conflict of interest here?

Mauritius suffers from a crucial lack of separation of powers. For example, only a Prime Minister can set up a Commission of Enquiry. How absurd is that! In effect, this implies that a Commission of Enquiry can never be set up to enquire about any possible wrongdoing of a Prime Minister. Is that a feature of a fully vibrant democracy? Or rather remnants of monarchy?

We also need not forget that the much-hyped Freedom of Information Act, promised under the 2014 government never materialised.

☞ Cont. on page 9

'Only a Prime Minister can set up a Commission of Enquiry. How absurd is that?'

Is that a feature of a fully vibrant democracy? Or rather remnants of monarchy?'

☞ Cont. from page 8

This is tangible proof of the reluctance of the public sector to operate under the scrutiny of the public. The day we see a few high-profile ministers or officers behind bars on corruption charges will be the day we can start believing that corruption is on the decline in our society. Until then, *je veux y croire mais j'y crois pas...*

*** In view of the all the preceding cases we have just talked about and that have uncovered major lacunae at all levels in different sectors, one wonders what foreign ambassadors posted here, especially those of Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and the US, are reporting back home on the issue of governance and accountability prevailing in Mauritius. Any guess?**

Mauritius has throughout history been of geopolitical interest to some of the world's most powerful nations. While the importance of the country might have receded after the opening of the Suez Canal, the emergence of a new world order in the East has somewhat aroused the interest of foreign nations in Mauritius again but for different reasons.

With its vast maritime territory and numerous islets, the country could play a key role in the global balance of power. We can be sure that foreign ambassadors along with the staff of embassies are compiling reports on the degrading local economic and social conditions.

Mauritius is on the ropes. Once the Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean, it is a mere shadow of its former self. For many unscrupulous states, such a sad reality represents an opportunity for them to leverage on their influence in the region. The poor quality of governance and high prevalence of corruption offer a mouth watering window of opportunity to push one's geopolitical agenda at the expense of the local population.

“This is tangible proof of the reluctance of the public sector to operate under the scrutiny of the public. The day we see a few high-profile ministers or officers behind bars on corruption charges will be the day we can start believing that corruption is on the decline in our society. Until then, *je veux y croire mais j'y crois pas...*”

We've increasingly witnessed such interference over the last decennial and should unfortunately expect more to come our way in the current toxic environment.

*** Do you think the irregularities that have been surfacing in relation to the functioning of public bodies, including regulators, which point to dereliction of duties by functionaries, boards and top management as well as heavy-handed politicization under every government in terms of appointments and interference in decision-making could also be contributing to lay the ground for the blacklisting of the country by the European Union?**

I am no expert in the matter, but I believe that such a perception could have been part and parcel of the motiva-



tion to sanction the Mauritius jurisdiction. Fortunately, not all public bodies are dysfunctional. Our public sector does have within its rank some very capable individuals of the highest professionalism who can get the job done. They must be allowed to get on with their role. No State can function properly with constant political interference.

*** As regards the European Union's decision to blacklist the Mauritius jurisdiction, is this really a bad thing for our Global Business sector and the country?**

The Global Business sector has developed over the years to become one of the most important economic sectors in our economy. As such, the decision to blacklist the jurisdiction comes as a major blow to the whole sector, including the banking sector. One cannot begin to imagine the economic carnage which would unravel should the Global Business sector collapse.

Hopefully the EU blacklisting can act as a wake-up call and ensure that remedial action is taken to address the core issues. What some term as Global Business, others call fiscal paradise. And the blacklisting unfortunately adds credential to this perception. Until and unless we are able to forge a reputation as a respected, diligent and serious jurisdiction, we will repeatedly face the same hurdles.

Paradoxically, the EU blacklist could prove to be a silver lining for the sector. By getting our house in order and showing the commitment and resolve to adhere to strict regulations, our credibility as a financial centre could be restored over time. Time is of the essence though. We cannot afford any more mistakes.

*** At the end of the day, one is tempted to be discouraged or sceptical about making politics work for development and progress in Mauritius. It's no doubt much worse in many other places, but Mauritius has**

the potential to make it big, isn't it?

The thing about potential is that if it is not realised, it tends to wane. A young boy has potential while an old man can only reflect on whether he has achieved his potential or not.

While the life cycles of countries are different from that of human beings, there can be little discussion that Mauritius has unfortunately not fully realised its potential. Many countries which used to lag behind the country in terms of both economic and social indicators have leapfrogged Mauritius and are not looking back. Once a reference for the African continent, the island nation is now perceived suspiciously by many as exposed by the ending of DTA agreements.

The worst is that we do not get the impression that we are on the rise. Every time we thought we hit rock bottom, we somehow managed to reach new lows. With the Mauritian Rupee in a tailspin and impacting adversely the cost of living, many are thinking about emigrating - to join the cohorts who have left before.

The Mauritian dream has been shattered. Members of the government are parading the recent inclusion of Mauritius as a High Income country all over social media as a supposed award of success. They forget to mention that half of the Mauritian working population earn less than Rs. 18,000 per month in a country where inflation is rampant. Have we forgotten that the island has been recently included in the list of the Top 50 most expensive places to live on earth?

We talk of Singapore as the ultimate model. Do we know that the middle class and lower classes barely get through the month over there, even though their average salary is relatively very high in absolute terms?

Different sets of people have a very disparate idea of what success means. Hence the ideological divide that exists between the right and the left. Some believe in the survival of the fittest while others are more nuanced and tend to think more collectively.

From a collective perspective, there is no doubt that Mauritius still has a long way to go. But change, while being permanent, is unpredictable. As Lenin puts it, 'there are decades where nothing happens and there are weeks where decades happen'.

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What is this thing called love?

Love it or loathe it, Valentine's Day is a celebration of romantic love. But what exactly is romantic love? Researchers are increasingly interested in this question, and the answer is not at all clear.

What is an emotion?

Everyone from Plato to Taylor Swift has pondered the meaning of love. But, in the last two decades, researchers in the humanities and across the social, behavioural and cognitive sciences have also investigated romantic love.

Most - though not all - researchers are happy to call romantic love a human emotion. But what researchers mean by "emotion" varies.

Some explain emotions as hard-wired biological processes that are innate to humans. Others talk about them as behaviours or experiences that involve cognitive judgements. And still others think emotions are socially constructed, meaning they are social rather than natural phenomena.

Romantic love: universal or changeable?

Almost everyone separates out romantic love from other kinds of love or intimacy. This separation is usually about sex: when most people talk about romantic love, they mean love that involves sexual desire.

Many researchers think this kind of love is experienced by all people across time and

place, and there is research to support this. Anthropological studies of romantic love across cultures show that love is likely to be a universal human emotion. Neuroscientific investigations of romantic love find similarities in the brain activity or chemistry of people who report being in love.

But the historian William Reddy cautions us not to "make too much of" similarities in romantic love across cultures, and with good reason. There is ample evidence that romantic love varies over time and place.

Cross-cultural studies of romantic love show significant differences in the emotion. And historical investigations almost always demonstrate changes in how people experience or imagine romantic love over time. Is romantic love universal or changeable? There is research to support both viewpoints.

Radical or conservative?

Some of the most interesting research into romantic love looks at its personal and political effects. As the sociologist Mary Evans explains, falling in love is meant to take lovers to a new and different place. Studies of people who are in love report that we understand romantic love as transformative.

And researchers sometimes talk about romantic love as a radical or subversive emotion with the potential to transform society. We can see this particularly in investigations of courtly love. Courtly love was a model of "aristocratic courtship" found in the literature of

medieval France. Historians of courtly love often talk about it as a kind of radical resistance to the power of the church.

Others talk about romantic love as a deeply problematic emotion in desperate need of critique. These researchers would say that we may think romantic love is the site of personal freedom, but in fact we are living under "government by love".

This critique was more common in the 1970s, when radical second-wave feminists attacked heterosexual romantic love as oppressive. But some researchers continue to explain romantic love as one of the ways our lives are regulated and controlled, limiting our intimate possibilities.

I want to know what love is

Some might say all this proves is that we should stop thinking we can research and understand emotions, and just experience them. But I don't think so. Emotional experiences are a very significant part of our everyday lives, but they also have public and political effects.

Research into emotions gives us insight into the shape of these effects. It shows us the way that war widows were mobilised by their grief in 20th-century Australia, or how

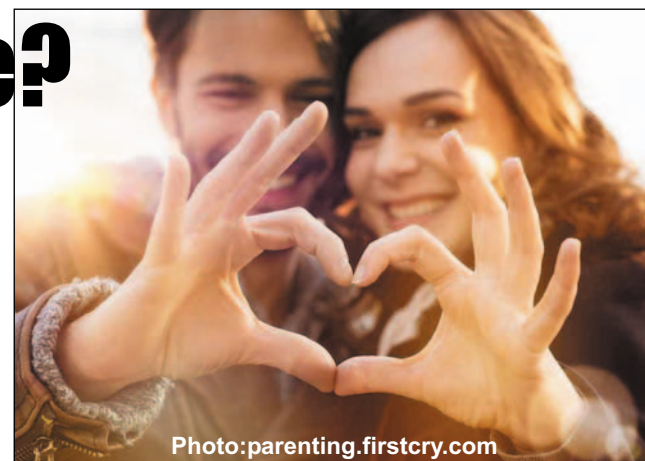


Photo:parenting.firstcry.com

acknowledgements of national guilt for past injustices might lead to restitution for the disenfranchised.

Research into romantic love is built on people's experiences and understandings of their intimate lives. What if love seems muddy in this research because people's understandings and experiences of intimacy are muddy? What if the diverse ways that people live their intimate lives cannot be explained by a specific singular category, "romantic love"?

If that's the case, then we don't really need to worry about fitting into any particular romantic ideal this Valentine's Day. And romantic love can be whatever we want it to be. Embrace it, avoid it, remake it in your own way. Love your partner, your cat, your friends, everyone, nobody. And don't apologise for it.

Sarah Pinto
Deakin University

Love problems? There's a pill for that, but Plato offers a wiser cure

We take pills and potions for everything from a bad back to depression. Why shouldn't we adopt the same approach to love and the miseries it may cause? Oxford ethicist Brian Earp has proposed that we should.

Is pill-popping the best way to ensure we stay in love with our long-term partner? Is it right to artificially maintain the emotions of the first flurry of love? Should we also pop a pill to try to fall out of love in order to end an abusive relationship? In addition to these modern answers to ancient questions, there may also be some useful ancient answers. After all, Greek mythology abounds with stories of powerful emotions causing problems for gods and mortals alike.

The ancient Greek philosophers had a lot to say about the proper way to love. They generally agreed that we should attempt to control the passions, those strong emotions that disturb the tranquillity of the soul. The Ancients generally speak of passionate love as a miserable condition, a state that no-one in their right (rational) mind would wish to suffer. Such violent emotions are dangerous because they distract us from our true pur-

pose in life which is, according to Plato, the search for wisdom.

Likewise, the Stoics refer to the tranquil Sage who cannot be harmed by any external turn of fate and finds happiness within. In common with many Eastern traditions, such as Buddhism, the Stoics argued that romantic love involves a false judgement about the worthiness of the beloved, a false judgement that can only lead to disillusionment and bitterness.

This might seem like a recipe for a bleak loveless world. In reality it merely reminds us of the perils of expecting other people to complete us emotionally. On this account, we can still love, just not to excess.

These ideas may sound strange to a culture that extols the virtues of intoxicating and transformative romantic love (just look at how popular the romcom is). Yet this is a culture in which about four in ten marriages, most of them begun in the heady excesses of romantic love, end in divorce. Maybe a little Stoicism is in order.



Photo:astrologerrudra.com

Advice for the lovelorn

Roman poet Ovid (c.43BC-17AD) offers a therapeutic approach for treating love. His poem *Remedies for Love* states that curing love can lead once more to happiness but you have to really want to change or, as he says: *Give up all tragic, sinister passions.*

Ovid's therapeutic agenda is made clear when he writes: *My aim is practical: it is to extinguish cruel flames, and from love's fetters to free the captive heart.*

Ovid does distinguish between healthy and unhealthy love. One is natural and reasonable, the other pathologically obsessive, idealised, unrealistic and destructive in its irrationality. The second kind is

more interesting, so poets generally have more to say about it.

Obsessive love is insatiable. It never leads to satisfaction or contentment. Sexual fulfilment is temporary and doesn't satisfy the love-desire itself.

From this we get the notion that love is blind - it is not the good we actually seek. We only think it is good; yet it is an imperfect copy of the form of the good - wisdom itself.

Ovid's advice for the lovelorn includes nipping the relationship in the bud, as if someone becomes so intoxicated with the Dionysian frenzy of love, they will not hear reason. In this case you must wait until it has burnt itself out.

His other cures also sound quite modern. Ovid suggests you occupy your mind with other thoughts, work and find something else to do. Don't think about or obsess over the beloved.

If this still isn't working, run away! Travel! Despite the bonds that hold you back, he says: *Go on a long journey ... force your reluc-*

tant feet to run.

Don't just sit and weep in solitude, Ovid counsels. Find some good company and always avoid gossip and mud-slinging - which is always good advice. Finally, stay clear of love-sick people or romantic stories that'll just stir up all those bothersome feelings again.

How is philosophy meant to help?

Good philosophy is therapeutic. The Ancient Greek philosophers such as Plato and the Stoics would probably claim that seeking to fulfil lack with chemical substances is delusional. Firstly, we will always need more and, secondly, that kind of lack can never be satisfied through material or sensual or chemical means.

They would suggest that it is the mind that can overcome this desperate search by finding fulfilment in a rational and pragmatic approach to relationships, or through a more universal form of love.

Laura D'Olimpio & Richard Paul Hamilton, University of Notre Dame Australia

Indian philosophy helps us see clearly, act wisely in an interconnected world

To say the world today is interconnected is a cliché. Never before have so many people been linked by their activities and consequences. But knowing how to think and act as a citizen of this small world is no easy matter.

Indian thinkers have been reflecting on interconnectedness for more than two millennia. I study Indian philosophy, and I believe this diverse tradition offers rich and timely insights about how people might better understand global interconnectedness today and act more wisely.

The "Guide to the Awakened Way of Life" by Shantideva, an eighth-century Buddhist monk, explores the arduous path from ignorance and suffering to spiritual liberation. For Shantideva and his fellow Mahayana Buddhists - the predominant branch of Buddhism in north and central Asia - this involves cultivating a wise understanding of the interdependence of things and a compassionate concern for all sentient beings.

The Hindu scripture the "Bhagavad Gita," written between 400 B.C. and 200 A.D., is a classic of world literature. Through the story of the great warrior Arjuna and his friend and spiritual advisor Krishna, the text explores how one's actions in the world can become a path to spiritual freedom.

These texts, which depict the struggle to find freedom in the world, still resonate today.

Seeing interconnection

In both texts, wisdom requires changing one's perception of the world and one's place in it. One must come to see the world as an interwoven tapestry of cause and effect, and see oneself as part of that tapestry and capable of spiritual freedom within it.

Buddhist thinkers like Shantideva learned to analyze complex things and recognize the network of causes and conditions that give rise to them. As he puts it: "Everything is dependent on something else. Even that thing upon which each is dependent is not independent." The deepest form of wisdom is seeing that all phenomena are empty of any fixed, independent existence. The central message of the "Guide" is that the awakened life unites the wisdom of interdependence with active compassion for all those who suffer.

In the "Bhagavad Gita," the natural world is understood to be a dynamic, evolving tapestry. Our human bodies, minds and actions are inextricable from the larger patterns of cause and effect in nature. Yet the most interesting theme of interconnectedness in the text is not causal but social and moral.

The text opens at the start of a battle between clans for the fate of a kingdom. Describing the scene to his blind king, the seer Sanjaya refers to the battlefield as a field of dharma, the spiritual and moral order that upholds the world. That is, a site of impending conflict, death and chaos is also one of relationship, duty and moral choice.

This is a central message of the "Bhagavad Gita." The human world is inextricable from nature. But as a human world it is upheld by our relationships and responsibilities to one another.

The wise person must see his or her own roles - as parent, child, worker, citizen - in light of this field of relationships. Amid war, or the uncertainty and suffering of a pandemic, the central question is: What can I do to uphold right relationships with others?

Engagement as a path to freedom

Despite their views on the interconnectedness of the world, classical Indian thinkers were not starry-eyed romantics. They recognized that pain and loss are inescapable. They saw that human selfishness and ignorance are deeply woven in the fabric of life. Shantideva describes the human situation like this: "Hoping to escape suffering, it is to suffering that



Students celebrating the Bhagavad Gita in India. Arvind Yadav/Hindustan Times via Getty Images

they run. In the desire for happiness, out of delusion, they cut down their own happiness, like an enemy."

For Indian philosophers, one must see the world clearly in order to act wisely in it. What, then, is the wise response to an interconnected world that inevitably includes the good and bad - even pandemics?

For Shantideva, the awakened life is one of altruistic concern for all sentient beings. Spiritual freedom is waking up from the delusion of being a separate self in conflict with the world. Instead, the wise person realizes that "all those happy in the world are so because of their desire for the happiness of others."

One's own happiness arises from compassion for others. In an interconnected world, Shantideva asks: "In the

same way that hands and other limbs are loved because they form part of the body, why are embodied creatures not likewise loved because they form part of the universe?"

In the "Bhagavad Gita," the key to inner freedom in an uncertain and conflicted world is to change one's focus when acting. Krishna advises Arjuna:

"It is in action alone that you have a claim, never at any time to the fruits of such action. Never let the fruits of action be your motive; never let your attachment be to inaction."

Action in the world is unavoidable. So rather than obsessing about the "fruits" of action for oneself, such as praise or blame, one should focus on the moral quality of the action.

The "Bhagavad Gita" highlights three aspects of action one should focus on. Is the action right? Does it serve the welfare of the world? Is it motivated by love? Krishna's message to Arjuna is that, even in battle, wise action consists in giving up selfishness and doing one's duty out of a sense of love and commitment to the common good.

In both texts, the world is understood as an interconnected web of cause and effect, happiness and suffering, life and death. In such a world, acting from ignorance or selfishness leads to suffering for oneself and others. Acting from wisdom and a love for the common good can lead to sense of inner freedom, even in difficult circumstances.

Matthew MacKenzie

Professor of Philosophy and Department Chair
Colorado State University

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Well-being

What you can do to prevent cancer and why it works

Ditch the smokes

Every puff of tobacco is packed with 250 harmful chemicals. Nearly 70 of them cause cancer. And it's more than just lung cancer. Cigarettes are linked to 12 other kinds, including stomach, bladder, kidney, mouth, and throat. The sooner you stop, the better. Ask your doctor for advice on quit-smoking methods.

Eat more broccoli

Fruits and veggies pack an anti-cancer punch because they're high in nutrients and fiber, and low in fat. Try broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, watercress, or other cruciferous vegetables. They protect against DNA damage that can turn cells cancerous. Or eat colorful berries. Studies show they have cancer-fighting chemicals that ward off damage to cells.

Trim a few pounds

Extra weight around your middle could add up to a greater chance of having cancer, especially of the breast, colon, uterus, pancreas, esophagus, and gallbladder. Researchers say one reason may be that fat cells release substances that encourage cancer cells to grow.

Go easy on alcohol

Tip back too many martinis each day, and your odds of cancer go up. Alcohol is linked to cancers of the mouth, breast, liver, esophagus, and others. The more you drink, the higher your risk. If you drink, do it in moderation. Women should stick to one drink a day, men up to two.

Cut back on hot dogs

Think twice before you throw some on the grill. Studies show that processed meats, like hot dogs, bacon, and sausage, have chemicals called nitrites and nitrates that may be linked to cancer. And research suggests too much red meat like steak and burgers could be a long-term risk for colorectal cancer. Choose safer alternatives for your backyard cookout, like



chicken breast or fish.

Get off the couch

Do you spend too much time lounging around? Cancer prevention is one more reason to get moving. Exercise fights obesity and lowers levels of hormones like estrogen and insulin, which have been linked to cancer. Aim for 30 minutes of aerobic exercise -- the kind that gets your heart pumping -- on most days of the week.

Put on sunscreen

Baking in the sun might give you a healthy-looking glow, but under the surface, UV rays cause skin damage that could lead to cancer. Because you can burn in just 15 minutes, rub on sunscreen before you go outside. Pick a broad-spectrum product with an SPF of 30 or higher. Reapply whenever you sweat or swim. And when you're out in the sun, wear a wide-brimmed hat and wraparound sunglasses.

Practice safer sex

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)

aren't your only worry during unprotected sex. Some of these infections also increase your odds of having cancer. About 70% of cervical cancers start with human papillomavirus (HPV) types 16 and 18. Some types of hepatitis can cause liver cancer. To stay safe, use a latex condom every time you have sex.

Get vaccinated

When it comes to vaccines, think beyond your annual flu shot. Some can protect against cancer, too. Certain HPV vaccines prevent cancers of the cervix, vulva, vagina, and anus. The time to get vaccinated is between ages 9 and 26. The hepatitis B vaccine wards off the virus that causes liver cancer. It's part of the childhood vaccination schedule.

Avoid toxic chemicals

Chemicals called carcinogens damage DNA in your cells and raise your chance of having cancer if you touch, eat, or breathe them in. Asbestos, radon, and benzene are a few that some people come into contact with at work or home. Chemicals in weedkillers, plastics, and some home

products may also be risky. You can't avoid every chemical, but know which ones are in products you use and switch to safer options if you can.

Know your family history

You inherited more than your mother's eyes or your father's grin. They may also have shared their chances for having diseases like cancer. Some genes that parents pass down to their kids have flaws. They don't repair damaged DNA the way they should, which lets cells turn into cancer. Learn about your family's medical history and ask your doctor if a genetic test is a good idea for you.

Stay up to date with screenings

Screening tests catch cancer early -- sometimes even before it starts. A colonoscopy often finds polyps in the colon and rectum before they turn into cancer. The Pap test locates pre-cancerous and cancerous cells in a woman's cervix. Mammograms and low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) look for early breast and lung cancers. Ask your doctor when to start getting these tests, and how often you need them.

Take meds if you need them

Some drugs lower your odds of getting certain cancers. Tamoxifen (Nolvadex, Soltamox) and raloxifene (Evista) can reduce breast cancer risk but may have serious side effects. Aspirin may protect against colorectal and prostate cancers. Be wary, though, of supplements that promise to keep you cancer-free. Many haven't been proven, and some have side effects.

Be cautious about hormone therapy

It can ease menopause symptoms like hot flashes and fatigue, and protect your bones. But hormone therapy may raise your chances of breast cancer and make cancer harder to detect. Ask your doctor about your risks before you try this treatment.

In A Light Vein

Hiring dumb asses to work in influential positions

The king asked the royal weather forecaster to give him the forecast for the next few hours. The palace meteorologist guaranteed there was no rain in the forecast at all. So the king and the queen went fishing.

On the way he met a man with a fishing pole riding on a donkey, and he asked the man if the fish were biting.

The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, you should return to the palace! In just a short time I expect a huge rain storm."

The king replied: "I hold the palace meteorologist in high regard. He is an educated and experienced professional. Besides, I pay him very high wages. He gave me a very different forecast. I trust him."

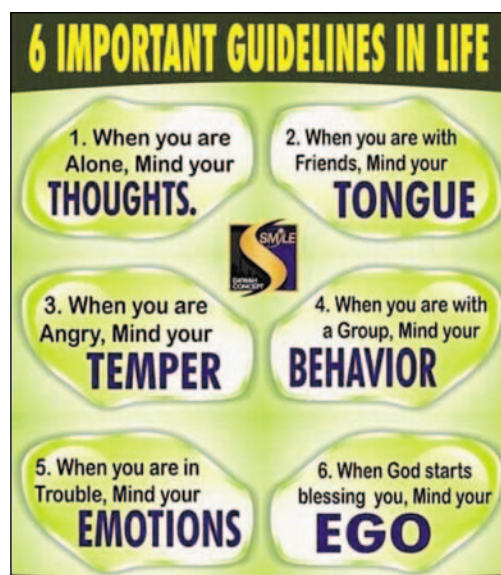
So, the king continued on his way.

However, in a short time a torrential cold rain fell from the sky. The King and Queen were totally soaked. Furious, the king returned to the palace and gave the order to fire the meteorologist. Then he summoned the fisherman and offered him the prestigious position of royal forecaster.

The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, I do not know anything about forecasting. I obtain my information from my donkey. If I see my donkey's ears drooping, it means with certainty that it will rain."

So, the king hired the donkey.

And so, began the practice of hiring dumb asses to work in influential positions. The practice is unbroken to this very day.



In A Light Vein

Julius Caesar and Marcus Brutus are at the airport.

Brutus: "Which is our boarding gate, Caesar?"
Caesar: "A-2, Brutus."

Brutus: "And what time is the flight, Caesar?"
Caesar: "8:02 Brutus."

Brutus: "By the way, I have sandwiches. Do you want one, Caesar?"
Caesar: "Ate two Brutus."

Brutus: "This is an unusual paper size for a ticket. What size is it, Caesar?"
Caesar: "A2, Brutus."

Brutus (thinking to himself): "This man is really beginning to get on my nerves. One of these days I'm going to have to do something to him for this."

* * *

Dark in here

A woman is having an affair during the day while her husband is at work. Her 9-year-old son comes home unexpectedly, sees them and hides in the bedroom closet to watch.

The woman's husband also comes home.

She puts her lover in the closet, not realizing that the little boy is in there already.

The little boy says, "Dark in here."

The man says, "Yes, it is."

Boy - "I have a baseball."

Man - "That's nice."

Boy - "Want to buy it?"

Man - "No, thanks."

Boy - "My dad's outside."

Man - "OK, how much?"

Boy - "\$250."

In the next few weeks, it happens again that the boy and the lover are in the closet together.

Boy - "Dark in here."

Man - "Yes, it is."

Boy - "I have a baseball glove."

The lover remembering the last time, asks the boy, "How much?"

Boy - "\$750."

Man - "Fine."

A few days later, the father says to the boy, "Grab your glove, let's go outside and have a game of catch."

The boy says, "I can't, I sold my baseball and my glove."

The father asks, "How much did you sell them for?"

Boy - "\$1000."

The father says, "That's terrible to overcharge your friends like that... that is way more than those two things cost. I'm going to take you to church and make you confess."

They go to the church and the father makes the little boy sit in the confession booth and he closes the door.

The boy says, "Dark in here."

The priest says, "Don't start that shit again."

Life's Lessons

Lockdown Log

11 simple but startling truths, in a Covid-19 induced reality check exercise

1. National boundaries don't matter. We are in this together. You die I die. So racism, economic superiority 1st 2nd 3rd world category, doesn't matter. Politico socio economic ideologies don't matter. We are all moving towards the same abyss.

2. Big pharma doesn't matter. Medical industry loses its bite. The vicious cycle of maintaining the world in a chronic state of sickness has been broken. Doctors have become noble again. Holier than the holy. The way it was always meant to be.

3. Religion doesn't matter. If God can't save you from dying what good is He? And if you can't congregate what use is religion? You can pray but that's spirituality, personal faith not religion. Religion has lost its fizz.

4. Money doesn't matter. You might have a fleet of servants but they are sitting pretty in their homes. You are sweeping and mopping and cooking and paying them for the work you do.

5. The Queen of England is more vulnerable than the hermit in a cave. Because if you got no social distance you got no chill. So social status doesn't matter. Hermit, Queen same difference.

6. No socialisation so no need for expensive wardrobe. No need to wax and do your eyebrows and fit into that thing. No one is looking at you. Actually, no need to iron either. Fashion loses its fizz.

7. No need for that Mercedes or private jet or even Air Force One because you got nowhere to go. Even if you take your fancy car out against all odds there's no one on the roads to envy you. Lamborghini in the garage - just another piece of junk.

8. Economies based on inequalities, greed and profiteering from all above mentioned commodities dying a painful death. Exposed, called out, refurbished and reengineered, old economic world order changeth, yielding place to new.

9. Because now you just need enough money for basic food and a roof that keeps the sun and the wind and rain out. Some place easy to clean, small is good. Less is more.

10. All that working with your hands is keeping you fit and fear of dying is keeping you healthy. No need to follow celebrity fitness gurus. And now the noble doctor can focus on what is important - saving the world.

11. The only services you need is police to keep the peace, health workers to keep you alive, sanitation workers to keep you clean and a reasonable government that won't go nuts on you. And social media to tell you how many are still out there. How many died, how many lived and to reassure you that you are not alone. And maybe for a few words of wisdom.

This is not a virus. This is renunciation of materialism, greed, inequality, exploitation and pollution. This is a new world religion. A millennial revolution like the driverless car!

The world is one family.

Patience is a virtue...

I know I shouldn't have done this, but I am 83 years old and I was in the McDonald's drive-through this morning. The young lady behind me leaned on her horn and started mouthing something because I was taking too long to place my order.

So, when I got to the first window, I paid for her order along with my own. The cashier must have told her what I'd done, because as we

moved up, she leaned out her window and waved to me and mouthed "Thank you" - obviously embarrassed that I had repaid her rudeness with a kindness.

When I got to the second window, I showed them both receipts and took her food too. Now she has to go back to the end of the queue and start all over again.

Don't blow your horn at old people; they have been around a long time.



Alia Bhatt starrer *Sadak 2* poster released, netizens want to boycott film

On Monday afternoon, it was confirmed that the Bhattas have decided to bypass theatrical release for the film and take it directly to the streaming platform Disney+ Hotstar for an OTT premiere.



know why this guy is not in jail," declared a social media user.

"When you put END to someone's life intentionally, you'll soon release your END," wrote another user.

"We are not interested... get lost," retorted another user.

A user responded by sharing the poster of Sushant Singh Rajput's upcoming last film "Dil Bechara." Another user has started a poll asking people to choose between "Sadak 2" and "Dil Bechara".

While Alia also shared the poster on Instagram, she smartly 'limited' the comments section. Only one comment is visible.

However, Alia's *Sadak 2* co-actor Aditya Roy Kapur shared the poster on Instagram and met with heavy trolling. Aditya, who is the youngest brother of bigwig producer Siddharth Roy Kapur, was faced with a barrage of hate speech aimed at Mahesh Bhatt and Alia Bhatt.

"Boycott *Sadak 2*. Boycott Alia Bhatt and Mahesh Bhatt," wrote a user.

"Sorry bro isme Alia Bhatt hai, hum nahi dekhenge (This film features Alia Bhatt and I am not going to watch it)," wrote another user.

Sadak 2 is a follow-up of Mahesh Bhatt's 1991 hit "*Sadak*" and is produced by his brother Mukesh Bhatt. The sequel reunites the original film's lead pair of Sanjay Dutt and Pooja Bhatt, and also stars Alia Bhatt and Aditya Roy Kapur. *Sadak 2* marks Mahesh Bhatt's return to filmmaking after 20 years.

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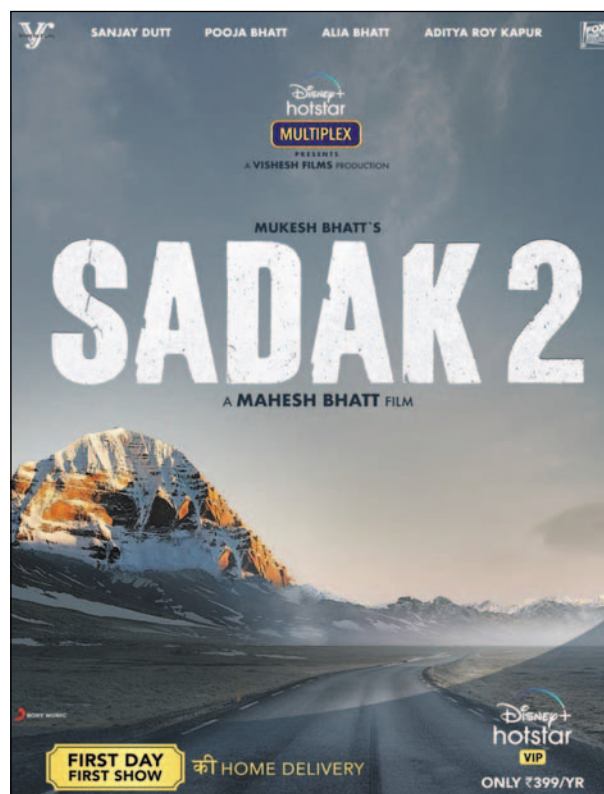
Filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt released the first poster of his comeback directorial feature *Sadak 2*, starring daughters Alia Bhatt and Pooja Bhatt, on social media on Monday evening, and was almost immediately fending against massive trolling and hatred. Ever since the suicide of actor Sushant Singh Rajput earlier this month, Bhatt has been at the receiving end on social media, like many Bollywood celebrities who accused of promoting nepotism and scuttling the chances of outsiders.

On Monday, netizens' anger and hatred reflected in the comment section of the filmmaker's latest post.

Bhatt released the poster with a caption that stated: "When you come to the end, you discover that there is no END."

Reacting to his tweet, netizens slammed the filmmaker, holding him responsible for demeaning Sushant's mental condition and threatening to boycott *Sadak 2*.

"Guy who declared 26/11 as RSS ki Sazish and his own son helped terrorists to identify the places, tried to declare Sushant as mentally unstable, having relationship with lady younger than her daughter's daughter, lowest scum possible...Don't



YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Endowed with an enormous temporary amount of talent, you'll easily succeed in solving practical and material problems. On the financial front, your rather dreamy and carefree side can make you miss some excellent opportunities; consequently, it'll be useful to get help from a more realistic and qualified person.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 17, 20, 30, 32, 34

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

You'll try to establish harmony, and you'll succeed in creating a warm family atmosphere. Being dynamic, you'll overflow with vitality; you'll succeed in handling your work, family life, social and mundane obligations all at the same time.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 14, 18, 21, 33, 36

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Your love affairs will be fine, but they'll tend to be more of an intellectual nature than usual. Some friendly advice could very positively help you. You'll feel like flying after having signed an immensely profitable contract; take care not to be too excited while driving your car.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 10, 20, 33, 34

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your merits will finally be acknowledged and highly rewarded. You're likely to have some clashes in your friendships as well as in your love affairs; sometimes you'll have the feeling of talking to others as if they were deaf, and you'll react violently to this.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 25, 26, 30, 31, 36

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

You'll spend some good moments with an old friend. Favourable circumstances will allow you to progress with giant steps in your professional activity. You'll be vulnerable to people who often appeal to your kindness.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 9, 11, 18, 27, 33

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Despite your recent difficulties, things will smooth themselves out little by little thanks to a more lenient astral climate. The astral benevolence could principally manifest itself in the realm of love; it will satisfy everyone who's looking for a soul mate, just where and when one's hoping for it.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 14, 18, 20, 30

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

It'll be necessary to let your close relations act more or less in their own way, otherwise you'll risk having big fights within your family circle. They're very likely to afflict the wonderful stability and harmony of your couple; show patience and tolerance!

Lucky Numbers: 3, 4, 5, 9, 14, 19, 23

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

A week full of various sorts of annoyances that could transform your love life into a boxing ring and your heart into a punching ball. You'll go through hesitations and painful moods. This time take your family's advice into consideration.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 11, 17, 20, 28, 39

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Renew contacts with your former friends; it's owing to your friends that you'll be able to progress. You should have the benefit of remarkable energy; learn how to concentrate your efforts on a specified objective and pursue it until the end.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 17, 18, 20, 23, 26

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Your fears concerning your material incomes will be renewed; however, it's not by engaging yourself in high risky investments that you'll be able to save yourself from danger; don't think about the too far away future.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 14, 15, 19, 24, 26

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Despite some valuable awareness, you'll go through moments of stress, disillusion, and conflicts. If your heart is free to be taken, you'll make an encounter of paramount importance during a meeting at your close relatives' house.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 11, 13, 15, 19, 20

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You would like to help people in need, but don't go too far in this direction. You'll have the possibility to develop your material and professional situation; you'll proceed prudently, then you'll dash ahead while taking calculated risks.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 12, 17, 20, 25

'Even I have been a victim of nepotism,' says Saif Ali Khan

Saif Ali Khan had two releases in 2020, which includes *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior* and *Jawaani Jaaneman*



Nepotism, favouritism and camps are different subjects. Even I have been a victim of nepotism but nobody speaks of that," said the *Tanhaji* actor.

The *Jawaani Jaaneman* earlier bashed Bollywood for pretending to show that they cared for Sushant Singh Rajput as he told TOI, "There are so many people who've made comments so quickly. And it just seems to me that people are somewhere gaining some mileage from this poor fellow's tragedy, you know, whether it's to show compassion or to show interest or to show some political stance. So many people are talking rubbish in this nonstop kind of barrage on social media and it's just embarrassing, really, I think."

After the untimely demise of Sushant Singh Rajput, we saw netizens raising the topic of nepotism on social media and criticising and Salman Khan, Karan Johar and star kids for making the late actor left out from the industry. Post that, we saw many celebs sharing their opinion on nepotism and how it affected them. The Chhote Nawab of Bollywood, who is the son veteran actress Sharmila Tagore and father of new-gen actress Sara Ali Khan has opined about this trending topic and told The New Indian Express that even he has been a victim of nepotism. "There is inequality in India that needs to be explored.

He added, "Out of respect for him, for Sushant's tragedy, maybe a day of silence or introspection would be a little more becoming than this outpouring of love – an outpouring of love from people who obviously didn't care about him and people who famously don't care about anybody else. "I mean, we don't care about anybody. You know, it's a very cutthroat line of work. But to pretend that you do care is like the ultimate hypocrisy and I think that's an insult to the dead, you know, it's an insult to the soul that's gone."

'Matrix 4': Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss and team head to Berlin to resume shoot



After a long break due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown, the cast of 'Matrix 4' has touched down in Berlin to resume filming. Photos and videos that see the lead stars including Keanu Reeves, Carrie-Anne Moss and Neil Patrick Harris, Jonathan Groff among others enjoying some downtime together in Germany have

the coronavirus-led shutdown in the USA and travel bans in countries across the globe, work on the film was brought to a halt.

'Matrix 4' is scheduled for a 2021 release. The studio is yet to announce the exact date for the film's release.

turned up online.

This development comes shortly after reports confirmed that the makers signed an eight-week extension contract to keep the actors on standby till filming is complete. According to multiple sources, director Lana Wachowski has committed her dates at least till July.

The film which went into production in February was scheduled to move from San Francisco to Berlin mid-March. However, due to

TV SERIAL

Kulfi Kumar Bajewala

Friday 3 July: While Kulfi senses Sikander's presence, the latter acts like a statue when his daughters spot him. Later, Amyra and Kulfi perform together in the play.

Monday 6 July: Amyra creates a scene after being humiliated on set and takes a drastic move. Later, Kulfi gets a huge shock when she spots Sikander brooding behind the scenes.

Tuesday 7 July: Kulfi and Amyra surprise everyone with their strange decision regarding the play. Later, Sikander runs into trouble as two strangers arrive with a shocking news.

Wednesday 8 July: Sikander is in a helpless situation after Kulfi and Amyra get some bad news. Elsewhere, Gunjan takes a bold step on learning the truth behind Nimrat's death.

Thursday 9 July: Jimmy slyly outsmarts Sikander by changing the terms of their contract. Later, Sikander begins to express his feelings to the audience when a fire breaks out.

Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

Friday 3 July: Everybody is celebrating Holi. Preeti kicks off the festival by putting colors on her husband even after his constant denial. All the people of the society are playing it together.

Monday 6 July: After party effects have not gone according to the plans, Shibani expresses her love for Sameer in front of everyone and post that, Sameer starts speaking which shuts everyone up.

Tuesday 7 July: After Naina and Sameer receive the first paycheck of their stay in Mumbai, they buy happiness after setting up their house but Preeti's mother-in-law comes to taunt them at a bad time. Naina and Rakesh both look for a job.

Wednesday 8 July: Sameer gets the appointment letter of Naina and asks about the same to her and she tells the truth that she is going to join the job as she was getting bored at home. Sameer worries about her to work in such a big city.

Thursday 9 July: While Naina is on her way to the office, she asks Sameer about where he is off to, to which he replies that he will go and drop her to the office. Naina's day at office isn't going that great.

Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

Friday 3 July: Pooja has an emotional breakdown after Rohit confronts her. Later at midnight, Suman is admitted to hospital while Sonakshi struggles to get her help.

Monday 6 July: Sonakshi refuses to let Rohit treat Suman while Nishi gives YK an earful. Later, Rohit overhears the truth through Sonakshi's conversation with Pari and Pulkit.

Tuesday 7 July: Sonakshi is taken aback by Rohit's odd move in the court. Later, in a meeting with Rohit and Deepa, she shares her suspicions regarding the case.

Wednesday 8 July: Rohit threatens Sumit and Karan while Rohan lends a helping hand to Pari. Later, Sonakshi is baffled by Rohit's odd behaviour while Ajit teases him.

Thursday 9 July: Sonakshi hugs Rohit during her attempt to escape from Karan. Later, Rohit assaults the latter while Rohan offers to help Pari.

CINE 12

Vendredi 3 juillet - 21.15

Closer

Avec: Natalie Portman, Jude Law,
Clive Owen

CINE 12

Samedi 4 juillet - 21.15

A Room With A View

Star: Maggie Smith, Helena
Bonham Carter, Denholm Elliott

CINE 12

Dimanche 5 juillet - 21.15



vendredi 3 juillet

MBC 1

06.00 Local: Art Live
07.00 Local: Passerelles
09.30 Local: Rodrig Prog
10.12 Local: Portrait D'artiste
10.30 Local: Saver Kiltirel
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Doc: Autour Des Valeurs
12.35 Mag: Eye On SADC
13.01 Doc: Sur La Route Des Vin
14.26 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
14.45 D.Anime: Astrology
15.07 D.Anime: MIA
16.14 D.Anime: Chicken Town
17.31 Serial: You And Me
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod Inde: Komiko
21.45 Serial: Chicago Police...
22.29 Local: Arsiv MBC

MBC 2

10.00 Serial: Tumhaari Natasha
11.20 Serial: Mol
12.04 Film: Dil Diya Dard Liya
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.30 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee
Hya Gharchi
Starring Dilip Kumar,
Waheeda Rehman, Pran
16.00 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
16.30 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
17.00 Mehendi Tohra Naam Ke
17.30 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun
18.00 Serial: Dear Prince
18.30 Mag: MBC Prod
19.00 DDI Magazine
20.00 Serial: Urdu Serial
21.00 Local Prod: Anjuman
21.30 Local: Urdu Programme
23.00 DDI Live

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.44 Mag: Shift
07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.29 Doc: A Question Of Science
07.37 Mag: Tomorrow Today
09.00 Doc: 360 GEO
10.17 Doc: An Army On The Ropes
11.03 Mag: Eco India
11.47 Mag: Shift
12.02 Mag: Border Crossing
12.39 Mag: Tomorrow Today
13.59 Doc: World Stamps
14.05 Doc: 360 GEO
14.57 Mag: Strictly Street
15.21 Doc: An Army On The Ropes
16.06 Mag: Eco India
16.32 Mag: Urban Gardens
18.00 Doc: Bohemian Switzerland
18.30 Live: News
18.45 Mag: Arts And Culture
19.00 Journal Kreol

Cine 12

02.50 Serial: Chicago Med
03.31 Film: Miracles From Heaven
05.15 Tele: Amanda
06.02 Serial: When Calls The Heart
06.42 Film: Jesse Stone
09.00 Serial: NCIS
09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
10.10 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
10.35 Serial: Chicago Med
11.30 Tele: Dulce Amor
12.00 Film: Miracles From Heaven
13.30 Tele: Amanda
14.45 Film: Jesse Stone
16.40 Serial: NCIS
17.24 Serial: When Calls The Heart
18.07 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
18.31 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
19.10 Tele: Dulce Amor
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: The Magicians
21.15 Film: Closer

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Chalho Driver
12.04 / 19.54 -
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.26 / 20.11 -
Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe
13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.56 / 21.46 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.20 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan
14.41 / 22.25 - Chota Bheem
15.20 Film: Shirin Farhad Ki Toh
Nikal Padi
Starring: Farah Khan, Boman
Irani, Kavin Dave
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
18.51 Piya Albela
19.13 Mere Angne Mein
19.33 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

samedi 4 juillet

06.00 Dessin Anime
09.23 Mag: Origami
09.40 Serial: Dark Oracle
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Local: People - No 68
12.35 Mag: Strictly Street
14.15 Local: Itinerer Moris
14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
14.45 D.Anime: Astrology
14.47 D.Anime: Hogie The Globe...
14.56 D.Anime: Mia
16.03 D.Anime: Chicken Town
16.35 D.Anime: Delilah Et Julius
17.30 Serial: You And Me
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Entertainment: Nach Baliye
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod Inde: Lottotech
20.05 Local: Groove'in
21.05 Film: Runaway
23.00 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Ghar Bazaar
Starring Natasha Shailendra,
Nilu Phule, Sharmila Tagore
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
12.04 Mooga Manasulu
12.30 Brundavanam
13.00 Annakodiyum Aintu...
13.30 Anu Pallavi
14.00 Nanda Saukhya Bhare
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.30 Film: Kochadaiyaan
Starring : Rajinikanth,
Deepika Padukone
17.30 DDI Magazine
19.30 Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya
Gatha
20.00 Serial: Bitti Business Wali
20.30 Film: Prahar
Stars: Makrand Deshpande,
Madhuri Dixit, Gautam
Joglekar
22.52 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Aloha-The Spirit Of...
06.48 Mag: Arts And Culture
07.29 Doc: A Question Of Science
08.03 Doc: L'ame Des Chefs
08.53 Doc: World Stamps
08.59 Ma Vie De Femme D'ailleurs
10.16 Doc: Light Pollution
11.44 Mag: Urban Gardens
12.40 Mag: Euromaxx
13.56 Doc: World Stamps
15.25 Doc: Light Pollution
16.05 Doc: Aloha-The Spirit Of...
16.56 Mag: Global 3000
17.22 Doc: A Question Of Science
17.30 Mag: Euromaxx
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.23 Doc: Japon Video Topics
20.02 Doc: Rewilding
20.57 Doc: World Stamps
20.58 Doc: 360 Geo
21.51 Doc: Programmed To Kill
22.38 Doc: It's In Our Genes

01.26 Film: Closer
03.06 Serial: Chicago Fire
03.47 Film: An Hour Behind
05.09 Tele: Destiny
05.59 Serial: The Magicians
06.41 Film: Hannah's Law
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Film: The Social Network
11.10 Film: Cop And A Half
12.42 Serial: Chicago Fire
13.21 Tele: L'esclave Blanche
14.01 Tele: La Premiere Dame
14.49 Mag: Hollywood News Feed
15.05 Serial: Chicago Med
17.00 Serial: The Magicians
17.45 Film: Second In Command
19.45 Mag: Hollywood News Feed
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Series: The Magicians
21.15 Film: A Room With A View
23.07 Tele: Eva Luna

04.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
04.26 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
04.43 Radha Krishna
05.05 Zindagi Ki Mehek
05.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
05.47 Chhanchhan
06.14 Chota Bheem
06.29 Kumkum Bhagya
06.50 Piya Albela
07.12 Mere Angne Mein
08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek
09.56 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai
14.02 Bin Kuch Kahe
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.30 Film: Mr White Mr Black
Starring Sunil Shetty,
Arshad Warsi and
Sadashiv Amrapurkar
20.39 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
21.24 Serial: Naagin Season 2
22.10 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek

dimanche 5 juillet

06.00 Dessin Anime
09.24 Mag: Origami
10.05 Au Pays Des Merveilles
10.30 Local: Un Patrimoine En...
11.05 Local: Un Rasinn
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Prod: Komiko
14.35 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
14.45 D.Anime: Astrology
15.15 D.Anime: Dinafroz
15.35 D.Anime: Astrology
16.33 D.Anime: Linkers
17.30 Serial: You And Me
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local Prod: Bharata Natyam
19.30 Le Journal
20.05 Local: Faya Vibes
21.05 Film: Crystal Skulls
Stars: Richard Burgi, Wendy
Glenn, Sam Redford

07.00 Film: Ghulam Begum
Badshah
08.43 DDI Magazine
11.00 Serial: Santoshi Maa
12.05 Film: Phata Poster Nikhla
Hero
Starring Shahid Kapoor,
Ileana D'Cruz
14.30 DDI Magazine
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.30 Mooga Manasulu
16.00 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht
16.30 Apoorva Raaganal
17.00 Gangaa
17.30 Mahakali
18.30 Magazine
20.00 Maharakshak
21.00 Naagin
21.48 Serial: CID
22.31 Piya Rangrezz
23.12 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Horizon
06.55 Doc: Olivia's Garden
07.44 Doc: Rewilding
08.37 Doc: World Stamps
10.19 Doc: It's In Our Genes
11.04 Doc: Horizon S
11.55 Doc: Olivia's Garden
13.48 Doc: 360 GEO
16.13 Doc: Horizon
17.03 Doc: Olivia's Garden
18.02 Doc: The Tyrannosaurus...
18.30 Live: News
19.05 Journal Kreol
19.20 Mag: Mixeur, Les Gouts Et...
19.45 Doc: Le Roi De La Foret
20.36 Doc: World Stamps
20.39 Doc: 360 Geo
21.31 Doc: Agatha Christie Contre
22.23 Doc: Thailand
23.05 Doc: The Tyrannosaurus...
23.31 Doc: Garden Party

00.24 Tele: The Magicians
01.06 Film: A Room With A View
03.01 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
03.39 Film: Chasseur De Tresor
05.30 Tele: Destiny
06.00 Serial: The Magicians
06.52 Film: She's The Man
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Film: Miracles From Heaven
11.02 Film: Chasseur De Tresor
12.30 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
13.18 Tele: L'esclave Blanche
13.52 Tele: Premiere Dame
15.06 Serial: Chicago Med
17.09 Serial: The Magicians
18.30 Series: Mission: Impossible
19.16 Mag: Hollywood News Feed
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Incorporated
21.15 Film: Concussion
23.13 Film: Miracles From Heaven

00.45 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
02.32 Bin Kuch Kahe
04.23 Pavitra Rishta
05.47 Film: Mr White Mr Black
08.06 Motu Patlu
08.16 Chhanchhan
10.05 Itna Karo Na Mujhe Pyaar
11.50 Piya Albela
13.39 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
15.00 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.00 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Sunday
Starring: Ajay Devgan,
Arshad Warsi, Pares
Rawal, Ayesha Takia
20.30 Entertainment: Nach Baliye
21.14 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.14 Piya Albela

Samedi 28 juin - 18.30

Stars: Sunil Shetty, Arshad Warsi
and Sadashiv Amrapurkar

Dimanche 5 juillet - 18.30

Stars: Ajay Devgan, Arshad Warsi,
Pares Rawal, Ayesha Takia

Programme des Courses

3e Journée - Samedi 4 juillet 2020

1 THE STUD MASTER - CANCER SUPPORT CUP

Distance: 1450 m Valeur [0-20] Time -12h15

1 KALI'S CHAMP	CR	3-9-2-1/5	60	R.Joorawon	7	800
2 HIT THE GREEN	RM	5-9-2-7/4	59	S.Rama	5	400
3 MIDNIGHT MESSENGER	SPN	6-7-6-4/10	59	R.Hoolash	2	2400
4 PHOENIX RISING	RG	6-8-3-4-7/	59	D.David	8	550
5 SEVEN CARAT	SN	7-6-2-N/1	59	D.Bheekary	10	750
6 CHESTER'S WISH	AS	5-3-2-4/6	58.5	J.Bardottier	4	450
7 HE'S GOT GEARS	VA	2-2-2-1-3/	54.5	A.Roy	9	1900
8 NEW GOLDEN AGE	P	3-2-6-6-R/	58.5	S.Bussunt	3	2500
9 VALERIN	CD	3-5-6-2-1/	58.5	O.Sola	1	550
10 BEAR HUG	JMH	6-6-8-6-2/	58	K.Kalychurun	6	3000
11 SACRED NIGHT [EA]	VA	9-6-5-7/8	59.5	-----	11	--

2 THE RETIRED RACEHORSES COMMITTEE CUP

Distance: 1500 m Valeur Benchmark 31 Time -12h50

1 BLACK INDY	PM	4-10-3-3/8	60	C.Segeon	1	430
2 MR GREEN STREET	RM	8-3-3-3-1/	60	S.Rama	8	530
3 ALL ABOARD	SH	3-2-1-7-1/	59.5	K.Kalychurun	6	560
4 CARLTON HEIGHTS	AS	2-9-4-1/8	59.5	R.Joorawon	5	540
5 EMAAR	CD	5-6-2-7-10/	59	O.Sola	3	2300
6 HEAD OF THE PACK	SPN	0-11-8-6-6/	59	R.Hoolash	10	5000
7 HIGH KEY	SN	nouveau	59	D.Bheekary	11	600
8 JET PATH	VA	9-4-5-4/10	54.5	A.Roy	7	4000
9 MAN FROM SEATTLE	RG	6-5-3-1-5/	58.5	D.David	2	420
10 TOP OF THE ROCK	JMH	10-4-7-10-7/	58.5	G.D.Aucharuz	4	4000
11 MARK TAPLEY [EA]	VA	0-8-9-9-8/	59	-----	9	--

3 THE LEOPOLD SEDAR SENGHOR CUP

Distance: 1400 m Valeur Benchmark 36 Time -13h25

1 APOLLO STAR	AS	2-2-4-8-5/	60	R.Joorawon	10	1500
2 IT DOESN'T MATTER *	GR	10-3-2-1-6/	60	N.Tehea	6	570
3 MARAUDING	G	0-0-0-1-1/	60	J.Bardottier	2	180
4 STOCKBRIDGE	SPN	nouveau	60	G.D.Aucharuz	7	2800
5 THE RIGHT STUFF	CD	3-8-6-2-4/	60	O.Sola	8	800
6 FARIHA	CD	0-0-0-0-R	59.5	D.Bheekary	9	4000
7 SENTIDO	VA	6-9-R-9-9/	55.5	A.Roy	4	1000
8 JULLIDAR	PM	1-10-6-6-8/	59	C.Segeon	1	4000
9 STOLEN PARADISE	AS	nouveau	58.5	S.Bussunt	5	2200
10 SKIP THE RED	RM	6-6-7-7-6/	56.5	S.Rama	3	1000

4 THE DAY TO REMEMBER CUP

Distance: 990 m Valeur Benchmark 41 Time -14h00

1 MR CRUMFORD	SN	9-9-6-10-3/	61	D.Bheekary	2	600
2 VARSIDE	SH	4-6-4-1-1/	61	S.Rama	9	1400
3 CANDY APPLE	GR	0-0-0-0-1	60.5	N.Tehea	10	265
4 ARCTIC FLYER	SPN	9-2-7-1-3/	59.5	R.Hoolash	6	1600
5 CAPTAIN OF THE SEA	RG	7-7-10-6/7	59	D.David	8	2000
6 GREAT STOIVANEN	AS	0-0-0-0-9	59	R.Joorawon	3	1000
7 OCEAN DRIVE SOUTH	CD	5-7-4-6-6/	59	O.Sola	5	2000
8 VISION OF TRUST	SPN	6-9-3-1/4	58.5	G.D.Aucharuz	4	700
9 J J'S CAPTAIN	GR	9-3-1-6-2/	56.5	N.Marday	1	540
10 TROJAN WINTER	SJ	nouveau	54.5	V.A.Bundhoo	7	3000

5 THE FRANCE ANTELME CUP

Distance: 1500 m Valeur Benchmark 46 Time -14h35

1 VIKING TRAIL	SJ	1-2-2-1-9/	60.5	G.D.Aucharuz	9	400
2 DREAMFOREST	CD	7-8-7-5-7/	60	O.Sola	6	4000
3 FROM THE ASHES	AS	3-10-7-1-6/	60	R.Joorawon	5	600
4 PATROL OFFICER	GR	2-3-1-1-1/	60	N.Tehea	1	225
5 EDGE OF THE SUN	AS	6-2-2-7-2/	59.5	S.Bussunt	4	1300
6 LEMON DROP SHOT.	SH	nouveau	59.5	K.Kalychurun	8	750
7 ONE DIRECTION	JMH	6-10-2-7/8	59	R.Hoolash	7	4000
8 BURG	SN	4-5-4-5-3/	56.5	D.Bheekary	2	1450
9 TALBEC	PM	5-6-8-2-4/	56.5	R.K.Chumun	3	1800

6 THE COMMONWEALTH CUP

Distance: 1400 m Valeur Benchmark 60 Time -15h10

1 VIRTUE	PM	2-2-1-3-1/	61	C.Segeon	5	210
2 IDEAL SECRET	RM	3-6-7-3-4/	60.5	N.Tehea	6	1600
3 PURPLE TRACTOR	P	R-3/5-10-9/	59	S.Bussunt	2	4000
4 AWARE	AS	6-2/4-3-5/	58.5	R.Joorawon	3	2000
5 AFDEEK	RM	1-7-1-2-3/	57.5	S.Rama	7	400
6 ARABIAN AIR	JMH	nouveau	56.5	G.D.Aucharuz	1	800
7 TRIPPI'S EXPRESS	RG	nouveau	56.5	D.David	4	400

SELECTIONS

- HIT THE GREEN, HE'S GOT GEARS, VALERIN
- MAN FROM SEATTLE, MR GREEN STREET, BLACK INDY
- MARAUDING, IT DOESN'T MATTER, APOLLO STAR
- CANDY APPLE, VARSIDE, MR CRUMFORD

7 THE MAURITIUS TURF CLUB CUP

Distance: 1500 m Valeur [50+] Time -15h50

1 OPERA ROYAL	SH	1-1-1-3-1/	61	D.Bheekary	4	1400
2 BARITONE	PM	3-2-5-5-8/	60.5	C.Segeon	2	260
3 HARD DAY'S NIGHT	RG	7-5-5-4-5/	60	D.David	8	1600
4 TABLE BAY	G	7-3-3-2-2/	59	J.Bardottier	5	600
5 ALSHIBAA	RM	1-2-2-1-3/	56.5	S.Rama	1	250
6 TEN GUN SALUTE	SPN	5-3-5-4-9/	56.5	G.D.Aucharuz	3	4500
7 KING'S COUNTY	GR	3-1-6-2-3/	54	V.A.Bundhoo	7	1200
8 TSITSIKAMMA DANCE	JMH	1-3-3-3-7/	52	K.Kalychurun	6	2500

8 THE PROFESSOR HASSAN RAFFA CUP

Distance: 1500 m Valeur Benchmark 36 Time -16h25

1 DUKE'S DOMAIN	RG	5-5-2-2-6/	61	D.David	1	420
2 WELL CONNECTED	VA	R-1-8-4/4	57	A.Roy	6	590
3 MR HARDY	GR	1-3-9-2-10/	60.5	N.Tehea	3	530
4 SKY HIGH FLYER	G	4-5-2-4-5/	59.5	J.Bardottier	2	1400
5 JALS TIGER	GR	4-7-3-4-2/	59	V.A.Bundhoo	4	1400
6 SAND PATH	CD	8-9-3-2-1/	59	S.Rama	8	420
7 GLITTERROCK	AS	6-9-3-2-7/	57.5	R.Joorawon	9	1600
8 NAPOLI	SN	8-8-8-1-5/	57	D.Bheekary	7	4000
9 VOLATILE ENERGY	SN	3-10-2-3/1	57	G.D.Aucharuz	5	590

9 THE MANGALKHAN PLATE 990

Distance: 990 m Valeur [0-25] Time -17h00

1 MINNESOTA DREAM	GR	nouveau	60	N.Tehea	9	800
2 POINCIANA	SJ	nouveau	60	D.Bheekary	3	1000
3 STREETBOUNCER	VA	7-6-5-4/6	56	A.Roy	4	800
4 VERY VARY	SN	5-3-2-5/1	59.5	G.D.Aucharuz	1	275
5 ICEBREAKER	RM	8-5-5-3-5/	59	S.Rama	5	800
6 DELUSIONAL	SPN	nouveau	58	R.Hoolash	7	5000
7 DOUBLE GAMES	VA	nouveau	58	S.Bussunt	8	2800
8 PICK EIGHT CAPTAIN	G	nouveau	58	J.Bardottier	2	295
9 STREET BYTE	CD	9-8-9-7-5/	58	O.Sola	6	5000

- PATROL OFFICER, VIKING TRAIL, EDGE OF THE SUN
- VIRTUE, AFDEEK, AWARE
- ALSHIBAA, BARITONE, TSITSIKAMMA DANCE
- SAND PATH, DUKE'S DOMAIN, VOLATILE ENERGY
- VERY VARY, PICK EIGHT CAPTAIN, MINNESOTA DREAM

Sadguru's Advice to 50-Years Old & Older

Because none of us have many years to live, and we can't take along anything when we go, so we don't have to be too thrifty.

Spend the money that should be spent, enjoy what should be enjoyed, donate what you are able to donate.

Don't worry about what will happen after we are gone, because when we return to dust, we will feel nothing about praises or criticisms. The time to enjoy the worldly life and your hard-earned wealth will be over!

Don't worry too much about your children, for children will have their own destiny and should find their own way. Care for them, love them, give them gifts but also enjoy your money or what is left of it, while you can. Life should have more to it than working from the cradle to the grave!

50-year olds, don't trade in - your health for wealth, by working yourself to an early grave anymore. Because your money

may not be able to buy your health.

When to stop making money, and how much is enough.

Out of thousand hectares of good farm land, you can consume only three quarts (of rice) daily; out of a thousand mansions, you only need eight square metres of space to rest at night.

So, as long as you have enough food and enough money to spend, that is good enough. You should live happily. Every family has its own problems.

Just **do not compare** with others for fame and social status and see whose children are doing better, etc., but challenge others for happiness, health, enjoyment, quality of life and longevity.

Don't worry about things that you can't change because it doesn't help and it may spoil your health.

You have to create your own well-being and find your own

place of happiness. As long as you are in good mood and good health, think about happy things, do happy things daily and have fun in doing, then you will pass your time happily every day.

One day passes **without** happiness you will lose one day.

One day passes **with** happiness and then you gain one day.

In good spirit, sickness will cure;

In a happy spirit, sickness will cure faster;

In high and happy spirits, sickness will never come.

With good mood, exercise, sun, variety of foods, good amount of vitamin and mineral intake, hopefully you will live another 30 or 40 years of healthy life

Above all...

Learn to cherish the goodness around... like your lover, spouse and friends... They all make you feel young and "wanted"... without them you are surely to feel lost.



ICCR

INDIRA GANDHI CENTRE FOR INDIAN CULTURE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA Phoenix TENDER NOTICE

Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC), High Commission of India, invites tenders from eligible bidders for hiring of IGCIC canteen located at IGCIC premises, Swami Sivananda Avenue, Phoenix on monthly basis. The bidder should have the technical capacity, resources and experience in the catering field.

The companies fulfilling the above conditions may send their representatives to obtain the copy of tender documents and to inspect the canteen anytime during office hours between 0900 to 1700 hrs (Tel:6867661 or 52503970 for appointment). Tenders in prescribed forms, alongwith earnest money deposit of MUR 15,000/- (fifteen thousand only) super scribing "tender for the hiring of IGCIC canteen" in sealed envelope should be submitted not later than 1700 on **24 July, 2020** to the Director, Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, High Commission of India, Swami Sivananda Avenue, Phoenix.

Women leaders and coronavirus: look beyond stereotypes to find the secret of their success



Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand, Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan and Angela Merkel of Germany have all been singled out for the way they have handled the coronavirus pandemic. They've been praised for demonstrating care, empathy and a collaborative approach. These skills - stereotypically described as "feminine" - have enabled them to listen to scientific expertise, work with local authorities and communicate effectively with the public. It has made them come across as transparent and accountable at a time of mass confusion.

In stark contrast, male leaders in some of the worst performing countries - the UK, the US and Brazil - have adopted a leadership style of belligerent rhetoric. They've taken guidance from entourages of confidantes, often instead of experts. Their inconsistent, unclear communications have been compared to "gaslighting". Their tendency to follow this path perhaps isn't surprising. After all, the "hyper-masculine" style - a maverick leader who establishes authoritative power by aggressively rejecting "feminine" traits like collaboration, empathy and respect for due process - proved a successful electoral strategy for these leaders.

There are many men of course who are not like that - just as there are women who don't consider themselves particularly empathetic or collaborative. So, while it is wonderful to see women leaders and feminine leadership being praised so widely during the pandemic, emphasising the stereotypical characteristics of the leaders themselves may reinforce the gendered thinking that helps put macho populist leaders in power.

Breaking the mould

To understand the success of these women leaders in handling COVID-19, the focus should be on the political culture and institutions which allowed women who adopt a "feminine" approach to leadership to come to power. More representative systems create styles of leadership which inherently involve compromise and collaboration rather than aggression and domination. This can create a political culture in which femininity and power are not in contradiction.

We can see the perpetuation of stereotypes in the way that women leaders have been praised for their management of the COVID-19 pandemic. But, beyond that, we can also see how these women are breaking the mould.

Ardern is only the second premier in the world to give birth while in office. She has placed empathy and care at the centre of her personal style of authority. This, in itself, is a breakthrough, but it is notable that when she exhibits the traits of strength, decisiveness and military command, which have also been prominent in her management of the crisis, these too are seen through a maternal lens. One religious leader accused her of implementing a "nanny state", being an "overly controlling parent" and even BBC Newsnight described her as "putting the entire nation on the naughty step".

Merkel is not a mother herself, but she is known in Germany as "mutti" - the "mummy" of the nation. Her route to power is a study in the discourses which frame the way women in politics are seen. Her mentor Helmut Kohl famously nicknamed her his "Mädchen" - his girl - and she demonstrates her economic credentials by evoking the thrifty "schwäbische hausfrau" (Swabian housewife). It has come to the fore in this pandemic, however, that she also has a PhD in quantum chemistry.

Tsai, who also has a PhD, has been praised for her swift action to protect citizens' health during the pandemic. She has also sent humanitarian aid to other countries, including the US. However, while similar action by Ardern was attributed to her compassion, Tsai's response is more consistent with her strong assertion of Taiwanese independence. There were fears that if the virus spread, China would be able to take geopolitical advantage.

Checks and balances produce great leaders

These women are good leaders because they are highly skilled, qualified and experienced. Crucially, though, they have come through political systems in which their kind of skills can be valued, which are explicitly designed to keep strong-man populist leaders at bay. New Zealand, Taiwan and Germany all have multiple institutionalised checks and balances on executive power. They have strong local institutions of governance which favour local participation in politics, rather than a top-down approach.

These nations also have electoral and party-political systems which adopt elements of proportional representation. Such systems frequently give rise to coalition governments and hence necessitate collaborative leadership. To counter perception-biases in voter choice, electoral systems in these countries use party lists, where votes are cast for a party and positions are allocated proportionately to listed individuals. This is how Tsai, Merkel and Ardern were all first elected.

Of course, these systems are not perfect, but the coronavirus pandemic has highlighted both the dangers of systems that promote mavericks and the need for strong institutions to check their whims.

The pandemic has also placed in sharp relief the need to invest in care and social infrastructure - "feminine" areas of the economy that have been overlooked for too long. The experience of women leaders who have reinvented both political leadership and femininity and the institutional contexts which have allowed them to get to the top, can help reimagine inclusive political processes in the wake of the crisis.

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Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Supporting Your Spouse

It is natural in a marriage for shifts to take place - these can be navigated smoothly with open communication.

Throughout the course of a successful marriage or long-term commitment, the two people in the relationship may shift in and out of various roles. For example, one person in the couple may support the other person going back to school. In order to do this, he or she steps into a supporting role, setting aside certain goals or aspirations in order to provide a stable base from which his or her partner can launch in a new direction. There are many gifts of learning inherent in this role--from having the opportunity to embody a nurturing stance to feeling the pleasure of seeing a loved one thrive. When our partner expands his or her horizons, ours expand, too, and we gain access to a world that would otherwise remain closed to us.

However, there is also much to be said for having a turn to be the one stepping outside the box, perhaps taking time to attend to our personal healing, spiritual pursuits, or other interests. In order to maintain balance within our relationships, it's important that we address these issues each time one person steps into a supporting role so the other can try something new. When we are conscious about acknowledging that one person is bearing a bit more of a burden so that the other can grow, we stand a better chance of making sure the ebb and flow in the relationship remains fair and equal.

The most important part of this process is open communication in which each person has a chance to express how they feel and come to an understanding about the roles they have agreed to play and when they expect them to shift. Each time a dynamic shift occurs, a ceremony of acknowledgment can lend an air of distinction to the moment. This can be a simple dinner or an elaborate ritual, depending upon what works best for us at the time. Perhaps the most important thing is expressing gratitude to the person in the supporting role and encouragement to the person moving in a new direction. When the flow of feeling and communication is open, a healthy closeness develops that allows each person in the relationship to have a turn at each of these important roles.