

MAURITIUS TIMES

"When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too". -- Paulo Coelho



Issues of Identity

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Protest Movements and Opportunists

Protest movements across the world seemed to have gained a new dimension in the wake of the self-immolation by Mohamed Bouazizi, a Tunisian street vendor who set himself on fire on 17 December 2010, in response to the confiscation of his wares and the harassment and humiliation inflicted on him by a municipal official and her aides. His desperate act became a catalyst for the Tunisian Revolution and the wider Arab Spring against autocratic regimes. The jury is still out as to whether an Arab spring actually came to be.

However, subsequently copycat protest movements took place from time to time in other countries by the spontaneous mobilization of citizens marching to make themselves heard about issues of national concern and hoping to be heard by the authorities with actions to follow. Thus we had the Gilets Jaunes movement in Paris which lasted several weeks and then died a natural death, with indeterminate outcomes. Then we have witnessed the protests in Hong Kong against mainland China's policies - and the result has been the enactment of even more repressive laws against the island's residents.

More recently is the Black Lives Matter or BLM movement which started in the US after the death in police hands of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Starting there, BLM protests soon spread to many other American cities, and then across the world, with the participation of matching numbers of non-Black participants. All of us were horrified by the repeatedly played scene of the policeman's knee choking the victim's neck until he became unconscious and died. And the BLM resonated because it concerned a human being who did not deserve such brutality.

By the same token, we felt that the protest that was held on 11 July in Port Louis to express public anger and exasperation against the recent measures announced by the government was justified, more so as it was peaceful one and the list of proposals submitted to the authorities concerned citizens of all categories, though the hardest lot are of course workers and the vulnerable groups. Our editorial of 14 July welcomed the protest as a hopeful new beginning 'for it is quite a long time that we have not seen something like this. Most of the trade unions and NGOs had come together to put a strong defence of the

rights of workers and citizens'. Another contributor lamented the decline of union clout and the rise of individual and egoistic interests by citizens consumed by materialism, but nevertheless commended the submissions made by the protesters.

Unfortunately, one of the risks attending these large scale protests is that opportunists with their own narrow interests join in to get free and wider publicity, or to carry out acts of vandalism that then evoke public disgust and reactions, not least at times from those who at the outset were supportive. This is what happened when the BLM protests were infiltrated by vandals, and violence marred the peaceful marches as people broke shop windows and started openly looting. It was a repeat of scenes that had taken place in London a few years ago. And it's not as if the vandals were all from the poorer sections of society. In fact, in New York in the very first week of protests, a Black woman was seen stopping her... Porsche as she was driving past a high end shop that had been broken into, coolly walking in and shortly afterwards walking out with a bagful of items!

And since such protests are called via social media and there is no identifiable leader, nobody can intervene to stop such dilution of the primary purpose of the protests and thereby tarnishing the image and credibility.

This is what happened too in our local solidarity march. Some people were seen carrying a banner alluding to RSS-M, mercenaries, Modi. Any right-thinking Mauritian will and should condemn such a conflation because it deflects attention from the core contention of the march, namely the deemed unjust measures that impact EVERY citizen, not just one group or one community. What did the banner have to do with the substantive issues being flagged?

And if then there is a reaction on the part of people who feel offended, the mainstream media will make the offenders become the victims and the accuse those who have felt aggrieved. The banner had no place in this protest march, and could even be perceived as an incitement to hatred and violence. That is the sort of danger that such irresponsible and provoking acts represent.

We must not allow genuine, peaceful protests for just causes to be hijacked by opportunists and potential pyromaniacs.

The Conversation

How coronavirus made us nostalgic for a past that held the promise of a future

N'ostalgic consumption' has been on the rise throughout lockdown bringing us the comfort and certainty of better times. But can we use it to build a more sustainable future?

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, we have found ourselves in the middle of a nostalgia frenzy.

Most notably perhaps, has been the huge surge in nostalgic hobbies such as knitting, crochet and DIY fashion, an ongoing obsession with baking bread, etc. These "nostalgic consumption" practices tapped into a collective sense of uncertainty and anxiety. By indulging in nostalgia, the past seemed a safe harbour - and far more reassuring than the present or future.

The problem and the solution

Consumption has become a dominant human practice. As the key driving force of every market economy, it is often regarded as both the problem and solution for crises. In this pandemic, certain kinds of consumption were restricted as a means to keep people safe, as we saw with lockdown.

All but essential shops were ordered to close, as were bars, restaurants, gyms, sporting events, not to mention schools and many workplaces. And of course leisure travel was mostly forbidden. As things ease, governments are keen to encourage people to start spending again to help stimulate the economy.

Now, as countries begin to open up, there is ongoing debate about whether we will resume our old ways of consuming - with all the consequences this might have for the economy. Will we see a boom in native tourism for example, while other established sectors such as conferences and large-scale live entertainment collapse? Should we even be striving to get "back to normal" given we are in the middle of a climate change crisis that demands more responsible and sustainable consumption?

It's difficult to predict what consumption will look like in the future. Reflecting on the way we have been consuming over the last few months might be useful. While coronavirus imposed restrictions on consumption, it also led to self-reflection and the realisation that contrary to common market economy doctrine, consumption is not the key to happiness.

Nostalgia often becomes more prevalent and appealing in times of crisis. Originally meaning "a longing for home", it's come to mean a longing for a past that was good but has now been left behind.

A more peculiar form of nostalgia is the longing for how things were just before coronavirus turned our lives upside down. This challenges a basic assumption of



Baking bread at home - Photo s3-prod.craigslist.com

nostalgia research: that nostalgia is a longing for a past that can no longer be recovered.

Throughout lockdown many were nostalgic not for how things were in the 1990s, or when they were little, but for how things were just a few months ago. People yearned for the pub, hugs, a day at the office and other mundane things, despite the fact there was always the prospect of doing so once the pandemic had passed.

But coronavirus has made simple things like holiday plans, going clubbing or shopping seem more challenging. What we are really witnessing is a nostalgia for a past that held the promise of a future.

Despite the comfort of reconnecting with the past, nostalgia can disguise a variety of challenges. There is a risk of reproducing the negative parts of the past, such as outdated gender roles. This was exemplified in lockdown with women devoting a larger share of their time to homeschooling, thereby sacrificing their own career ambitions. Some sociologists are already pointing out that this could set women back at least three decades in terms of equality.

Time for reflection

But this crisis could also serve as time for reflection. Does our current economic and social system allow for a sustainable future? While this pandemic has had - and continues to have - devastating consequences for the more vulnerable parts of society, others have found themselves enjoying the peace and slower pace of lockdown, focusing on what is really important in their lives.

This could mean finding pleasure in more simple, healthy and sustainable consumption - reading, gardening, crafting, hiking and getting out into nature. The challenge ahead will be to strive for the best of both worlds - to learn from the past so we can build a better future.

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Issues of Identity

Why do some people make such a fuss about identities, why do they get so serious that their acute sense of and need for specific identities pitches them into mortal confrontations with the 'other'?

I don't know when the term 'identity politics' was coined but it has come to the fore of late and has been linked to the rise of populist parties in Europe and America,

where aspiring politicians and their parties create vote banks by going along with the demand for recognition from groups united around race, religion, gender, ethnicity or other assorted identities.

In the US, the 'institutionalised racism' that even President Obama was so powerless against has been exemplified over and over again by the police actions against Black Americans which have resulted in so many unfortunate deaths. The recent one of George Floyd in Minneapolis has spawned the 'Black Lives Matter' or BLM movement, which has now snowballed into an open fight against racism.

Trying to learn a bit more about and understand these developments led me to read 'What is white supremacy?' by Elizabeth 'Betita' Martinez, which begins with a definition by the Challenging White Supremacy Workshop, San Francisco, CA. It reads: 'White supremacy is an historically based, institutionally perpetuated system of exploitation and oppression of continents, nations, and peoples of color by white peoples and nations of the European continent, for the purpose of maintaining and defending a system of wealth, power, and privilege.'

The fuss about identities

While all this was happening, I reminisced about various incidents in my life that had to do with identity, although at the time they took place I never formally associated the term 'identity' with them. It was clear to me who I was – it was others who perceived me in various ways. As I look back on those shall I say 'encounters' at this stage of my life, I can do so with relaxed humour and some philosophizing: why do some people make such a fuss about identities, why do they get so serious that their acute sense of and need for specific identities pitches them into mortal confrontations with the 'other'?

My own adventures, though, were in retrospect learning experiences about human nature and society, and that too from an early age when I was in no position to quite make out what was going on in the minds of my interlocutors. These began as early as in primary school, at the then Church of England Aided School aka L'Ecole Baichoo in Curepipe Road, now better known as Otter Barry School. The majority of us pupils were from the locality where several communities lived and mingled, and certainly in the school or outside we children would play together and never think about skin colour or community.

Growing up in those early 1950s we sort of instinctively knew that the families living in the area were from diverse religions and community-types: Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Chinese, Creole, Mulate, but there weren't any Whites. Among the Christians by the by we got to know who among the families were Catholic, Protestant and Adventist.

All this, however, didn't affect the budding friendships which cut across all these categories – except one: what I later came to learn was social class, but in those days, we knew that the better-off among us had cars, wore nice shoes and clothes, and had shining school bags. The boys among the rest of us wore mostly khaki shorts and shirts

made of *la toile écrue*, the cheapest cloth available. And when it was cold, we braved it because our parents couldn't afford to buy us warm clothing. Shoes were not of leather but the ubiquitous white cloth type – *souliers lapins*, and that too only for the rare outings. Many came to school barefoot.

It was in Standard II as it was known then that one day my teacher, Miss Chadien (whose husband Francis Chadien was in the Labour Party) asked me some question and called me 'Gopee Mulate' (Mulate – mulatto). Later she added 'Pi'. I do not remember whether anybody laughed, because in those days teachers were very severe and one could not take liberties; I do not even remember whether I felt in any way offended or how I reacted. 'Gopee Mulate Pi' stuck to me for a good while. 'Mulate' I could understand because of my skin colour, but to this day I cannot fathom why 'Mulate Pi' – perhaps Miss Chadien was privy to some secret information that I still do not have.

This episode points to the most obvious criterion about one's identity: what one looks like, and the first thing one notices is skin colour, based on which a first judgement – right or wrong – is made. Next come the facial features including hair colour, the name, the language one speaks and the accent among others.

Moving on to Royal College Curepipe, I found myself in the same kind of mixed environment of fellow students from all communities, religions and ethnicities which, again, didn't impinge on friendships in the class or on the playfields. Nor did our teachers ever show any sign that this diversity was of any consequence. For recall, the Rector then was an Englishman and many of the staff were from Britain, the remaining Mauritian ones being graduates from there too or from France.

The one thing that stood out was that the White students would cluster on the bench to the right of the entrance hallway, as it opened on to the quadrangle-cum-volleyball pitch, in the mornings and recesses. This did not disturb anybody.

'Fake' Hindu hegemony campaign

In that period of pre-Independence, as students who were focused on our studies and school activities, we were blissfully unaware of the political polarization that was playing out at large, with the rise of Gaetan Duval as King Creole borne on the shrill echoes of what would today qualify as the 'fake' Hindu hegemony campaign that the vitriol of NMU was peddling on an almost daily basis in *Le Cernéen*. We hardly read the newspapers anyway.

RCC introduced me to language as identity, though I repeat that this is a retrospective 'diagnosis'. In fact, as I moved through the lower forms, I was asked alternately whether I spoke French at home/where I had learnt to speak the language, by our French teacher Dr Karl Noel (nicknamed 'Mafate') after he had made me read a poem, 'L'Albatross'. He seemed mightily pleased, but for me that was neither here nor there. Many years later, in Marseilles, Professor Bureau, Chief of Plastic Surgery under whom I was doing a fellowship, told me '*Tu as un étrange accent belge*.' A similar story repeats as regards English with my geography teacher Mr Gill, who expresses astonishment at my spoken English when I tell him that I have never been to England. And ditto later with Mr Herbert Bullen the Rector.

To us all the teachers from Britain were from England,

English. It was years later that I came to know about the chasms that split down the length and breadth of Britannia. The first inkling of this caused me some embarrassment, because I had touched a very sensitive chord in my lady guest. She was the wife of a Mauritian colleague who was doing a short stint with us at SSRN Hospital after his graduation from the UK. We had invited them for dinner at home, in the hospital quarters. After settling them down by way of conversation I engaged her in some small talk. At some stage I said 'of course you English...' Her reaction was immediate, 'Excuse ME,' she exclaimed, 'I am NOT ENGLISH, I am WELSH!' Nevertheless, we had a pleasant evening.

It was a few years later that I went to specialize in the UK, and I got to know some of the deeper realities about languages spoken, regional accents and the class and ethnic divides that go along with these. Interestingly, one day in the Operation Theatre the Sister told me 'you look Indian but your accent is not Indian', to which I replied 'I am Mauritian'. Her reply? – 'Thank God you're not Indian!'

Which brings me to medical college in Calcutta (now Kolkata). It was my first day as we were waiting to enter the anatomy hall, and I was with these Bengali classmates, seeing them the first time too. Where are you from? - they asked in a chorus. From Mauritius, which I had to explain and that my forefathers were from Bihar – at least that's what I had heard in Mauritius. You're lying, they said, you are not from Bihar. You must be from Punjab, Kashmir. Didn't mean a thing to me at that time, so I insisted, Bihar. No, no, you don't look like a Bihari. Well, I snapped in a bid to end this exchange, I do not know what a Bihari looks like, so suit yourself!



“In the US, the 'institutionalised racism' that even President Obama was so powerless against has been exemplified over and over again by the police actions against Black Americans which have resulted in so many unfortunate deaths. The recent one of George Floyd in Minneapolis has spawned the 'Black Lives Matter' or BLM movement, which has now snowballed into an open fight against racism...”

As a matter of fact, it was only when I was applying for the PIO card some time ago that I learnt from the MGI archives that my great-grandfather came from District Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh.

And a last one, even more interesting! Four of us medical students from the hostel went on a holiday to Odisha: Jacob and Raymond, Malaysians of Keralite origin and Christian; Jaya from Sri Lanka, Buddhist, and me, Hindu. We went to visit Lord Jagannath Mandir. At the entrance, we are stopped and told in Hindi that only Hindus are allowed to enter. My friends, who don't speak Hindi, in low voice request me to keep silent about their religious identity. Believe it or not, the 'problem' was not with them but with me – and we had a good laugh later in the hotel!

The gatekeeper insisted that I was a Muslim! I decided to argue and he was adamant until I played my trump card – the locket depicting Lord Krishna that hung from my neck chain.

Who am I? Poor others, let them figure it out!

Plummeting standard of ethics and governance



Mrinal Roy

There is a pervasive feeling that government rhetoric on key matters of governance is in essence a lot of hot air

The writing has been deeply carved on the wall since donkey's years. It has been blatantly evident for years that the ingrained culture of successive governments to nominate political appointees to

key posts of the government Establishment and at the head of important government institutions and state owned companies was bound to backfire and crumble under the weight of patent incompetence.

It is also glaringly obvious that the current government has nurtured cronyism and nepotism to an extent never witnessed in the country before. The upshot is that it has basically created a protective safety net for the party faithful at enormous public expense. Cushy posts paid from public funds assure that there are no losers among the coterie. The cohort of political appointees are all guaranteed winners.

Thus, party candidates who were rejected by the people or did not obtain tickets to contest the elections have been appointed as ambassadors or reinstated to the key posts they were occupying before the elections. The coterie and the party faithful have been nominated to important constitutional posts such as that of the Speaker or at the head of key government institutions and state owned companies. This decried system of political patronage results in a galling and shameful situation which defies the sovereign will of the people as it allows those that are rejected by the people at the polls to be appointed to fat cat jobs at public expense. To crown it all, the retired faithful are re-employed on handsome terms at the expense of public funds, as if they were indispensable.

The result is that the merit based promotion prospects of the able, qualified and competent members of the hierarchy within the government Establishment and its institutions are systematically thwarted by nepotism and favouritism. The new list of ambassadors shows that most of our diplomatic outposts are headed by political appointees. For those of us who have actively participated in international trade negotiations with the EU, at

the WTO or at regional level, it is obvious that the choice of politicians or the dilettante instead of seasoned career diplomats who master their brief as ambassadors for a country so dependent on export trade and economic diplomacy is tantamount to shooting ourselves in the foot. Are the interests of the country and its economic actors subordinated to political short-termism and the parochial interests of the governing party or alliance?

The recent call by the Bank of Mauritius to the State Commercial Bank of Mauritius to change members of its board in the wake of yet another case of an unsecured loan of allegedly over a billion Rupees approved by the Bank is yet another example of the long list of botched and costly decisions taken under the watch and oversight of political appointees of every ilk.

Defying popular will

Such an abject system of governance is anathema to the multitude. The verdict and choice of the people at the polls should be the final and definitive arbiter of those eligible to serve the country. The appointment of candidates disavowed and rejected by the electorate to key posts at the head of state institutions or companies is contrary to elementary standards of ethics as well as basic rules of propriety and norms of decency.

The upshot is that the standard of ethics and governance in the country has plummeted to depths never experienced in the chequered history of the country. The galore of scandals uncovered recently in the country keeps piling up at the doorstep of government. These *inter alia* include the case of corruption established by independent investigations carried out by the contractor, Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC) and the funding agency, the 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, the order of Rs1.5 billion of medical supplies during the Covid-19 lockdown through emergency procurement procedures from unproven suppliers and the alleged allocation of prime state lands valued at billions of Rupees. The lack of transparency of the rules governing the manner in which the Rs 140 billion advanced by the Bank of Mauritius to Government and the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC) will be used and the unchecked depreciation of the Rupee causing terrible hardships to large swathes of mainstream Mauritians are also some of the burning questions being raised by the people. Rising prices of essential consumer goods fuelled by the depreciation of the Rupee obviously boost up government revenue through VAT.



Photo: capital-media.mu

“Why on earth has the government therefore not officially asked and obtained a copy of the findings of the BWSC investigation (which is the primary source of information in the case of corruption and bribery in the St Louis power plant contract) as yet? Mauritius has various levers to obtain a full copy of the independent investigation carried out by a law firm mandated by BWSC in order to identify and nab 'members of the Mauritian administration and others who were financially rewarded.' This is therefore an acid test for the government to walk the talk...”

Lot of hot air

The people expect straight and credible answers and cogent actions from government to urgently and satisfactorily address these important issues germane to the repute of Mauritius and standards of governance in the country and the people's well-being. We should recall that the investigations into serious allegations of wrongdoings which caused the resignation of some 10 ministers under the previous mandate of the government are yet to be concluded. Despite the government declared intent to quash drug trafficking, the investigations relating to the most important hauls of drugs intercepted are yet to lead to prosecution of the kingpins and exemplary sanction. There is therefore a pervasive feeling that government rhetoric on such key matters of governance is in essence a lot of hot air.

It has been more than a month since the AfDB's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption concluded in a press communiqué released on 8 June 2020 'that Burmeister & Wain, on a balance of probabilities, financially rewarded members of the Mauritian administration and others, through the intermediary of third parties.' The government must realize that every bank including the African Development Bank is governed by strict rules of prudence and caution to avoid any risk of litigation. By the same token, one could assume that whatever they have revealed in the summary shared confidentially with government including the names purportedly mentioned in the summary would have been checked and validated by the AfDB.

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Covid-19: procédure d'achat d'urgence

Une remise en question systémique de l'appel d'offres

Tous les gouvernements dans les pays démocratiques font face à l'urgence sanitaire, mais ils n'ont pas tous contourné les procédures normales sous prétexte que la santé publique n'a pas de prix

Aditya Narayan

On croyait que le Gouvernement avait tiré les leçons de l'affaire Saint-Louis dans laquelle le CEB avait accordé un contrat "taillé sur mesure" à la firme danoise Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC) dans le cadre de pratiques frauduleuses, comme allégué dans le communiqué de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD) du 8 juin dernier.

Or, utilisant une procédure d'achat d'urgence à la faveur de la pandémie Covid-19, il vient d'accorder de nombreux contrats de fourniture de médicaments, de masques et d'équipements médicaux, pour une valeur totale de Rs 1,5 milliards, à des fournisseurs locaux et étrangers sans passer par un appel d'offres approprié.

En principe, l'attribution des marchés publics par le Gouvernement est faite après un appel d'offres, qui est une procédure fondamentale dans le mécanisme de gouvernance financière. L'appel d'offres a pour objet de mettre en concurrence des soumissionnaires pour la fourniture de produits ou de services à l'acheteur (l'Etat) en vue d'avoir l'offre la moins coûteuse tout en assurant le rapport qualité-prix. Cette méthode d'adjuger les contrats

d'approvisionnement est d'autant plus importante dans le secteur public que c'est l'argent des contribuables qui est en jeu.

Procédure d'urgence

A la limite, une compagnie privée peut se permettre d'allouer un contrat à qui elle veut parce qu'elle n'est redevable qu'envers ses actionnaires. Par contre, l'Etat est censé utiliser les deniers publics à bon escient. L'intérêt public exige que les fonds recueillis à partir des impôts et des taxes soient dépensés avec prudence, dans la transparence et avec le devoir de rendre compte de chaque roupie utilisée.

Arguant d'une urgence sanitaire imposée par la pandémie Covid-19, le Gouvernement a outrepassé la procédure normale (appel d'offres) pour attribuer des contrats d'approvisionnement en médicaments et en matériel médical à des individus ou des entités privées (compagnie pharmaceutique, hôtelier, quincaillerie, bijouterie, etc.). Pour ce faire, il a invoqué l'article 21 de la *Public Procurement Act* de 2006 qui prévoit, sous le sous-titre "Emergency Procurement", que :

1. Un organisme public peut acheter des produits et services ou solliciter des travaux d'un seul fournisseur sans recourir à la concurrence dans des cas d'extrême urgence ;

2. L'étendue de l'achat d'urgence sera limitée autant que possible à la période d'urgence afin que des méthodes d'achat compétitives puissent être utilisées à la fin de la période d'urgence.

L'alinéa 21(3) de la loi définit l'extrême urgence pour inclure, entre autres conditions, une situation où le pays est menacé sérieusement par, ou est actuellement confronté à, une catastrophe, une guerre ou un "Act of God."

Personne ne nie que la pandémie est une situation d'urgence. Cependant, quand on attribue des contrats d'approvisionnement, il y a un minimum de prudence (*due diligence*) à observer en termes de vérification au préalable des antécédents ou des mérites du fournisseur. Tous les gouvernements dans les pays démocratiques font face à l'urgence sanitaire, mais ils n'ont pas tous contourné les procédures normales sous prétexte que la santé publique n'a pas de prix...

périence en matière de produits/équipements médicaux et qui se découvre soudain une vocation de fournisseur dans un domaine qui lui est étranger.

En matière de marchés publics, l'Etat a privilégié - une fois de plus - la méthode du marché négocié sans mise en concurrence (*sole source contracting*). Cette méthode de passation de marchés par entente directe sans appel à la concurrence veut que le contrat soit accordé à une personne (naturelle ou morale) qui se présente aux portes de l'Etat avec une offre, sans invitation ou sur invitation, à l'exclusion d'autres fournisseurs méritants.

Seuls ceux qui ont obtenu des contrats savaient que l'Etat était à la recherche de fournisseurs. Nous avons vu des manifestations diverses, et malheureuses, dans le passé par rapport à cette méthode tant décriée. L'histoire se répète dans des scénarios inépuisables.

Cas précédents

De triste mémoire, nous rappellerons trois exemples en particulier pour souligner que la jurisprudence mauricienne en matière de relations contractuelles entre l'Etat et ses fournisseurs évolue à géométrie variable.

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sionnement, il y a un minimum de prudence (*due diligence*) à observer en termes de vérification au préalable des antécédents ou des mérites du fournisseur. Le Gouvernement a dit que le but de la procédure d'urgence sans appel d'offres était de se procurer des produits/équipements dans les délais les plus courts afin d'éviter une rupture de stock.

Sole-source contracting

Tous les gouvernements dans les pays démocratiques font face à l'urgence sanitaire, mais ils n'ont pas tous contourné les procédures normales sous prétexte que la santé publique n'a pas de prix. Ils ont plutôt eu recours à un appel d'offres rapide et simplifié (*fast-track bidding*) suivant deux méthodes :

- (a) en invitant les soumissions en ligne selon un format basé sur des paramètres objectifs ; et
- (b) en faisant appel aux fournisseurs déjà enregistrés (*vendors of record*) qui sont fichés au fisc et qui ont pignon sur rue.

Ils n'ont pas accordé de contrat à n'importe quel quidam n'ayant aucune ex-

- Entre 1990 et 1995, l'Etat avait un contrat de location d'une partie du bâtiment du Sun Trust pour le ministère de l'Education. Le gouvernement travailliste de 1995-2000 avait résilié ce contrat, mais le Sun Trust avait contesté en Cour la décision du gouvernement. La Cour suprême lui accorda des dommages de Rs 45 millions pour rupture de contrat. Un contrat est un contrat, avait dit la Cour.
- En 2010, l'Etat avait acquis la clinique de MedPoint pour Rs 144 millions (contre l'évaluation initiale de Rs 75 millions) d'une compagnie privée. L'ICAC fut saisie de cette affaire, et elle intenta une poursuite contre l'ex-ministre des Finances qui avait tiré le chèque à l'ordre de la compagnie pour cause de conflit d'intérêts. La Cour intermédiaire devait condamner l'ex-ministre, mais celui-ci fut acquitté par la Cour suprême et blanchi subséquemment, par le Conseil privé selon une interprétation de la loi anti-corruption.

➔ Suite en page 11



Personne ne nie que la pandémie est une situation d'urgence. Cependant, quand on attribue des contrats d'approvisionnement, il y a un minimum de prudence à observer.
Photo - afrique.lalibre.be

Second wave of coronavirus in UK could lead to 120,000 deaths this winter

Britain faces a potentially more deadly second wave of Covid-19 in the coming winter that could kill up to 120,000 people over nine months in a worst-case scenario, health experts said on Tuesday.

With Covid-19 more likely to spread in winter as people spend more time together in enclosed spaces, a second wave of the pandemic "could be more serious than the one we've just been through," said Stephen Holgate, a professor and co-lead author of a report by Britain's Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS).

"This is not a prediction, but it is a possibility," Holgate told an online briefing. "Deaths could be higher with a new wave of COVID-19 this winter, but the risk of this happening could be reduced if we take action immediately."

The United Kingdom's current death toll from confirmed cases of Covid-19 is around 45,000, the highest in Europe. Including suspected cases, more than 55,000 people have died, according to a Reuters tally of official data sources.

The AMS said there is a "high degree of uncertainty" about how the UK's Covid-19 epidemic will evolve, but outlined a "reasonable worst-case scenario" where the repro-



People enjoying outdoors as UK eases restrictions. Photo - AP

duction number - or R value - rises to 1.7 from September 2020 onwards.

The R value - the average number of people an infected person will pass a disease on to - is currently between 0.7 and 0.9 in the UK and daily case and death numbers are falling. An R value above 1 can lead to exponential growth.

"The modelling estimates 119,900 hospital deaths between September 2020 and June 2021," the AMS report

said, more than double the number that occurred during the first wave.

AMS vice president Anne Johnson said a bad winter flu season, combined with large backlog of patients suffering other diseases and chronic conditions, would add to huge pressure on health services - underlining a need to prepare now.

"COVID-19 has not gone away," she said. "We need to do everything we can to stay healthy this winter."

* * *

Oxford coronavirus vaccine results 'promising' as initial data set for release

The initial data on a trial of the coronavirus vaccine being developed by Oxford University will be released in the coming week, The Lancet medical journal has announced amid reports its findings have been promising, reports The Independent.

The development of a vaccine to fight against the virus has been touted as pivotal in returning the world to life as it was before the pandemic by protecting vulnerable people and building up immunity among populations.

The number of paid employees in the UK fell by 649,000 between March and June, while job vacancies disappeared, official figures show. Early estimates showed there were 1.9 per cent fewer people on employers' payrolls in June compared with a year ago, the Office for National Statistics said. However, experts warned that the jobs figures masked the true scale of the crisis.

Suriname national assembly votes in Santokhi as new president



President Chan Santokhi
Photo - Facebook

Suriname's National Assembly voted in former justice minister Chan Santokhi as its new president Monday, ending the rule of former strongman Desi Bouterse, who had dominated the country's politics in recent decades.

Santokhi, of the Progressive Reform Party, won a majority of seats in the assembly in a May national election, ahead of Bouterse whose government oversaw the collapse of the South American nation's economy

despite the recent discovery of vast oil reserves.

"Our country is on the brink of financial collapse," Santokhi told the assembly in a televised victory speech. "The government we form will pursue a coherent policy to work together towards that one goal: the recovery of Suriname."

Bouterse, who led Suriname through the 1980s as head of a military government and then assumed office democratically in 2010, will stay on as president until Aug. 12.

In November, a court sentenced Bouterse to 20 years in prison for ordering the execution of 15 adversaries in the former Dutch colony who had spoken out against his seizure of power in a February 1980 coup. The 74-year-old is appealing the conviction.

French President Emmanuel Macron, in a statement, congratulated Santokhi and wished for greater cross-border cooperation between Suriname and neighbouring French Guiana.

Suriname's population

The 2012 census reveals that Christianity is the predominant religion in Suriname, accounting for 48.4 per cent of the country's total population while Hinduism is the second-most practiced religion, composing 22.3 per cent of the population respectively. The country also accounts for the third-highest number of Hindus in the Western Hemisphere.

Indians settled in the Dutch plantations in Suriname under the British rule and have since stayed on due to the liberal policies of the country allowing them to practise their religion. They form the religious majority in North Suriname.

Huawei: China attacks UK's 'groundless' ban of 5G kit

The Chinese government has said it is "strongly opposed" to the UK's "groundless" ban of Huawei's 5G kit.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying added Beijing would "take measures to safeguard" the "legitimate interests" of Chinese companies.

The US, however, has welcomed the move and announced new restrictions against the firm.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the US would curb travel access for some of Huawei's workers.

"The State Department will impose visa restrictions on certain employees of Chinese technology companies like Huawei that provide material support to regimes engaging in human rights violations and abuses globally," he told a news conference. Mr Pompeo also passed comment on the fact the UK had given mobile networks until 2027 to remove Huawei's 5G equipment, saying: "Faster is always better."

Earlier, President Trump had seemingly taken personal credit for the UK's action.

"We convinced many countries, many countries - and I did this myself for the most part - not to use Huawei because we think it's an unsafe security risk," the US leader said.



China's ambassador to the UK said the decision was "not only disappointing, it's disheartening". Photo - s.yimg.com

Mr Trump made the comments as he attempted to increase pressure on Beijing by announcing an executive order ending preferential treatment for Hong Kong in response to a new security law brought in by China.

Huawei has repeatedly said it would not cause harm to any country.

'Groundless risks'

The UK's digital secretary announced on Tuesday the country's telecoms networks would not be allowed to buy new Huawei 5G kit from 31 December and all such equipment should be stripped out of mobile networks by 2027.

China's ambassador to the UK said the decision was "not only disappointing, it's disheartening".

"The way you treat Huawei will be followed very closely by other Chinese businesses," Liu Xiaoming added.

But the foreign ministry arguably used even stronger language.

"The UK side has used groundless risks as an excuse to co-operate with the United States... violating the relevant commitments made by the UK," Ms Hua said.

'Negative implications'

"Any decisions and actions must come at a cost," she added, without being more specific.

Mr Huiyao Wang - an adviser to the Chinese government - told BBC Radio 4's Today programme Beijing still hoped the 2027 ban might be reversed before it came into effect.

But, as things stood, it could have an impact on other Chinese investment in Britain.

"It goes against the UK tradition as the open liberal leader in free trade," the founder of the Centre for China and Globalisation think tank said.

"This is going to probably have very negative implications."

Cont. on page 7

Google announces \$10bn investment in 'digital India'

Google will invest \$10bn (£7.93bn) in India in the next five to seven years, the chief executive of its parent company Alphabet Inc has announced. Sundar Pichai spoke at the annual Google for India event, held online. The investment will be used to build products and services for India, help businesses go digital and use technology "for social good".

"This is a reflection of our confidence in the future of India and its digital economy," Mr Pichai said, reports Nikhil Inamdar of BBC.

With more than 500 million active internet users in the country, India is perhaps the biggest potential growth market for Google.

The investment will be made through the Google for India Digitisation Fund

Mr Pichai said the fund would focus on four areas to scale up digital infrastructure in India. It would: enable "affordable access and information for every Indian in their own language", build new products and services that are deeply relevant to India's unique needs, empower local businesses who want to go digital, "leverage technology and artificial intelligence for social good" in sectors like health, education and agriculture.



Sundar Pichai said the investment is a reflection of our confidence in the future of India and its digital economy. Photo - img.republicworld.com

Mr Pichai also touted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India project which aims to overhaul the country's digital infrastructure.

Mr Modi tweeted to say that he and Mr Pichai had discussed "leveraging the power of technology to transform the lives of India's farmers, youngsters and entrepreneurs".

Why this investment makes sense for Google

India is already a major market for all of Google's key products including Android, Search and YouTube. Nearly 245 million Indians access YouTube in India.

Growing internet use across smaller towns and villages has also led to a boom

in regional language internet use which, according to one estimate, now commands a 66% share in overall content consumption in India, far surpassing English.

This, along with a significant uptick in the number of Indians using AI-based technologies for education, healthcare and financial services, dovetails directly with Google's ambitions to bring first-time users online.

"I expect digital adoption in sectors like education will be two to three times faster because of this investment," telecoms analyst Minakshi Ghosh told the BBC.

The timing of Google's announcement is particularly interesting. It comes close on the heels of India announcing a ban on 59 Chinese apps including TikTok and WeChat.

"Google can scale its presence and fill the void created by some of them, especially in browser space, communication tools and utility apps," says Tarun Pathak, associate director with Counterpoint Technology Market Research. "The ban has created uncertainty in the market, which is an opportunity for Silicon Valley giants like Google and Facebook."

Bastille Day: France honours health workers amid pandemic

France has honoured its health workers at scaled-down events to mark the national celebration Bastille Day, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Authorities cancelled the traditional military parade but instead held a tribute to those tackling the virus.

Invited audience members included families of French workers who died of Covid-19.

The annual events mark the storming of Bastille prison on 14 July 1789, seen as the start of the French Revolution.

It is the first time officials have called off the annual military parade through the capital Paris since the end of World War Two in 1945.

President Emmanuel Macron gave a rare televised interview after ceremonies in the morning, in which he answered questions about the coronavirus pandemic and the state of the economy.

How has France been celebrating?

Around 2,000 French soldiers gathered for a ceremony in the Place de la Concorde.

It began with a tribute to Gen Charles de Gaulle, who 80 years ago famously called on France to resist the Nazi German occupation in a radio address from the BBC in London.

Though there has been no parade on the Champs-Élysées, the troops were honouring all those mobilised to tackle the coronavirus outbreak - including health workers



France honours health-care workers on Bastille Day. Photo - thumbnails.cbc.ca

and the armed forces.

It comes the day after the French government agreed on pay rises worth 8bn (£7.2bn; \$9bn) for French health workers.

A traditional fly past included military aircraft as well as a transport plane used to carry Covid-19 patients at the height of the pandemic in France.

Some 2,500 specially invited audience members - including the families of health workers who died during the pandemic - watched events from socially-distanced seating.

Officials from four nations who took in French patients - Austria, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland - were

also invited to watch.

However, there have also been clashes. After the ceremony in the morning almost 3,000 healthcare workers and gilets jaunes (yellow vest) anti-government activists held a protest in Place de la Bastille in Paris.

Among the hospital workers' longstanding demands are better employment conditions, better pay, increased public funding for healthcare, and an end to the common practice of keeping healthcare workers on short-term, insecure contracts.

What about the coronavirus?

In his televised interview, Mr Macron said he was in favour of making face masks compulsory in public indoor spaces to curtail the coronavirus pandemic, adding such a measure could come into force from 1 August.

France mostly has its national outbreak under control, but a number of public health officials have warned recently of the risks of a second wave, and Mr Macron mentioned during the interview that the outbreak was accelerating a bit.

He also warned of a massive increase in unemployment, predicting that there could be another 900,000 jobseekers by spring 2021.

France has confirmed more than 200,000 cases and some 30,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Interview: Nandini Bhautoo, Academic

“The virus of corruption and nepotism is old, very old, as old as the country has existed as a polity”

Nandini Bhautoo is an academician who has never shied away from speaking her mind and pointing out the crude realities that underlie the veneer of sophistication that is sported by those who do not hide their clear-cut agendas to demonise the 'other'. In this interview she takes an analytical look at the contemporary scene, dissecting the undercurrents of protest movements. She uncovers the colonial strategy of 'divide and rule' that has never left some minds and also makes pertinent remarks about the shenanigans of leadership that are helping to perpetuate a negative image of the country and harming the people.

Mauritius Times: Judging from what the opposition parties have been drawing attention to these last few weeks and newspaper headlines in relation to the procurement of pharmaceutical and related products prior to and during the confinement period as well as to the St Louis affair, it looks like that the virus of favouritism and corruption has so infiltrated our polity that it appears as the “new normal” way of proceeding in running the affairs of the country. What are your thoughts on the governance issue in Mauritius today?

Nandini Bhautoo: Democracies have been created by selling a dream - the dream that all citizens have equal rights in the new state, equal rights to resources, employment, food, living space, information, education, entertainment, recognition of their complex position in the tapestry of modernity as they correlate multiple belongings. You will have noticed that as I go down this list the cynicism probably grows exponentially. Because equal rights is an ideal which has never been put into practice at all levels.

The newness of the concept of equality comes into conflict with the practical invisible reality of hierarchised inequality. This translates as historical nepotism, where the nephew of X is appointed CEO at 30 because he is related by blood, whereby trade contracts survive through personal networks which are often comprised of trans-border family conglomerates. As the new ideal of democracy comes into contact with these pre-existing networks of control, the new official representatives of the new paradigm become aware of the immensity of the pre-existing endogamous networks, and they decide they will reproduce the same. But they do so of course without the discretion and finesse of the historical networks, hence they are quickly identified and pinpointed as the new viruses. Whereas the virus of corruption and nepotism is old, very old, as old as the country has existed as a polity.

If we cast our glance beyond our frontiers, we will see that the same pattern exists in most countries, even the functioning democracies where the nepotism of family networks is overlaid with class considerations. Of course one can only feel helpless in front of this. But fighting against the visible virus makes us unaware and unconscious of the deep-seated networks of privilege, corruption and nepotism which pre-exist democracy.

In the US it is often referred to as the shadow government or the deep state, not to be confused with the shadow cabinet. The shadow government handpick who they want to be president, because the president has to act as a stooge to do the bidding of the conglomerates, the people with power, to further their agenda. In the present scenario the calculations seem to have gone wrong with Trump. But I have been wondering whether it was not an international strategy to place weak or unstable leaders as heads of states as they become easy to manipulate or to be bought with temporary gains through which they become pawns in a greater game.

* How do we unlock the system?

Once upon a time I used to be furious about all this and I still am, somewhere. But the more I study the international ramifications of nepotism, the more I come to see that we will need another strategy to deal with it. Those holding power (and not just political power) will continue playing this game because it is happening all over the place, both nationally and internationally. We of course have to denounce it. But we also need to work on another level by empowering citizens through other modes of diffusion of information, other modes of knowledge.

What I note for now is that many of the keyboard warriors who are so keen to denounce corruption are very much ensconced in their own networks of privilege, either through the family or through the cool code of the new liberals, who posi-



“Many of the keyboard warriors who are so keen to denounce corruption are very much ensconced in their own networks of privilege, either through the family or through the cool code of the new liberals, who position themselves as the avant-garde thinkers of society. I feel deep unease when I see the connivance and smug self-satisfaction which exist within this group which does not realize that they are a mirror image of the nepotism they are so keen to denounce...”

tion themselves as the avant-garde thinkers of society. I feel deep unease when I see the connivance and smug self-satisfaction which exist within this group which does not realize that they are a mirror image of the nepotism they are so keen to denounce.

* It is said that the rot in the system seems to be getting worse. Do you share that view?

I don't believe things will get better in government. Everyone knows it. The weak leader, any weak leader for that matter, with no political convictions is a great asset for the maintenance and reinforcement of existing privilege. His sidekicks are rushing to create new networks of privilege following the pattern they have discovered. This is what we have been witnessing. But it is not through politics and parliamentary democracy that this will change. The vacant centre is well aware of the disbanding civil society, where solidarity with the dispossessed only occasionally nudges the conscience of the many, who are happy to maintain their luxurious lifestyle and occasionally protest.

We are in a society where deep

malaise has existed for a long time, where little has been done to alleviate the condition of the working class and the lower middle class. There is a lot to be done and the anger of the civil society should be redirected in more concrete directions.

For instance, in improving the state of public hospitals. Has it struck no one as ironical that those expensive clinics could not offer treatment during the pandemic, only one of them amassed enough assets to do it mid-way through the lockdown? Has the incongruousness of the situation not hit anyone yet? That the public health institutions which handled the bulk of workload are the least well-equipped because not much was done over 52 years to improve health services and the condition of workers in the health services?

This is one area where we should be agitating for better conditions but since many of those 'thinkers and agitators' out there know they will have better health facilities if they can pay for it, nobody moves a little finger to question this state of affairs.

* Contd on page 9

'Protesters have no power to budge regimes.'

If protests were effective we would see changes happening for the better in Hong Kong, France, the US'



*Contd from page 8

There are other areas which also need improvement, if we do not improve infrastructure in education, health and social services, we are perpetuating through this the domination of those at the bottom of the social ladder by crushing them with their sense of worthlessness, that their well-being, their lives do not matter. So with this internalized sense of worthlessness they accept incompetence, the incompetence of local management in towns, villages, parliament. They do not question why their area is grimy with dust and dirt and crowded streets with potholes, while a few miles down the road the streets are clean and well-maintained, the green is pristine because it helps create the illusion of Eden for the visiting tourist, whether it is around the *domaines* or gated communities, hotels.

There are two worlds which exist. But the former never becomes visible unless it is quaintly picturesque, otherwise eyes and consciences glaze over and fail to see the reality of the conditions of the villages. So are we fighting for these people? If neither representative democracies nor official nominations and councils have not been able to help change over 52 years, why should they bother. Many of the young people from these areas prefer not to be involved because their lives will not change anyway. They will keep being ignored, slighted, forgotten.

*** To come back to the rot in the system, an interesting post that we came across this morning on Facebook is the response of Jean-Claude Montocchio to Paul Lismore: "... ever crossed your mind that the real and precise impor-**

“ Has it struck no one as ironical that those expensive clinics could not offer treatment during the pandemic, only one of them amassed enough assets to do it mid-way through the lockdown? Has the incongruousness of the situation not hit anyone yet? That the public health institutions which handled the bulk of workload are the least well-equipped because not much was done over 52 years to improve health services and the condition of workers in the health services?"

tance (or futility) that you grant to moral values and principles (i.e. including integrity) depends to an appreciable extent on which culture you belong to and how exposed you have been to other ones? Mauritius provides a rare example of the relative ranking that morals occupies in the eyes of different groups of locals..." What's your take on that, and the practice of appointing political protégés in high office?

Of course many of the nominations are sickening in the grossly incompetent, even ignorant fools who have been put in positions of power. But the greater shame is that the repercussions of shoving such grossly incompetent people in the limelight unfortunately splashes the muck over everyone who shares cultural origins with such people, never mind that they do not agree or condone.

Since you mention Facebook, you only have to see the kind of comments awash there, where every commentator is pretending they are pure, coming from communities *blancs comme neige*, where corruption or nepotism does not exist, everyone busy hurtling accusations against all Hindus because of the recent

nominations, using this as a springboard to revivify their generations old contempt for the descendents of coolies, whereas they of course exist under protected umbrellas of unchallenged perfection.

You only have to voice out your opinion to be accused of fundamentalism these days, no matter that others are socializing and defending priests or whatever. Of course they are entitled to do that. But if you quote from Aurobindo or Ramakrishna, you are tagged as fundamentalist.

Unfortunately, this is something which all young people are having to bear the burden of. The dirty game of the government has repercussions in reinforcing the disdain and contempt which has existed for decades against the average Indo-Mauritian. Because of the weaknesses of the leaders and decision makers, we are again becoming the collective target of accusations which the ordinary citizen

tors lack as opposed to the sleight of hand of both the national and international financial elite. As I mentioned earlier, societies have historically been based on hierarchy and domination, corruption and nepotism. The Long nineteenth century in the western world was the time when societies were stumbling to put in place a different social model while they were oppressing the rest of the world through colonization. If you think about it, most countries have had only half a century to sort out the mess colonialism left behind - but they are still being judged using tools and standards created for those sophisticated countries which had a head-start as they pillaged wealth, cultures, people.

*** On the other hand, what's your assessment of the protest march organised, last Saturday in the streets of Port Louis, by the 'Kolektif Konversasyon Solider' - an initiative of some of our trade unions. A breath of fresh air after these weeks of confinement - and the depressing news about procurements, power plant re-development at St Louis? Or do you fear it might turn out to be just a flash in the pan?**

Of course, one can only welcome such efforts and more is definitely needed. But my feeling is that protesters have become inaudible. They have no power to budge regimes. They can act as a litmus test of public feeling certainly, but if protests were effective we would see changes happening for the better in Hong Kong, France, the US. Protests absolutely there must be, of course. Only when they get hijacked by *'les bien pensants'* you tell yourself that there must be more than meets the eye behind all this.

Far from me to doubt the sincerity of the organisers themselves who have shown their commitment to the cause of social progress over the years. It is the participants' sustained commitment that I doubt. And my, we do have a lot to protest about!

We just heard that YouTube and other streaming platforms will be taxed! Phew! This is the latest in a series of bizarre decisions through which the present government is trying to wean money from the public for the unnecessary expenditures of recent years. Normal taxes are not proving enough to redress the balance so they have to look elsewhere even as they choose incompetent puppets to manage key institutions, which if properly managed could help generate wealth of another kind.

does not deserve. And we are helplessly witnessing the scenario being replayed again. We are becoming inaudible.

To borrow from a postcolonial critic: we are forced to occupy the space of the Manichaen Allegory, that is already known and unknown at the same time, in the sense that as soon as they see it is a Hindu, a series of negative associations are already heaped upon the interlocutor's consciousness, which is already known. Once the views are expressed, people pretend shock, refuse to hear, practise unconscious erasure of the concerns being expressed. This notion of Manichaean Allegory was initially developed by Abdul Jan Mohammed to explain the status of the African in colonial fiction.

*** We presume that J-C Montocchio's reasoning might have been prompted by the recent affairs that have been in the news lately, but would that also explain the Madoffs and banksters of this world, here and abroad, who would have operated with much more sophistication and 'culture', if we may say so?**

The key word here is sophistication. This is what our corrupt political perpetra-

* Contd on page 10



“Of course many of the nominations are sickening in the grossly incompetent, even ignorant fools who have been put in positions of power. But the greater shame is that the repercussions of shoving such grossly incompetent people in the limelight unfortunately splashes the muck over everyone who shares cultural origins with such people, never mind that they do not agree or condone...”

* Contd from page 9

Imagine the cultural tours which could have been included, if competent people had been in charge. Around forts, ruins, surviving nineteenth century buildings in the most improbable places, we could have cultural tours which could then trigger all forms of creativity, not only to revisit history, but also to find a way to give voice to the emotions of the past through creative endeavours - but you need to have people who understand what it means to make it

‘We are in a society where deep malaise has existed for a long time’

happen.

* Also spotted during that protest march were those people with their placard, a picture of which has been posted, again on a Facebook, with the message - 'Nou pas oulé RSS Mercenaires lors territoire Mauritius'. Facebook is indeed a fascinating place to visit if you want to understand the diverse strands in our society, but what does that particular message inform you about the forces at work in Mauritius?

This issue is very sensitive and demands a complex elaboration. If you have the time for it, here we go: My preliminary observations are that everyone is happy to derail "Hindu fundamentalism". They are less voluble when it comes to fundamentalist groups operating in other religions. In the very context of its development in India, the Hindus reacted to the conversion tactics of the others, with their strategies based on smooth words, by force or by treachery.

But the problem was already set into place by colonial powers which tried to make sense of the complexity of India by simplifying notions which they could not understand. For example, things like the equivalent of guild identities in the development of mediaeval western societies, which still existed in the form of occupational identities or *jatis* in nineteenth century India, which derived legitimacy from within the Varna system. This was a means of protection against the outside world at a time when state power did not exist and the only means of support was the group.

The distortion was wrought by Max Muller, the famous Indologist who codified Hindu sacred texts which had pre-dated him by millennia and 'gifted' them to the Indians, in his attempt at simplifying and 'rigidifying' the concept of Varna. He was working from a document presented to the East India Company by a Jesuit missionary Abbe Dubois, who had himself pil-

laged the work of another priest - Pere Coeurdoux (re: Nicholas Dirks - 'Castes of Mind').

By the process of re-identification, the population, unaware of the politics of rewriting which was being practised behind its back, re-identified with the new version of their identity. This was disseminated by the new people in power, who had lost the memory of how identities used to work over the generations, and identities became rigid and codified and seemingly unchanging.

But because of the cultural devalorisation of Hindu culture by colonial powers - which some may deliberately view as an illusion despite the known facts of how colonialism worked -- there developed an aggressive identification of Hindu identity which was codified by thinkers like Sarvarkar, who was reacting to conditions of extreme devalorisation in colonial India. This is something similar to what is happening nowadays. The rabid anti-Hindu discourse in the public space is such that educated young people are dis-identifying themselves from any affiliation with Hinduism. They succumb to the negative connotations because they are internalizing the discourse of those who control the lever of discourse and communication, those who control which ideas are disseminated to the public.

From what I can surmise, it is acceptable to socialize with priests and show public affection for them but it is not acceptable to show any knowledge and understanding of Hindu culture. As one born and brought up within a Hindu family, we can have no knowledge of what it means to be a Hindu. This can only be explained to us by researchers who come to it from the outside, working from the distinguished position as 'authorised voices' reproducing the disdain and codified control of Hinduism through Western institutions. The native in short has no right to speak: s/he has to be explained her/his culture by the 'more

knowledgeable' western outsider.

It is in this context that the discourse of RSS functions in the national sphere. It has become like a code for everyone to condemn and if you refuse to do so, and urge for an understanding of context, you are done for. I would like to see the same people so eager to condemn RSS publicly denounce the aggressive Kreol identification of many catholic Kreol priests in Mauritius and the fact that some prominent men who have important roles in the world of business can safely say they sympathize with their co-religionists across the world, but never be condemned for their affiliations, as they even post regular updates from problematic preachers.

I do not understand the disparity in treatment, almost as though it is a connivance taking place to alienate Hinduism in a long term colonial strategy which never disappeared. It just went underground.

And before anyone says anything, I will admit that there is a lot to reform in Hinduism and the same goes for other religions. But I never hear any of those so ready to criticize Hinduism bring a single iota of criticism to their own faiths, of reforms that are equally needed. So the RSS becomes the convenient by-word for a strategy of demonization.

Of course, it has to be stressed that there are some who use this to their advantage by using their networks to leverage contracts and advantages. You will note that these are far from being the more refined minds which exist and they would function the same way in any faith, where I am sure their equivalents exist. This I neither approve nor condone. But what I observe is that the behaviour of a few becomes the excuse for condemning the many walking the path of decency. If social malaise there is, it is with this - a malaise which remains unrecognized, unacknowledged but which is visible to those who want to see.

Fédération Mauricienne de Tir à l'Arc

Members of the Fédération Mauricienne de Tir à l'Arc are hereby informed that the Annual General Assembly will be held on **Friday 14th August 2020 at 18.00 hrs** at the Mauritius Olympic Committee, 6A Stateland, Trianon, Quatre Bornes.

AGENDA:

1. Reading and Approval of minutes of proceedings
2. President's Report
3. Approval of Accounts 2017/2018
4. Approval of Accounts 2018/2019
5. Amendments of Rules and Regulation
6. AOB

Registered Clubs are requested to communicate the name of their representative to the Secretary of the Federation at latest 7th August 2020.

Doris D'Argent
Secretary

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Plummeting standard of ethics and governance

Cont. from page 4

Mauritius has various levers to obtain a full copy of the independent investigation carried out by a law firm mandated by BWSC in order to identify and nab 'members of the Mauritian administration and others who were financially rewarded.' This is therefore an acid test for the government to walk the talk to restore the reputé and standing of the country sullied by the allegations of corruption and wrongdoing in the case of the CEB power plant contract.

Unjustifiable licence

In the case of the order of Rs 1.5 billion of medical supplies during the Covid-19 lockdown, the government is at pains to justify the unjustifiable. People refuse to be anaesthetized by tall claims. Emergency procurement is not a licence to government to do whatever it wants especially as the order relates to key medical supplies including treatment drugs, personal protective equipment and ventilators, etc., which must comply with strict quality norms certified by competent authorities.

Anyone savvy about commercial matters knows that every import is not identical. The documentation and the precautions regarding independent quality verification and attestation of such items as life saving medical supplies and equipment by accredited quality surveyors prior to shipment are essential if we do not want to receive substandard products and put the safety of patients and the medical personnel at risk. The people therefore expect a prompt and transparent audit of these

'emergency' orders to ascertain inter alia whether prices were fair and market based and whether every order has been satisfactorily delivered and that quality norms have been rigorously adhered to.

The current appalling culture of governance is highly detrimental to the interests and prospects of the country. Covid-19 has exposed the stark and widening inequalities devolving from fundamental flaws of our economic model. At a time when swathes of Mauritians are living in conditions of precarity in a context of unchecked and rising prices of basic commodities affecting their existential needs, those who earn more Rs 3 million annually are protesting against a solidarity levy imposed in the context of the Covid-19 crisis. This deplorable situation epitomizes the intrinsic divide and decried failings of the current socio-economic order.

Wake up clamour

The street protests in Port-Louis over the weekend are a wakeup call for the government and the private sector to urgently change tack. They must satisfactorily respond to the growing clamour from the multitude for fundamental reforms to establish a new socio-economic order and a new radically changed culture of altruistic good governance aligned on the ethos and ideals the independence of the country was fought and won on and which puts the continuous improvement of the well-being of the people and equality at the centre of government action.

Mrinal Roy

Covid-19: procédure d'achat d'urgence Une remise en question systémique de l'appel d'offres

Suite de la page 5

- En juin 2019, un jugement de la Cour suprême a donné gain de cause à la State Trading Corporation (STC) dans le litige l'opposant à la compagnie Betamax concernant la résiliation du contrat d'affrètement de produits pétroliers. La compagnie a interjeté appel contre ce jugement auprès du Conseil privé. Il sera intéressant de savoir comment celui-ci va interpréter les dispositions de la *Public Procurement Act* telles qu'elles s'appliquent à ce contrat.

La STC au centre de la controverse

La même STC est maintenant au centre de la controverse concernant l'attribution des contrats d'approvisionnement en produits/équipements médicaux de Rs 1, 5 milliards à des individus et à des sociétés. Elle a fait des paiements aux fournisseurs qui avaient obtenu les contrats. Suite à une levée de boucliers au sein de l'opposition et du public, l'ICAC s'est saisie de l'affaire et a fait des perquisitions au quartier général de la STC, de la compagnie Hyperpharm Ltd et

des ministères du Commerce et de la Santé.

Des zones d'ombre entourent l'attribution de contrats aux entités suivantes, entre autres:

- Hyperpharm Ltd : une compagnie locale qui a obtenu des contrats de plus de Rs55 millions entre le 25 mars et le 23 juin 2020 ;
- Pack & Blister : une compagnie espagnole qui a eu un contrat de Rs 513,8 millions pour fournir des masques et des respirateurs artificiels alors que son fondateur a été condamné pour fraude fiscale en Espagne. La compagnie n'est même pas enregistrée auprès du Registrar of Companies ;
- Bio Digital : une compagnie locale qui a eu un contrat de Rs 400 millions.

L'ICAC fait une enquête sur les procédures d'attribution des contrats. Espérons que cette enquête ne finira pas en eau de boudin, comme d'autres enquêtes effectuées auparavant. Au cas contraire, ce serait à désespérer de nos institutions dites indépendantes.

Il est évident que le principe de l'appel d'offres est violé de façon systémique, soit par des marchés négociés par entente directe avec des fournisseurs, soit par la procédure d'achat d'urgence. L'histoire est riche de cas où la loi n'a pas été scrupuleusement respectée. Malheureusement, la jurisprudence mauricienne ne nous éclaire pas davantage sur la portée et l'application de nos lois.

Aditya Narayan

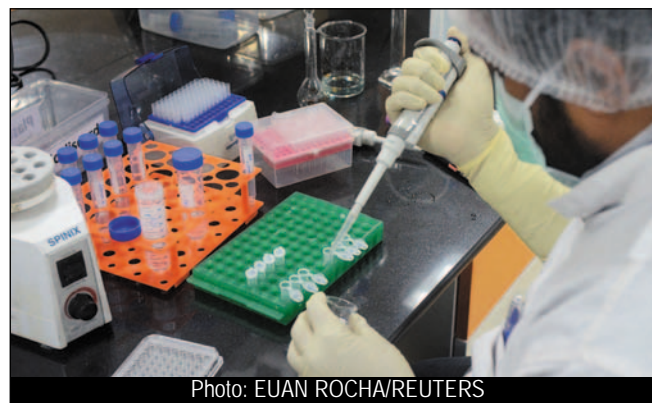


Photo: EUAN ROCHA/REUTERS

We will not yield

I am a student of International Relations and Diplomacy in a state university in Russia. I have to point out that unlike the United States, the Russian Federation is not ousting foreign students but instead is taking good care of all students, even providing free medical care in case one gets infected with the coronavirus.

On the other hand, however, I really do not understand how despite the fact that the Mauritian government put up a flight for Mauritian nationals to fly them out from some countries, nothing has been done by the Embassy

of Mauritius in Moscow. They just issued two statements and sent both via email saying that there would be some flight arrangement, one of which was supposed to reach Dubai on the 11th. But they omitted to mention that Russian borders were closed at that time.

We were provided with absolutely no *feuille de route* as to how to exit Russia. Then I got to know that there are some special flights which are exiting Russia but the tickets needed to be bought through the Embassy. I did my inquiry and I found out that that was indeed the case. For an answer to my query, embassy officials suggested that we should on our own inquire about the availability of tickets.

We never could obtain those air tickets and we were left without any assistance from the Embassy.

We were later informed by the Embassy that three people were able to exit Russia by transiting in Belarus, Ukraine and Germany to go to Dubai. This raises the question: did the Embassy have the information as to how other Mauritians have been able to buy air tickets to travel back home, and if so why that information was not communicated to us?

We will continue to fight for our right me to travel back to our homeland, the country where we were born. We will not yield

Forum

because Mauritius is a sovereign and democratic country, and it is our constitutional right to be able to come back to our homeland.

Atish Boolaky
Moscow

* * *

Coronavirus

We live in a scary
World today
It's different than
Before
No more hugs kissing
Our happiness gone away
Like never before
The virus has taken our
Loved ones away
Families suffering
Like never before

The fear of the unknown
Has arrived
The worry of what will happen
Tomorrow to you and me
Coronavirus on our mind's
Coronavirus everywhere
Our lives in danger
Like never before
We practise social distancing
Every day to keep the virus
At bay as we shop in different
ways
Were asked to stay at home
Like never before
When will this
Virus ever go away
But I promise
I'll love and pray for everyone
Suffering
Every day.

David P Carroll

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

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

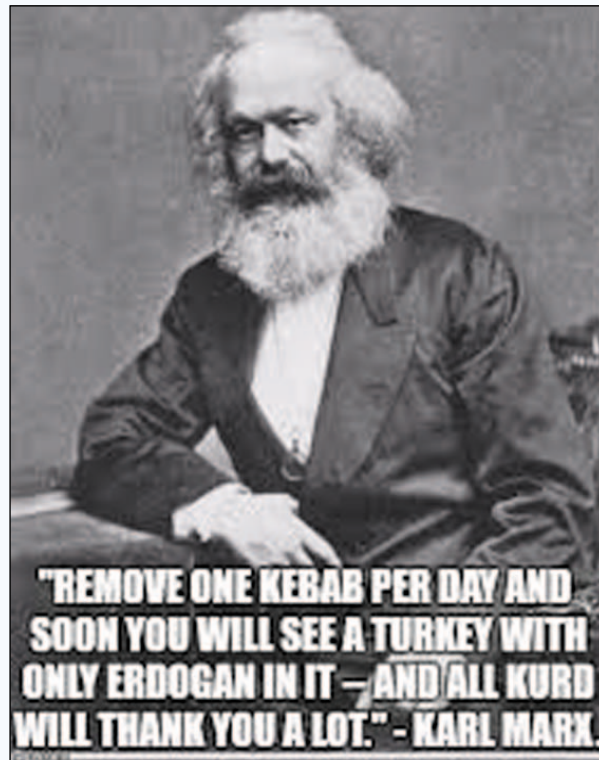
The professor asked the young man what was the matter. The student told him that he had a bullet lodged in his back. He had been shot while fighting communists in his native country, who were trying to overthrow his country's government and install a new communist regime.

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

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

"You catch wild pigs by finding a suitable place in the woods and putting corn on the ground. The pigs find it and begin to come every day to eat the free food. When they are used to coming every day, you put a fence down one side of the place where they are used to coming. At first, they are scared, but when they get used to the

Catching Wild Pigs



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

"The pigs, which are used to the free corn, start to come through the gate to eat that free corn again. You then slam the gate on them and catch the whole herd. Suddenly, the wild pigs have lost their freedom. They run around and around inside the fence, but they are caught. Soon they go back to eating the free corn. They are so used to it that they have forgotten how to forage in the woods for themselves, so they accept their captivity."

The young man then told the professor, "That is exactly

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

One should always remember two truths:

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

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

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

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

Programme des Courses -- 5e Journée - Samedi 17 juillet 2020

1 THE BLACK TULIP - CANCER SUPPORT CUP Distance: 1500 m Valeur [0-20] Time -- 12h15

1 MAJESTIC MOON	SPN	9-7-1-9/8	60.5	J.Allyhosain	5	1000
2 DAREDEVIL AVIATOR	JMH	9-10-8-10/10	60	R.Hoolash	1	3500
3 GIMME A SWINGER	PM	4-4-3-9/3	60	C.Segeon	6	300
4 MISTY ROLLER	CD	5-10-2-1/2	60	S.Rama	10	360
5 SACRED NIGHT	VA	9-6-5-7/8	56.5	A.Roy	9	1600
6 HIT THE GREEN	RM	9-2-7/4-4	59.5	R.Joorawon	8	550
7 BIG SMOKE	CR	9-9-6-8/5	59	S.Bussunt	3	1500
8 PHOENIX RISING	RG	8-3-4-7/6	59	D.David	7	900
9 KIMBERLEY	SN	5-8-5-4/9	58.5	G.D.Aucharuz	2	800
10 GREENSTREETTRACTOR	P	4-3-7-7/11	58	N.Marday	4	2000
11 SPUN OUT [EA]	SH	5-2-5-6/6	57	-----	11	---

2 THE DEEPA DABY MEMORIAL TROPHY Distance: 1600 m Valeur Benchmark 31 Time -- 12h50

1 JALS TIGER	GR	7-3-4-2/7	60	N.Juglall	5	650
2 MANETHEREN	SN	3-5-4-4/4	60	G.D.Aucharuz	10	750
3 STOLEN PARADISE	AS	0-0-0-0-7	60	N.Marday	6	3300
4 JAMA	AS	4-2-1-3/9	59	R.Joorawon	8	2000
5 MAN FROM SEATTLE	RG	5-3-1-5/3	58.5	D.David	4	310
6 RIVER THAMES	SJ	0-0-0-8/7	58.5	J.Allyhosain	7	1000
7 STARKY	CD	1-1-5-10-2/	58.5	S.Rama	1	750
8 MEMPHIS MAFIA	RM	8-4-9-2/2	58	R.Hoolash	2	450
9 MOSCHINO	VA	1-5-4-3/5	58	J.Bardottier	3	550
10 TYRIAN	PM	6-2-4-6/7	58	C.Segeon	9	1000

3 THE EUGENE ROUSSET CUP Distance: 1450 m Valeur Benchmark 36 Time - 13h25

1 KAMADEVA	RG	0-0-1-2/1	61	D.David	8	160
2 BESTDAY OF MYLIFE	CD	nouveau	60	S.Rama	6	1200
3 OLMECA BLACK	GR	nouveau	60	N.Juglall	7	800
4 ROCHESTER	JMH	0-0-0-9-5/	60	R.Hoolash	3	2000
5 WORDBUSTER	VA	1-9-7-1/R	56	A.Roy	11	1600
6 CAPTAIN FALCON	G	10-8-1-4-8/	59.5	J.Bardottier	5	1200
7 APOLLO STAR	AS	2-4-8-5/9	59	R.Joorawon	4	1400
8 JULLIDAR	PM	10-6-6-8/2	59	C.Segeon	2	1000
9 TROJAN WINTER	SJ	0-0-0-0-5	57	V.A.Bundhoo	10	1200
10 NAPOLI	SN	8-8-1-5/9	56.5	G.D.Aucharuz	9	2000
11 THE BRASS BELL [EA]	GR	1-5-5-3-8/	61	-----	1	---

4 THE EDME GAUTHIER CUP Distance: 990 m Valeur Benchmark 36 Time -- 14h00

1 GREAT STOIVANEN	AS	0-0-0-9-6	60.5	R.Joorawon	9	1000
2 DARK FORCE	RM	3-1-8-1/2	60	S.Rama	1	280
3 OCEAN DRIVE SOUTH	CD	7-4-6-6/9	60	O.Sola	5	2500
4 KU DU TU	VA	10-8-5-7/7	59.5	J.Bardottier	2	1400
5 STOCKBRIDGE	SPN	0-0-0-0-R	59.5	J.Allyhosain	6	1000
6 TARANAKI	GR	2-8-4-3/5	59.5	N.Juglall	7	850
7 NINOTTO	RG	0-0-0-0-3	58.5	D.David	4	250
8 TORO BRAVO	SN	nouveau	57	G.D.Aucharuz	8	2000
9 ZODIAC JACK [EA]	MH	R-3-5-4-3/	59	-----	3	---

5 THE RAMNARAIN RAJCOOMAR GUJADHUR CUP Distance: 1650 m Valeur Benchmark 46 Time -- 14h35

1 RED LINE CAPTAIN	GR	4-2-4-4-8/	61.5	J.Allyhosain	9	1600
2 MIND BLOWING	GR	2-1-1-4-2/	60.5	N.Juglall	5	370
3 DREAMFOREST	CD	8-7-5-7/R	60	O.Sola	7	3100
4 HAKEEM	CR	0-0-3-8/7	60	S.Bussunt	8	2500
5 JET STREAM	AS	0-0-0-0-1	60	R.Joorawon	4	350
6 FROM THE ASHES	AS	10-7-1-6/8	59.5	R.Hoolash	6	3300
7 LEMON DROP SHOT	SH	0-0-0-0-5	59.5	S.Rama	3	520
8 DUKE'S DOMAIN	RG	5-2-2-6/1	58	D.David	2	340
9 BARAK LAVAN	SN	7-4-7-4/4	56.5	G.D.Aucharuz	1	650
10 BOUCLETTE TOP	G	2-4-6-1/9	55.5	R.Boutanive	10	3300

6 THE PONDICHERY CUP Distance: 1365 m Valeur Benchmark 66 Time -- 15h10

1 ELUSIVE PATH	VA	7-7-7/6-8/	56	A.Roy	6	2000
2 KAZAAR	PM	9-2-5-3-3/	60	C.Segeon	9	750
3 KING'S COUNTY	GR	1-6-2-3/4	59	N.Juglall	4	900
4 VASCOSTREETTRACTOR	SJ	1-1-1-2/1	58.5	J.Allyhosain	8	280
5 EHSAAN	G	0-0-0-0-1	58	J.Bardottier	7	250
6 ERNIE	JMH	4-8-4-5-7/	58	R.Hoolash	2	2500
7 BARRACK STREET	RG	1-1-2-1/4	57.5	D.David	3	750
8 PURPLE TRACTOR	P	3/5-10-9/6	55.5	S.Rama	5	1600
9 PERA PALACE [EA]	RM	10-9-7-6/8	55.5	-----	1	---

7 LA COUPE DU CENT CINQUANTENAIRE Distance: 1500 m Valeur [60+] G3 Time -- 15h50

1 WHITE RIVER	RG	1-1-1-1-1/	61	D.David	8	150
2 PUGET SOUND	CD	0-0-0-0-10	54.5	O.Sola	1	1400
3 PERPLEXING	G	2-1-1-2-1/	54.5	R.Joorawon	3	1000
4 PIETRO MASCAGNI	SN	0-0-0-0-4	54.5	G.D.Aucharuz	2	1400
5 TEN GUN SALUTE	SPN	3-5-4-9/N	54.5	R.K.Chumun	5	2500
6 MORNING CATCH	SPN	0-0-0-0-9	53	R.Hoolash	4	3500
7 IDEAL SECRET	RM	6-7-3-4/3	52	S.Rama	6	2500
8 ALYAASAAT	GR	0-0-0-0-6	52	N.Juglall	7	270

8 THE SHARP PIP CUP Distance: 990 m Valeur 31 Time -- 16h25

1 CARLAS MAMBO	SJ	7-10-2-5/10	60	B.Bhaugerothee	2	1500
2 GUNNER RUNNER	GR	0-0-0-0-1	60	N.Juglall	5	220
3 HITHIMAGAINCHUCK	P	4-3-5-7/3	59.5	S.Bussunt	1	750
4 TWEAK THE WIND	CD	4-3-4-7/9	59.5	S.Rama	8	750
5 EMERALD BAND	VA	nouveau	55	A.Roy	9	1800
6 WENDYLLE	AS	2-5-1-5/2	59	R.Joorawon	4	550
7 ZENZERO	SH	2-3-5-3/5	59	J.Allyhosain	7	400
8 BALLANTINE HALL	G	nouveau	57.5	J.Bardottier	3	800
9 DUNZIE [EA]	CD	9-6-6-4/4	58.5	-----	6	900

9 THE TUB THUMPER PLATE Distance: 1450 m Valeur [0-25] Time -- 17h00

1 BOUND BY DUTY	RM	0-0-0-0-2	60	R.Joorawon	2	220
2 KALGOORLIE	G	0-0-0-0-4	60	J.Bardottier	5	400
3 LOOSEN YOUR TIE	JMH	nouveau	60	J.Allyhosain	3	550
4 SEVENTH SILVER	RG	2-7-5-10/1	59.5	D.David	7	750
5 DEALER'S CHARM	VA	7-8-7-8/2	55	A.Roy	1	770
6 MACKBOOL	VA	0-0-0-0-9/	58.5	R.Boutanive	10	3300
7 MANOLETE	CD	4-4-9-4-2/	58.5	S.Rama	4	800
8 TYRANDEUS	SN	7-6-4-9-8/	58.5	G.D.Aucharuz	8	2500
9 COME ON SONNY	SPN	6-10-A-9-6/	58	R.Hoolash	9	2500
10 SIR CAPERS	PM	6-11-3-7/3	58	C.Segeon	11	900
11 DELUSIONAL [EA]	SPN	0-0-0-0-8	58	-----	6	---

SELECTIONS

1. MISTY ROLLER, HIT THE GREEN, PHOENIX RISING
2. MAN FROM SEATTLE, MEMPHIS MAFIA, MANETHEREN
3. KAMADEVA, OLMECA BLACK, TROJAN WINTER

4. DARK FORCE, NINOTTO, TARANAKI
5. JET STREAM, MIND BLOWING, DUKE'S DOMAIN
6. EHSAAN, BARRACK STREET, KING'S COUNTY

7. WHITE RIVER, PERPLEXING, IDEAL SECRET
8. GUNNER RUNNER, ZENZERO, HITHIMAGAINCHUCK
9. BOUND BY DUTY, KALGOORLIE, MANOLETE

In a light vein

A Few Good Senior Moments

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor, who was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.'

The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'

* * *

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement centre were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: 'Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?'

Slim says, 'I feel just like a newborn baby.'

'Really!? Like a newborn baby!?'

'Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.'

* * *

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man said, 'What is the name of the restaurant?'

The first man thought and thought and finally said, 'What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... the one that's red and has thorns.'

'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, 'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'

* * *

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator.

On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'

* * *

A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a checkup, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair. 'Want anything while I'm in the kitchen?' he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?'

'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?'

He says, 'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm

certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, 'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!'

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment, and asks, 'Where's my toast?'

* * *

A senior citizen said to his eighty-year old buddy: 'So I hear you're getting married?'

'Yep!'

'Do I know her?'

'Nope!'

'This woman, is she good looking?'

'Not really.'

'Is she a good cook?'

'Naw, she can't cook too well.'

'Does she have lots of money?'

'Nope! Poor as a church mouse.'

'Why in the world do you want to marry her then?'

'Because she can still drive!'

* * *

One more. . .!

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlour and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool. After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split.

The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?'

'No,' he replied, 'Arthritis.'

P.G. Wodehouse Quotes

"He had just about enough intelligence to open his mouth when he wanted to eat, but certainly no more."

"At the age of eleven or thereabouts women acquire a poise and an ability to handle difficult situations which a man, if he is lucky, manages to achieve somewhere in the later seventies."

"There are moments, Jeeves, when one asks oneself, 'Do trousers matter?'"

"The mood will pass, sir."

"He had the look of one who had drunk the cup of life and found a dead beetle at the bottom."

"I always advise people never to give advice."

"A melancholy-looking man, he had the appearance of one who has searched for the leak in life's gas-pipe with a lighted candle."

"There is only one cure for grey hair. It was invented by a Frenchman. It is called the guillotine."

It was a confusion of ideas between him and one of the lions he was hunting in Kenya that had caused AB Spottsworth to make the obituary column. He thought the lion was dead, and the lion thought it wasn't.

"And she has got brains enough for two, which is exact quantity the girl who marries you will need."

"When I see lovers' names carved on trees, I don't think it's sweet. I only wonder how many people bring a knife on a date."

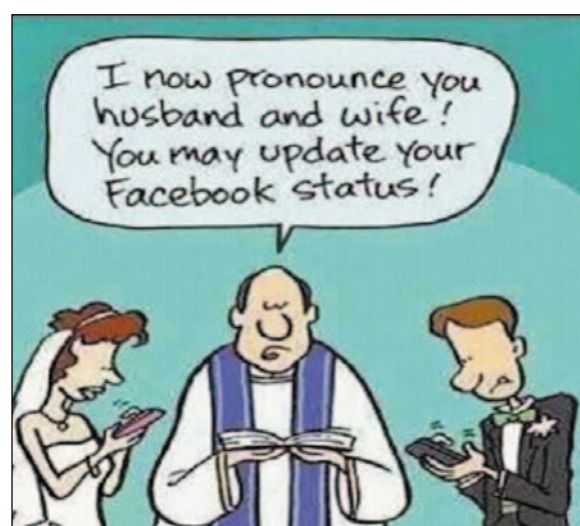
Relationships Tips

7 reasons to embrace your single status after a split

More often than not, giving yourself time to breathe on your own is exactly what's required to process the breakup. Relationship experts offer seven reasons to stay single for a bit after a split:

1. Sitting with the loneliness is ultimately good for you.
2. It's important to reflect on what happened and the mistakes that were made.
3. It's time to take your needs off the back burner.
4. You don't want to show up to your next relationship with unpacked emotional baggage.
5. Remember: You have your friends and hobbies to fill your time.
6. It's important to define who you are outside of a relationship.
7. Once you've healed, you'll find someone who really deserves you.

HuffPost



Becoming a better you

How to stop wasting time

To stop wasting time, you first have to figure out your goals. We're talking about "big-picture" goals for both your work and home life. For example, you may want to find a better work-life balance, get more exercise, and be more involved in your children's after-school activities. Once you know what they are, you can break them into smaller tasks and focus on how to fit them into your life.

Keep track

It can help to take a week or so and note how long it really takes you to do things you do all the time -- do laundry, make breakfast, make your bed. Most people overestimate how long it takes to do something simple like take a shower and underestimate the time needed for bigger tasks, like write a term paper. If you know exactly how you spend your time, you may be able to manage it better.

Prioritize - Put to-do's in 4 groups

- Urgent and important
- Not urgent but important
- Urgent but not important
- Neither urgent nor important

The goal is to have as few things under "urgent and important" as possible. Those cause stress when they pile up. If you manage your time well, you'll probably spend most of your time on "not urgent, but important" -- that's where you can get the most useful things done and keep from feeling overwhelmed later.

Schedule your day

Once you know just how long things take and what's most important, start to plan things out. Be flexible. Do you get more done in the late afternoon or early morning? Do you like to have your evenings free to relax? Are you more likely to do yard work if you have a chunk of time to do it all at once or spread it out over the course of a week? Think about what works best for you, and don't be afraid to change things up.

Do the hard stuff first

Mark Twain said, "If it's your job to eat a frog, it's best to do it first thing in the morning. And if it's your job to eat two frogs, it's best to eat the biggest one first." In other words, if you have something hard to do, get it out of the



way so you don't have to worry about it the rest of the day. At least that's how the author of one prominent time management book understood it. He titled it "Eat That Frog!"

Write it down

A "to-do" list is tried and true. But you can use other tools, too -- the main thing is to write it down somewhere. Whatever you use to keep track of things you need to do, it's better to have just one and keep it with you wherever you go -- on your cell phone for example. Some kind of list keeper or calendar app is probably on your phone already.

Is it worth your time?

Remember your big-picture goals and ask yourself if what you're doing is likely to help you get there. For example, that extra hour spent at work on something no one asked you to do might have been better spent at the gym or at your child's game.

Don't cheat

If you schedule a work session at 9 a.m., stick to it -- 9:17 a.m. won't do, even if you work alone. Missing one start time will make you more likely to miss others. If you

want some flexibility, allow yourself a choice -- return emails or file papers, for example -- but stick with the schedule as if it's set in stone. If you try it and find it doesn't work for you, you can always change it.

Just start it!

If you feel a strong urge to put things off, find a way to push past it and take even a small step forward. You'll feel better once you make a little progress and may soon find yourself in a real groove. That's because your attitude often comes from your behaviour -- and your results -- rather than the other way around.

All your time counts

You've got a free 15-minute chunk of time before you have to be somewhere -- time to surf the Web and check social media, right? You might be surprised by what you can get done in that time. Four 15-minute chunks spread through the day is an hour of productivity. And you'll feel better about kicking back later.

Your computer can help

Technology -- the Web, email, social networking sites -- can distract you for hours on end. But it can help too. Look for tools to help you track and schedule your time, remind you when you need to do something, or even block you from the time-sucking websites that tempt you most.

Set time limits

That is, set the most allowable time for the task. You may get it done sooner, but if not, the limit helps keep you from overdoing it. Once you hit the limit, move on.

Email: The black hole of time wasting

It can be a huge time suck and a source of stress. Try "The Four Ds":

Delete: If it doesn't concern you or isn't something you need to know, get rid of it.

Do: If it's about something urgent or something that can be done quickly, respond to it.

Delegate: If an email asks you something that's better taken care of by someone else, forward it to that person and move on.

Defer: If it's going to take more time than you have at the moment, set aside time for it later.

Living Better

8 tips to help you look younger and improve your quality of life

Spend time with friends: Friends are good for the soul. The time you spend doing things with other people may have a bigger effect on your life span than where you live, where you work, and whether you have a partner.

Do something creative: Get a little artsy and you'll be happier, think more clearly, and have a better quality of life. If you need an idea, consider acting. People who were asked to pick a new creative outlet said they were less intimidated by that than by singing, drawing, or painting. If you've always thought you were meant for the stage, now's your time to shine.

Cut back on the makeup: Chances are, you're wearing too much. Research shows that women usually overestimate the amount of makeup they need, particularly when they want to appear attractive to others. Too much can make you look like you're trying to hide your age.

Exercise: You don't have to take up a new sport. Just



work in the garden or take a brisk walk around the block. Each week, aim for at least 2 1/2 hours of activity that gets your heart going. And throw in some moves for your muscles, like push-ups or sit-ups, a couple of times. It can help you feel better, look better, and think better, too. It also helps prevent diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. But check with your doctor before starting any new exercise plan.

Wear sunscreen: No, that suntan won't make you look younger. The sun's ultraviolet rays cause more than 90% of the damage to your skin, which includes the kind you can see -- wrinkles, rough patches, sagging, and skin blemishes. Sunscreen helps prevent skin cancer, too.

work in the garden or take a brisk walk around the block. Each week, aim for at least 2 1/2 hours of activity that gets your heart going. And throw in some moves for your muscles, like push-ups or sit-ups, a couple of times. It can help you feel better, look better, and think better, too. It also helps prevent diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. But check with your doctor before starting any new exercise plan.

Learn something new: Keep challenging yourself, and you may help stop brain decline. Even better, consider a new skill that involves your body. Dancing is a great example because it allows you to exercise and socialize at the same time, two things that also keep your mind and body young.

Brush, floss, and rinse: If you don't, your teeth may get yellow, and you may develop gum disease. That can eat away at your gum line -- a telltale sign of age -- and is linked to heart disease, stroke, and even pancreatic cancer.

Don't smoke: It causes wrinkles because it narrows your blood vessels and limits the blood that can get to the top layer of your skin. It also causes cancer, heart disease, and lung disease -- none of which make you feel or look young.

WebMD

Sooryavanshi, '83, Bhuj: The Pride Of India: 12 Bollywood movies that promise blockbuster entertainment in the second half of 2020

Right from theatrical releases like *Sooryavanshi* and *Brahmastra* to OTT shift with films like *Dil Bechara* and *Shakuntala Devi*, these Bollywood movies are coming to entertain you in the second half of 2020



Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we saw the entertainment industry came to a halt, which resulted in a drastic dip in the film business at the box office as cinema halls across the country continue to remain shut since the last week of March. While we are still waiting for the theatres to reopen, many films have already taken the digital route, and we will see more than a few of them soon release on OTT platforms. So, right from potential theatrical releases to digital premieres, these Bollywood movies are coming to entertain you in the second half of 2020. So, here they are...

Dil Bechara

Sushant Singh Rajput's last film, which is the official Bollywood adaptation of *The Fault In Our Stars*, will start streaming on Disney Hotstar from July 24.

Shakuntala Devi

Vidya Balan's *Shakuntala Devi*, which is based on the life of the eponymous math genius, has also taken a digital route and will release on July 31 on Amazon Prime Video.

Khuda Haafiz

The Vidyut Jammwal and Shivaleeka Oberoi romantic action thriller will also stream on Disney Hotstar.

Lootcase

Kunal Kemmu and Gajraj Rao's comic caper, too, will release on the same OTT platform.

The Big Bull

Abhishek Bachchan starrer *The Big Bull*, which is based on the life of stockbroker Harshad Mehta, will also release on the web.

Sadak 2

Mahesh Bhatt's *Sadak 2*, which stars an ensemble cast of Aditya Roy Kapur, Alia Bhatt, Pooja Bhatt and Sanjay Dutt, was scheduled to release this month in cinema halls, but due to the pandemic situation, it will also release on Disney

Hotstar.

Laxmmi Bomb

Akshay Kumar and Kiara Advani's *Laxmmi Bomb* is also taking the digital route, and the producers have struck quite an impressive and profitable deal from what we hear.

Bhuj: The Pride Of India

Ajay Devgn, Sanjay Dutt, Sonakshi Sinha, Nora Fatehi and Sharad Kelkar's *Bhuj: The Pride of India* is another film to shift from cinema halls to an OTT platform.

Sooryavanshi

Akshay Kumar and Katrina Kaif starrer *Sooryavanshi*, which is one of the most awaited ventures of the year, might hit screens this Diwali, much to the delight of true movie-buffs.

Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai

Salman Khan's action entertainer, which was scheduled to release during the Eid weekend, got delayed due to COVID-19 crisis. The makers are now planning to release the film during the Diwali weekend, which means we can see a box office clash between two superstars.

Brahmastra

The fantasy film, which features Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Amitabh Bachchan, Nagarjuna Akkineni, Mouni Roy and Dimple Kapadia in key roles, is directed by Ayan Mukerji, who previously helmed *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* and *Wake Up Sid*. It is scheduled to hit screens on December 4.

'83

The makers of Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Tahir Raj Bhasin, Pankaj Tripathi's and sports drama are planning to release the film during the Christmas weekend. The Kabir Khan directorial will narrate the heroic journey of the Indian cricket team en route to winning the 1983 World Cup.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Beware of your current tendency to confuse your dreams and reality, which could lead to irresponsibility and dilettantism, hence to failures. The emotional climate will be sunny, this concerns love as well as friendship or relationships between various generations.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 16, 20, 30, 32, 37

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Good consolation in your love life. You'll uphold excellent relations with your friends; however, don't give your total confidence to some of them, because there'll be a risk of disloyalty, more by weakness than by meanness.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 9, 11, 16, 20, 31

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

If your heart is free, you can be sure that there'll be plenty of admirers. Force yourself to see the good side of things and take into account the benefits that life has granted you. Material worries won't be spared you, but don't torture yourself too much!

Lucky Numbers: 15, 19, 21, 26, 28, 30

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

If you take the necessary steps, you can start over again on new and solid bases. Financial matters will require all your attention; get back what people owe you. In love, well-being and understanding will be present. Stop rehashing your problems.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, 19, 20, 25, 30

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

In love, it'll be necessary to be more tolerant and less exclusive. It'll be the moment for you to take care seriously of your financial situation; a sound and efficient management will enable you to make your resources bear fruits.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 10, 14, 30, 38

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

A favourable week for all sorts of intellectual effort; read a lot, be interested in various subjects. You'd better not have a love affair in your professional milieu; problems could arise, and your reputation would be tarnished; find a hunting ground that's less dangerous.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 26, 28, 31, 36, 40

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Be extremely careful with your expenses; don't contract debts. Singles will be lucky enough to meeting a soul mate. Your respiratory tracts will have to be protected. You'll have more ambition than usual, and you can count on the help of efficient people.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 20, 26, 33, 36, 40

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Momentary disagreement with your partner; happiness will soon be back. Don't be too demanding towards other people; be aware that nobody's perfect, not even you! Your family circle will be uneasy; try to be diplomatic and authoritarian at the same time.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 11, 14, 20, 21, 26

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Put aside your old habits for a while and go and see new faces. A week that won't be very favourable to financial or real estate transactions. Crazy and passionate love affairs will be favoured. Somewhat shaky health, with some headaches.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 17, 18, 20, 27, 30

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Calculate the true value of your friendly relations by testing them. Be careful of overwork! You would have everything to gain by respecting a very strict food hygiene and by sleeping as much as possible; daily gymnastic exercises would be excellent.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 10, 11, 17, 20

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

It'll be the moment to organize your budget in a more rational way. Concerning love, sulks, arguments, quarrels, ruptures, and break-ups will be the main currency; but this will by no means exclude unrestrained physical passion.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 15, 19, 22, 27, 30

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

This time you'll have the possibility of showing your talents and skills. This planetary environment will give you the chance to make some interesting friends or to have some passionate adventures and meetings.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 18, 20, 30, 35, 39

Ishqbaaaz actress Shrenu Parikh tests POSITIVE for coronavirus

Ishqbaaaz actress Shrenu Parikh reveals that she has been tested positive for coronavirus and is currently recovering in the hospital



The coronavirus outbreak has been a major concern for all of us. The virus has been spreading rapidly and we have to be extra careful. Many have lost their lives due to coronavirus while many have been struggling in the hospitals. Even our celebrities have been affected with this dangerous virus. We recently heard of Amitabh Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and her daughter Aaradhya being tested positive for coronavirus. Earlier, *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai* actress Mohena Kumari Singh and her family had tested positive. Now, even *Kasautii Zindagii Kay 2* actor Parth Samthaan and *Ishqbaaaz* actress Additi Gupta tested positive for coronavirus. Now, another actress from *Ishqbaaaz* revealed that she was tested positive for COVID-19. Yes, we are talking about Shrenu Parikh. She posted a note on Instagram and revealed that he was tested positive and is currently recovering in the hospital.

She shared a note that read, "Hey everyone have been away for a while but the bugger hasn't spared me...was found Covid positive a few days ago, and I'm now recovering in the hospital! Keep me and my family in your prayers! And I'm very thankful to all the corona warriors who treat the patients compassionately during these scary times too..." she said, "Even after being so careful if it can get to you then imagine the power of this invisible demon we are fighting with...pls pls be very careful and save"

Shrenu Parikh was home-quarantined in Mumbai in March as she returned from the US. But on May 6, the actress drove down to Vadodara (her hometown) along with two of her friends with correct permissions from the Maharashtra and Gujarat authorities.

When Tom Cruise shamed Brooke Shields for taking antidepressants, she said 'stick to saving the world from aliens'

Tom Cruise was slammed in 2005 for criticising actor Brooke Shields' use of antidepressants, and suggesting that women should care for themselves with vitamins and exercise instead

In 2005, actors Tom Cruise and Brooke Shields got into a public spat. Cruise told Access Hollywood that Shields' use of antidepressants to battle postpartum depression was 'irresponsible', and got a telling off in return.

"When someone says (medication) has helped them, it is to cope, it didn't cure anything. There is no science. There is nothing that can cure them whatsoever," he said. Cruise, who is a Scientologist, is forbidden from using 'mind-altering' substances of any kind, People reported then. He suggested women care for themselves with "vitamins and exercise."

He added, "I care about Brooke Shields because I think she is an incredibly talented woman, (but) look at where has her career gone."

Shields responded, "Tom should stick to saving the world from aliens and let women who are experiencing postpartum depression decide what treatment options are best for them." In an op-ed piece for The New York Times, she wrote, "I'm going to take a wild guess and say that Mr. Cruise has never suffered from postpartum depression."

Shields called those remarks "a disservice to mothers everywhere," and continued, "If any good can come of Mr. Cruise's ridiculous rant, let's hope that it gives much-needed attention to a serious disease." Years later, Shields



revealed on Jenny McCarthy's SiriusXM radio show that Cruise had apologised to her for his remarks in person.

Cruise was in the news this week after his Mission: Impossible 2 co-star Thandie Newton described in detail how the actor had pushed her into 'terror and insecurity' on the sets of the film.

TV SERIAL

Kulfi Kumar Bajewala

Friday 17 July: Kulfi and Murphy spend a memorable day together. Later, Kulfi sings a song while Sikander is shocked by Vikram's odd plans.

Monday 20 July: Loveleen's disgust for Sikander grows fourfold after getting beaten in jail. Later, Kulfi overhears the society members' plan.

Tuesday 21 July: Kulfi decides to search for Matka while Loveleen faces a tough time in jail. Later, Sikander pays her a visit.

Wednesday 22 July: Kulfi and Amyra try to uncover Matka's truth. Later, the angry society members confront Sikander.

Thursday 23 July: Loveleen assigns a devious task to her father. Elsewhere, Sikander's hard work to fulfil Amyra's wish goes in vain.

Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

Friday 17 July: Naina and Sameer get excited as they are about to meet Aruna Irani to recite the story. On the other side, everyone is happy about the marriage of Pandit.

Monday 20 July: Naina is tense because she is meeting Aruna Irani for the first time. Sameer tries to cheer her up. Shubham is upset because Pandit leaves without telling anyone.

Tuesday 21 July: Tanvi's mother frustratedly blames Sammer, Naina and their family for Tanvi's marriage that broke up. Sameer later comes to know that Aditya and Tanvi love each other.

Wednesday 22 July: Naina gets a little trouble while narrating the story in front of Aruna Irani but somehow manages to get to the point. On the other hand, Sameer makes the marriage of Aditya complete.

Thursday 23 July: After Naina's script passes the test, it's time for Sameer to audition for the lead of the show. Aruna calls Sameer and she rejects him for the role, which actually shocks Naina and she is angry.

Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

Friday 17 July: Sonakshi praises Rohit and gives him a gift. Later, Akash confronts YK and Nishi about Pooja's real parents while Sonakshi receives a strange video call from Rohit.

Monday 20 July: An embarrassed Sonakshi accidentally utters Rohit's name in her dialogue during the KPK shoot. Later, she runs into him on her way to Pune.

Tuesday 21 July: Sonakshi is shocked on learning about Ashish's intentions behind inviting her. Meanwhile, Rohit makes a desperate attempt to meet Raima, his ex-girlfriend.

Wednesday 22 July: A startled Sonakshi strives to save Rohit after seeing his tragic condition. Elsewhere, Veena creates a scene at the Sippy mansion.

Thursday 23 July: Sonakshi's outburst leaves Suman speechless as the latter decides to leave the house. Later, she consoles Rohit after the Sippys make a stern decision.

CINE 12

Vendredi 17 juillet - 21.15

The Karate Kid

Avec: Ralph Macchio, Pat Morita,
Elisabeth Shue
CINE 12

Dimanche 19 juillet - 22.46

Monster Hunts 2

Avec: Tony Chiu-Wai Leung, Baihe
Bai, Boran Jing
mbc 1

Dimanche 19 juillet - 21.10

KINGSLAIVE
FINAL FANTASY XV


vendredi 17 juillet

MBC 1

07.10 Local: Passerelles
09.45 Local: Rodrig Prog
10.20 Local: Portrait D'artiste
10.35 Local: Saver KilTirel
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Doc: Autour Des Valeurs
12.35 Mag: Eye On SADC
14.00 Local: Rodrig Prog
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
14.45 D.Anime: Astrology
14.47 D.Anime: Hogie The Globe...
15.10 D.Anime: Dinoforz
16.11 D.Aimes: Chicken Town
17.05 D.Aimes: Mega Man
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod: Goute A Tout
20.35 Prod: Komiko
22.20 Serial: The Blacklist
23.00 Le Journal

MBC 2

10.00 Serial: Tumhaari Natsaha
11.17 Serial: Tum Mere Paas Raho
12.04 Film: Professor Pyarelal
Starring: Dharmendra,
Zeenat Aman, Simi Garewal
14.37 DDI Magazine
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.25 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee
15.50 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
16.20 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
17.11 Mehendi Tohra Naam Ke
17.03 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun
17.30 Serial: Gangaa
18.00 Serial: Dr. Quin
18.30 Local: Yaadein
19.00 DDI Magazine
20.15 Serial: Tawaan
21.00 Local: Anjuman
21.26 Local: Urdu Programme
22.26 DDI Live

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.44 Mag: Shift
07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.29 Mag: Tomorrow Today
07.55 Doc: Comme Un Poisson...
09.00 Doc: 360 GEO
10.12 Doc: Mining Treasure Island
11.33 Mag: Sur Mesure
11.44 Mag: Shift
12.02 Mag: Border Crossing
12.27 Doc: A Question Of Science
12.56 Doc: Comme Un Poisson...
14.49 Mag: Strictly Street
15.12 Doc: Mining Treasure Island
16.25 Mag: Urban Gardens
17.07 Mag: Border Crossing
17.26 Doc: A Question Of Science
18.42 Mag: Urban Gardens
18.30 Live: News
18.47 Mag: Arts And Culture
19.00 Student Support Prog...

Cine 12

01.21 Film: Mange, Prie, Aime
03.34 Film: Passengers
05.25 Tele: Totalement Diva
06.14 Tele: Esmeraldas
06.59 Film: Jesse Stone
09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour
10.10 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett
10.35 Serial: Chicago Med
11.22 Tele: Dulce Amor
11.41 Film: Passengers
13.36 Tele: Totalement Diva
14.45 Film: Jesse Stone
16.40 Serial: NCIS
17.24 Tele: Esmeraldas
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: Emerald City
21.15 Film: The Karate Kid
23.17 Tele: Totalement Diva

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Dhoom Dhadaka
12.16 / 19.54 -
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.16 / 20.11 -
Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala
12.37 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe
13.20 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.41 / 21.46 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.03 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan
14.25 / 22.25 - Bitti Business...
14.54 Film: Kaalia
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan,
Parveen Babi, Asha Parekh
17.39 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
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 18 juillet

06.00 D.Anime: Trolls
07.32 D.Anime: Kid-E-Cats
08.50 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Local: People
12.35 Mag: Garden Party
14.15 Local: Itinerer Moris
14.30 D.Anime: Nos Voisins Les...
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
14.45 D.Anime: Chicken Town
14.47 D.Anime: Chuck's Choice
14.59 D.Anime: MIA
16.10 D.Anime: Chicken Town
16.45 D.Anime: Delilah Et Julius
17.30 Serial: You And Me
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.35 Entertain: Nach Baliye
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod: Lottotech
21.05 Film: The Living And The
Dead
22.45 Mag: Hollywood On Set

10.00 Bade Acchelagte Hai
12.00 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.30 Serial: Brundavanam
13.00 Annakodiyum Ainthus
Pengalum
13.30 Serial: Anu Pallavi
14.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya
Bhare
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.30 Film: Albela
Starring: Govinda, Aishwarya
Rai and Jackie Shroff
18.00 Mag: DDI Magazine
20.05 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki
Rahasya Gatha
20.28 Serial: Bitti Business Wali
21.00 Film: Udda Punjab
Starring Shahid Kapoor,
Kareena Kapoor, Alia Bhatt,
Diljit Dosanjh
23.32 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Jellyfish On The Rise
06.42 Mag: Urban Gardens
06.47 Mag: Arts And Culture
07.27 Doc: A Question Of Science
08.50 Doc: World Stamps
08.57 Doc: Tea War, The Adent...
10.31 The Gatekeepers Of Europe
11.59 Mag: Urban Gardens
12.50 Mag: Euromaxx
15.03 Doc: Breaking The Cycle
15.46 Mag: Arts And Culture
15.59 Open Univ: Student Support
18.30 Live: News (English)
18.45 Mag: Shift
19.30 Mag: Japan Video Topics
19.56 Doc: Jumbo: The Life Of...
20.57 Doc: World Stamps
20.58 Doc: 360 GEO
21.50 Doc: Programmed To Kill
22.42 Doc: Treatment Under The
Pines
23.25 Doc: Horizon

01.12 Film: The Karate Kid
02.50 Serial: Chicago Fire
03.29 Film: Passengers
05.20 Tele: Destiny
06.06 Serial: Emerald City
06.52 Film: Jesse Stone
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Film: Royal Matchmaker
10.54 Film: My Best Friend's
Wedding
12.24 Serial: Chicago Fire
13.03 Tele: L'esclave Blanche
13.48 Tele: Premiere Dame
15.05 Serial: Chicago Med
17.00 Serial: The Magicians
17.09 Serial: Emerald City
17.51 Film: Monster Hunt 2
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Series: Emerald City
21.15 Film: Five
22.24 Tele: Eva Luna

04.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
04.26 Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala
04.43 Radha Krishna
05.05 Zindagi Ki Mehek
05.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
05.47 Chhanchhan
06.14 Bitti Business
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: Dil
Starring Aamir Khan,
Madhuri Dixit, Saeed
Jaffrey
21.25 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
22.05 Serial: Naagin Season 2
22.56 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek

dimanche 19 juillet

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains
08.47 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
09.18 D.Anime: Astrology
09.20 Mag: Origami
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Local: Elle - No 105
15.00 D.Anime: Nos Voisins Les...
15.11 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
15.29 D.Anime: MIA
15.40 D.Anime: Dinofroz
16.14 D.Anime: The Drajers
16.40 D.Anime: Chicken Town
16.48 D.Anime: Sissi
17.14 D.Anime: Delilah Et Juluis
17.33 D.Anime: Mega Man
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.00 Local Production
21.10 Film: Kingsglavie
Starring: Aaron Paul, Lena Headey, Sean Bean

07.00 Film: Paheli
Starring: Satyajeet, Nameeta
Chandra, Durga Khote
09.11 DDI Magazine
10.00 Local Production
11.00 Serial: Santoshi Maa
12.00 Film: Jaanwar
Akshay Kumar, Karisma
Kapoor, Shilpa Shetty,
Mohnish Bahl
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
16.00 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht
16.30 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
17.00 Serial: Gangaa
17.40 Serial: Mahakali
19.20 DDI Magazine
20.00 Serial: Maharakshak
21.00 Serial: Naagin
21.48 Serial: CID
22.31 Serial: Piya Rangrez

06.00 Doc: Horizon
06.49 Doc: Olivia's Garden
07.39 Doc: Jumbo: The Life Of An...
08.33 Doc: World Stamps
10.19 Doc: Treatment Under The
Pines
11.05 Doc: Horizons
11.45 Doc: Olivia's Garden
13.42 Doc: World Stamps
16.14 Doc: Horizon
17.30 Mag: Mixeur, Les Goût Et...
18.00 Doc: Resourceful Pioneers
18.30 Live: News
19.05 Doc: Garden Party
19.36 Mag: Mixeur, Les Goût Et...
20.05 Doc: To The Moon
20.49 Doc: World Stamps
20.48 Doc: 360 Geo
21.44 Doc: Book Hunters Saving...
22.23 Doc: Displaced: Tomatoes...
23.05 Doc: Northern Lights

00.24 Serial: Emerald City
01.28 Film: Five
02.53 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
03.35 Film: Hope Dances
05.04 Tele: Destiny
05.53 Serial: Emerald City
06.38 Film: The 5th Wave
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Film: Monster Hunt 2
11.04 Film: Hope Dances
12.34 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
13.16 Tele: L'esclave Blanche
13.58 Tele: Premiere Dame
15.05 Serial: Chicago Med
17.08 Serial: Emerald City
17.50 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
18.31 Serial: Mission: Impossible
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Incorporated
21.15 Film: Island Doctor
22.46 Film: Monster Hunts 2

00.45 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
02.12 Bin Kuch Kahe
04.01 Pavitra Rishta
05.05 Film: Dil
08.06 Motu Patlu
08.16 Chhanchhan
10.05 Itna Karo Na Mujhe Pyaar
12.01 Piya Albela
14.00 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
15.48 Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.00 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Andaaaz
Starring: Akshay Kumar,
Lara Dutta, Priyanka
Chopra
20.56 Entertainment: Nach Baliye
21.36 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.26 Piya Albela

MBC 2

Samedi 18 juillet -
21.00Stars: Shahid Kapoor, Kareena
Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Diljit Dosanjh

Dimanche 19 juillet - 18.30

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Lara
Dutta, Priyanka Chopra



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Au pied du mur de l'incompétence, la débrouillardise...

Au vu du tollé suscité par les nouvelles factures émises par le CEB, c'est à se demander si l'organisme paraétatique ne se paie pas la tête des consommateurs.

Les nouveaux compteurs collent d'avance une centaine d'unités de consommation avant toute consommation réelle. Vers qui le public doit-il se tourner pour réclamer des comptes hormis l'anonymat du personnel du hotline qui se relaie sans cesse ?

Si le consommateur, lui, endosse le prix d'un budget déficitaire, dû à une gestion discutable ou à la corruption, un débat s'impose avant qu'un lobby quelconque ne tire les ficelles dans les coulisses des affaires pour appeler à la privatisation.

En 2003, dans le sillage de la privatisation des parts de Mauritius Telecom, faite à la hâte, des lobbys s'agitaient pour que la CWA quitte le giron public. Celui qui était sur le siège pilote du gouvernement est encensé sur les ondes privées et érigé comme un monument de la politique mauricienne. On laissera le soin au directeur fraîchement nommé des musées d'en juger du bien-fondé et d'y accorder un classement approprié dans le patrimoine local.

Le moment était jugé propice dans le milieu des affaires qui avaient accès aux couloirs du pouvoir suite au changement intervenu à l'Hôtel du gouvernement. D'ailleurs, c'était un des rares moments où le nom de ce pays avait été mentionné sans provoquer une crise d'urticaire dans les médias locaux formatés à s'aligner sur la ligne éditoriale des gros titres internationaux.

Faut-il attendre une réponse crédible de l'association des consommateurs et du ministère concerné ?

* * *

CWA et responsabilité

Par ce temps pluvieux, la CWA nage sous les eaux. Sur la route principale du lotissement résidentiel de la Pointe aux Canonnières, une énième fuite à un endroit délimité par un ruban de la CWA attend qu'on décide de son sort.

Appels en vain sur le hotline surchauffé où la parole d'un opérateur, toujours anonyme mais qui insiste sur votre identité, renvoie aux calendes grecques toute velléité de réparation.

Entretiens la fuite s'est métamorphosée en inondation. Les gens du quartier s'assemblent autour de cette catastrophe écologique comme on contemple un lieu de crime.

C'est ce type de dysfonctionnement qui fait miroiter l'image d'autres petits pays ultra-performants et efficaces comme Singapour, la Corée du Sud ou Israël. Question de cerveau, de vision et de



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Et tant mieux. Dans d'autres contrées, les gens ont été formatés à se tourner vers l'Etat pour tout et rien, un état nourricier père-mère qui est censé *owe them a living*. Se plaindre est devenu un mode de vie, et les médias en font leur chou gras tant ils se complaisent dans le mimétisme d'un modèle importé et caressent dans le sens du poil tout plaignant appelant le standard...”

volonté, sans doute. L'intelligence et la raison à la place de la médiocrité et de l'émotion égoïste agrémentée de susceptibilité paranoïaque. Résultat: une inefficacité insupportable.

Encore heureux qu'ici on ne soit pas amené à se battre pour l'eau comme l'Egypte et le Soudan qui déclarent la guerre de l'eau à l'Ethiopie...

Ce pays a pris l'habitude de marcher sur la tête depuis des décennies. Ici, on prend un plaisir malsain à mal faire les choses. C'est devenu une spécialité mauricienne. On s'interroge sur l'infection qui s'est propagée dans cet organisme pour qu'il y ait un tel laisser-aller depuis des années.

Où alors, selon les dires des uns et des autres, l'inondation est une réponse aux réclamations faites par les abonnés du quartier tant les égos susceptibles pullulent dans les instances de décision, prêts à lancer représailles et sabotages envers quiconque qui oserait faire remonter une information.

Le nouveau responsable des Utilités Publiques a un grand chantier face aux tuyaux pourris et aux égos surdimensionnés. On dit qu'il aura le taureau à prendre par les cornes et, l'âne par les oreilles (avec toutes nos excuses pour l'âne mélancolique que les récits historiques malveillants ont classé au bas de l'échelle, alors que cet animal est futé.)

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Supermarchés et avidité

Alors que le CEB emboîte le pas des supermarchés - qui ne verrait dans le public que des pigeons bons à être plumés --, ces derniers continuent l'opération de charme à inviter dans ses grandes surfaces ce public qui lui a tant manqué... Chat échaudé craint l'eau froide, le client-roi-mendiant-pigeon s'avance à pas félins, survole chaque produit et calcule son

intérêt avant toute chose, la provenance, les produits utilisés, l'empreinte carbone et le prix. Un regard critique, espérons-le, qui scrute la qualité des produits de conservation, et l'élevage bovin et autres issus de la déforestation, et déplacement des peuples autochtones comme en Amazonie.

Au supermarché de Grand-Baie, une dame d'un certain âge cherche quelque chose et hésite :

-- Pouvez-vous m'aider à lire l'étiquette du vinaigre, s'il vous plaît? Je n'ai pas mes lunettes.

Elle cherche le vinaigre local tout simple sans produit alcoolisé pour nettoyer la cuvette des wc.

-- Je préfère ça au produit d'entretien qui abîme la surface, ajoute-t-elle, je suis Mauricienne. Le souci de ne pas passer pour une étrangère.

-- Oui, c'est mieux. Et même les autres produits d'entretien pour le sol... un prix costaud pour l'eau censée être parfumée à l'eucalyptus, à la lavande, etc...

-- Et aucun de ces parfums à l'odorat. J'essaie de trouver autre chose.

-- Vous avez bien raison. On peut parfumer avec l'essence naturelle des plantes qu'on cultive chez soi.

-- Hélas, je vis en appartement maintenant.

Alors dans des pots sur le balcon.

Les rayons restent vides, les clients les poches vidées ces derniers temps, l'avidité des gros profits contrainte à être mise en veille en attendant des jours meilleurs. Les cafés de ces grands espaces ne perdent pas complètement la face. Tout doucement, les tables trouvent preneurs, la conversation animée des jeunes autour d'une table, d'autres grignotent en regardant passer les gens, certains le regard vague tourné vers le vide et tantôt vers leurs pro-

pres pensées en sirotant une boisson servie dans un verre en plastique. Mais la grande affluence se fait attendre.

Si désormais les Mauriciens ont retrouvé leurs esprits - pris dans la tourmente de la consommation de tout et de rien sans discernement - dans le souci de paraître, c'est déjà un mal covidé pour un bien de l'esprit et du porte-monnaie.

Un sursaut provoqué par une bactérie invisible et mortelle. Le Mauricien entend montrer qu'il n'est pas né de la dernière pluie, il fouille dans ses connaissances enfouies, il sort toute une panoplie de produits bénéfiques pour la santé, à déboucher les artères, à ménager le foie, à diminuer le taux de sucre que le confinement a exacerbé par le désir psychologique d'adoucir la bouche face à une menace existentielle mortifère.

Ainsi, la viennoiserie française a visiblement été écartée de la table car croissants et pains au chocolat, etc., sont avant tout 100% beurre et bouchent pendant deux jours l'estomac des organismes fins et les parois délicats d'un héritage millénaire, malmenés par whisky, rhum et produits alcoolisés importés. Toute alimentation ne s'adapte pas à toutes les cultures, traditions et organismes.

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Petits commerces et débrouillardise

Les temps sont durs ici comme dans le reste du monde. Au lieu de déverser un flot de jérémiades sur les ondes privées où tout est sujet à polémique, ce qui fait bien monter l'adrénaline des uns et gonfler l'audimat des radios ainsi que leur compte bancaire, des hommes et des femmes ont mis en veille les magasins qui ne marchent pas et se sont orientés vers d'autres activités.

Dans l'alimentation, certains ont trouvé un créneau où déployer leur créativité, ils ont investi dans l'équipement pour fabriquer et livrer des produits divers. D'autres se sont faits polyvalents à plus d'un titre en accumulant plusieurs activités. Ils s'improvisent marchands de légumes et d'autres articles dans tous les coins de rue.

A rappeler le véritable pétrin d'une famille lorsque les deux adultes sont employés dans le secteur touristique, aujourd'hui en berne.

La débrouillardise mauricienne retrouve son énergie à la mesure de ses talents. Et tant mieux. Dans d'autres contrées, les gens ont été formatés à se tourner vers l'Etat pour tout et rien, un état nourricier père-mère qui est censé *owe them a living*. Se plaindre est devenu un mode de vie, et les médias en font leur chou gras tant ils se complaisent dans le mimétisme d'un modèle importé et caressent dans le sens du poil tout plaignant appelant le standard. (Ceci étant, le chou gras farci est un plat hongrois délicieux qui donne envie de voler vers d'autres cieux.)