

MAURITIUS TIMES

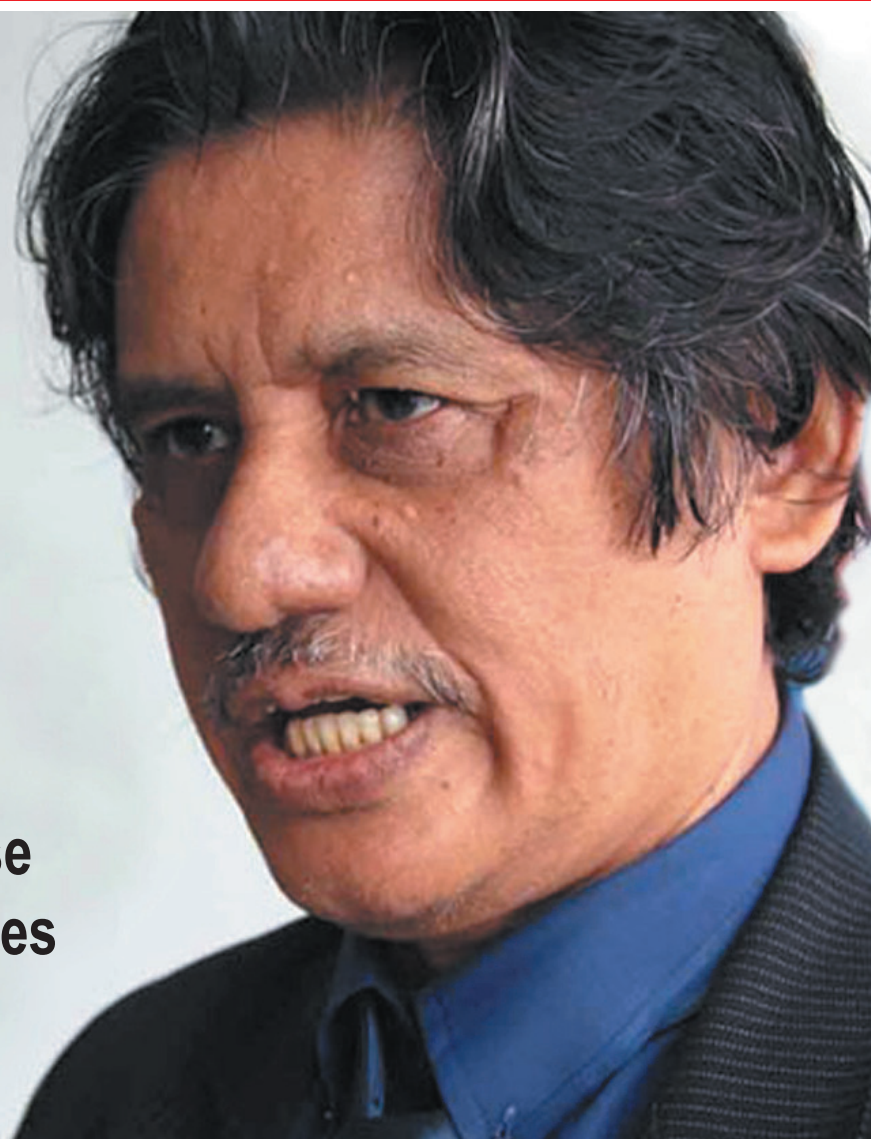
"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." -Nelson Mandela

Interview : Jocelyn Chan Low, Historien

“ Il y a un vent de contestation qui souffle. Le 'feel-good factor' n'est plus là”

*** ‘La crise de confiance dans la classe politique dans son ensemble et dans les institutions est systémique’**

📖 Voir Pages 7-8-9



Protests: Facts more important than narrative



Initiated as peaceful or pacific marches that will not countenance the presence of others who think differently, suddenly a spark comes from no one knows where and then begins a cycle of violence.

By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee 📖 See Page 3



Can we risk opening our borders?

It is better for the country and the government to be overcautious than to be foolhardy and irresponsible

By Mrinal Roy 📖 See Page 4

Manifestation des travers

By Nita Chicooree-Mercier 📖 See Page 18

Trust Deficit

Most people will agree that trust in government and in politicians has reached an all-time low. This is not a phenomenon confined to a few countries only. Democracies around the world are, according to the Edelman Trust Barometer, distrusted by a majority of their citizens; this was almost 80% of the people in 2018. The trust deficit locally is evidenced by the rising abstention rate at most elections, starting from 1995 with 20%, and reaching around 23% in 2019. If that trend were to continue, fewer Mauritians will trust their politicians and political institutions, resulting in ineffective government – “illegitimate” according to the opposition.

The present government was voted to power by only 37% of those who turned out to cast their votes – an electoral victory that should not have given great comfort to its leaders (and that has been challenged in court by the opposition), and one that it should have set out to fix since its early days in power. After an initial success at managing the challenges of the Covid-19 threat – though marred by suspicions concerning the timing of the lockdown, allegedly decided to allow some VVIPs to fly back to the country in good time – its governance of the country has been marked by a series of scandals involving members of the government and their protégés that it could have done without. Whether it was about the “emergency procurement” of medical supplies and equipment (running into more than one billion rupees from dubious suppliers in some cases) to the St Louis Gate affair which led to the revocation of the former Deputy Prime minister, they all added up to diminish the social capital that the successful control of the pandemic was building up.

The latest downgrade follows upon the delayed response of the government to the shipwreck of the MV Wakashio off Pointe d'Esny on 25 July. The subsequent oil spill in the region 12 days later could have been averted, according to experts, if immediate measures had been taken – notwithstanding weather conditions – to pump out the oil from the ship. The reaction to the delay has been all manner of speculations and allegations in the press and on social media about suspicious goings-on since the day the ship ran aground and thereafter. The latest mishap is the death of several dolphins on the eastern coasts. It is inevitable that not only environmental campaigners but even the people at large would link these deaths to the oil spill

or to the authorities' decision to sink the ship's stem. The cause may not have as yet been firmly established by a post-mortem, but it is quite likely that the official report would be met with scepticism by the people given the trust deficit that has set in, widening further the gap between the government and the people.

In a contribution on ‘trust and politicians’, Mark Evans, Professor of Governance at the University of Canberra argues that ‘weakening political trust erodes authority and civic engagement, reduces support for evidence-based public policies. This also creates the space for the rise of authoritarian-populist forces or other forms of independent representation’.

The major challenge that the government is facing now is how to recoup the lost trust and to reverse the continuing downward trend. Definitely there is a need for more openness and for giving the right information and answers that would lift the opaque veil that is surrounding this whole incident. Did Minister Sudheer Maudhoo genuinely think people would believe him when he said that the death of the dolphins was not due to the oil pollution? Wouldn't it have been better to admit that the cause was not known for certain as yet but that expert opinion was awaited and would be communicated to the people as soon as it was available?

That, in fact, is the crux of the matter: the communication gap that is feeding into the trust deficit. People would be loathe to trust a government that has lost its mojo in less than a year of its successfully having returned to power. And that would make governing difficult, an uphill task to convince people of the soundness of government's policies, what with the extra-parliamentary opposition that is made up of the triad of defeated parties that Labour Party, PMSD and MMM constitute.

Faced with all this, the government with more than four years to go has yet time to make amends and corrections, be more forthcoming and truthful so as to try and regain credibility. And if in a spirit of national interest it would not hesitate to rope in the best advice locally available about the way forward from wherever that comes, that would certainly be a start to build back the vital element of trust without which governing will continue to be difficult. The ball is in government's court.

The Conversation

The right to vote is not in the Constitution

The framers of the Constitution never mentioned a right to vote. They didn't forget. They intentionally left it out.

If you're looking for the right to vote, you won't find it in the United States Constitution or the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights recognizes the core rights of citizens in a democracy, including freedom of religion, speech, press and assembly. It then recognizes several insurance policies against an abusive government that would attempt to limit these liberties: weapons; the privacy of houses and personal information; protections against false criminal prosecution or repressive civil trials; and limits on excessive punishments by the government.

But the framers of the Constitution never mentioned a right to vote. They didn't forget – they intentionally left it out. To put it most simply, the founders didn't trust ordinary citizens to endorse the rights of others.

They were creating a radical experiment in self-government paired with the protection of individual rights that are often resented by the majority. As a result, they did not lay out an inherent right to vote because they feared rule by the masses would mean the destruction of – not better protection for – all the other rights the Constitution and Bill of Rights uphold. Instead, they highlighted other core rights over the vote, creating a tension that remains today.

Relying on the elite to protect minority rights

Many of the rights the founders enumerated protect small groups from the power of the majority – for instance, those who would say or publish unpopular statements, or practice unpopular religions, or hold more property than others. James Madison, a principal architect of the U.S. Constitution and the drafter of the Bill of Rights, was an intellectual and landowner who saw the two as strongly linked.

At the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Madison expressed the prevailing view that “the freeholders of the country would be the safest depositories of republican liberty,” meaning only



Photo - animationguild.org

people who owned land debt-free, without mortgages, would be able to vote. The Constitution left voting rules to individual states, which had long-standing laws limiting the vote to those freeholders.

In the debates over the ratification of the Constitution, Madison trumpeted a benefit of the new system: the “total exclusion of the people in their collective capacity.” Even as the nation shifted toward broader inclusion in politics, Madison maintained his view that rights were fragile and ordinary people untrustworthy. In his 70s, he opposed the expansion of the franchise to non-landed citizens when it was considered at Virginia's Constitutional Convention in 1829, emphasizing that “the great danger is that the majority may not sufficiently respect the rights of the Minority.”

The founders believed that freedoms and rights would require the protection of an educated elite group of citizens, against an intolerant majority. They understood that protected rights and mass voting could be contradictory.

Scholarship in political science backs up many of the founders' assessments. One of the field's clear findings is that elites support the protection of minority rights far more than ordinary citizens do.

Morgan Marietta,
University of Massachusetts Lowell

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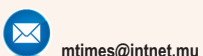
Mauritius Times

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

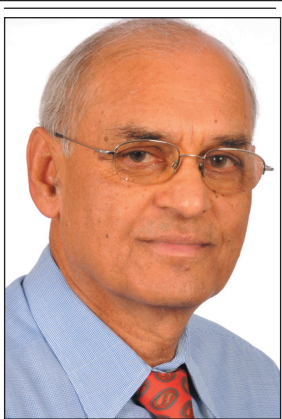
Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah / Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee
This paper has been produced with the assistance of

Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy

Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis -- Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313



Protests: Facts more important than narrative



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Protest movements across the world seem to have entered a new cycle beginning with the uprising in Tunisia in December 2010, then spreading in the Arab world – later to be known as the ‘Arab Spring’ – as a series of anti-government protests and armed rebellions in the early 2010s. They were in response to oppressive regimes and a low standard of living.

This movement came a little over 40 years after the student revolt of Paris in 1968, which inspired student demonstrations in the US in the following year against the ‘war in Vietnam and oppressive policing’. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) led mass protests and sit-ins across the States but increasing factionalism within its ranks and the end of the Vietnam War contributed to its demise in the mid-Seventies (online source). Later student movements were ‘against apartheid, nuclear weapons, destruction of the environment and cuts in funding for education’.

The current cycle entered a new phase with the protracted *Gilets jaunes* uprising in Paris that triggered similar protests in some European countries, and next the widespread street protests in Hong Kong before it came to an end with the imposition of recently passed legislation in the country. In India there were the anti-CAA protests that led to the Delhi riots. That was before the confinement because of Covid-19. The latest series of protests arose in the US after the killing of Black American George Floyd by the police a few weeks ago, which led to the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement across the country that has since been ongoing. The latest incident that has literally added more fuel to the fire is the shooting of another Black American, Jacob Blake by the police in Kenosha, Wisconsin where protests were already under way. The shooting has sparked a further wave of protests, some of which have turned violent after two people were killed and



“Protests follow a pattern: initiated as peaceful or pacific marches that will not countenance the presence of others who think differently, suddenly a spark comes from no one knows where and then begins a cycle of violence with clashes between the protesters and other people who are there. Inevitably, police present to maintain discipline get involved; in their turn they are attacked and retaliate, with shooting where police are allowed to be armed, and there then follows mayhem with arson, looting, damage to public property, attacks on innocent civilians, stone pelting...” -- Photo - i.guim.co.uk

another injured on Tuesday night.

These protests follow a pattern: initiated as peaceful or pacific marches that will not countenance the presence of others who think differently, suddenly a spark comes from no one knows where and then begins a cycle of violence with clashes between the protesters and other people who are there. Inevitably, police present to maintain discipline get involved; in their turn they are attacked and retaliate, with shooting where police are allowed to be armed, and there then follows mayhem with arson, looting, damage to public property, attacks on innocent civilians, stone pelting, etc. Sadhguru of the Isha Foundation has made a very lucid and rational analysis of the phenomenon in a discussion with young people about the anti-CAA protests, which should be required viewing by anyone who is interested in gaining some understanding of the complexity of forces and issues that are involved.

In his analysis, Sadhguru with his own brand of subtle and intelligent humour puts emphasis on the facts which are the fundamental elements of concern for a truly objective assessment of any such situation, especially of the type that is about social issues which tend to raise passions. And this is the way it should be when any protest is undertaken, and I hope that this will be the case with the pacific march planned for tomorrow in Port Louis: stick to the facts, and not peddle narratives of a communal nature which are circulated on social media and taken as gospel truth. This is what happened with the flyers that were paraded during the earlier march which was about the injustices to workers that were deemed to be present in the

country – are known for. Besides, another major issue is the damage that has been caused to the marine ecosystem in that stretch of the ocean, which is recognized by the UN as a unique biodiversity site. There are short-term and long-term environmental impacts that are to be analysed, along with the measures that must be undertaken to mitigate, correct and compensate for them. On top of that come the claims that will be made directly related to the shipwreck itself, and to the subsequent oil spill, which are complex enough as it is with all the legal and other complications that they entail.

Put together, one can see that there are more than enough issues about which there has been no clarity, and here again, we can learn from Sadhguru, who did not hesitate to say that in relation to the anti-CAA protests, somewhere along the line there had been a deficiency in communication on the part of government. This is also the generalized feeling here in relation to what needs to be known about the Wakashio incident, and it will help to restore both trust and sanity if the authorities were more forthcoming about the real facts relating to that incident, and provide more convincing answers than has hitherto been the case to the queries that the citizens are posing.

And if the protest march keeps that in mind and is able to extract from the authorities that they come clean with the what, how and why of this disaster that

Covid-19 Bill that was passed by the National Assembly.

These days, most people tend to resort to social media as their sole source of knowledge, instead of thinking for themselves based on facts and figures available before drawing their own conclusion. The focus of tomorrow’s march is sup-

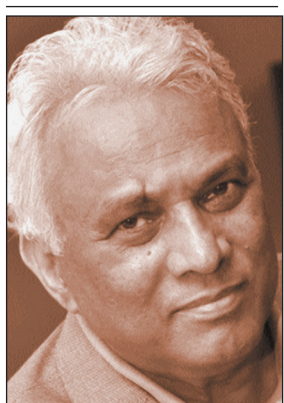


“Sadhguru with his own brand of subtle and intelligent humour puts emphasis on the facts which are the fundamental elements of concern for a truly objective assessment of any such situation, especially of the type that is about social issues which tend to raise passions. And this is the way it should be when any protest is undertaken, and I hope that this will be the case with the pacific march planned for tomorrow in Port Louis: stick to the facts, and not peddle narratives of a communal nature which are circulated on social media and taken as gospel truth. This is what happened with the flyers that were paraded during the earlier march...”

posed to be the Wakashio shipwreck and the impact that it has had on the region and the residents there, especially their livelihoods which depend on the fishing and touristic activities for which that coastal area – like others too around the

has traumatized the whole country, not to speak of the loss of global credibility, then it will truly have achieved a desired objective and rendered a great service to the people. That must, surely, be the aim of that march.

Can we risk opening our borders?



Mrinal Roy

It is better for the country and the government to be overcautious than to be foolhardy and irresponsible

It took six months for the world to register 10 million cases of coronavirus. Despite the application of various sanitary measures and the enforcement of lockdowns by countries across the world to contain the spread of the virus, it took only six weeks for the number of Covid-19 cases in the world to double. Coronavirus cases increased from 3 to 10 million in 38 days and rose from 15 to 20 million in only 20 days. The upshot is that Covid-19 is very much present in our midst across the world and is spreading faster than before.

Statistics compiled by Johns Hopkins University reveal that the United States, Brazil, India, South Africa, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Russia and the Philippines are the top 10 countries accounting most new cases of Covid-19 since July 22. Countries such as Israel, Australia, Peru, Japan, Germany, South Korea or New Zealand which had recorded initial success in containing the spread of the virus are now registering a spike in infections. The worldwide tally of recorded cases of Covid-19 in 188 countries has now exceeded 24 million. More than 830,000 people have died from the virus.

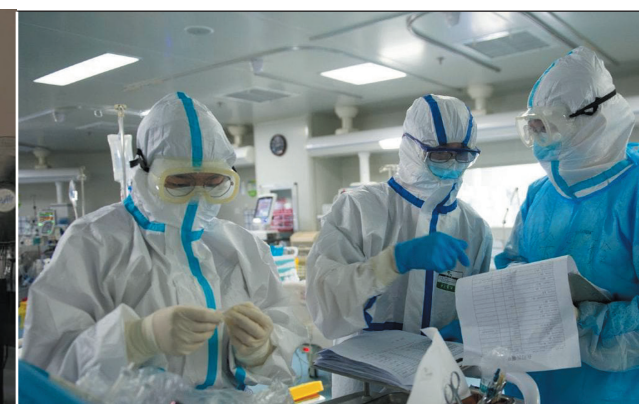
Some of the worst hit countries are those like the United States, Brazil or Mexico whose leaders have ignored the advice of health experts and resisted calls for strict lockdowns and the rigorous application of social distancing and hygiene rules and the wearing of masks.

Surge in Covid-19 cases

There is thus a surge in Covid-19 infection in many countries. Latin America is the current epicentre of the pandemic, according to the World Health Organization. Brazil has the second highest number of cases in the world, after the US, whereas Mexico has the second highest death toll in the region after Brazil. Colombia, Peru, Argentina and Venezuela have all recorded a surge in cases of Covid-19. In Asia, India, Indonesia and Iran have all registered a rise in the number of cases of coronavirus infection whereas in Africa, the number of Covid-19 cases has exceeded one million with South Africa and Egypt being the worst hit countries. South Africa is one of the seven countries in the world to record more than 500,000 cases of coronavirus.

“Can we take the risk of a resurgence of Covid-19 which will once again put undue pressure on all the frontline workers of the country who have so valiantly fought the virus and helped save lives during the first wave of infection and risk overwhelming the health services of the country? Can we again put their lives at risk? A resurgence of Covid-19 in the country will trigger strict confinement rules and a costly lockdown which will shut down economic activities, further slump the tourism sector and halt the sugar harvest and the resurgence of the other key sectors of the formal and informal economy...”

In Europe, Spain, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and France have reported a rise in cases in recent weeks following the lifting of lockdown restrictions. In France, the average number of new daily cases has doubled during the last three weeks to 2000 a day. With schools opening on 1 September, the government has decreed that the wearing of masks in schools is mandatory. Italy has closed nightclubs again and made the wearing of



“The decision to open our borders is not a decision that the government and a cohort of politicians again trying to play god can take on their own. The people must have their say on the matter as it concerns their safety, the risks to their lives and that of their families. Ask the people if they want our borders to be opened in the present state of the Covid-19 infection in the world and in particular in countries which are our main sources of tourists such as France, the UK, Germany, South Africa, Reunion, India or China? The spontaneous answer from the multitude is a horrified: No!...”

masks compulsory. The spike in cases in Germany has been caused by the return of large numbers of German tourists from their holidays in Covid-19 affected countries. The UK has also enforced stricter restrictions in various areas including on the populous city of Birmingham. A number of countries have re-imposed localized lockdowns in their worst-affected regions. In Reunion, the wearing of masks has become mandatory in various localities and a range of restrictions have been imposed following a marked surge of new cases on the island.

Whilst older people accounted for the largest share of cases in the early months of the coronavirus outbreak in March and April, it is the 20 to 39-year-olds who now represent up to 40% of new infections in France, Germany, Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium. Data from national agencies show that surges in Covid-19 cases in countries across Europe are due largely to a rise in infections among young people.

In order to protect public health and safeguard the people from the risks of infected carriers of the virus entering the UK from countries which have recorded a surge in cases of Covid-19, the UK government has imposed a 14-day self isolation period on all travellers from France, the Netherlands, Spain, Andorra, Belgium, Luxembourg, Monaco, Malta, Turks and Caicos, and Aruba.

Covid-free haven

Mauritius therefore enjoys a comforting sense of safety as there are no local cases of coronavirus in the country. With Covid-19 raging across the world, Mauritius remains a Covid-19 free haven so long as we keep our borders closed. Being an island adds an additional barrier of protection against the risks of infection. The people

and the country are fully aware that Covid-19 was imported in Mauritius through carriers of the virus who were either foreign visitors from infected countries, Mauritians working on cruise vessels or repatriated nationals.

With the exception of the tourism sector, most of the important sectors of the economy have rebooted their activities under strict sanitary conditions and are adapting their strategies to surmount the challenges and seize the opportunities of a Covid-19 afflicted world. Mauritius being Covid-19 free, people feel safe to carry on with their daily business without the fear of infection. For example the sugar cane harvest is progressing normally with mask wearing cane cutters from different localities working and

travelling together confident that they are safe from Covid-19. Exports are bustling again. The economy is gathering momentum and the informal sector is back in business.

A resumption of economic activities means a reduction of the government outlay on support measures to help the economic actors and employees tide over the adverse fallouts of the Covid-19 crisis. The country has also once again woken up to the short-sightedness of the government policy of heavily skewing through very generous incentives the main investment thrust of the economy towards real estate projects and smart cities dependent on the sale of high end villas and properties priced in hundreds of millions of rupees to wealthy foreigners.

Persistent lobbying

Despite such a grim international outlook caused by the rampant spread of Covid-19 in the world, there is a pressing lobbying from different quarters in the country to open our borders to enable the revival of the tourism sector forced into inactivity by the closure of our borders. Some political leaders are even callously sounding the alarm bells of the tourism sector losing market shares when the overriding consideration in a Covid-19 afflicted world should above all be about taking every precaution necessary to ensure that the lives of the people in the country are securely protected against a very contagious and deadly virus.

The decision to open our borders is not a decision that the government and a cohort of politicians again trying to play god can take on their own.

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Iran nuclear deal: UN rejects US bid to 'snapback' Iran sanctions

The UN Security Council has blocked a controversial bid by the US to trigger the "snapback" of all sanctions on Iran lifted under a 2015 nuclear deal.

Indonesia's permanent representative, who holds the rotating presidency, said many of the 15 member states contested the move because the US withdrew from the accord two years ago.

The US envoy accused them of "standing in the company of terrorists".

Iran's foreign minister said "lawless bullying" had left the US isolated.

The Trump administration attempted to initiate the snapback process last week, after the Security Council rejected a draft US resolution that would have extended indefinitely an arms embargo on Iran due to expire in mid-October.

Under the nuclear deal, the P5+1 group of world powers - China, France, Russia, the UK, the US and Germany - gave Iran sanctions relief in return for limits on its sensitive activities to show it was not developing nuclear weapons.

The accord has been close to collapse since President Donald Trump abandoned it and reinstated US economic sanctions in 2018 in an attempt to force Iran to negotiate a replacement that would place indefinite curbs on its



Iran insists its nuclear programme is entirely peaceful. Photo - reuters.com

nuclear programme and also halt its development of ballistic missiles.

Iran has so far refused and has retaliated against the US sanctions by rolling back a number of key commitments, including those on the production of enriched uranium, which can be used to make reactor fuel but also nuclear warheads.

Last Thursday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo formally submitted a complaint accusing Iran of "signifi-

cant non-compliance" with the nuclear deal and giving other security council members 30 days to adopt a resolution to stop the snapback.

He stressed that under security council resolution 2231, which endorsed the accord, the US had a legal right to do so because it was still named as a participant.

But the three European powers, China, Russia and Iran rejected the assertion.

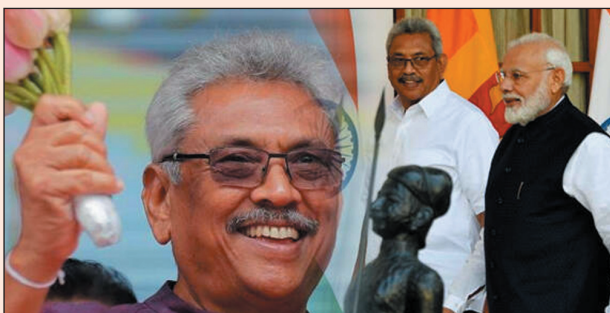
At a virtual meeting on Tuesday, Indonesian permanent representative Dian Triansyah Djani announced that the Security Council was "not in a position to take further action" in response to the US request.

"It is clear for me that there is one member which has a particular position on the issues, while there are significant numbers of members who have contesting views," he said.

Russia's envoy, Vassily Nebenzia, said he hoped the Trump administration would now drop its request, which he said was "not only illegal, but simply will not lead to achieving the result that was envisaged by the United States".

But the US mission to the UN insisted the fact that some council members had expressed disagreement with its position did "not have any legal effect".

Sri Lanka to follow 'India First' Policy on strategic security matters



While pursuing a 'neutral' foreign policy, Sri Lanka will protect India's strategic interests. Photo - keralakaumudi.com

In an outright display of thaw in ties between India and Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Jayanath Colombage has publically stated that the island nation will be pursuing an 'India First' policy on strategic and security matters, reports Times of India.

Speaking to a Sri Lankan TV channel on Monday (25 August), Colombage said, "President (Gotabaya Rajapaksa) has stated that in terms of strategic security, we will follow an 'India first' policy".

"We cannot afford to be a strategic security threat to India and we don't have to be. We need to benefit from India. The President has clearly said that you are our first priority as far as security is concerned but I have to deal with other players for economic prosperity," Colombage added.

Colombage stated that while pursuing a 'neutral' foreign policy, Sri Lanka will protect India's strategic interests.

The Foreign Secretary also went on to call the past decision to give Sri Lanka's strategically located Hambantota deep-water port to China on a lease for 99-years a 'mistake'.

Pakistan's relations with Saudi Arabia take a hit

Pakistan's insistence that the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) support its stand on the Kashmir issue, especially against the abrogation of Article 370, has caused a rift in its relations with Saudi Arabia.

The rift is also costing Islamabad financially as it has been forced to pay back a \$1 billion loan it availed from Saudi Arabia, which has also stopped supplying crude oil to Pakistan on deferred payments since May, reports Swarajya.

Both nations had announced in November 2018 a \$6.2 billion agreement to help Pakistan tide over its financial problems, with Saudi Arabia providing crude oil for \$3.2 billion under a deferred payment plan.

The agreement, which had a provision for extension by two years, expired in May. Pakistan's request for an extension of the facility has not got any response.

Cracks began to appear in Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations after Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi asked Riyadh to convene a meeting of the OIC on Kashmir.

In February, Pakistan made a request for an OIC meeting to discuss the Kashmir issue but Saudi Arabia turned it down.

Qureshi, who has been vocal in criticising Riyadh for not considering its demand, threatened that Islamabad would convene a meeting of OIC members which supported its stand on the Kashmir issue.

On 22 May this year, Pakistan failed to garner support from OIC members on Kashmir. It led to its Prime Minister



Cracks in Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations. Photo - dw.com

Imran Khan commenting: "The reason (lack of OIC support) is that we have no voice and there is a total division amongst us. We cannot even come together as a whole on the OIC meeting on Kashmir."

Pakistan's problems have been compounded by improving bilateral relations between India and key OIC members such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Bilateral trade between India and Saudi Arabia has increased since the 2017-18 fiscal after a drop in 2016-17. More importantly, India's imports from the Gulf nation during 2017-18 and 2018-19 have increased by 10 per cent and 29 per cent respectively.

Some of the major Indian corporates such as L&T, Tatas, Wipro and TCS have a strong presence in Saudi Arabia, while some of Saudi firms such as Aramco and ADNOC have invested in India, especially in petrochemical projects.

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Cambridge University starts vaccine race to fight all coronaviruses in future

The University of Cambridge on Wednesday confirmed plans to begin trials of a potential new vaccine not only against Covid-19 but all coronaviruses that may spill over from animals to humans in the future.

The new vaccine candidate, DIOS-CoVax2, uses banks of genetic sequences of all known coronaviruses, including those from bats, believed to be the natural hosts of many relatives of human coronaviruses.

A vaccine that clears all trials can then be delivered pain-free without a needle into the skin through a spring-powered jet injection.

"Our approach involves 3D computer modelling of the SARS-CoV-2 [Covid-19] virus' structure. It uses information on the virus itself as well as its relatives - SARS, MERS and other coronaviruses carried by animals that threaten to 'spill-over' to humans again to cause future human epidemics," said Professor Jonathan Heeney, head of the Laboratory of Viral Zoonotics



Cambridge University kicks off vaccine race. Photo - freepressjournal.in

at the University of Cambridge, and founder of DIOSynVax - a Cambridge spin-out company, reports PTI.

"We're looking for chinks in its armour, crucial pieces of the virus that we can use

to construct the vaccine to direct the immune response in the right direction. Ultimately we aim to make a vaccine that will not only protect from SARS-CoV-2, but also other related coronaviruses that may

spill over from animals to humans," he said.

Prof Heeney said his team's strategy involves targeting those domains of the virus' structure that are absolutely critical for docking with a cell, while avoiding the parts that could make things worse.

"What we end up with is a mimic, a synthetic part of the virus minus those non-essential elements that could trigger a bad immune response," he added.

The news comes as the University of Oxford revealed that its trials of a potential vaccine against Covid-19 being developed with AstraZeneca could be put before regulators this year if scientists are able to gather enough data.

The Oxford vaccine, as it is commonly known, showed early promise in the first human trial when it produced an immune response, underlining its position as one of the leading candidates in the race to help vaccinate humans against the deadly novel coronavirus.

Coronavirus: How are other countries getting children back to class?

French schoolchildren will be returning to school on 1 September with a somewhat relaxed version of the rules under which some of them went back to school in May.

For example, there will no longer be a limit on class sizes, and distancing is not compulsory in situations where it would stop a school being able to fit all its pupils in.

The exception to that is the use of masks, which will be compulsory indoors for staff and students over the age of 11, even if they manage to stay more than 1m apart. This means teachers will take lessons wearing masks.

Schools are no longer forced to prevent different classes and groups of students from mixing, but they are encouraged to stagger start and finish times to prevent large groups building up.

Italy: Class sizes will be smaller

Italy closed all schools in March and imposed one of the strictest lockdowns in Europe.

Children haven't had any classes even after lockdown measures started to ease in May.

The schools are now due to return on 14 September.

Students will be seated 1m apart so class sizes will become smaller. They will be divided into various learning groups, entry will be stag-

gered and schools will be open for lessons on Saturdays.

Students and teachers will have to wear masks, and teachers will wear face shields as well. Lessons will be held outdoors where possible or in big spaces like theatres or museums.

Distance learning will be available for secondary school students who live with vulnerable family members.

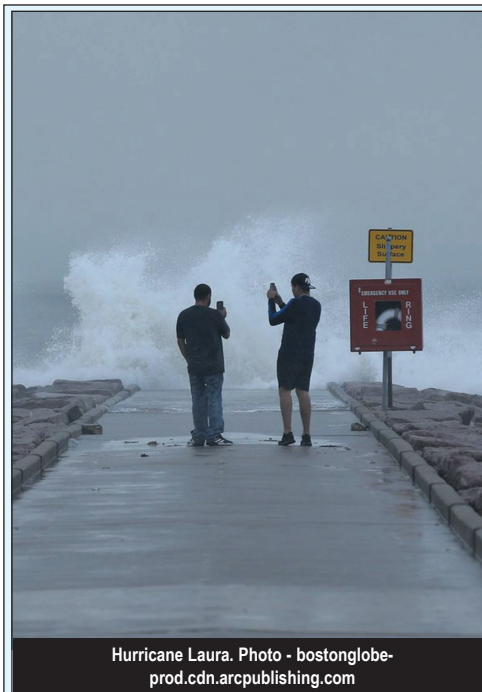
Germany: Do not touch the banisters

Germany's 16 states are in charge of education and the school year starts at different times in different states, but they all agreed in July that children should return to schools once the summer holidays were over.

Extra hygiene measures are advised, such as frequent hand-washing and keeping hands off the banisters when taking the stairs. Masks are not obligatory and free testing is available for teachers.

Classes have been reorganised into so-called "cohorts" - groups of several hundred students. There are no social distancing rules within a cohort, but each group has its own area in the school grounds, cloak-rooms and canteens.

In some states, both pupils and teachers will have to wear masks, while in others masks will not be required. Some are making them compulsory in corridors and other communal areas.



Hurricane Laura. Photo - bostonglobe-prod.cdn.arcpublishing.com

Hurricane Laura intensifying rapidly into an "extremely dangerous" event

Hurricane Laura strengthened into a Category 4 storm before it made landfall in Louisiana early on Thursday. The storm arrived with sustained 150mph winds as officials warned it would bring an "unsurvivable" storm surge as high as 20ft for coastal areas.

Authorities had urged residents on the coast to evacuate, but not everyone did before winds started buffeting trees and thousands of homes and businesses lost power. The US National Hurricane Center said that in the last 24 hours the storm has grown nearly 87 per cent in power, intensifying rapidly into an "extremely dangerous" event.

Officials said it was on track to hit land at high tide as the most powerful hurricane to strike the US so far this year and possibly the strongest ever to hit Louisiana.

Boris Johnson drops advice against face masks in schools in latest coronavirus U-turn

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has dropped advice against the use of face coverings in English schools, in an 11th-hour U-turn after he came under pressure from unions, opposition parties and schools, reports The Independent.

From 1 September, staff and pupils in secondary schools in local lockdown areas like Manchester and Birmingham will be required to wear face coverings when moving around the building and in communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. Masks will not be mandated in the classroom.

Elsewhere in the UK, masks will not be obligatory but school leaders will have the discretion to require face coverings in communal areas if they believe that is "right in their

particular circumstances". The new rules will also apply to sixth-form colleges.

A white supremacist who killed 51 worshippers at two mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch has been jailed for life without the possibility of parole, the first time the sentence has been used in the country.

Brenton Harrison Tarrant had pleaded guilty during court proceedings in Christchurch to murder, attempted murder and terrorism over the attacks in the city that left 51 people dead. The four-day hearing saw 90 survivors and family members talk about the pain of the March 2019 attacks at two mosques in the city.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

“Il y a un vent de contestation qui souffle. Le ‘feel-good factor’ n'est plus là”



En général, les citoyens se rassemblent quand ils ressentent un fort sentiment d'injustice envers des êtres vivants ou la société en général. Les abus des autorités, l'empiètement des droits citoyens ou l'usurpation des acquis renforcent le besoin de se libérer de ces chaînes. C'est un appel pour devenir acteur du changement attendu, pour renforcer la conscience que la société civile doit prendre en charge son destin en portant des valeurs communes et des objectifs similaires. Dans certains cas, l'enthousiasme est de courte durée. Mais, parfois, une mouvance citoyenne se dessine pour apporter une révolution des mentalités. Samedi, une manifestation citoyenne est prévue à Port-Louis. Nous avons invité Jocelyn Chan Low, historien, pour nous en dire plus.

Pointe d'Esny. Il y a effectivement trop de zones d'ombre autour de cette affaire qui méritent d'être élucidées devant un tribunal. Faut-il rappeler la position du DPP dans cette affaire qui va jusqu'à suggérer qu'après avoir étudié le dossier, il pourrait prendre l'affaire en main ?

En outre, qu'un simple citoyen puisse assigner deux ministres devant un tribunal selon les dispositions de la loi est une révolution en soi et est de très bon augure pour notre démocratie. Ainsi tout ministre est finalement 'accountable', et ce, pas uniquement devant l'électorat.

Quant aux motivations de Bruneau Laurette, sa démarche de travailleur social se situe dans le cadre du grand réveil des citoyens qu'on a pu constater depuis quelques temps et qui s'est manifesté, plus récemment, pendant la manifestation du 11 juillet dernier à Port Louis. Auparavant, et je cite à tout hasard, la marche citoyenne organisée en 2011 par Jameel Peerally. Il y avait aussi eu les actions du Bloc 104. Pourtant, à l'époque, les gens ne se posaient pas de questions sur les motivations et les soutiens de ces travailleurs sociaux.

D'ailleurs, quand Bruneau Laurette est venu de l'avant pour dénoncer la politique cruelle du Gouvernement de bulldozer tous les logements de fortune des squatters, y compris ceux des *genuine cases*, en plein confinement, il n'avait pas fait l'objet de tant d'attaques personnelles. Mais si c'est le cas aujourd'hui, c'est parce qu'il est perçu par ceux qui ne croient plus dans les partis traditionnels comme l'homme providentiel pouvant mettre un frein aux abus et dérives du régime en place. Or, il n'est que le catalyseur et le symbole du réveil citoyen. Et, c'est pour cela que, ses soutiens, il les recueille dans une très large frange de la population de l'île Maurice plurielle, y compris dans la diaspora mauricienne, toutes communautés confondues, n'en déplaise les esprits chagrins.

* La comparution de Bruneau Laurette au tribunal de Mahébourg, vendredi dernier, a donné lieu à des incidents impliquant certains de ses supporters et des activistes politiques venus d'autres régions pour soutenir les deux ministres, et il existe des craintes que sa marche de protestation prévue demain à Port Louis ne fragilise davantage l'harmonie dans le pays. Votre opinion ?

De quelle fragilité parle-t-on ? Le sens de patriotisme est très largement répandu à Maurice, comme l'a démontré d'ailleurs l'élan national des volontaires qui ont déferlé des quatre coins de l'île pour confectionner des booms artisanaux et protéger notre lagon.

Ce même élan patriotique, on l'avait vu pendant le *lockdown* à travers le travail formidable des bénévoles et des ONGs envers les plus démunis. Nous sommes une nation solidaire quand il s'agit de faire face à des calamités mais, aussi, pour dénoncer les abus et les incompétences.

C'est ainsi qu'à Mahébourg, on a vu des citoyens et des villageois de toutes communautés, déjà très touchés

par la catastrophe écologique et les effets de la fermeture des frontières sur le secteur touristique, montrer leur désaccord face à des partisans qui, selon eux, étaient venus manifester - illégalement - devant le tribunal, avec banderoles, et se faisant passer pour des pêcheurs et des plaisanciers ; et tout cela dans le cadre d'un exercice de communication politique qui a mal tourné.

Il est vrai que certains pyromanes peuvent être tentés de semer le trouble pour discréditer le rassemblement citoyen prévu ce samedi. Mais ils sont très minoritaires et ne pourront pas empêcher la mobilisation et le grand réveil citoyen autour du drapeau national.

***Mais faut-il aussi que l'Etat prenne les actions qui s'imposent devant les propos à relents communaux et parfois racistes qui sont postés sur les réseaux sociaux, ce qui risque d'exacerber les tensions dans un pays multiethnique et multi-religieux, sans pour autant étouffer la liberté d'expression pour des raisons politiques...**

Maurice est un pays pluriethnique. Les autorités coloniales ont toujours eu comme priorité la bonne gestion de relations interethniques. Et, depuis 1965, des lois très sévères ont été édictées pour éviter tout dérapage à caractère communal. Et à la fois les moyens techniques pour traquer les coupables et l'arsenal juridique disponibles sont amplement suffisants. Mais c'est aux autorités d'agir. D'ailleurs, des citoyens - à l'instar de Percy Yip Tong - ont déjà fait des dépositions à la police. Les autorités ont le devoir de sévir. Elles aussi sont 'accountable.'

Cela dit, à travers le monde, la mobilisation citoyenne - qui d'ailleurs a toujours comme symbole le drapeau national comme expression de sa légitimité en tant que représentant d'un peuple uni - fait peur à l'establishment parce que cette mobilisation s'attaque aux travers du système qui nourrissent, favorisent et pérennisent ces mêmes élites. Et elles feront tout pour saborder le mouvement en suscitant des divisions.

* Ce qui est vrai aussi, c'est que le mystère entourant le naufrage du Wakashio reste entier et la réaction tardive des autorités a donné lieu à toutes sortes de spéculations. M. Laurette dit que l'Etat ne dit pas toute la vérité. Pensez-vous que toute cette agitation exprime aussi un manque de confiance dans le Gouvernement et sa manière de faire ?

La crise de confiance dans la classe politique dans son ensemble et dans les institutions ne date pas d'aujourd'hui. Elle est systémique. Et cette méfiance est même nourrie par les omissions grossières des bulletins d'informations de la télévision d'Etat car n'importe quel citoyen peut contre-vérifier les informations s'il a accès aux réseaux sociaux.

“ Les jeunes loups du PTr et du MMM semblent être très à l'écoute de la société civile. On a vu leur engagement dans l'élan national pour contenir la marée noire. Evidemment, ils peuvent faire le lien avec le mouvement citoyen et leur parti respectif. Mais, pour cela, il faut qu'ils aient les coudées franches...”

Il n'est pas question de changer d'hommes mais de système. Il faudrait trouver un mécanisme institutionnel pour que le citoyen ne soit plus réduit qu'à un simple votant chaque cinq ans. Il faudrait, par exemple, qu'il puisse avoir le moyen de révoquer un élu si ce dernier a commis des abus...”

Mauritius Times : Quelle analyse faites-vous de la démarche de l'“activiste social” Bruneau Laurette de porter plainte contre le ministre de l'Environnement Kavi Ramano et celui de la Pêche Sudheer Maudhoo suivant le naufrage du MV Wakashio ? Beaucoup de personnes se posent des questions concernant ses motivations et ses appuis. Qu'en pensez-vous ?

Jocelyn Chan Low : Dans le contexte actuel, cette initiative citoyenne est salubre et rejoint dans une grande mesure le souhait d'une grande partie des Mauriciens, qui se posent toujours de nombreuses questions sur le manque de réactivité des autorités pendant plusieurs jours après l'échouage du Wakashio sur les récifs à

'Il faut mettre fin à l'ère des députés intouchables et tout-puissants.'

Ce serait là aussi une manière de mettre fin aux dérives dans les institutions.'

* Suite de la page 7

Faut-il rappeler que même Sébastien Lecornu, le ministre français des outre-mer, a publiquement déclaré que ce naufrage est 'curieux' pour employer un terme diplomatique ! On ne peut empêcher les Mauriciens de se référer maintenant à certaines conclusions du rapport Lam Shang Leen par rapport à la nécessité d'instituer une voie de navigation sous haute surveillance dans notre zone maritime pour prévenir tout trafic illicite.

De plus, Bruneau Laurette a soulevé une foule de questions avec preuves à l'appui. Mais il faudra sans doute attendre le rapport de l'enquête pour connaître les réponses.

* **Pensez-vous qu'il faut vraiment voir cette agitation dans une perspective plus large qui dépasse l'affaire du naufrage du MV Wakashio, ou est-ce tout simplement le prélude à des revendications futures telles que les compensations ?**

De mon point de vue, Bruneau Laurette et l'affaire Wakashio n'ont été qu'un révélateur d'un mal plus profond. Il faut bien saisir le contexte politique, économique et social dans lequel l'affaire se déroule.

Nous avons un régime au pouvoir qui n'a recueilli que 37% des voix exprimés aux dernières élections générales, des élections qui sont d'ailleurs contestées en Cour suprême. C'est une situation inédite dans la République de Maurice post-indépendance. Dans un tel contexte, le Gouvernement aurait dû faire preuve d'humilité et rechercher ce qu'on qualifie de *losers consent* car les perdants sont majoritaires dans le pays. Mais c'est exactement le contraire qu'on a vu.

Ce qui se passe au Parlement est une parfaite illustration de la politique de confrontation du Gouvernement face à l'opposition qui a fini par s'unir. C'est la même attitude qu'on perçoit par rapport à la société civile, les syndicats, les ONGs et la presse. C'est vrai que ce Gouvernement pense se tirer d'affaire à travers un exercice de communication tous azimuts et en créant un *feel-good factor* artificiel. Mais nous sommes en pleine crise économique et sociale.

Il est vrai que les partis de l'opposition ont vu leur hardcore se réduire, et il y a toujours un problème de crédibilité par rapport à certains de leurs leaders. Et c'est dans ce contexte qu'intervient le réveil citoyen, que certains ailleurs qualifieraient même de révolution citoyenne. Tout cela était à prévoir.

* **Une crise de notre système parlementaire pourrait toutefois créer un environnement qui favoriserait l'émergence des mouvements opportunistes ou même des pyromanes, ce qui aura pour effet de déstabiliser ou de**

“ **Aujourd'hui avec l'élargissement de l'espace public, la circulation des idées et les réseaux sociaux, le citoyen ne veut plus se contenter d'accomplir son devoir civique, c'est-à-dire de voter une fois tous les cinq ans et rester spectateur de tous les frasques, abus, dérives et gaspillages de l'argent public jusqu'aux prochaines élections...** ”

“ **Nous avons un régime au pouvoir qui n'a recueilli que 37% des voix exprimés aux dernières élections générales, des élections qui sont d'ailleurs contestées en Cour suprême. C'est une situation inédite dans la République de Maurice post-indépendance. Dans un tel contexte, le Gouvernement aurait dû faire preuve d'humilité et rechercher ce qu'on qualifie de losers consent...** ”

détruire tout ce qui a été accompli jusqu'ici, n'est-ce pas ?

Mais ce qu'on a construit est en train de se détruire tout seul ! Il est évident que le système de démocratie parlementaire représentative est en crise, et pas seulement à Maurice.

Il y a tout d'abord une perte de confiance dans l'ensemble du personnel politique. On n'a qu'à voir la progression du taux d'abstention pour les élections, notamment chez les jeunes. La grève du vote est effectivement un des plus gros indicateurs de la faillite du système.

Ensuite, le système ne permet pas d'éradiquer la fraude, la corruption, le gaspillage, le clientélisme basé sur des considérations ethniques, communales et le copinage. En fait, il favorise la médiocratie au détriment de la méritocratie.

En outre, le choix des électeurs est restreint à quelques dynasties car les partis traditionnels ne sont, en fin de compte, que la propriété de quelques personnes.

Mais aujourd'hui avec l'élargissement de l'espace public, la circulation des idées et les réseaux sociaux, le citoyen ne veut plus se contenter d'accomplir son devoir civique, c'est-à-dire de voter une fois tous les cinq ans et rester spectateur de tous les frasques, abus, dérives et gaspillages de l'argent public jusqu'aux prochaines élections.

C'est pour cela qu'en France, par exemple, certains réclament haut et fort l'inscription du référendum d'initiative citoyenne dans la Constitution à travers

lequel le citoyen pourra peser de tout son poids sur l'action gouvernementale entre deux élections. Le véritable contrepoids à toute dérive du pouvoir deviendra finalement le citoyen.

* **Les révolutions citoyennes que ce soit le 'Printemps arabe', un mouvement inédit de contestation qui s'est rapidement propagé à d'autres pays du Maghreb et ailleurs, ou la révolution citoyenne 'Black Lives Matter' aux Etats-Unis n'ont pas produit des solutions durables... 'Le mur de Berlin va tomber à New-York', disait Jean-Luc Mélenchon sur Twitter en mai dernier. Or, il y est toujours...**

Il faut bien comprendre de quoi il est question quand on parle de révolution citoyenne. A la différence des révolutions ouvrières du passé, il est question ici de l'ère du peuple qui inclut à la fois la classe moyenne et la classe des travailleurs. Et cette révolution citoyenne se déroule en général en trois phases :

- D'abord il y a la phase 'instituyente' où une population s'organise en peuple autour du drapeau national, symbole de sa légitimité face à un *Establishment*, un pouvoir qui a perdu toute crédibilité. En général, cela se traduit à travers des manifestations pacifiques, des sits-ins, etc.

- Ensuite, il y a la phase 'destituyente' ou dégaugiste où le peuple exige que ses dirigeants qui ont perdu toute légitimité de *lev pake alle*.

- Et, finalement, on passe à la phase 'constituante' qui est la plus complexe car il s'agit de créer de nouvelles institutions et

de transformer toutes les revendications en réalité. Et, souvent, c'est à ce moment qu'il y a des divisions, des ingérences extérieures qui entraînent le retour des anciennes élites.

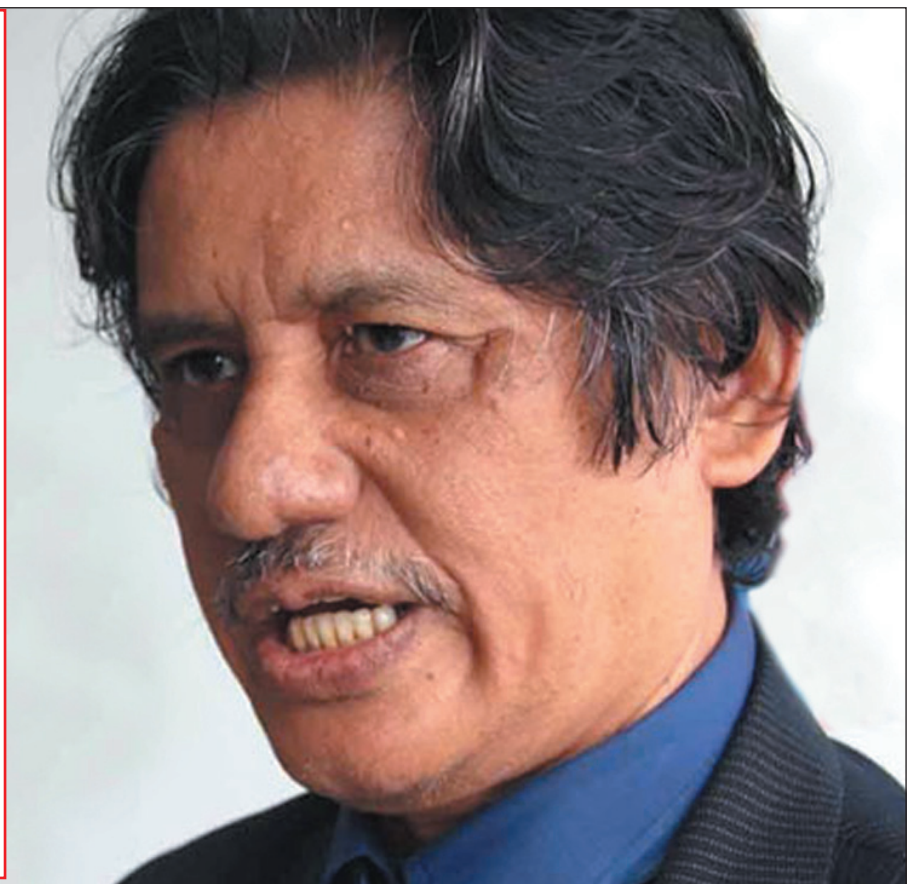
Mais, ce qui est certain, c'est que ces révolutions citoyennes ont entraîné la chute de régimes totalitaires ou corrompus comme au Soudan, en Egypte ou encore tout récemment au Liban. Et certains ont été une réussite totale comme en Islande.

Quant au mouvement *Black Lives Matter*, il est bien sûr encore trop tôt pour évaluer son impact. Attendons les résultats des présidentielles américaines... Et même quand le mouvement n'a pas totalement réussi, il a quand même fait bouger certaines choses. Ainsi, avec les gilets jaunes, Macron qui se croyait Jupiter, est finalement redescendu sur terre...

* **Pourquoi pensez-vous que les choses puissent être différentes à Maurice ? Rien n'a changé depuis la pandémie de la Covid-19. 'We have gone back to the old normal,' n'est-ce pas ?**

Pas si sûr que ça. Dans la population, il y a un vent de contestation qui souffle et on peut comprendre les raisons qui ne sont pas tous d'ordre politique. Le *feel-good factor* n'est plus là. Le secteur touristique est à l'arrêt. Les licenciements ne se comptent plus. La dépréciation de la roupie pèse très lourd dans les dépenses des ménages. Et le Gouvernement ne donne pas l'impression d'être un *caring government*. Le décès du petit Matteo est tout un symbole.

* Suite en page 9



India is key for global access to a COVID-19 vaccine – here's why

India could help overcome 'vaccine nationalism' because it is the major supplier of medicines to the global south

The great COVID-19 vaccine race is on. Pharmaceutical companies around the world are going head to head, while governments scramble to get priority access to the most promising candidates.

But a richest-takes-all approach in the fight against the deadliest pandemic in living memory is bound to be counter productive, especially for the recovery of low and middle income countries. If governments cannot come together to agree a global strategy, then the global south may need to pin its hopes on the manufacturing might of India.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director general of the World Health Organization, has warned that a nationalist approach "will not help" and will slow down the world's recovery. Yet vaccine nationalism looms large over the search for vaccines, with the US, the UK and the European Commission all signing various advance purchase agreements with manufacturers to secure privileged access to doses of the most promising candidates. The US alone has paid over US\$10 billion (£7.6 billion) for such access.

The ideal global distribution of a successful COVID-19 vaccine would look beyond which countries have the deepest pockets and instead prioritise health workers, followed by countries with major outbreaks and then those people who are particularly at risk.

India has the potential to play a key role in overcoming vaccine nationalism because it is the major supplier of medicines to the global south. Médecins Sans Frontières once dubbed the country the "pharmacy of the world". India also has, by far, the largest capacity to produce COVID-19 vaccines. Its role in manufacturing a vaccine could come in two different ways – mass-producing one developed elsewhere (likely) or developing a new vaccine as well as manufacturing it (less likely, though not impossible).

Scaling up existing vaccines

India's Serum Institute has already started manufacturing the University of Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine candidate before clinical trials have even been completed. This is to avoid any subsequent delay if the vaccine is approved. It is seen by many, including the WHO's chief scientist, as the world's leading prospect.

Serum Institute, based in the western city of Pune, is the largest vaccine

manufacturer in the world and has a deal to supply 400 million doses by the end of 2020 (1 billion in total). It has also inked a deal for the manufacturing and commercialisation of American firm Novavax's COVID-19 candidate.

Another Indian pharma company, Biological E (BE), has agreed to manufacture the vaccine candidate of Johnson & Johnson's subsidiary, Janssen Pharmaceutica NV. The Hyderabad-based firm has since announced its acquisition of Akorn India in order to boost its manufacturing capacity.

Despite India's success in mass manufacturing, the transition to innovation and new product development has been more of a struggle. Nevertheless the Serum Institute, Aurobindo Pharma, Bharat Biotech, BE, Indian Immunologicals, Mynvax, Panacea Biotech and Zydus Cadila are all attempting to develop their own vaccines.

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin has attracted the most attention and controversy. The Indian Council of Medical Research wrote to a number of hospitals seeking their help in fast-tracking the clinical trials of the drug, which was developed in collaboration with the National Institute of Virology. The aim had been to launch it by August 15 (Indian Independence Day). Despite the feasibility of that timeline being widely questioned, trials of Covaxin did begin in Delhi on July 15.

Who gets the vaccines?

Uncertainty reigns over who will get these vaccines manufactured in India – and there have been very mixed messages. Regarding the much-hyped Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, Adar Poonawalla, the Serum Institute's CEO, said, "a majority of the vaccine, at least initially, would have to go to our countrymen before it goes abroad".

He added that the Indian government would decide how much other countries get, and when. In a later interview the CEO went further, adding: "Out of whatever I produce, 50% to India and 50% to the rest of the world". He also said the Indian government had not objected to this idea.

Vaccine diplomacy may come into play, as indicated by India's foreign



secretary, Harsh Shringla, on a visit to Dhaka. He promised that India would supply vaccines to Bangladesh on "priority basis", stating that India's "closest neighbours, friends, partners and other countries" will receive privileged access.

Meanwhile, a recent agreement provided a firmer guarantee of Serum Institute-produced vaccines being supplied outside of the country – at least in 2021. On August 7, Gavi (the global vaccine alliance) announced a collaboration with the Serum Institute and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The deal provides US\$150m of financial support for the Serum Institute to manufacture and supply 100 million doses of vaccines to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX) for distribution in low and middle-income countries in 2021.

The deal will support the company's manufacture of both the AstraZeneca and Novavax candidates and guarantees a price of US\$3 per dose. AstraZeneca's candidate will be available to 57 Gavi-eligible countries, while the Novavax treatment will be available to 92.

With almost 18% of the world's population, India has strong demand for COVID-19 vaccines. Export bans on some personal protective equipment and key medicines in March set a precedent for prioritising supply to India first. But the bans were short lived and exports continued.

Thanks to its vast manufacturing capacity, India will undoubtedly export vaccines, continuing its role as the "pharmacy of the developing world". Vinod Paul, chair of India's National COVID-19 Task Force, has spoken openly of his desire to see India play a global role, saying: "The vaccine is not just for India and Indians but for the world and humanity." The question is when. Many in low and middle-income countries will undoubtedly be hoping it will be sooner rather than later.

Rory Horner

Senior Lecturer, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester

'La crise de confiance dans la classe politique dans son ensemble et dans les institutions est systémique'

● Suite de la page 8

On comprend le sentiment de ras le bol, notamment suite à la catastrophe écologique qui s'est amplifiée avec la mort de ces 17 dauphins. Et on comprend aussi pourquoi des slogans dégaïstes apparaissent sur les réseaux sociaux



* **Ce qui n'a pas changé aussi, c'est l'opportunisme des partis et des hommes politiques : voyez la démarche des partis dits traditionnels - le MMM, le PTr et le PMSD - de se joindre au mouvement de contestation "apolitique" de M. Laurette demain à Port Louis. Comment réagissez-vous à cela ?**

C'est tout à fait compréhensible qu'ils ne souhaitent pas rester à l'écart d'un grand mouvement de contestation de la population. Mais c'est aussi vrai qu'ils y participeront en tant que citoyens, et cela est tout à fait légitime.

Bien sûr, il y a aussi le danger de récupération mais il est très éloigné. D'ailleurs, le mouvement citoyen aurait tout à gagner à très bien formuler leurs propositions et à exiger que leurs demandes soient inscrites sur l'agenda politique de ces partis aux prochaines élections générales.

Il n'est pas question de changer d'hommes mais de système. Il faudrait trouver un mécanisme institutionnel pour que le citoyen ne soit plus réduit qu'à un simple votant chaque cinq ans. Il faudrait, par exemple, qu'il puisse avoir le moyen de révoquer un élu si ce dernier a commis des abus ou qu'il ait son mot à dire dans l'élaboration des projets aux coûts pharaoniques qui endettent davantage la nation ou qui risquent de mettre en péril notre environnement.

Il faut mettre fin à l'ère des députés intouchables et tout-puissants. Ce serait là aussi une manière de mettre fin aux dérives dans les institutions.

* **Xavier-Luc Duval disait sur les ondes de Radio Plus, lundi dernier, qu'à ce stade il s'agit uniquement d'"une entente entre ces trois partis politiques... mais à la façon dont évolue la situation, je vois bien une alliance pour les élections municipales". Donc on reviendra tôt ou tard à notre fameuse chaise musicale ?**

Il est encore tôt pour parler d'alliance électorale. D'ailleurs, je doute fort que les élections aient lieu l'année prochaine. Aucun item à ce sujet ne figure dans le budget. Il faudrait plutôt se concentrer sur les forces émergentes sur l'échiquier politique. Assistons-nous à un 'paradigm shift'? That's the question.

* **Et, qu'advient-il si les jeunes loups au sein du MMM et du PTr se mettent à semer les grains de changement au niveau de ces partis ?**

Les jeunes loups de ces divers partis semblent être très à l'écoute de la société civile. On a vu leur engagement dans l'élan national pour contenir la marée noire. Evidemment, ils peuvent faire le lien avec le mouvement citoyen et leur parti respectif. Mais, pour cela, il faut qu'ils aient les coudées franches au sein de leur parti et qu'ils viennent avec des propositions nouvelles en ce qu'il s'agit des réformes institutionnelles après débats et consultations avec les différents acteurs de la société civile.

Can we risk opening our borders?

● Cont. from page 4

The people must have their say on the matter as it concerns their safety, the risks to their lives and that of their families. Ask the people if they want our borders to be opened in the present state of the Covid-19 infection in the world and in particular in countries which are our main sources of tourists such as France, the UK, Germany, South Africa, Reunion, India or China? The spontaneous answer from the multitude is a horrified: No! Do the employees of the tourism sector, the hotel staff and all those who would be in direct contact with tourists want our borders to be opened, despite all sanitary precautions taken?

No amount of testing, sanitary precautions and elaborate screening protocols can guarantee that the influx of tens of thousands of tourists in the country every month in the present pervasive state of Covid-19 infection in the world would not import the virus and trigger a new wave of infection in the country. Experience with the repatriation of a few thousand nationals has shown that despite being tested negative prior to embarkation, some among the repatriated were found to be Covid-19 positive when tested on arrival or during their quarantine period. Can we seriously take the risk of allowing undetected foreign carriers of coronavirus infect the hotel staff, the frontline employees of the tourism

sector and the population at large? This is why some key economic actors of the tourist industry have sensibly declared their opposition to the opening of our borders.

Courting disaster

It is better for the country and the government to be overcautious than to be foolhardy and irresponsible. As a nation, are we prepared to jeopardize the broad range of sectors of the economy which are striving to restore their activities to pre-Covid-19 levels and risk the trauma and heavy costs of a resurgence of coronavirus infection in the country for the sake of the tourism sector? Do we want the green shoots of recovery to be nipped in the bud? Are we prepared to endanger the pervasive sense of safety in the country obtained through our collective discipline to contain and make the country Covid-19 free by taking the rash decision to open our frontiers to tourists? Are those lobbying to open our borders to tourists callously ready to recklessly risk exposing the people to a resurgence of Covid-19 infection and casualties in the country? Are they blindly courting another costly and life threatening catastrophe after the Wakashio disaster through inept and misguided decisions? Can we as a nation irresponsibly make the elderly, the ailing and other vulnerable groups in the country once again endure the fear, trauma, solitude and pre-



“Italy has closed nightclubs again and made the wearing of masks compulsory. The spike in cases in Germany has been caused by the return of large numbers of German tourists from their holidays in Covid-19 affected countries. The UK has also enforced stricter restrictions in various areas including on the populous city of Birmingham. A number of countries have re-imposed localized lockdowns in their worst-affected regions. In Reunion, the wearing of masks has become mandatory in various localities and a range of restrictions have been imposed following a marked surge of new cases on the island...”

city of another wave of Covid-19 infection in the country?

Can we take the risk of a resurgence of Covid-19 which will once again put undue pressure on all the frontline workers of the

country who have so valiantly fought the virus and helped save lives during the first wave of infection and risk overwhelming the health services of the country? Can we again put their lives at risk? A resurgence of Covid-19 in the country will trigger strict confinement rules and a costly lockdown which will shut down economic activities, further slump the tourism sector and halt the sugar harvest and the resurgence of the other key sectors of the formal and informal economy. It will blow up the costs of diverse government support measures and wage assistance and self-employed assistance schemes and undermine government finances. Schools and the University would be closed causing added hardships to students.

There cannot be any risky tradeoff between the safety and lives of the hotel staff, those working in the tourism sector and the people at large and the parochial objective of bolstering the tourism sector against the backdrop of the potent threat of the Covid-19 pandemic in the world. People cannot be made to serve as cannon fodder to save the tourism sector from its present setback. The tourism sector will bounce back and every support must be given to the sector to sustain it over the Covid-19 crisis, especially as major developments in scientific research provide potent hopes that efficient treatments and vaccines are on track and could be available sooner than expected.

Let us not court another costly disaster when we can sensibly avoid it.

Mrinal Roy

Programme des Courses

12e Journée - Samedi 29 août 2020

3

THE DR FRANCE RIVALLAND CUP
1600 m Valeur Benchmark 36 Time -- 14h00

1 ALSSAKHRA	G	6-9/9-5-N	61.5	R.Boutanive	2	770
2 BLACK INDY	PM	3-3/8-1-2	61	C.Segeon	9	770
3 OVERDOSE	AS	1-1/10-5-5	61	S.Bussunt	8	2200
4 OLMECA BLACK	GR	0-0-0-0-5	60	N.Juglall	3	700
5 WORDBUSTER	VA	7-1/R-4-2	60	B.Sooful	1	340
6 BARAK LAVAN	SN	7-4/4-5-4	59.5	G.D.Aucharuz	5	1200
7 SIBERIAN HUSKY	CR	8-2/7-7-8	59.5	R.Joorawon	7	2000
8 STOCKBRIDGE	SPN	0-R-6-7-3	59.5	Y.Emamdee	6	800
9 KAYDENS PRIDE	RM	0-0-0-4-2	57.5	D.Bheekary	4	250

4

THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL CUP
1365 m Valeur Benchmark 41 Time -- 14h35

1 CHOIR OF ANGELS	JMH	R-3-1/2-1	60	R.Joorawon	5	280
2 GREAT STOHHANEN	AS	0-9-6-R-1	60	S.Bussunt	1	350
3 CANDY APPLE	GR	0-0-1-3-2	59.5	N.Juglall	2	220
4 BONO	SJ	8-5/8-5-8/	59	K.Kalychurun	6	4000
5 AFFRANCHI	VA	0-0-0-0-7	58.5	B.Sooful	3	1200
6 BLOW IN THE BOX	PM	5-4-5/6-4	58.5	C.Segeon	4	1300
7 DREAMFOREST	CD	5-7/R-7-6	58	S.Rama	7	3000

5

THE DISA LEADER CUP
1600 m Valeur Benchmark 56 Time -- 15h10

1 IDITAROD TRAIL	GR	3-5-1/1-1	60.5	N.Juglall	3	180
2 STREAM AHEAD	CD	0-0-0-3-6	60	S.Rama	2	1600
3 AFDEEK	RM	1-2-3/4-4	59.5	D.Bheekary	1	480
4 RED MARS	SJ	6-2/2-1-3	59	B.Bhaugerothee	4	350
5 JOHN HANCOCK	G	0-0-0-0-3	58.5	R.Joorawon	6	700
6 INN A MILLION	SN	1-7-6-3-3/	57	O.Sola	5	5000

1. NEW GOLDEN AGE, DESERT THIEF, KIMBERLEY
2. BOUND BY DUTY, ROCK ON GEORDIES, ANZA- BORREGO
3. KAYDENS PRIDE, WORDBUSTER, BLACK INDY
4. CANDY APPLE, CHOIR OF ANGELS, GREAT STOHHANEN

6

**THE MUNICIPALITY OF PORT LOUIS
125TH ANNIVERSARY CUP**
1600 m Valeur [30+] - 3 yrs Time -- 15h50

1 FOOLS GOLD	RM	0-0-0-6-1	61	D.Bheekary	2	180
2 KAMADEVA	RG	1-2/1-1-1	57.5	D.David	1	180
3 STEAK AND ALE	GR	0-0-0-0-5	56.5	N.Juglall	4	2500
4 UNCLE FRANK	SPN	0-0-0-0-4	52	Y.Emamdee	3	1500

7

THE JEROME TENNANT CUP
1365 m Valeur Benchmark 36 Time -- 16h25

1 WELL CONNECTED	VA	4/4-2-3-2	60.5	B.Sooful	3	290
2 WATCH ME DAD	GR	3-5-2/1-2	59.5	N.Juglall	6	370
3 ZIGI ZAGI ZUGI	SN	10-1/3-1-1	59	G.D.Aucharuz	5	550
4 ZODIAC JACK	JMH	5-4-3/4-N	59	B.Bhaugerothee	2	600
5 OCEAN DRIVE SOUTH	CD	6-6/9-5-2	58.5	S.Rama	7	700
6 SHADOWING	AS	0-0-0-5-4	58.5	S.Bussunt	4	1200
7 MASTER JAY	G	nouveau	57	R.Joorawon	1	370

8

THE LINES OF POWER PLATE
1850 m Valeur [0-26] Time -- 17h00

1 KEMAL KAVUR	G	10-9-9/9-8	61.5	R.Boutanive	2	1600
2 TANJIRO	CD	6-10-8/10-6	61	S.Rama	4	600
3 EMAAR	CD	2-7-10/2-5	60.5	O.Sola	1	430
4 NAPOLI	SN	1-5/9-9-2	59.5	D.Bheekary	3	280
5 XANTHUS	PM	8-8-8/8-3	59	C.Segeon	6	500
6 KALI'S CHAMP	CR	1/5-9-1-5	58.5	B.Sooful	7	750
7 GREENSTREETTRACTOR	P	3-7-7/11-10	54.5	R.Hoolash	5	1800
8 SPUN OUT	SH	2-5-6/6-6	52	N.Marday	8	1500

5. IDITAROD TRAIL, AFDEEK, RED MARS
6. KAMADEVA, FOOLS GOLD, UNCLE FRANK
7. WELL CONNECTED, WATCH ME DAD, ZIGI ZAGI ZUGI
8. NAPOLI, EMAAR, XANTHUS



1

**THE AMORETTO -
SOLIDARITE MARYE PIKE CUP**
1500 m Valeur [0-15] Time -- 12h50

1 COME ON SONNY	SPN	A-9-6/8-7	60	Y.Emamdee	3	2000
2 DESERT THIEF	RG	4-6/3-3-2	60	D.David	7	310
3 HE'S GOT GEARS	VA	2-1-3/5-7	60	B.Sooful	9	1200
4 MELSON	CR	2-2-5/8-5	60	R.Hoolash	10	1200
5 MISTY ROLLER	CD	10-2-1/2-9	60	S.Rama	11	950
6 BEAR HUG	JMH	6-2/8-6-4	59.5	B.Bhaugerothee	6	900
7 NEW GOLDEN AGE	P	2-6-6/R/2	59.5	S.Bussunt	1	450
8 KIMBERLEY	SN	5-4/9-3-2	59	G.D.Aucharuz	4	340
9 DOYLES	G	10-7-2/2-9	58	R.Joorawon	8	850
10 NAIZAK	PM	10-9-9/5-8	58	C.Segeon	5	1500
11 MIDNIGHT MESSENGER-EA	SPN	4/10-7-8-9	58	-----	2	----

2

THE NUNDKISHORE GUJADHUR CUP
1400 m Valeur Benchmark 31 Time -- 13h25

1 ARCTIC FLYER	SPN	1-3/4-R-5	62	R.Hoolash	4	900
2 CAPTAIN FALCON	G	1-4-8/7-5	61	R.Joorawon	5	600
3 ROCHESTER	JMH	0-9-5/10-8	61	K.Kalychurun	2	4000
4 ROCK ON GEORDIES	RG	6-3-6/8-5	61	D.David	3	370
5 CARLAS MAMBO	SJ	2-5/10-6-5	60.5	B.Bhaugerothee	6	700
6 ANZA- BORREGO	SPN	3-1/R-6-3	60	Y.Emamdee	7	650
7 BOUND BY DUTY	RM	0-0-0-2-5	58	S.Bussunt	1	280
8 SECRET IDEA	CD	7/6-5-3-4	56	S.Rama	8	700

Naufrage du vracquier Wakashio

La diaspora mauricienne se mobilise au Canada

Les membres de la diaspora mauricienne au Canada organiseront une manifestation samedi le 29 août, à 14 hrs, à la Place de la Célébration, dans la ville de Mississauga, en guise de solidarité avec leurs concitoyens à Maurice dans la foulée du désastre écologique causé par le naufrage du vracquier Wakashio au large de la côte sud-est du pays.

Puisque leurs compatriotes à Maurice tiendront une marche pacifique à Port-Louis le même jour pour exprimer leurs réactions et revendications, les Mauriciens établis au Canada n'ont pas voulu rester en marge de cet événement en ces moments difficiles que traverse leur pays natal. Ils tiennent à témoigner de leur solidarité tout en attirant l'attention du public canadien sur la catastrophe écologique subie par un petit Etat insu-



Des Mauriciens de Toronto fêtent le 50e anniversaire de l'indépendance et le 26e de la République de Maurice en mars 2018. Photo - lemauricien.com

laire dans le sud-ouest de l'océan Indien - où passe le trafic maritime entre l'Asie et les pays de l'Atlantique - à cause de l'erreur de

navigation du capitaine du navire.

Ils ont suivi avec un intérêt particulier l'évolution du désastre écologique qui a fait la une de la presse internationale depuis le naufrage du navire le 27 juillet. Ayant de bons souvenirs de leur île natale, les membres de la diaspora gardent des liens étroits avec le pays grâce à leurs visites régulières. Ils ont toujours été fiers de leur pays natal dont ils vantent les charmes touristiques à leurs voisins et amis canadiens.

Aujourd'hui, ils sont tristes de voir les conséquences du naufrage, dont la marée noire

qui a souillé le rivage et les lagons, tuant la faune et la flore marines dans cette région exotique de l'île. Ils ont une pensée spéciale pour tous ceux qui ont été affectés, notamment les pêcheurs, les plaisanciers, les hôteliers, les restaurateurs et aubergistes, et autres petits commerçants dans la région sud-est.

La manifestation de la diaspora mauricienne est organisée sous les auspices de l'Association des Mauriciens de Toronto en collaboration avec des associations basées dans d'autres villes. La diaspora est dispersée à travers le Canada mais elle est concentrée dans les grandes villes telles que Toronto, Montréal, Ottawa, Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Halifax, etc.

La diaspora veut apporter sa modeste contribution à la prise de conscience internationale du risque de naufrage des navires et de déversement d'huiles lourdes toxiques dans les eaux territoriales de Maurice et des pays riverains de l'océan Indien.

FIREFIGHTERS UNION

C/o F.C.S.O.U. 3rd Floor, Jade Court, Jummah Mosque Street, Port Louis
Tel: 216 1977 Fax: 2161475
Reg No 661

Re-Annual General Meeting

Members of the Firefighters Union (FFU) are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Union which has been scheduled for Thursday 17 September 2020 at 10.00 hrs at the seat of the Federation of Civil Service Trade Union House, Coromandel.

AGENDA:

1. Approval of last Minutes of Proceeding
2. Matters Arising.
3. President's report.
4. Treasurer's report.
5. Motions, if any.
6. Election of New Managing Committee
7. A.O.B.

Members who are willing to form the part of the New Managing Committee and/or to move any motion should send their request to the Secretary, Firefighters Union, C/O F.C.S.O.U., 3rd Floor, Jade Court, Jummah Mosque Street, Port Louis on or before 16th September 2020.

N.B: In case of lack of quorum, the AGM will be postponed for Thursday 1st October 2020 at 10.00 hrs at Coromandel, the same place as mentioned above.

Mr Praveen Ramjuttun
(Secretary, FFU)

Programme des Courses

13e Journée - Dimanche 30 août 2020

1 THE BEVERLY HILLS - JMLS CANCER SUPPORT CUP

1365 m Valeur [0-20] Time -- 12h50

1 CHAP TRAP	G	1-2-6-9/7	60	R.Joorawon	2
2 NEW ABBEY	SH	0-0-0-6-9	60	B.Sooful	4
3 CAPTAIN MOSS	P	5-7/7-8-7	59.5	S.Bussunt	5
4 DEALER'S CHARM	VA	7-8/2-3-4	59.5	R.Boutanive	8
5 GIMME A SWINGER	PM	4-3-9/3-5	59.5	C.Segeon	7
6 MAJESTIC MOON	SPN	9/8-8-4-2	59.5	Y.Emamdee	1
7 SARAH'S SECRET	CR	2-3-3-10	59	N.Teeha	6
8 HIT THE GREEN	RM	2-7/4-4-7	58.5	R.Hoolash	3
9 NORTHERN REBEL [EA]	JMH	3-6/7-R-5	58.5	-----	9

2 THE STRIDENT CUP

1450 m Valeur Benchmark 36 Time -- 13h25

1 DRY YOUR EYES	SN	nouveau	61	G.D.Aucharuz	1
2 CAMP DAVID	GR	0-0-0-8-N	60	N.Teeha	3
3 COPENHAGEN	VA	0-0-0-5-1	60	B.Sooful	7
4 HUBBLE	SJ	0-0-0-0-5	60	B.Bhaugerothee	10
5 THE RIGHT STUFF	CD	6-2-4/3-2	60	S.Rama	5
6 WILD FIRE	CR	nouveau	60	K.Kalychurun	2
7 KU DU TU	VA	7/7-7-5-N	59	R.Boutanive	9
8 ROMANUS	G	1-7/2-1-N	59	R.Joorawon	8
9 TILL DAWN	AS	2-3-3/3-2	59	S.Bussunt	4
10 GROBAN	RM	0-0-0-0-10	55.5	R.Hoolash	6

3 THE ROBINSON CUP

1365 m Valeur Benchmark 46 Time -- 14h00

1 CAPTAIN OF THE SEA	RG	6/7-1-1-3	61	D.David	6
2 CAPTAIN SWAROVSKI	P	3-5-9/9-8	60	R.Hoolash	9
3 DOLLAR TRACTOR	SN	5-3/9-4-3	60	G.D.Aucharuz	8
4 MARAUDING	G	0-1-1/1-1	60	R.Joorawon	4
5 TRIP TO THE SKY	SJ	0-5-7/8-8	60	B.Bhaugerothee	7
6 LIGHTEARTED	SH	0-0-0-0-2	59.5	D.Bheekary	3
7 EDGE OF THE SUN	AS	2-7-2/2-5	59	S.Bussunt	2
8 PADDINGTONS LUCK	GR	1-1-2-8/R	57.5	N.Juglall	1
9 DIVINE CONNECTION EA	JMH	5-2-3-5/6	57	-----	5

4 THE L. EDGAR ADOLPHE O.B.E CUP

1500 m Valeur Benchmark 51 Time -- 14h35

1 PRINCE OF PERSIA	G	0-0-0-0-1	61.5	R.Joorawon	8
2 ROCKY NIGHT	SN	0-0-0-0-7	61	G.D.Aucharuz	6
3 WILD HORIZON	SH	9-9-7-7-6/	60.5	D.Bheekary	2
4 AWARE	AS	4-3-5/7-5	60	S.Bussunt	4
5 THE BYZANTINE	JMH	5-8-5-1/9	60	K.Kalychurun	7
6 SACRED FLAME	RG	3-1-1/10-3	59	D.David	5
7 SIR BERNADINI	PM	6-6-6/8-7	58.5	C.Segeon	1
8 PROMISSORY	VA	5/4-4-3-3	54.5	B.Sooful	3

5 THE PHILIPPE GOUPILLE CUP

1600 m Valeur Benchmark 66 Time -- 15h10

1 HARD DAY'S NIGHT	RG	5-4-5/7-5	59	A.Roy	3
2 OVERSHADOW	SPN	4-4-4-2-5/	57.5	R.Boutanive	5
3 IDEAL SECRET	RM	3-4/3-4-3	57	D.Bheekary	2
4 TEN GUN SALUTE	SPN	9/N-6-6-7	57	B.Sooful	4
5 RAP ATTACK	SH	3-4-1-1/3	56.5	Y.Emamdee	1
6 PATROL OFFICER	GR	1-1-1/1-1	55	N.Juglall	6

6 THE MAURITIUS DERBY TRIAL CUP

1400 m Valeur Valeur [40+] 4 yrs G.3 -- 15h50

1 RULE THE NIGHT	GR	1-4/3-1-6	61	N.Juglall	3
2 VASCOSTREETTRACTOR	SJ	1-2/1-3-1	57	R.Joorawon	1
3 PALACE CHAPEL	SJ	0-0-0-3-3	53.5	S.Rama	2
4 SUGOI	SH	nouveau	52	K.Kalychurun	4

7 THE SHADARI CUP

990 m Valeur Benchmark 31 Time -- 16h25

1 FLYING GEORGE	CR	0-10-9-7/8	57	A.Roy	4
2 LAGACIO	G	1-R/2-2-2	60	R.Joorawon	6
3 RUBY SPIRIT	AS	0-0-0-0-5	60	S.Bussunt	3
4 TROJAN QUEST	JMH	7-2-2/9-2	60	S.Rama	1
5 ROCK MANOR	PM	0-0-0-0-9	59.5	C.Segeon	7
6 SENTIDO	VA	R-9-9/8-7	59.5	R.Boutanive	8
7 ZENZERO	SH	3-5-3/5-5	59.5	B.Sooful	2
8 GORDONSTOUN	SN	1-9/9-9-4	59	D.Bheekary	5
9 BOLD PHOENIX [EA]	SJ	nouveau	58	-----	9

8 THE WILD AMBER PLATE

1365 m Valeur [0-25] Time -- 17h00

1 GREENFLASHSUNSET	RM	10-6-8-7/1	661	D.Bheekary	8
2 MARK TAPLEY	VA	9-9-8/10-8	58	A.Roy	7
3 POINCIANA	SJ	0-0-R-2-2	61	B.Sooful	6
4 YANKEE FORCE	RG	0-0-0-7-4	60.5	D.David	2
5 MINNESOTA DREAM	GR	0-0-5-5-6	60	N.Juglall	1
6 TIGER'S BOND	PM	7-8/8-7-9	59	C.Segeon	3
7 SEVENTH EXPRESS	G	0-0-0-9-8	58.5	R.Joorawon	4
8 BLUE JEANS	CR	8-9-5-5-4/	55	R.Hoolash	5
9 TEMP THE TIGER [EA]	SPN	0-8-7-9-4	61.5	-----	9

SELECTIONS

1. SARAH'S SECRET, DEALER'S CHARM, GIMME A SWINGER
2. TILL DAWN, ROMANUS, THE RIGHT STUFF
3. MARAUDING, EDGE OF THE SUN, DOLLAR TRACTOR
4. SACRED FLAME, PROMISSORY, THE BYZANTINE
5. PATROL OFFICER, OVERSHADOW, IDEAL SECRET
6. VASCOSTREETTRACTOR, RULE THE NIGHT, PALACE CHAPEL
7. LAGACIO, ZENZERO, TROJAN QUEST
8. POINCIANA, BLUE JEANS, YANKEE FORCE



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marketing@licmauritius.intnet.mu



The World Health Organization has described obesity as a global epidemic and one of today's "most blatantly visible yet neglected public health problems". In the last few years reports on the rise of this life-threatening condition among children and adults across the globe have been alarming.

A total of 107.7 million children and 603.7 million adults were considered to be obese in 2015. But now our research shows that obesity is even more common than these reports suggest, and that in many countries most people are now living with obesity.

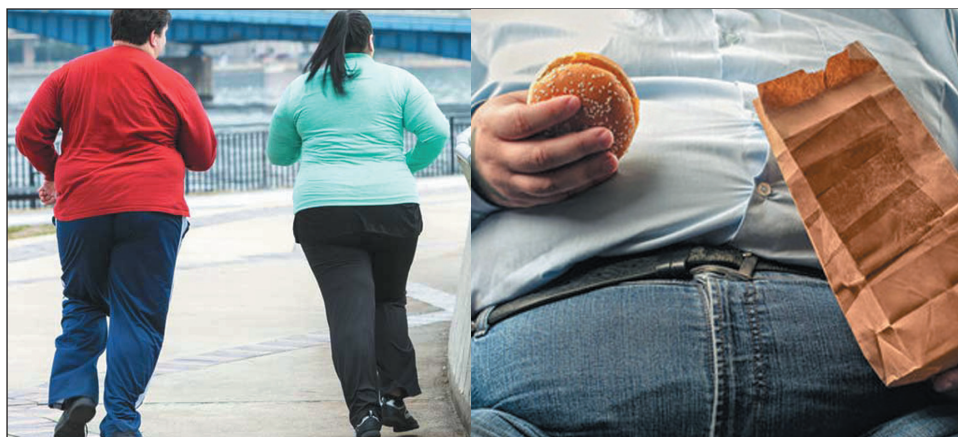
Obesity is a disease in which the amount of body fat is too high – high enough to harm health. It can increase the risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems, stroke and some cancers. But measuring body fatness accurately is difficult – and so most scientific studies and national surveys do not measure it, but use instead the weight-to-height body mass index (BMI) as a simple proxy for body fatness.

But the issue here is that the BMI can be a misleading proxy for high body fatness in both children and adults – and even more so in particular ethnic groups. This means that many people with apparently healthy BMI will actually be living with high body fatness without being aware of it, and so be at risk of the serious health consequences without realising it. Our research aimed to assess how problematic BMI is when used as a proxy for high body fatness in African children.

The problem with body-mass index

A high BMI or BMI-for-age – in children and adolescents BMI has to be adjusted for age because it increases with growth and

Obesity is more common than you think – here's why



maturation – is usually taken to represent high body fatness. The problem is that while almost all adults and children who have a high BMI will have a high level of body fat, many people with an apparently healthy BMI will also have a high level of body fat.

It is well known that BMI misclassifies the body fatness of athletes, bodybuilders and sportsmen and women, because a high muscle mass produces a high BMI. Only a small proportion of the population are athletic though, and the far more common problem with BMI is that it misclassifies body fatness of this much larger, non-athletic portion of the population – but in the opposite direction, meaning it downplays its extent.

The extent of the misclassifying of body fatness by BMI matters. Most studies which have measured both body fatness and BMI have taken place in Europe and North

America – and in these studies the prevalence of high body fatness has been as much as two to three times greater than the prevalence of high BMI. In one example 26% of US adults were obese according to their BMI, while 64% of the same adults were obese according to a more accurate measure which images the amount of fat in the body directly using X-rays.

Obesity and ethnicity

The problem of underestimating obesity is even worse in some population groups. The extent to which the BMI misclassifies the body fatness of people depends on their ethnicity. It is well established, but not well known, that BMI misclassifies children and adults in south and east Asia even more than Europeans.

There is emerging evidence that this problem extends to using BMI in other po-

pulation groups too. In our recent study of children living in eight cities across Africa from Windhoek in the south to Tunis in the north, we found that 9% were obese according to their BMI-for-age, but 29% had high body fat according to a stable isotope technique designed for measuring body fatness.

By underestimating the prevalence of obesity because of reliance on BMI in clinics, research studies and national health surveys, we also underestimate the need for action to prevent and treat obesity. To use our African study as an example, the case for action at a 29% prevalence of obesity is much stronger than at a prevalence of 9%. Obesity is far more common than it seems, and it requires much greater effort and more urgent attention than it is currently receiving.

As we enter a new decade it is time for national resolutions that are more ambitious. The main drivers of the global obesity epidemic are well known: excessive fat and sugar intake, lack of sleep, too much screen time, insufficient physical activity. We need global measures across all age groups to address these elements and we need them now.

John J Reilly

Professor of Physical Activity and Public Health Science, University of Strathclyde

The right to vote is not in the Constitution

● Cont. from page 2

Research has also shown that ordinary Americans are remarkably ignorant of public policies and politicians, lacking even basic political knowledge.

Is there a right to vote?

What Americans think of as the right to vote doesn't reside in the Constitution, but results from broad shifts in American public beliefs during the early 1800s. The new states that entered the union after the original 13 – beginning with Vermont, Kentucky and Tennessee – did not limit voting to property owners. Many of the new state constitutions also explicitly recognized voting rights.

As the nation grew, the idea of universal white male suffrage – championed by the commoner-President Andrew Jackson – became an article of popular faith, if not a constitutional right.

After the Civil War, the 15th

Amendment, ratified in 1870, guaranteed that the right to vote would not be denied on account of race: If some white people could vote, so could similarly qualified nonwhite people. But that still didn't recognize a right to vote – only the right of equal treatment. Similarly, the 19th Amendment, now 100 years old, banned voting discrimination on the basis of sex, but did not recognize an inherent right to vote.

Debates about voting rights

Today, the country remains engaged in a long-running debate about what counts as voter suppression versus what are legitimate limits or regulations on voting – like requiring voters to provide identification, barring felons from voting or removing infrequent voters from the rolls.

These disputes often invoke an incorrect assumption – that voting is a constitutional right protected from the nation's



birth. The national debate over representation and rights is the product of a long-run movement toward mass voting paired with the longstanding fear of its results.

The nation has evolved from being led by an elitist set of beliefs toward a much more universal and inclusive set of assumptions. But the founders' fears are still coming true: Levels of support for the

rights of opposing parties or people of other religions are strikingly weak in the U.S. as well as around the world. Many Americans support their own rights to free speech but want to suppress the speech of those with whom they disagree. Americans may have come to believe in a universal vote, but that value does not come from the Constitution, which saw a different path to the protection of rights.

In a light vein

Classy army joke...

Once, a lieutenant submits a letter as a draft for approval.

After several amendments, the Commanding Officer signs and again reviews the letter. He asks the lieutenant to replace a 'has' with an 'is'.

Frustrated to the core, the Lieutenant asks, 'Sir, how will an 'is' make a difference in a three-page letter?'

The Commanding Officer makes the youngster sit down and says, "There is a lot of difference when I say... 'What an ass she 'is', and 'What an ass she 'has' !'

The lieutenant was speechless.

A ship engine failed and no one could fix it, so they brought it a guy with 40 years' experience.

He inspected the engine very carefully, top to bottom.

After looking things over, the guy reached into his bag and pulled out a small hammer.

He gently tapped something. Instantly, the engine burst back into life. The engine was fixed!

Seven days later, the owner of the ship got his bill for \$10,000.

"What?" the owner said. "You hardly did anything. Send us an itemised bill."

The guy's reply stated:

"Tapping with a hammer: \$2.

"Knowing where to tap: \$9,998."

Moral: Never underestimate experience.

Silence is Golden

One of the best jokes to come along and it's not even political!

As Air Force One arrives at the Heathrow Airport, President Trump strides to a warm and dignified reception from the Queen.

They are driven in a 1934 Bentley to the edge of central London, where they change to a magnificent 17th century carriage hitched to six white horses. They continue on towards the Buckingham Palace...

Suddenly, the right rear horse lets out the most horrendous earth shattering fart ever heard in the British Empire... The smell is so atrocious that both the passengers in the carriage must use handkerchiefs over their noses... The fart shakes the coach, but the two dignitaries of State do their best to ignore the incident.

The Queen politely turns to President Trump: "Mr President, please accept my regrets... I am sure you understand there

are some things that even a Queen cannot control."

Trump, always trying to be "Presidential," responded: "Your Majesty, do not give the matter another thought... Until you mentioned it, I thought it was one of the horses."

Moral of the story: "Silence is Golden"

Dead birds don't fall out of the nest

During the Second World War, a conference was organised at Malta.

Churchill, Stalin and all allied nations attended.

Churchill's Foreign Secretary gave him a small chit on which Churchill wrote something and returned.

The Russian Secret Service retrieved the chit from the dustbin and gave it to Stalin.

The chit had a line: 'Dead birds don't fall out of the nest.'

Stalin read it and he was convinced that it was a vicious allied plan against the USSR.

Finally after two days in the formal banquet dinner, he asked Churchill about the message on the chit and what he meant by it.

Churchill was having his whiskey and cigar and he replied: 'Ohhhh that! Frank had written to me that your fly was open and I had replied 'Dead birds don't fall out of the nest'.

Pakya went to Paris and needed to get a pair of pants tailored urgently.

The only one available was a ladies tailor. So having no choice, an order was placed.

The next day Pakya goes over, gets the pants and tries them on...

The conversation between him and the tailor is somewhat like this.

Tailor: Eez a good?

Pakya: Yes!

Tailor: Nice colour too!

Pakya: Aye.

Tailor: Any problem?

Pakya: Well you know the Eiffel Tower ?

Tailor: Oui Mons, who in Paris does not!

Pakya: You know the restaurant on top?

Tailor: But of course, who does not!

Pakya: And the ballroom below that?

Tailor: Mons, there is NO BALLROOM BELOW THAT!

Pakya: Ah...that is the SAME PROBLEM with THESE PANTS!

That's Life

A sly look at the year so far

Never in my wildest dreams have I imagined myself entering a bank, wearing a mask, and asking for money.

Never thought my hands would one day consume more alcohol than my liver... ever!

Quarantine seems like a Netflix series: just when you think it's over, they release the next season.

I'm starting to like this mask thing. I went to the supermarket yesterday and two people that I owe money to didn't recognize me.

Those complaining 2020 didn't have enough holidays, what now?!

I need to social distance myself from my fridge; I tested positive for excess weight!

Could someone tell me if the second quarantine would be with the same family or we get to exchange?

I'm not planning on adding 2020 to my

age. I didn't even use it!

We want to publicly apologize to the year 2019 for all the bad things we said about it.

To all the ladies who were praying for their husbands to spend more time with them, how are you doing?

My washing machine only accepts pyjamas these days. I put in a pair of jeans and a message popped up: "Stay Home!"

If I see anyone crying on 31st December over the year coming to an end, I would personally smash a bottle on their head!

After all that we have been through right now, the only thing missing would be the vaccine getting released in suppository form.

I feel like a teenager all year long: no money in the wallet, hair long and out of control, thinking what to do with my life, and grounded at home.

Thoughts to live by

What is this life?

A man is born today, tomorrow he is dead.

A man lives in a mansion today; tomorrow he lives underground.

A man drives a car today; tomorrow an ambulance drives him.

A man reads biology today; tomorrow a biography is been read of him.

A man eats whatever he wants today; tomorrow he becomes food for insects.

A man is always early for work today; tomorrow he is termed late Mr/Mrs.

A man is seen resting in his house today, tomorrow he is resting in a coffin. And they say "rest in peace"!

A man eats all kinds of fruits in his house today; tomorrow he becomes manure to those trees.

A man is known today as the richest man ever; tomorrow he doesn't even know where or what will happen to his riches.

What is life after all?

Plan your life because you may not see tomorrow.

But when your life is well planned, you won't be afraid of anything.

Act right and live godly. Always be a helping hand to others.

Come to think of this?

1. Eternal life = free
2. House of prayer entrance = free
3. God's mercy = free
4. God's love = free
5. Breath of life = free

- A. Cigarette = pay
- B. Prostitution = pay
- C. Alcohol = pay

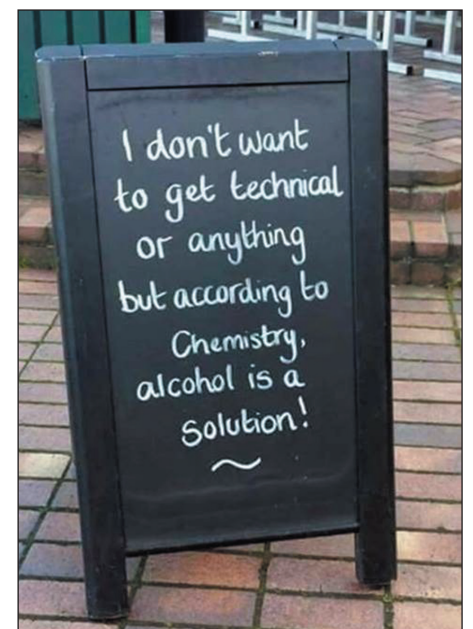
- D. Nightclub entrance fee = pay
- E. Powers to rule the world = pay

Then why are people paying for hell while paradise is free?

Think twice. Believe in God and you shall be saved.

* I forgot to zip up my trouser, so a lady told me politely, "sir your garage is open" I gave her naughty smile as I zip up and asked, "Did you see my RANGE ROVER parked inside?" The lady smiles back and said "no just one small TOYOTA with two Flat tyres.*

I'm still crying



Becoming a better you

Struggling with self-discipline? Try forming these habits

Without discipline, we give up easily. Self-discipline is the ability to make yourself do things even if you *don't* want to do them. That's one of the most important qualities in life.

But how do you develop it? It remains a complex issue, and no one has the answers. Jocko Willink simply says that you must do things and not complain. I like that, but for us mortals, it's not that simple.

One thing I know is that it doesn't happen overnight. I prefer to focus on habits that lead to discipline, instead of focusing on self-discipline itself. So here's a list of habits I've adopted that made me more disciplined.

Hold yourself accountable

If you say you're going to do something, *do it*. And if you can't, have a good reason. That's the foundation of self-discipline. But you don't do things so you can prove something to *others*.

No, you do it for yourself. You hold yourself accountable by writing down your goals, intentions, and actions. No one is watching. Just be yourself.

This doesn't have to be complicated. I write down what I want to do every single day in my journal. Then, at the end of the day, I look at what I actually did. When your actions match your words, you're on the right track.

Be honest in your communication

To yourself and to others. Honesty is difficult for most of us because it requires humility. We're often afraid of telling the truth because we think we look weak.

But the opposite is true. When you're not honest, people can tell. As a result, no one will take you seriously. We all have weaknesses and issues. There's no need to hide it. There's also no need to play the victim. Simply stick to the truth.

When you keep on being honest with yourself and others, it's easier to be disciplined. Because it's not the end of the world when we screw up. I have bad days too. I eat junk food. I skip my workouts. But I'm honest about it when I do. That brings me back on the right path.

Set the right example

Never expect people to do something you're not doing. And if you're doing something others are not doing, don't expect them to do it.

"What's that?" I know. It sounds like a paradox. It comes down to this: Do the right thing and have zero expectations of others. If some people don't want to do that themselves, it's not your problem. Keep on setting the right example. This is one of the biggest cliches in the world, but let your actions speak for you.

Improve every day

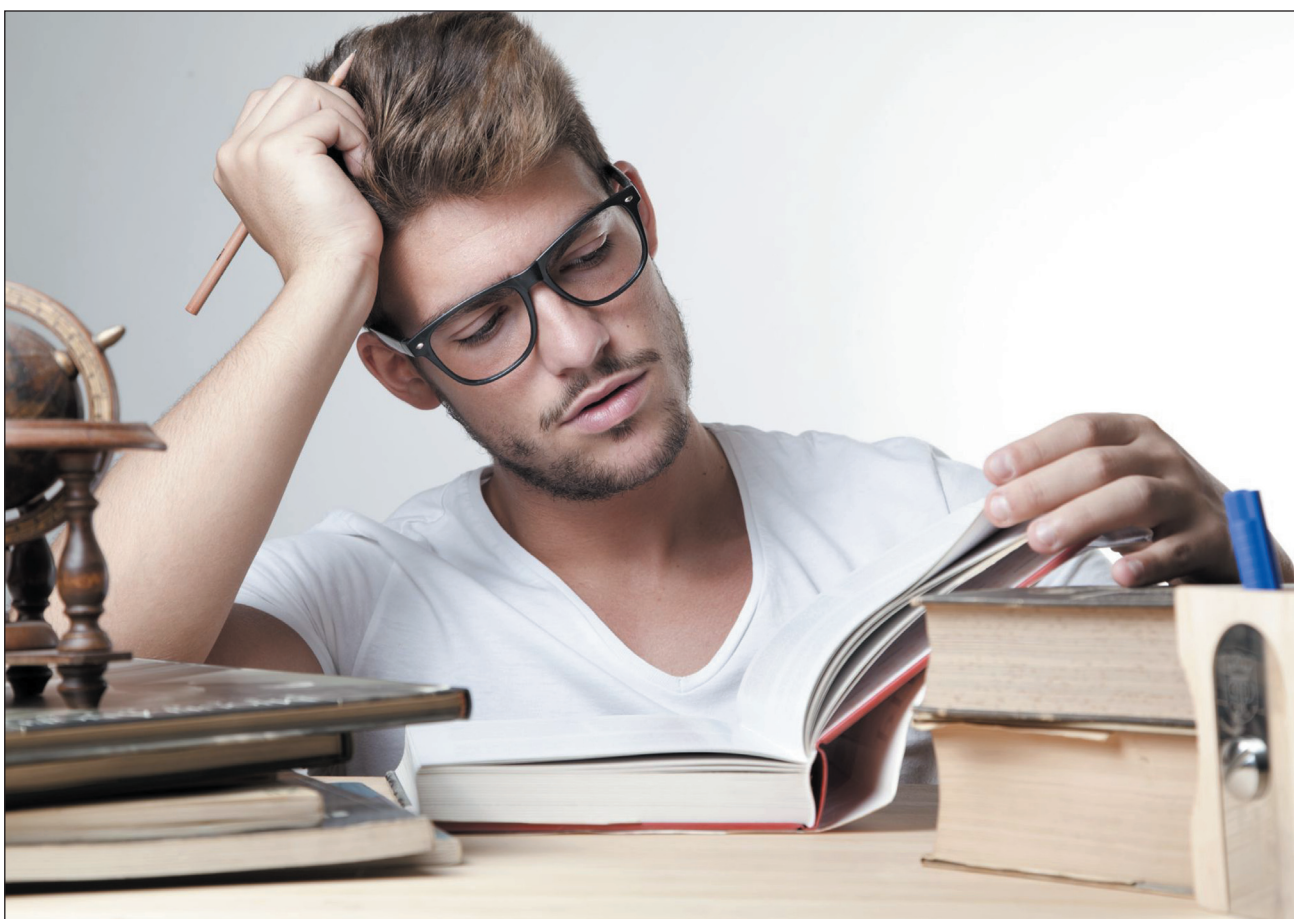
Most people don't have the patience and drive to improve. Recently, a person who bought my writing course said it was too much work to improve their writing. No kidding?!

Of course it's hard to improve yourself. That's why most people don't do it. I gave that person a refund. It's not for you. There are enough people who *do* want to improve themselves. If you have the will to improve, you don't have to worry about self-discipline.

But you need to have a reason to improve. Why do you want to get better at a skill? What do you want to use it for? Why do you want to get in shape? What will you do when you're fitter?

Think on paper

Putting your thoughts into words helps you to understand yourself and what you're doing. I often come up with an idea that sounds great in my head.



But then I put my idea into words. I start thinking on paper. I simply write down my thought process. I start like this: "I have a new idea. It's..." By the end of the page, I know whether it's useless or not. Often, my behaviour is not a matter of self-discipline - or a lack of it.

Sometimes you don't do something because it's not the right thing to do. So always think on paper. After you've scribbled down your thoughts, let it rest, and get back to it a few days later.

Then, you think "this is great" or "this is stupid". Either way, you win. Why? You used your brain as a tool.

Do what you can

Look, life is far from perfect. We will never have the perfect circumstances to work. You know, I wish I lived in a mansion on the beach. I wish it never rained when I want to go outside. I wish, I wish, I wish. It's all fun and games. But in life, we must do what we can with what we have.

- Tired? Do what you can.
- Fired? Do what you can.
- Got to pay your bills? Do what you can.
- Shitty house? Do what you can.
- No friends? Do what you can.

Look ahead, very far ahead

It will not always remain summer. Life moves in cycles. Sometimes it's great for a long time. And sometimes it's bad for a long time. Things happen. Economies collapse. Jobs disappear. Natural disasters happen. Pandemics shut down life. You name it.

The best way to deal with all of it is to be prepared. Train your body and your mind. Build a cash buffer. Get rid of excess. Life is very long.

Live NOW

But none of the above means you should *always* think about the future. Life happens NOW.

Working from home, reading a book, going for a walk, spending time with loved ones; all those things happen right now. You're not helping yourself by being lost in your thoughts.

You only help yourself by being disciplined about living in the present. I remind myself of this several times a day.

Did you know *that* living in the present is a skill? You've acquired it once you're aware of your thoughts. That's all. So next time you're preoccupied, clenching your jaw, and not paying attention to what's in front of you, snap out of it. "Just like that?"

Yes, just like *that*. Get back to what matters most: The one thing that's right in front of you.

Darius Foroux, Medium.com

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Padmavyuha actor Pooja Batra on her film: 'You can take any religion and it will fit into the narrative'

Filmmaker Raj Krishna and actor Pooja Batra talk about their new film, Padmavyuha



the tricky path from a non-believer to one who not just believes in faith and religion but is willing to take extreme steps for its sake, unearthing how many play politics in the name of religion. Pooja essays a character who went missing years before the story begins in the film. American actor Nikhil Prakash essays the main role of the professor in the film.

Given that *Padmavyuha* is the brain child of a second-generation NRI, is it an outsider's view of the religion? Pooja said, "I think it was also vaguely ambiguous because if you take any religion, it would all still apply. It is an exploration of morality. The best part about the film is that you can take any religion - Hinduism, Christianity - any religion - and it will all fit in perfectly into the film's narrative."

Raj, however, said, "I think I am making these films because I want to explore and understand Hinduism. I am a second generation American Indian (my mom is a Hindi teacher and that is how I know how to read and write Hindi). This is also my way of connecting with my heritage and that part of world."

He added, "The film is an exploration of faith at its highest level. A religion studies professor has lost his faith and receives a call late night that takes him to a mysterious path. It leads him down a dark path that leads him to mystic puzzles and those puzzles lead him to a discovery of a global conspiracy. That conspiracy also reveals to him some new information about the history of Hinduism. *Padmavyuh* is a number of things - it is a mystery thriller, it is a Da Vinci Code style of a religious, mystery, puzzle. It is an exploration of faith, it is an exploration of religious fundamentalism."

Actor Pooja Batra, who has a special appearance in a short film *Padmavyuh* that explores the various facets of religion, has said that what she liked about it was its non-judgmental approach. Pooja, along with film director Raj Krishna talk about their film in an exclusive interview with Hindustan Times.

Padmavyuha, screened at the International Indian Film Festival Toronto last week, traces a professor of religious studies who receives a mysterious phone call. With time, he traverses

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Your emotional relations will evolve in a good direction. Positive changes will take place in your life: you'll make new encounters or will start more enriching activities. Financial situation in expansion: you can count on a helping hand from luck.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 5, 16, 17, 20, 23

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Organize your budget better and resist your desires of purchases. You'll overflow with drive and enthusiasm, which will enable you to achieve numerous feats. You'll like to charm and flit about; but if you trespass certain limits, you'll have to experience a very bad surprise.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 12, 17, 20, 23, 28

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Play at some game of fortune by choosing numbers 5, 6, 8, and 9. Give your heart a new chance, don't let yourself be discouraged by your recent disappointments; an encounter will take place.

Lucky Numbers: 25, 26, 27, 30, 39, 40

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You'll live your love affairs as on a roller coaster, but this won't be without charm. Be careful of certain friends. During this week, if you're definitely optimistic and realistic, you can gain some nice successes on all fronts.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 16, 20, 21, 30, 36

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

A favourable week for young and less young lovers. At work, it would be useless to try to force destiny too much; let the situation mature. This time, you'll really appreciate the sure and faithful friendships that you've made.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 15, 18, 23, 26, 29

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

A favorable climate for plans of an amorous union, for a durable engagement and, concerning lonely hearts, for a determining encounter. You'll by no means be willing to tighten your belt; fortunately, you'll have a completely unexpected money entry.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 11, 13, 20, 28, 31

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

A gust of jealousy will agitate your love relationships; try to control the situation. In the family, you'll be surrounded with warm affection; perfect agreement with your children. At work, nothing serious should come to impede your efforts.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 4, 6, 20, 29, 36

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Your love life will suddenly bloom. For once, you can manage to conciliate work and family life. No serious health problem to be coped with. Avoid dealing with any kind of litigious matter.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 5, 8, 15, 36, 38

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Even in the most sombre moments, try to see the brighter side of things. A little more nervous than usual, you'll have difficulty in conciliating your private and professional life; all the same, surrounded by your close relatives and friends, you'll spend some very good moments.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 14, 20, 30, 40

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

If you find yourself in a financial fix, make out your accounts and draw up a tight budget. Momentary disagreement with your partner; happiness will soon be back. Don't be too demanding towards other people; be aware that nobody's perfect, not even you!

Lucky Numbers: 8, 16, 20, 21, 23, 30

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You'll have a very good chance to satisfy your heart's deepest aspirations. Put your business in order; wouldn't this be the moment to sort out your projects and plans, and to launch immediately what can be achieved in a short term?

Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 9, 11, 24, 30

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Discrete assistance can be given in the nick of time by some of your relatives or friends. In spite of the psychic distance which separates you from the object of your love, you'll have the feeling that everything isn't lost; as always, trust your excellent intuition.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 15, 17, 20, 36, 38

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Rashmi Somvanshi's 'connect' with Ekta Kapoor

Actress Rashmi Somvanshi, who essays the role of Abha Kohli in Zee TV's *Bin Kuch Kahe* has had the privilege to work closely with the Czarina of Television, Ekta Kapoor.

The young girl has been part of Balaji Telefilms, not as an actor but as a Creative Head. Here is Rashmi describing her journey from behind the camera to in front of it!!

Says Rashmi, "I have studied journalism and mass communication from Amity University. As my placement, I got into Balaji Telefilms as an intern. My first show was the event Global Indian and TV Honours wherein I was the Creative Head. I was also the Creative Head on the show *Tere Liye*. Post that, I worked with Ekta as her associate for 5-6 months."

So how did she move into acting?

It's not only Balaji Telefilms, but Rashmi has also been part of Paramhans Creations, wherein she was the Creative Head of the movie *Issaq*. In her three years of work experience with the company, she was also associated with the movie *G - A Wanton Heart* or *G - Kutta Se* wherein she acted in it. And this is where she got to realize that she had more to give as an actor.

Rashmi avers, "When I realized that I should focus on acting, I got many TV offers. But I did not find many interesting. And that is when *Bin Kuch Kahe* happened. Though I have had to wait for many months for the show to launch, it has been an amazing journey. Things fell in place at the right time, and I will say that I have had no struggling phase."

Rashmi loves to write and even now, keeps herself busy writing poetries. "Everything about working behind the camera fascinates me. I am also writing a movie concept and am pitching it to few production houses."

On her ultimate goal, the happy girl avers, "I don't believe in goals. My interests keep changing with time. The bigger aspect is that I want to do something that excites me and keeps me satisfied. Overall, the aim is to be associated with film making and everything about it."

On her role in *Bin Kuch Kahe*, the girl states, "The character of Abha Kohli is very close to my heart. She is a very relatable character, who has grown wise and mature with her own understanding of life. She is a girl who has faulted and learnt by it. She is now quite intelligent and wants to hold her family together."

Kumkum Bhagya actress Tripti Shankhdhar alleges threat to life from her father

Tripti Shankhdhar who was a part of 'Kumkum Bhagya' has alleged that her father wants to marry her off forcibly to a man of his choice in Bareilly

TV and film actor Tripti Shankhdhar, who belongs to Bareilly, has claimed a threat to her life from her father. The '*Kumkum Bhagya*' actor has posted a video on the social media in which she is heard claiming that her father, Ram Ratan Shankhdhar, wants to marry her off to a person of his choice and on her refusal to comply with his wish, has threatened to eliminate her. She has sought protection from the Bareilly police. In the video clip, Tripti is heard accusing her father of pulling her by her hair and thrashing her. She alleged that her father is asking her to return the money he gave her when she went to Mumbai to make a career in the entertainment industry.

Tripti has posted her video clip on her Instagram account, late on Tuesday night. Tripti, who is 19 years old, has now left her home with her mother. Her father is a real estate businessman. He could not be contacted for his comments. She has worked in tele serials like '*Kumkum Bhagya*' and also in a South Indian film. The Bareilly



police said that they have not received any written complaints but learnt about the actor's post on social media a few hours ago. "We are investigating the matter," said a senior police official.

As per the recent development in the case, the actress told Spotboy, "Right now I am at the police station (Thana Baradari, UP) and my father (Ram Ratan Shankar) is also present here. I had filed a police complaint against him and cops have got him here. But I don't want any legal procedure ahead or send him to jail. I just want a settlement as my mother, brother, sister and I don't want to stay with him anymore."

She went on to talk about her father saying, "He has always been a violent father and has been torturing us since childhood. Yesterday, he also beat me, my mother, brother and sister too. And it's high time now."

Kumkum Bhagya is a popular daily with Sriti Jha and Shabbir Ahluwalia in the lead roles.

TV SERIAL

Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

Friday 28 Aug: Now that Anand and his wife and Sameer's uncle are there to have dinner, Naina did her best of what she could do, but then things don't go as planned and Mamaji criticises Naina.

Monday 31 Aug: Now after the havoc which Kamlesh created about the shabbiness of the house, there's a rift between Sameer and Naina. Both of them are arguing about every small thing.

Tuesday 1 Sept: Naina is day-dreaming about Sameer and their romance. Sameer has a new beginning as he is joining his uncle's company to work.

Wednesday 2 Sept: Naina taunts Sameer by serving him money for breakfast as she thinks he has a habit of wasting it. Anand pays his brother the amount he owed him and asks his brother to give him in writing that he has received the amount in case it comes up in the future.

Thursday 3 Sept: Anand's elder brother get to know from Kamlesh that Anand got fifty thousand rupees from Sameer. He then decides to humiliate Anand in front of the whole society. Elsewhere, Naina and Sameer are having an argument about their household supplies.

Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

Friday 28 Aug: Rohit realises that Sonakshi loves him, while Mrs Sengupta requests her to meet Raima.

Monday 31 Aug: Raima is shocked to meet Sonakshi while Rohan vents his anger on Tanya. Later at the hospital, Rohit romantically proposes to Sonakshi.

Tuesday 1 Sept: Rohit narrates his past to Sonakshi while Raima wakes up from her coma. Later, Sonakshi gives him tips to impress her mother.

Wednesday 2 Sept: In an attempt to impress Suman, Rohit makes a fool out of himself. Later, Raima heads to the Sippy Mansion with a hidden motive.

Thursday 3 Sept: Raima enters the Sippy Mansion as Rohit is proposing to Sonakshi. Later, she shocks everyone when she narrates the events of 26th September.

CINE 12

Vendredi 28 août - 21.15

Lowriders

Avec: Gabriel Chavarria, Demián Bichir, Theo Rossi

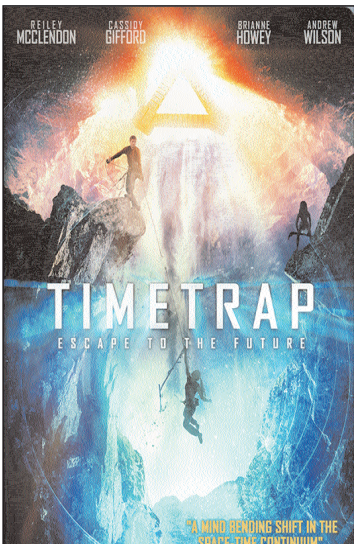


CINE 12

Samedi 29 août - 21.15

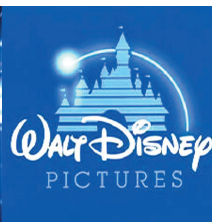
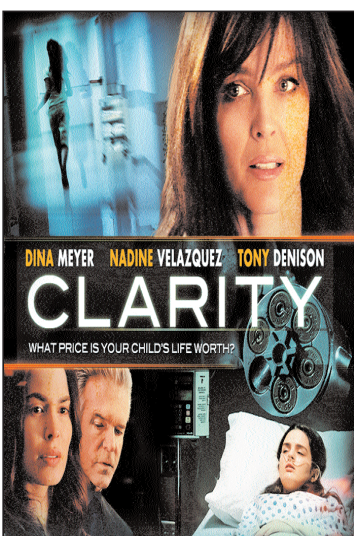
Time Trap

Star: Andrew Wilson, Cassidy Gifford, Brienne Howey



mhc 1

Dimanche 30 août - 21.10



vendredi 28 août

MBC 1

07.05 Local: Passerelles
09.45 Local: Later Set Kouler
10.30 Local: Arts.21
11.00 Local: Saver KilTirel
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Mag: Women Who Changed
12.35 Mag: Eye On SADC
14.00 Local: Rodrig Prog
14.46 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
15.13 D.Anime: Petit Creux
15.15 D.Anime: Twirlywoos
16.11 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies
16.33 D.Anime: G-Fighters
17.05 D.Aimes: Spirit
17.40 Local: Zanfan Nou Pei
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod: Komiko
21.45 Serial: The Blacklist
23.00 Le Journal

MBC 2

10.00 Serial: Mah-E-Tamaam
11.20 Serial: Tum Mere Paas Raho
12.04 Film: Udhav Nu Sindur
Starring: Anjali Dahiya, Nishant Pandya, Trushna Patel
14.20 DDI Magazine
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.23 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee
15.47 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
16.20 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.33 Serial: Bisaat-E-Dil
16.55 Mehendi Tohra Namam Ke
17.17 Serial: Gangaa
18.00 Serial: Dr. Quin
18.30 DDI Magazine
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 DDI Magazine
20.00 Serial: Tawaan
20.44 Local: Anjuman
21.11 Local: Urdu Programme
22.11 DDI Live

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.44 Mag: Shift
07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.35 Mag: Tomorrow Today
08.01 Doc: Comme Un Poissn...
09.08 Doc: 360 GEO
10.01 Doc: Can Electric Cars Save
11.39 Mag: Eco India
12.05 Mag: Urban Gardens
12.10 Mag: Sur Mesure
12.23 Mag: Shift
13.05 Mag: Garden Makeover
14.28 Doc: 2D Innovations
15.24 Doc: Australian Great...
16.33 Doc: Lisbon City Of Fade...
17.18 Mag: Eco India
17.44 Mag: Sur Mesure
18.00 Doc: The Threatening Vol...
18.30 Live: News
18.47 Mag: Arts And Culture
19.00 Open Univ: Student Support

Cine 12

01.30 Film: Hailey Dean Mysteries
02.56 Serial: Dynasty 2
03.35 Film: Second In Command
05.02 Tele: Totalement Diva
05.53 Tele: Esmeraldas
06.38 Serial: The Quest
09.00 Serial: NCIS
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant
10.35 Serial: Dynasty 2
11.31 Tele: Dulce Amor
12.00 Film: Second In Command
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva
14.45 Serial: The Quest
16.49 Serial: NCIS
17.30 Tele: Esmeraldas
18.11 Tele: Soleil Levant
19.10 Tele: Dulce Amor
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
21.15 Film: Lowriders
22.53 Tele: Totalement Diva

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Anjaam
12.05 / 19.54 -
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.24/ 20.11 -
Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
12.46 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe
13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.53 / 21.46 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.17 / 21.59 -
Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
14.39 / 22.25 - Bitti Business...
14.57 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.00 Film: Udhav Ki Zindagi
Starring: Jeetendra, Moushumi Chatterjee, Kajol
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
18.51 Piya Albela
19.14 Mere Angne Mein

samedi 29 août

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains
07.25 D.Anime: Kid-E-Cats
08.50 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Local: People
12.35 Mag: Les Artisans Du Rebut
14.10 Local: Rodrig Prog
14.20 MFDC Road Safety Short...
14.35 D.Anime: Fruit Ninja Frenzy...
14.46 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
15.14 D.Anime: Petit Creux
15.27 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies
15.30 D.Anime: Poko
16.11 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies
16.27 D.Anime: G-Fighters
17.30 Serial: Lucas Etc
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.35 Entertain: Nach Baliye
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod: Lottotech
21.10 Film: Tumbledown
23.00 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Veer Ghatotkach
10.00 Bade Acchelagte Hai
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare
12.50 Serial: Brundavanam
13.12 Annakodiyum Ainthus Pengalum
13.35 Serial: Anu Pallavi
14.00 Dil Hai Hindustani
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.30 Film: Satrangee Parachute
Starring: Rajpal Yadav, Sanjay Mishra, Zakir Hussain, Lilliput, RupaliGanguly
18.30 Mag: DDI Magazine
19.00 Zournal Kreol
20.05 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
20.28 Serial: Bitti Business Wali
21.00 Film: Mrityudand
Starring - Shabana Azmi, Madhuri Dixit, Ayub Khan
23.34 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: The Village Above...
06.47 Mag: Arts And Culture
07.00 Mag: Global 3000
07.30 Mag: Euromaxx
07.59 Doc: Wildlife Heroes
09.00 Doc: Code(s)
09.48 Doc: ID Theft
10.29 Doc: Luxury
11.14 Doc: LAOS - The Village...
12.14 Mag: Global 3000
13.00 Mag: Euromaxx
15.56 Open Univ: Student Support
18.30 Live: News (English)
18.50 Talk On Yaum-E-Ashura
19.00 Mag: Word On The Street
19.30 Mag: Check In
19.56 Mag: Japan 2020
20.06 Doc: The Rich, The Poor...
21.04 Doc: 2D Innovations
21.50 Doc: A Charged Business
22.28 Doc: Neuschwanstein
23.11 Doc: Amazing Gardens

01.00 Film: Lowriders
03.25 Film: Ironclad
05.20 Tele: Destiny
06.08 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
06.56 Serial: Sherlock
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Serial: Brooklyn Nine Nine
09.59 Serial: Counterpart
10.52 Film: Hailey Dean Mysteries
12.25 Serial: Chicago Fire
13.03 Tele: The Magicians
13.45 Tele: Premiere Dame
15.05 Serial: The Good Doctor
15.46 Serial: Dynasty 2
17.00 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
17.45 Film: Max Et La Crypte...
19.18 Mag: Close Up
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Series: Hawaii Five-0
21.15 Film: Time Trap
22.45 Tele: Eva Luna

04.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
04.26 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
04.43 Radha Krishna
05.05 Zindagi Ki Mehek
05.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
05.55 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
06.14 Bitti Business Wali
06.38 Kundali Bhagya
06.58 Piya Albela
07.20 Mere Angne Mein
08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek
10.02 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai
14.02 Bin Kuch Kahe
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.30 Film: Dosti Friends Forever
Starring Bobby Deol, Akshay Kumar, Lara Dutta, Kareena Kapoor
20.41 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
21.24 Serial: Naagin
22.10 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek

dimanche 30 août

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains
06.27 D.Anime: HTDT
08.45 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
09.27 D.Anime: Astrology
09.35 Serial: Dark Oracle
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Local: Elle - No 110
15.00 D.Anime: Kid-E-Cats
15.20 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
15.24 D.Anime: In The Night Garden
15.47 D.Anime: Petit Creux
16.25 D.Anime: Kid-E-Cats
16.30 D.Anime: Fils De Wouf
16.46 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
17.02 D.Anime: G-Fighters
17.21 D.Anime: Roger
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: The First Super Star...
19.30 Le Journal
20.00 Prod: Mett Sa Ladan
21.10 Film: Clarity

07.00 Film: Saaranish
Starring: Rohini Hattangadi, Anupam Kher, Soni Razdan
09.11 DDI Magazine
10.00 Local Production: Exerpts Of Krishna Janmasthanam
11.22 Serial: Santoshi Maa
12.00 Film: Dil Kya Kare
Starring - Ajay Devgan, Mahima Chaudhry, Kajol, Chandrachur Singh
15.00 Mag: Comedy Classes
15.21 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
15.44 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht
16.06 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
17.00 Serial: Mahakali
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
19.30 DDI Magazine
20.00 Serial: Maharakshak
20.44 Serial: Naagin
21.27 Serial: CID

06.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens
06.26 Doc: The Fight For The...
06.52 The Solar Power Brokers
07.15 Mag: Check In
08.36 Doc: Scanning The Great...
10.13 Doc: Neuschwanstein
11.29 Doc: The Fight For The...
12.21 Mag: Check In
16.58 Doc: The Solar Power...
17.53 Doc: 2D Innovations
17.54 Mag: Set One
18.00 Doc: Trajectory
18.30 Local: News (English)
19.05 Doc: Zambia
19.30 Mag: Future Mag
21.00 Doc: Portraits Of Marie...
21.52 Doc: Clean Air
22.34 Doc: The Thrill To Ride
23.17 Doc: Trajectory
23.43 Doc: Garden Party
00.09 Doc: Zambia

01.32 Film: Time Trap
02.56 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
03.37 Once Upon A Time In Mexico
05.10 Tele: Destiny
05.58 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
06.40 Film: Boone: The Bounty...
08.09 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.37 Serial: 12 Monkeys
10.19 Serial: Counterpart
11.11 Film: Max Et La Crypte...
12.38 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
13.18 Serial: The Magicians
14.00 Tele: Premiere Dame
15.05 Serial: Dynasty 2
17.08 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
17.50 Serial: The Enemy Within
18.31 Serial: Mission: Impossible
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Incorporated
21.15 Film: American Gangster
23.46 Film: Kill Kane

00.30 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
02.12 Bin Kuch Kahe
04.03 Pavitra Rishta
05.28 Film: Dosti Friends Forever
08.06 Motu Patlu
08.11 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
09.54 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
11.40 Piya Albela
13.27 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
15.21 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.00 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Ishqedarriyaan
Starring: Mimoh Chakraborty, Kavin Dave, Mohit Dutta
21.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.19 Piya Albela

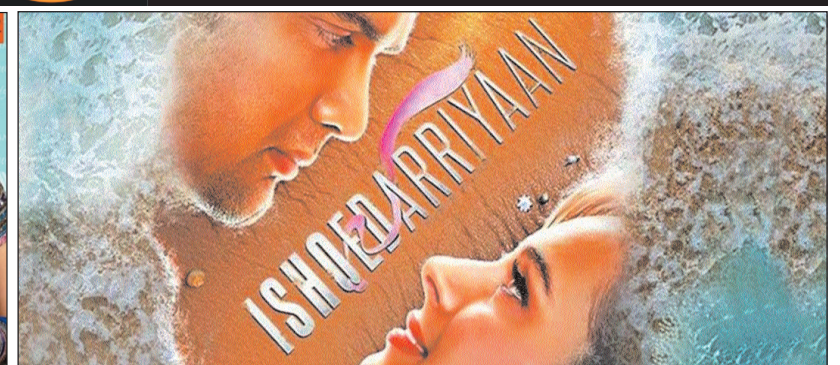
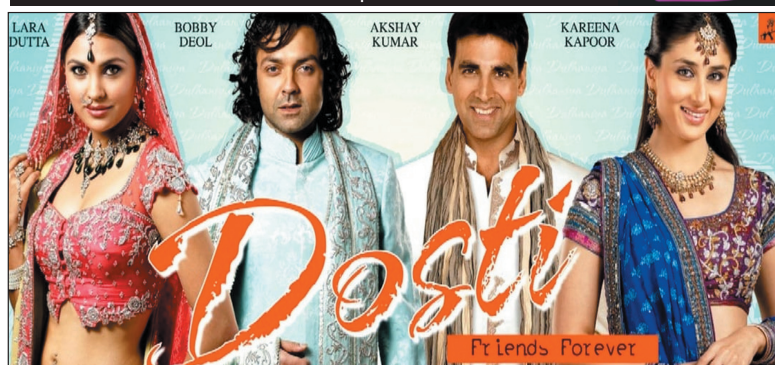
Samedi 15 août - 21.00

Stars: Bobby Deol, Akshay Kumar, Lara Dutta, Kareena Kapoor



Dimanche 30 août - 18.30

Stars: Mimoh Chakraborty, Kavin Dave, Mohit Dutta





Nita Chicoore-Mercier

Manifestation des travers

Les autorités et représentants du bon peuple dans sa diversité prennent au sérieux leur rôle d'arbitre et de médiateur que la télévision publique prend soin de transmettre à tous les foyers du pays.

L'intention est de ménager la susceptibilité des uns, un défaut accentué par l'insularité et le statut sacrosaint de l'identité des uns et des autres, et d'autre part, à rétablir la vision officielle de tout polémique qui inonde l'espace médiatique où les intervenants surchauffés se donnent à cœur joie et à plein gosier. A l'écran national, au rassemblement de tous les foyers le soir venu, l'exercice consistant à rétablir la sérénité est plutôt bien réussi. Et tant mieux.

Goupillon à la main, le dernier en date de ce type d'exercice a été fait lors d'une messe en l'honneur d'un saint dont les profanes et païens connaissent peu les qualités. Les grands mots tels que 'notre peuple', 'notre pays' - pronom possessif très prisé dans l'exercice de rassemblement ponctuent le discours. La 'diversité', aussi au rendez-vous, fait bonne figure. La messe est dite. Ainsi soit-il.

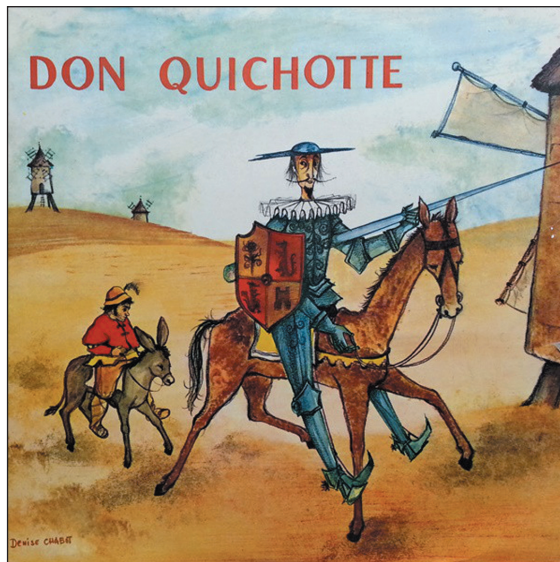
Il faut admettre que l'étalage au grand jour des sujets dits 'sensibles', bénéficiant habituellement d'une omerta censée préserver l'harmonie, lève le voile sur des vérités qui fâchent. Les discours tentent de présenter comme autant de 'négativité' ce qui, en somme, est la vérité.

Et nous ? Notre rôle n'est pas de plaire, mais de dévoiler la vérité au-dessus de toutes autres considérations supposées préserver l'harmonie. Plus qu'un rôle, c'est un devoir. A quel prix ? A n'importe quel prix.

Si le sens du devoir, une obligation par excellence prônée dans le *Bhagavad Gita*, impose une certaine exigence, la méthode de l'expression peut frôler tantôt la moquerie et l'ironie, et tantôt la provocation. Le sens de l'humour n'est pas le point fort d'un pays où on produit et on étale en permanence les palabres des mâles à fort taux de testostérone. Toute tentative de présenter avec humour les faits de société, d'ici et d'ailleurs, est voué à l'échec. Tout est pris au premier degré, et ils montent tous sur leurs grands chevaux à la moindre provocation. La colère fait partie de leur vie quotidienne. D'ailleurs, on est étonné qu'il n'y ait pas plus de violence dans ce pays. Leur réaction ordinaire consiste à se venger. Vengeance et représailles constituent leur point fort. Il y a quelques années, un ami algérien à la Réunion qui a eu quelques déboires ici suivis de représailles fit cette observation très juste : ils ne sont pas bien là-bas. 'Là-bas', c'est ici dans le pays 'nou zil' tant vanté.

Cette mentalité, qui selon certains serait infantiliste, n'a pas évolué au fil des années dans ce pays où on fait grand étalage de la religion et des prières.

Des palabres passent pour des discours sensés, étalés dans la presse et les réseaux sociaux. Ce trait négatif des mâles d'ici nous a servi de repoussoir et rempli d'assez de



“ Sont prévus par le Gouvernement le dédommagement des pêcheurs, le plan de logement pour les démunis, et l'assurance d'un rapport sur l'état écologique des mers dans le sud. Et si la définition de l'apartheid et de dictature est bien claire, à moins d'être de très mauvaise foi, on se demande si c'est un spectacle d'un Don Quichotte en guerre contre les moulins-à-vent auquel le pays assistera en fin de semaine...”

dégoût durant nos années d'adolescence pour nous pousser à plier bagages et à voir la vie différemment sous d'autres cieux plus cléments où l'évolution de la société a fait place à la Raison dans les échanges et les rapports sociaux, une raison qui favorise des rapports civilisés, et par conséquent, apaisés.

Si ce n'était que les mâles ! Au fil du temps, il semble que les 'femelles', au sens premier du terme, ont intériorisé le même comportement dans l'espace médiatique, empiré par le cloisonnement insulaire. Elles ont rejoint en toute lâcheté le rang des mâles et, ceux de leur clan pour certaines, se rendant ainsi complices de tous les travers de ces derniers. Elles ont ainsi enlaidi le repoussoir.

Message aux dirigeants politiques et représentants des identités 'sensibles' : Sans l'apport de la Raison, l'apaisement désiré restera superficiel. Un habit d'apparat recouvert de dorures destiné à attirer le regard sur le 'paraître'. Quant à l'être, il requiert de gros efforts de penser et de réflexion. Ce n'est pas le point fort du pays non plus.

De leur côté, les élus essaient tant bien que mal de rendre plus crédible leur opinion sur les sujets controversés d'intérêt général, gestion d'une générosité douteuse de la banque d'Etat, les tournoisements d'Air Mauritius, lois du travail et dérive d'un navire qui a eu la mauvaise idée de se rapprocher d'une barrière à ne pas franchir. Les bonnes étoiles ne sont pas prêtes à s'aligner ni pour le monde entier, ni pour nous. Bien avant la pandémie, la situation économique envoyait des signaux alarmants dans de nombreux pays. Un coup de grâce - flanqué par un virus

- a mis le monde à genoux.

Profitant de cette situation créée par un enchaînement de catastrophes, en brandissant les grands principes et les grandes causes dont ils sont les ardents défenseurs, des voix multiples ont créé une cacophonie permanente sur les ondes. Et c'est pour le plus grand bonheur de l'audimat des plus remuants parmi eux. Chanceux sont ceux qui y arrivent à voir clair dans le discours qui invite à des manifestations de rue, une habitude dont le désœuvrement est susceptible à créer la demande de manifester tous les quinze jours.

Hormis le mécontentement suscité par la gestion des crises, selon certains, il y aurait comme une soif de prendre le pouvoir à tout prix, un empressement de faire feu de tout bois et un incendie de la moindre étincelle. Celui-là même qui jure de 'réformer' par le parti qu'il a fondé semble animé par un esprit de vengeance contre le parti et le clan dont il était jadis ami et défenseur juré, et mis en scène par un baisemain gracieux de mâle à mâle. Il a l'air d'investir toute son énergie à détruire l'ennemi d'aujourd'hui, l'ami d'hier.

En mal de héros, le public a jeté son dévolu sur une des figures très médiatisées par les temps qui courent en y voyant, selon l'angle d'optique, un Martin Luther King, une Mère Thérèse et pourquoi pas un Nelson Mandela contre l'apartheid. Les causes : le sort des pêcheurs, celui des squatteurs, le logement, la loi du travail, la marée noire, anti-dictature et tutti quanti. Auto-portrait : un loup de mer habitué aux dangers et très remonté contre l'action ou l'inaction des gouvernants. Son principe : même pas peur de mourir. Lui, a l'air de prendre son rôle au sérieux.

Entre autres, sont prévus par le Gouvernement le dédommagement des pêcheurs, le plan de logement pour les démunis, et l'assurance d'un rapport sur l'état écologique des mers dans le sud. Et si la définition de l'apartheid et de dictature est bien claire, à moins d'être de très mauvaise foi, on se demande si c'est un spectacle d'un Don Quichotte en guerre contre les moulins-à-vent auquel le pays assistera en fin de semaine.

Si on n'est pas à jour dans notre perception des divers organes de presse et médias ainsi que les intervenants, le confinement a permis d'en prendre pleine connaissance. Suffisamment pour retrouver le repoussoir enlaidi de notre adolescence qui, même en faisant le tri dans ce guêpier où fourmillent des passions destructrices, la guerre des égos, la soif du pouvoir, palabres, vengeance et représailles, pousse à scruter le ciel pour le prochain vol et à contempler l'océan pour sa beauté dans un désir de prendre le large et l'air.

'Can Mauritians think?' de Samad Ramoly serait d'une grande utilité au public si c'est une réelle invitation au 'hard thinking'.

Vivement l'ouverture des frontières !



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Creating a Nightly Ritual

Bedtime can be a perfect time for a nighttime ritual of sending love to the world and finding gratitude for your day.

At the end of the day, as the sweet, dark stillness of night beckons us to lay down our bones and rest, we find ourselves at a clear transition point: Behind us lies the previous day and all that has come before; ahead of us, dawn heralds the unfolding of all that is yet to be. While many of us have morning rituals that connect us with our center and help us to set intentions, we may want to explore the magic and power of nighttime ritual as well. It holds for us a beautiful chance for self-appreciation and blessing. Before you go to bed each night, you can send gratitude, compassion, and healing to the being you have been up until this moment. And you can send lightness and love into the future for the one you are in the process of becoming.

Though simple, this action honors the journey you have taken thus far, while opening you to the wonderful possibilities still ahead. When you consciously engage with your own evolution this way, you may find that your sleep gets sweeter, filling your night with a deeper sense of trust and relaxation. As you rest, you can surrender to these peaceful hours, knowing that the road behind you has been seen and acknowledged with respect and kindness, while the path ahead now holds your own benevolence and well wishes.

This bedtime ritual empowers you as the only one who can determine the meaning of your own past and the hopefulness of your future. By setting this special time aside each night, you can begin to orient yourself on your path of growing. It allows you to let the past have its place, to trust that the future is taken care of, and to simply rest yourself in the graceful arms of the present moment.