

MAURITIUS TIMES

"Very little is needed to make a happy life; it is all within yourself, in your way of thinking". -- Marcus Aurelius

Le procès des colons

La symbiose entre l'Etat et l'oligarchie dément le discours sectaire



"L'Etat, sous tous les gouvernements depuis 1968, a permis le développement de la bourgeoisie historique (oligarchie économique traditionnelle) dans le cadre d'un partage des richesses entre le secteur public et le secteur privé. Aujourd'hui, l'Etat agit comme agent du capitalisme avec la politique néolibérale fondée sur la facilitation des affaires, les dérégulations du marché et la fiscalité légère. Il y a une symbiose parfaite entre la bourgeoisie historique et la bourgeoisie d'Etat, qui démontre la duplicité et la perfidie d'un discours sectaire visant à jeter de la poudre aux yeux du public..."

Par Aditya Narayan Voir Page 4

The Modi Magic



The performance of the leaders in some big democracies was much less than what had been anticipated based on their respective electoral manifestos. Not so with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom the people of India returned to power a second time round with an even greater majority than the first time.

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"Everything is possible in politics but the right strategy has yet to be found"

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Coronavirus is pushing people into poverty – but temporary basic income can stop this

By Eduardo Ortiz-Juarez See Page 2

Reopening borders

TAccording to the Labour Office, 6339 employees have lost their jobs during the period April-July 2020. More than 50% are the direct consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic on the different sectors in which they were employed, mostly in the tourism industry, hotels and restaurants. However, these figures do not tell the whole story: they most likely leave out the many thousands who have found themselves in a very tricky situation in this pandemic. They are the self-employed and the SMEs, whose income has fallen drastically - but they too have families to feed, other financial commitments to take care of, such as business, housing and educational loans to repay, etc.

Most economists have been saying that the worse is yet to come, with thousands more swelling the numbers of the unemployed in the months ahead. Unemployment in 2019 reached 7% of the labour force - 37,900 people -, and Finance minister Renganaden Padayachy himself stated in his first intervention on the impacts of Covid-19 on the Mauritian economy that the unemployment rate could climb to 17%. This means about 100,000 finding themselves out of a job by the end of the year - and probably more in the informal economy.

The critical issues that arise are:

1. How to support industry and trade so as to preserve employment;
2. Support to be given to the informal sector and SME's;
3. Balancing of the risks of re-opening to prevent a second wave.

While income support by the State has helped in some measure, but with the Wage Assistance Scheme now focusing on the tourism and related sectors, economic operators in other sectors and their employees have been left to fend for themselves. This aspect of the ground realities and the plight of the affected stakeholders are not reflected by statistics. This is where the government might have to consider extending 'higher - and unconditional - benefits for those who will be unemployed, maybe moving towards a minimum income guarantee', as proposed by Steve Schifferes of the University of London in a contribution to *The Conversation*.

It might also have, he adds, 'to provide temporary government jobs to improve our social and physical infrastructure, such as happened in the New Deal in 1930s America, which improved schools and hospitals, built national parks and planted trees around the country. With industry on its knees, the government must play a bigger role in increasing investment to boost demand and ensure that our economy becomes more productive and more resilient in the long term. This must include major investments in other public services,

especially research and education, health, etc., as well as 'take a much more active role in the labour market, heavily subsidising jobs and training to encourage growth in the key sectors needed in the future'. This is what helped the US to get out of the Great Depression of 1929, and was President Roosevelt's idea.

On the other hand, the strong lobbying in favour of the reopening of our skies for international passenger flights, arguing that its prolonged closure will damage the economy, will have to be weighed against the inherent risks of a second wave of the pandemic in so doing. It must be noted that the few cases that have been registered lately are imported ones.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist of the World Health Organization, stated recently that despite stringent public health measures, there is a real risk of a second wave as economies reopen. Until an effective and safe vaccine emerges, there would be a need to live with and manage this virus for the 'next couple of years'.

That is the scenario we have to reckon with.

It is true that the Seychelles now allows visitors to its remote islands since August 1, but that's only if they're from low-risk countries travelling in private jets and chartered passenger direct flights. Travellers also need to undergo a Covid-19 test before boarding any flight. The limited reopening is based on the advice of the Seychelles' health authority and is designed to limit risk of Covid-19 transmission to people living and working on the 115 islands that make up the archipelago.

As far as Mauritius is concerned, the entry of aircraft and ships in the country is prohibited until 31 August 2020, except for those aircrafts and ships as may be approved by the Prime Minister. It is unknown at this stage if the government will go for a limited reopening for visitors from low-risk countries or otherwise, but here the point made by Steve Schifferes in his article cited above may serve as a guide for decision-makers. It is that 'historical evidence from the 1918 'flu shows that extending public health measures to prevent the spread of a virus does less economic damage in the long run than letting it ravage the entire population'.

The salient point in the face of the prolonged impact of Covid-19 is that government has the major role to play in saving livelihoods in both the major sectors of the economy, and in the informal sector which should have a less cumbersome access to finance. As regards the major sectors, government must spell out very clearly the conditions under which financial assistance will be provided and ensure that these conditions are abided by. That's the only way to avert an impending social and economic crisis.

The Conversation

Coronavirus is pushing people into poverty - but temporary basic income can stop this

The rapid spread of Covid-19 across developing countries has led to a devastating loss of life and livelihoods. The pandemic is having both immediate economic effects and long-lasting consequences on development. This is because developing economies are less able to handle shocks than advanced ones.

Around 80% of workers in developing countries are engaged in tasks that are unlikely to be performed from home, meaning lockdowns are preventing them from working. And 70% of workers make a living in informal markets, with the majority not being covered by any form of social protection. Covid-19 containment measures are leaving a large number of people without any income.

Global poverty has fallen over the past three decades, but many of those lifted out of it have remained vulnerable. They sit just above the poverty line, but are ineligible for existing anti-poverty cash assistance. In a previous article, my co-authors and I argued that this could lead to an increase in global poverty for the first time since the 1990s, with tens of millions falling back below the poverty line. Such a situation, I believe, calls for drastic action.

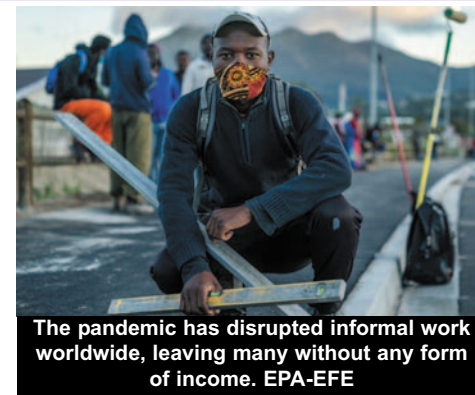
Extraordinary measures

In a recent working paper for the United Nations Development Programme, my co-author George Gray Molina and I argue that unconditional emergency assistance - what we call temporary basic income (TBI) - is an urgent, fair and feasible way of stopping people falling into poverty or further impoverishment as a result of the pandemic.

Looking at pre-crisis data that covers 97% of the developing world's population, we've estimated what the cost would be of providing TBI to all people currently either below the poverty line or vulnerable to falling under it. This equates to 2.78 billion people across the world's 132 developing countries.

We investigated three ways of delivering TBI:

1. Top-ups on existing incomes among poor and near-poor people, up to a minimum level that is at least 70% above the poverty line in that region of the world.



The pandemic has disrupted informal work worldwide, leaving many without any form of income. EPA-EFE

2. Lump sum transfers equivalent to half the income enjoyed by the typical citizen.
3. Lump sum transfers that are uniform regardless of the country where people live. Under this system, the amount we simulated was US\$5.50 (£4.30) a day per person, which is the typical level of the poverty line among upper middle-income countries.

Which option is best will depend on the situation. For instance, the first will only work in countries where registry systems have accurate information on what people earn. In countries where such systems are absent or weak, flat amounts according to general living standards (as in option two) or poverty lines (option three) might be better.

The total cost amounts to between US\$200 billion and US\$465 billion per month, depending on the policy choice. This is equivalent to between 0.27% and 0.63% of developing countries' combined monthly GDP.

It's a relatively moderate cost to cover such a profound shock and protect people from poverty. And providing TBI could have other positive effects as well: unconditional cash transfers can lead to people spending more money on their diet and can potentially improve health outcomes and school attendance. They can also protect people's assets and allow them to diversify their livelihoods.

Will we actually see this happen?

TBI isn't a radical idea. Forms of basic income are being rolled out under different names and with different funding levels around the world.

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Eduardo Ortiz-Juarez, King's College London

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

The Modi Magic

One of the ways in which people judge their leaders is the extent to which the latter deliver on their electoral pledges, especially when the next election is due. I remember that before their last general election in Australia, a scoring system was devised based on which the performance of the outgoing

government was assessed. This was discussed in an article in *The Conversation*, and broadly if my memory serves me right, it would appear that across the board in different sectors of the economic and social spectrum, less than 50% of targets had been reached. There was some comparison with other countries, where roughly the score was more or less the same.

I may be wrong on the actual figure, but the point is that the performance of the leaders in some big democracies was much less than what had been anticipated based on their respective electoral manifestos.

Not so with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom the people of India returned to power a second time round with an even greater majority than the first time. One of the major reasons surely would have been because they had been satisfied with his performance on a number of fronts – rural electrification, development of renewable energy (especially solar), expansion of sanitary requirements such as provision of potable water and toilets (nearly 100,000 new ones built) which resulted in the reduction of water-borne infections in children, more girl students going to school and a significant decrease in the practice of open defaecation. Along with these, there was the launching of the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) campaign, the opening of hundreds of millions of bank accounts by the rural population, lifting tens of millions out of poverty though this is still too high comparatively. All told – and of course there was much negative criticism by the opposition and others – therefore, this record was deemed good enough by a majority of India's population to re-elect Narendra Modi.

And, as it has been drummed into our heads, that's democracy.

In the case of Modi, the expression Modi magic has been used. As I listened to him on the occasion of the Bhoomi Pujan at Ayodhya three days ago, to which he had been invited by the Temple Trust set up on order of the Supreme Court in its judgement on the Ram Mandir issue, I had the same feeling of being enthralled by both the contents of his address and his delivery as I had been when I first heard him speak.

That was in 1997, when he accompanied Murl Manohar Joshi, a BJP leader, to the International Ramayana Conference that was being held at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute. I was invited to join in for a cup of tea with him by a couple of friends who were there, and we interacted for nearly half an hour. He was then, as I was to learn later, a simple *karyakarta* (worker) of the BJP based in New Delhi, and had not yet been a candidate in elections. While we were waiting, it was Yashwant Pathak who was giving his talk inside the auditorium. I had met him during an earlier visit of his – he had stepped down from his chair of pharmacology at Wisconsin University to devote himself entirely to the work of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, being responsible for North America and Europe. We 'connected' because as it happened my own

Prof of pharmacology way back in 1969 in Kolkata had done his PhD in Wisconsin – as we say, it's a small world. Anyway, I remember that Yashwant too had spoken very well.

Next was Modiji's turn. Much as I had been impressed by Yashwant Pathak's speech, to say that I was overwhelmed by Modi's oratorical skills is to put it mildly. Especially when my knowledge of Hindi was then more limited and I could make out perhaps 75% only of what he said. But what had struck me, as I recall, was that he spoke entirely in Hindi, and did not use a single word of English, in contrast to the other stalwarts who had intervened during those three days – including Murl Manohar Joshi (a physicist), who had interspersed their speeches with some English from time to time, as most English-speaking Indians do. This also led me to ask myself whether Modi knew any English. With due respect, in his white kurta pyjama he had looked like any average Indian of the kind I had met in Kolkata and elsewhere. And so my impression of him which, as it turned out, was erroneous.

“Before their last general election in Australia, a scoring system was devised based on which the performance of the outgoing government was assessed. It would appear that across the board in different sectors of the economic and social spectrum, less than 50% of targets had been reached. There was some comparison with other countries, where roughly the score was more or less the same. The performance of the leaders in some big democracies was much less than what had been anticipated based on their respective electoral manifestos. Not so with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom the people of India returned to power a second time round with an even greater majority than the first time...”

This was what I realized on listening to him when he visited the US as Prime Minister for the first time. 'May the Force be with you', he wished to the 60,000-strong crowd gathered at the Central Park in New York to celebrate a Global Citizens Concert. Familiarity with this catchphrase from 'Star Wars' connected him further to the mostly young people who listened to and wowed him as he delivered a short address in perfect grammatically correct English to them. I could sense that that was the Modi magic, the ability to connect with people of all ages, whether it is from a podium or when he breaches protocol, as he had done on India's Independence Day the previous August – to mix and interact with the youngsters gathered there, to their obvious delight and pleasant surprise.

He seems to have a knack to reach out to youth, by direct contact with them as the example above shows, and probably also because he uses their preferred portal, social media, as much as they do. And the fact that he proclaims to the world that India is a young country of 800 million people under 35 years of age, in whom he



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Photo - thehindubusinessline.com

believes and on whom he has pinned his trust and hope, repeatedly exhorting them to take their country forward. Before his election as prime minister, at a talk he gave at Lady Sri Ram College in New Delhi in February 2013, he expressed his confidence in India's youth, and he has been consistent in emphasizing this message since.

The 'Force' wish, which had come at the end of his speech, was preceded by his quoting the well-known Sanskrit universal prayer, a peace mantra, which he then translated into English to thunderous applause:

*Sarve bhavantu sukhinah
Sarve santu niramayah
Sarve bhadrani pashyantu
Ma kaschit dukha bhagbhavet
Om Shanti Shanti Shanti*

'May all be happy, may all be free from disease, may all enjoy prosperity, may none experience sorrow. Om peace, peace, peace.'

This is the same kind of universal message of peace that he conveyed once again in his address at Ayodhya, and once more I sat and listened to him, spellbound. 23 years on, he spoke with as much vigour and clarity as he had done at the MGI in 1997, and this time round I could grasp all that he had said, both the literal and the symbolic meaning of his message not only to his country but to the whole of the Indian diaspora as well as to Ram Bhakts – devotees of Rama – to be found around the world.

Building of the Ram Mandir was one of the items on his electoral manifesto. From the beginning of his mandate, he has been delivering on his pledges one by one. What more can one ask of the country's leader? No wonder hundreds of millions want even more of the Modi magic...



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Le procès des colons

La symbiose entre l'Etat et l'oligarchie dément le discours sectaire

Aditya Narayan

Les débats au Parlement la semaine dernière ont vu ce que certains appellent le "procès des colons" d'autrefois. A entendre le ton des diatribes lancées par les don Quichottes modernes et les références au Code noir sur l'esclavage, on se demande si nos députés novices qui se complaisent dans ce registre ne se sont pas trompés de siècle. Car 50 ans après l'indépendance peut-on toujours se plaindre des anciens colons? On aurait cru entendre Mugabe, qui avait pourfendu *ad infinitum* les colons qu'il avait remplacés au pouvoir, du début jusqu'à la fin de son règne.

Pour masquer l'incompétence, l'incurie et la corruption de son régime, qui a mené le Zimbabwe à la banqueroute entière, Mugabe avait recours à cette tactique politique archi-éculée qui consistait à brandir l'épouvantail du colon blanc à chaque fois qu'il était coincé politiquement. Le Zimbabwe est devenu un cas classique d'Etat en déliquescence (*failed State*).

Maurice n'est pas le Zimbabwe, loin s'en faut. Elle se veut d'ailleurs un modèle de succès en Afrique, voire l'exemple -- projeté dans les médias internationaux -- d'un pays moderne qui a réussi pacifiquement sa transition d'un pays sous-développé à un pays à revenu moyen, aspirant maintenant au statut de pays à haut revenu. Pourquoi donc ce besoin de rappeler le passé esclavagiste? Cherche-t-on un bouc-émissaire pour l'échec de la politique d'intégration sociale comme en témoigne l'approfondissement des inégalités économiques entre les classes sociales? Ou est-ce une politique de diversion faisant appel aux instincts sectaires en ces temps où les mauvaises pratiques de gouvernance sont évidentes et prennent plus de relief dans le cadre de l'austérité imposée sur la population?

L'histoire de l'économie politique du pays, comme nous allons le démontrer, s'est construite sur une collaboration étroite entre la bourgeoisie historique (détenteur du pouvoir économique) et la bourgeoisie d'Etat (détenteur du pouvoir politique). L'Etat, sous tous les gouvernements depuis 1968, a permis le développement de la bourgeoisie historique (oligarchie économique traditionnelle) dans le cadre d'un partage des richesses entre le secteur public et le secteur privé. Aujourd'hui, l'Etat agit comme agent du capitalisme avec la politique néolibérale fondée sur la facilitation des affaires, les dérégulations du marché et la fiscalité

légère. Il y a une symbiose parfaite entre la bourgeoisie historique et la bourgeoisie d'Etat, qui démontre la duplicité et la perfidie d'un discours sectaire visant à jeter de la poudre aux yeux du public.

Contexte historique

En 50 ans d'indépendance, les descendants des peuples colonisés (descendants d'esclaves et descendants des travailleurs engagés) ont occupé le pouvoir politique sans partage, avec une alternance entre deux principaux partis (PTR et MSM) avec l'un ou l'autre en coalition avec un partenaire de circonstance (PMSD ou MMM).

Au lendemain de l'indépendance en 1968, le pays avait fait le choix délibéré de l'économie mixte pour permettre une collaboration active entre la bourgeoisie historique (oligarchie traditionnelle) et la bourgeoisie d'Etat (avec des représentants élus). Une alliance politique entre le PTR et le PMSD, deux ennemis jurés, fut d'ailleurs conclue pour consacrer cette collaboration. Les choix économiques du pays étaient alors résolument tournés vers un libéralisme contrôlé mais fondé sur le refus des nationalisations (lesquelles par ailleurs avaient le vent en poupe dans le Tiers-Monde).

Entre 1969 et 1973, la coalition PTR-PMSD avait lancé les bases du développement dans la zone franche d'exportation et le tourisme en privilégiant l'initiative privée. En même temps, le gouvernement mauricien avait négocié l'accès au marché européen pour le sucre mauricien (quota de 500, 000 tonnes à un prix garanti) grâce à la Convention de Lomé entre les pays ACP et l'Europe de l'Ouest. En contrepartie du marché acquis, l'industrie sucrière avait consenti à payer la taxe de sortie sur le sucre en sus de l'impôt sur les bénéfices de la société. C'était l'époque où la bourgeoisie historique accepta une fiscalité significative afin de garder ses droits de propriété et la capacité d'opérer dans un cadre légal



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assurant la paix industrielle et sociale.

Rentes économiques

Avec l'arrivée au pouvoir du MSM en 1983 (certes avec l'appui du PTR et du PMSD), le libéralisme contrôlé devait céder le pas à un libéralisme plus ouvert fondé sur la facilitation des affaires et des allègements fiscaux. A partir de 1991, le libéralisme économique avait pris une forme débridée avec l'abolition de la taxe de sortie sur le sucre, la libéralisation du

contrôle des changes et la centralisation des usines sucrières, dont le nombre devait passer de 20 à 5 dans les années subséquentes. En cours de route, l'oligarchie économique traditionnelle a bénéficié grandement de l'économie libérale avec des rentes économiques assurées.

Suivant la fin du Protocole sucre ACP-UE, qui était à l'origine de la chute du prix du sucre et de la fin de l'accès préférentiel au marché européen, le secteur privé traditionnel a obtenu le droit depuis 2000 de réorienter l'exploitation de ses terres agricoles vers le développement immobilier. Toutes sortes de plans (*Integrated Resort Scheme* ou *Real Estate Scheme*) ont été mis sur pied avec des incitations fiscales afin de développer des villas de luxe pour investisseurs étrangers payant rubis sur l'ongle en devises étrangères. Les rentes économiques du capitalisme historique ont donc augmenté considérablement. En outre, les *Independent Power Producers* four-

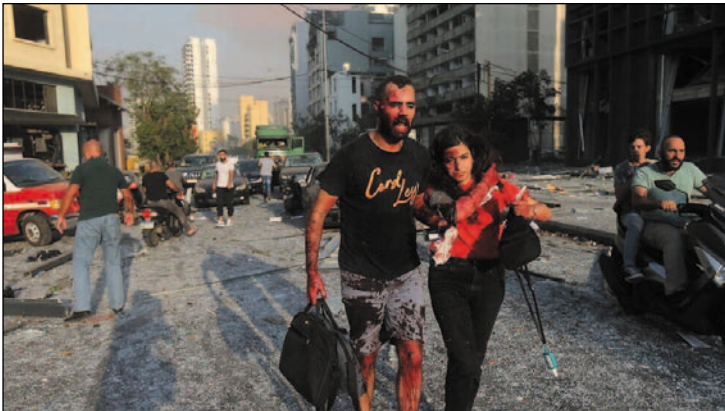
nissant de l'électricité à partir de la bagasse sont assurés d'un retour conséquent sur l'investissement avec un prix de vente fixe bien au-dessus du coût de production.

Parallèlement à l'exploitation de ces nouveaux créneaux de développement, l'oligarchie historique a bénéficié depuis 2005 d'une fiscalité légère avec la réduction de l'impôt sur les bénéfices de la société de 30% à 15%. En novembre 2011, le gouvernement PTR-MSM-PMSD a aboli la taxe sur les plus-values réalisées sur la vente des biens fonciers alors que la taxe de conversion sur les terres agricoles, la taxe sur les morcellements et la taxe sur les cessions immobilières ne s'appliquent pas aux développements immobiliers IRS/RES. En juillet 2017, le gouvernement MSM a réduit l'impôt sur les bénéfices de la société de 15% à 3% pour les sociétés d'exportation de produits, un autre créneau de l'oligarchie historique.

* Suite en page 12

« Avant 2014, le gouvernement travailliste d'alors prônait une certaine démocratisation économique en vue de mettre fin à certains monopoles. Un conglomérat non-historique en particulier devait profiter de cette ouverture pour diversifier ses investissements dans les secteurs (assurance, immobilier, commerce, banque) qui étaient dominés par l'oligarchie historique. Le démantèlement de ce conglomérat en 2015 a mis une fin brutale au processus de démocratisation économique, renforçant en même temps les assises de l'oligarchie historique... »

Beirut explosion: Port officials under house arrest as rescue efforts continue



Israel not behind Beirut blast, sources on both sides say.
Photo - <https://static.timesofisrael.com/>

A number of Beirut port officials are being placed under house arrest pending an investigation into Tuesday's huge explosion, Lebanon's government says.

The blast killed at least 135 people and injured more than 4000 others. A two-week state of emergency has begun.

President Michel Aoun said the blast was caused by 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored unsafely in a warehouse, reports BBC News.

Customs chief Badri Daher said his agency called for the chemical to be removed, but "this did not happen".

"We leave it to the experts to determine the reasons," he said.

Ammonium nitrate is used as a fertiliser in agriculture and as an explosive.

Opening an emergency cabinet meeting on Wednesday, President Aoun said: "No words can describe

the horror that has hit Beirut last night, turning it into a disaster-stricken city".

What triggered the explosion?

The ammonium nitrate had reportedly been in a warehouse in Beirut port for six years after it was unloaded from a ship impounded in 2013.

The head of Beirut port and the head of the customs authority both told local media that they had written to the judiciary several times asking that the chemical be exported or sold on to ensure port safety.

Port General Manager Hassan Koraytem told OTV that they had been aware that the material was dangerous when a court first ordered it stored in the warehouse, "but not to this degree".

Lebanon's Supreme Defence Council has vowed that those found responsible will face the "maximum punishment" possible.

Economy Minister Raoul Nehme told the BBC: "I think it is incompetence and really bad management and there are a lot of responsibilities from management and probably previous governments. We do not intend after such an explosion to stay silent on who is responsible for what."

Putting port officials under house arrest is an attempt by the government to show the Lebanese people that it is serious about enforcing accountability, the BBC's Arab affairs editor Sebastian Usher says.

The ammonium nitrate arrived on a Moldovan-flagged ship, the Rhosus, which entered Beirut port after suffering technical problems during its voyage from Georgia to Mozambique, according to Shiparrested.com, which deals with shipping-related legal cases.

SpaceX: Musk's 'Mars ship' prototype aces 150m test flight

A prototype of SpaceX's next-generation Starship vehicle has successfully flown to an altitude of 150m (500ft).

The uncrewed test vehicle rose up on a plume of exhaust before deploying its landing legs and touching down softly.

The flight was carried out at SpaceX's test site near the village of Boca Chica in south Texas on Tuesday evening.

It's the first flight test in almost a year for the Raptor engine, which will be used to power Starship, reports BBC News.

The stainless steel test vehicle, called SN5, has been compared variously to a grain silo and water tank.

But it could pave the way for a spacecraft capable of carrying humans to the Moon and Mars.

Shortly after the test flight, which lasted just under a minute, SpaceX founder Elon Musk tweeted: "Mars is looking real."

SN5 took off from Boca Chica at 00:57 BST (18:57 local time) for the brief flight. It uses a single Raptor engine, which is powered by liquid methane and liquid oxygen.

The final Starship vehicle will feature six Raptors, standing 50m (165ft) tall. It could carry 100 people on a single flight.

But in order to overcome Earth's gravity, it will need to be launched by a massive rocket called Super Heavy, which will be equipped with 31 Raptor engines.

The Starship vehicle is one of three shortlisted candidates to land humans on the Moon in the 2020s for Nasa. A Japanese billionaire, Yusaku Maezawa, who made his fortune in online fashion retail, has booked a trip around the Moon on Starship.

Elon Musk has long harboured plans to settle people on Mars as part of his vision to make humans a "multi-planetary species".

India PM Modi lays foundation for Ayodhya Ram temple

Indian PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for a Hindu temple in the northern city of Ayodhya.

Hindu mobs demolished a medieval mosque there in 1992, saying it was built on the ruins of a temple for Lord Ram, a revered deity.

Mr Modi laid a symbolic silver brick in the sanctum sanctorum, or innermost sanctuary, of the site as scores of devotees watched the event on giant screens across the city.

Due to Covid-19, the venue and surrounding areas were cordoned off, and access was restricted to invitees only.

BBC Hindi's Sarvapriya Sangwan, who is in Ayodhya, says crowds of people gathered outside the venue, and cheered when they spotted Mr Modi on his way to the site.

Speaking soon after he laid the foundation stone, Mr Modi said that the site had been "liberated", and a "grand house" would be finally constructed for Lord Ram who had been living "in a tent for years". He was referring to a temporary construction that had housed the idol of Ram Lalla or infant Ram for more than three decades while the court case dragged on.

The idol was moved to a makeshift temple on the premises of the site earlier this year.

Hindus believe Ayodhya is the birthplace of Lord Ram.



Indian PM Modi laying foundation stone for Ram Temple at Ayodhya site

And the construction of the temple is a core promise made by Mr Modi's governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

A local told the BBC he is "ecstatic" that Lord Ram would finally have "a proper home".

Hymns about Lord Ram were played, and the roads decked with flowers. Many shop fronts too were painted yellow and saffron flags put up everywhere - both colours that Hindus consider auspicious.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other senior BJP leaders also attended the event.

Media reports say that devotees from across the country have been sending silver and gold - in the form of coins, bricks and bars - to use in the construction of the temple.

As many as 200,000 bricks inscribed with "Shri Ram" (Lord Ram) that have been collected from devotees over the years will be used to build the foundation of the temple, according to the Times of India.

Chandrakant Sompura, the chief architect of the proposed temple, told news website The Print that the structure would be designed in the "Nagara" style of temple architecture - a popular north Indian temple building style.

The inner sanctum of the temple - where the idol of the primary deity is housed - will be octagonal. The temple will include a large structure of three floors with 366 pillars and five domes.

Mr Sompura said that a memorial wall in honour of those who were involved with the temple movement would be erected.

* More on Page 6

True toll of pandemic on waiting lists revealed as NHS struggles to clear backlog



True toll of pandemic on waiting lists. Photo - static.independent.co.uk

Leaked data has exposed the true impact of the coronavirus outbreak on NHS waiting lists, with the number of patients waiting more than a year for treatment in London alone now almost 20 times higher than the figure for the country as a whole in March 2019.

Experts warn that increases of a similar scale are likely to be replicated across the UK after hospitals were forced to cancel thousands of operations in order to cope with 100,000 Covid-19 patients, reports The Independent. Across the capital, 19,775 patients had been waiting more

than 52 weeks by 19 July, according to the data seen by The Independent that had been submitted to NHS England by 23 hospitals in London. That compares with a total of 1,154 across England less than 18 months ago.

In the UK, lockdown restrictions have been reimposed in Aberdeen after a cluster of coronavirus cases linked to pubs and bars caused fears of a "significant outbreak" in the Scottish city. Pubs, restaurants and cafes closed at 5pm on Wednesday and a five-mile travel rule was put in place. Residents are also being told not to go into each other's houses. Scotland's first minister Nicola Sturgeon said 54 new cases have emerged in the outbreak "that may include some community transmission". Speaking at a Covid-19 briefing in Edinburgh, she said 191 contacts have been traced in relation to the cluster and more than 20 pubs and restaurants are involved.

The reopening of schools in September must be accompanied by a high-coverage test-trace-isolate programme if the country is to avoid a second wave of infections, a study has suggested. Researchers analysed data from the first wave of Covid-19 and modelled the potential impact of schools in Britain reopening in less than a month to understand how the virus can be kept under control. The study, published in The Lancet, simulated various scenarios to examine the possible consequences of schools reopening in tandem with parents returning to their offices and increased socialising within the community.

US looking to ramp up arms sales to India

The US is looking to ramp up arms sales to India, including those of armed drones that can carry over 1,000 pounds of bombs and missiles, said a media report, noting the "new push" comes following the violent clashes in June between Indian and Chinese troops in Ladakh.

Twenty Indian army personnel were killed during the clashes with Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley on June 15. The Chinese side also suffered casualties in the clashes but it is yet to give out details. The number of casualties on the Chinese side was 35, according to a US intelligence report, reports Reuters.

"The Trump administration is looking to ramp up arms sales to India in the wake of the country's deadly border clashes with China, opening a new front of tensions between Washington and Beijing," the Foreign Policy magazine reported based on interviews with US officials and Congressional aides.

Quoting the officials, the magazine said the US in recent months has laid the groundwork for new arms sales to India that "go above and beyond what previous administrations considered, including longer-term weapon systems with higher levels of technology and sophistication, such as armed drones".

President Donald Trump has officially amended rules that restrict the sale of military-grade drones to foreign partners like India, it said, adding that prominent among them being the recent announcement by the Trump administration changing its interpretation of the Missile Technology Control Regime.

This will allow the US to consider the sale of armed



US Planning to ramp up arms sales to India amid rising tensions with China. Photo - assets-news-bcdn.dailyhunt.in

drones, which had previously been restricted because of their speeds and payloads, to allow them to be considered alongside surveillance drones, the news report said.

US' defence sales to India has jumped from near zero in 2008 to over USD 20 billion this year. Some of the recent and significant prior defence sales are to include the MH-60R Seahawk helicopters (USD 2.8 billion), the Apache helicopters (USD 796 million), and the Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasure (USD 189 million).

India was the first non-treaty partner to be offered a Missile Technology Control Regime Category-1 Unmanned Aerial System - the Sea Guardian UAS manufactured by General Atomics.

The US is advocating for the Lockheed Martin's F-21 and Boeing's F/A-18 Super Hornet and F-15EX Eagle as part of India's future fighter aircraft acquisitions.

The potential selection of any of these platforms would enhance India's military capabilities, increase US-India military interoperability, and protect shared security interests in the Indo-Pacific region.



File photo of cops measuring body temperatures of visitors at a market in Bangkok Photo-AP

Tourism-reliant Thailand defers 'travel bubble' plan as Asia's Covid graph rises

Thailand has delayed plans for a "travel bubble" agreement with select countries as new daily coronavirus cases rise in parts of Asia, putting pressure on its vital tourism industry and complicating efforts to revive its battered economy.

Thailand first proposed the idea in June to allow movement between select countries that have low infection numbers, without the need for travellers to undergo quarantine.

But that has been shelved, officials said, amid second and third waves in East Asian countries that previously had their outbreaks under control.

"We are delaying discussion of travel bubble arrangements for now given the outbreak situation in other countries," Thailand's coronavirus taskforce spokesman, Taweessin Wisanuyothin, told Reuters.

Despite more than two months without confirmed local transmission and recording only 3,300 cases, Southeast Asia's second-largest economy is facing its worst crisis in several decades.

Foreign arrivals plunged 66 per cent in the first six months of the year, to 6.69 million. The industry has warned that 1.6 trillion baht (\$51.50 billion) of revenue could be wiped out this year.

By comparison, Thailand had a record 39.8 million tourists in all of 2019, spending 1.93 trillion baht.

"Japan, Hong Kong and South Korea were among those considered (for a travel bubble) because those areas had a low number of cases, but now they were in double-digits so discussions were put on hold," Taweessin said, referring to new daily infections.

Reviving talks would depend on the situation in each country, which the taskforce was assessing daily, he said, adding that was a widely accepted industry view.

The island of Phuket has instead proposed receiving direct flights from those countries, with tourists and business executives doing two-week quarantines in their hotels before going out.

"We are asking for travel, charter flights, into Phuket," Phuket Tourist Association President Bhumikitti Ruktaengam, told Reuters.

Although demand for long stays would be lower, it would be a start, with occupancy of 40 per cent to 50 per cent sufficient for hotels to survive and avert job losses, Bhumikitti added.



Dr Rajagopal Soondron

After a hard day's work in the ward, followed by night duty later, we post-graduate interns became a bit blasé after midnight - especially after attending an emergency at 1 am. Once a few of us colleagues of different departments found ourselves in the mess in the early hours of a new day, sitting and sipping some tea or coffee. And for once we talked about a non-professional topic: corruption.

Somehow or other a few of us started to spin a yarn along the following lines.

Mr X, the technician

Mr X being a civil servant, a top technician of a department has become an experienced administrator after some three decades in the public sector. And been a witness to the sufferings of his colleagues in other departments who had been trapped by their boss into signing policy files concerning the work linked to their respective departments.

As such if their boss asks them verbally to sign a sensitive document concerning some suspicious departmental job, the options open to them are: they either say no to the boss and expose themselves to reprimand and neglect, to being transferred to less interesting departments - and to be ignored when the time comes to be promoted; or they could put their foot down and point out the irregularity of the whole boss's demand - and decide to resign their job. The last option could prove hard if the officer, sole bread winner, has taken a lot of commitments for his children and family; so finally, in spite of himself, Mr X would oblige the boss.

He is trapped - on one the one hand he has the unusual, highly irregular request of his superior and on the other he has the welfare of his family to consider.

So poor Mr X has to yield to the insistence of his boss by signing the highly irregular documents loaded with future risks and social ostracism.

Some of us doctors remembered similar episodes associated with a public transaction - like the highway constructed some years ago, using 4.5 centimetre of tar resurfacing material instead of the 5 cm. When the scandal came to light, we learnt in the newspapers about the technicians who had to bear the blame for this sub-standard job, while their then boss coolly said that he knew nothing about that affair and ultimately walked away

“Some of us doctors remembered similar episodes associated with a public transaction - like the highway constructed some years ago, using 4.5 centimetre of tar resurfacing material instead of the 5 cm. When the scandal came to light, we learnt in the newspapers about the technicians who had to bear the blame for this sub-standard job, while their then boss coolly said that he knew nothing about that affair and ultimately walked away scot-free...”

scot-free.

Mr X's reaction

Mr X has thought about all this and lost some sleep over these irregularities and the risk to his job. And now he has thought of a strategy to limit the collateral damage that could befall him in the future.

The plan is: every time his boss requests him orally for some highly irregular procedure - to which he can't refuse, he will when he reaches home go to his private room behind locked doors, put in black and white, all that the boss has privately requested him to do in his meaningful undertone voice. Mr X would note all details of the nuanced monologue made by his superior. He would even note any incident that might have occurred in the office; any unusual happenings; any visitor or other persons who visited his office or present on that particular day; he would also note the dresses or ties worn by the boss. The following day, after putting his written experience in an envelope, he would, on his way to work, have that letter [No. A] dully registered and posted to himself on his home address. And he would keep the official postal receipt safely. On receiving that registered letter at home, a day or two later, he would paste his postal receipt on and seal that envelope firmly and keep it in his home locker.

Mr X is no fool. He would keep a record book where he would tabulate letter A and would note down briefly the gist of that letter.

Down the decades he might land up with many of such letters; labelled A, B, C, D... all registered in his name and well kept in a highly secret place in his record

Cunning Mr X



book.

When will Mr X use those compromising letters? Never. After all, they would be highly incriminating evidence against himself. Except if a scandal should break out later where his name is deeply involved, and been accused of having given the green light for a certain murky, corrupted project.

The plot thickens

Of course, Mr X does not want to be the only one responsible for that embezzlement; but he has no choice.

And as the law and anti-corruption institutions start investigating things seriously, Mr X would naturally be at the centre of the turmoil.

Yet he would sit tight as long as bearable and see how far he would be accused of being the main culprit. He knows that it was his boss who would have played a major role and even been the main instigator of that scandal.

So finally, Mr X would be the main accused in the box. Would he be the only one to go behind bars, the only one in the boat? Or would he pull some others along with him to the gallows - by bringing out the relevant sealed letter A, B, C or D - to show how he had been given oral instructions on such and such date, at such and such time and at such and such place by

his boss?

The question could arise whether that constitutes a violation of the Official Secret Acts or not; by that time Mr X is in deep soup, so he couldn't care less. And whether the main investigator or judge in court would agree to the submission of letters A, B, C or D as evidence to show that he is not the only one to be involved in the scandal. Of course, that would be putting the noose round his own neck, but would he succeed to instil some doubts in the mind of the investigator or judge? Rather than falling alone he might have the morbid satisfaction of dragging the corrupted boss down with him into the abyss of frustrations.

Could there be such a clever Mister X?

Sadly at 2 am one of the colleagues did play a spoilsport. He managed to upset our apple cart by saying: What if the prosecutor were to counterattack and insists that Mr X is a super cunning technician or secretary who had wilfully signed all the papers without any prompting from the innocent boss and made a good fortune in the process? And that he is using the registered letters strategy to ensnare the innocent boss in his Machiavellian misdeeds and throw doubts in the mind of the judge?

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Chetan Ramchurn - Entrepreneur & Political Observer

Labour Party-MMM-PMSD Common Front

"Everything is possible in politics but the right strategy has yet to be found"

Chetan Ramchurn, entrepreneur and political observer, shares his views with us, in today's interview, on a number of issues that include the impact of Covid-19 on the economy and the government's response which he feels is in favour of the powerful. He says that SMEs and small entrepreneurs still face hurdles in getting access to finance despite government schemes. He also comments on the three-party meetings - LP, MMM, PMSD - and calls for a real change within those parties.

Mauritius Times: There has been a lot of bad news lately: St Louis Gate, police arrests of suspects in cases of social media abuse, allegations of questionable practices in the matter of medical procurement, so it has all been about suspicions of nepotism and outright corruption, and attacks against freedom of expression. The build-up against the current government has been intense and sustained... How do you view things?

Chetan Ramchurn: Indeed, in the mere 9 months that it has been in power, this Government has been rocked by successive scandals. Allegations of fraud in the aftermath of the elections were quickly followed by dubious nominations and then... Covid struck.

Since, we were unprepared despite the reassurances that were given in Parliament, and the country was clearly lacking in equipment and masks, authorities were forced into panic-buying. This triggered the numerous contracts awarded expeditiously to unknown entities. Some of them with little to no previously recorded income generated since their creation ended up bagging contracts worth hundreds of millions. The ties between political nominees and some of the suppliers have been published with no action from the authorities so far. Then there is the CCID which is actively looking for the whistleblowers that leaked this information. Welcome to Mauritius.

Post-Covid? Our reputation has again been maligned, with the African Development Bank issuing a communiqué, and a damning one at that: "Evidence supports a finding that Burmeister & Wain, on a balance of probabilities, financially rewarded members of the Mauritian administration and others, through the intermediary of third parties, for providing access to confidential tender-related information which allowed them to tailor the technical specifications of the tenders to its offering, thus gaining an undue competitive advantage over other tenderers."

We should remind ourselves of how this scandal was treated by those in office. On the 8th of June 2020, the AFDB's statement is released. Members of the government throw hints that this is the Labour Party's doing. The CEB board is vacated on Saturday 13th. On 16th

June, Collendavelloo offers an ode to Pravind's leadership in our august Assembly: "Aujourd'hui, la population est soulagée d'avoir mis à la barre de ce pays un homme de la trempe de Pravind Jugnauth. Exemple, ce leadership!"

Jugnauth receives a strictly confidential summary of the investigation report on the matter on 23rd June. Alea



“To dispatch 10 police officers to the residence of an accused at 6 in the morning does seem grossly exaggerated. There is a very thin line between a description and an insult at times. If you look at the rapidly changing political affiliations of some in Parliament, in some instances within hours, simply describing their constant switches between one partner and another could be construed as insulting...”

“I feel that this government like a few others before it could go to any extent to stay in power. Be it the encroaching upon our freedoms or pressure exerted against citizens or journalists, we have witnessed it before. This is a post-totalitarian regime, the people seem to have given up, there is no fight left in them. The few that stand up can only do so in vehement terms such is the apathy of others around them...”

iacta est (the die has been cast). Having gone through the summary and refused to step down, Ivan is revoked on 25th June. The confidentiality of the report notwithstanding, the Prime Minister invites the Leader of the Opposition, Arvind Boolell, to have a look at it but refuses to make it public despite repeated calls on behalf of the Opposition to do so.

Based on his own account of why he chose to show the confidential document to Ivan (Hansard No.23 of 2020), the Prime Minister, unable to display the legendary leadership that was previously lauded, avers: "But, of course! He was my Deputy Prime Minister! I am asking him to step down, and I cannot just tell him: 'Oh, you know, just step down'." There is no one above the law and this is

a serious accusation levelled at both Bérenger and Collendavelloo. Still, the enquiry on same has yet to reveal anything after almost two months.

As if this were not enough, with our inclusion on FATF's grey list in May, our legislation will likely join EU's money laundering blacklist in October unless the considerable backlogs are cleared within our institutions. This will further affect our already weakened financial services sector. In light of the above, some of the appointments at our Central Bank should also have been questioned.

The arrests have undeniably been overzealous, showing a desire to curb criticism. Still, it has been counter-productive, for they have triggered even more scorn on online platforms. These exaggerated demonstrations against critics are even more troubling when you reminisce that troll brigades were used extensively in 2014 and 2019 to sway voters.

The carousel of scandals that went on full throttle between 2014 and 2019 seems to have picked up where it left.

*** But why would any sensible government shoot itself in the foot by taking unpopular measures, especially those in relation to what are perceived as the threats to freedom of expression – after it has successfully managed the Covid-19 situation in the first place? That does not make sense. What do you think?**

We are still at half-time. There will be a second wave once the borders are opened. Praising ourselves with paid coverage in *The Economist* celebrating our achievements might not be the most brilliant of ideas.

These attacks on our freedom do not make much sense but there are so many that are inebriated with power and feel that they can do as they please. And to serve them, there are many lackeys around our political figures that are trying hard to get in their good books, maneuvering online and offline so that they may be rewarded in the future with a promotion or a nomination somewhere.

I wrote a piece earlier in *Le Mauricien* about why people are so obsequious towards politicians in Mauritius and I refer to what Havel describes as a "blind automatism which drives the system."

Havel further illustrates the hypocrisy of the system where "the complete degradation of the individual is presented as his ultimate liberation; depriving people of information is called making it available; the use of power to manipulate is called the public control of power, and the arbitrary abuse of power is called observing the legal code; the repression of culture is called its development; the expansion of imperial influence is presented as support for the oppressed; the lack of free expression becomes the highest form of freedom; farcical elections become the highest form of democracy; banning independent thought becomes the most scientific of world views."

☞ Cont. on page 9

'The new normal is very much like the old one. Tilted in favour of the powerful'

The conglomerates have the MIC to bail them out. The SMEs are pretty much on their own

• Cont. from page 8

We are living in that system.

*** Freedom of expression should however not be equated with licence to tarnish the reputation of anybody, or to insult and slander. There is also a price to pay for that, isn't it?**

Definitely, but to dispatch 10 police officers to the residence of an accused at 6 in the morning does seem grossly exaggerated. There is a very thin line between a description and an insult at times. If you look at the rapidly changing political affiliations of some in Parliament, in some instances within hours, simply describing their constant switches between one partner and another could be construed as insulting.

Moreover, the new provisions of the ICT Act pave the way for the gagging of opponents. Article 46 (ga) of this piece of legislation lays down in its Offences section that one who "uses telecommunication equipment to send, deliver or show a message which is obscene, indecent, abusive, threatening, false or misleading, which is likely to cause or causes annoyance, humiliation, inconvenience, distress or anxiety to any person". The issue with same is that "annoyance" could be caused merely by stating that someone is totally inept in his/her present position or that someone's standards simply do not match those expected to lead an institution.

“Both the Labour Party and the MMM have a rich history but have had more misses than hits over the last years. I am surprised that self-survival and dynasty politics seem to have been promoted to the top of the agenda of such parties. Ramgoolam's absence from parliament means that he has to create events so as to keep himself visible and relevant. Berenger's successor is in positioning mode with the full support of many in the media. There is a lot to happen as of yet...”

Some of the people in power have thrived during the previous campaign by tarnishing Ramgoolam's reputation. The mudslinging was without bounds. There was no care or concern for anyone's reputation back then. They now find themselves at the receiving end and cannot bear it.

*** Do you therefore share the view expressed lately by opponents of the current government that we are slowly inching towards a totalitarian state. That's too much for it's grossly exaggerated, don't you think?**

The temptation to control the masses is present in most governments. The biometric card paved the way for a surveillance state which is now further accentuated with the hefty Safe City project. What a waste of money this could prove to be.

I feel that this government like a few others before it could go to any extent to stay in power. Be it the encroaching upon our freedoms or pressure exerted against citizens or journalists, we have witnessed it before. This is a post-totalitarian regime, the people seem



to have given up, there is no fight left in them. The few that stand up can only do so in vehement terms such is the apathy of others around them.

*** The opposition parties that have come together lately, namely the Labour Party, the MMM & the PMSD have justified their action on account of the "totalitarian" bogey. The question this raises: is the sitting government so strong that it requires the three of them to come together to challenge the MSM-ML government?**

Post their debacle in 2019, I had expressed the thought that opposition parties should proceed with an aggiornamento, cleaning their own Augean stables and ensuring real change.

I had hoped that they would not merely carry out a casting akin to what the MSM had done which had followed Tancredi's words in Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's 'Le Guépard', « Si nous voulons que tout reste tel que c'est, il faut que tout change » which translates into "To maintain the status quo, everything must change".

This façade of change worked perfectly for the MSM in 2019. Instead of an alternative to the MSM's stratagem, what are we served? A get-together to fight the current regime.

Many of those who met as part of that "anti-totalitarian" movement, already come across each other in Parliament. I dislike the 'entre-soi', they choose to talk to each other, leaving the population out. The only communication worth publicizing is the one directed at Mauritians. Theatricalising such meetings only serves to show how farcical things have become in politics. It is a wrong move that portrays the MSM as an unwavering giant that requires three parties to combine their forces to topple it. There is a whole 'running before the race starts' feel to this attempt.

Who comes up with such ideas?

*** The preceding question pre-supposes that the Labour Party and probably to a lesser extent the MMM are still the two mainstream parties of the country, each with a following strong enough to challenge the government on its own. Do you think that that is**

now a thing of the past -- the last general elections have finished them off?

No, both the Labour Party and the MMM have a rich history but have had more misses than hits over the last years. I am surprised that self-survival and dynasty politics seem to have been promoted to the top of the agenda of such parties.

Ramgoolam's absence from parliament means that he has to create events so as to keep himself visible and relevant. Berenger's successor is in positioning mode with the full support of many in the media. There is a lot to happen as of yet.

Everything is possible in politics but the right strategy has yet to be found.

“I have spoken to friends who have had their salaries cut, who tell me of the tremendous pressure they face, not knowing when they could be dismissed from their company. They are tortured souls and feel powerless in this new paradigm. That no psychological assistance has been put into place to listen to them is worrying...”

*** Why the hurry anyway for the opposition's common front? The municipals are scheduled for next year, and the next general elections are not any time soon. Is there more to it than the concerted challenge to the government alliance?**

There is always more to it than meets the eye. The MMM and the PMSD could merely be enhancing their cachet in the eyes of the MSM as potential future partners. Jugnauth would now have to woo one of them from this union to create his own. Ramgoolam needs them to show that he still wields power and that the Labour Party is still firmly in his hands. He has staged it in such a way that Arvind Boolell, while being present, is overshadowed.

*** One could however argue that the opposition party leaders might have correctly felt the pulse of the people, who might be looking forward to a "revival" of their respective parties. Is that possible?**

No, I would find it hard to believe that there is anyone ecstatic of this show outside the party leaders' coterie of supporters. This is not the way to go about a revival. These three parties have distinct identities. The Labour Party was created to support workers, the MMM espoused class struggle and the PMSD was the party that fought against independence.

The worrying aspect of this potpourri of interests is that the MMM and the MLP seem to be aligned on economic liberalism such was the vehemence with which they rejected the budgetary measures with socialist leanings without offering any counterproposal of their own.

*** Do you however feel that the opposition's common front, coming from the same traditional parties, might look elitist, and a bit distanced from the social realities on the ground presently?**

☞ Cont. on page 10

'The carousel of scandals that went on full throttle between 2014 and 2019 seems to have picked up where it left'

● Cont. from page 9

Certainly, I find the whole meeting in hotels thing asinine and elitist. The cadre has a very bourgeois element to it that feels fake and forced. People are losing their jobs, some are struggling to make ends meet and here are people enjoying their Saturday in a cozy atmosphere, sipping tea and talking about nothing that would necessitate a meeting and photographers. A call would have been enough instead of this lame staging of seasoned actors.

*** What does your feel of the ground inform you about the plight of the common man in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. We hear that lots of people are losing their jobs, and things might not improve any time soon...**

I have some friends that have lost their jobs post-lockdown. Imagine coming back to work and being told that they were no longer needed. They have families to feed, loans to repay and other financial commitments. Your life comes to a halt.

“Of course, some SMEs will fight on, others will diversify and manage to save their enterprises but, in many cases, people will go out of business or will have to take part-time jobs to support themselves. This is the time of reinvention and no success is possible without grit and flexibility. Adapt or perish. This new normal is very much like the old one. Tilted in favour of the powerful...”



To their credit, they did not take things lying down. They fought, sought legal help and were able to get a decent compensation based on their number of years of service.

I have spoken to friends who have had their salaries cut, who tell me of the tremendous pressure they face, not knowing when they could be dismissed from their company. They are tortured souls and feel powerless in

this new paradigm. That no psychological assistance has been put into place to listen to them is worrying.

*** It's not only big business that has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the press may not be reporting about the plight of the small business operators. But things are also not very bright for them as well since the MIC's billions may not trickle down to them. What's going to happen to these people?**

I have many entrepreneur friends that have shared their plight with me. No loans without guarantee were given to SMEs and they are the ones likely to be most impacted. The conglomerates have the MIC to bail them out. The SMEs are pretty much on their own.

Following the budget, I penned this in the *Times*: "In these tough times, not enough is being done to help small businesses. Easy access to finance at a time when working capital is meagre should have been addressed. The process is still cumbersome and guarantees still a requisite. Announcing Rs 10 billion for SMEs in distress is one thing, getting the finance to entrepreneurs is another. The Minister mentioned the New Deal in his speech. Maybe, he does not know that the US Government was the employer of last resort..."

Of course, some SMEs will fight on, others will diversify and manage to save their enterprises but, in many cases, people will go out of business or will have to take part-time jobs to support themselves. This is the time of reinvention and no success is possible without grit and flexibility. Adapt or perish. This new normal is very much like the old one. Tilted in favour of the powerful.

A Poem dedicated to My Teachers

I want you to know
That I am grateful for your hard work
In helping me as I grow

For your constant understanding and for
Always being there when I need
help and support
You guide my thoughts, share my
achievements
And advise on my faults
You bring out the best in me
With each lesson you teach
I am full of motivation and curiosity
You make a difference in the life
of each child
Those who are quiet and those
who are wild
The wish to learn is priceless
It's a gift you gave to me
For you do more than teaching
This much is plain to see

The dawn of each poet, each
philosopher and king
Begins with their teachers and the

wisdom they bring.

* * *

As the world comes to a halt

There is finally time now for everyone
to 'stand and stare' as WH Davies put it
just over a century ago,
'What is this life if, full of care
We have no time to stand and stare
No time to see the woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass....

Life seemed busy with people
working long hours
The economy in full swing
Children used to daily routines
at home and school
Most people were planning their
next holiday
As summer is the time to enjoy
the weather
But the whole world came to a standstill
As Covid-19 appears from nowhere
And spreads all around the world

There is panic buying
There is sickness
There is death
Covid-19 stopped the world in its tracks
Leaving people unable to do their

regular tasks
We are told to wash our hands
Use face masks
Practise social distancing

Streets are deserted
No longer meeting family and friends
Unable to do much except stand and stare
from balconies and windows
As this is the only option to have a glimpse
of the outside world
Parks and playgrounds near but deserted
As scientists identify the dangers
of sharing
There is nowhere to go
There is no one to see
Travellers stranded in different countries
around the world
Some on holiday, some away on business,
some gone to work
Away from their family and friends
They are scared
Yearning to return to their homeland

But this temporary slowdown of human
activity has had a profound impact
on many species
With fewer people in urban environments,
Much less traffic on the roads and noise
pollution at its lowest
Some species are making the

most of their time
Wild animals are turning up in places they
have not been seen in decades

Covid 19 is a virus impossible to
see with naked eyes
But it seems that it is nature's weapon in
the fight against humanity
With hidden benefits, the lockdown has
made the world realise that nature has so
much to offer
As we look at the shapes of the cloud
we see pigeons walking in a group
like family,
We can hear sweet birdsongs early
in the morning
And notice how trees wave to us in the
gentle breeze

Many of us are getting inspired by the
beauty of Nature;
Come walk with me into the forest's
blessed abode
To see the wondrous beauty the Earth has
bestowed upon us
We shall bask in the surreal splendour
that surrounds us
And listen to nature orchestrating
the forest's magnum opus.

Sonakshi Seetohul

The science of romance - can we predict a breakup?

Oscar winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow and Coldplay frontman Chris Martin seemed to have the perfect marriage until their "conscious uncoupling" earlier this year. Was the split destined to happen?

What of other couples - is it possible to see the fate of a relationship early on from the way they first react towards each other?

Turns out psychology can tell us quite a bit about the trajectory of these celebrity relationships, as well as our own less-famous pairings.

According to figures from the 2011 census nearly half of Australians are in a registered marriage. Acknowledging non-registered de-facto (including same-sex) and dating relationships, the proportion of the population in close romantic relationships is likely much higher.

But the same census tells us that not every relationship will last, with 11% of Australians reported being separated or divorced. Similar divorce rates are seen in New Zealand and the UK. Divorce rates in Russia are more than double those in Australia.

So, although many of us have partners, the frank truth is that some of us will "used to be with" rather than "continue to be with" those same partners in the future.

Beware the Four Horsemen

Some 35 years ago, American psychologist John Gottman pioneered the science of predicting relationship dissolution and longevity based on observations of couples.

Over a series of studies, Gottman and colleagues recruited newlyweds to their laboratory under strict instructions - they were not allowed to talk to one another during the previous eight hours.

Once at the lab, couples were videorecorded during three 15-minute conversations about that day's events, a conflict within the marriage and a pleasant topic. These conversations were then coded for the presence of various behaviours and emotional expressions.

Couples were contacted several years later to determine whether they had remained married or had since separated or divorced.

On the basis of the patterns observed from these studies Gottman identified a set of cues that portend early



divorce. He charmingly coined them The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse:

- **criticism:** constantly finding fault in one's partner
- **contempt:** disrespectful behaviour or insults, hostile humour
- **defensiveness:** self-protection in the face of a perceived attack, cross-complaining, counter-attacking
- **stonewalling:** withdrawal from interaction (especially in the emotional sense), being unresponsive

Gottman and colleagues have been able to predict which couples divorced with between 83% and 94% accuracy just by observing the conflict conversations.

Intriguingly, these predictions are just as accurate when made from just the first three minutes of the conversations. Also, as it turns out, the presence of contempt in a conflict discussion foreshadows divorce most strongly.

It's not all doom and gloom

One of the most important findings of Gottman's research is that there are also cues that predict relationship longevity and satisfaction.

For instance, if a couple reconciles quickly after a fight, they are more likely to stay together, and to stay together happier.

Also, the data suggest that a 5:1 ratio of positive to negative comments during conflicts makes for a lasting marriage.

Gottman is not alone in his efforts to study relationship dynamics. There is a burgeoning field of relationship science in which researchers are examining such topics as what keeps couples together through good times and bad, and what can be done to improve relationship outcomes.

Recent evidence points to the following:

- expressing gratitude toward your partner and experiencing your partner's gratitude for you helps to maintain relationships
- sharing a novel activity with your partner helps to keep you satisfied in your relationship
- seeing your partner's faults as virtues (such as "he's not stubborn; he's confident in his opinions") and idealising your partner are associated with relationship stability.

Method matters

So was Chris and Gwyneth's separation ill-fated from the start? And what of George Clooney and his plan to marry Amal Alamuddin later this year. Will that relationship be a lasting one?

We can't say for sure given that we know very little about this couple, but one thing is certain - the field of relationship science is providing more and more clues to unpack the complexity of romantic relationships.

But studying romantic relationships in a scientific manner is no easy task. Indeed, Gottman's research has come under fire for its lack of cross-validation. That is, the predictive models have not frequently been tested on new, independent samples.

When such analysis is carried out, the prediction accuracy of divorce and non-divorce drop substantially.

Other research in this field is limited in its reliance on data from only one member of the couple or on data collected at a single point in time. Progress in relationship science will only be achieved when researchers directly tackle the intricacies inherent in these relationships.

Lisa A Williams,

School of Psychology, UNSW & Rebecca T. Pinkus,
Western Sydney University

Chinmaya Mission - Mauritius

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Assembly of the Chinmaya Mission Mauritius will be held on **Sunday 30 August 2020 at 15.30 hrs** at the seat of the Chinmaya Ashram, Charles Jolivet St, Beau Bassin

Agenda

1. Welcome address of President
2. President's report
3. Reading and approval of the minutes of proceedings of the last AGM by Secretary.
4. Matters arising from the minutes.
5. Treasurer's report and approval of the final accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019.
6. Approval of Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the year 2020.

7. Dissolution of the Managing Committee and Election of office bearers to sit in the Managing Committee for the year 2020.
8. Appointment of Auditors for 2020.
9. AOB.
10. Closing remarks by Swami Pranavananda.

Members wishing to sit/serve on the Board of the Committee for the year 2020 are kindly required to send their candidature in writing to the Secretary at latest by 28th August 2020 at 17.00 hrs at the above address.

B. SEEWOODHARRY

Secretary

5 Aug 2020

Application to Director General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority for the issue of a Licence under Part III of the Excise Act

I, Mrs **Jeeanmotee Guiness Tooreea** of **No 3 Henry Perrot Street, Grande Rivière North West**, have applied to the Director General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority for the issue of a new licence of Retailer of Liquor and alcoholic products-off in respect of premises situated at No, 3 Dr Henry Perrot Street, Grand Rivière North West.

Any objection to the issue of the above licence, should be made to the Director General, Mauritius Revenue Authority, Eham Court, C/r Mon Seigneur Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis within 21 days as from date published in the Gazette.

07 August 2020

La symbiose entre l'Etat et l'oligarchie dément le discours sectaire

* Suite de la page 4

Avant 2014, le gouvernement travailliste d'alors prônait une certaine démocratisation économique en vue de mettre fin à certains monopoles. Un conglomérat non-historique en particulier devait profiter de cette ouverture pour diversifier ses investissements dans les secteurs (assurance, immobilier, commerce, banque) qui étaient dominés par l'oligarchie historique. Le démantèlement de ce conglomérat en 2015 a mis une fin brutale au processus de démocratisation économique, renforçant en même temps les assises de l'oligarchie historique.

Les investissements de la Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) à hauteur de Rs 80 milliards dans l'économie en vue de renflouer les entreprises en difficulté, par voie de prise de participation au capital et/ou de prêts, sont un ballon d'oxygène énorme pour le secteur privé. Certes, il y a un impératif de sauvegarder les emplois dans les secteurs touchés par la pandémie, mais la générosité publique ne saurait se dispenser des obligations de transparence, de redevabilité et d'imputabilité. De même elle ne devrait pas maintenir la concentration du capital financier et foncier entre les mains de l'oligarchie historique.



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Donations politiques

Les intérêts économiques de l'oligarchie

historique sont aussi sauvegardés par ses donations politiques aux principaux partis politiques. Cette générosité financière lui permet d'influencer l'agenda économique du gouvernement, d'arracher d'importantes concessions fiscales, de contourner les lois sur l'environnement et d'obtenir des marchés publics (travaux de construction, fourniture de produits/services). La déproclamation de certaines plages publiques aux fins de développement hôtelier et l'assouplissement des règles régissant le respect de l'environnement (lequel permet le bétonnage tous azimuts) sont d'autres concessions accordées sans tenir compte des impératifs du développement durable.

Quand le gouvernement voulait plafonner les dépenses électorales à Rs 80 millions par parti par élection dans le cadre du projet de loi de financement politique, il plaçait la barre très haut pour éliminer les petits partis de la course électorale. Puisque le financement privé à cette hauteur améliore les chances de réussite électorale des grands partis bénéficiaires, le champ politique est restreint à 2 ou 3 partis mis sous la tutelle des bailleurs de fonds privés.

Si le gouvernement était vraiment soucieux du sort des descendants

d'esclaves, il aurait appliqué les recommandations de la Commission Justice et Vérité, plus particulièrement celles ayant trait à la restitution des terres à ceux qui en ont été dépossédés. Une grève de la faim effectuée par certaines victimes de dépossession fut arrêtée après que les autorités eurent fait des promesses d'action (notamment une *Land Court*). Depuis rien de concret n'a été fait au point où l'on parle d'une probable seconde grève de la faim dans le proche avenir par des personnes exaspérées par l'inaction de l'Etat et sa lenteur bureaucratique. Récemment, les autorités ont expulsé des squatteurs qui occupaient des terres de l'Etat en jetant sur le pavé des familles avec de petits enfants, contraintes depuis de vivre dans le froid hivernal sous des tentes de fortune.

En temps de crise, la stigmatisation sectaire ou les replis identitaires ne devraient en aucune façon être l'arme d'attaque ou le bouclier de ceux qui veulent faire diversion. Le diversionnisme ne fait jamais long feu. Qu'on nous épargne ces cris pleurnichards et hypocrites sur les victimes de l'esclavage. Ils sonnent faux. L'alignement de certains responsables politiques avec le camp de l'oligarchie historique est trop évident pour abuser quiconque.

Aditya Narayan

PROGRAMME DES COURSES

9e Journée - Samedi 8 août 2020

1 THE SAMAN - CANCER SUPPORT CUP 990 m Valeur [0-20] Time - 12h50

1 EL PATRON	AS	nouveau	61.5	S.Bussunt	11	700
2 STRAIGHT	CD	0-0-8/2-4	61.5	S.Rama	8	350
3 MAJESTIC MOON	SPN	1-9/8-8-4	57.5	A.Roy	3	750
4 ITALIAN WAY	VA	8-4-7/8-6	60	B.Sooful	10	2000
5 SARAH'S SECRET	CR	3-2-3-3-3/	60	N.Teeha	9	650
6 FREDDIE FLINT	SJ	8-4-9/7-7	59.5	J.Allyhosain	4	520
7 MELSON	CR	6-3-2-2-5/	59.5	R.Hoolash	5	2200
8 NORTHERN REBEL	JMH	7-3-6/7-R	59.5	G.D.Aucharuz	2	1100
9 TAKE OFF MODE	SN	8-7-10-6/3	59	D.Bheekary	1	850
10 PHILOSOPHER	P	6-4-7-8/4	57.5	R.Joorawon	7	650
11 MIDNIGHT MESSENGER	SPN	6-4/10-7-8	57	K.Ghunowa	6	2500

2 THE INDIANOIL PETROCARD CUP 1400 m Valeur Benchmark 31 Time - 13h25

1 APOLLO STAR	AS	4-8-5/9-6	60	S.Bussunt	4	1700
2 CARLAS MAMBO	SJ	10-2-5/10-6	60	J.Allyhosain	8	1400
3 GUNNER RUNNER	GR	0-0-0-1-2	60	N.Juglall	6	270
4 SAND PATH	CD	3-2-1/7-8	60	S.Rama	9	720
5 UNCLE FRANK	SPN	nouveau	60	B.Sooful	3	1300
6 LAGACIO	G	0-1-R/2-2	59.5	R.Joorawon	7	310
7 REAL VISION	JMH	0-9-10-9-5/	59	K.Ghunowa	10	3500
8 ZIGI ZAGI ZUGI	SN	3-10-1/3-1	59	G.D.Aucharuz	2	450
9 FACE THE FIRE	CR	0-0-0-9-9/	58.5	N.Marday	11	3000
10 MARK TAPLEY	VA	8-9-9-8/10	55	A.Roy	1	4000
11 TYRIAN [EA]	PM	2-4-6/7-2	58	-----	5	---

3 THE INDIANOIL 17TH ANNIVERSARY TROPHY 1450 m Valeur Benchmark 36 Time - 14h00

1 MR HARDY	GR	3-9-2-10/5	60.5	N.Juglall	2	200
2 HEART OF DARKNESS	SN	8-1-5/6-3	60	G.D.Aucharuz	4	270
3 MARULA	JMH	0-0-0-0-9	60	J.Allyhosain	3	1200
4 FARIHA	CD	0-0-0-R-6	59.5	S.Rama	6	1000
5 ROMAN DANCER	G	4-3-5/6-R	59.5	R.Boutanive	5	1200
6 INTERNET KID	VA	0-0-7/11-7	59	K.Ghunowa	7	4000
7 MINALOUSHE VENTURE	AS	4-1-4-8/10	57.5	S.Bussunt	8	3500
8 TEMP THE TIGER	SPN	0-0-8-7-9	56.5	R.Hoolash	1	2200

4 THE SERVO FUTURA CUP 990 m Valeur Benchmark 41 Time -- 14h35

1 FROM THE ASHES	AS	7-1-6/8-10	61.5	S.Bussunt	5	2500
2 RAHEEB	RM	6-4-1-8/10	61	N.Teeha	3	420
3 BIG VOICE JACK	SN	0-0-0-0-4	60	G.D.Aucharuz	7	900
4 AFFRANCHI	VA	nouveau	59.5	R.Joorawon	4	1200
5 NINOTTO	RG	0-0-0-3-1	59	D.David	2	180
6 VISION OF TRUST	SPN	9-3-1/4-8	58	B.Sooful	8	1600
7 HUBBLE	SJ	nouveau	57.5	J.Allyhosain	6	650
8 OCEAN DRIVE SOUTH	CD	4-6-6/9-5	56.5	S.Rama	1	650

5 THE SERVO PRIDE XL PLUS CUP 1850 m Valeur Benchmark 46 Time - 15h10

1 NORTHERN SPY	SJ	2-1-2/1-1	60	N.Teeha	5	500
2 DUKE'S DOMAIN	RG	2-2-6/1-1	59.5	D.David	2	850
3 JET STREAM	AS	0-0-0-1-3	59.5	S.Bussunt	1	340
4 MIND BLOWING	GR	1-1-4-2/6	59.5	N.Juglall	3	450
5 LEMON DROP SHOT	SH	0-0-0-5-2	59	J.Allyhosain	4	240
6 DREAMFOREST	CD	7-5-7/R-7	57	S.Rama	6	3500

6 THE INDIANOIL BARBE CUP 2020 1600 m Valeur P. d'Age [65+] G.1 Time -- 15h50

1 WHITE RIVER	RG	1-1-1-1/2	58	D.David	6	165
2 UNDERCOVER AGENT	RM	0-0-0-0-2	58	R.Joorawon	5	380
3 RULE THE NIGHT	GR	2-1-4/3-1	58	N.Teeha	4	1400
4 TABLE BAY	G	3-3-2-2/1	58	C.Segeon	3	920
5 HARD DAY'S NIGHT	RG	5-5-4-5/7	58	J.Allyhosain	1	4000
6 ALYAASAAT	GR	0-0-0-6-1	58	N.Juglall	2	500

SELECTIONS

1. STRAIGHT, PHILOSOPHER, FREDDIE FLINT
2. GUNNER RUNNER, LAGACIO, ZIGI ZAGI ZUGI
3. MR HARDY, HEART OF DARKNESS, FARIHA
4. NINOTTO, RAHEEB, VISION OF TRUST

7 THE INDIANOIL BRINGING ENERGY TO LIFE TROPHY 990 m Valeur Benchmark 31 Time -- 16h25

1 BALLANTINE HALL	G	0-0-0-0-1	61	R.Joorawon	9	350
2 TROJAN QUEST	JMH	5-7-2-2/9	60.5	S.Bussunt	2	1100
3 ANZA-BORREGO	SPN	4-3-1/R-6	60	N.Teeha	8	1600
4 EMERALD BAND	VA	0-0-0-0-3	60	B.Sooful	4	260
5 GORDONSTOUN	SN	R-1-9/9-9	60	D.Bheekary	1	820
6 ROCK MANOR	PM	nouveau	60	C.Segeon	7	1200
7 ROCK SPIRIT	SJ	0-0-0-0-4/	60	N.Marday	10	3500
8 TROJAN WINTER	SJ	0-0-0-5-7	59	B.Bhaugerothee	5	1000
9 GREY AGAIN	RG	0-0-0-0-6	58.5	D.David	6	1300
10 MR BOMBASTIC	RM	0-0-7-R/N	56.5	R.Hoolash	3	3000

8 THE SERVO WORLD CLASS LUBRICANT CUP 1450 m Valeur [0-25] Time -- 17h00

1 LUCKY AT LAST	CD	7-4-1-3-3/	60	S.Rama	5	900
2 POINCIANA	SJ	0-0-0-R-2	60	B.Sooful	9	300
3 MINNESOTA DREAM	GR	0-0-0-5-5	59.5	N.Teeha	4	400
4 MEMPHIS MAFIA	RM	4-9-2/2-7	59	D.Bheekary	1	450
5 TIGER'S BOND	PM	10-7-8/8-7	59	R.K.Chumun	7	3300
6 ARTAX	AS	10-6/5-6-6	58.5	S.Bussunt	8	1200
7 XANTHUS	PM	9-8-8-8/8	58.5	C.Segeon	3	1200
8 DELUSIONAL	SPN	0-0-0-0-8	58	K.Ghunowa	2	5000
9 DEALER'S CHARM	VA	8-7-8/2-3	57.5	R.Joorawon	6	500
10 KINGS EMPIRE	SH	3-2-2/9-9	57.5	J.Allyhosain	10	1400

5. JET STREAM, LEMON DROP SHOT, NORTHERN SPY
6. WHITE RIVER, UNDERCOVER AGENT, ALYAASAAT
7. EMERALD BAND, BALLANTINE HALL, GORDONSTOUN
8. POINCIANA, MEMPHIS MAFIA, MINNESOTA DREAM

In a light vein

This is not coronavirus!

If you are experiencing the following symptoms

1. Headache
2. Body ache
3. Poor eyesight
4. Difficulty in breathing
5. High temperature
6. Always out of mind
7. Difficulty in sleeping
8. Most of the time in shock
9. Easily get angry & can't communicate properly
10. Feeling dizzy

This is not coronavirus! These are symptoms of married life!

Tom died and went to heaven, where he was met at the gates by an angel who led him to a large warehouse, with each wall lined with thousands of clocks.

"Each clock represents a person's lifetime," said St Peter. The hands on one of the clocks suddenly spun around furiously taking one hour off the time.

"What was that?" asked Tom.

St Peter explained that each time someone acted like a wanker (a contemptible person), one hour was removed from his life.

St Peter carried on walking, then Tom asked him if he could possibly see the famous actress Marilyn Monroe's clock.

"Oh, yes, but you have to come to my office, we've been using it as a fan during this hot spell," replied St Peter.

The truth comes out

A lady's husband had been slipping in and out of coma for several months, yet she had stayed by his bedside every single day.

One day, when he opened his eyes, he motioned for her to come nearer. As she sat by him, he whispered to her, his eyes full of tears: "My darling, you have always been with me, all through the bad times. When I lost my job, you were there to support me; when my business failed, you kept by me. When we lost our house, you stayed by my side. You know what I think?"

"What dear?" she gently asked smiling as her heart began to fill with warmth.

"I think you're bad luck."

When the parents are out

A milkman is on his rounds, one early morning. He goes up to one of the houses and knocks on the door to collect the milk money. A lad answers the door smoking a huge cigar, his arm around what appears to be a call girl.

The milkman looks at the young fellow and asks, "Is your mum or dad in?"

The lad replies, "Does it look like it?"

Life's Stories

Right to inherit



A man had three sons, all well placed and intelligent. With advancing age, the man started reflecting on 'Who will do what after me?' His assets were of considerable value, and it was his firm conviction that a son who cannot multiply inheritance is not worthy of his lineage. The easiest thing to do would have been to divide the properties into three parts but the assets were created with a vision that unity and a joint kitchen would flourish.

Another complication was their differences of attitude and approach to life. One was a fountainhead of wisdom and initiator of many intellectual concepts; the other one was deeply analytical and a hero of many verbal duals, and the third excelled in communication skills with a quasi-spiritual public image. They were the best in their chosen spheres of activity.

After intense meditation, the man devised a plan to evaluate the worthiest of his inheritors.

The man gave his three sons equal sums of money and said: "So far you have been treated as absolute equals, each one of you has palatial houses. With this money, you have to fill your houses at minimum cost but with maximum lasting result. After seven days I will come to see: whoever succeeds in filling the house better than the other two will get the best reward in family assets."

They were puzzled, because it was not a huge sum of money. They thought of alternatives, but the houses were big and filling them completely was a tough challenge.

The first son went to a perfume manufacturer and asked, "Prepare a powerful perfume which can fill the environment with a few sprays and its toxic effect may hypnotize the inhales to speak in my favour." The whole neighbourhood was intrigued. The drivers were wavering under the toxic spell but they could not do anything.

The second son had seen many witnesses make statements beneficial to opponents during heated moments in courtrooms. He requisitioned a blower manufacturer to install a heating system so that the temperature may be raised within minutes to get a decision in his favour. Under desire to escape. People kept silent about strange contraptions thinking it crazy.

They were both worried about the third, because he looked absolutely unconcerned. Six days had passed and he had not done anything. On the seventh day, as the sun set, their father came.

As he entered the house of his first son, he said, "This idiot, he has filled the house with some garbage! It is disgusting, I am feeling sick." He inhaled two three times, and left.

The man turned away his face. Success under the

spell of verbal or chemical stimulus for extracting benefit was highly unethical and deplorable to him.

He went to the house of his second son.... It was not any better, but it was not worse either. Discomfort of the heat wave generated was disconcerting. To escape promptly was his desire.

The man closed his eyes. Profit from business, social or professional victory achieved under duress or from hardships of others was an inhuman trait he disliked.

The man cursing his upbringing dragged himself to the third house, because a decision had to be taken.

As he entered the house, he was puzzled, expensive paintings and statues had been removed. The house looked less cluttered.

He asked the son, "What have you done?" The son said, "I have eliminated some distractions for creating space to fill it better." Father looked around, "It appears empty but for these flickering candles."

The son smiled, "This house has been converted into a stepping stone for self-illumination. The glow contributed by each tiny candle is a lamppost for meditation, introspection and initiating improvement. I feel the way to universal bliss is to first kindle the light within and then spread it without preference or prejudice as these candles do."

The boy returned most of the money, and said, "I could have filled the house with music, incense, fragrant woods or aromatic liquids but those are gross and transitory. Illuminating self is a chain reaction of dispelling darkness. Illumination is inheritance shared and furthered."

Father smiled in appreciation as the worries of tomorrow disappeared.



There are 3 English words hidden in this picture. If you are able to find them, this means you are not OLD yet. This is one way to help seniors to sharpen their mind and concentration.

Relationships

8 really small things that tell you a lot about someone



An employee almost always has to be nice to you because "the customer is always right." If you treat these people poorly, it shows you have low integrity Photo - restaurantnews.com

step or are you dragging your feet?

How they respond in slightly uncomfortable situations

Once, I was standing in line at Chipotle and overheard the man in front of me ask for queso on his burrito. The employee didn't hear him, so the man's partner looked at him as if to say, "Aren't you going to repeat yourself?" But he didn't. Why? Because he'd have to experience the slightest social friction.

It's a low-stakes example, but situations like these can be a clue to how a person moves through their life - and how they'd handle the bigger things, where the social friction is greater. Are they willing to be a bit uncomfortable, or will they stay quiet because it feels safer?

How they respond to the good fortune of others

To figure out whether a person tends to support or envy those who are successful, watch their facial expressions or listen to the subtle hints in their language. A "concern troll" is someone who disingenuously expresses concern about something when they're really just trying to undermine a person. Imagine someone talking about how they made a bunch of money with their latest business venture, and then another person responds by saying, "Gosh, you're going to have to pay a lot in self-employment taxes. Make sure you're saving." Ask yourself whether their intention is to help out, or to throw a bit of shade.

How they frame their responsibilities and challenges

Do you "have to" work on the technical aspects of your business, or do you "get to" learn valuable technical skills to help your business grow? When you listen to people talk about the things on their plate, you can get a sense of whether they view life through a lens of victimhood or of agency. Language is powerful.

How they respond to the phrase "How've you been?" or "What's new?"

Many people give the default responses: "good," "okay," or "same 'ol." You want to gravitate toward people who always seem to be up to something. The ones who light up when they talk about their side projects, cool hobbies, or ideas they've been thinking about.

How children and dogs respond to them

I swear that children have a sixth sense about people. Because their capacities for elaborate reasoning aren't fully developed, young kids focus on your "vibe." They don't base their opinions of you on what you say or how you try to come across - rather, they narrow in on your facial expressions and the way you carry yourself. When you're not fully present with them, believe me, they know.

No one is going to get all of this right 100% of the time. But being a bit more observant and noticing patterns about people's behaviour can have a major impact on your life. The more attention you pay, the more you can surround yourself with people who truly enrich your life.

In A Light Vein

Lawyer and the Old Farmer!

A big city lawyer went duck hunting in rural North Cowra. He shot and dropped a bird, but it fell into a farmer's field on the other side of a fence.

As the lawyer climbed over the fence, an elderly farmer drove up on his tractor and asked him what he was doing.

The litigator responded, "I shot a duck and it fell in this field, and now I'm going to retrieve it."

The old farmer Peter replied, "This is my property, and you are not coming over here."

The indignant lawyer said, "I am one of the best trial lawyers in Australia and, if you don't let me get that duck, I'll sue you and take everything you own."

The old farmer smiled, and said, "Apparently, you don't know how we settle disputes in North Cowra. We settle small disagreements like this with the 'Three Kick Rule'."

The lawyer asked, "What is the 'Three Kick Rule'?"

The farmer replied, "Well, because the dispute occurs on my land, I get to go first. I kick you three times and then you kick me three times and so on back and forth until someone gives up."

The lawyer quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old codger. He agreed to abide by the local custom.

The old farmer slowly climbed down from the tractor and walked up to the lawyer. His first kick planted the toe of his heavy steel-toed work boot into the lawyer's groin and dropped him to his knees!

His second kick to the midrib sent the lawyer's last meal gushing from his mouth. The lawyer was on all fours when the farmer's third kick to his rear end, sent him face-first into a fresh cow pie.

Summoning every bit of his will and remaining strength, the lawyer very slowly managed to get to his feet. Wiping his face with the arm of his jacket, he said, "Okay, you old shit. Now it's my turn."

The old farmer smiled and said, "Nah, I give up. You can have the duck."

Moral: When you are educated, you'll believe only half of what you hear. When you're intelligent, you'll know which half.

The way they treat service staff

The way someone treats people who work in retail, food service, and hospitality tells me pretty much everything I need to know about them. Why? Because when you're dealing with service staff, you're in a position of power. An employee almost always has to be nice to you because "the customer is always right."

If you treat these people poorly, it shows you have low integrity, empathy, and even self-respect, because someone with self-respect never has to act as if they're above anyone.

How polite they are

People often point out how "polite" I am, and it's so strange to me. It's shocking to find out how rare it is for people to have basic manners. That's why whenever I meet a person who says "please" and "thank you" often, I know I'm dealing with someone who's socially intelligent. You can make someone's day, reduce friction during interactions, and move through life much more easily by saying those simple words.

How they walk

When Barack Obama walks into a room, he has a palpable sense of confidence: He's simultaneously friendly, powerful, and attention-grabbing, though he's never seeking validation. When I see this type of swagger in others, I'm captivated.


I learned a useful trick from 'The Art of Charm' called the "doorway technique." Basically, you "anchor" confident body language to something you commonly see during the day, like a doorway. Each time you walk through the doorway, you'll know to check your body language. Are you standing up straight or are you slouching your shoulders? Are you walking with a bit of pep in your

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Alia Bhatt, Mahesh Bhatt's Sadak 2 to release on August 28 on Disney+ Hotstar

Sadak 2, actor Alia Bhatt's first collaboration with her filmmaker father Mahesh Bhatt, will be released on Disney+ Hotstar on August 28, it has been announced. Alia also shared a poster for the film, which shows her with co-stars Sanjay Dutt and Aditya Roy Kapur, walking on a highway, facing a mountain.

"Sadak 2, the road to love streaming on @DisneyPlusHotstarVIP from 28 August," Alia wrote in an Instagram post. Sadak 2 is the sequel to Mahesh Bhatt's 1991 film, also starring Sanjay.

Sadak 2 is the latest title to join the ever-growing list of films opting for a digital release during the pandemic, which has brought many industries, including entertainment, to a grinding halt. It was announced as a part of Disney+ Hotstar's slate of Bollywood acquisitions, which include Sushant Singh Rajput's Dil Bechara, Akshay Kumar's Laxmi Bomb, Ajay Devgn's Bhuj: The Pride of India, Kunal Kemmu's Lootcase, among others.

In an interview to PTI, producer Mukesh Bhatt had said, "I am compelled to come (on digital platform) because I don't see any light in the near future. This is the best I can do to survive. There are certain things that you do, not out of choice but out of compulsion. This is the only option left. It is a no-brainer."

Sadak 2 also stars Pooja Bhatt, Jisshu



Sengupta, Makarand Deshpande, Gulshan Grover, Priyanka Bose, Mohan Kapur and Akshay Anand.

Raveena Tandon opens up about the 'monopoly' in Bollywood, says she never slept around with heroes for movies

Raveena Tandon is one of the popular actors of Bollywood who has ruled the 90s with hit films like 'Dilwale', 'Andaz Apna Apna', 'Dulhe Raja', and many more. While the actress is all set to appear in an upcoming Kannada film 'KGF: Chapter 2', recently, the 'Tip Tip Barsa Pani' fame opened about Bollywood and its monopoly in a recent interview.

Talking to an entertainment portal, Ranveer stated that there were a lot of things going on in the industry when she started her career in Bollywood. However, despite everything, she has never compromised or slept around with "heroes" for movies or having affairs with anyone. Further revealing that neither she was a part of any camp in the industry nor was she supported by a "godfather" and was considered "arrogant" for not giving in to what the heroes demanded her to do.

The actress also alleged some "female journalist" to bring her down, however, all she ever wanted to do was to live on her own terms. Talking about monopoly during her career, she added that she had lost several movies due to her honesty but in return, received a lot of "dirt" on her.



YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Your sense of initiative is going to be reinforced, making it possible to take advantage of some interesting opportunities in the material and professional fields. If you're unemployed, your chances of finding a new job will increase.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 26, 30, 31, 39, 40

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

You'll be able to profit by kindness and useful supports coming from people of the other sex; don't deprive yourself of them. No big health problems to be feared, but your vitality will undergo a slight decline; take a little more rest.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 14, 16, 18, 25, 30

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Nice financial break: money will keep trying to get into your purse. Singles, you're going to make an encounter which you won't stop congratulating yourselves for. In family, you'll readily forget the subjects of arguments that worried you so much up to now.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 17, 20, 24, 28

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

The stars are going to inspire you great self-confidence, which will allow you to achieve feats in more than one field. Concerning love, if you're looking for an ideal partner, you might meet this one in a million persons. Lucky

Lucky Numbers: 4, 13, 17, 20, 21, 36

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

During this week speculation and gambling won't be favoured. In your relationships with your family, you had better draw in your horns. In your love life, you'll be less unyielding than usual; you'll even be ready to make concessions.

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

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Everything that's related to finances will have to be studied carefully; avoid money disputes and too important expenses. You might meet a person who'll deeply move you. Spend more time with your close ones, especially if you have children.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 11, 19, 21, 30, 36

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

This astral climate is very likely to be frustrating in the field of work; only take a minimum of engagements or appointments. Risk of past emotional pains awakening up, which you thought had healed; refuse tormenting yourself with the past, look at the future with confidence and optimism.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 11, 12, 20, 25, 36

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Don't mix up your emotions and money: it would be an explosive mixture. In your relationships with others, you really won't know what type of attitude to adapt - trust or mistrust; in this case as in many others, the golden mean will prove to be the best.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 9, 14, 17, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

It's by tightening sentimental relations or by seeking a collaboration that you'll render this week very positive. Make an effort to leave your professional concerns on the doormat and to make life more pleasant at home.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 12, 30, 36, 39

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You'll have the right to love at first sight which will not hold any future but will be amusing and distracting. Disregarding your natural reserve, this time you'll be able to show boldness, which will bring you success in more than one field.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 15, 23, 29, 30, 31

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Your sentimental ideal could finally see the day this time: take a good look around you, love will be there waiting for you. A positive week for speculation and investments.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 20, 26, 29, 30, 32

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

The stars will help you to meet people who're likely to be interested in your ideas or projects. Marvellous understanding with the one whom you love. It'll be the moment to start making a strict saving program and to manage your budget strictly.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 12, 14, 15, 20

Donal Bisht launches campaign to uplift spirits of fellow actors

Donal Bisht has been spreading the message of positivity throughout the lockdown period. She has now launched a campaign to help uplift the spirits of her fellow actors.

"I think the lockdown has been hard on everyone and has taken a toll on many. I understand how it took a toll on people's emotional health. When one slips into a negative mindset, it's hard to think of positive aspects in life. That's why I created the Pledge to be Positive campaign, to help encourage everyone to stay positive and be in high spirits. I'm aware that the times are hard, but all we can do is try to stay positive, and hope for better days," she said.

"I also think that one should focus on their blessings, not one's flaws. And to make the most out of the present, and not to worry too much about the future. And that true happiness comes from within, and not from external sources; and to not expect too much, as that'll just weigh one down. I think this campaign is a reminder the industry needs right now," added the *"Roop: Mard Ka Naya Swaroop"* actress.

This isn't the first time the actress has launched a campaign to create mental health awareness. Donal had previously launched an initiative so she could help her social media followers and fans through their emotional turmoil during the lockdown.



Gurdeep Kohli: 'People heading channels are killing content on TV as they chase TRPs

Actor Gurdeep Kohli, who is back with the third season of Ekta Kapoor's *Kehne Ko Humsafar Hain Hum* alongside Ronit Roy and Mona Singh, is not happy with the kind of content being produced for television these days and blames the channel heads for killing the vision of writers in their chase for TRPs.

"Writers come up with ideas but people sitting at the head of TV channels make them lose their vision as they want to churn out those TRPs. People are a little confused on television. If a formula works well, they try to use the same for all shows. If *Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai* did well, the same kind of romance will not work for something like, say *Sanjeevani*. It was a different genre," Gurdeep told Hindustan Times in an interview.

"One formula cannot be used for another. They do not let writers to focus on topics. I think this is why television content suffers. There are no options on television for anybody now; you have to succumb to channels. My producer does not want to do TV. Any intelligent producer would not want to work for television these days," she added.

Gurdeep was delighted at the mention of *Sanjeevani* and Dr Juhi (Gurdeep's character in the TV show). Asked if people still call her Dr Juhi, she said, "With the second season, all the old fanbase resurfaced. I would say not just *Sanjeevani* 2 but the first one was an iconic show and my character was unforgettable. It had become very popular and whatever I am today, is because of that show (*Sanjeevani*). To find such an author-backed role as my debut, I think I was so lucky. I am very happy when people call me Dr Juhi. It is a character that has been very close to my heart."

There were some iconic shows and characters being made at that time. All my contemporaries have had beautiful roles and they are all remembered till date," she added.

Getting back to her issue with channels and their chase after TRPs, Gurdeep said that perhaps the second season of the show suffered because of lack of vision. "For *Sanjeevani*, everyone had mixed feelings in the channel and that is why it met the fate that it did."

"I have done monotonous work, I have been typecast and I did work that was suffocating but I still did because I needed work and the money. I have been applauded of course, but it was monotonous, I won't deny. I want people to call me and approach me for films as well. I do not attend parties or visit a producer's office to beg for work, I am waiting for someone to approach me," she said.

Gurdeep also elaborated on her character in the latest season of her popular web show *Kehne Ko Humsafar Hain Hum*. "She is trying to look younger because she has already lost someone in her first marriage. She is trying to look desirable and seek validation from Abhimanyu, though he doesn't care. She has the baggage of her first marriage. Just her fear, but it is what it is," she said.

She added, "Working on the show, I learnt it is never too late to find love. Not justifying Rohit's deeds (Ronit Roy's character). A lot of women came up to me and told me 'this is me, this is my story' I would just say to these people that divorce can be therapeutic."

TV SERIAL

Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

Friday 7 Aug: Sameer and Vinita seal the deal for his new house. He has the money ready but then Pandit calls him and tells him about the business loss that Mamaji had. Mamaji is drowning in debt.

Monday 10 Aug: Sameer gets the support of Naina on the decision that they should help Mamaji with the money.

Tuesday 11 Aug: Naina has a minor stomach ache and Sameer gets very tensed. They are expecting the baby in another two weeks. Sameer and Naina have their relationship strengthened. They remind what they meant to one another.

Wednesday 12 Aug: Some trouble happens just before Naina's water broke. Things are sorted out but then she isn't in a condition to go to the hospital. They call the doctor home and thankfully everything is fine.

Thursday 13 Aug: Naina's father can't keep his hands off his newborn grandchild. Everyone is so happy to see the smile on his face. It's time for the evening's function and everyone shows up to greet the baby. The atmosphere is joyous and celebrations are happening. The time has come for the Naming Ceremony.

Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

Friday 7 Aug: After overhearing the interrogation at the police station, Rohit confronts Sonakshi regarding the truth. Later, Sumit deals a devastating blow to her reputation.

Monday 10 Aug: YK puts forth a condition to Akash while Nethra is asked to replace Sonakshi for KPK. Elsewhere, Veena slaps Rohit after he argues with Naren.

Tuesday 11 Aug: An emotional Sonakshi shoots her last scene for KPK while Sumit mocks Nethra's humble request. Later, Rohit locks Sonakshi in his car's trunk.

Wednesday 12 Aug: Rohit urges Veena to invite the Sippys to Sonakshi's place for Ganapati puja. Later, Rohit confronts Sailesh for making an odd statement about Sonakshi.

Thursday 13 Aug: Nishi and Suman taunt each other while Rohit has a romantic moment with Sonakshi. Later, Rohit secretly follows Sailesh while Nishi creates a scene.



CINE 12

Vendredi 7 août - 21.15

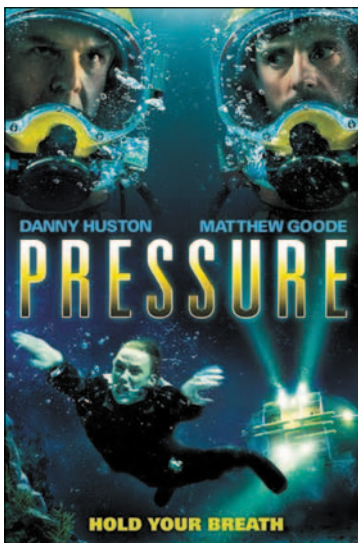
The Next Karate Kid

Avec: Pat Morita, Hilary Swank,
Michael Ironside

CINE 12

Samedi 8 août - 21.15

Pressure

Star: Danny Huston, Matthew
Goode, Joe Cole

MBC 1

Dimanche 9 août - 21.10



vendredi 7 août

MBC 1

07.05 Local: Passerelles
09.40 Local: Later Set Kouler
10.05 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
11.05 Local: Saver KilTirel
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Mag: Women Who Changed
13.00 Doc: Sur La Route Des Vin
14.00 Local: Rodrig Prog
14.46 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
15.02 D.Anime: Petit Creux
15.15 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies
16.11 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
16.33 D.Anime: G-Fighters
17.05 D.Aimes: Spirit
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod: Goute A Tout
20.35 Prod: Komiko
22.20 Serial: The Blacklist
23.00 Le Journal

MBC 2

10.00 Serial: Tumhaari Natsaha
11.17 Serial: Tum Mere Paas Raho
12.04 Film: Journey 2
Starring: Ganesh, Manjari Phadnis
14.00 DDI Magazine
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.25 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee
15.50 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
16.20 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.32 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun
17.11 Mehandi Tohra Naam Ke
17.03 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun
17.15 Serial: Gangaa
18.00 Serial: Dr. Quin
18.30 Local: Yaadein
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
09.49 Doc: Bohemian Switzerland..
11.00 Mag: Eco India
11.44 Mag: Shift
12.00 Mag: Border Crossing
12.32 Mag: Tomorro Today
12.32 Doc: Comme Un Poisson...
15.14 Doc: Fly Rocket Fly
16.00 Mag: Eco India
16.26 Mag: Urban Gardens
17.00 Mag: Border Crossing
17.26 Doc: A Question Of Science
18.00 Doc: Diving At The Limit
18.30 Live: News
18.47 Mag: Arts And Culture
19.00 Other: COMESA - ESREM

Cine 12

01.31 Film: Hailey Dean Mysteries
02.50 Serial: The Good Doctor
03.35 Serial: Island Doctor
05.02 Tele: Totalement Diva
05.51 Tele: Esmeraldas
06.56 Film: Away And Back
09.42 Tele: Tickle Me
09.45 Tele: Au Now De L'amour
10.35 Serial: The Good Doctor
11.25 Tele: Dulce Amor
12.00 Serial: Island Doctor
13.31 Tele: Totalement Diva
14.45 Film: Tickle Me
16.47 Serial: NCIS
17.26 Tele: Esmeraldas
18.13 Tele: Soleil Levant
19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Emerald City
21.15 Film: The Next Karate Kid
22.58 Tele: Totalement Diva

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Chhoti Bahoo
12.05 / 19.54 -
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.16 / 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 - Chhanchhan
14.39 / 22.25 - Bitti Business...
15.05 Film: Bhoot Unkle
Starring: Jackie Shroff,
Akhilendra Mishra, Dev
K.Kantawall
17.30 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
18.51 Piya Albela
19.14 Mere Angne Mein

samedi 8 août

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains
06.50 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
07.25 D.Anime: Kid-E-Cats
08.45 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Local: People
12.35 Mag: Garden Party
14.15 Local: Itinerer Moris
14.30 D.Anime: Kid-E-Cats
14.46 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
15.01 D.Anime: Petit Creux
15.14 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies
15.17 D.Anime: Poko
16.13 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
16.35 D.Anime: G-Fighters
17.30 Serial: You And Me
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.35 Entertain: Nach Baliye
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod: Lottotech
21.10 Film: Welcome To
Collinwood

10.00 Bade Acchelagte Hai
12.26 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.49 Serial: Brundavanam
13.11 Annakodiyum Ainthus
Pengalum
13.30 Serial: Anu Pallavi
14.00 Serial: Dil Hai Hindustani
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.30 Film: Ra.One
Starring: Shah Rukh Khan,
Kareena Kapoor, Armaan
Verma
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: Phobia
Starring Radhika Apte ,
Satyadeep Mishra
23.02 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Waterworld
06.42 Mag: Urban Gardens
06.47 Mag: Arts And Culture
07.32 Doc: Euromaxx
08.56 Doc: Greetings From Planet
09.48 Doc: Inside The Real Saudi
10.30 Doc: 100 Million Views
11.15 Doc: Waterworld
12.05 Mag: Arts And Culture
12.47 Mag: Euromaxx
14.58 Doc: Inside The Real Saudi..
15.43 Open Univ: Student Support
18.30 Live: News (English)
18.43 Doc: National Geographic...
19.00 Mag: Olivia's Garden
19.30 Mag: Mixeur, Les Goût...
19.56 Doc: Flying The Great Wall
20.47 Doc: World Stamps
20.50 Doc: 360 GEO
21.42 Doc: Sos Amazon
22.24 Doc: Ghana
23.07 Doc: Amazing Gardens

01.33 Film: The Next Karate Kid
03.16 Serial: Chicago Fire
03.55 Film: Sparkle
05.14 Tele: Destiny
06.01 Serial: Emerald City
06.43 Serial: Sherlock
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Serial: Brooklyn Nine Nine
09.59 Serial: Counterpart
10.53 Film: Flower Shop Mystery
12.18 Serial: Chicago Fire
13.03 Tele: Amanda
13.39 Tele: Premiere Dame
15.05 Serial: The good Doctor
17.00 Serial: Emerald City
17.45 Film: SOX: A Family's Best...
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Series: Emerald City
21.15 Film: Pressure
Avec: Danny Huston,
Matthew Goode, Joe Cole
22.46 Tele: Eva Luna

04.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
04.26 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
04.43 Radha Krishna
05.05 Zindagi Ki Mehek
05.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
05.47 Chhanchhan
06.14 Bitti Business
06.29 Kumkum Bhagya
06.50 Piya Albela
07.12 Mere Angne Mein
08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek
09.56 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai
14.02 Bin Kuch Kahe
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.30 Film: Kranti
Starring Bobby Deol,
Vinod Khanna, Ameesha
Patel
20.38 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
21.21 Serial: Naagin
22.06 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek

dimanche 9 août

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains
06.27 D.Anime: HTDT
08.50 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
09.28 D.Anime: Astrology
09.35 Serial: Dark Oracle
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Local: Elle - No 108
15.00 D.Anime: Nos Voisins Les...
15.16 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack
15.20 D.Anime: Chuck's Choice
15.31 D.Anime: Petit Creux
16.10 D.Anime: Les Enquêtes Des...
16.26 D.Anime: Fils De Wouf
16.41 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
17.02 D.Anime: G-Fighters
17.29 D.Anime: Spirit
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.00 Prod: Mett Sa Ladan
21.10 Film: Lake Placid Vs Anaconda

07.00 Film: Mike
Starring: Siddharth jichkar,
Leonard Naidu
09.07 DDI Magazine
10.00 Local Production
11.00 Serial: Santoshi Maa
12.00 Film: No Problem
Anil Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt,
Akshaye Khanna
14.19 Mag: DDI Magazine
15.00 Mag: Strictly Street
15.23 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
15.47 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht
16.10 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
17.00 Serial: Mahakali
18.00 DDI Magazine
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
20.00 Serial: Maharakshak
21.00 Serial: Naagin
21.48 Serial: CID
22.29 Serial: Piya Rangrez

06.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens
06.52 Doc: Olivia's Garden
07.18 Mag: Mixeur, Les Goûts...
07.41 Doc: Flying The Great Wall
08.36 Doc: World Stamps
10.13 Doc: Ghana
11.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens
11.52 Doc: Olivia's Garden
16.26 Doc: Ville En Fête
17.42 Doc: World Stamps
17.45 Doc: National Geographic
18.00 Doc: Sudan - A TV Show...
18.30 Live: News
19.05 Doc: Builders Of The Future
19.30 Mag: Mixeur, Les Goût Et...
21.00 Doc: 360 GEO
21.52 Doc: Morocco??S Warrior...
22.34 Doc: Duck Academy
23.17 Doc: Sudan - A TV Show For..
23.43 Doc: Garden Party
00.09 Doc: Builders Of The Future

01.28 Film: Pressure
03.02 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
03.42 Film: SOX: A Family's Best...
05.07 Tele: Destiny
05.55 Serial: Emerald City
06.49 Film: The Pirate
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Serial: Brooklyn Nine Nine
09.59 Serial: Counterpart
10.56 Film: SOX: A Family's Best...
12.24 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
13.06 Tele: Amanda
13.47 Tele: Premiere Dame
15.05 Serial: The Good Doctor
17.08 Serial: Emerald City
17.50 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
18.31 Serial: Mission: Impossible
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Incorporated
21.15 Serial: Island Doctor
22.46 Film: The Pirate

00.35 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
02.31 Bin Kuch Kahe
04.21 Pavitra Rishta
05.40 Film: Kranti
08.06 Motu Patlu
08.16 Chhanchhan
10.05 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
12.01 Piya Albela
14.00 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
15.45 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.00 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Filhaal
Starring: Sushmita Sen,
Tabu, Sanjay Suri
21.25 Entertainment: Nach Baliye
21.48 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.38 Piya Albela

MBC 2

Samedi 8 août - 21.00

Stars: Radhika Apte,
Satyadeep Mishra

Dimanche 9 août - 18.30

Stars: Sushmita Sen, Tabu,
Sanjay Suri

Beirut explosion: the disaster was exceptional but events leading up to it were not - researchers

Abandoned containers of hazardous goods are found regularly in ports



Beirut explosion . Photo - israelhayom.com

At the time of writing at least 100 people have lost their lives and a further 4,000 have been wounded following an explosion in the Port of Beirut. While the actual cause remains uncertain, the tragedy calls to attention the tremendous consequences of a lack of port security.

The explosion, on August 4, at around 6pm local time, appears to have been fuelled by 2,750 tons of the highly reactive chemical ammonium nitrate. The chemical had been the cargo on a ship, the MV Rhosus, which entered the port at Beirut in 2013 due to a lack of seaworthiness and was prohibited from sailing. After the ship's owner abandoned the vessel soon afterwards, the ammonium nitrate remained in a storage facility in Beirut's port.

While the disaster itself was exceptional, the events leading up to it were not. Hazardous material is shipped across the world's oceans on a daily basis. It is often mishandled or illegally traded. Abandoned containers of hazardous goods are found regularly in ports.

While maritime security tends to focus on preventing high-profile events such as piracy, terrorism or cyber-attacks, all too often it is daily mishandling that makes disasters possible. Part of preventing disasters such as what has happened in Beirut will mean strengthening port management and addressing crimes such as smuggling and corruption.

Abandoned ships

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has recorded 97 cases of abandoned ships and crews since 2017. Ships are abandoned by their owners if a vessel is no longer

lucrative to maintain, or perhaps if the ship has been stopped by authorities and fined. While the situation of the seafarers aboard these ships is often tragic, as they may receive little pay or even food for months, what happens to the load of the vessels is often unclear.

And the IMO number only reflects the cases of ships - we know little about how many containers stand abandoned in ports around the world.

A UN report indicates that this number may be large. Containers often lie abandoned within ports, sometimes even by design, fuelled by criminal activities such as waste smuggling and corruption. Despite some efforts to counter this, the issue remains widespread and there are continued obstacles to tackling it.

International waste trade

Shipping companies often sail to Asia with empty containers, as much of the flow of trade is from Asia to Europe. As a result, they are willing to take low-value and high-volume bookings on the initial leg.

This has facilitated a burgeoning waste trade and with it a smuggling sector, where illegal forms of waste such as unrecyclable plastics are shipped from western countries to countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia. Thousands of these containers lie abandoned once they reach the port.

Much of the waste is less dangerous than the ammonium nitrate that fuelled the Beirut explosion, but it can still have dreadful effects. Plastics, for example, can cause hazards if not properly disposed of. Much of it ends up in the ocean, fuelling the ocean plastic crisis.

In 2019, Sri Lankan authorities discovered more than 100 abandoned

containers in the port of Colombo. They contained clinical waste, potentially including human remains, and were leaking fluids. The risk that the containers had contaminated the ground and surface water in the two years they had lay in port unnoticed fuelled public health concerns. Sri Lanka has been able to investigate this problem - but it is likely that, in many cases, abandonment goes undiscovered.

Prevention

The abandonment of dangerous containers in ports is not a new problem. Since the 2000s there have been significant efforts to increase security levels in ports through surveillance, training and safety protocols. In light of the continuing abandonment problem, we know that these measures - and their implementation - are insufficient.

First, we have to start seeing the smuggling of waste and the abandoning of ships and containers as major offences. They should be seen as important parts of the blue crime and maritime security agenda. Appropriate legislation is needed to criminalise them. An international database for such crimes is required, as is transnational cooperation to address them.

Second, corruption in ports plays a key part in ensuring that abandonment goes unnoticed. It needs to be addressed with a concerted international effort.

Finally, increased efforts in building the capacity of ports to deal with hazardous waste, to detect smuggling and to deal with abandonment cases are needed. In particular, this will be necessary for ports which have limited resources and are common destinations for abandoned containers, such as ports in Asia and Africa.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Maritime Organization and the European Union already conduct port security capacity building work, in particular in Africa. More of this kind of work is needed.

Beirut has shown us the kind of impact a port disaster can have on a city and its inhabitants. Lessons must be learned to make sure a tragedy like this does not happen again.

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Coronavirus is pushing people into poverty - but temporary basic income can stop this

Tuvalu has a fully fledged temporary universal basic income, and Spain has brought forward a minimum income scheme for low-earning households in response to the pandemic.

But our proposed scheme would be much larger - and would aim to reach as many excluded people as possible within the next six to 12 months. There are at least three obstacles to this.

The first one is administrative. Reaching eligible people who are currently invisible to official records and payment systems will require some work - they will need to be digitally registered before they can receive any assistance. Some people are beyond the traditional reach of the state because they lack formal documentation or live in informal settlements, which are more common in developing countries.

In these cases, alternative solutions - such as partnering with local social networks that have greater proximity to poor and vulnerable people - may be needed to find everyone eligible. The cost of adding each new person is not insignificant, but pales in comparison to the direct and indirect benefits of providing those people with TBI.

The second obstacle is obvious: funding. Given the temporary nature of the challenge, funding TBI by additional taxation could be politically difficult. Other ways of covering the costs are instead worth exploring.

For example, funds could be raised by repurposing nonessential spending, including wasteful expenditures and energy subsidies (which usually tend to benefit the better off). Alternatively, debt repayments could be paused for a period. Developing countries are expected to make debt payments of US\$3.1 trillion this year. A comprehensive repayment freeze for 12 months, if possible, would fund 16 months of TBI under the top-up option, 12 months under option two and up to six months under option three. Also, as emergency cash transfers are often steered towards immediate essential consumption, part of the money will be recaptured by indirect taxation such as VAT and sales taxes, thus providing a degree of self-funding.

The third obstacle is trust. Governments will need to be trusted not to redirect whatever they raise towards other purposes, nor to allow temporary measures to last any longer than agreed. They will need broad (possibly cross-party) support to launch these schemes, and they will need to make sure that those that don't benefit from them still see the schemes as credible. These are all political challenges that need to be addressed on a country-by-country basis.

TBI schemes are not expected to reverse country-wide economic downturns, nor substitute for comprehensive social protection systems. They can, however, mitigate the worst immediate effects of a crisis that has been magnified by deep-rooted structural inequalities and injustices that haven't been decisively addressed in the past.

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