

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• *A good leader must hate the wrong thing more than they hate the pain of doing the right thing. -- Angela Jiang*

Interview - Dr Vinaye Ancharaz, International Economic Consultant

**“The toughest reforms have taken place at the peak of economic crises.**

The time is ripe for reform, and the government knows it well’

‘It is time for the government to demand the community responsible for the present-day ‘malaise creole’ to take bold measures to address it’

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## Selective Outrage



At a time when people in the US and across the world are taking to the streets to condemn the legacy of slavery as well as patent racism, it is anathema especially for a descendant of a 'colon' to basically stoke the hornets' nest of past grievances. Would it be OK for Germans to make jokes about the Holocaust?

By Mrinal Roy See Page 4

## Times of uncertainties and disruptions



As we are shortly to open our borders, we must be fully prepared to cope with a possible second surge - this is the lesson that the more advanced countries are giving to us, and it had better be taken seriously

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## Democratisation of the economy



52 years after Independence, it is high time to get rid of obstacles that hinder progress for the greater good of the country

By Nita Chicooree-Mercier See Page 18



## Proxy Battle

In the wake of the two street protests that were held ostensibly focused on the Wakashio shipwreck, which were led by Bruneau Laurette, a number of articles have been published in dailies and weeklies analyzing in detail the composition of the crowd in terms of the ethnic-religious groupings of Mauritius. In the English language magazine *The Weekly*, for example, there was a whole article discussing the whys and wherefores of the absence of Hindus in those manifestations. Hardly any mention was made, however, about the presence or absence of Muslims and Chinese.

Since these events have taken place at national level and concern all citizens of this country, the honest thing is to come clean by not burying our heads in the sand like the ostrich. Taking the cue, we must therefore ask the related questions. Were there any Muslims? Yes, there were some. Chinese? – yes, there were some too. But as is known to everyone by now, the bulk of the crowds was made up of Creoles, which was not unexpected because it was being led by one who appears to be positioning himself as their leader.

The surprise, however, was the presence of a relatively large number of the Franco-Mauritian community, which is not known to generally participate in such rallies. Traditionally, this community is known to represent the corporate world and what has been called Big Business in this country. What was their interest in backing this movement in such strength? Who else had any part in its planning and organisation? These questions arise because of the concluding remark made by one of the guests at the lunch held in a *chassée* where Pierre Noel told his joke, to wit that 'to bisin raconte sa dans manifestation le 29'. Interesting, isn't it?

Posts on social media in the period before and after these protests, and the speech made by Cardinal Piat at the Pere Laval evening, along with the reported address made by the Prime Minister in the meeting at Sun Trust, have given a communal twist to this whole episode.

To many analysts, taking this angle is looking more and more like a distraction from the burning issues that the country is facing, such as the ineptitude of the government in the handling of the Wakashio incident and its reluctance to answer questions related thereto, the prevailing nepotism and corruption, the failure to properly address the drug problem and so on. Harping on the communal angle may also be a political strategy to simi-

larly polarize the electorate by seeking sympathy from vote banks, though given the enormity of the *passe-droits* that are taking place one has to wonder how effective this could be.

However, we have to ask ourselves whether an issue of environmental damage that was so limited in extent and of impact yet to be fully evaluated was sufficient to obtain the massive support of the corporate and Big Business? After all, flagging environmental issues has been an ongoing affair for several years, and there have been other shipwrecks too, but they didn't cause such a stir.

We must not disregard the fact that it has been putting pressure on the government to open the borders so as to allow resumption of tourism activities, which means allowing the hotel sector to operate. And as we know government has advanced bailout packages to corporates and Big Business, but has been more slow – cautious? – in yielding to the demand for the opening up as well as setting down conditions to the bailout packages to Big Business, which have apparently met with resistance from the potential beneficiaries. Given this situation, the Wakashio incident must have come as a heaven sent opportunity to weaken the government's resolve and force its hands, and hence the significant backing of the corporate and Big Business world for the rallies.

Many countries the world over are facing this conflict opposing governments and Big Business. The first shots were perhaps fired by Theodore Roosevelt post the depression that hit the USA in 1929/30. Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher reversed the paradigm, but it has come to the fore again in the past couple of decades and has gained more traction following French economist Thomas Piketty's book which has exposed the growing and yawning inequalities between the haves and the have-nots, between the super rich, the rich and the poor, a phenomenon which has echoes in practically all countries, including ours.

What is happening is a battle being led by the corporate and Big Business world using the street protests as proxy, capitalising on the beneficial timing provided by an untoward incident that impacted the environment, an ever catchy theme to rally impressionable youth in particular. We must not be misled by the communal colouration being given to the movement, and be clear that it is an issue of *rapport de forces* between two sets – and each wants to predominate.

## The Conversation

### Oxford scientists: these are final steps we're taking to get our coronavirus vaccine approved

*The COVID-19 vaccine is in the final stages of testing - meaning we should know whether it's effective before the end of the year*



Photo - lymediseaseguide.net

Of the hundreds of potential Covid-19 vaccines in development, six are in the final stages of testing, known as phase 3 clinical trials. One of these - ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 - is the vaccine we're developing at the University of Oxford.

To be approved, vaccines need to go through multiple rounds of testing to show that they're safe and effective. A combined phase 1 and phase 2 trial of the Oxford vaccine has demonstrated that it is safe - with only short-term side-effects and no serious unexpected events reported - and that it elicits an immune response.

The purpose of a phase 3 trial is to assess whether this vaccine-induced immune response is strong enough to actually protect people from Covid-19. Proving this would pave the way for the vaccine to become publicly available.

#### How a phase 3 trial works

Usually a phase 3 trial has two groups, one receiving the vaccine being tested and the other a placebo or "control" injection, for example saline or a vac-

cine against a different disease.

To show that the vaccine is effective, there should be significantly fewer cases of the target disease in the vaccinated group compared with the control group. Depending on infection rates for the disease, a phase 3 vaccine trial may involve thousands to tens of thousands of volunteers.

For ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, clinical trial volunteers are located in countries across five continents: the UK, Brazil, South Africa, the US and India. The vaccine is being evaluated in these different regions and populations of the world to ensure that results of the trial are "generalisable" - that is, that its findings can be said to apply to people outside of the groups tested. In the UK we're testing the vaccine in health workers, as they're more likely to be exposed to infection than the general population. The trial there also includes volunteers from the public who are over 70.

Rebecca Ashfield & Pedro Folegatti  
University of Oxford

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## Mauritius Times

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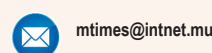
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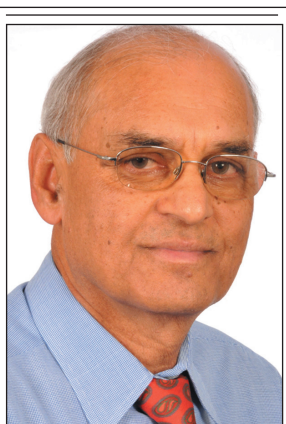
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# Times of uncertainties and disruptions



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

*As we are shortly to open our borders, we must be fully prepared to cope with a possible second surge - this is the lesson that the more advanced countries are giving to us, and it had better be taken seriously*

**S**hortly after the world went into pandemic mode courtesy the novel virus named - or nicknamed - Covid-19, we began to speak of the new normal, by which we meant that it could not be business as usual. In other words, there were going to be adjustments and adaptations to be made in our ways of doing things because this bug was not

having only a health impact in terms of the diseases that it was causing. In effect, the comprehensive response that was needed to cope with the spread of the virus, which comprised relatively simple public health measures, was in its turn affecting the social, economic and environmental aspects of our lives.

“When it comes to prevention by vaccine, some politicians seem to think that one could - or should - become available by decree! Historically, it has taken about ten years to come up with a reliable, effective and safe vaccine. Although the advances that have taken place in, among others, molecular biology have allowed scientists to speed up the identification of candidate vaccines - of which there are about 170 --, it is another story when it comes to actually developing the few among these that show promise during the trials...”

Initially we had thought that this was going to be a seamless slide into the new normal - until the strain started to be felt as we were warned that the pandemic was going to be a long-drawn affair. As weeks rolled into interminable months, we were beginning to see for ourselves that there that there were radical transformations taking place in every sphere of our lives that would have long term implications for the family, the proximate community, society at large in our respective countries, and globally. We are now experiencing these changes, and they are far from being as smooth as we had expected.

Much of the reason for this state of affairs stems from the uncertainties associated with the disease process itself - knowledge of both the virus and the disease patterns it was giving rise to was incomplete and evolving, and so too therefore controversies about the appropriate tests to be carried out and treatments to be dispensed. It was only studies carried out based on scientific principles that could resolve these matters and give clearer guidance to health professionals involved in treating Covid patients. Such studies take time, and there are no quick or 'final final' answers - in other words, nothing could be absolutely certain, since treatment approaches could alter as more findings and knowledge became available. And this is what has been happening.

Where uncertainties have, however, led to much disruption has got to do with the sanitary measures, because applying them touches the behaviour of individuals directly. And, as we have been seeing, the absence of rigorous compliance has led to hard decisions having to be taken by governments about lockdowns and border openings. As the effects of complete lockdowns began to be felt on the

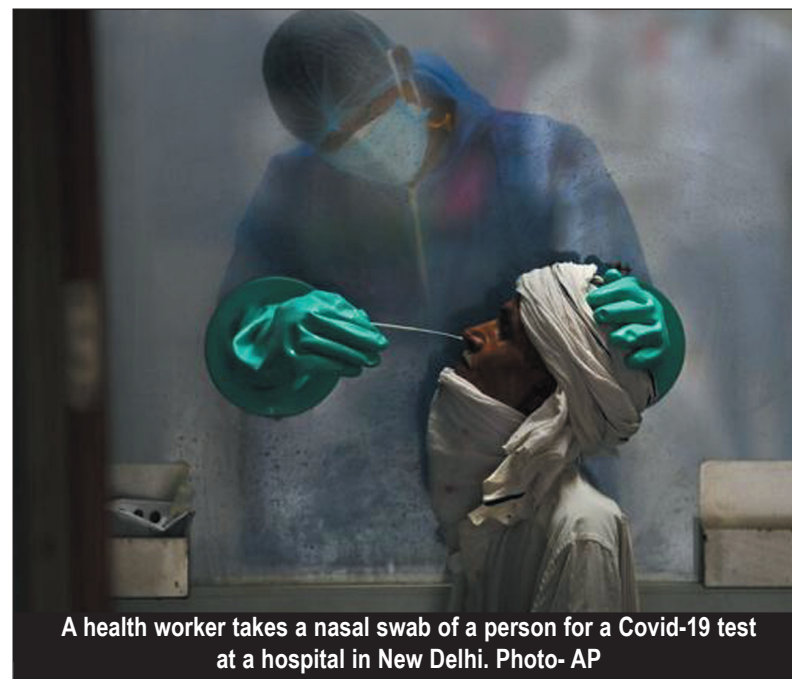
social life of communities - work, schooling, shopping, leisure activities - and on trade, business and the economy, there arose pressures from stakeholder groups for relaxation. The World Health Organisation gives advice and guidelines based on analysis of latest findings gathered from around the world, but it was for individual countries to implement them taking into account their specific contexts.

And so lockdowns have had to be lifted in phases. Soon enough, partial lockdowns made people feel they could take it a bit easier, so they started socializing in their usual locations - clubs, pubs, restaurants, entertainment venues, etc. - resulting in second surges, as has happened in countries that are of concern to us: Reunion, France, England, Australia. Also, in New Zealand, Spain and Portugal; second lockdowns have recently had to be reintroduced and stricter legal enforcement imposed with tougher fines in a bid to dissuade potential defaulters who refuse to comply with sanitary measures.

As we are shortly to open our borders as part of a phased lifting of the lockdown, we must be fully prepared to cope with a possible second surge - this is the lesson that the more advanced countries are giving to us, and it had better be taken seriously.

When it comes to prevention by vaccine, some politicians seem to think that one could - or should - become available by decree! Historically, it has taken about ten years to come up with a reliable, effective and safe vaccine. Although the advances that have taken place in, among others, molecular biology have allowed scientists to speed up the identification of candidate vaccines - of which there are about 170 --, it is another story when it comes to actually developing the few among these that show promise during the trials. Giving a definitive timeline for availability is therefore an impossibility, and we simply have to bide our patience and wait.

It is the very nature of science to investigate and present findings, and this has continued to be done in regard to everything related to this pandemic. It is inevitable that in light of new knowledge gained, previous advice or guidelines have to be modified, and may appear contradictory,



A health worker takes a nasal swab of a person for a Covid-19 test at a hospital in New Delhi. Photo- AP

which have therefore generated questionings. For example, which is the most effective mask to use? How much social distancing? - this being based on how far the virus 'stream' travels when one talks, coughs, sneezes, sings, etc. Is sanitiser or handwash with soap better? Which is the best test to perform, and the timing? Which is the best test to perform, and the timing? And so on and so forth.

Eventually, it has been realised that whatever we do there will be some uncertainty, and therefore risk, which we have to accept and act accordingly. That is why all scientists and public health experts keep insisting on the basics: SMS -- sanitise, mask up, social distance. And don't shake hands - touch elbows if you have to; best is to say Namaste. Currently, these are the only certain things that are more likely to keep us safe (until a vaccine is rolled out), and save society and the world from more earth-shaking disruptions, like the one happening to the global supply chain.

As the saying goes, the only things certain in life are death and taxes. Both are intrinsic to the current scene. There are hard times ahead.

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Mrinal Roy

# Selective Outrage

*At a time when people in the US and across the world are taking to the streets to condemn the legacy of slavery as well as patent racism, it is anathema especially for a descendant of a 'colon' to basically stoke the hornets' nest of past grievances. Would it be OK for Germans to make jokes about the Holocaust?*

The standard sanction across the developed world for making racist remarks is to be fired forthwith. There is no compromise on this fundamental principle of corporate good governance in the US, the UK and the most advanced countries. Are our norms of corporate governance, despite the loud rhetoric, still backward?

We also need to demolish the fundamentally flawed argument that it is fine to make uncouth and rabidly derogatory rants rooted in the retrograde mindset of a bygone era as long as it is behind private closed doors. This kind of moral relativism will only lead to the corruption of universal values.

We should aspire to a society with less racial prejudice, where interactions between Mauritians of all ethnic and religious backgrounds are rooted in authenticity and respect and not resign ourselves to a society which is corrupted by the cynical belief that people are inherently racist and where the best that can be achieved is a façade of civility in the public space.

Had the disparaging remarks been made against women, would they not have been considered as sexist? There cannot be selective outrage. We cannot consider such abject claptrap normal 52 years after independence. It is not a solid foundation to build a nation on. It exposes so many things which are fundamentally wrong in Mauritius.

At a time when people in the US and across the world are taking to the streets to condemn the legacy of slavery as well as patent racism, it is anathema especially for a descendant of a *colon* to basically stoke the hornets' nest of past grievances. In essence, would it be OK for Germans to make jokes about the Holocaust?

It is obvious that as a nation, we should get rid of prejudices including some deeply rooted diehard ones from colonial times. The criticisms and clamour of the multitude transcend the cobwebs of such narrow mindsets. It is not about



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black, white or brown. It is more about more fundamental issues and intrinsic flaws of our economic model which still plague and undermine the socio-economic performance of the country.

How can a section of the population which continues to enjoy all the benefits and trappings of owning sizeable land assets and controlling large sections of the economy stay so patently isolated in exclusive enclaves and mostly cut off from the rest of society?

Is it not high time for those who gargle about Mauritanism to walk the talk in real life? Is it not time for the process of recruitment at all levels of the corporate sector hierarchy (and the public sector) to be merit based, transparent and accountable especially as most of the largest corporations are listed companies?

Is it not high time for the full potential of the intellect, competence and range of professional skills of rainbow Mauritius to be synergized and harnessed to realize our loftiest ambitions as a nation?

Is it not also time in a context of growing inequality for the extremely wealthy in the country and the wealthy institutions to be more directly involved in addressing, as is the case for Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett or billionaire Anil Agarwal who pledges 75% of his wealth to charity, the core problems of the country such as the protection of the environment, the upliftment of poor people

through education and generally improving the quality of life of people and allaying the sufferings and precarity of the more vulnerable and the destitute?

Is it not also time to initiate fundamental reforms such as substantive land reform in the country to create a level playing field in terms of access to land and capital to enable economic actors to tap market opportunities and truly democratize the economic and entrepreneurial space?

The list is long. We need to urgently do all this and more.

More than ever before, it is essential in this climate of contestation and clamour for a far better socio-economic and political order to transcend petty mindsets and raise our voices for such game changing policies significantly more germane to the ethos of Mauritius.

**A**fter the Paradise Papers (April 2016) and the Panama Papers (November 2017), the world has once again been rocked by the FinCEN files. These comprise 2657 documents leaked in 2019 from the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), the United States Department of the Treasury's regulatory bureau set up to combat money laundering, terrorism financing and other economic and financial crimes. The FinCEN files which relate to the 2000 and 2017 period were investigated over the past 16 months by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) comprising 400 journalists from 88 countries.

The investigation revealed that despite being fined by US authorities for earlier failures to stem flows of illicit funds, five global banks — JPMorgan Chase, HSBC,

Standard Chartered Bank, Deutsche Bank and Bank of New York Mellon have allegedly moved trillions of dollars of dirty money for corrupt politicians and companies tied to the massive looting of public funds in countries such as Malaysia, Venezuela and Ukraine as well as criminals and drug kingpins that have caused tremendous suffering and wreaked havoc among the people in countries across the world.

## Seedy motley

According to the findings of the ICIJ, these major banks allowed fraudsters to move millions of dollars of stolen money around the world and allowed a company to move more than \$1 billion through a London

account without knowing who owned it. The bank later discovered the company might be owned by a mobster on the FBI's 10 most wanted list. The intelligence division of FinCEN considered the UK a 'higher risk jurisdiction' because more than any other country, over 3000 UK companies are named in the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) of the FinCEN files. Another bank is alleged to have moved money launderers' dirty money for organized crime, terrorists and drug traffickers.

At least 20% of the reports contained a client with an address in one of the world's top offshore financial havens.

The records also reveal financial

secrets of a motley collection of politicians and political figures on the run or facing trial for financial crimes. These include former Congolese Vice President Jean-Pierre Bemba and Angolan billionaire Isabel dos Santos. A network of drug traffickers benefiting from the easy movement of tainted money through these banks was allegedly able to peddle lab-designed opioids such as fentanyl, which is the deadliest narcotic in the world across the US.

The share value of the world's largest banks has thus plummeted this week in the wake of the revelations. Regulators and political leaders are up in arms and demanding urgent reforms and stricter rules to stem the flow of illicit funds across the world and clamp down on fraud, money laundering and terrorist financing.

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## Banks indicted again



# Covid-19 wipes out an estimated 500 million jobs worldwide

The damage to labour markets from the coronavirus is proving worse than anticipated, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), which also sees a much slower recovery at the end of this year.

The ILO said that global working hour losses so far this year have been "considerably larger" than previously estimated. In the second quarter, working hours were 17% lower compared with the end of 2019, equivalent to almost 500 million jobs. That's up from 400 million projected in June, reports Bloomberg.

Global working-hour losses are expected to amount to 8.6% in the fourth quarter, equivalent to 245 million full-time jobs

The organization also estimates that labour income losses around the world -- excluding the offset from government support programs -- amounted to \$3.5 trillion so far.



The increase in global infection rates means a greater economic impact.  
Photo - s.hdnux.com

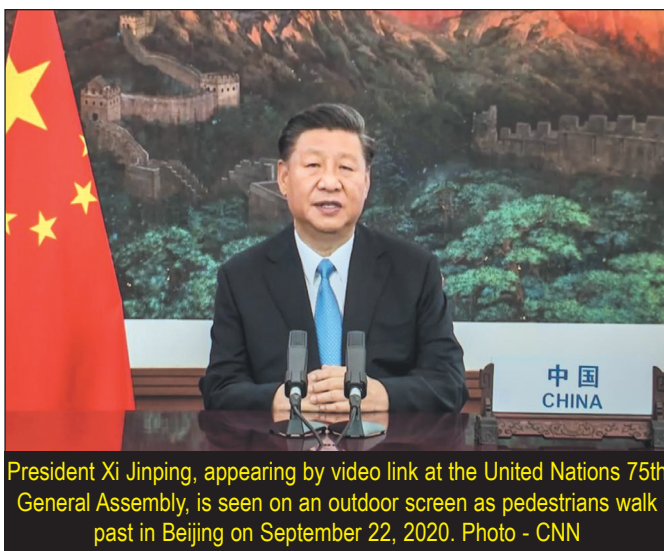
While the situation will improve in the second half, the outlook has also worsened considerably since June. The destruction in the fourth quarter will be equivalent to 245 million jobs in a baseline scenario, up from 140 million. Under a pessimistic outcome, the fallout could amount to the equivalent of more than 500 million.

The revisions partly reflect the increase in global infection rates, which means a greater economic impact in the second half than the ILO previously assumed. The Geneva-based organization also said there's been greater damage to jobs in developing economies, where there's less opportunity for home working, and on informal work.

Worryingly for the long term, the ILO said the decline in employment has led to an increase in inactivity. That could leave many people cut off from the labour market, slow the job recovery and increase inequality.

## Climate change: China aims for 'carbon neutrality by 2060'

China will aim to hit peak emissions before 2030 and for carbon neutrality by 2060, President Xi Jinping has announced.



President Xi Jinping, appearing by video link at the United Nations 75th General Assembly, is seen on an outdoor screen as pedestrians walk past in Beijing on September 22, 2020. Photo - CNN

Mr Xi outlined the steps when speaking via videolink to the UN General Assembly in New York. The announcement is being seen as a significant step in the fight against climate change.

With global climate negotiations stalled and this year's conference of the parties (COP26) postponed until 2021, there had been little expectation of progress on the issue at the UN General Assembly.

However China's president surprised the UN gathering by making a bold statement about his country's plans for tackling emissions, reports BBC. He called on all countries to achieve a green recovery for the world economy in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Until now China has said it would peak its emissions by 2030 at the latest, but it has avoided committing to a long-term goal.

Emissions from China continued to rise in 2018 and 2019 even as much of the

world began to shift away from fossil fuels.

While the Covid-19 crisis saw the country's emissions plunge by 25%, by June they had bounced back again as coal-fired plants, cement and other heavy industries went back to work.

Observers believe that in making this statement at this time, the Chinese leader is taking advantage of US reluctance to address the climate question.

"Xi Jinping's climate pledge at the UN, minutes after President Donald Trump's speech, is clearly a bold and well calculated move," said Li Shuo, an expert on Chinese climate policy from Greenpeace Asia.

"It demonstrates Xi's consistent interest in leveraging the climate agenda for geopolitical purposes."

Back in 2014 Mr Xi and then US-President Barack Obama came to a surprise agreement on climate change, which became a key building block of the Paris agreement signed in December 2015.

Mr Xi has again delivered a surprise according to Li Shuo.

"By playing the climate card a little differently, Xi has not only injected much needed momentum to global climate politics, but presented an intriguing geopolitical question in front of the world: on a global common issue, China has moved ahead regardless of the US. Will Washington follow?"

## Thailand to start legal action vs Facebook, Google, Twitter over content

Thailand's digital ministry said on Wednesday it would start legal action against Facebook, Twitter and Google this week for ignoring some requests to take down content, in what would be the country's first such cases against major internet firms.

The ministry would file complaints with cybercrime police on Thursday after the US companies missed deadlines to comply fully with court-issued takedown orders, digital minister Puttipong Punnakanta said.

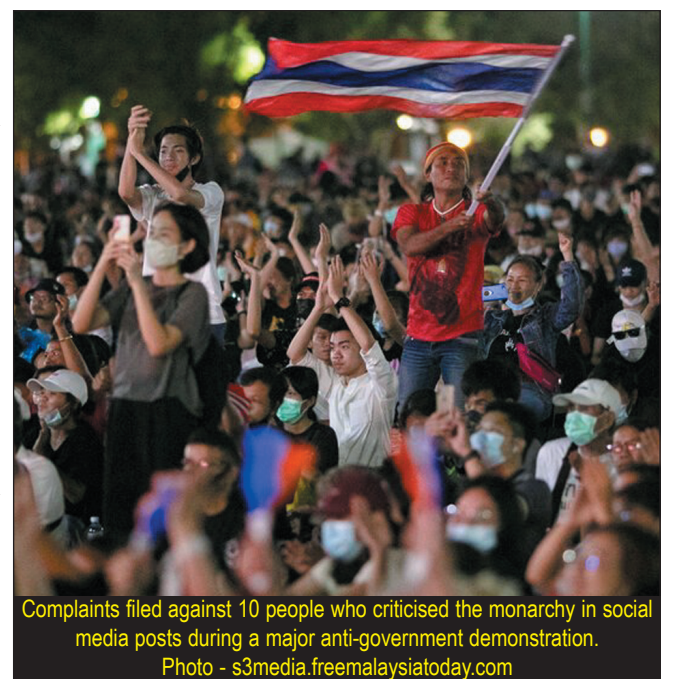
"We've notified the companies and sent them warnings twice, but they haven't complied with all the requests," Puttipong told Reuters. He did not disclose details about the content or what laws it had violated.

Representatives of the three companies were not immediately available for comment.

The ministry will also file separate complaints against 10 people who it said criticised the monarchy in social media posts during a major anti-government demonstration at the weekend, he said.

Thailand has a tough lese majeste law that prohibits insulting the monarchy. The Computer Crime Act, which outlaws the uploading of information that is false or affects national security, has also been used to prosecute online criticism of the royal family.

In recent years, authorities have filed court orders with requests to social media platforms to restrict or remove perceived



Complaints filed against 10 people who criticised the monarchy in social media posts during a major anti-government demonstration.  
Photo - s3media.freemalaysiatoday.com

royal insults and illegal content like gambling or copyright violations.

Under the Act, ignoring a court order can result in a fine of up to 200,000 baht (\$6,347), then 5,000 baht (\$159) per day until the order is observed.

The ministry on August 27 asked Facebook to block 661 posts but it took down less than a third of those, Puttipong said.

Twitter and YouTube, owned by Alphabet, received requests that same day to restrict scores of posts, but have not acted on all of them, he said.

Facebook last month blocked access within Thailand to a group with a million members that discussed the monarchy, saying it was compelled to after Puttipong threatened legal action against its local office.

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Tensions have been rising in the Himalayas since a bloody clash between Indian and Chinese troops in June.  
Photo - dailytimes.com.pk

## India and China agree to stop sending troops to disputed Himalayan border

China and India on Monday agreed to stop sending more troops to their disputed border in the Himalayas, following an escalation in tensions between the two nuclear powers.

Indian and Chinese senior military commanders met on Monday to discuss stabilizing tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the loosely defined demarcation line that separates the two countries, reports CNN.

In a joint statement, both sides agreed to strengthen communication on the ground to avoid misunderstandings or action "that may complicate the situation."

They also agreed to not take any unilateral action that would change the situation on the ground, according to the statement.

Another round of high-level military meetings will be held "as soon as possible," the statement said.

Tensions have been rising in the Himalayas since a bloody clash between Indian and Chinese troops in June and efforts to deescalate in the wake of the violence appeared to be faltering.

Meetings were immediately set up between top Chinese and Indian military officials, and both sides called for calm, but in early September both New Delhi and Beijing accused each other of illegally crossing into their territories, leading to a renewed bout of saber-rattling on both sides.

A week later, China and India accused each other's troops of firing warning shots across the Sino-Indian border, reportedly the first such case in more than four decades. Both sides blamed the other for violating bilateral agreements and taking "provocative" actions.

India and China share a 2,100 mile-long border in the Himalayas, but both sides claim territory either side of it.

The most recent dispute was around Pangong Tso, a strategically located lake some 14,000 feet above sea level that spans an area stretching from the Indian territory of Ladakh to Chinese-controlled Tibet, in the greater Kashmir region, where India, China and Pakistan all claim territory.

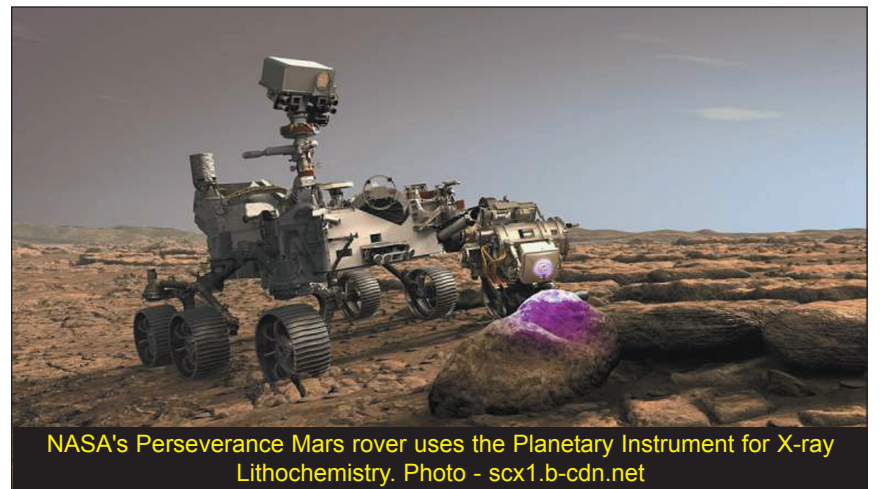
The Line of Actual Control, which marks the de facto border and passes through the lake, was established in the wake of the 1962 Sino-Indian war. Though it shows up on maps, India and China do not agree on its precise location and both regularly accuse the other of overstepping it, or seeking to expand their territory.

## NASA's new Mars rover will use X-Rays to hunt fossils

NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover has a challenging road ahead: after having to make it through the harrowing entry, descent, and landing phase of the mission on February 18, 2021, it will begin searching for traces of microscopic life from billions of years back. That's why it's packing PIXL, a precision X-ray device powered by artificial intelligence (AI).

Short for Planetary Instrument for X-ray Lithochemistry, PIXL is a lunch-box-size instrument located on the end of Perseverance's 7-foot-long (2-meter-long) robotic arm. The rover's most important samples will be collected by a coring drill on the end of the arm, then stashed in metal tubes that Perseverance will deposit on the surface for return to Earth by a future mission.

Rock textures will be an essential clue when deciding which samples are worth returning to Earth. On our planet, distinctively warped rocks called stromatolites were made from



NASA's Perseverance Mars rover uses the Planetary Instrument for X-ray Lithochemistry. Photo - scx1.b-cdn.net

ancient layers of bacteria, and they are just one example of fossilized ancient life that scientists will be looking for.

A key objective for Perseverance's mission on Mars is astrobiology, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life. The rover will also characterize the planet's climate and geology, pave the way for human

exploration of the Red Planet, and be the first planetary mission to collect and cache Martian rock and regolith (broken rock and dust). Subsequent missions, currently under consideration by NASA in cooperation with the European Space Agency, would send spacecraft to Mars to collect these cached samples from the surface and return them to Earth for in-depth analysis.

## "Jesus of Siberia," cult leader claiming to be reincarnation of Christ arrested



"Vissarion the Teacher," or "Jesus of Siberia," Russian ex-traffic cop Sergei Torop meets followers in the remote village of Petropavlovka, in Russia's Siberia region. Photo - Getty

Russia on Tuesday arrested a Siberian cult leader who claims to be the reincarnation of Jesus, along with his top aides, in an operation involving armed troops and aircraft. The Investigative Committee, which probes serious crimes, said it had detained Sergei Torop known to his followers as Vissarion the Teacher, or the Jesus of Siberia, and two of his aides, reports AFP.

The operation in a remote settlement in Siberia's Krasnoyarsk region included members of the FSB security service and other law enforcement agencies.

Torop, a former traffic police officer, has said he experienced an "awakening" when he lost his job in 1989 as the atheist Communist regime was fast unravelling. In 1991, he founded what is now the Church of the Last Testament. Several thousand members of Vissarion's cult live in remote hamlets in Siberia.

Investigators said the self-proclaimed messiah and his aides solicited funds from

disciples and emotionally abused them.

The Investigative Committee said it was planning to charge the cult leaders with organizing an illegal religious organization and causing "two or more people severe harm."

Asked by AFP how he knew he was the son of God, Vissarion said in 2009: "I felt something violently surging up from within me that had been held down until then."

His followers adhere to a jumble of creeds that draw from Russian Orthodox rites and environmentally friendly values.

Converts included musicians, doctors, teachers, Red Army colonels, an ex-minister of Belarus and pilgrims from Cuba, Bulgaria, Belgium, Australia and Germany.

In the 1990s, some of Vissarion's devotees died either by suicide or as a result of harsh living conditions and lack of medical care.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

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## Dr Vinaye Ancharaz, International Economic Consultant



**D**r Vinaye Ancharaz, International Economic Consultant, shares his views on the current economic situation in view of the forthcoming opening of borders. He feels that government should revisit the provisions for quarantine for tourists so as to incentivise them to come as well as to make them feel that the country is a safe destination. He also makes some sharp observations on the misgovernance that is happening and some suggestions about the way forward to address the problems of the economy and poverty, including land distribution and social housing.

**Mauritius Times:** There has been tremendous pressure from Business on the government for the re-opening of our borders, and the second phase before the last and final one will begin next week. Does it mean that this measure will reignite the country's already ailing economy?

**Vinaye Ancharaz:** Every country in the world is facing a difficult choice. Closing off borders certainly helps in getting a handle on the pandemic. But it deals a severe blow to the economy. Either way, there will be hardships.

The longer we keep our borders closed, the more will the travel and tourism industry suffer. This sector contributes almost 10% to GDP and accounts for 6% of direct employment. If we add the number of people employed in tourism-related activities, the total employment figure may double. Tourism generated some Rs 63 billion in foreign exchange earnings in 2019, representing 35% of goods and services exports.

These figures suggest that the economic impacts of sealing off the borders will be drastic. Yet they do not reflect a range of spillover effects arising from the linkages of the tourism industry with the domestic economy. For example,

local farmers supplying vegetables to hotels, hotel-based tour and taxi operators, leisure and entertainment service providers, etc.

While keeping borders closed will surely hurt the economy, it is debatable whether opening up will reignite it. This is because of the conditions under which the borders will be allowed to open. Imposing mandatory quarantine at a cost of Rs50,000 is one condition that is likely to keep the tourists away from our shores. Data suggests that each tourist spends on average 9 days on the island. Requiring them to spend 14 days in a designated quarantine centre imposes extra costs in terms of time and money that most tourists cannot afford to bear.

While it is important to protect public health and control the spread of Coronavirus, doing so through such draconian measures is totally counterproductive. Government should review this condition. I believe more reliable and more frequent testing, self-quarantine for returning residents, and combining quarantine for tourists with leisure and entertainment to create a sense of normal holiday can do much to help.

quarter of 2020, the country recorded a balance-of-payments deficit of nearly Rs6 billion (compared to a surplus of over Rs7 billion for the corresponding period in 2019). At this rate, reserves will be depleted rapidly, and if the government continues to plough into the Bank of Mauritius coffers, very soon the country will be confronted with a situation where it will neither be able to pay for its imports nor defend the rupee against external pressures. Already, the depreciation of the rupee is fueling a dose of imported inflation. This will get worse.

“The Creole ancestors, the slaves, also worked hard, but they received no pay, and although they were free when the 'morcellements' took place, they had no money to buy land. The compensation meant to be paid to the freed slaves was shamelessly pocketed by the colonists. This lack of land titles has only been perpetuated through the years even if some have managed to acquire a plot through social mobility...”

**‘The toughest reforms have taken place at the peak of economic crises. The time is ripe for reform, and the government knows it well’**

These measures will need to be well advertised to convey to potential visitors that they are welcome to Mauritius if they could keep safe.

\* Dr Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist of the WHO says that there is a real risk of a second wave as economies reopen, and there would be a need to live with and manage this virus for the next couple of years until an effective vaccine emerges. How long the pain for Mauritius and our export markets will last remains an open question, but do we know how long our economy can absorb the Covid-19 shock?

The economic situation in Mauritius was already weak before Covid-19 struck. Growth had slumped and most economic sectors seemed to have run out of steam. The government's mismanagement of the economy, with a skyrocketing public debt, a weakening rupee, rising labour costs and declining competitiveness did not augur well for the country's future. The pandemic has only made matters incrementally worse.

If the pandemic continues without an effective vaccine, Mauritius will start to see a severe foreign exchange shortage in about six months' time. This is largely because the pandemic has caused a drastic slowdown in our exports, particularly of services, while imports continue to increase unchecked. In February 2020, Mauritius had about 16 months of import cover in foreign reserves. In the first

\* Besides the cost to the Mauritian economy of the lockdown and closure of borders, further public spending to prevent a deep depression will probably far exceed the current government assistance to employees and Business. How will Mauritius finance all of that?

Governments around the world are injecting massive amounts of spending to prop up their economies and sustain livelihoods during the pandemic. Germany's stimulus package in response to Covid-19 amounts to a whopping 33% of GDP. Closer to Mauritius, South Africa is spending close to 9% of its GDP to support its economy. The Mauritius government has announced a series of fiscal and monetary measures, a key component of which is the Wage Assistance Scheme that has absorbed some Rs25 billion so far. Smaller amounts have been proposed to support public health and SMEs. Altogether, the stimulus package amounts to an estimated 6.7% of GDP. That's tiny compared to what other countries are doing.

As the economic crisis deepens, and the pandemic lingers on with no vaccine in sight, the government will have to inject more cash to support those currently out of job. I've said it before, and I maintain: The Wage Assistance Scheme is underfunded. Doling out Rs5,100 to a head of household at a time of soaring inflation brings little relief. But the government is incapable of doing more. Reckless spending over the past five years has seriously constrained the fiscal space, forcing the government to dig into the central bank's reserves to maintain a historic balanced budget for the current fiscal year.

The government also announced an increase in the Solidarity Levy for high-income earners and a levy on corporates. These measures will bring in some extra revenue but that won't be enough to maintain the fiscal stimulus to business and income support to employees left jobless by business closures.

“As the world's factory downsizes, opportunities will emerge for many countries across the world. India, for example, stands ready to fill the gap left by China, but so are some African countries, such as Ethiopia, which has been described as Africa's next workshop. Can Mauritius benefit too? I doubt it. Mauritius is a high-cost, low-productivity country that cannot compete in many of the products in which China is known to have a comparative advantage...”



# 'It is time for the government to demand the community responsible for the present-day 'malaise creole' to take bold measures to address it'

☞ Cont. from page 7

At some point, therefore, the government will be forced to borrow more - and find a convenient scapegoat in Covid-19 - since further tax increases will be unpalatable in a politically-charged situation.



“We haven't forgotten the scandal around the emergency procurement of medical supplies and equipment during the confinement. The public knows that political cronies benefited most from those purchases. Similarly, we still remember how some companies mysteriously vanished after gobbling up millions in stimulus funds during the 2008 financial crisis. The same will inevitably happen again: the writing is on the wall...”

**\* Are the fears of the worse-to-come scenario in terms of job losses and business failures therefore well-founded?**

As the pandemic continues, and finances run low, the wage assistance scheme may become unsustainable. If the government can no longer support employees, companies will be forced to downsize or wind up, leading to a sharp increase in unemployment in the most affected sectors, namely, travel and tourism, and related services, such as restaurants. So, fears of a worse-case scenario are well-founded, but, at this stage, we are hopeful that a vaccine will become available soon.

**\* There is continuing opacity regarding government's assistance to Business. The conditions under which this assistance will be provided, the conditions attached and the beneficiaries remain unknown and shielded from parliamentary scrutiny for the duration of the adjournment of Parliament. How do you react to that state of affairs?**

Adjournment, yes, but even when the Parliament is in session and questions are asked, the government remains evasive in its answers. We haven't forgotten the scandal around the emergency procurement of medical supplies and equipment during the confinement. The public knows that political cronies benefited most from those purchases. Similarly, we still remember how some companies mysteriously vanished after gobbling up millions in stimulus funds during the 2008 financial crisis. The same will inevitably happen again: the writing is on the wall. We have a government which cannot care less about accountability, and the 'chamchas' have lined up with their begging bowls.

A responsible government would publish, and update on a regular basis, a list of all beneficiaries of stimulus funds, including the amount and type of assistance received, and the commitment made by the beneficiary. But we know that this is too much to ask of this government.

**\* In light of the severe economic consequences of closed and restricted borders on the one hand, and the view expressed by medical experts and researchers that the coronavirus won't go away soon and an effective vaccine won't be forthcoming until perhaps mid-2021 on the other hand, shouldn't this uncertainty call for a rethink of the foundations on which our economy rests with a view to increasing national resilience?**

The pandemic has indeed underscored the need for building economic resilience. A resilient economy is one that is diversified in the range of goods and services it produces and the markets it sells to. The Mauritian economy has, for long, rested on sugar, manufacturing, financial services and tourism as the main income-generating sectors. Diversification into other sectors, such as ICT or the blue economy, has been slow. As a small economy, Mauritius is forced to look to international markets to sustain economic progress. Such openness exposes the country to external shocks.

Several paths are available to Mauritius to boost its economic resilience. First, I think it is time that we look at the potential of the local market. For example, hotels with vacant rooms are now trying to woo the Mauritian public through all sorts of deals. Yet, in normal times, they tend to focus almost exclusively on foreign visitors. Why can't hotels serve both markets concurrently? This will allow them to reduce their dependence on foreign markets. Second, as the pandemic disrupted supply chains, Mauritians have woken up to the critical need for greater self-sufficiency in food. I believe that agriculture's potential in

Mauritius is yet to be fully exploited, especially as sugar cane cultivation is not seen as profitable anymore. Mauritius is a net food importer, with food imports amounting to Rs 36 billion, representing 18% of the country's total import bill in 2019. Clearly, this can change with the right government incentives and cooperation with the private sector.

**\* The importance and weight of our tourism industry in Mauritius' GDP has grown over the years, but given its vulnerability to climate change and rising sea levels as well as to pandemics like the Covid-19, do you think it would also be necessary to scale down its importance in our economy?**

I won't say that we need to scale down the importance of tourism in the economy. Instead, as I said earlier, we need to diversify the country's industrial base so that we depend less on tourism, or any other sector for that matter. Tourism will remain an important pillar of the economy for years to come. However, given that the sector is vulnerable to the effects of climate change and is highly income-sensitive, we should rethink our tourism strategy to consider tourist attractions other than beaches and high-end, rather than mass, tourism, which is less sensitive to economic shocks.

“It is time that we look at the potential of the local market. For example, hotels with vacant rooms are now trying to woo the Mauritian public through all sorts of deals. Yet, in normal times, they tend to focus almost exclusively on foreign visitors. Why can't hotels serve both markets concurrently? This will allow them to reduce their dependence on foreign markets...”

the bitter pill will be easier to swallow when the economy is seriously ill. Whether the government has succeeded in these endeavors, time will tell...

The Covid-19 pandemic has also brought to light some old issues that refuse to go away. We remember, for example, how squatters were forced out of their humble shelters as the latter came under the bulldozer, and how entire families were left to the mercy of the elements during a cold winter. While this problem, and the larger problem of poverty and homelessness, is unrelated to the pandemic, the economic crisis that it triggered has brought the problem into sharper focus.

Unfortunately, whenever the problem of social housing comes into the public domain, emotions run high. There is a belief that this problem is a Creole problem, and perhaps rightly so. But it is important that we understand its origins. Economic research shows that historical events have persistence effects on the human condition decades or centuries later.

In Mauritius, when the French colonists landed, they just claimed the land as theirs, and this passed on from generation to generation, with the result that a large share of land today is owned by a tiny Franco-



**\* It's being said the current pandemic provides us with a once in a 100-year chance to shake up the system, revisit the economic structures and policies and drive the economic democratisation agenda. Do you think that's feasible in the current circumstances?**

Research shows that the toughest reforms have taken place at the peak of economic crises. So, the time is ripe for reform, and the government knows it well. The proposed change in the pension system with the substitution of the NPF by the new Contribution sociale généralisée (CSG), tax rates of up to 40% on high-income earners, postponement of PRB, etc. are all examples of drastic measures taken by the government in the hope that

Mauritian community. Members of the Asian community also own smaller plots of land. These were bought by their ancestors during the 'morcellements' of the late 19th and early 20th centuries using their hard-earned savings.

The Creole ancestors, the slaves, also worked hard, but they received no pay, and although they were free when the 'morcellements' took place, they had no money to buy land. The compensation meant to be paid to the freed slaves was shamelessly pocketed by the colonists. This lack of land titles has only been perpetuated through the years even if some have managed to acquire a plot through social mobility.

☞ Cont. on page 9



# 'Further tax increases will be unpalatable in a politically-charged situation'

Cont. from page 8

How do we correct this historical injustice? You call it economic democratization, that is, a fairer distribution of assets and resources among the population. We have fiddled with this idea in the past. It is time for the government to demand the community responsible for the present-day 'malaise creole' to take bold measures to address it.

**\* The pandemic has revealed the critical importance to the country of, amongst other things a sound and efficient public health/healthcare system, less waste in government expenditures as detailed out in Audit Reports year after year to help us weather economic storms when they happen - all of which have to be steered by a public interest-driven political leadership and an efficient civil service. Why are we unable to do that?**

Successive governments have grappled with the sheer waste of resources that is highlighted by the Audit reports every year. Last year, some Rs700 million went down the drain because of mismanagement in the public sector. Yet nothing has been done to date to address such waste. The reason is a lack of willpower, perhaps more so by the

current government, which, on the contrary, is perpetuating wasteful and dubious practices- be it through opaque emergency procurement, or nomination of political cronies in positions of responsibility, or rewarding them with public funds.

The solution is surprisingly simple. The government needs to set up an institution that would work closely with all government departments to monitor their expenditure, demand explanations for wasteful spending or budget overruns, and punish those that

“The economic situation in Mauritius was already weak before Covid-19 struck. Growth had slumped and most economic sectors seemed to have run out of steam. The government's mismanagement of the economy, with a skyrocketing public debt, a weakening rupee, rising labour costs and declining competitiveness did not augur well for the country's future. The pandemic has only made matters incrementally worse...”

incur the biggest waste of resources. But I would be surprised if this happened under the current regime.

**\* BBC reported recently that China is going to face an 'unprecedented global**



the post-Covid world?

China has dominated world production over the past two decades thanks to its large pool of cheap and adaptable labour. However, the pandemic has triggered an unprecedented backlash against China because of the country's handling of the virus in its early days. Anti-China sentiments were already high in some countries, notably in the US, where President Trump's daring decision to impose tariffs on Chinese products has degenerated into an open trade war. The pandemic has exacerbated these sentiments as many countries and people have lost trust in China. This will lead to less foreign investment flows into China and reduced demand for Chinese products.

As the world's factory downsizes, opportunities will emerge for many countries across the world. India, for example, stands ready to fill the gap left by China, but so are some African countries, such as Ethiopia, which has been described as Africa's next workshop. Can Mauritius benefit too? I doubt it. Mauritius is a high-cost, low-productivity country that cannot compete in many of the products in which China is known to have a comparative advantage. In the clothing sector, some Mauritian firms have thrived on the basis of foreign labour. But these firms bring very little value to the domestic economy, although their contribution to foreign exchange earnings could be significant.

“Gold” said famed investor Warren Buffett in 1998, “gets dug out of the ground in Africa or someplace, then we melt it down, dig another hole, bury it again and pay people to stand around guarding it. It has no utility. Anyone watching from Mars would be scratching their head.”

Yet for all that, we remain in love with gold – especially in times of uncertainty. With the Covid-19 crisis, interest in gold has soared, driving its price to historic highs (eclipsing its past record set back in August 2011).

Even Buffett seems to have softened his longstanding antipathy, with his company Berkshire Hathaway acquiring a US\$565 million stake in the world's second-largest gold miner, Canada's Barrick Gold Corporation.

Owning shares in a gold-mining company, though, is not the same thing as owning actual gold. Since gold shares are linked both to gold prices and to the broader share market, they tend to move with the market when it falls sharply. That deprives gold shares of a key feature of gold bullion – its safe haven property.



Shopping for gold jewellery in Mumbai. India is normally the world's biggest market for gold jewellery, but domestic demand fell 74% in the second quarter of 2020, according to the World Gold Council. EPA/Divyakant Solanki

## What is a safe haven?

A safe haven is an asset that holds its value in extreme, unexpected events.

It is different from a “safe asset” that provides a guaranteed return, such as government bonds. In buying such a bond you effectively lend money to the government in return for a promise it will repay that money (with interest) in the future.

Safe assets, in other words, are “fixed income” assets, and their prices are relatively stable.

The price of a safe haven asset, on the other hand, will fluctuate, rising in periods of heightened uncertainty, when other investments suffer extreme losses, but may also fall when the uncertainty reverts to more normal

# In gold we trust: why bullion is still a safe haven in times of crisis

*In times of trouble people still turn to gold. What makes it a safe haven?*

*Largely perceptions, based on its historical mystique*

levels.

We can see this in the price of gold over the past two decades, both in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis beginning in 2008 and now with the Covid-19 crisis.

The only deviation from gold's traditional role as a safe haven asset was a price fall over March, as global stock markets crashed. This deviation underlines the uncertainty that gripped investors that month, with some gold owners presumably selling bullion to cover losses or to increase cash holdings.

## Why is gold a safe haven?

The simple answer is that it has worked in the past. Based on past experience in a crisis, people believe in the safe haven feature of gold and it works because they believe in it.

Gold has been used since ancient times as a store of value. Helping it achieve this status is its aesthetic appeal, malleability (with a relatively low melting point making it easy to produce coins or

jewellery), virtual indestructibility (almost all the gold that has ever been found or mined is still around) and, most importantly, rarity. Though hundreds of thousands have dug and panned for it over history, the amount of gold mined has never been enough to devalue it.

Because of these features, gold became the basis for money and played a formal monetary role during the gold standard, which required nations to hold gold reserves as a backing of their currency.

Central banks still hold huge gold reserves. Of 197,576 tonnes of gold mined throughout history, the World Gold Council says 17.2% is held (as bullion or coins) by governments and central banks, 21.6% by private investors, about 47% as jewellery, and 14.2% has gone to other uses (such as in electronics).

So while gold, silver, palladium and platinum are all “precious metals” the latter three are not commonly accepted safe havens

because they played a different monetary and investment role in the past.

## 'Nobody understands gold prices'

Gold may also be a safe haven because it is simple and well-known, the first thing that comes to mind when investors are faced with extreme uncertainty.

This apparent simplicity, paradoxically, does not mean easy-to-understand gold prices.

Some factors influencing its price are tangible, such as physical supply and demand.

But many factors influencing gold's price are less tangible, such as changing perceptions, preferences and market sentiment.

As then US Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke said in 2013: “‘Nobody understands gold prices, and I do not pretend to understand it either.’”

**Dirk Baur & Allan Trench**  
University of Western Australia



# Alcohol and your brain: study finds even moderate drinking is damaging

*Drinking at "safe" levels was shown to reduce the amount of a person's total brain tissue*



**I**t's a well-known fact that drinking too much alcohol can have a serious impact on your health, including damaging your liver. But how much is too much? For conditions such as liver cirrhosis, that's usually more than 21 units of alcohol a week - around two bottles of wine a week or one and a half pints of beer a day. The UK's Chief Medical Officer recommends that adults don't drink more than 14 units of alcohol a week to keep the risk of health problems low.

However, the liver isn't the only organ that can be damaged by drinking - the brain can be damaged, too. Drinking over the current UK low-risk guidelines is associated with an increased risk of dementia. And a recent study, published in Scientific Reports, found that even moderate drinking is associated with decreased brain volume.

The researchers in this latest study

looked at 300 people between the ages of 39 and 45 to understand the effects of drinking on the brain. Most people in the study reported that they drank at what was considered moderate or low-risk levels (an average of less than 14 units of alcohol a week). Even at this level, there was a reduction in the amount of total brain tissue seen on brain scans. This held true for men and women when other risk factors, such as smoking, were considered. Their brains were compared against a reference model of average brain volume.

Although the study didn't look at the physiological impact of brain tissue loss, any significant loss of brain tissue will reduce the brain's ability to function at an optimal level. Though the adult brain shrinks slowly with age, the earlier the loss starts, brain shrinkage is likely to be accelerated by other medical conditions,

such as high blood pressure and diabetes, that may arise in late middle age and later life. This is important, as we now know that some of the early signs of brain damage from alcohol can be partially reversed after abstinence. Which has been seen as early as six weeks after total abstinence - more in the frontal lobes of the brain, which play an important role in regulating behaviour and our thinking.

These findings are similar to those of an earlier study which found that drinking between seven and 14 units of alcohol a week was associated with a smaller brain size. This level of drinking was also associated with poorer performance on skills that involved recalling memorised words on demand.

## Frontal lobe damage

When we study the effects of alcohol on the brain, we naturally focus on dementia. This inevitably means looking for memory changes. After all, a diagnosis of dementia relies on memory loss. But we now know that the brain's frontal lobes are actually damaged by alcohol at an earlier stage than those parts of the brain associated with memory. The frontal lobes control our personality, behaviour and ability to think flexibly. These skills are not assessed by tests commonly used to diagnose dementia.

But drinking in a way that the general population believe to be sensible and moderate might be slowly damaging our brains. Given this, we need to be better at detecting damage at an earlier stage. Luckily, a eight item test can now detect cognitive impairment early on, and is used routinely by specialists in mental health services to detect brain damage from alcohol in its early stages. Other tests of

frontal lobe function can also be performed in hospitals or general practices.

## Older drinkers

The discovery that alcohol has the potential to damage our brains at levels at which we might find surprising and in ways that are not usually detected, has major implications for our society. For example, baby boomers (people now aged between 55 and 74) have shown the sharpest rise in harm from alcohol compared with other generations and previous generations of the same age. They are also at higher risk of dementia than younger age groups.

If we are to tackle the problem, we need to change both attitudes to drinking and in how we deliver healthcare. Changing drinking behaviour in older people needs to be accompanied by picking up the early signs of brain damage for all those who drink alcohol.

Progress has been made in asking older people about their alcohol use within both public health and mental health policy. But this not yet happened for the detection of brain damage in people who drink alcohol. Giving equal importance to both our brain and our liver can help us stay in better health. As a society, we have the potential to take care of both these vital organs.

Cutting down the amount we drink or giving it up altogether can reduce our risk of brain damage. But this can only happen if we also maintain a lifestyle that includes a healthy diet and exercise.

**Tony Rao,**

Visiting Lecturer in Old Age Psychiatry,  
King's College London

## In A Light Vein

**P**addy was walking down the street when he saw his buddy Mick driving a brandnew Mercedes. Mick pulled up to him with a wide grin.

"Mick, where did you get that car?"

"Sue gave it to me," Mick replied.

"She gave it to you? I knew she was kind a sweet on ya lad, but a new Merc?"

"Well, Paddy, let me tell you what happened... We were driving out on a country road at 6 in the morning, in the middle of nowhere, Sue pulled off and headed into the woods. She parked the car, got put, threw off all her clothes and said, 'Mick, take whatever you want!' So I took the car!"

"You're a smart man!" says Paddy, "Them clothes would never have fitted you."

\*\*\*

Paddy and Mick find three grenades, so they decide to take them to a police station.

Mick: "What if one explodes before we get there?"

Paddy: "We'll lie and say we only found two."

\*\*\*

Paddy and his two friends are talking in a bar.

His first friend says, "I think my wife is having an affair with an electrician, the other day I came home and found wire cutters under our bed, and they weren't mine."

His second friend says, "I think my wife is having an affair with a plumber, the other day I found a wrench under the bed, and it wasn't mine."

Paddy says, "I think my wife is having

an affair with a horse."

Both his friends looked at him with utter disbelief.

"No, I'm serious, the other day I came home and I found a jockey under our bed."

\*\*\*

"Mr Murphy, I have reviewed this case very carefully," the divorce court judge said. "And I have decided to give your wife 775 pounds a week".

"That's very fair, your honour," the husband said, "And every now and then I will try to send her a few quid myself."

\*\*\*

Paddy's wife catches him in bed with a female midget!

Furious she screams: "You promised me you wouldn't cheat again!"

Paddy says: "Can't you see I've cut down?"

\*\*\*

Paddy stumbles across a mass baptism at a river. He walks into the river and stands next to the preacher.

"Are you ready to find Jesus, my son?"

Paddy says: "I am, sir."

Preacher puts him under the water, then says: "Have you found Jesus?"

"No sir"

He then puts him under the water again for longer, and again says: "Have you found Jesus?"

"No sir."

He puts him under for two minutes...

"Have you found Jesus?"

Paddy says, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"



Banks indicted again

Cont. from page 4

Suspicious activity reports are used by banks to report suspicious movement of funds to the regulatory institutions. These documents are some of the international banking system's most guarded and confidential information. A bank must file one of these reports if it is worried the transactions of one of its clients might be suspect. The report is sent to the authorities to flag suspicious behaviour but it is not proof of wrongdoing or crime



The FinCEN files are therefore different from the previous leaks relating to the Paradise Papers or the Panama Papers as the documents come from a number of the world's leading financial institutions. The impact of these files will certainly be more important as they provide an incisive insight into 'the vast flows of illicit money across the globe'.

“Despite being fined by US authorities for earlier failures to stem flows of illicit funds, five global banks — JPMorgan Chase, HSBC, Standard Chartered Bank, Deutsche Bank and Bank of New York Mellon have allegedly moved trillions of dollars of dirty money for corrupt politicians and companies tied to the massive looting of public funds in countries such as Malaysia, Venezuela and Ukraine as well as criminals and drug kingpins that have caused tremendous suffering and wreaked havoc among the people in countries across the world...”

The FinCEN files therefore focuses attention on the imperative need for banks to have a more pro-active role to detect and prevent the illicit movement of dirty money. They have to exercise more rigorous due diligence to ensure that they do not help clients to launder money or move it around in ways that break the rules. They cannot just file suspicious activity reports and blithely leave the authorities to deal with the problem. If they have suspicion of criminal activity, they should refuse to move the funds. Banks have to know who their clients are and take every precaution to ensure that suspect funds do not transit through them. Illicit funds cannot move without banks. The filing of SARs cannot be used to clear the bank from its overriding responsibility of diligently putting a stop to the movement of illicit funds. Banks have to assume their share of responsibilities. There cannot be any compromise on this cardinal principle.

Insatiable greed

These rules and principles must also apply to a list of nine major banks in Mauritius which have reportedly filed 105 SARs relating to suspicious transactions covering about \$ 1 billion during the 2000-2018 period. The insatiable greed of the corrupt and the seediest criminals of the world know no bounds. Banks have to act as an uncompromising bulwark against fraud, the illicit movement of dirty money and money laundering. This is particularly important in the context of the country's protracted efforts to align and benchmark the Mauritius international financial services sector on the norms of key regulatory institutions such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and eliminate any risks of our international financial services sector acting as a conduit for money laundering, terrorist financing and other illicit activities.

Mrinal Roy



COMMUNIQUE

CONTRIBUTION SOCIALE GÉNÉRALISÉE (CSG)

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) wishes to inform all EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES, SELF-EMPLOYED and the general public that the new participative and collective system of social contribution, the **Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG)**, is applicable as from the month of September 2020 in replacement of the National Pension Fund (NPF) contribution system.

The last month for which contribution to the NPF is applicable is August 2020 and same is payable to the MRA by 30 September 2020.

Rate of Contribution under CSG

Under the **CSG**, employers are required to deduct, where applicable, the employee's contribution from his wage or salary and pay that contribution together with the employer's contribution to the MRA. The rate of contribution applicable is shown in the table below;

Category of employee	Rate applicable on the basic wage or salary of an employee and to be deducted from the wage or salary of the employee	Rate applicable on the basic wage or salary of the employee and payable by the employer
An employee, other than a Public Sector employee, earning a basic wage or salary <b>NOT</b> exceeding Rs 50,000 in a month.	1.5 per cent	3 per cent
An employee other than a Public Sector employee earning a basic wage or salary exceeding Rs 50,000 in a month.	3 per cent	6 per cent
Public sector employee earning a basic wage or salary <b>NOT</b> exceeding Rs 50,000 in a month.	Not applicable	4.5 per cent
Public sector employee earning a basic wage or salary exceeding Rs 50,000 in a month.	Not applicable	9 per cent
An employee who is in the domestic service earning a basic wage or salary <b>NOT</b> exceeding Rs 3,000 in aggregate in a month, from one or more employers.	Not applicable	3 per cent

An individual who is a self-employed is required to pay CSG of Rs 150 per month.

Due Date

The monthly return and payment of CSG with respect to a month is required to be made **electronically** on or before the end of the following month failing which a penalty of 10 per cent and an interest of 1 percent per month or part of a month is applicable.

Exceptionally, for the month of September 2020, the last date for submission of the return and payment of CSG to the MRA is **30 November 2020**.

Facilities for the electronic submission of CSG return will be available on the MRA website, **www.mra.mu** in due course. Employers will have to use the same **Employer Registration Number (ERN)** and **Password** which were applicable for the submission of NPF return.

For any further information or clarification, the MRA Helpdesk may be contacted on **207 6000** during working hours. An e-mail may also be sent at **paye@mra.mu**

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

22 September 2020

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius  
T: +230 207 6000 | F: +230 207 6048 | M: headoffice@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu





# Oxford scientists: these are final steps we're taking to get our coronavirus vaccine approved

👉 **Cont. from page 2**

Older people are at higher risk of developing severe disease, so it's important to know if they respond to the vaccine.

Oxford and our international partners have already vaccinated approximately 17,000 people in the first three countries selected (the UK, Brazil and South Africa), with half receiving a control vaccine. Most volunteers are receiving a booster vaccination one to three months after the first, as data from our phase 1 and phase 2 trial indicates that this strengthens the immune response - although it's not yet clear whether two doses will be necessary to protect against Covid-19.

Once vaccinated, volunteers go about their daily lives, but are monitored to see if they get the disease. Importantly, they are told to take the same precautions against infection as everyone else - this is because we don't yet know if the vaccine works, and also because half of the volunteers will have received a control (non-COVID) vaccine.

Running phase 3 clinical trials in several different countries in record time is a

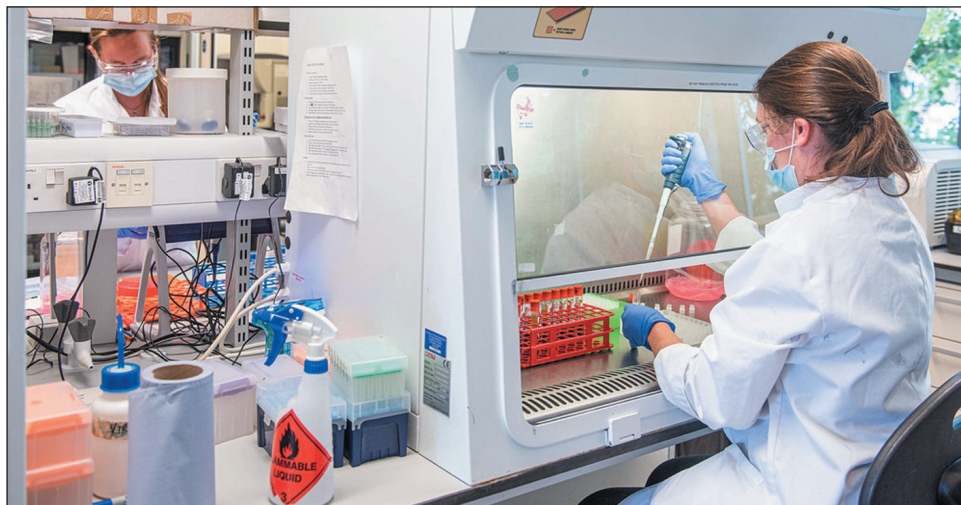


Photo - [global.unitednations.entermediadb.net](http://global.unitednations.entermediadb.net)

huge logistical challenge. Working with experienced international teams has made the complex process of shipping equipment and vaccines manageable, but it's been especially taxing due to travel and flight restrictions in the UK and elsewhere.

There are also lots of different operations that need to be coordinated. We're testing the vaccine with our partners at

three trial sites in Brazil and seven in South Africa, for example.

## Will the vaccine be safe?

Most vaccines take at least five years to go through clinical trials, and there have been questions around whether Covid-19 vaccines are being "rushed through". The Oxford vaccine has completed a programme of pre-clinical safety testing in

animals and is going through the same carefully regulated process as vaccines against other diseases. It will be tested in more volunteers in the planned clinical trials than many drugs or vaccines that are already licensed.

Vaccines like Oxford's are being developed rapidly because of the coordinated efforts of large international teams of scientists and doctors. Safety, ethics and regulatory committees are speeding things up by prioritising approval processes ahead of those for other vaccines and medicines. Nevertheless, the same rigorous standards are applied to candidate Covid-19 vaccines, ensuring no corners are cut in terms of vaccine safety.

When will we know if the Oxford vaccine works?

There's a good chance we'll know whether the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine is effective before the end of 2020. After the successful completion of phase 3 trials, regulatory bodies in each country will need to review the available data before approving the vaccine for general use.

AstraZeneca, the firm partnering Oxford to develop the vaccine, is overseeing a scaling up of manufacturing in parallel with clinical testing so that hundreds of millions of doses can be available if the vaccine is shown to be safe and effective.



# Programme des Courses

## 17e Journée - Samedi 26 Septembre 2020

**1 THE ALEXEI - JMLS CANCER SUPPORT CUP**  
1400 m Valeur [0-20] Time - 12h55

1	COME ON SONNY	SPN	9-6/8-7-1	61	G.D.Aucharuz	4	450
2	DOUBLE GRATITUDE	RM	0-0-0-6-7	61-4	N.S.Batchameah	11	3500
3	SECRET IDEA	CD	6-5-3-4-4	61	I.Chisty	5	330
4	CHAP TRAP	G	2-6-9/7-6	60.5	R.Joorawon	3	550
5	TIGER'S BOND	PM	8/8-7-9-4	60.5	C.Segeon	1	550
6	CAPTAIN MOSS	P	7/7-8-7-3	60	B.Bhaugeroethee	9	700
7	ITALIAN WAY	VA	4-7/8-6-7	59.5	B.Fayd/herbe	10	1100
8	KINGS EMPIRE	SH	2/9-9-5-6	59.5	J.Allyhosain	7	1000
9	NORTHERN REBEL	JMH	6/7-R-5-8	58.5	O.Sola	8	2500
10	NIGHTINGALE LANE	JR	7-4-9-8-6/	57	S.Rama	2	3500
11	MIDNIGHT MESSENGER	SPN	10-7-8-9-1	58.5	-----	6	-----

**2 THE AFICIONADO CUP**  
1500 m Valeur Benchmark 31 Time - 13h30

1	APOLLO STAR	AS	8-5/9-6-3	60	S.Rama	7	1100
2	DO OR DARE	CD	0-0-0-7-1	60	I.Chisty	1	210
3	HEART OF DARKNESS	SN	5/6-3-5-7	60	G.D.Aucharuz	6	650
4	ROCK ON GEORDIES	RG	3-6/8-5-3	60	D.David	4	400
5	BOUND BY DUTY	RM	0-0-2-5-1	59.5 - 4	N.S.Batchameah	3	550
6	JALS TIGER	GR	7-9-4-7-4	58.5	N.Juglall	8	1000
7	SENTIDO	VA	9-9/8-7-5	58.5	B.Fayd'herbe	5	1600
8	TYRIAN	PM	4-6/7-2-5	58	C.Segeon	2	1000

**3 THE SIR DONALD MACKENZIE KENNEDY CUP**  
1400 m Valeur Benchmark 41 Time - 14h05

1	CANDY APPLE	GR	0-1-3-2-2	60	N.Juglall	4	650
2	CASH CALL	SH	3-R/3-1-1	60	J.Allyhosain	1	280
3	HUBBLE	SJ	0-0-0-5-1	59.5	B.Bhaugeroothee	2	170
4	ROMAN DANCER	GA	3-5/6-R-1	59	R.Boutanive	3	1800
5	AFFRANCHI	VA	0-0-0-7-6	58.5	B.Fayd/herbe	5	1600
6	BLOW IN THE BOX	PM	4-5/6-4-3	58.5	C.Segeon	7	2500
7	BONNIE PRINCE	SH	4-5-4-6-8/	58.5 - 4	N.S.Batchameah	6	5000

**4** THE LIONS CLUB OF RIVIERE NOIRE  
CHALLENGE TROPHY  
1600 m Valeur Benchmark 46 Time -- 14h40

1	CONSUL OF WAR	CD	3/3-1-N-1	60	I.Chisty	4	310
2	RED LINE CAPTAIN	GR	4-4-8/4-8	60	N.Juglall	2	1000
3	SIR BERNADINI	PM	6-6/8-7-3	60	C.Segeon	6	1200
4	UNBELIEVABLE LAD	AS	7-8/4-5-6	59.5	O.Sola	1	2200
5	DROP KICK	VA	0-0-0-5-7	59	B.Fayd'herbe	7	700
6	DUKE'S DOMAIN	RG	2-6/1-1-4	59	D.David	3	570
7	YANKEEDOODLEDANDY	G	4-5/6-2-6	59	R.Joorawon	5	700
8	BIG VOICE JACK	SN	0-0-4-6-1	58.5	G.D.Aucharuz	8	350

**5 THE GAETAN ROLAND LAGESSE CUP**  
990 m Valeur Benchmark 51 Time - 15h15

1	LICKERIO	AS	1/9-4-4-3	61.5	O.Sola	2	900
2	ROB ROY	VA	R/9-6-1-1	61.5	B.Fayd'herbe	6	250
3	ROCKY NIGHT	SN	0-0-0-7-6	60.5	G.D.Aucharuz	5	3500
4	TRIPOD	PM	0-3-1-2-6	60.5	C.Segeon	4	550
5	SUGOI	SH	0-0-0-0-4	60	J.Allyhosain	7	600
6	CAPTAINOFTHESEA	RG	7-1-1-3-5	58	D.David	1	290
7	MAC 'N SCAR	SH	0-0-0-0-6	57	S.Rama	3	3500

**6 THE SIR RADHAMOHUN GUJADHUR CUP**  
1365 m Valeur Benchmark 61 Time -- 15h50

1	ELUSIVE PATH	VA	6-8/8-7-4	60	B.Fayd'herbe	3	2000
2	BIG MISTAKE	SH	2-4-4-2-2/	59.5	J.Allyhosain	5	2000
3	TRIPPI'S EXPRESS	RG	0-0-1-2-3	59	D.David	1	170
4	PERA PALACE	RM	9-7-6/8-5	57.5	R.Joorawon	6	1300
5	MAMBO ROCK	GR	4-2/2-4-2	56.5	N.Juglall	4	300
6	ERNIE	JMH	7/6-6-6-4	55	S.Rama	2	920

**7 THE ROYAL DEED CUP**  
1600 m Valeur 36 Time -- 16h25

1	CHARLESTON HERO	VA	2/4-4-4-3	60	B.Fayd'herbe	1	330
2	POTAWATOMI	AS	6/10-8-3-5	60	S.Rama	2	600
3	THE RIGHT STUFF	CD	2-4/3-2-3	59	I.Chisty	6	450
4	CONFESSIONAL	RG	0-0-0-2-7	58.5	R.Joorawon	4	700
5	MAN FROM SEATTLE	G	5/3-3-1-5	58.5	D.David	3	370
6	OLMECA BLACK	GR	0-0-0-5-4	58.5	N.Juglall	5	600

**8 THE PRESIDE PLATE**  
1500 m Valeur [0-25] Time -- 17h00

1	THE RIDDLER	SH	0-0-9-3-6	61	J.Allyhosain	2	450
2	LUCKY AT LAST	CD	4-1-3-3/8	60.5	I.Chisty	8	1200
3	MR MOGAMBO	AS	0-5-2-5-3	60.5	S.Rama	7	650
4	SACRED NIGHT	VA	7/8-1-2-3	60.5	B.Fayd'herbe	1	230
5	TROJAN WINTER	SJ	0-5-7-5-7	60.5	B.Bhaugeroothee	6	1100
6	SEVENTH SILVER	RG	5-10/1-4-7	60	D.David	3	850
7	TOP OF THE ROCK	JMH	7-10-7/7-6	59.5	O.Sola	9	3300
8	GIMME A SWINGER	PM	3-9/3-5-4	57.5	C.Segeon	4	920
9	DELUSIONAL	SPN	0-8-7-8-10	57	R.Boutanive	5	6000

## SELECTIONS

1. SECRET IDEA, COME ON SONNY, CHAP TRAP
2. DO OR DARE, BOUND BY DUTY, JALS TIGER
3. CASH CALL, HUBBLE, CANDY APPLE
4. CONSUL OF WAR, BIG VOICE JACK, SIR BERNADINI
5. ROB ROY, CAPTAINOFTHESSEA, LICKERIO
6. TRIPPI'S EXPRESS, MAMBO ROCK, BIG MISTAKE
7. CHARLESTON HERO, MAN FROM SEATTLE, MAN FROM SEATTLE
8. SACRED NIGHT. MR MOGAMBO. THE RIDDLER



In a light vein

Two men were talking. "So, how's your sex life?"

"Oh, nothing special. I'm having Social Security sex."

"Social Security sex?"

"Yeah, you know, I get a little each month, but not enough to live on."

\*\*\*

A man and a woman are sleeping together when suddenly there is a noise in the house, and the woman rolls over and says, "It's my husband, you have to leave!"

The man jumps out of bed, jumps through the window, crawls through the bushes, and out on the street, when he realizes something.

He goes back to the house and says to the woman, "Wait, I'm your husband!"

She replies giving him a dirty look, "So why did you run?"

\*\*\*

One day, a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in stunningly sexy lingerie.

"Tie me up," she purred, "And you can do anything you want."

So he tied her up and went golfing.

\*\*\*

You know you're getting old when your wife says, "Honey, let's run upstairs and make love," and you answer, "I can't do both."

\*\*\*

Boy calls 911: Hello? I need your help!

911: Alright, What is it?

Boy: Two girls are fighting over me!

911: So what's your emergency?

Boy: The ugly one is winning.

\*\*\*

A husband asks his wife, "Will you marry after I die?"

The wife responds, "No, I will live with my sister."

The wife asks him back, "Will you marry after I die?"

The husband responds, "No, I will also live with your sister."

\*\*\*

An explorer goes into an undiscovered tomb for the first time, and in the centre of the tomb there's a lamp. He picks it up, and as he starts to rub the dirt off of it, a genie comes out of the lamp and says, "I want to know the person you hate the most."

The explorer says, "That's gotta be my ex-wife. Why?"

"I am a cursed genie. I will grant you three wishes, but whatever you wish for, your ex-wife will get double that amount."

"Okay, I wish for a billion dollars."

"Granted, but you ex-wife gets two billion dollars."

"I wish for a mansion in California with a swimming pool, and tennis courts, everything."

"Granted, and your ex-wife gets two."

"Now make your final wish." The explorer walks around for a few minutes, returns to the genie with a stick, and says, "You see this stick? I'd like you to beat me half to death."

# Math Puns

## Jokes for the mathematically inclined

1. Why was the fraction apprehensive about marrying the decimal?

*Because he would have to convert.*

2. Why do plants hate maths?

*It gives them square roots.*

3. Why did the student get upset when his teacher called him average?

*It was a mean thing to say!*

4. Why was the maths book depressed?

*It had a lot of problems.*

5. Why is the obtuse triangle always so frustrated?

*Because it is never right.*

6. Why can you never trust a maths teacher holding graphing paper?

*He must be plotting something.*

7. Why was the equal sign so humble?

*Because she knew she wasn't greater than or less than anyone else.*

8. Did you hear the one about the statistician?

*Probably.*

9. What do you call students who love maths?

*Algebros.*

10. I'll do algebra, I'll do trig. I'll even do statistics.

*But graphing is where I draw the line!*

11. Why are parallel lines so tragic if they have so much in common?

*It's a shame they'll never meet.*

12. How do you stay warm in any room?

*Just huddle in the corner, where it's always 90 degrees.*

13. Why is six afraid of seven?

*Because seven eight ("ate") nine!*

14. Why does nobody talk to a circle?

*Because there is no point.*

# Looks like Alzheimer's only affects the brain

Robert, 85, married Maria, a lovely 25-year-old.

Since her new husband is so old, Maria decides that after their wedding she and Robert should have separate bedrooms, because she is concerned that her new but aged husband may over-exert himself if they spend the entire night together.

After the wedding festivities Maria prepares herself for bed and the expected knock on the door.

Sure, enough the knock comes, the door opens and there is Robert, her 85-year-old groom, ready for action. They unite as one. All goes well, Robert takes leave of his bride, and she prepares to go to sleep.

After a few minutes, Maria hears another knock on her bedroom door, and it's Robert. Again, he is ready for more 'action'.

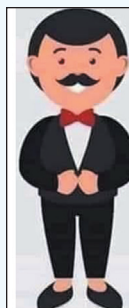
Somewhat surprised, Maria consents for more coupling. When the newlyweds are done, Robert kisses his bride, bids her a fond good night and leaves.

She is set to go to sleep again, but, aha, you guessed it Robert is back again, rapping on the door and is as fresh as a 25-year-old, ready for more 'action'. And, once more they enjoy each other.

But as Robert gets set to leave again, his young bride says to him, 'I am thoroughly impressed that at your age you can perform so well and so often. I have been with guys less than a third of your age who were only good once. You are truly a great lover, Robert.'

Robert, somewhat embarrassed, turns to Maria and says: 'You mean I was here already?'

The moral of the story: Don't be afraid of getting old, Alzheimer's has its advantages. That's good news.



Every Husband is a Farmer by default.

His survival solely depends on 'agree' culture!

And 'agree' culture increases  
GDP (Gross Domestic Peace)

## This is what we, who are aged 70 or 80 years plus, can look forward to.

This is something that happened at an assisted living center. The people who lived there had small apartments but they all ate at a central cafeteria. One morning one of the residents didn't show up for breakfast so my wife went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if everything was OK. She could hear him through the door and he said that he was running late and would be down shortly, so she went back to the dining area.



An hour later he still hadn't arrived, so she went back up towards his room but found him on the stairs. He was coming down the stairs but was having a hard time. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work right. She told him she was going to call an ambulance but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So, she helped him the rest of the way down the stairs and he had his breakfast. When he tried to return to his room, he was completely unable to get up even the first stair step, so they called an ambulance for him.

A couple of hours later she called the hospital to see how he was doing. The receptionist there said he was fine, he just had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts.

I'm sending this to my children so that they don't sell the house before they know all the facts.



## Health Matters

# Ways to Fight the Aging Process

**W**hether it's an old injury that keeps flaring up or the start of arthritis, you're more likely to feel a few aches more often as you age. Regular movement can ease pain and make your joints more flexible. Try low-impact exercises like swimming, yoga, and tai-chi. Heating pads or ice packs can help, too. If those don't give you enough relief, talk to your doctor about over-the-counter or prescription medicines, like nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

## Wrinkles

These show up as your skin gets thinner, drier, and less elastic. But some things can make them worse, like smoking and ultraviolet rays from the sun or a tanning bed. To ease these signs of aging, protect your skin from the sun, and if you smoke, quit. Some skin products, like moisturizers or prescription retinoids, might make wrinkles less noticeable. But you'll need to give them time to work -- most need 6 weeks to 3 months to show results. A dermatologist can help you know what would work best for you.

## Dry skin

Sun protection and quitting smoking will help this problem, too. So will watching how much alcohol you drink -- it can dehydrate you. It's a good idea to keep showers or baths to less than 10 minutes and to use warm water instead of hot. Then put a heavy, oil-based moisturizer all over your body right away.

## Loss of muscle

Many people lose strength and endurance as they get older, but the reason isn't really about the aging process. Many people just stop working key muscles. The phrase "use it or lose it" applies here, so see if you can start weight training to build up your strength. Regular exercise, like walking, gardening, or



The Aging Process. Photo - media1.s-nbcnews.com

swimming, can help, too. Aim for at least 30 minutes a day -- you can split it into two 15-minute sessions if that works better for you.

## Sleep changes

Your need for shut-eye doesn't change as you age, but your ability to get it can. Older people tend to have a harder time falling asleep, have shorter stretches of deep sleep, and wake up more often in the middle of the night. Coffee and alcohol can cause those issues, so cutting back on those can help. And it's important to keep health conditions that can affect your sleep, like high blood pressure or GERD, under control. Talk with your doctor if you often have trouble sleeping.

## Memory glitches

They might feel alarming, but they're part of the normal aging process. Your brain changes as you get older, which can affect how well you remember things. You may need to lean on a few tricks, like keeping lists, following a routine, and putting items in a set place. But some habits also help you keep your memory

sharp. For example, being around friends and family often has been shown to boost your brain power. Regular exercise and eating healthy foods are key, too.

## Weight gain

As you get older, you don't burn calories like you used to. But you can counter that slower metabolism by being more active and watching what and how much you eat. Make fruits, vegetables, and leaner protein key parts of your diet. Also, limit sugar and foods that are high in saturated fat. And keep an eye on portion sizes.

## Changes in your sex life

Erectile dysfunction, vaginal dryness, and other conditions that become more likely with age can make sex a challenge. Talk with your partner about how you're feeling and if you want to try different ways to be intimate. Over-the-counter products like vaginal lubricants can help some issues. You can also ask your doctor if there are medications you should try. But keeping yourself healthy overall will help, too. Exercise boosts blood flow and sex

hormones, and it helps you feel good about yourself.

## Peeing more often

Your bladder and pelvic muscles get weaker with age. Other health problems, like an enlarged prostate, can make the issue worse. Strengthen the area with Kegel exercises -- squeeze your muscles as if you're trying to hold in urine -- 10 to 15 times, three times a day. Your diet makes a difference, too. Get plenty of fiber, and limit sugary, carbonated drinks and caffeine. If you're having trouble with holding urine, leaking, a sudden, urgent need to pee, or pain when you go, see your doctor.

## Being in a rut

It's easy to get bored if you fall into a predictable routine, especially if it doesn't change much for years. To shake things up and keep your mind engaged, try breaking out of your daily schedule. Take some time to do something you like or learn a new skill. If you're retired, you might think about getting a part-time job or some temporary work. It can boost your mental health and your bottom line at the same time.

## Feeling lonely

Whether your kids move out or you retire from your job, you may spend more time around fewer people as you age. To avoid feeling isolated, make it part of your daily routine to talk with friends, family, and neighbours. Volunteer for a charity or a faith-based group. Simply writing a letter can give your social life a boost. A pet can be good for companionship, too -- a daily dog walk is good exercise and a chance to meet people.

## Stay on top of your health

Most older adults have at least one health problem, like heart disease or diabetes. If you do, it's important to go for regular checkups, keep your prescriptions filled, and follow all your doctor's instructions. Checkups are key even if you don't have a health condition so you can spot any issues early and get tips for staying healthy.

## Well-being

**I**f you're someone who is generally down on yourself, it can be difficult to fully enjoy life. Even in more positive moments, you still have an underlying sense of being lesser than other people. It's like an invisible anchor weighing you down. Though you may not know exactly what's wrong, you know you're inadequate. At least this is what you tell yourself. What you don't realize (and what feels like could never be true) is that your deep, authentic self (not just the façade you show to others) is worthy and lovable. (Even if you think this is nonsense, do yourself a favour and don't stop reading now.)

Despite how you might feel, you do not need to be perfect to have value. In fact, no one - and I mean no one - is flawless. Yet, when you feel broken inside, it can be incredibly difficult to grasp that you have worth. In my book 'Bouncing Back from Rejection', I explain it with this analogy:

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of rejoining the broken fragments of a piece of pottery with gold or other precious metals. While the repaired item may be appealing to the eye, the real beauty is in how people relate to it. The beauty is in valuing the life of the ceramic, which includes

# You are not as flawed as you think

*You are inherently worthy and lovable just as you are*

the damage that happens over time.

Similarly, to truly value yourself, it is essential to value your life's journey. Mothers do this when they smile while looking at a stretch mark that they earned during the pregnancy of their child. Those who have endured childhood abuse do it when they appreciate that their sensitivity to others' pain comes from the pain they have endured.

It's important to note that appreciating brokenness or imperfection as part of your life story does not mean you "should" be happy about the pain that you have endured. But you can appreciate your strength in overcoming your struggles, find value in the lessons you have learned from them, and be grateful for the resilience you have built.

To relate to yourself in these ways, you must first open up to the idea of viewing yourself with acceptance and compassion. Once you allow for the possibility that you might not be a failure as a person, you can begin to look

for signs that you are worthy and lovable.

There are many ways to strengthen your sense that having value is inherent in being human. Consciously take note of your virtues. Practise seeing your shortcomings or mistakes as part of being human. Put effort into building relationships with people who value you for who you are - and put effort into taking in the positive ways they feel toward you.

None of this is easy. It will put you in direct conflict with your inner demons. But stay with it. Continue to build compassionate self-awareness and absorb the love and caring shown to you by others. Ultimately, you will realize that you are not as flawed as you think. And you will discover a healing truth: You are inherently worthy and lovable just as you are.

Leslie Becker-Phelps, Psychologist



# Shilpa Shinde on the drug nexus: There are many such talent companies where clients ask what special services can be provided

*Shilpa Shinde has spoken about the drug nexus in Bollywood saying that some talent firms arrange every possible thing for their clients*



**K**wan and its clients Deepika Padukone, Shraddha Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan are the talk of the town. The names have come up in the drug angle that is being explored after the demise of Sushant Singh Rajput. While most of B-Town is silent on the matter, few like Raveena Tandon have spoken out saying if there is a mess then let it be cleaned for the coming generation. Kwan's managers Jaya Saha and Karishma Prakash are under the scanner of the Narcotics Control Bureau. In chats of Jaya Saha, it has been discovered that she got CBD Oil for late Sushant Singh Rajput, Rhea Chakraborty and Shraddha Kapoor. Now, marijuana oil is also used as a medicine.

In her June chats, Jaya Saha is discussing getting weed for Madhu Mantena. The bureau wants to find out who are the peddlers who sell drugs to the top brass of Bollywood. One of the dangers before the nation is narco-terrorism. Money acquired from drug business is used to fund terrorism. Bigg Boss 11 winner Shilpa Shinde spoke about it to Times Now. She said, "When they approach artists, they ask what facilities are you going to give me, so it depends on person to person. When they take artists out of India for events, they have to take care of the artists. There are many such talent management companies where the clients themselves ask what special services can be provided to big stars."

She said that not everyone was consuming drugs in the industry. She said young people gave in to peer pressure or just to fit in the surroundings. Late Sushant Singh Rajput's friend Yuvraaj has slammed Kwan saying it trapped the young star. Bollywood is dealing with a huge storm right now!

## Appartement à louer - long terme



Appartement meublé de 3 c.a.c, climatisé, cuisine équipée, piscine et parking, sécurité (24/24) à Trou aux Biches - Complexe Fleury sur Mer  
Tel: 57809413 - 57530881

## To Rent

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## YOUR STARS

### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You'll feel tired and sometimes a little discouraged; slow down your life tempo, take time to stroll or to dream. If you're lonely, you'll meet someone who'll be able to make you happy; if you live as a couple, you'll be pampered.

**Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 19, 33, 36, 40**

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your intuition will be excellent and will help you to avoid some mistakes which could be disastrous. Money will try to get into your purse; but avoid an adventurous operation. On the heart's side, you'll play with your charms brilliantly and successfully.

**Lucky Numbers: 3, 6, 9, 14, 18, 30**

### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Good vitality, quick recuperation from illness. There could be some hitches in your work; but, on the medium term, they'll help you to leap higher; also, this astral context will reinforce your willpower and your capacity of facing your difficulties efficiently.

**Lucky Numbers: 6, 8, 15, 19, 21, 23**

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Avoid overworking yourself. Impossible to have peace! Your close relatives and certain of your friends won't stop interfering in your private life; there won't be means to make them understand that you have the right

to live your life as you like.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 15, 19, 20, 23, 26**

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

This time, you'll definitely take life on the good side. You'll start a charming love affair, or you'll have a lovely success in the artistic field. Profit by the good current lunar influxes for carrying out an important real estate transaction.

**Lucky Numbers: 8, 15, 17, 23, 26, 30**

### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You'll feel at ease everywhere and will be perfectly right to believe in your good star. Your love life will be peaceful and relaxing. No luck with money: so, resists your desires to throw the dice or to bet on some old worn-out hack.

**Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 14, 18, 21, 22**

### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You'll recover your confidence in the future; you'll know whom and what you can count on. Don't let your professional ambitions smother your feelings. Be careful of poor financial investments; ask for expert advice.

**Lucky Numbers: 18, 20, 23, 29, 30, 32**

### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Problems with your colleagues at work seem inevitable, but you can choose to react with coolness and firmness. It's not impossible that your emotional life takes

on a completely unexpected change.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 12, 15, 19, 20**

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Good ideas, ideal mood, many family satisfactions, easy and pleasant contacts with the others. Your love life will get to the fore of your concerns; you could fall in love at first sight.

**Lucky Numbers: 9, 15, 20, 21, 33, 36**

### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You'll have better chances than usual of succeeding in your various undertakings. The financial area will be favoured: money entries will be regular, and your resources will be well managed. Be very diplomatic with your family.

**Lucky Numbers: 20, 27, 31, 34, 39, 40**

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You'll be more charming than ever, and your amorous conquests will be flattering one more than the other. Avoid inconsiderate expenses and manage your budget well. Don't take a specific and temporary failure for a permanent defeat.

**Lucky Numbers: 13, 17, 20, 22, 26, 30**

### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You'll have to be more realistic: don't undertake more than you're capable of carrying out, and don't try to solve problems that have no solution. You'll enjoy fine health if you can find a good balance between work and rest.

**Lucky Numbers: 5, 14, 15, 20, 29, 30**



# "You must try and do something that makes you happy" - Prakruti Mishra

**P**rakruti Mishra is one of those artistes from the state of Odisha who made a mark for themselves not just in the state but on a national platform. After working in the Odiya film industry right from the time she was a child, Prakruti participated in a talent hunt reality show and then went on to be a part of some popular shows on television and web including 'Bitti Business Wali', 'MTV Ace Of Space' and 'Class of 2020'. In an interview to Planet Bollywood, he talks about her eventful journey in the entertainment industry, what it felt to get a Special Mention at the National Film Awards and more.

**\* You have been acting since you were a child. You were a part of several popular films and TV shows in Odisha but 'India's Best Cinestars Ki Khoj' gave you a national platform for the first time. Do you think the show proved to be a turning point in your career?**

I am not sure if the show proved to be a turning point in my career but being a part of it was a good experience. It proved to be a good learning experience as it was a reality show and we had to constantly prove ourselves in front of the judges and the audience. I think it was 'Bitti Business Wali' which gave me a lot of recognition, especially in the northern part of the country. After that, I was a part of the reality show 'MTV Ace of Space'. That helped me reach out to a younger audience.

**\* Why do you think there has been such less people from Odisha who have worked on a national platform like Bollywood?**

A lot of people from Odisha go to Mumbai to work in the film industry. Everybody works very hard and tries his or her best to achieve their goals. I think a lot of times people give up too soon and come back.

If you have a dream, you must work tirelessly towards achieving it. You have to wait for some time before things finally fall into place. Being patient is the most important thing. Some people do not get enough support from their families and that also makes things a little difficult.

**\* Do you remember your first acting project?**

When I was four and half years of age, I did an album for Sarthak Music named 'Sabata Maa'. I am definitely interested in doing Odia films but I want to do something that is different. I have done almost 25 films in my career, majority of which were in Odia. Now, I hope to be a part of some great content which is made in Odisha.

**\* A lot of young people in Odisha look up to you and have been inspired by your journey. How do you feel about that?**

I feel humbled and there is a sense of responsibility attached to it as well. When I was planning to move to Mumbai, I used to ask some of my colleagues in Odisha whether they want to come with me. They were not very sure.

You have to push your boundaries. I am very hungry as an artist. People should have that drive to do something more. I decided to pursue a career in acting because of my love for the craft. I did not do it to prove a point to anybody. You must try and do something that makes you happy.

**\* What would be your advice to these actors from Odisha who wish to work on a national platform?**

I would request them to polish their Hindi. It is one of the major reasons why a lot of people from Odisha or other states find it difficult to get work in Mumbai. At the same time, I think people need to feel proud of their origin. A lot of young people



think it is 'uncool' to speak in Odia. Your culture makes you unique. I feel extremely proud about belonging to a state like Odisha.

**\* You like to sing as well. You had sung a song in your show 'Bitti Business Wali' called 'Aarthik Aazadi'...**

The producers knew that I sing. They made me sing the title track and played that version for a few days. They did not pay me for that too but I was happy doing that. I am not a trained singer. There used to be musical classes at home and we have a music academy too. For some reason, I never took formal training in singing or my music. But I love to sing.

**\* An actor once told me that the biggest struggle for an actor is to keep getting work. What are your thoughts on this?**

I have always believed that my biggest superpower is my sense of optimism. It has helped me get a lot of work. I always think if I do not get any work, I will move to Himachal Pradesh and run a small academy where I will teach acting and dance to children.

## TV SERIAL

### Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

**Friday 25 Sept:** After the shoot starts in Sameer and Naina's mansion, Sameer on seeing the actors attitude and fame, he dreams on to be an actor and this desire is even more flamed when he gets a small role in the ad shoot.

**Monday 28 Sept:** As the dream of going to Mumbai lives on, Anand is strictly against it and is not ready to listen to Naina or Sameer. And Sameer and Naina both know that if they crack through Anand, even Naina's father will crack.

**Tuesday 29 Sept:** After Sameer and Naina decide to go to Mumbai, they are visited by their uncle and he taunts them a lot commenting on the difference between hero and zero.

**Wednesday 30 Sept:** Naina and Sameer are upheld on their plan of going to Mumbai and fulfilling Sameer's dream of becoming an actor. Naina asks her father to accompany them to Mumbai if he wants to sure of their safety.

**Thursday 1 Oct:** Naina decorates the whole house and lights it up with candles to have a good time with Sameer. He tries to avoid her and throws his tantrums and then Kanji interrupts. Naina takes advantage of Sameer's tantrums and invites him inside.

## Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

**Friday 25 Sept:** Rohit consoles a terrified Sonakshi and appoints a security guard for her safety. Later, the Sippys are elated to learn about Tanya's pregnancy while Rohit slaps Ravi.

**Monday 28 Sept:** Rohit doubts Mahesh for trying to harm Sonakshi while the police hatch a plan. Later, Sonakshi meets Rohit disguised as a cab driver.

**Tuesday 29 Sept:** Sonakshi have a cute fight while YK advises Naren to step back. Meanwhile, Pari learns some shocking news.

**Wednesday 30 Sept:** Sonakshi makes a smashing entry to the Sangeet ceremony. Elsewhere, an agitated Mahesh loses control of the car while on the way to the venue.

**Thursday 1 Oct:** The Sippys give a stunning dance performance while Pari makes Rohan feel insecure. Later, Mahesh executes his evil plan.

## 'Pre-wedding jitters is common': Varun Badola

**M**ere Dad Ki Dulhan which stars Varun Badola, Shweta Tiwari, Mand Anjali Tatrari in the lead roles has been successfully keeping the viewers hooked to the screens. The show has garnered popularity and the adulation of the audience, thanks to the nuanced performance by its lead cast, reports Times of India.

The viewers like the chemistry between Amber Sharma (Varun Badola) and Guneet Sikka (Shweta Tiwari), and the two showcase how love can be found at a later stage in life, too.

On the show, the couple recently got engaged. Niya Sharma, who is the wedding planner for her father's wedding, has already planned all the rituals as part of the wedding ceremony. As the couple is preparing to tie the knot, Varun Badola talks about his character Amber's state of mind.

The actor says, "A marriage between two people can be a roller coaster ride. It's beautiful that you share your life with your most loved person, but it comes with its own set of responsibilities. Right from sharing space, devoting time to your partner and their family, and meeting everyone expectations involved, can be overwhelming, sometimes.

"It's natural to feel nervous while taking the plunge. So, pre-wedding jitters is common, and people usually get them as they



feel a mammoth sense of responsibility which will befall upon them after marriage. The thought of spending your life with your loved one overshadows all other factors."

Adding further to this, he said, "Even if the couple has been dating each other for so long, getting such thoughts is normal. But what really matters in the end is the person you are going to spend your life with."



## CINE 12

Vendredi 25 sept - 21.15

## The Huntsmen

Avec: Chris Hemsworth, Jessica Chastain, Charlize Theron

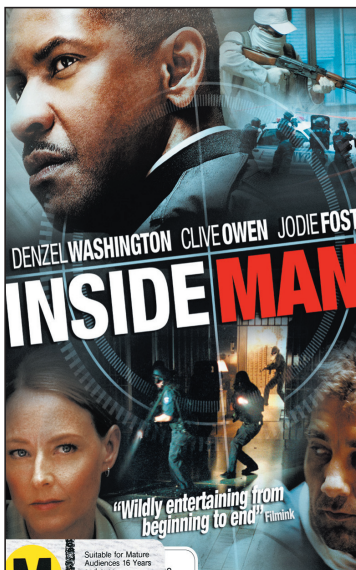


## MBC 1

Samedi 26 sept - 21.10

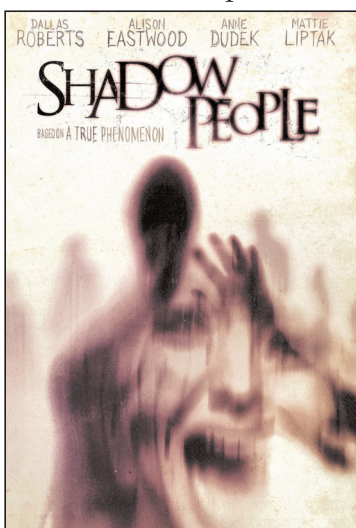
## Inside Man

Star: Dallas Roberts, Alison Eastwood, Mattie Liptak



## MBC 1

Dimanche 27 sept - 21.20



## MBC 1

vendredi 25 septembre

07.05 Local: Passerelles  
09.45 Local: Later Set Kouler  
10.15 Local: Itiner - Rodrig  
11.00 Local Prod: Saver Kil Tirel  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Mag: Eye On SADC  
12.55 Mag: Urban Gardens  
14.00 Local: Rodrig Prog  
14.30 D.Anime: Grenadine Et...  
15.12 D.Anime: The Minimighty...  
15.45 D.Anime: Monster Math...  
16.10 D.Anime: Uma And Devan...  
16.33 D.Anime: Roger  
17.20 Serial: Lucas etc...  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local Prod  
21.10 Serial: When Calls The Heart  
22.33 Serial: The Blacklist  
23.50 Mag: Eye On SADC

## MBC 2

10.00 Serial: Mah-E-Tamaam  
11.20 Serial: Tum Mere Paas Raho  
12.04 Film: The Lady Dabang  
Starring: Altaf, Hemangini, Firoz Irani  
14.02 DDI Magazine  
15.00 Mag: Comedy Classes  
15.21 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee  
15.43 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal  
16.28 Serial: Bisaat-E-Dil  
16.49 Mehendi Tohra Namam Ke  
17.11 Serial: Gangaa  
18.00 Serial: Die Now  
18.30 DDI Magazine  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
19.30 DDI Magazine  
20.00 Serial: Tawaan  
20.44 Local: Anjuman  
21.11 Local: Urdu Programme  
22.06 DDI Live

## MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India  
06.44 Mag: Shift  
07.00 Mag: Border Crossing  
07.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
08.01 The Reverse Exploration  
08.58 Doc: 360 GEO  
09.51 Mag: Strictly Street  
11.31 Mag: Sur Mesure  
11.45 Mag: Shift  
12.29 Mag: Garden Makeover  
12.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
13.05 The Reverse Exploration  
14.51 Mag: Strictly Street  
16.00 Mag: Eco India  
16.26 Mag: Green Touch  
16.47 Mag: Shift  
17.02 Mag: Border Crossing  
17.58 Mag: Peace Talks  
18.40 Mag: Green Touch  
18.48 Mag: Arts And Culture  
19.00 Student Support Programme

## Cine 12

01.30 Film: PSYCHO  
03.09 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
03.42 Film: Brush With Danger  
05.05 Tele: Totalement Diva  
05.55 Tele: Esmeraldas  
06.39 Serial: The Quest  
09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire  
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant  
10.35 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
11.31 Tele: Dulce Amor  
12.00 Film: Brush With Danger  
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva  
14.45 Serial: The Quest  
16.40 Serial: Chicago Fire  
17.19 Tele: Esmeraldas  
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant  
19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Serial: Hawaii Five-0  
21.15 Film: The Huntsmen  
23.10 Tele: Totalement Diva

## Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Sitamgar  
12.05 / 19.54 -  
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam  
12.30/ 20.11 -  
Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna  
13.10 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe  
13.36 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.53 / 21.46 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.17 / 21.59 -  
Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki  
14.43 / 22.25 - Bitti Business...  
15.20 Film: Tanu Webs Manu  
Starring: Kangana Ranaut,  
Madhavan, Swara Bhaskar  
18.00 Live: Samacher  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.51 Piya Albela  
19.14 Mere Angne Mein

samedi 26 septembre

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains  
07.25 D.Anime: Kid-E-Cats  
08.25 D.Anime: Looped  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Local: People  
13.05 Local: Generations J  
14.10 Local: Sur Mesure  
14.30 D.Anime: Teenie Fables  
14.35 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur  
14.46 D.Anime: In The Night...  
15.08 D.Anime: The Minimighty Kid  
15.44 D.Anime: Teenie Craze...  
15.47 D.Anime: Invasion Story  
16.00 D.Anime: Uma And Devan...  
16.21 D.Anime: Sinbad And The 7...  
17.15 Serial: Lucas Etc  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.35 Entertain: Nach Baliye  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.00 Prod: Lottotech  
21.10 Film: Inside Man

07.00 Film: Bin Badal Barsaat  
10.00 Bade Acchelagte Hai  
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare  
12.50 Serial: Brundavanam  
13.12 Annakodiyum Ainthus Pengalum  
13.35 Serial: Anu Pallavi  
15.23 Film: Mann  
Starring Aamir Khan,  
Manisha Koirala, Sharmila Tagore  
18.00 Mag: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
20.05 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha  
21.00 Film: Four Pillars Of Basement  
Starring - Dilzan Wadia, Bruna Abdullah  
22.52 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Peace Talks  
06.49 Doc: Arts And Culture  
07.02 Mag: Global 3000  
07.36 Mag: Euromaxx  
08.02 Doc: Wildlife Heroes  
09.00 Mag: Photo Number 6  
09.44 Guardians Of The Amazon  
11.12 Doc: Peace Talks  
12.09 Mag: Arts And Culture  
12.14 Mag: Global 3000  
12.48 Mag: Euromaxx  
15.39 The Business Of Poverty  
16.22 Doc: Peace Talks  
19.30 Doc: Obsession Magnifique  
19.57 Doc: Set One  
20.05 Doc: Rewilding  
21.10 Local: News  
21.15 Doc: Le Douanier Rousseau  
22.07 Doc: Dark Eden  
23.31 Doc: Amazing Gardens  
23.57 Doc: Ville Fête  
00.29 Doc: The World From Above

03.45 Film: Savage Pampas  
05.31 Tele: Destiny  
06.18 Serial: Hawaii Five-0  
07.02 Serial: Sherlock  
08.33 Serial: Mike Hammer  
09.18 Serial: 12 Monkeys  
10.02 Serial: Counterpart  
10.53 Film: A Gift Horse  
12.21 Serial: Chicago Fire  
13.00 Tele: Amanda  
13.47 Tele: Premiere Dame  
15.05 Serial: Dynasty 2  
16.11 Mag: Hollywood News Feed  
17.00 Serial: Hawaii Five-0  
17.45 Film: Bring It On  
19.18 Mag: Hollywood On Set  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Series: Hawaii Five-0  
21.15 Film: Life  
22.59 Tele: Eva Luna

04.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum  
04.26 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
04.51 Radha Krishna  
05.14 Zindagi Ki Mehek  
05.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
06.01 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki  
06.22 Bitti Business Wali  
06.45 Kundali Bhagya  
07.07 Piya Albela  
07.29 Mere Angne Mein  
08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek  
10.12 Yeh Pyaar Nahi Toh Kya...  
12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
14.22 Bin Kuch Kahe  
16.00 Pavitra Rishta  
18.30 Film: Deewane  
Starring Ajay Devgn,  
Urmila Matondkar, Mahima Chaudhry  
20.34 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
22.03 Serial: Naagin  
22.52 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek

dimanche 27 septembre

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains  
06.27 D.Anime: HTDT  
08.45 D.Anime: The Garfield Show  
09.27 D.Anime: Astrology  
09.35 Serial: Waffle The Wonder...  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Local: Elle - No 114  
15.10 D.Anime: The Minimighty  
15.12 D.Anime: Twirlywoos  
15.18 D.Anime: Poko  
15.41 D.Anime: Teenies Craze...  
16.22 D.Anime: Lucky Fred  
16.34 D.Anime: Roger  
16.48 D.Anime: The Deep  
17.15 Serial: Lucas Etc.  
17.30 Mag: Zoboomafooo  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.00 Local: Info 7 Sur 7  
21.20 Film: Shadow People

07.00 Film: Devar  
Starring: Dharmendra,  
Sharmila Tagore, Deven Verma  
09.36 DDI Magazine  
10.00 Local Production: Exerpts Of Cultural Programme  
11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai  
11.21 Serial: Santoshi Maa  
12.00 Film: A Gentleman  
Starring - Sidharth Malhotra,  
Jacqueline Fernandez,  
Darshan Kumar  
14.08 DDI Magazine  
15.00 Mag: Comedy Classes  
15.21 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
15.44 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht  
16.06 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal  
17.00 Serial: Mahakali  
18.30 Local: Tipa Nu Avance  
19.00 Zournal Kreol

06.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens  
06.26 Doc: Ville En Fête  
06.52 The World From Above  
07.15 Doc: Obsession Magnifique  
08.39 Mag: Women Who Changed  
10.18 Doc: A Game Of No Rules  
11.09 Doc: Amazing Gardens  
12.21 Doc: Obsessin Magnifique  
16.34 Doc: Ville En Fête  
17.25 Doc: Obsession Magnifique  
18.00 Doc: Trajectory  
18.30 Garden Party  
19.05 Doc: Maldives  
19.30 Mag: Future Mag  
21.00 Doc: News (English)  
21.10 Mag: Women Who Changed..  
22.07 Doc: Onibo  
22.31 Doc: Trajectory  
23.58 Doc: Garden Party  
00.21 Doc: Maldives

01.30 Film: Life  
03.12 Serial: Hawaii 5-0  
03.51 Film: Death Fighter  
05.19 Tele: Destiny  
06.05 Serial: Hawaii Five-0  
06.47 Film: Dominion  
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer  
09.16 Serial: 12 Monkeys  
09.57 Serial: Counterpart  
10.50 Film: Bring It On  
12.29 Serial: Hawaii 5-0  
13.09 Serial: Amanda  
13.47 Tele: Premiere Dame  
15.05 Serial: Dynasty 2  
15.46 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
17.48 Serial: The Enemy Within  
18.30 Serial: Mission: Impossible  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor  
21.15 Film: Arrival  
23.07 Tele: Eva Luna

00.40 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
02.23 Bin Kuch Kahe  
04.20 Pavitra Rishta  
05.46 Film: Tanu Webs Manu  
Starring Kangana Ranaut,  
Madhavan, Swara Bhaskar  
08.06 Motu Patlu  
08.31 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki  
09.54 Jaana Na Dil Se Door  
11.40 Piya Albela  
13.27 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum  
15.16 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.00 Punar Vivaah  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Film: Shaadi Mein Zaroor..  
Starring: Rajkumar Rao, Kriti Kharbanda, K.K. Raina  
20.45 Nach Baliye  
21.37 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
23.28 Piya Albela

## MBC 2

Samedi 26  
septembre - 21.00

Stars: Dilzan Wadia, Bruna Abdullah

Dimanche 27  
septembre - 18.30

Stars: Rajkumar Rao, Kriti Kharbanda, K.K. Raina





# Democratisation of the economy

*52 years after Independence, it is high time to get rid of obstacles that hinder progress for the greater good of the country*



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

The political will to promote a fair distribution of wealth was put forward by the most outspoken politicians in the Labour-led government since 2005. Democratisation of the economy permeated all discourses and was the buzz formula for a solution to the huge disparities in income and wealth that afflicted the population at large.

Policy makers somewhat managed to devise ways and means to open the economy to ambitious entrepreneurs and facilitate investment in a few sectors. Lands were made available for agricultural development and new stakeholders were empowered to go for diversification of the sector and venture into the business of locally processed agricultural products at a higher level. However, the policy of pursuing with the private sector's projects, which ended up covering vast tracts of lands with luxury villas and apartments initiated in 2004, raised doubts as to their relevance in the long term. It still remains questionable to this day.

Job creation benefited mostly foreign workers. Juicy contracts went to the biggest construction companies. Commercial banks thriving and expanding mostly on deposits of workers from different professional and social categories provided low interest rates to investors in the property development projects. A percentage on sales of every construction unit went to State coffers whilst new companies hailing from the club of sugar barons reaped most of the profits.

Successive governments from 2005 onwards have given their blessings to the numerous projects of covering fertile lands with concrete. No in-depth assessment has been made about the long-term benefits for the country and communicated to the public.

The construction of the new airport met with public approval during the 2010-2014 mandate despite drawing criticisms from mainstream press. Similarly, criticism was levelled at the building of a new highway, but it was instrumental to improving transport and alleviating road congestion and bottlenecks during peak traffic hours. The building of Caudan Waterfront by big business during the 1990-1995 mandate was seen as a transformation of the harbour front into a concrete jungle and also met with harsh criticisms from the then Opposition. Many years have been wasted with the dilly-dallying of successive governments as regards the light rail transport system with opposition parties bristling at the innovation.

The public is attuned to the politicking and bickerings on every project put forward by the ruling party. What should matter is the economic upliftment of the people, their overall development and purchasing power regardless of which party is at the helm.

No media spokespersons and big busi-



“While the general outlook was that of a country set on the road of progress during the past decades, with new road infrastructure, airport, shopping malls, luxury residential units and mediclinics sprouted here and there, huge disparities in income continued to create glaring gaps mostly in land acquisition and housing - an issue all governments have shoved under the carpet...”

ness barons raised a finger to claim higher wages for workers. Elderly people invested all their monies in the secondary education and higher studies of their children, and life or private health insurance policies were the luxury for only a few. This category of the population was rewarded with a meagre Rs 3500 monthly pension for years. No media and corporate business gave a thought to a rise in old-age pension.

While the general outlook was that of a country set on the road of progress during the past decades, with new road infrastructure, airport, shopping malls, luxury residential units and mediclinics sprouted here and there, huge disparities in income continued to create glaring gaps mostly in land acquisition and housing - an issue all governments have shoved under the carpet.

The crux in 2020 is: what mechanism is impeding the democratisation of the economy? A related question is whether and which business groups have the financial clout to dictate terms to the government and hold it hostage to corporate interests? Further, whether other business groups can make headway in the ocean economy and new technologies? Would the 'blocage' have to do with the corruption of politicians by private companies, as the St Louis business deal would suggest?

What is it that pushed the 2005-14 government to shelve the grand project of democratisation of the economy? Does a 300-year privileged position in the economy make it impossible for others to overtake the front runners? A situation which has led to the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few families. Investment in big property development projects, shopping malls and future smart cities is a way to feather the nest of rent seekers.

Bright science students devoted years of serious study in engineering at University of Mauritius only to be faced with few job

opportunities in the country. The young engineers have had to put up with low-paying jobs in factories where their real worth is not recognised. They are also part of the people of this country who wish to contribute to its development and progress, and get decent salaries to acquire a home and start a family. Democracy is also about enhancing social development and creating opportunities for different categories of the population. It is a pragmatic approach to development and progress. It cannot be reduced to a sentimental stuff to be vociferated angrily in favour of those who wail on a permanent basis.

What should undergo a radical change to prevent big business from dictating terms that meet their own interests is a most significant question. Otherwise, the situation will remain unchanged for decades to come. Billions in Mauritius Investment Corporation are being coveted by sharks of all hues in the big business sector. The concentration of wealth in the hands of a few families is a major issue that has to be addressed with a view to creating opportunities for other players in a small country. What is required is a radical paradigm shift through investments in the most productive and innovative sectors by businessmen from Asia, namely India, Japan and Singapore.

The idea of democratising the economy has not been aired in protest marches. The focus here and in the so-called diaspora has been the call with an ethnic undertone expressed in a most vulgar language to 'b...li deor', a euphemism for an infamously biased slogan of the late 1960s. 52 years after Independence, it is high time to get rid of obstacles that hinder progress for the greater good of the country. A most unhealthy and vicious situation which creates the possibility for financial power to blow hot and cold, manipulate gullible sections of the public and pitch one group against another has to be dealt with squarely and boldly.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

## Birds Fly in a V

Like birds flying in a "V," when we feel the presence of others moving along side of us, there is little we cannot accomplish.

As they swoop, drift, and glide, inscribing magnificent patterns across the sky, birds are serene displays of grace and beauty. Long a source of inspiration, birds can be messengers from the spirit realm, or a symbol of the human soul, as they cast off their earthly mooring and soar heavenward. An upturned wing, a graceful flutter, all so effortless and free... More magnificent still is the inspiring sight of birds migrating, progressing steadily across the horizon in a solid V formation that is a singular pattern too unique to be mere chance.

Pushing steadily forward, this aerodynamic V reduces air resistance for the whole flock. With wings moving in harmony, the feathered group continues its course across the sky, covering more ground together in community than as individuals. When the bird at the front gets tired, she will move to the rear of the formation where the wind drag is lowest, and a more rested bird can take her place.

By learning from the example of our winged guides, all of us can feel empowered to take on daring challenges as we chart adventurous courses. Feel the strength of others moving alongside you, as their presence lends power to your wings during this journey across the sky of life. When buffeted by unexpected gusts, we can choose to find refuge in the loving shelter of friends and family. We may even marvel as an otherwise difficult day passes by like a swift wind, as a kindred spirit charts a way for us through the clouds and rain ahead. If your wings begin to ache on your journey, look around for somebody else to fly at the front for a while. All of us move faster when we move together. Let your ego drop earthwards as we all soar ever higher.