

# MAURITIUS TIMES

"There are still those of us who work to overcome corruption and believe it to be possible" - Padmé Amidala, Star Wars

Manifestation du 11 juillet



## Est-ce un sursaut de la société civile?

La fin des idéologies a évacué du champ politique tout idéalisme et toute réflexion d'envergure nationale sur un projet de société

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### On doing one's duty



If we want to lift the country out of its current depths of despair, what is needed is that kind of professionalism imbued with honesty and integrity to spread at all levels, from the politician to the common man

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### The French Revolution & Civilisational values



France needs another brand of leadership that embodies French culture, defends its language and civilizational values. Otherwise, as former President François Hollande warned, the outcome will be Partition

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### Protest: A New Beginning

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## The looming social crisis

**I**t's coming, soon. An acute social crisis the like of which we have not seen since a long time. This is what most economists have been suggesting lately – not only here in Mauritius but elsewhere as well, even in the developed countries despite the billions of dollars that their governments are injecting into their respective economies. Fortunately for them, but unfortunately for the country, practically all those who are today at the political helm of the country and controlling its destiny are not old enough to have memories of earlier crisis situations – like those that happened in the wake of Cyclones Alix and Carol, or the Second World War, though they might have seen glimpses when later cyclones such as Gervaise or Hollanda hit us. By then, though, the country was more prepared, so we were able to be spared of the misery that attended the earlier cyclones inflicted on the people.

That is why, in the name of the people who have trusted them and given them the mandate, they are duty bound to protect the citizens by sitting up and taking notice of the damning impact of this pandemic on livelihoods. As is the case elsewhere, it is those at the lower rungs of the social ladder, both the worker class and the middle class, that are and will continue to be most affected. Unless...

For those higher up, who have both savings and are asset-rich, there is no problem – at least they think so. For the remainder, who have few or no savings, loans to pay for the roof on their heads or children pursuing studies (overseas in particular), the survival horizon is closing up on them. Soon, they will be down to their last savings, and making ends meet will be increasingly precarious. Worse hit of all will be those who have lost their jobs as a direct consequence of the pandemic on certain sectors of the economy, and small or medium entrepreneurs and the self-employed with dwindling clientele for their products because money is scarce.

With little or no money to put food on the table, nutritional deficiencies making them prone to illnesses will set in, adding to our already heavy burden of disease which the continuing pandemic Covid-19 will magnify further. And of course, children too will suffer from the paucity and poor quality of whatever food may then be

available. Further, a second wave is not to be excluded, a reality which has hit more prepared and better resourced countries. And as we are dependent on the global supply chain for most of our needs, with countries closing borders and even production in them affected we are not going to escape the impact.

If those hiding behind the steering wheels of their limousines or hiding in their ivory towers think they are safe, the public protest in Port Louis last week is a clear indication of the common man's indignation of the government's skewed response in its financial assistance to affected sectors of our economy, which is clearly biased towards Big Business.

We can only report what we are hearing from the ground – of people who have already lost their jobs, with wife and children to look after. Of couples who have both been downsized with debts piling up. Of small businesses facing enormous difficulties, even contemplating closing up.

As they helplessly stare at the wild expenses being incurred by the authorities, the channelling of public – i.e. taxpayer – money towards pockets which are already full to the brim, the wastage of funds on white elephants, the lame official explanations given as a pretext to explain away the inordinate sums being transacted for buying supplies with attendant crying nepotism and cronyism, they cannot help asking themselves questions about the sincerity of the political class that had promised a turnaround in the way of conducting the affairs of state.

Given all these ominous signs of distress that are being sent by society, on the streets, on social media and that are being felt by everybody, the least that decision makers can – and should do – is to jerk themselves out of their complacency, go down to the level of the common man and listen to them, and change course before it is too late.

Unless they do that, sober down and stop pretending that all is hunky-dory, the powder-keg on which they have pushed the country to sit is going to keep swelling.

But the crisis can still be averted by their acknowledging the seriousness of the situation and the imminence of a crisis if we do not act now. Two months from now, that's what people are saying.

## The Conversation

# Leaders fail if they cannot speak the truth and earn trust

**D**uring a recent Senate committee hearing on the Covid-19 crisis, Dr Anthony Fauci told lawmakers he was concerned about “a lack of trust of authority, a lack of trust in government.”

He had reason to be worried. The Pew Center reported that July 7 only 17% of people in the U.S. have confidence in government to do the right thing. Never in the history of their surveys, which began in 1958, has that confidence been so low. Why is trust so low and why does that matter, especially during a crisis – and especially during this crisis?

### No playbook

The dilemma of leadership in modern democracy has long been the focus of my scholarship and teaching. I have asked what qualities and virtues leaders need to preside over a government of, by and for the people. If it's a challenging topic, it is also one never lacking for material. The current era points especially to the importance of trust for effective and legitimate leadership in democracies.

The story begins with a basic principle of democracy: Leaders cannot do whatever they please.

The drafters of the United States Constitution assumed that anyone with power would always have the opportunity – and often the temptation – to abuse it. To protect society from unruly rulers, they set up an obstacle course of elaborate procedures, checks and balances, separated powers and a stringent rule of law that applied to everyone, even those who wrote the laws.

In this system, inefficiency and complexity became virtues. Deliberation trumped dispatch. It isn't easy for leaders to act, and it is not supposed to be.

That's a problem during a crisis. Emergencies require swift, decisive steps, sometimes improvised and often pushing the boundaries of formal authority. There's no playbook, and those hurdles designed to prevent leaders from doing bad things may now prevent them from doing necessary things.

Even John Locke, the 17th-century British philosopher so influential in the American approach to accountability and limited government, understood that stuff happens. And when it does, the machinery of government may prove too slow and cumbersome.

With regret but cold realism, Locke conceded that when severe threats appear, “There is a latitude left to the executive power, to do many things of choice which the laws do not prescribe.”

### Discretion granted, trust needed

That's precisely when trust becomes critical. The discretion granted to democratic leaders in times of crisis – the room they have to manoeuvre – depends entirely on how much the people trust them. And that depends on their competency, honesty and commitment to the public interest.



One of Dwight Eisenhower's biographers explains that discipline was central to his leadership style. Eisenhower leaned heavily on experts and had the patience and persistence to navigate the complex machinery of government. Sometimes that made him appear cautious, but few questioned his competence.

Today German Chancellor Angela Merkel embodies the same set of skills, a cool, measured and rational approach that inspires confidence. High among her leadership qualities is a projection of competence, no doubt enhanced by Germany's success responding to the pandemic.

The Financial Times political columnist Gideon Rachman wonders if the pandemic will ultimately be a setback for populist leaders such as Boris Johnson in Great Britain, Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil and Donald Trump in the United States. They seem thrilled by the theatre of politics but bored by the details of governing. As their countries suffer some of the worst effects of the pandemic, Rachman believes citizens will rediscover the value of sheer competence.

### Honesty and the public interest

Telling the truth also earns trust. But honesty is more than just conveying basic facts. It is the capacity to explain the crisis, the sacrifice required and the path to a solution.

Roosevelt during the Depression, Churchill during World War II, Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis and Bush in the aftermath of 9/11 (at least the immediate aftermath) were granted considerable discretion because they accurately described and credibly interpreted the challenge facing the people.

In the current crisis, medical professionals have told the inconvenient truths about the pandemic. Political leaders at the national level have offered false hopes and misleading information. That is why trust in medical professionals in the United States far exceeds trust in elected officials.

Finally, trust is given when leaders act in the public interest, not their own self-interest.

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# Est-ce un sursaut de la société civile?

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Aditya Narayan

**A**près longtemps, le pays a vu une manifestation populaire le samedi 11 juillet en guise de protestation contre les mesures prises par le Gouvernement dans le sillage de la pandémie.

Réunissant syndicats et organisations non-gouvernementales (ONG), cette manifestation a été organisée sous l'égide du mouvement *Kolektif Konversasyon Solider* (KKS) en vue d'envoyer un signal fort au pouvoir et au patronat.

Le signal : la masse des travailleurs en ont assez d'être pris pour des victimes consentantes d'une politique d'austérité sélective. Cette manifestation marque-t-elle le début d'une mobilisation populaire ou est-ce un événement conjoncturel dont les effets psychologiques s'estomperont avec le passage du temps?

Pour frapper l'imagination populaire, la manifestation se voulait apolitique (d'où l'absence des dirigeants des principaux partis d'opposition) et visait à réunir autour des thèmes fédérateurs des syndicats et ONGs, lesquels pour une fois ont mis de côté leurs différends pour s'entendre sur une plateforme commune.

**“Dans les années 70-80, certains partis (MMM et PMSD notamment) avaient un ancrage syndical dans certains secteurs (port, zone franche, industrie sucrière, services publics) qui leur permettait de mobiliser parfois la masse. Plus loin, dans les années 40-60, le Parti travailliste avait des relations étroites avec des syndicats, ce qui lui assurait des assises populaires. Cette symbiose entre syndicats et partis politiques est révolue...”**

Objectivement, malgré le reportage inexact et tendancieux de la MBC, les organisateurs ont réussi à amener un nombre appréciable de gens à descendre dans la rue pour faire entendre leur voix.

Cela est d'autant plus salutaire que le public fait face à un climat de frayeur dans la foulée des lois liberticides qui visent à criminaliser le délit d'information (objective mais embarrassante) et le délit d'opinion.

## Contexte de frayeur

La liberté d'expression connaît des entraves significatives ces jours-ci. En sus des internautes qui sont surveillés systématiquement par la police ou traînés parfois en Cour pour la moindre incartade, les leaders d'opinion et autres intellectuels téméraires qui donnent librement leur avis sur des sujets d'actualité dans les médias sont sujets à des interrogations ou des enquêtes disciplinaires qui ne font pas honneur à la démocratie citoyenne.

Faut-il aussi rappeler la sanction (suspension temporaire de transmission) infligée

plusieurs fois à une radio privée qui ose aborder des thèmes polémiques? Dans ce contexte de frayeur, la décision d'organiser une manifestation était donc un pari risqué.

Le pari réussi, la question qui se pose maintenant est de savoir si les syndicats et les ONGs parviendront à garder un niveau de mobilisation soutenu afin de faire accréditer leur message et susciter l'adhésion populaire à leur combat. Les “keyboard warriors” de tous poils vont-ils rester dans l'anonymat derrière leur écran d'ordinateur ou vont-ils se manifester en solidarité avec les victimes des mesures d'austérité?

Ailleurs dans le monde, on voit des manifestations quotidiennes contre l'injustice raciale ('Black Lives Matter' aux Etats-Unis, au Canada et en Europe), le mouvement des 'Gilets Jaunes' contre l'austérité en France, la révolte populaire contre la mainmise de la Chine sur le système politico-économique en Hong-Kong, et ainsi de suite.

## Mobilisation populaire

L'île Maurice a perdu sa tradition de mobilisation syndicale et ouvrière depuis belle lurette. La dernière grande mobilisation syndicale remonte à 1979 lorsque les membres des syndicats dans l'industrie sucrière avaient fait grève pour réclamer de

meilleures conditions d'emploi.

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Plus loin, dans les années 40-60, le Parti travailliste avait des relations étroites avec des syndicats, ce qui lui assurait des assises populaires. Cette symbiose entre syndicats et partis politiques est révolue. Le rapport entre partis politiques et travailleurs est maintenant celui qui existe entre élus et électeurs.

L'absence de mouvements sociaux qui mobilisent le public sur des thèmes fédérateurs est le résultat de plusieurs facteurs.

- Au cours des dernières décennies, un consensus politique s'est développé entre les partis traditionnels en faveur de la politique économique néolibérale fondée sur la fiscalité légère (devenue maintenant régressive en faveur des



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riches), les dérégulations du marché et la facilitation des affaires.

En l'absence de contradiction idéologique entre eux, les partis se rabattent sur le clientélisme politique pour s'attirer des soutiens. S'il y a une alternance quelconque, elle est basée sur le postulat d'offrir une méthode alternative d'administration publique plus propre sans remettre en question le système.

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- Une société civile forte et agissante fait défaut à Maurice. Les différents mouvements présents sont traversés par des contradictions philosophiques entre eux (Rezistans ek Alternativ, Lalit, Mouvement Premier Mai, Plateforme pour l'Environnement) alors que les groupes de réflexion (Sime Lalimier, Smart Citizens, Think Mauritius) opèrent en vase clos.
- Les partis eux-mêmes ont coopté des syndicalistes et leaders d'opinion comme candidats aux élections, ce qui affaiblit la confiance publique dans ces personnes.
- Le type de développement axé sur la course à l'argent facile et la surconsommation a créé chez les Mauriciens le sens de l'individualisme et partant le refus de toute solidarité avec les plus vulnérables. Ainsi, le Gouvernement fait expulser des squatters logés sur des terres de l'Etat en plein confinement sans que cela n'émeuve personne.
- Les replis identitaires sur fond de clientélisme politique ont favorisé des regroupements ethno-religieux qui

empêchent toute synergie intercommunautaire dans la réflexion et l'action sur les enjeux nationaux.

- Les syndicats censés apolitiques sont devenus des entités corporatistes qui défendent strictement les intérêts de leurs membres tellement ils sont dépourvus de perspective nationale.

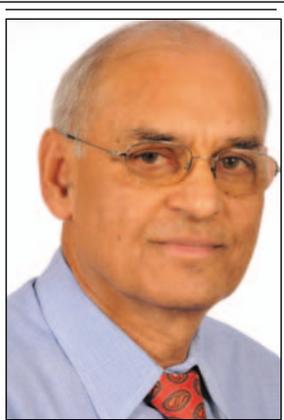
Parfois, les intérêts des syndicats sont conflictuels. Par exemple, les syndicats du secteur public, dont les employés sont plus privilégiés avec la révision des salaires quinquennale et leurs facilités hors-tax, se solidarisent rarement avec leurs homologues du secteur privé. Pour preuve, ils sont restés silencieux sur la Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG), une mesure qui aura un impact seulement sur les employés du secteur privé et les travailleurs indépendants.

La CSG proposée par le Gouvernement est de nature discriminatoire dans la mesure où elle sera prélevée uniquement auprès des employés du secteur privé (en remplacement des contributions au Plan National de Pension) en vue de financer des pensions qui seront accordées à tous, y compris les employés du secteur public.

## Opportunité cruciale

L'impact économique de la pandémie offre l'opportunité aux syndicats et aux ONGs de fédérer les employés, les travailleurs indépendants et autres laissés-pour-compte autour d'une plateforme commune de revendications, qu'il s'agisse de la protection de l'emploi, des salaires garantis, des droits des consommateurs, de la préservation des écosystèmes naturels contre les projets de développement foncier tous azimuts, et de la défense des libertés civiles.

● Suite en page 4



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# On doing one's duty

*If we want to lift the country out of its current depths of despair, what is needed is that kind of professionalism imbued with honesty and integrity to spread at all levels, from the politician to the common man*

Reading about renowned author and management guru Shiv Khera's experience with a taxi driver in Singapore in last Friday's issue of this paper (p 14, 'Life's lessons: Professionalism') made me recall a couple of things. The first was having the opportunity and privilege to be hosted by him to dinner about three years ago at his residence in New Delhi, at the same time partaking of some of the wisdom he shared with the three of us, one of whom was known to him personally.

We were on a Government of India sponsored media visit, and that was our last night in Delhi as we were flying out to Mumbai the next day for the second part of the trip. It was a thoroughly pleasant and enriching evening, not least because there's nothing like *ghar ka khana* (home-cooked meal), although I must concede that the food at the Shangri La Hotel where we were staying was excellent. I cannot say the same for the 'exotic' food meant for tourists in Mauritian hotels which, thankfully, I have had to consume only on the rare occasions when I had to do so – but that's another story.

The other thing that comes to mind is a similar experience I had in Geneva, also with a taxi-driver. Shiv Khera's account is about the taxi driver who charged him 10\$ instead of 11\$ according to the meter reading because, in the words of the taxi driver: 'Sir, I am a taxi driver, I am supposed to be bringing you straight to the destination. Since I did not know the last spot, I had to circle around the building. Had I brought you straight here, the meter would have read 10\$. Why should you be paying for my ignorance?' He said, 'Sir, legally, I can claim 11\$ but honestly and ethically I am entitled to only 10\$' (italics added). He further added that Singapore is a tourist destination and the first experience is always with the taxi driver. And thus, 'though I am a taxi driver, I am the Ambassador of Singapore without a diplomatic passport'.

Shiv Khera comments: 'In my opinion he probably did not go to school beyond the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, but to me he was a professional. To me his behaviour reflected pride in performance and character. That day I learnt that one needs more than professional qualification to be a professional. In one line, be a "Professional with a Human Touch and Values" - that makes all the more difference. Knowledge, skill, money, education, all comes later. First comes Human Values, Honesty and Integrity'.

In my case I had taken a taxi from the UN

building after the afternoon session of the World Health Assembly, which I was officially attending, to go back to my hotel, which was situated less than 100 metres away from Gare Cornavin. As we were approaching it, the driver told me (in French of course), 'Sir, I can either stop you here and you walk the short distance straight ahead to your hotel. Or, since the road is 'no entry' from this side, I



When it comes to medicine, the current pandemic has come to float its reputation back to the expected levels that it once enjoyed, which in many countries had sunken because of what could be called the 'commercialisation' of medicine.. Photo: AFP

will have to go round the bloc to drop you at the hotel's door. I would suggest that you get down here, and thus save the extra four francs to enjoy one more glass of wine with your dinner tonight.' My choice was obvious...

And so this brings us to the issue of doing one's duty with a sense of professionalism, which means not only possessing the necessary competencies to perform the duty, but also doing it with 'Honesty and Integrity', which ought to be the defining human values for a professional worth his salt.

“If we want to lift the country out of its current depths of despair, what is needed is that kind of professionalism imbued with honesty and integrity to spread at all levels, from the politician to the common man, code or no code. Is it too much to expect leading by example from the top? Of this we are not fortunate enough to witness these days, but unless this transformation takes place, I worry about what will happen to the present and coming generations...”

During my high school student days I learnt that traditionally the noble professions pertained to law, medicine and the priesthood. As regards the priesthood the least said the better, what with the string of cases of sexual scandals that have rocked the global priesthood over the past decade or so. But law and medicine have not been spared either. Besides the anecdotal accounts that one has heard of victims of the legal profession, the fact of, for example, lawyers having to face the fire of a drug commission was assuredly not an honour for the profession.

When it comes to medicine, the current pandemic has come to float its reputation back to the expected levels that it once enjoyed, which in many countries had sunken because of what could be called the 'commercialisation' of medicine. Doctors trapped in such systems went along with the tide, dropping ethical norms to the detriment of

their patients.

This was despite the fact that probably the medical profession was among the first in modern times to come up with a code of medical ethics. The higher one's calling, the more rigorous the standard of practice and behaviour that is expected of the practitioner. It is precisely because of deficiencies in this regard that codes of ethics have had to be devised, but come to think of it, even without any formal code it is possible to perform one's duty with Honesty and Integrity – in other words to be a thorough professional, as the examples of the taxi drivers amply illustrate.

If we want to lift the country out of its current depths of despair, what is needed is that kind of professionalism imbued with Honesty and Integrity to spread at all levels, from the politician to the common man, code or no code. The taxi drivers have led by example from the bottom. Is it too much to expect leading by example from the top?

Of this we are not fortunate enough to witness these days, but unless this transformation takes place, I worry about what will happen to the present and coming generations – about the future of the country, *tout court*.

## Est-ce un sursaut de la société civile?

● Suite de la page 3

La pandémie a non seulement exacerbé la précarité économique pour une grande majorité, mais elle a aussi accentué les inégalités économiques avec la réaction du Gouvernement en termes de nouvelles politiques publiques.

On se demande s'il y a une politique volontariste de l'Etat de privilégier le grand patronat avec des plans de sauvetage à coups de milliards de roupies [Rs 80 milliards à injecter dans l'économie par la Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) sans aucune transparence sur les bénéficiaires de l'aide publique] ou si l'Etat est l'otage consentant du capitalisme.

En tout cas, l'attribution des contrats de fourniture de médicaments et d'équipements médicaux d'une valeur totale de Rs 1,5 milliards sans aucun appel d'offres, sous le prétexte de l'urgence sanitaire, à des sociétés des plus opaques témoignerait d'un népotisme indéniable ou d'un clientélisme flagrant.

### Revendications

Vu les enjeux majeurs post-Covid, la société civile est appelée à s'organiser et à se mobiliser pour soutenir des revendications nationales qui transcendent les divisions politiques, sociales ou ethniques. Si certains partis veulent y apporter leur soutien, ils se mettront au diapason d'un mouvement démocratique. Déjà, les organisateurs de la manifestation solidaire ont dressé un cahier de revendications qui indiquent une prise de conscience certaine des problèmes actuels, dont :

- l'introduction immédiate d'un salaire universel de Rs 12,500 à tout citoyen sans emploi ;
- une garantie légale contre la perte d'emploi pendant une certaine période suite à l'injection de fonds dans l'économie par la MIC ;
- l'imposition d'un impôt sur la fortune avec un système fiscal progressif pour assurer une réelle solidarité nationale ;
- le gel de l'abolition du National Pensions Fund et son remplacement par la CSG ;
- la mise en place d'une commission nationale, comprenant des représentants de l'opposition parlementaire et extra-parlementaire, des syndicats, des femmes, des jeunes et des citoyens ;
- le gel de la construction d'hôtels et la restauration écologique là où c'est nécessaire ; et
- l'abolition des ingérences politiques et du commissaire de police dans des décisions sanitaires et de santé publique.

Ces revendications constituent une plateforme de base qui mérite un débat élargi.

Aditya Narayan



Sada Reddi

# Protest: A New Beginning

*Once a government and its institutions lose legitimacy, it opens the way for chaos and this is not what we need during these trying times*

There is no doubt that the protest march of the 11 July organized by the 'collective solidarity' movement was a resounding success. It is also a 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.

There were doubts about whether there would be good crowd because it is argued that people no longer take to street protests. Times have changed and the millennials glued to their smartphones express their views through the social media, and that's the end of it. Nobody would dispute these assertions, but a culture of protest has also to be taught and learnt, and maybe little has been done by the elders to promote protest as an attribute of citizenship.

Coming back to trade union unity, the earliest example of this was in 1978 when the FSN, a National Front of Trade Unions of both the Civil Service and the private sector, including the GWF was formed to seek an increase in wages to compensate for the loss of purchasing power. The present protest is also a new beginning and it augurs well for the future of the country. Who knows, we may be at the beginning of a new cycle.

As such, it reminds me of the MMM demonstration against Princess Alexandra and her husband in 1969 when some hundreds of people were present to protest against a symbol of capitalism. The demonstration was dispersed in the gathering darkness by teargas. I happened to be there with a few teachers and students at the invitation of my friend Kritikumbar Goburdhun, then a teacher at the Presidency College, to join in. With hindsight, the demonstration turned out to be a defining moment for the MMM.

A bit of history tells us that from that early beginning, a mass protest movement emerged in the 1970s with a by-



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election and the strike in 1971 which are important turning points in our history. A sustained sensitization by the *Collectif* could certainly usher in a new political culture and bring hope to the country.

The protest march was peaceful and it started with the planting of a *Trochetia* in Cathedral Square to mark the event and a homage was paid to Anjalay Coopen, the martyr of the Belle Vue Harel shooting. This was followed by a peaceful march with banners expressing the concerns of the people; it was punctuated by speeches from trade unionists and other organisers. It went past the Prime Minister's Office where it delivered a letter to the head of Government and continued its way to the Company's Garden.

A fair and personal assessment of the crowd suggests that it was mostly the active members of the different organizations together with obviously many other individuals, including some young people, who were present. They therefore represent the core of our active citizenship in the country. A more active sensitization campaign should get more millennials to join in.

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orities and concerns were about the increasing economic precariousness of the nation, particularly the productive class, the growing unemployment, increasing inflation, rampant corruption, the rising cost of living and the regular laying off of workers by employers - even among those who had benefited from wage assistance.

The increasing arbitrariness of government, particularly the Covid-19 Act and the quarantine measures came in for loads of criticisms. The government was accused of using the epidemic as a strategy to muzzle the nation. Every now and then marchers would shout shrill slogans at the top of their voice that were repeated in chorus. Even for those who marched in a religious silence, their eyes spoke their thoughts. What infuriated most of them was the loss of their pension and all the contributions they had made over the years that had vanished into thin air. They wanted back their pension and could have clamoured that they wanted their pension, the whole pension and nothing but their pension.

The remarkable achievement of the protesters is a powerful signal to the government. It may choose to respond positively or ignore them. It may continue to believe that a public relations exercise and media control are sufficient to govern the country in these critical times. With the worse still to come, more measures are

needed to protect the workers and more creative policies are required to deal with the unprecedented economic problems looming on the horizon.

Many may not have grasped the problems facing the country that in many cases are self-inflicting. It is now that they realize the importance of a national carrier and that we cannot rely on other foreign airlines to safeguard our interests. At the moment many parents cannot send their children to school or feed them properly because they have lost their jobs. In the past a caring government did not facilitate the laying off of workers but made great efforts to create more jobs and even supplemented wages with rations for the deserving poor. In the sugar industry labourers who had completed 80% presence during the crop season were entitled to a job during the intercrop season. Admittedly different times need different solutions but the bottom line is that every citizen must be provided with sufficient means to live a decent life.

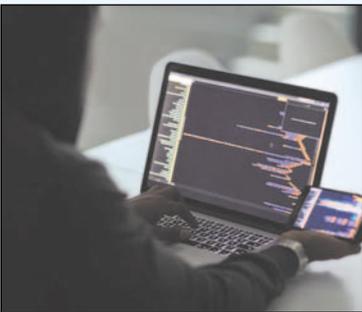
These are indeed very difficult times. We need competent and creative people, consultations and consensus to find and implement appropriate solutions. For too long we have believed that a coterie can govern and administer the country. The consequences and the hard facts have hit us hard in the face in terms of corruption and incompetence that are wasteful of our limited resources.

“The remarkable achievement of the protesters is a powerful signal to the government. It may choose to respond positively or ignore them. It may continue to believe that a public relations exercise and media control are sufficient to govern the country in these critical times. With the worse still to come, more measures are needed to protect the workers and more creative policies are required to deal with the unprecedented economic problems looming on the horizon...”

The protest march is just a beginning and in coming months will tend to widen as an increasing number of people feel the pinch. Unsolved economic problems and poor governance will hit at the main pillar of government, that is legitimacy. Once a government and its institutions lose legitimacy, it opens the way for chaos and this is not what we need during these trying times.

## Spyware and wiretaps provided to 17 repressive regimes

The British government is providing more than a dozen repressive regimes around the world with wiretaps, spyware and other telecommunications interception equipment they could use to spy on dissidents, public records show.



UK selling spyware and wiretaps to 17 repressive regimes.  
Photo - static.independent.co.uk

Despite rules saying the UK should not export security goods to countries that might use them for internal repression, ministers have signed off more than £75m in such exports over the past five years to states rated "not free" by the NGO Freedom House.

The 17 countries include China, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, as well as the United Arab Emirates, which was the biggest recipient of licences totalling £11.5m alone since 2015.

\* \* \*

## Britons will be warned about the risks from new travel rules

Britons will be warned about the risks from new travel rules, higher roaming charges and border chaos for traders when Brexit is completed as a new information campaign is launched, reports The Independent. Ministers have chosen the slogan "The UK's new start: let's get going" for the adverts that will run on television, radio and the internet, as well as in text messages to be sent out. A strapline reading "Check, Change, Go" will direct people and businesses to a website for detailed advice on steps to take - with full departure from the EU looming on 31 December.

# Amitabh Bachchan, Abhishek are stable, do not require aggressive treatment

Amitabh Bachchan and his son, actor Abhishek Bachchan, who were admitted to a hospital in Mumbai after testing positive for coronavirus, are "clinically stable", hospital sources said on Monday.

Amitabh, 77, and Abhishek, 44, revealed their diagnosis on Twitter on July 11, saying they were in the isolation ward of Nanavati Hospital.

"They both are in the (isolation) ward and are clinically stable. At present, they do not require aggressive treatment. They are okay with the first line of medication. They are being given supportive therapy," a hospital insider told PTI. "Their vitals and appetite are fine," the source added.

On Sunday, Amitabh's daughter-in-law, actor Aishwarya Rai, 46, and her eight-year-old daughter Aaradhya also tested positive for Covid-19. Abhishek confirmed Aishwarya and

Aaradhya's diagnosis on the microblogging site on Sunday, adding that they will be "self-quarantining at home". The actor said he and his father will "remain in hospital till the doctors decide otherwise".

Taking to his blog on Sunday, Amitabh thanked his admirers for their prayers and concern for him and his family members. "My dearest extended family, your concern, your prayers and your wishes for Abhishek, Aishwarya, Aaradhya and me for a speedy recovery has filled me with unending gratitude. I thank you all," the screen icon wrote.

Meanwhile, Jaya Bachchan has tested negative for Covid-19. Abhishek's 'Breathe Into The Shadows' co-star Amit Sadh has also tested negative for the contagious virus.

According to ANI, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has sealed all four bungalows of the



Sources from the Nanavati hospital said Amitabh Bachchan and Abhishek are okay with the first line of medication and are being given supportive therapy.  
Photo - cmsimages.tribuneindia.com

Bachchan's family. Jalsa, Pratiksha, Janak, and Vatsa have been sealed after sanitisation, and 30 staff members working at the premises have been tested for COVID-19. However, their results are awaited, said the

BMC.

With 1,263 new COVID-19 cases being recorded on Sunday, Mumbai's case count has mounted to 92,720, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said.

## India in talks with EU for trade deal, open to pact with UK: Piyush Goyal



India in talks with EU for trade deal.  
Photo - cdn.tweb.net

India has started trade talks with the European Union (EU) and is open to dialogue with the United Kingdom for a free trade agreement, the trade minister said on Saturday, as the economy looks for new markets for its products.

Piyush Goyal said that India is open to engage with the UK for a preferential trade agreement with the

ultimate goal of a free trade agreement.

He is also in dialogue with the European Union's trade commissioner for a deal that could start with a preferential trade agreement. He added that the ultimate goal too would be to have a free trade agreement, reports Reuters.

"We're talking to the EU and I am in dialogue with the EU trade commissioner. I am looking for an early harvest deal. Open to discussions on a variety of subjects. It's up to the UK and EU whoever picks up the gauntlet first," Mr Goyal said.

Negotiations for a comprehensive free trade agreement between the EU and India were suspended in 2013 after six years of talks.

India pulled out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership last year due to fears over China's access to its markets and is looking for new ways to boost its exports.

The country has also been raising trade barriers to block cheap imports from China and replace them with locally made goods for domestic consumption and exports.

"Apart from pharmaceuticals, we have textiles, handicrafts, leather, furniture, industrial machinery, toys are areas where India can engage with UK & EU at competitive prices," Goyal said.

India's economic growth has largely been driven by local consumption and successive governments have struggled to expand exports.

\* \* \*

## Won't surrender, will develop oil industry despite US sanctions: Iran

Iran is determined to develop its oil industry in spite of US sanctions imposed on the country, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said in a televised speech on Saturday.

"We will not surrender under any circumstances...We have to increase our capacity so that when necessary with full strength we can enter the market and revive our market share," said Zanganeh.

The minister was speaking before the signing of a \$294-million contract between the National Iranian Oil Company and Persia Oil and Gas, an Iranian firm, to develop the Yaran oilfield that is shared with neighbouring Iraq's Majnoon field.

The agreement aims to produce 39.5 million barrels of oil from the Yaran oilfield in Khuzestan province in southwestern Iran, the Iranian Oil Ministry's news agency SHANA said.

Hit by reimposed US sanctions since Washington exited Iran's 2015 nuclear deal in 2018, Iran's oil exports are estimated at 100,000 to 200,000 barrels per day, down from more than 2.5 million bpd that Iran shipped in April 2018. The Islamic Republic's crude production has halved to around 2 million bpd.

☞ Cont. on page 7

# Sudan scraps apostasy law

**A**fter more than 30 years of Islamist rule, Sudan has outlined wide-reaching reforms including allowing non-Muslims to drink alcohol, and scrapping the apostasy law and public flogging.

"We [will] drop all the laws violating the human rights in Sudan," Justice Minister Nasredeen Abdulbari said.

A raft of new laws were passed last week but this is the first public explanation of their contents.

Sudan has also banned female genital mutilation (FGM).

Under the new laws, women no longer need permission from a male relative to travel with their children.

The reforms come after long-time ruler Omar al-Bashir was ousted last year following massive street protests.

The current government is an uneasy mixture of those groups which ousted Mr Bashir and his former allies in the military, who ultimately staged a coup against him.

## What is the new law on alcohol?

Non-Muslims are now allowed to consume alcohol in private, however the ban on Muslim drinking remains, Mr Abdulbari told state TV.

Non-Muslims could still be punished if they are caught drinking with Muslims, the Sudan Tribune reports him as saying.

He explained that the go-vernment was trying to safeguard the rights of the country's non-Muslims, who make up an estimated 3% of the population.

They are now allowed to drink, import and sell alcohol.

"We are keen to demolish any kind of discrimination that was enacted by the old regime and to move toward equality of citizenship and a democratic transformation," he said.

The laws were initially approved in April but the BBC's Mohamed Osman in Khartoum says they have only now taken effect.

## What about the other changes?

Until now, anyone convicted of renouncing Islam, or apostasy, could face the death penalty.

The declaration that someone was an apostate was "a threat to the security and safety of society," Mr Abdulbari said.

Under Mr Bashir, the morality police would often carry out public flogging for various misdemeanours but Mr Abdulbari said this punishment had now been abolished.

The latest changes come after a restrictive public order law that controlled how women acted and dressed in public was repealed in November.

The imposition of strict Islamist laws in the 1980s was a key factor in the long-running civil war which eventually led to independence for South Sudan, where the majority of people are Christian or follow traditional religions.



Sudanese drinkers have had to secretly make their own alcohol until now. Photo - AFP

# Thailand plans November human testing for potential coronavirus vaccine

**T**hai researchers plan to begin human trials of a potential vaccine for the new coronavirus in November and are preparing 10,000 doses, a senior official said on Sunday, aiming for a vaccine that could be ready for use by late next year.

Following favourable results in trials on primates, the next step is to manufacture doses for human trials, said Kiat Ruxruntham, director of the Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University vaccine development program.

"At first we were going to send them in June, but it was not easy to plan everything," Kiat told a news conference.

There are no approved vaccines for the virus that causes COVID-19, but 19 candidates are being trailed in humans globally. China is leading the race, with an experimental vaccine by Sinovac Biotech Ltd.

Thailand's first facility should complete production in October and send the products to a second facility, which should finish by November, he said. Originally the earliest target was

September, but Kiat said not enough vaccine can be ready by then.

Facilities in San Diego and Vancouver will produce 10,000 doses for the trials for 5,000 people. The first group, aged 18 to 60, will receive different doses of the vaccine, he said.

The trials will not accept volunteers "until we receive approval from the Thai Food and Drug Administration and an ethics committee," Kiat said.

Thai company BioNet-Asia is preparing its facilities for large-scale manufacturing if the trials prove successful, he said.

"If everything goes according to plan, the vaccine will be ready for Thailand in the third

or fourth quarter next year," Kiat said.

Thailand on Sunday had a total of 3,217 confirmed infections, with no local transmissions reported in over a month, and 58 COVID-19 deaths.



There are no approved vaccines for the virus that causes COVID-19, but 19 candidates are being trailed in humans globally. Photo - public.potaufeu.asahi.com

# Hong Kong: Opposition primaries draw thousands despite security law fears

**T**he two-day vote will determine the opposition candidates for September's elections to the legislative council.

But it is being widely viewed as a test of opposition to the controversial new law that took effect last month.

The law, which gives the Chinese state new powers over the city, drew widespread international condemnation, reports Reuters.



Hundreds of thousands of people in Hong Kong have voted in pro-democracy primaries, despite warnings that doing so may breach a new security law. Photo - reuters.com

China has said the law is necessary to prevent the type of protests seen in Hong Kong during much of 2019, but its critics say it severely curtails freedoms guaranteed to Hongkongers for 50 years after British rule ended in Hong Kong in 1997.

On Sunday, thousands of voters queued for a second day at more than 250 polling stations around the city. Opposition activists had hoped for a high turnout, and early estimates suggested that it had exceeded their expectations.

Organisers set a target of 170,000 voters across the weekend, but officials said more than 500,000 people had taken part as of Sunday afternoon.

The voters turned out despite one senior Chinese official suggesting last week that participation in the primary could breach the new security law.

"Those who have organised, planned or participated in the primary election should be wary and avoid carelessly violating the law," Erick Tsang, the Secretary for Mainland and Constitutional Affairs, told the Sing Tao Daily newspaper.

Hong Kong residents are worried the new law means the 'one country, two systems' principle no longer exists.

Sunny Cheung, one of the candidates, told the Reuters news agency that a high turnout would "send a very strong signal to the international community, that we Hong Kongers never give up".

Eddie Chu, an opposition pro-democracy politician, called the vote a "proxy referendum against the national security law".

Compiled by D.Ramlallah

# What makes a 'wave' of disease?

*An epidemiologist explains*

**P**anic about a second wave of coronavirus cases is "overblown," US Vice President Mike Pence wrote in June, implying the US has Covid-19 under control. On the other hand, Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, warns that the US is still firmly within a first wave of cases.

Six months into the pandemic, people

Historical outbreaks of infectious diseases offer some models for how the course of a disease like Covid-19 might unfold over time.

Some diseases come in somewhat predictable seasonal waves, with higher transmission rates at some times of the year than at others. Seasonal coronaviruses, like 229E or HKU1, which cause the common cold, have a high point

of the disease. Some scientists model that SARS-CoV-2 will eventually become seasonal like other coronaviruses.

Waves and seasonal dynamics are also affected by levels of immunity in the human population. As more individuals become immune to a pathogen, its spread slows and eventually stops as the virus runs out of new people to infect. The US is nowhere near what epidemiologists call herd immunity in the general population, however; mathematical modelers suggest at least between 43% and 60% of people would need to be immune to SARS-CoV-2 for that to be the case.

## Ebb and flow, 150 years of influenza waves

Some of the current talk of coronavirus waves likely stems from comparisons with past epidemics that did show these peaks and troughs of infections.

University of Oxford scholars of evidence-based medicine Tom Jefferson and Carl Heneghan have summarized past waves in respiratory virus pandemics over the previous 150 years. For example, the 1889-92 influenza outbreak had three distinct waves, which differed in their virulence. The second wave was much more severe, particularly in younger

waves can have different features, too, regarding factors like disease severity or which populations are most affected.

## What's happening now in the US

SARS-CoV-2 infections in the US are on the rise. Some of this increase may be driven by more widespread testing now. But the increases felt in many large states – Texas, California, Florida – are a result of more community transmission.

Currently, even with an increase in the number of cases in many parts of the US, there has not been a corresponding increase in the number of deaths.

The story from Iran may offer a cautionary note. From a peak of over 3,000 cases confirmed per day in early April, it declined to less than 1,000 by May, from which it has climbed to hover around 2,500 daily confirmed cases as of the end of June. The rise in the number of deaths did not occur until the second half of June. This is likely due to the time lag between when someone is infected and when they die.

Accordingly, US states currently experiencing an uptick in COVID-19 confirmed cases could see a notable increase in deaths within a few weeks. The average age of those infected is getting younger, though, complicating predictions about a death toll.

The US is not yet in a second wave and increasingly it looks like the country may not see one. Instead, the US may sustain a constant first wave that just continues to crest. The political willpower



are looking for ways to make sense of what's happening. Talking about waves of disease, with the implication of predictable rises and falls, is part of that. As an epidemiologist, I know that disease waves aren't scientifically defined. But looking to the history of previous epidemics and other countries' current COVID-19 outbreaks can be useful.

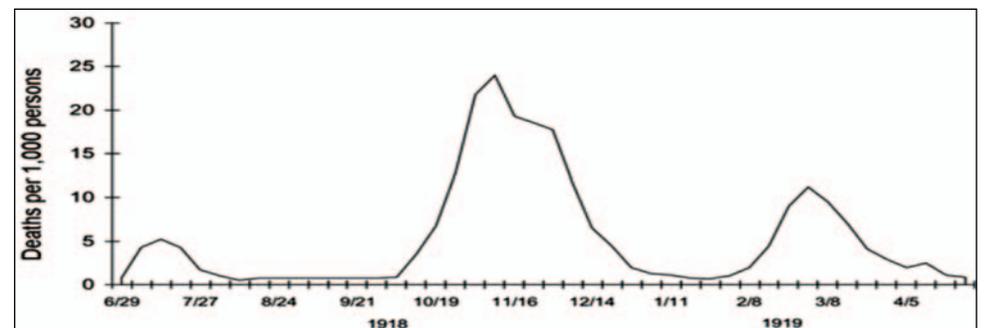
## Characterizing a wave

There's no strict definition for what is or is not an epidemic wave or phase. A wave implies a rising number of sick individuals, a defined peak, and then a decline. The word "wave" implies a natural pattern of peaks and valleys; it hints that even during a lull, future outbreaks of disease are possible.

from around December through March, according to research in the US and elsewhere.

Several factors influence whether a particular disease is seasonal in nature. Some pathogens may spread less well with greater humidity. Annual epidemics, like of influenza may occur because of climate or patterns of social mixing – often driven by the school year or people staying inside more during the winter.

It's possible that SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, spreads more efficiently under certain weather conditions. But recent outbreaks in Florida, Arizona, Texas and Southern California suggest that warm or humid weather is not sufficient to stop the spread



Three waves of death: weekly combined influenza and pneumonia mortality, United Kingdom, 1918-1919. The waves were broadly the same globally during the pandemic. Taubenberger JK, Morens DM. 1918 Influenza: the Mother of All Pandemics. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2006;12(1):15-22., CC BY

The current COVID-19 pandemic is often compared to the 1918 H1N1 influenza pandemic, which had three distinct waves over the course of a year. The proportion of influenza patients who were severely ill or died was much higher in the last two waves compared to the first. It's unclear whether being infected earlier on protected individuals during later waves.

More recently, the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, though mild, had two distinct waves; this virus still commonly shows up in seasonal influenza outbreaks. A study of H1N1 influenza in 2009-2010 found that the second wave affected more older people, with underlying conditions.

Insight from the past suggests that discrete waves result as a disease spreads into and out of a population. Different

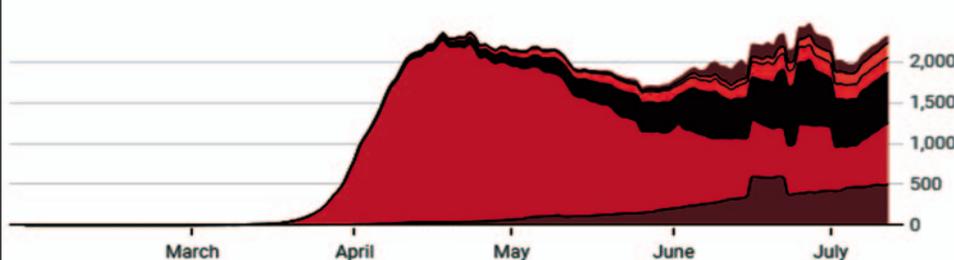
necessary to limit transmission through robust, ongoing lockdown measures seems, unfortunately, to have been snuffed out.

But arguing about whether the US is in a second wave, the first wave, or wave 1.5 ultimately doesn't matter. Whichever it is, the commonsense actions everyone can currently take to limit the spread of infection remain the same: Staying home when possible, wearing a mask and socially distancing when out, and frequently washing hands will help speed our way beyond this pandemic, regardless of what wave we're in.

Abram L. Wagner  
University of Michigan

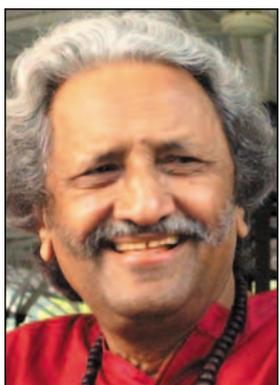
## New confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the U.S., per day

While deaths from the coronavirus peaked in April, the daily total has never gone below 600 since then.



Seven day rolling average of the number of people confirmed to have died from COVID-19, per day (not including today). This chart gets updated once per day with data by Johns Hopkins. Johns Hopkins University didn't provide reliable data for March 12 and March 13. Chart: Datawrapper/The Conversation Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Get the data

# Beyond Hollywood and Bollywood movies: Real life cops and gangsters encounter



Kul Bhushan

The cops and gangsters encounter in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, last week surpassed all Hollywood and Bollywood movies. Usually, the cops lay the trap for gangsters but Vikas Dube, the dreaded don, turned the tables on cops. On 3 July, when he came to know from his police informers that a police party of 50 policemen and officers was coming for him to his home in a village near Lucknow, he left nothing to

chance.

A huge excavator was parked near his home, blocking the narrow road. Sharpshooters were stationed on all house tops on the approach road. The informers fed him by the second about developments: number of cops, number of vehicles, types of guns, time of departure, progress at every landmark.

Finally, the police party reached the village and found the road to his house blocked by the huge, yellow excavator. As the vehicles stopped, all lights in the village went off. In darkness, the police started to walk towards his home and that's when the shooting started from the house tops. Eight, yes eight, cops, including two senior officers, were killed. Many more were injured before the shooting stopped. Vikas Dube and his henchmen dumped their guns in the nearby well and ran away.



Vikas Dube arrested. Photo - images.indianexpress.com

On 4 July, the Station Officer of nearest police station was suspended after his role as an informer was ascertained. The police razed his home to rubble and discovered guns and ammunition. His three cars were crushed and mangled. Now the hunt for Dube started. On 5 July, the police caught one of his assistants, killed him in a shootout. On 6 July, three more policemen were suspended for tipping off Dube. On July 7, Dube's relative, neighbour and domestic help were arrested. Next day, 8 July his relative and bodyguard died in another encounter.

But Dube was not traced for five days although his photo with a big reward was displayed at all toll stations and many public places. On 8 July, Dube turned up at a hotel in Faridabad, on the outskirts of Delhi, as he tried to check-in, the receptionist asked for his identity card and

refused. He escaped. Early morning on 9 July, Dube was recognised by a flower seller at the famous Maha Kaal Temple in Uljain, Madhya Pradesh. The flower seller alerted the temple guard who phoned the police. When Dube emerged after his prayers, the guard accosted him, a scuffle followed and the police arrived at the same time. He was nabbed.

Uttar Pradesh police was contacted and a party arrived to transport him back to Lucknow. On 10 July, the party left for Lucknow by road. As they approached the city, it was raining heavily; strong winds were blowing and the car carrying him hit a road divider and overturned. Dube attempted to escape after snatching a pistol from an officer and started shooting, the cops returned fire. He was shot dead after four bullets hit him in the chest and one on his arm. Two policemen were injured and later treated in a hospital.

Dube's reign of crime, extortion, kidnapping and murder for more than two decades ended. A major criminal gang has been demolished by strong and decisive action by UP Chief Minister, Yogi Aditya Nath, who has a striking resemblance to Hollywood's 'Fast and Furious' star, Vin Diesel. But all this is real life, not a movie.

## Exploring and discovering inner space during pandemic

What a horrendous start for the new decade! The dawn of 2020 has brought more disruption, violence, political unrest and terror. And if all this was not enough, we have a global pandemic that threatens our very lives all over the world.

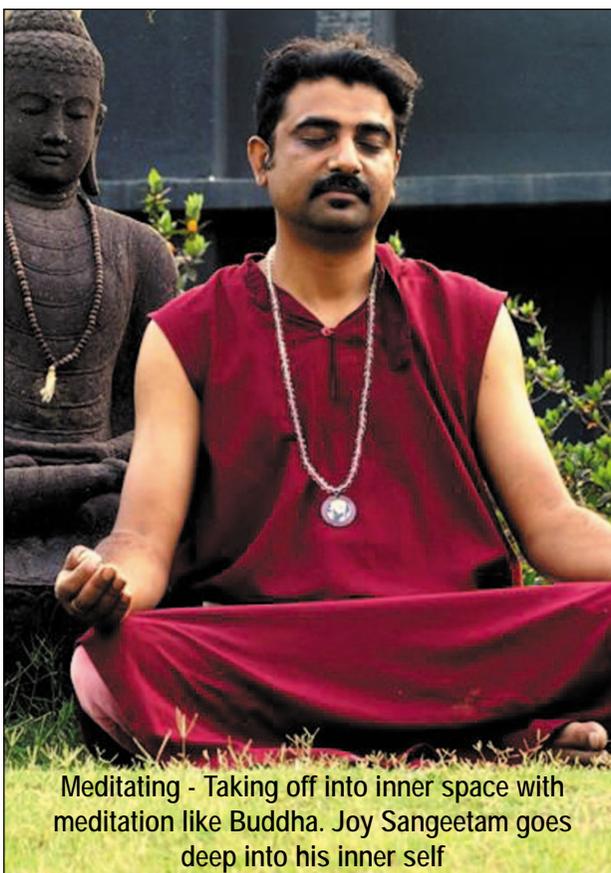
Without firing a single bullet, it has brought the world to a standstill. 571K lives have been lost and there are to date 12.9 million confirmed cases and more millions exposed to this killer disease.

24-hour TV news channels, newspapers, emails and social media posts on our mobiles keep bombarding us with this silent, fatal threat. Afraid and confined to our homes, we are shaken with daily news of what's going on.

How do we cope with all this? Do we have the extra power to survive? How can we increase our emotional and mental strength? Where can we get the extra energy to face it all? How can we recharge our batteries to cope with this external disaster?

These questions have very easy answers which we all follow. Just escape. Whether it is a short break in a movie or a sports match on TV, a regular escape in drinks or playing cards, but we have to return to face the grim reality of our survival.

So, isn't it more sensible to seek a durable solution to our personal challenges? Is it reading books, watching TV serials/movies all the time to escape from



Meditating - Taking off into inner space with meditation like Buddha. Joy Sangeetam goes deep into his inner self

ourselves? Why not go inwards for real rest and re-charge? But what's the way out? Osho says, "In the inner world no effort is needed. Once you start slipping withinwards, you suddenly see everything is happening as it should. Life is perfect. There is no way to improve upon it. Then celebration starts."

Once you explore and discover your vast inner space, you are beyond your sex, physical age and all your limitations. You have left your external world far, far away with all its suppression, violence, hatred, crime, perversions and greed. As you go deeper and inwards, you discover that you are formless and can fly - indeed float - in this very, very private space where you do not need any rockets to propel you. Here is total freedom! And while you experience all this, you are re-energized, rejuvenated and revitalized. You get almost unlimited inner strength to face the turmoil all around you.

Once you meditate, you begin to start to smile, laugh a lot, sometimes dance, frequently sing, and love much more; and it all leads you to witnessing everything without involving yourself. Including this pandemic.

As long as you are breathing, everything is fine. Breathing means you are alive, healthy and active. With the awareness of meditation, you explore new universes of your inner space and get re-charged.

*Kul Bhushan worked as a newspaper Editor in Nairobi for over three decades and now lives in New Delhi*

# 5 tactics for thriving in a recession



Robin Sharma

**Y**es, these are deeply volatile (and troubling) times.

My heart hurts as I watch and process what's happening on our tiny blue planet. And yet, you and I must rise, as things fall.

As life grows messier we must become stronger.

As many business people duck their heads into the sand, we must seek out new ways to deliver splendid value. Leaders are forged in times of tumult versus during seasons of ease. To NOT use this crisis to ascend in mastery, creativity and service to many will be to miss the greatest opportunity of your lifetime.

And as an entrepreneur-while others get crushed by fear-you really want to learn how the great ones protect their business to navigate this storm and set yourself up so you thrive once it's done.

In my 24 years of mentoring billionaires, celebrity CEOs and famed industry titans I've learned that to receive the results very few receive, you need to do the things very few are doing.

In the spirit of helping you scale your firm, construct a better lifestyle (for you and your loved ones) and leverage the rest of your life in helpfulness of others, I wish to walk you through 5 specific tactics that will help you rise, in these very uncertain times.

## 1. Work on yourself first

Your income and impact will never go higher than who you are, as a leader and as a person.

Now-more than ever-is when you need to be calibrating your morning routine, improving your meditation practice, reading books about heroes, optimizing your fitness, dialling in your nutrition and journaling like a pro.

Also, please ensure you're drinking a good amount of water, fasting to create autophagy, heading into nature daily if you can and improving your sleep hygiene.



As life grows messier we must become stronger. As many business people duck their heads into the sand, we must seek out new ways to deliver splendid value. Photo - [www.3ecpa.com.sg](http://www.3ecpa.com.sg)

## 2. Lean out your business

Many of my top clients are leaning out their businesses and realizing that-without the extra costs and complexity-they not only are fortifying their companies, they are moving even faster. And having more fun.

A crisis is actually an excellent time to grow a more agile and efficient company. That wins when this is all over.

## 3. Produce fresh solutions

...disrupt or be disrupted.

...adapt or be defeated.

During this storm, rather than play victim and wish things were the way they used to be (those days are gone), elevate your leadership game and out-invent everyone around you.

Rather than freezing, create new value that your marketplace will adore. Products that customers now need more than ever and services that will help them make their desires real.

Suffering has always provided soil for awesome creativity, next-level productivity and innovation.

## 4. Scale your craft

Business always rewards the best.

This is a splendid time to invest in your professional education and personal development.

Your industry rewards the magic you bring to it. Get better at what you deliver and the world will blaze a path to your door. It really will.

Those producers who rest on their laurels will soon be irrelevant.

Those performers who lift their game, advance their skills and

escalate their craft will find they have more business than they can fathom. And a lifestyle they adore.

## 5. Bullet-proof against trolls

If unprepared, the stone-throwing of the critics and cynics can take you down.

The reality is that the very nature of being a visionary and world-changer during dark days means you'll attract ridicule, jealousy and condemnation. You must continue. At all costs. For the world needs your genius.

Critics are just terrified game-changers, in disguise. Pay zero attention to them. Stick to your knitting. Stand strong. Win.

And, remember, all heroes turned their setbacks into stepping stones. And every luminary transformed their hard moments into monumental leaps.

## Work Smarter

### Leave work at the door - even if you can't leave the house

**W**hen you're working from home, it can be really hard to transition from work mode to personal mode, but it's more important than ever to keep the distinction clear. Here's how to make the switch. First, establish a routine that eases you into work mode. Maybe it's putting your dishes in the dishwasher, getting a cup of coffee, and then sitting down at your computer. Or maybe it's doing a quick workout, showering, and then turning to your phone to check email.

Do these activities in the same way each day to build the habit. Then, make a plan for your day, blocking out time on your calendar for meetings, answering emails, or focusing on special projects. Finally, set a wrap-up routine to end your workday. This could include doing a final scan to make sure you've responded to all critical emails, looking over your task list to decide what you will tackle tomorrow, and maybe even saying out loud to yourself, "The workday is done, I'm signing off."

*This tip is adapted from "How to Transition Between Work Time and Personal Time," by Elizabeth Grace Saunders*

### Stop Your Mind from Imagining the Worst-Case Scenario

**W**hen you feel anxious about losing things that are dear to you, your mind may imagine the worst. To calm yourself, return to the present. Start simple. Name five things in the room: There's a computer, a chair, a picture of the dog, an old rug, and a coffee mug. Breathe. Realize that in the present moment, this room is your reality. In this moment, you're OK. Use your senses, think about how these objects feel. The desk is hard. Feel the breath come into your nose.

The goal is to find balance in your thoughts. If you feel a negative image taking shape, make yourself think of a positive one. Let go of what you can't control. And be compassionate and patient with yourself and others. Being generous in your thinking can help brush aside some of your negative thoughts.

*This tip is adapted from "That Discomfort You're Feeling Is Grief," by Scott Berinato.*

### Conduct layoffs with compassion

**L**ayoffs during the pandemic are different; due to social distancing, they can't happen in person. If you must oversee layoffs remotely, take extra care to break the news with compassion. Your aim is to treat people with dignity, fairness, and respect. Offer a short explanation about the economic conditions that led to the decision. Stress that the dismissal is not the employee's fault, but a result of an unprecedented global crisis. Provide information on how your employee can apply for government benefits. Offer to serve as a reference for future applications, and share leads about any opportunities that you're aware of. Even if you're experiencing guilt and sadness, don't make the conversation about you. Resist the temptation to say, "This is hard for me." Instead, find a peer or mentor to help you talk through your feelings at another time. As a manager, it's your responsibility to be fully there for your people, especially when you're conveying devastating news.

*This tip is adapted from "How to Manage Coronavirus Layoffs with Compassion," by Rebecca Knight.*

Harvard Business Review's Management Tip

## In a light vein

### Raffling a dead donkey

Young Mr Patel bought a donkey from a farmer for £100. Mr Patel handed over the money, and the farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.

The next day the farmer drove up and said, 'Sorry son, but I have some bad news. The donkey's died.'

Mr Patel replied, 'Well then just give me my money back.'

The farmer said, 'Can't do that. I've already spent it.'

Mr Patel said, 'OK, then, just bring me the dead donkey.'

The farmer asked, 'What are you going to do with him?'

Mr Patel said, 'I'm going to raffle him off.'

The farmer said, 'You can't raffle a dead donkey!'

Mr Patel said, 'Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead.'

A month later, the farmer met up with Mr Patel and asked, 'What happened with that dead donkey?'

Mr Patel said, 'I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at £2 each and made a profit of £898.'

The farmer said, 'Didn't anyone complain?'

Mr Patel said, 'Just the guy who won. So I gave him his £2 back.'

Mr Patel now works for the Royal Bank of Scotland.

\* \* \*

A bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman: "Which book has helped you the most in your life?"

The woman replied: "My husband's chequebook!"

\* \* \*

A prospective husband in a book store: "Do you have a book called, 'Husband - the Master of the House'?"

Sales Girl: "Sir, fiction and comics are on the 1st floor!"

\* \* \*

Someone asked an old man: "Even after 70 years, you still call your wife, 'Darling, Honey, Love'. What's the secret?"

Old man: "I forgot her name, and I'm scared to ask her."

\* \* \*

A man in hell asked the devil: "Can I make a call to my wife?"

After making call, he asked how much to pay.

Devil: "Nothing. Hell to hell is free."

\* \* \*

Husband to wife, "Today is a fine day"

Next day, he says: "Today is a fine day."

Again, the following day, he says same thing.

Finally, after a week, the wife can't take it anymore and asks her husband: "Since last one week, you are saying this 'Today is a fine day'. I am fed up. What's the matter?"

Husband: "Last week when we had an argument, you said, 'I will leave you one fine day.' I was just trying to remind..."

\* \* \*

Teacher: "What is the full form of MATHS?"

Student: "Mentally affected teacher harassing student."

\* \* \*

Wife: I think...

Husband: Exactly!

Wife: But I haven't said anything yet!

Husband: Doesn't matter... you're right!

\* \* \*

What is the similarity between media and wife?

Till they don't share the same news at least 10 times, they really don't sit quietly!

\* \* \*

Wife: I've bought you a beautiful surprise for your birthday, it has just arrived.

Husband: I am curious to see it.

Wife: Wait a minute and I will put it on.

\* \* \*

They say that a marriage makes a man dizzy, and it's true...

As soon as I got a wife, I lost my balance at the bank!

\* \* \*

Marriage has its own ups and downs. At times, you want to throw the other person off the cliff and then rush to the bottom to catch them!

\* \* \*

Million dollar truth:

If Saturday and Sunday don't excite you, then change your friends.

If Monday doesn't motivate you, then change your profession... if Monday is too exciting, and you are dying to get to work, then you should probably change your spouse!

\* \* \*

Listening to your wags is like reading the "terms and conditions" of a website.

You don't understand anything, still you confirm.

\* \* \*

## Global opinions about marriage

After marriage, husband and wife become two sides of a coin, they just can't face each other, but still they stay together.

-- Al Gore

By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

-- Socrates

Women inspire us to great things, and prevent us from achieving them.

-- Mike Tyson

There's a way of transferring funds that is even faster than electronic banking. It's called marriage.

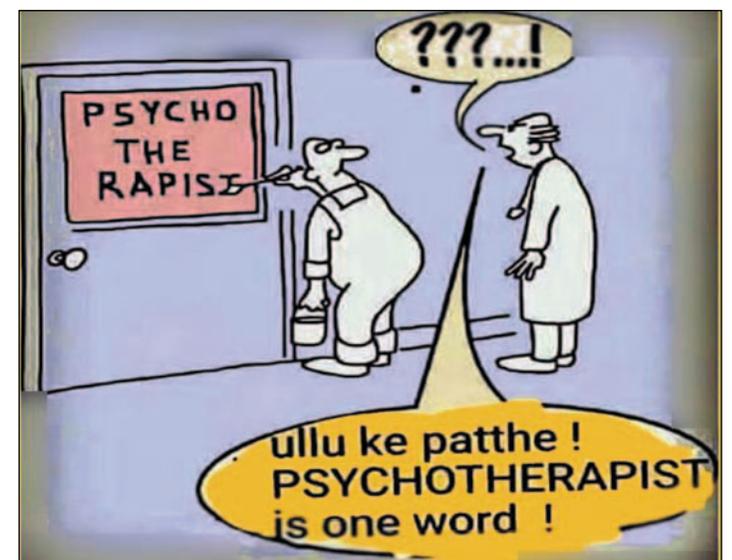
-- Michael Jordan

A good wife always forgives her husband when she's wrong.

-- Barack Obama

Marriage is a beautiful forest where brave lions are killed by beautiful deer.

## Doctors are protesting and no one knows why.



## School finally opens after COVID19 Students during exams



## Health Matters

# Your best ways to beat belly fat

See why fat that stays deep in your belly is the most dangerous kind. Plus, learn how to get rid of it -- and which two "solutions" you can forget about

**MediConnect**  
Linking the world to India healthcare

**The Truth About Belly Fat**  
There are four keys to controlling belly fat: exercise, diet, sleep, and stress management.

- Exercise:** Vigorous exercise trims all your fat, including visceral fat.
- Diet:** There is no magic diet for belly fat.
- Sleep:** Getting the right amount of shut-eye helps.
- Stress:** Everyone has stress.

**Sleep: the goldilocks formula** - When it comes to weight gain, shut-eye is a bit like porridge: Too little -- less than 5 hours -- may mean more belly fat. But too much -- more than 8 hours -- can do that, too. "Just right" seems to be around 6-8 hours. If you don't sleep that much now, or if you tend to toss and turn, try to go to bed a little earlier, relax before bedtime, keep your bedroom cool, and try not to text and email right before you turn in.

**Forget a 'quick fix'** - Sorry, but cosmetic surgery isn't the solution here. Liposuction doesn't reach inside the abdominal wall. So, it can't get rid of visceral belly fat. Likewise, crash diets aren't the solution, either. You're too likely to go off them. The slower, steadier option -- lifestyle changes that you can commit to for a long time -- really is the best bet.

**Keep calm** - Are you stressed out? That can make you eat more fat and sugar, and unleash the "stress hormone" cortisol, which can boost belly fat. Stress also can make you sleep less, exercise less, and drink more alcohol -- which can add belly fat, too. It's a great reason to take up meditation, work out, listen to music you love, or find other healthy ways to unwind and relax.

**Get more fibre** - You don't have to eat a bag of Grandma's prunes. Leafy greens, whole grains, nuts, and beans are all good for keeping away the fat that stays deep in your belly. That's called visceral fat, and it's the most dangerous kind because it can wrap around major organs, including your liver, pancreas, and kidneys.

**Be choosy about fat** - You can still have some! But limit the "saturated" kind that's in animal foods, coconut and palm oils, and full-fat dairy. Keep the portions of those foods smaller than you might normally do, for instance. And check nutrition labels to see how many calories and how much fat is in a serving. Look for fats that are better for you, too, like those from plant foods or fish such as salmon, tuna, and mackerel that are rich in omega-3s.

**Stop trying to outrun it** - Research shows that a few quick bursts of high-intensity exercise -- such as a 30-second sprint or intense pullup set -- may be more effective, and easier to fit into your schedule. You can add bursts of higher intensity to any workout. Just speed up or work harder for a brief time, then drop back to a more mellow pace, and repeat.

**Rethink your drink** - Whether it's a latte, a regular soda, a mug of beer, or a glass of wine, it's got calories. And when you're trying to unwind the numbers on the scale, water (or a smaller glass of your favourite beverage) might be a better choice. If you drink alcohol, remember that it just might make you throw your willpower out the window when you order your meal, too.

**Don't smoke** - As if you need another reason to quit. Smoking makes you more likely to store fat in your belly, rather than your hips and thighs. And that's bad. Oh, and it's also a cause of diabetes. And cancer. And heart disease. And lung disease.

**Lift Weights** - Think about hitting the gym instead of the trail. In one study, healthy middle-aged men who did 20 minutes of daily weight training gained less abdominal fat than men who spent the same time doing aerobic exercises, such as biking. Strength training is also good for women -- and it won't make you bulky. You still need to do some cardio, but make sure strength training is in the mix.

Sources Medically  
WebMD

## Thoughts to live by

## Beautiful Morning Sentences!

In spite of unseasonable wind, snow and unexpected weather of all sorts - a gardener still plants. And tends what they have planted... believing that spring will come.

-- Mary Anne Radmacher

There is no passion to be found playing small -

in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.

-- Nelson Mandela

I forgive everyone, especially myself,

for all actions and all inactions throughout my entire life.

-- Jonathan Lockwood Huie

A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure

until he begins to blame somebody else.

-- John Burroughs

Believe that everything happens for a reason

I believe that everything happens for a reason. People

change so that you can learn to let go, things go wrong so that you appreciate them when they're right, you believe lies so you eventually learn to trust no one but yourself, and sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together.

-- Marilyn Monroe

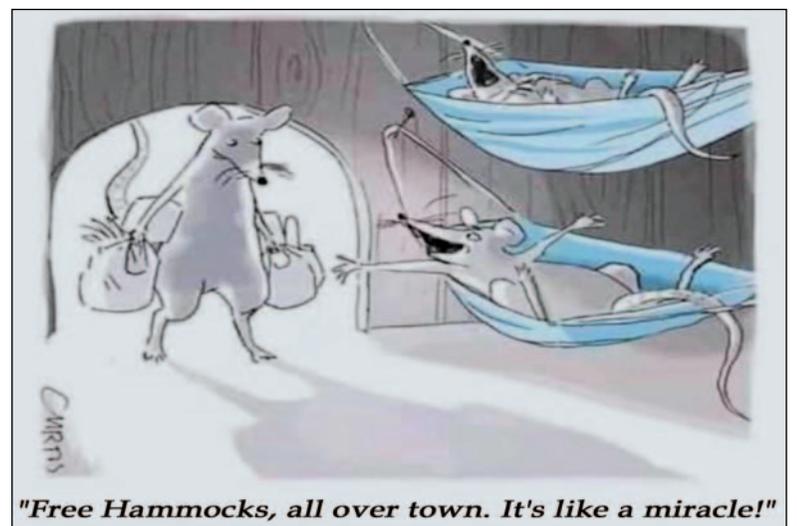
Most people get married believing a myth, that marriage is a beautiful box full of all the things they have longed for; companionship, intimacy, friendship. The truth is that marriage, at the start, is an empty box. You must put something in before you can take anything out. There is no love in marriage; love is in people, and people put it into marriage. There is no romance in marriage; people have to infuse it into their marriages. A couple must learn the art, and form the habit of giving, loving, serving, praising - keeping the box full. If you take out more than you put in, the box will be empty.

-- J. Allan Petersen

## Six Little Stories (with lots of meaning)

Written by anonymous. Hope it inspires you.

- "Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. **That is faith.**"
- "When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. **That is trust.**"
- "Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. **That is hope.**"
- "We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. **That is confidence.**"
- "We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. **That is love.**"
- "On an old man's shirt was a written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' **That is attitude.**"



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From Tom Cruise shooting in space to Brad Pitt remarrying Jennifer Aniston

# Meet the biggest Hollywood newsmakers in the first half of 2020

There were some pretty big movie announcements, reports of past flames rekindling their romance and, unfortunately, also some sad developments that kept Hollywood news circles busy in the first six months of 2020



Despite cinema halls being shut across the globe due to lockdown and all film, TV and web series shoots coming to a standstill for the better part of 2020, Hollywood still had a pretty eventful first six months this year, and no, we're not talking about all the bad news emanating from the coronavirus pandemic. There were some pretty big movie announcements, reports of past flames rekindling their romance and, unfortunately, also some sad developments that kept Hollywood news circles busy. So, without further ado, here are the biggest Hollywood newsmakers in the first half of 2020:

## Tom Cruise shooting in space

According to *Deadline*, Tom Cruise has joined hands with reputed space researcher and explorer and the chief engineer/designer/founder of *Space X*, *Elon Musk*, and word is that the two are discussing plans with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to shoot the superstar's next film aboard an actual *Space X* vessel stationed beyond Earth's stratosphere.

## Brad Pitt remarrying Jennifer Aniston

Rumours of a reunion between Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston gained momentum after the two exchanged several flirtatious moments at the Golden Globes and Oscars this year. Post that, speculation of the two remarrying spread like wild fire when a well-laced source told *Life & Style*, "The wedding is on. They are getting married in Cabo and this time they will keep it under wraps until the affair has happened. What Brad craves most now is getting settled down and living happily with his soulmate, Jen," while

another publication reported, "Brad's family are delighted by the wedding news. They've been praying for years for him to get back together with Jen."

## Sophie Turner's baby-bump style guide

Sophie Turner is enjoying marital bliss with husband Joe Jonas and family, and the couple are overjoyed with the arrival of their first child anytime soon. And guess what, unlike many celebs, Sophie neither has ever tried to conceal her pregnancy nor hide her baby bump for as long as she could under loose garments. Not only has the gorgeous girl set new pregnancy goals, or at least, new celeb-pregnancy goals, but she's also created her own style guide of sorts when it comes to flaunting that baby bump.



## Priyanka Chopra's Citadel and Matrix 4

Meanwhile, sister-in-law Priyanka Chopra continues to take giant strides in Hollywood, and how. Priyanka has two plum projects in her kitty — the first being a big-scale web series, *Citadel*, created by The Avenger's Russo Brothers, wherein she plays the lead, and the other being a major role in *Matrix 4*.

## Glee actress Naya Rivera presumed dead

This was one of the saddest news to grab headlines recently in Hollywood. *Glee* actress Naya Rivera has been presumed dead due to drowning at a lake in Southern California. Deputy Chris Dyer of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office said at a press conference, "We're presuming that an accident happened and we're presuming she drowned in the lake." Apparently, Rivera's son, who had gone boating with her, told the authorities that he and his mother had gone swimming in the lake, but she never returned to the boat.

Now, it's over to the second half of 2020, which, we hope, turns out better for Hollywood than the first six months have been.



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# Nia Sharma on 'Naagin 4': Usually considered for bold roles

*Television hottie Nia Sharma says Naagin 4 is a change of pace from her glamorous acts on screen*

Over the past decade, she has steadily inched her way to the top. Now, Nia Sharma sits pretty with Ekta Kapoor's *Naagin 4* in her kitty, arguably one of the most coveted shows in the telly world. "*Naagin* has changed things for me; suddenly, the spotlight is entirely on me. I will be on television for the next 10 months. What more could I ask for," says the actor to Mid-Day, before adding, "Makers usually consider me for bold and glamorous roles, so it was a surprise when *Naagin* came my way."

Although she kicked off her career with the tried-and-tested bahu acts in *Kaal - Ek Agnipariksha* and *Jamai Raja*, Sharma shot to fame with her bold act in Vikram Bhatt's web series, *Twisted*. "I am glad I did a show like *Twisted* at a time when the [digital] industry was at a nascent stage. It came as a game-changer for me because nobody expected me to play Alia Mukherjee after roles like Manvi (*Ek Hazaaron Mein Meri Behna Hai*) or Roshni (*Jamai Raja*). The role helped me grab eyeballs. People wrote that it was bold and vulgar, but I was the talk of the town."

Her spirited demeanour isn't restricted to the screen - the actor is known to be fiercely outspoken, and takes on trolls when they cross the line on social media. "I have had my share of pitfalls, shocking experiences and silly fights [with co-stars], which have taught me a lot. I have grown up to fight my own battles and have no qualms putting my point of view forward. I know I won't have five actors standing by me, but I am not dependent on anybody. I have been a lone wolf."

## 'I am enjoying all the limelight': Nia Sharma

'*Naagin - Bhagya Ka Zehreela Khel*' will revolve around Brinda (Nia Sharma) and Nayantara (Jasmin Bhasin), whose lives are intertwined due to their scarred past and will have a bearing on their future

The fourth season of *Naaginis* all set to hit TV screens in India. Starring Nia Sharma and Jasmin Bhasin in the lead roles, the show will also feature Vijayendra Kumeria and Sayantani Ghosh in pivotal roles.

*Naagin - Bhagya Ka Zehreela Khel* will revolve around Brinda (Sharma) and Nayantara (Bhasin), whose lives are intertwined due to their scarred past and will have a bearing on their future.

Sharing her excitement of being part of the *Naagin* franchise, Nia Sharma, in an exclusive chat with indianexpress.com, said, "Excited is an understatement. I am really happy and satisfied with this project. I know I will be working for the next 10 months, have a fabulous role and will be on television. I am super happy and don't think it could have been any better."

While people associate Sharma with glamorous roles, she will be seen playing a plain Jane character in the supernatural drama. Revealing details about her role, the actor said, "Brinda is very different from what I have played previously. Honestly, people usually consider me for negative or glam characters. I feel the audiences connect more with simple characters. I am very happy with my role."

Giving more insight into the storyline, the 29-year-old said, "Jasmin (Bhasin) is playing the *naagin*, who comes to avenge her parents' death. Our fates are somehow connected and that's why we keep crossing each other's path. Every action has an effect on the other's life. I too don't know how the story will progress later though."

Revealing that she won't play a *naagin*, Nia Sharma said, "I wish I could also play a *naagin*. I would definitely miss it." When we further quizzed her on sharing screen space with Jasmin Bhasin, she laughed to say, "I am really unhappy. I wanted to be the solo lead. But the concept of *Naagin 4* was about two heroines, so I can't help it."

The previous seasons of *Naagin* topped the rating chart. However, it faced an equal amount of criticism as a section tagged the genre as regressive and senseless. Sharma,



who is making her debut in the supernatural genre, also shared her two cents on the topic.

"I also see no harm in all the memes that get created. I feel the show has only done good to everyone. All those who were part of the show became stars. And the audience loves the show. So I don't think we should be even focusing on the negativity," she stated.

Heaping praises on the production house, Nia Sharma said, "Initially, I had my reservations given that there are all kinds of rumours around big production companies. But my personal experience has been so fulfilling. The director of our show keeps telling me that I should tell him if I have any worries. And that I am the heroine of the show, and should always look best. They pamper us and it's the best thing for any artiste."

The *Jamai Raja* actor has been featuring in the Asia's Sexiest Women list for years now. Stating that it's flattering to be there, Sharma said, "People had never considered me as good looking and sexy before that. Now, they have a different perspective about me. As for me, well, I am enjoying all the limelight."

## Union of Public Human Resource Professionals - AGM

The members of the Union of Public Human Resource Professionals are kindly invited to its Annual General Meeting to be held on **Wednesday 12 August 2020 at Hindu House, Cassis Port Louis from 12 00 hrs to 14 30 hrs.**

### Agenda:

1. Reading and Approval of the minutes of proceeding of the last A.G.M
2. Report of the President
3. Report of Treasurer
4. PRB Report
5. Budget Proposals-HR Cadre
6. A.O.B



The Mentally Handicapped Persons Sports Federation Reg No 7183: Compliant members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the association on Friday 31st July 2020 at **15.30 p.m at the seat of the Conference Hall TEDPB, Social Security Building, Rose Hill.**

### Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Reading and approval of last AGM Minutes
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Approval of Budget Estimates for the year 2020-2021
6. Change of name of the Federation
7. Election of new members 2020-2014
8. A.O.B.

The Secretary

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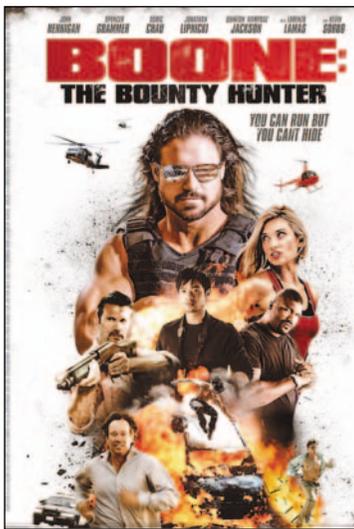
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Mardi 14 juillet - 21.25

# Boone: The Bounty Hunter

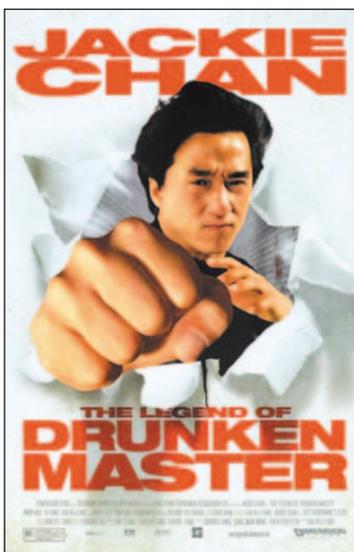
Avec: John Hennigan, Kevin Sorbo, Nancy Berggren



Mercredi 15 juillet - 21.15

# Drunken Master

Star: Jackie Chan, Siu Tin Yuen, Jung-Lee Hwang



Jeudi 16 juillet - 21.15



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 14 juillet</b>	07.00 Local: Rencontre Avec Nos.. 09.22 Local: Rodrig Prog 10.17 Local: Fam Model 10.30 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Doc: Autour Des Valeurs 12.35 Doc: Comm Un Poisson... 14.00 Local: Rencontre Avec Nos.. 14.30 D.Anime: Nos Voisins Les... 14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack 14.45 D.Anime: Astrology 14.59 D.Anime: MIA 16.14 D.Anime: Sissi 17.31 Zafan Nou Pei 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.00 Local: Priorite Sante 21.25 Film: The Bounty Hunter 22.55 Serial: The Blacklist 23.40 Le Journal	10.00 Serial: CID 11.27 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha 12.04 Film: I Am Kalam Starring: Harsh Mayar, Gulshan Grover, Pitobash Tripathy, Beatrice Ordeix 13.31 DDI Magazine 15.00 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee... 15.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 16.00 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal 16.31 Mehandi Tohra Naam Ke 17.20 Serial: Gangaa 18.00 Serial: Dr. Quin 18.30 Serial: Premabhishekam 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Magazine 20.30 Film: Utharavu Maharaja Starring: Udhaya, Priyanka Thimmesh, Pradhu 23.00 DDI Live	06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.44 Mag: World Stories 07.00 Mag: Voa Connect 07.29 Doc: A Question Of Science 07.30 Mag: In Good Shape 09.00 Doc: 360 GEO 10.22 Mag: Made In Germany 11.33 Mag: Eco@Africa 11.59 Mag: Urban Gardens 12.02 Mag: Sur Mesure 12.27 Mag: Voa Connect 13.04 Mag: In Good Shape 14.25 Doc: 360 GEO 15.18 Mag: Global 3000 16.10 Paradise Or Robocalypse 17.07 Mag: Eco@Africa 17.40 Mag: World Stories 18.23 Mag: Urban Gardens 18.30 Live: News 18.44 Mag: Shift 19.00 Student Support Prog...	01.31 Film: Extinction 03.19 Serial: Chicago Med 04.00 Film: Royal Matchmaker 06.13 Serial: Shades Of Blue 06.42 Film: My Best Friend's Wed.. 09.00 Serial: NCIS 09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour 10.10 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett 10.35 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Tele: Dulce Amor 12.00 Film: Royal Matchmaker 13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva 14.45 Film: My Best Friend Wed... 16.40 Serial: NCIS 17.24 Serial: Shades Of Blue 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: Shades Of Blue 21.15 Film: Flower Shop Mystery	08.00 Film: Daud 12.04 / 19.54 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam 12.26 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna 13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe 13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.20 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan 14.36 / 22.25 - Bitti Business... 15.09 Film: Mausam Starring: Shahid Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor, Anupam Kher, Aditi Sharma, Supriya Pathak 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
<b>mercredi 15 juillet</b>	06.30 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne 07.25 Local: Priorite Sante 08.55 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs 12.35 Local: Chante La France 14.00 Local: Priorite Sante 14.30 D.Anime: Nos Voisins Les... 14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack 14.45 D.Anime: Astrology 14.47 D.Anime: Hogie The Globe... 14.59 D.Anime: MIA 16.03 D.Anime: Chicken Town 16.41 D.Anime: Delilah Et Julius 17.30 Serial: You And Me 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.00 Prod: Lottotech 21.10 Film: Fired Up! 22.40 Serial: The Blacklist 23.20 Local: Le Journal	10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha... 11.17 Suhani Ek Ladhi 12.00 Film: Naiyya Stars: Prashanta Nanda, Zarina Wahab 13.56 DDI Magazine 15.00 Mag: Strictly Street 15.30 Honaar Soon Mee Hya Gharchi 15.50 Mooga Manasulu 16.47 Mehandi Tohra Naam Ke 17.10 Serial: Gangaa 17.30 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun 18.00 Serial: Dr. Quin 18.30 Serial: Kulvadh 20.00 Local: Chinese Local Prod... 20.30 Film: Fury In Storm - Chinese Film 22.30 DDI Live	06.00 Mag: Rev: The Global 06.26 Mag: Urban Gardens 06.55 Mag: Check In 07.54 Doc: Horizon 08.43 Doc: World Stamps 08.49 The Science Of Avalanches 10.08 Local Prod: Klip Seleksion 11.59 Mag: Urban Gardens 12.58 Doc: A Question Of Science 14.22 Doc: World Stamps 14.28 The Science Of Avalanche 16.25 Doc: Fascia-The Mysterious 17.06 Mag: Rev 17.32 Doc: Builders Of The Future 18.01 Mag: Motorweek 18.23 Mag: Urban Gardens 19.23 Other: COMESA 20.02 Doc: Trajectory 20.29 Doc: World Stamps 20.32 Doc: Visite Guidee 21.32 Mag: Focus On Europe 22.04 Doc: The Red Children	01.26 Film: Flowewr Shop Mystery 03.45 Film: The Shadow Riders 05.24 Tele: Totalement Diva 06.06 Serial: Shades Of Blue 06.48 Film: The 5th Wave 09.00 Serial: NCIS 09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour 10.35 Serial: Chicago Med 11.25 Tele: Dulce Amor 11.54 Film: The Shadow Riders 13.33 Tele: Totalement Diva 14.28 Mag: Hollywood News Feed 14.45 Film: A Gift Horse 16.13 Mag: Hollywood News Feed 16.39 Serial: Mission: Impossible 17.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue 18.12 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour 19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor 20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 20.30 Series: When Calls The Heart 21.15 Film: Drunken Master 23.02 Tele: Totalement Diva	08.00 Film: Mausam 12.04 / 19.54 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam 12.26 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna 13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe 13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.20 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan 14.36 / 22.25 - Bitti Business... 15.09 Film: 3 Bachelors Starring: Sharman Joshi, Negar Khan, Manish Nagpal, Manoj Pahwa, Raima Sen, Riya Sen, Himani Shivpuri 17.35 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 18.00 Live: Samacher 18.30 Kumkum Bhagya 18.51 Piya Albela 19.13 Mere Angne Mein
<b>jeudi 16 juillet</b>	06.00 Klip Seleksion 07.00 Local: Arsiv MBC 09.00 Local: Memwar Dan Ros 09.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Doc: Visite Guidee 14.30 D.Anime: Nos Voisins Les... 14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack 14.59 D.Anime: MIA 15.10 D.Anime: Dinofroz 15.35 D.Anime: Astrology 15.40 D.Anime: Cam And Leon 16.06 D.Anime: Chicken Town 16.42 D.Anime: Delialh Et Julius 17.30 Serial: You And Me 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Jamai Raja 19.30 Le Journal 20.06 Local: Sawdhan 20.20 Film: Dil Dhadakne Do 23.05 Serial: The Blacklist	10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 12.05 Film: Pyar Ka Devta Starring Mithun Chakraborty, Madhuri Dixit, Nirupa Roy 14.29 DDI Magazine 15.00 Mag: Strictly Street 15.21 Honaar Soon Mee Hya Gharchi 15.45 Mooga Manasulu 16.15 Apoorva Raagangal 16.40 Mehandi Tohra Naam Ke 17.00 Gangaa 17.35 Ki Jaana Kein Kaun 18.00 Serial: Dr. Quin 18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da Devi Maiya 20.00 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 20.30 Film: Dil Dhadakne Do Starring Anil Kapoor, Shefali Shah, Priyanka Chopra 23.16 DDI Live	06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.25 Mag: Urban Gardens 07.31 Doc: Garden Party 08.20 Doc: World Stamps 10.41 Mag: National Geographic... 11.14 Mag: Motorweek 11.31 Doc: Olivia's Garden 13.27 Doc: Visite Guidee 16.01 Mag: Motorweek 16.58 Mag: Arts.21 17.32 Mag: Urban Gardens 18.30 Live: News 19.05 Open Univ: Student Support 19.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.05 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 21.03 Doc: 360 Geo 21.55 Mag: Strictly Street 22.19 Doc: Mining Treasure Island 23.05 Mag: Eco India 23.27 Mag: Urban Gardens 23.32 Mag: Sur Mesure	00.24 Serial: When Calls The Heart 01.04 Film: Drunken Master 02.51 Serial: Chicago Med 03.39 Film: Android Apocalypse 05.05 Tele: Totalement Diva 05.52 Serial: When Calls The Heart 06.45 Film: Geronimo 09.00 Serial: NCIS 09.45 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour 11.25 Tele: Dulce Amor 12.00 Film: Android Apocalypse 13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva 14.45 Film: Geronimo 16.40 Serial: NCIS 17.20 Serial: When Calls The Heart 18.07 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour 19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor 20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 20.30 Serial: Esmeraldas 21.15 Film: Mange, Prié, Aime 23.29 Tele: Totalement Diva	08.00 Film: 3 Bachelors 12.04 / 19.54 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam 12.26 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna 13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe 13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.20 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan 14.36 / 22.25 - Bitti Business... 15.09 Film: Dhoom Dhadaka Starring: Anupam Kher, Shaad Randhawa, Sameer Dattani, Chunky Pandey 17.29 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 18.00 Live: Samacher 18.30 Kumkum Bhagya 18.51 Piya Albela 19.13 Mere Angne Mein

**Mercredi 15 juillet - 15.09**

Stars: Sharman Joshi, Negar Khan, Manish Nagpal, Manoj Pahwa, Raima Sen, Riya Sen, Himani Shivpuri

**Jeudi 16 juillet - 20.20**

Stars: Anil Kapoor, Shefali Shah, Priyanka Chopra





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

# The French Revolution & Civilisational values

*France needs another brand of leadership that embodies French culture, defends its language and civilizational values. Otherwise, as former President François Hollande warned, the outcome will be Partition*



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**The celebration of the French Revolution on 14th July is a grand occasion for politicians to laud the ideals which guided the founders of the modern state and inspired so many countries. Those ideals are under attack by a myriad of hostile forces. Photo - www.geopolitica.ru**

Two most valued principles which are guidelines in the modern world are under assault even in countries which have been staunch defenders of lofty ideals. The celebration of the French Revolution on 14th July is a grand occasion for politicians to laud the ideals which guided the founders of the modern state and inspired so many countries. Those ideals are under attack by a myriad of hostile forces in its territory of origin.

For the past years American-style political correctness in France has been nibbling away at the freedom to express opinions and ideas even in academic circles. The battle of ideas has shifted from the failing attempts to address economic gaps which affect low-income groups and the shrinking power of the middle-class. Instead, opinion makers and academics in the West spend lot of energy on identity issues, selective minority victimhood, ethnicity, race, colour, gender, ultra-feminism, transgender, etc. Impassioned and partisan defence of such causes leads to intolerance and stigmatization of those who hold different ideas and attempt to place such issues in their larger context.

Instead of promoting reason, rational thinking and historical truth, the trend is to give much media space to a set of self-righteous individuals from political, judicial and academic circles who resort to name-calling, randomly labelling others as 'fascists', 'reactionaries', 'racists' and so on with a view to muzzling free speech.

Overall, it gives the impression that the 20- to 30 year-old generation is dictating its rules to the rest of society. Discourses on American campuses are parroted in

**“For the past years American-style political correctness in France has been nibbling away at the freedom to express opinions and ideas even in academic circles. The battle of ideas has shifted from the failing attempts to address economic gaps which affect low-income groups and the shrinking power of the middle-class. Instead, opinion makers and academics in the West spend lot of energy on identity issues, selective minority victimhood, ethnicity, race, colour, gender, ultra-feminism, transgender...”**

Europe and trigger similar mob demonstrations. Universities in France are pressurized by students to cancel cultural events which offend so and so, to forbid access to high-profile intellectuals to give talks on issues which should be debated but are labelled 'sensitive' and might offend a few groups. There are cases of universities calling for police protection to accompany intellectuals, activists, journalists, secular figures whom student lobbies might not like, or resort to go on rampage and block access.

Recently, an association of African-origin citizens managed to gather a crowd of 20,000 people in memory of a 24-year-

old delinquent Malian young man whose death occurred under police arrest, a case in which the tribunal has up to now found no evidence of direct police responsibility. The case drew noisy media coverage. In sharp contrast, four French people were victims of anti-French hatred this week and their death did not trigger media outrage in France or at the international level. The culprits are of North-African origin. A young man was stabbed to death, a policewoman was deliberately run over by a car and died from her injuries, a driver was lynched, another one was violently attacked on the 10th of July for having simply asked a man to show his ticket and for the rule of face mask to be respected. He suffered severe brain injuries and did not survive.

Most media do not mention the identity and names of the attackers. It reflects the denial of delinquency, crime and violence perpetrated by a radicalized section of migrants. An Afghan young man killed two people in a small town shop during confinement, a crime which went unnoticed in mainstream French media.

Leftist parties took in shady individuals hailing from North African stock as allies in the March municipal elections in some areas. The fortunes of the totally unqualified new councillors with a record of drug dealing, prison sentences and membership in extremist movements changed overnight. From social aid of around 450 euros for unemployed, the dimwits started earning 4000 euros, a reward for having garnered minority vote bank. Once in office, those individuals favour the recruitment of relatives, cousins, brothers-in-laws, etc., of poor educational level to join the municipal team and earn high salaries. The ambitious criteria of high intellectual level in key posts which characterizes French administration takes a severe blow and goes to the dogs.

In a bid to be inclusive of 'minorities' a leftist political party took on board MPs of below the average academic level by French standard. President Macron himself set the wrong example by recruiting individuals of questionable credentials as advisers. One of them, a comedian acting as adviser for minority and suburb-related issues displayed poor knowledge of politics, sociology and all; he had to resign in a case of sexual offence pinned on him by French justice which still harbours honest judges and magistrates.

Otherwise, the judiciary in France is showing signs of being politicized and targeting right-wing politicians and prominent figures among intellectuals, journalists and members of civil society who do not embrace far-left wing ideology. An

elderly writer was dragged into a case of sex with a minor more than 40 years ago. The man is nearly 90 now. A right-wing politician is currently being chased for sexual harassment. A former prime minister has to serve two years in prison for a fake job benefiting his wife when he occupied another post - at a time when he was earning 5000 euros, which political observers concede was underpaid in those days. Though it is illegal, many opine that a fine should be enough. He is the only candidate who had a firm stand on unchecked immigration and defined the country's European and Catholic identity.

Lest we forget, the French Revolution greatly inspired the birth of communist ideology in Eastern Europe. For decades left-leaning élites in France were in denial of the atrocities committed under the rule of Stalin and his followers. A big part of the academia and teaching profession still stand as the last ideological hangover and stronghold of the Soviet era. French justice harbours a few elements whose anti-capitalist stance drifts towards bias against successful upper-middle class bourgeoisie, anti-rich, anti-globalization, anti-Establishment with an anti-Catholic slant and a lot of anti-this and anti-that. International finance bears an underlying anti-Jew prejudice. Ideological divides in this country border on fanaticism. The utopia of a fraternal society based on sharing and confused ideas on economic sustainability still feed ideological romantic minds. The real threat to democracy and peace is when the most extreme elements go on a rampage of smashing shops, monuments, businesses and attack policemen.

Decades of peace in Europe have created a panem et circenses prosperous society which cling to their material comfort, leisure and pleasures of the mind which a wide array of cultural activities provides. In the process they have been attuned to thinking in terms of universal values of what they cherish. Identity, cultural ethos and civilisational topics were made irrelevant while hostile radical forces and foreign-imported religious fanaticism have been very active in undermining the ideals of French society.

More than a Brussels technocrat at its helm, France needs another brand of leadership that embodies French culture, defends its language and civilisational values, and clearly defines the development of society along these lines. Otherwise, as former President François Hollande warned, the outcome will be Partition, territorial claims by radical groups who are bent on tearing down the founding pillars of the country.