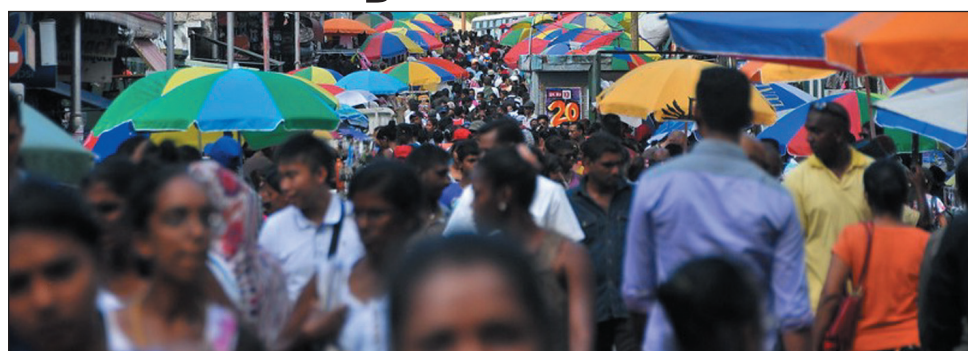


# MAURITIUS TIMES

• Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flow charts. It is about one life influencing another. -- John C. Maxwell

## Politics

### We all have a stake in this country and its future

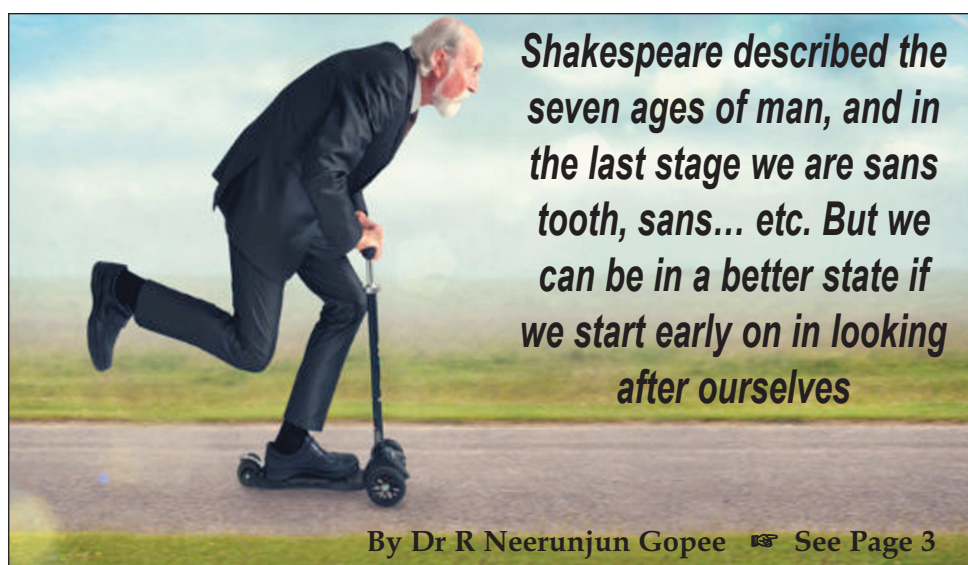


When a government fails to deliver on what the people consider the most important pledges, they will seek alternatives.

By Sada Reddi 📧 See Page 4

## Lifestyle

### Growing Old - but Staying Young?



*Shakespeare described the seven ages of man, and in the last stage we are sans tooth, sans... etc. But we can be in a better state if we start early on in looking after ourselves*

By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee 📧 See Page 3

## Environnement

### Les orques attaquent les bateaux au large de l'Espagne : Que se passe-t-il ?

#### ORQUES: LA MER SE REBELLE!

Plusieurs personnes ont rapporté des cas inhabituels d'agression envers l'humain par une espèce de la famille des dauphins : l'orque.

Par Vina Ballgobin 📧 Voir Page 9

## Interview : Samad Ramoly

### “L'histoire nous démontre que, tôt ou tard, toute imposture finit par être mise au jour”



*'Notre conception même de la démocratie doit dépasser le cadre strict des élections. La vigilance citoyenne et institutionnelle vis-à-vis des dérives devrait être permanente'*

📧 Voir Pages 7-8-11



## Beware of communal trap

As was to be expected, there was a profusion of commentaries on the joke cracked by the cadre of Alteo, Pierre Noel, at a private lunch in a chassée. Rightly, there has been an appeal by political leaders of the opposition to not awaken *le démon communal*. And we hope that this has been heard by *all* concerned. However, this is such a serious and sensitive issue that it deserves to be probed a little more, because in concentrating on the *blague* aspect, some others which can potentially touch sensitive chords have been left out.

To start with, it must not be assumed that the people are so naïve as not to be able to understand or appreciate our local folkloric *blagues* which we all share. So there's no quarrel on the accent imitated, the jokes about the menu and so on. But there are those who are sharp enough to know when the thin line that separates humour and satire from disdain is crossed. And at a certain stage during the narration this happened, and that's what is condemnable.

It would be recalled that for derogatory remarks that were made about the Creole community in the matter of allocation of NHDC flats at Bassin, Quatre Bornes, there was a tsunami of reactions across the whole gamut of the media against the minister concerned, Hon Soodhun, who finally had to resign. The remarks were felt to be repugnant by all right thinking citizens. Why then the hullabaloo about the similar indignation expressed about those bits of the joke that are felt to be as unacceptable, if not more? And the responses are a mere trickle compared to that tsunami!

Further, at such a volatile time in the country when the government has been challenged by protest marches, isn't one justified in querying what was the motivation of the video being made viral, clearly by one of the guests there who filmed the episode. Was this a surrogate form of hitting at the government through a *blague* on the community to which the leader of the government belongs?

There is a *constance* here which must be done away once and for all: extending the calumny felt against the government to the whole of the community to which the PM belongs simply because he happens to be a Hindu, despite it being an undeniable fact that from the very time of independence, every government

issuing out of the elections always comprised members from the various ethno-religious groups of the country. The point is clarified by former Minister Dharam Gokhool in his interview to this paper last Friday: '... there are people who will continue to take a myopic, monochrome view of the world and their world. Their social relations will be conditioned by what I would refer to as the binary algorithm, wherein either "you are with us or against us". This is a cultural deficit due to ignorance of others.

'Let me illustrate this point through an analogy. I often come across people who view the present Government as a "Hindu" Government and they make the argument that all "Hindus" are benefiting from the favours being dished out by the Government. In effect, Government privileges are going to a handful of close relatives, and political cronies, referred to as "the clan".

'By taking short-cuts and associating a whole community with a "clan" is highly disturbing and objectionable. *This mode of reasoning may lead people to adopt an antagonistic posture towards all "Hindus" and exacerbate communal tensions.*

'Inadvertently, some protesters are reinforcing an erroneous perception that the PKJ Government is a "Hindu" government and all "Hindus" are enjoying the privileges of power. Can a community be equated to a clan? This is a potentially dangerous amalgam which some people are making and it can undermine the solidarity and unity that people should display when confronted with problems that cut across all communal lines, be it the proliferation of drugs, loss of purchasing power, corruption, nepotism or favouritism. Each one is not in her/his own ship; we are all together in the same boat... or mess.'*(italics added)*

Underlying the simple *blague*, therefore, is this widespread 'myopic, monochrome' perception that is revealed by the remark at the end about repeating the joke at the manifestation of 29 July – whose origins are thereby partly uncovered as well.

'*Le démon communal*' should not be awakened, as rightly demanded by the opposition, especially in a multi-ethnic society like ours, but it requires constant and sincere efforts by all sides to create harmony and instill the spirit of '*le vivre ensemble*'.

### The Conversation

## Climate explained: will the tropics eventually become uninhabitable?

*Absolute temperatures are expected to rise more slowly in the tropics than in higher latitudes and polar regions, but the combination of heat and rising humidity will make life more challenging*

More than 3.3 billion people live in the tropics, representing about 40% of the world's population. Despite some areas of affluence, such as

apparent temperature you feel under different relative humidity conditions.

From a human health point of view, the wet bulb temperature is



Blazing sun, scorched earth. Photo - MaxPixel.net

Singapore, the tropics are also home to about 85% of the world's poorest people and are therefore particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change.

The tropics are expected to experience rising temperatures and changes to rainfall, and the question is whether this could make this region uninhabitable. How would this happen?

### Heat stress

Humans regulate their body temperature in warm conditions through sweating. The sweat evaporates and cools the skin. But if conditions are humid, sweating and evaporation are much less effective.

Humans can survive and function in quite high temperatures if humidity is low, but as humidity increases our ability to function decreases rapidly. This effect is measured by a heat stress index which shows the

critical. This is the temperature a thermometer covered in a wet cloth would measure, and it reflects the maximum amount of cooling that can be achieved by evaporation.

High wet bulb temperatures are more problematic to human health than high absolute temperatures. Wet bulb temperatures above 35°C are life-threatening because they cause hyperthermia, which means the body cannot cool down and the internal body temperature exceeds 40°C.

Climate modelling predictions used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for the period from 2080-2100 suggest warming in the tropics of about 1.6°C under mid-range emissions scenarios and up to 3.3°C under high emissions scenarios, with error margins of about 0.5°C on both predictions.

James Shulmeister,  
Professor, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences,  
University of Canterbury

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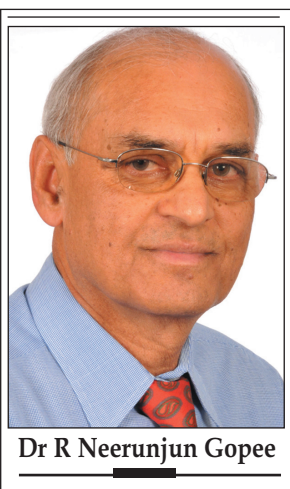


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# Growing Old – but Staying Young?

*Shakespeare described the seven ages of man, and in the last stage we are sans tooth, sans... etc. But we can be in a better state if we start early on in looking after ourselves*



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

**W**e all have heard the adage, '*si vieillesse pouvait, si jeunesse savait...*' ('If old age could, if youth knew...'), oft quoted by the elderly, because which jeunesse doesn't think that s/he knows all? Correspondingly, there are some elderly who think they can still go on as they used to do when they were young, and get frustrated when they find that they can't. It can become quite a problem, from a medical point of view, to make them overcome this

mental block and persuade them that they have to make adjustments in their ways and habits.

One problem that I frequently come across is with ageing people (I am here deliberately refraining from using the term 'old' - just yet) who have either pain or weakness in the lower limbs caused by the ageing process, for example in the knee. This is neither serious nor dangerous, there is treatment available, but as are there also limitations to treatment, there may be mild residual symptoms which cause some restriction of activities. This requires minor alterations, e.g. walking more slowly, taking certain precautions when using stairs, going down slopes, or treading on uneven surfaces. It is amazing how badly some people take this, saying they always walk fast.

My usual response, in light vein so as not to cause alarm, is 'show me in which book is it written that you have to walk fast?' This helps to shift the consultation to another level, where one can then nudge the person into accepting that this is the way that things unfold as one advances in age, and that we cannot be as agile and strong as when we were young, and there is no need to try and be what one can no longer be by forcing oneself, which can then lead to harm.

**“Just remember that that every today we are younger than we will be tomorrow – and bless the thought, for it will keep us going nicely! One more thing in these Covid times, especially with the heightened risk that opening of borders will bring, and this applies particularly to senior citizens: make sure you have had your flu shot, and USE YOUR MASK!”**

Most of all, one must not feel any guilt about this state of affairs, because there are so many other things that one can do, and enjoy too for that matter, provided one accepts with a degree of realism the changes that inevitably accompany ageing. On the other hand, there are situations when such restrictions are only of a temporary nature, and *then* one may go back to one's earlier routine. How soon? – will be the next question asked, and here I must admit that it not always possible to give an

exact answer, and really one must advise patience – which old age is supposed to bring, but which sometimes does not manifest enough in some!

Of course, being a regular walker myself, I can empathise with my patients or friends who seek advice or consultation, and I find that the best strategy is to talk about similar problems I have had myself, the ways I coped and the timeline to practically full recovery – and the precautions that I have imposed upon myself. That works wonderfully.

One day a couple of years ago, for example, I was asked by a friend as I had started walking in the morning, 'Why are you limping?' 'What,' I replied, 'Me limping?' 'Yes, you are,' confirmed my friend. And then only I realized I was limping, and the problem seemed to be the knee. But I was in no pain at all, and continued my walking. It was only during the day that the pain developed, and I did not try to figure out why this was so. By next morning, I was limping even more, and was in moderate pain. But stop walking? *Nyet!* Slowed down of course, and diagnosed that it was a ligament that was the cause of trouble.

I was too busy to have time to consult a colleague, got myself a knee support, and carried on, without taking any pain killers either. I decided I need ultrasound treatment, and duly had one session, and could find time for a second session only after a week. And that was the end of therapy – inadequate by all medical standards – and I would not advise anyone to follow my example! Gradually, though, the pain and limp went away and I resumed in full swing. Until I fractured my ankle, and then all was well after some time, and then afterwards I got a backache and then it got better...

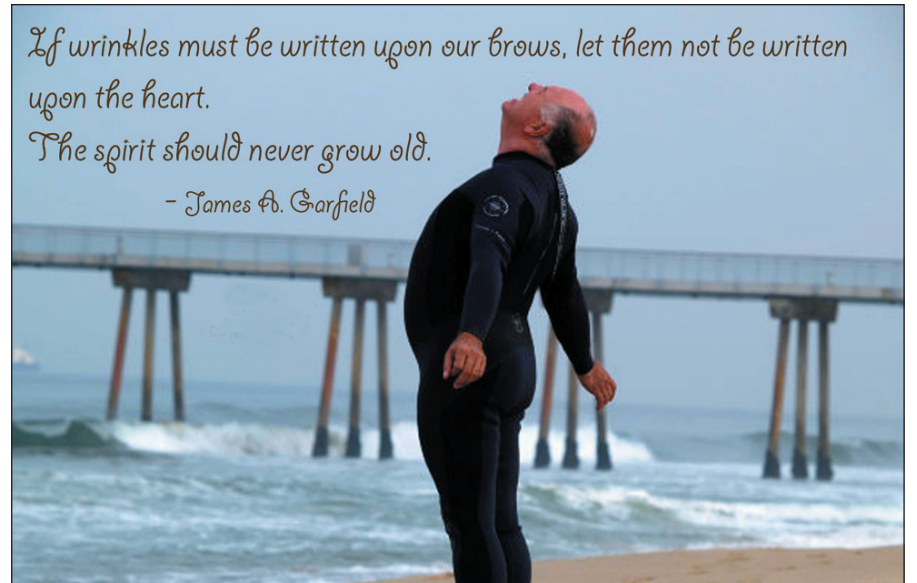
And so on, see, this is what ageing is about, and what does one do but overcome things one at a time and carry on! Studies have shown that our arteries start ageing practically as soon as we are born, but we have come a long way in science and medicine in understanding these and other changes that take place in several organs and systems of the body. Some people seem to crave for physical immortality, and good luck to them, but sufficiently is known to give sound advice about ageing healthily.

In summary it is to have to have proper food, do regular physical activity commensurate with one's capacity, keep mentally active (Sudoku, puzzles, reading), have a good social network and be active in it, maintain optimism and have some savings for the rainy day. This advice is not likely to be radically different even in a thousand years time (if humans are still around, that is), and until such time as scientists invent ways to make holographic clones of human beings, we can be assured that by sticking to the simple ways advocated we will age reasonably well.

No need to try and ape the young – what for? After all,

*If wrinkles must be written upon our brows, let them not be written upon the heart.  
The spirit should never grow old.*

– James H. Garfield



**Just remember that that every today we are younger than we will be tomorrow - Photo: quotationof.com**

we have been there, seen it, done it, haven't we. Our role is to be their mentors and guides, and support them in whatever way we can. This starts in the family, the best place to learn these skills, and if we are so inclined we may then involve ourselves with others who may not have the benefit of such wisdom otherwise.

**“Sufficiently is known to give sound advice about ageing healthily. In summary it is to have to have proper food, do regular physical activity commensurate with one's capacity, keep mentally active (Sudoku, puzzles, reading), have a good social network and be active in it, maintain optimism and have some savings for the rainy day. This advice is not likely to be radically different even in a thousand years time, and until such time as scientists invent ways to make holographic clones of human beings...”**

Shakespeare described the seven ages of man, and in the last stage we are *sans tooth, sans...* etc. But we can be in a better state, barring catastrophe of course, if we start early on in looking after ourselves. In Hinduism, we describe instead the four stages of life: brahmachari (student), grihastha (family), vanprastha (service to society), sanyasi (withdrawal from worldly activities and quest for liberation), each consisting of 25 years, and by the practice of a sane way of living on the physical and mental planes, following spiritual practices that allow us to remain within our limits of emotions and passions, and focusing on all that is positive, we are guaranteed to be able to age gracefully.

Just remember that that every today we are younger than we will be tomorrow – and bless the thought, for it will keep us going nicely!

One more thing in these Covid times, especially with the heightened risk that opening of borders will bring, and this applies particularly to senior citizens: make sure you have had your flu shot, and USE YOUR MASK!



# We all have a stake in this country and its future

*and we must contribute to shape it the way we want and not abdicate our duty and responsibility to those who want to take us back to feudal times*



Sada Reddi

**M**any people crying for change in various areas to improve living and working conditions have reached the conclusion that the 'system' is the major barrier to (positive) change in this country. Whether they are discussing politics, policies and any other issue, the diagnosis is the same. Often it is with a feeling of despair that they

articulate their grievances and the same tone echoes in everyone's ears. This is true for Mauritius as for any other country. It is a problem which has been debated for centuries, and is captured in the eternal debate between reformism and revolution and different variations on the same theme.

We may all agree that what they refer to as the 'system' remains a major obstacle in the path of progress, yet one should not despair of improving our society. History provides us with the reassurance that people have employed various strategies to improve society; our history is but a continuous conquest of rights and freedom -- though we should guard against seeing progress as something linear or inevitable.

Two broad strategies have been employed to fight the 'system', one from outside which bypasses the system; others have fought it from inside, that is by making oneself the agent of change and securing incremental changes, however small they might have been but eventually proved to be of great significance in the long run.

Take the case of private tuition in primary schools. There are some parents who refuse to provide for private tuition for their children for a number of reasons; there are others who can afford to simply opt for private schools. While the majority will accept private tuition somewhat grudgingly even if they are aware of its limited educational value, they have employed various strategies to nullify its baneful effects.

Some parents will ensure that after tuition, from 5 to 8 o'clock, their children get the opportunity to enjoy and relax by doing some sports or some reading for pleasure, watching television, and thereafter to focus either on school work or tuition work after arrangement with their teachers. Most of Saturdays and Sundays are reserved for leisure activities and there is no question of two private tuitions.

This is just one of the many strategies which can and have been used to fight the 'system'.

## A brick wall of indifference

The identification of the 'system' as an obstacle is not confined to education. It is equally relevant in every walk of life whenever one seeks to improve society or an organisation. Many people are repeatedly telling us that whenever they seek to fight corruption, nepotism, malpractices, environmental degradation, arbitrary power, traffic problems and injustices of every kind, they come up against a brick wall of indifference, bureaucratic incompetence, institutional inertia, sheer vested interests, government incompetence or public apathy.

Not only do they blame the various authorities of the day for the various ills that affect them in their daily lives, the blame is also shifted to government as it is viewed

increasingly as a "cash and carry" government.

Whatever the issue which is likely to become a major preoccupation of the people, there will always exist various ways to fight these ills both from inside and outside. In Afghanistan, policemen living in very remote areas used to receive their salaries through several intermediaries, and a cut was deducted from the salaries throughout the process at the level of each intermediary. What the policeman pocketed at the end of the month was but a fraction of his salary.

Recently technology has altogether removed the corrupt practice -- his full salary, which comes to a huge amount, much to the surprise of the police officer himself, is henceforth credited directly into his bank account through mobile payment. What police officers initially took to be a huge salary increase was in fact their normal salary. In this case technology has been used to eliminate corruption. Other strategies include protest of various kinds, which over the years have yielded positive results even when they were not entirely successful.

Every day we hear of protests of various kinds against the encroachment on public beaches, pollution of rivers and the seas, illegal constructions, nuisance caused by lorries running along on narrow roads destroying the peace of villagers and putting their lives at risk. Where the authorities are incompetent, they simply turn a deaf ear for they lack the ability to come up with appropriate solutions. In other cases some civil servants or concerned officers, who have a sense of duty and service will use their resourcefulness to find an acceptable solution. For example, where traffic poses a problem to a school, they simply put up a road sign banning traffic during certain hours, or when lorries become a nuisance, similar action is taken. Small solutions can provide durable solutions to what are perceived as insuperable problems.

## Reformist solutions

Similarly, in the field of politics, barring revolutionary action, which has never really taken place in the course of our history, reformist solutions have always been tried and been successful. Our major political parties - the Labour Party or the MMM - have never been revolutionary except in their rhetoric, but their reformist initiatives have in the long run bettered our political system and society. Both trade unionism and the Welfare State are reformist achievements within a capitalist system which to a certain

**“Every day we hear of protests of various kinds against the encroachment on public beaches, pollution of rivers and the seas, illegal constructions, nuisance caused by lorries running along on narrow roads destroying the peace of villagers and putting their lives at risk. Where the authorities are incompetent, they simply turn a deaf ear for they lack the ability to come up with appropriate solutions. In other cases some civil servants or concerned officers, who have a sense of duty and service will use their resourcefulness to find an acceptable solution...”**

extent have humanized society and benefited the common people.

One should not therefore despair of fighting the system. Whenever we are confronted with any system which is inimical to the public good of the people, we have always resorted to various strategies to put pressure for change - some successful, some less -- but people have never given up on their principles or convictions. People not satisfied with major parties have set up their own parties to contest general elections and in some cases scored between 2000-3000 votes. Politicians have split from their parties to seek greater autonomy in their action; ecological movements maintain pressure against those who grab public beaches at the expense of the public.



**When a government fails to deliver on what the people consider the most important pledges, they will seek alternatives.**

Photo: voices.transparency.org...

All these show that the fight for democracy and a better life is an unending struggle in which different kinds of stakeholders participate at all times. Changes are always taking place. We have to push for more positive changes, accelerate them and support them. Public opinion contributes a lot towards the attainment of these objectives.

## Myths and magicians

Normally we should expect that people's grievances would be aired in the open after two and a half or three years into a government's mandate - incidentally around the time when political parties start preparations for the next elections. This time it seems to be surfacing sooner than expected.

When a government fails to deliver on what the people consider the most important pledges, they will seek alternatives. No longer will people just wait for a series of new pledges. The debate on what should be done should intensify and the people must continue to press for the redress of issues, which concern them directly and ensure they find their way on the political agenda. This means greater public awareness, mobilization and winning support for important matters and preparing the long list of issues from below. We must participate actively in whatever way we can to better our society and make sure that these are implemented in a reasonable time.

We all have a stake in this country and its future, and we must contribute to shape it the way we want and not abdicate our duty and responsibility to those who want to take us back to feudal times.



# US President Donald Trump has said he will next week nominate a woman to replace the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Ginsburg, 87, died on Friday, just weeks before the presidential election. Mr Trump's Democratic rival, Joe Biden, insists the decision on her replacement should wait until after the vote.

The ideological balance of the nine-member court is crucial to its rulings on the most important issues in US law. But President Trump has vowed to swear in Ginsburg's successor "without delay", a move that has infuriated Democrats, who fear Republicans will vote to lock in a decades-long conservative majority on the country's highest court.

"I will be putting forth a nominee next week. It will be a woman," Mr Trump said at a campaign rally in Fayetteville, North Carolina on Saturday. "I think it should be a woman because I actually like women much more than men."

Some supporters chanted "Fill that seat!" as Mr Trump spoke, urging him to take the rare opportunity to nominate a third justice during one presidential term to a lifetime appointment on the court.

Earlier, Mr Trump praised two female judges who serve on federal courts of appeals as possible choices. Both judges - Amy Coney Barrett and Barbara Lagoa - are conservatives who would tip the balance of the Supreme Court in favour of Republicans.

Democrats have vigorously opposed any nomination



Ruth Bader Ginsburg death: Trump to nominate woman to fill Supreme Court seat. Photo - abcmundial.com

before November's election, arguing that Senate Republicans blocked Democratic President Barack Obama's choice for the US top court in 2016.

At the time, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell justified the move on grounds that it was an election year. But on Friday Senator McConnell said he intended to act on any nomination Mr Trump made and bring it to a vote in the Senate before election day.

Ginsburg, a liberal icon and feminist standard-bearer, died of metastatic pancreatic cancer at her home in Washington DC, surrounded by her family. She was only the second-ever woman to sit on the Supreme Court.

The appointment of judges in the US is a political question which means the president gets to choose who is put forward. The Senate then votes to confirm - or reject - the choice.

Ginsburg, who served for 27 years, was one of only four liberals on the nine-seat bench. Her death means that, should the Republicans get the vote through, the balance of power would shift decisively towards the conservatives.

Mr Trump, who has already chosen two Supreme Court justices during his presidency, is well aware that getting his nominee in would give conservatives control over key decisions for decades to come. Justices can serve for life, unless they decide to retire.

## What does the Supreme Court do?

The highest court in the US is often the final word on highly contentious laws, disputes between states and the federal government, and final appeals to stay executions.

In recent years, the court has expanded gay marriage to all 50 states, allowed for President Trump's travel ban to be put in place, and delayed a US plan to cut carbon emissions while appeals went forward.

It is also deals with issues like reproductive rights - one of the main reasons some pro-life conservatives want to tip the balance away from liberals.

## No crowds as Taj Mahal opens after longest shutdown

Few people turned up to see the iconic Taj Mahal when it reopened its doors after six months - the longest it has ever been shut.

The entrance, which usually has long queues, was largely empty on Monday as officials waited for visitors. New safety measures include a ban on group photos, temperature checks at the entrance and digital tickets. The monument will allow only 5,000 visitors daily as India reports record Covid-19 cases every day. It has long been one of the leading tourist attractions, and drew as many as 70,000 people every day before the pandemic.

It was last shut briefly in 1978 when Agra city, where it is located, flooded. And before that, the monument closed for a few days in 1971, during a war between India and Pakistan.

### Selfies allowed, but no 'group photos'

The entire campus was sanitised before the doors opened at 8am and all officials were seen wearing masks and face shields, local journalist Yogesh Kumar Singh, who was at the monument when it opened, told the BBC. Authorities said there would be temperature checks at the entrance, and visitors would be asked to use digital payment methods to buy tickets. They have also been told to follow social distancing on the property.

While visitors can take selfies or solo photographs, group photos are not allowed.



The entrance of the Taj was deserted on Monday. Photo - thefinancialexpress.com

### 'It doesn't feel like the Taj'

"But there is no rush, it feels so unlike Taj Mahal," Mr Singh said. "I think many people will not turn up as long as cases continue to spike." Mr Singh added that it would be interesting to see how authorities enforce safety rules when large groups start visiting the site.

The Taj is surrounded by gardens where visitors spend a lot of time walking around and posing for photographs. But the mausoleum itself is a closed space, with almost no ventilation, making it vulnerable to Covid-19 transmission.

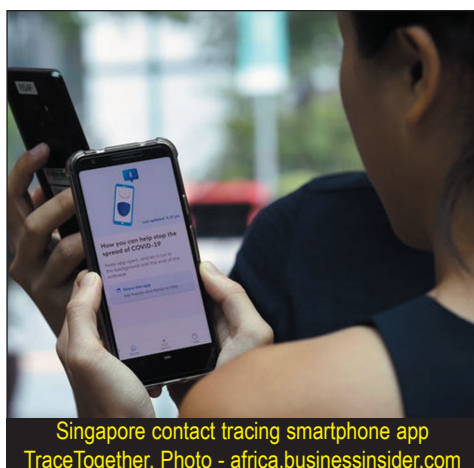
Typically, it is crowded as tourists move in and out of it in long lines.

Gautam Sharma, who drove from Delhi to visit the Taj Mahal on Monday, said he had been waiting for the day for months.

"I knew not many people will turn up initially, so I thought it will be safe to visit the monument in the first few days of reopening," he said.

The Taj Mahal is usually part of every foreign dignitary's itinerary. US President Donald Trump and his wife Melania visited the Taj in February. Other world leaders who have visited the monument include Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

\* More on Page 6



Singapore contact tracing smartphone app TraceTogether. Photo - africa.businessinsider.com

## Singapore rolls out Covid tracing tokens

Singapore is distributing thousands of devices that can track where a person has been and who they have interacted with.

The small bluetooth device is meant for those who do not own smartphones and cannot use a contact tracing app that was previously rolled out by the Singapore government, reports BBC.

While there are some concerns over about data protection, authorities say the token helps vulnerable groups to feel safer when out and about.

For instance, the token helps elderly people keep a precise record of their whereabouts.



# Foreigners not as wanted as before in Singapore

**R**ecord job losses are testing Singapore's openness to global talent, magnifying local unease with foreign job seekers that was already apparent before Covid-19 drove the wealthy city-state into its deepest-ever recession. Under pressure to revive the economy and create jobs, policymakers are responding cautiously with new measures to shore up local hiring while leaving the door open to skilled foreign workers needed to compete in various advanced industries, reports Asia Times.

Total employment in the city-state fell 129,100 in the first half of 2020, while the overall unemployment rate rose to 2.8% as of June. Retrenchments rose sharply to 11,350 in the first half of the year, with the likes of Singapore Airlines recently announcing plans to cut 4,300 jobs, or around 20% of its staff.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong stressed in an address to Parliament that while his government would "always be on the side of Singaporeans", the city-state must resist pressures to "turn inward" as policies to safeguard Singaporean jobs are adjusted in the wake of the pandemic-induced economic crisis.

The ruling People's Action Party (PAP), which won re-election in July with promises to prioritize job creation, now must mount a response to long-standing workforce grievances without burdening employers or cutting out foreign labor and investment needed to bolster the island nation's longer-term economic recovery.

"Many Singaporeans are feeling anxious and pressured about their jobs. Their sense that foreigners are competing with them for jobs is palpable" said Lee. "We must be careful not to give the wrong impression that we are now closing up, and no longer welcoming foreigners. Such a reputation would do us great harm."

Singapore's success as a global business hub has



City-state's openness to foreign talent could be closing. Photo - asiatictimes.com

hinged on its openness to global capital and labor flows, a formula that is under unprecedented strain in the Covid-19 era. The pandemic has put a spotlight on low-wage migrant workers often employed in the construction sector who account for around 95% of the city-state's recorded 57,500 infections.

Issues related to rising immigration and skilled foreign labor have, on the other hand, stoked a polarizing debate and stirred exclusionary sentiments, particularly toward professional migrants from India who some critics and netizens view as being overrepresented in well-paid sectors such as information technology and banking.

"Attitudes towards middle-class migrants are similar to global sentiments under these pandemic conditions and are characterized by heightened xenophobia in many cases, seeing migrants as competing for scarce jobs and resources with citizens," said Laavanya Kathiravelu, a sociologist at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University.

Opposition parties notably increased their vote share

at the polls after pressing the PAP on immigration and foreign worker issues on the campaign trail. At the first session of Parliament since the polls, Leader of the Opposition Pritam Singh called for laws to punish companies whose hiring practices discriminate against Singaporean workers.

Prior to that, in August, the government said it would raise the minimum monthly salary threshold required for companies to obtain a work permit for foreign professionals, known as an Employment Pass, to S\$4,500 (US\$3,310) from S\$3,900. For expatriates in the finance sector, the minimum salary was raised to S\$5,000 (\$3,680) in a sector-specific first.

While some observers have welcomed moves to incentivize hiring local talent, others say the minimum salary thresholds for foreign workers could saddle employers with extra expenses in already challenging economic circumstances should there be too few suitable Singaporean candidates available for hire.

"This will complicate the operating environment and increase operating costs," said Yu Liqing, a country analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). "It indeed will encourage employers to hire locals instead of foreign talents, especially when factoring in the government's wage co-funding scheme for the new local hires."

Under the S\$1 billion (\$737 million) Jobs Growth Incentive scheme unveiled last month, businesses that hire local employees over the next six months will be eligible to receive offsets amounting to 50% of the salaries of those aged 40 and above and up to 25% for younger local hires over the next 12 months, subject to a cap.

"But, some specialized talents might not be adequate in Singapore and businesses will have to spend more to bring them in. The new salary threshold can be prohibitively high for graduate program positions, where multinational businesses tend to look globally for candidates," Yu added. "Singapore's hub economy model will be affected."

## World split on urgency of tackling rising temperatures, poll suggests

**T**here's growing concern among citizens all over the world about climate change, according to a new global poll. But respondents had very different attitudes to the level of urgency required to tackle the problem.

Big majorities in poorer countries strongly agreed with tackling climate change with the same vigour as Covid-19. However, in richer nations, the support for rapid action was far more muted. Meanwhile, the Prince of Wales has warned the climate crisis will "dwarf" the impact of coronavirus.

The poll, carried out by Globescan, provides fresh evidence that across the 27 countries surveyed, around 90% of people saw climate change as a very serious or somewhat serious problem. This finding has strengthened over the past few years.

There have been big increases in this sense of urgency among people polled in Canada, France, India, Kenya, Nigeria and the US. In the US this number of people perceiving the issue as serious or very serious has increased from just over 60% in 2014, to 81% in June this year when the



Heat waves have been experienced in many parts of the world this year - Photo - Getty Images - ichef.bbc.co.uk

poll was carried out - that's despite President Trump's well known scepticism on the issue. In the same time period, serious concerns over climate change in India have risen from 70% to 93% of those polled.

According to Eric Whan, from pollsters Globescan, the covid crisis has increased people's sense of the threat from rising temperatures. "This is a year of vulnerability and exacerbation of inequality and those most susceptible to disruption feel the greatest level of seriousness," he told

BBC News.

But when people were asked if their governments should tackle the issue with the same urgency as they've tackled the coronavirus pandemic, major differences between rich and poor started to appear.

Japan, Sweden, Australia, the US and UK all have less than 45% of respondents strongly agreeing with urgent action. In Kenya, Mexico, Argentina, Turkey and Nigeria the figure was well above 70% in all of them.

Similarly, when asked who would suffer the most, more than 60% of respondents in Brazil, Kenya, Turkey, Nigeria and South Africa strongly agreed it would be poor people. But in Japan, Australia, US, UK and others, less than 40% strongly felt it would be the poor who would bear the brunt.

Perhaps one key to these discrepancies might be down to personal experience of climate change.

In the UK, just 13% of respondents said they were personally affected by rising temperatures, compared to 34% who said they were personally affected by the coronavirus pandemic. There were similar differences in richer countries like Sweden, the US and Japan.

The poll was carried out online among samples of 1,000 adults in each of the 27 countries. It's been released to mark the start of Climate Week 2020 in New York, which is expected to be the biggest climate summit taking place this year and is being run in co-ordination with the UN.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah



## Samad Ramoly

# “L'histoire nous démontre que, tôt ou tard, toute imposture finit par être mise au jour”



**Mauritius Times :** S'il existe un consensus auprès de beaucoup de Mauriciens quant à la nécessité d'un changement, souhaiteriez-vous que ce changement soit introduit par voie démocratique ou par des “révolutions de rue”?

**Samad Ramoly:** J'adhère au slogan “I love Moris. Mo ankoler ar bann dirizan”. Je pense que cela traduirait plus un changement de système dans le sens où il faut identifier nos blocages et dysfonctionnements afin d'agir en conséquence, redonner confiance aux citoyennes et citoyens et redynamiser un pays profondément déchiré. Notre conception même de la démocratie doit dépasser le cadre strict des élections. La vigilance citoyenne et institutionnelle vis-à-vis des dérives devrait être permanente.

Qu'une bonne partie du pays soit gagnée par la corruption n'étonne personne, j'ose espérer. Certes la situation actuelle donne l'impression d'une décadence jamais atteinte jusqu'ici.

Lorsque je parle des dirigeants, évidemment j'associe les dirigeants politiques aux dirigeants du Big Business. Le drame, comme dans beaucoup de pays d'ailleurs, c'est que par manque d'alternative crédible, nous votons par défaut. Ainsi, la colère de la “rue” traduit un ressenti de mal-gouvernance exacerbée dans l'espoir que le message devienne aussi cohérent que puissant afin de forcer

**L**ors des élections, les Mauriciens votent pour une alternance tout en gardant l'espoir fragile que la lumière de la compétence jaillira au bout du tunnel. Mais année après année, les citoyens s'interrogent sur l'incapacité du système politique actuel à leur offrir un meilleur avenir. Tandis que l'arrogance et l'aveuglement de la classe politique déçoivent, celle-ci s'enfonce de plus en plus profondément dans la spirale de l'inefficacité : corruption, absence d'intégrité, clientélisme, tractations de mauvaise foi, instigateurs et incendiaires, entre autres. Samad Ramoly nous en parle.

un changement radical d'attitude des élites dirigeantes. Et, mieux encore, il s'agit de susciter l'émergence d'une nouvelle force politique.

Si les plus jeunes ont tendance à se braquer sur les problèmes environnementaux, les plus âgés sont très concernés par la vie chère, le problème de logement, le chômage et les inégalités sociales. Le malaise est bien mauricien. Les inégalités sociales, quant à elles, sont le symptôme d'une concentration abusive de la richesse nationale entre les mains d'une petite poignée de familles. Si les prochaines manifestations sont articulées autour de cette perspective, il est certain de voir disparaître les partisans du changement superficiel.

**\* Quelle lecture faites-vous des dernières manifestations du mouvement “Pou Nouvo Moris” et des ambitions de son principal organisateur, Bruneau Laurette? Fait surprenant noté la semaine dernière dans le sillage de la tourmente créée par le discours du cadre de Altéo Ltée lors d'un déjeuner sur une chassée de l'île, c'est le fait que Bruneau Laurette s'est invité dans le débat pour prendre la défense de Pierre Noël. Pensez-vous que ce n'est pas un hasard, ou est-ce que cette démarche relève d'une stratégie mûrement réfléchie? Avec quel objectif?**

Le mouvement “Pou Nouvo Moris” est né dans le sillage du drame Wakashio. Il

“Le malaise est bien mauricien. Les inégalités sociales, quant à elles, sont le symptôme d'une concentration abusive de la richesse nationale entre les mains d'une petite poignée de familles. Si les prochaines manifestations sont articulées autour de cette perspective, il est certain de voir disparaître les partisans du changement superficiel...”

ne faudrait pas oublier la manifestation organisée par le *Kolectif Konversasyon Solider* le 11 juillet (qui même si elle n'a pas galvanisé le même nombre de personnes) propageait déjà le sentiment de ras le bol. Selon moi, cette marche a tracé la voie.

J'ai lu avec une attention particulière ce post de Bruneau Laurette. Je pense que, comme beaucoup, il ferait preuve de *lazy thinking* s'il considère ces propos comme n'étant qu'une blague banale. Nous savons que le terme local “*kabri dan lind*”, qui n'est pas utilisé ici, pour qualifier les Indiens a une connotation strictement négative. Alors que “*malbar*”, même s'il peut être à double tranchant, ne me semble pas innocent quand c'est utilisé ici. Il crée l'amalgame.

De tels propos méritent d'être condamnés. Mais comme nous savons aussi qu'aucune communauté n'a le monopole de la bêtise, vaut mieux ne pas en faire un cas isolé et de réfléchir sur la raison derrière de telles “blagues” et agir ensemble pour minimiser de telles bêtises. En revanche, l'histoire nous démontre que, tôt ou tard, toute imposture finit par être mise au jour.

**\* Face à la position de Laurette vis-à-vis de Noël, on ne connaît pas la réaction d'Ashok Subron et de Rashid Imrith, surtout ce dernier qui disait que la marche de Mahebourg confirme l'accomplissement d'un “grand pas vers le mauricianisme”. Mais c'est quand même un étrange “mauricianisme” que celui prôné par les partisans du “Pou Nouvo Moris” que de se permettre de se ranger dans le camp de l'insulte à l'encontre d'une section de la population mauricienne tout en s'enroband du drapeau national, non?**

Déjà le sens du “mauricianisme” peut varier d'une personne à une autre. Admettons qu'il signifie une appartenance affirmée à la nation mauricienne. La banalisation de “*nou bann*” et “*bann-la*” dénote un repli identitaire qui se réveille en période de crispation et de tension.

Quelque part, nous sommes toutes et

tous des “*closet racists*”, c'est-à-dire, en privé ou parmi nos “friends” sur Facebook ou nos contacts sur Whatsapp, nous véhiculons des préjugés et des “blagues” sur l'Autre. L'Autre peut représenter une personne ou un groupe de personnes qui, selon notre ouverture d'esprit ou notre endoctrinement, entre autres, ne peuvent être assimilés à notre “tribu” et à ses valeurs. Quitte à ce que ces valeurs soient nombrilistes, suprémacistes, etc.

Prenons l'exemple de “*negro*”. Lorsqu'un “blanc” le prononce, cela tend à interpellé le “noir”. En revanche, lorsque ce dernier le prononce, ça passe. Pourquoi? Une explication serait que la relation de dominé/dominant met en œuvre le déterminisme, cette conviction que nos attitudes sont inscrites dans notre ADN et qu'elles ne peuvent être modifiées.

“Les prochains mois vont être manifestement plus difficiles qu'ils auraient pu et dû l'être si nos élites dirigeantes n'avaient pas focalisé nos ressources sur la bétonisation du pays, par exemple. La complaisance de la majorité de nos leaders d'opinion et autres zistwariens par rapport à notre “miracle”, à la désindustrialisation brutale et nos chaînes logistiques dépassées doit aussi être mise en évidence...”

En contrepartie, il existe aussi le fatalisme, soit la conviction que nos actions n'ont pas vraiment d'importance car tout ce qui est destiné à arriver se produira. Dans ce cas, la réaction risque d'être explosive. Lorsque nous vivons surtout en “tribus”, parmi nos semblables, nous n'avons pas suffisamment de recul pour réaliser que nous pouvons aussi intérioriser des valeurs toxiques. Bien souvent, en ringardisant l'Autre, nous révélons plus sur nos mentalités que sur celles de notre cible.

Quand nous aspirons à vivre de manière “civilisée”, nous faisons preuve de discernement pour ne pas nourrir et alimenter des sentiments et des expressions qui puissent blesser l'Autre, souvent les plus discriminés, les plus vulnérables ou celles et ceux qui ressentent que leurs “privilèges” supposés soient menacés.

☞ Suite en page 8



# 'Notre conception même de la démocratie doit dépasser le cadre strict des élections.'

La vigilance citoyenne et institutionnelle vis-à-vis des dérives devrait être permanente'

☞ Suite de la page 7

\* L'Opposition avait une position de "wait and see" au départ du lancement du mouvement de Laurette, mais depuis elle a pris ses distances. A-t-elle des raisons de craindre un effritement de sa base électorale?

L'opposition est clairement en mode racolage. Cela se comprend car elle est un maillon important dans la construction de ce système qui s'essouffle depuis longtemps déjà, sauf qu'elle a su convaincre une bonne partie de la population - comme ce Gouvernement actuel, d'ailleurs - que progrès rime forcément avec développement structurel.

Peu importe si les normes ne sont pas respectées, les coûts ne sont pas maîtrisés, les projets sont inutiles, la transparence ne prime pas et les commissions déterminent l'allocation des contrats.

Je suis convaincu que la majorité de l'électorat mauricien voterait pour une équipe de candidats crédibles, peu importe leur appartenance ethno-religieuse, du moment que le projet de société soit détaillé et en accord avec leurs attentes.

L'Opposition serait un adepte du "business as usual" si elle n'est pas capable de venir de l'avant pour nous montrer comment, aussitôt au pouvoir, elle va s'y prendre pour, entre autres,

1. pratiquer la transparence absolue dans l'utilisation de notre argent et le financement privé des élections avec un encadrement légal;
2. réduire le nombre de ministères, les salaires des ministres et des députés;
3. limiter le mandat de tous les parlementaires;
4. stabiliser notre monnaie comme Singapour, Hong Kong ou l'Estonie car une politique délibérée de dépréciation stimule une spirale vicieuse et ne contribue pas aux gains en productivité, soit la principale source de gain en compétitivité;
5. stopper tout développement foncier "pieds dans l'eau" et les permis de projet foncier pour étrangers.

\* Donc, selon vous l'identity politics ne serait pas incontournable?

Permettez-moi de préciser ma réflexion. Si nous réduisons l'identité d'une personne à sa seule dimension ethno-religieuse sans intégrer son genre et son positionnement sur l'échelle sociale, je pense que nous nous éloignons de ce qui cons-



☞ Ce n'est pas parce que sa "base" soit surtout d'une communauté spécifique que nous devons attribuer à Bruneau Laurette des intentions sectaires et démagogiques. L'essentiel, pour lui, serait de convaincre toute la population à travers ses propos et ses actions que son élan demeure national. Maintenant, ce serait dommage qu'il soit instrumentalisé par le Big Business et l'Eglise. A ce stade du moins, cette éventualité ne me semble pas évidente...☞

☞ Je ne vois pas comment surmonter les discriminations, par exemple, en étant colour-blind. Le modèle canadien du multiculturalisme et de la citoyenneté peut nous orienter. Nous sommes très en retard, comme la France, par rapport aux études post-coloniales et le white privilege reste tabou. Il est temps de faire face à la réalité dans toute sa complexité, en s'efforçant toutefois d'éviter une approche binaire...☞

titue son existence. Donc, ce n'est pas l'identity politics en soi qui soit nocif, mais l'instrumentalisation des composantes de nos identités pour divide and rule.

Je conçois que la situation actuelle exige plus de considération à l'identification car le reward system par rapport à nos contributions n'a jamais été aussi biaisé en faveur des "parasites endémiques", c'est à dire le Big Business, et des "parasites chroniques" qui gravitent autour du pouvoir politique du moment. C'est très regrettable que 52 années de politique - parfois éclairées, mais hélas trop souvent mal inspirées -, aient fragilisé notre lakorite et sous-exploité les énergies riches et créatives de notre multiculturalité.

C'est réconfortant, d'après ce que j'ai lu dans la presse, que Jean-Claude de l'Estrac et Arvin Boolell aient changé d'avis par rapport à la ré-actualisation du recensement communautaire. Je ne vois pas comment surmonter les discriminations, par exemple, en étant colour-blind.

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\* La question de récupération politique de ce mouvement de Bruneau Laurette ne se pose probablement plus aujourd'hui, puisque le principal organisateur et ses appuis se sont probablement donné une ambition politique, mais faut-il anticiper une récupération par le Big Business et l'Eglise?

J'ai entendu Bruneau Laurette dire à la radio qu'il ne souhaiterait pas faire de la politique active et partisane. Il a rallié une bonne partie de la population afro-mauricienne. Rezistans ek Alternativ et quelques syndicalistes se sont joints à lui pour constituer ensemble un mouvement.

Ce n'est pas parce que sa "base" soit surtout d'une communauté spécifique que nous devons lui attribuer des intentions sectaires et démagogiques. L'essentiel, pour lui, serait de convaincre toute la population à travers ses propos et ses actions que son élan demeure national.

Maintenant, ce serait dommage qu'il soit instrumentalisé par le Big Business et l'Eglise. A ce stade du moins, cette éventualité ne me semble pas évidente. Attendons de voir plus clairement!

\* Une lecture attentive des commentaires figurant dans la presse dite

indépendante laisse clairement comprendre que le Big Business ne serait pas à l'aise avec la décision gouvernementale de retarder l'ouverture complète de nos frontières. Celle-ci est prévue, selon le Gouvernement, à une date qui sera déterminée à la lumière de l'évolution de la pandémie de la Covid-19. "Notre priorité demeurera la protection de notre population", peut-on lire dans un communiqué du PMO. Le Gouvernement a-t-il raison, selon vous?

Personne ne peut prétendre maîtriser cette situation. Nous ne pourrions pas garder nos frontières fermées indéfiniment. Il s'agit de réunir les conditions pour minimiser les risques et d'optimiser l'utilisation appropriée de la technologie pour le contact tracing.

D'une part, le Gouvernement a procédé et persiste toujours avec le fear mongering. Il ne prépare pas la population à vivre avec la Covid-19. Cela étant dit, une fois nos frontières ouvertes, je pense que les cas de Covid-19 seront inévitables.

D'autre part, ce serait une tâche ardue de nous convaincre que notre service de santé peut répondre efficacement à un nombre élevé de cas. Que les hôteliers en général soient nerveux par rapport à cette situation est légitime.

Par contre, on peut aussi comprendre le scepticisme quant à certains groupes qui souhaitent bénéficier sans contrainte de l'assistance financière de l'État alors que les dividendes payées sur plusieurs années et les investissements soient aussi disproportionnés et que leur trésorerie soit si peu liquide.

\* Voyez-vous là une opportunité unique pour faire avancer le programme de démocratisation de l'économie mauricienne lancé par les Travailleurs sans grand succès?

La démocratisation économique, le projet Maurice Ile Durable, la Truth and Justice Commission, l'Equal Opportunities Commission, la Competition Commission, l'Empowerment Programme, etc., sont des initiatives fort louables. Mais pourquoi ces game changers potentiels n'ont pas su répondre à nos aspirations?

Je pense que la rupture annoncée avec un modèle de développement, qui n'a été fondamentalement qu'un mirage, n'a pas bénéficié de la part du Premier ministre d'alors du leadership et du management qu'un tel changement en profondeur avait besoin.

☞ Suite en page 11





Vina Ballgobin

# Les orques attaquent les bateaux au large de l'Espagne : Que se passe-t-il ?

*La planète Terre est en souffrance à cause de la mondialisation, de la consommation effrénée d'une population insatiable, de la déforestation foudroyante*

**L**es dauphins ont probablement un problème ces temps-ci, mais lequel? Bien difficile à dire pour les experts qui ne les comprennent qu'imparfaitement. Il existe plusieurs types de dauphins et dans chaque population, il existe aussi des sous-populations et espèces, chacune ayant ses spécificités. Récemment, plusieurs personnes ont rapporté des cas inhabituels d'agression envers l'humain par une espèce de la famille des dauphins : l'orque.

## L'orque : un ami de l'humain

Les orques appartiennent à la famille des dauphins. On les appelle aussi «épaulard», «orca» ou «Orcinus orca». Ce sont les plus grands cétacés de la famille des dauphins : les mâles mesurent entre 7 et 9 mètres de long et les femelles font entre 6 et 7 mètres. Le mâle pèse entre 5 et 8 tonnes tandis que la femelle ne dépasse pas 4 tonnes. Les orques vivent partout sur la planète, même au Pôle Nord et au Pôle Sud. On les retrouve en Nouvelle-Zélande, dans le détroit de Gibraltar, en Argentine ainsi qu'au Canada à proximité de l'île de Vancouver.

Une femelle orque donne naissance à un bébé orque environ une fois chaque 5 ans. 50% des petits meurent dans les 6 premiers mois suivant leur naissance. Toutefois, pour celles qui arrivent à passer ce cap, une femelle vit en moyenne 63 ans tandis que le mâle vit 36 ans. Certaines femelles peuvent vivre jusqu'à 90 ans et les mâles, jusqu'à 60 ans.

En général, les orques vivent en groupes familiaux menés par une femelle. Ce sont des carnassiers. L'orque océanique attaque les requins et autres cétacés de grande taille. D'autres orques se nourrissent de calmars, de manchots, de phoques, de poissons, de tortues, entre autres. Les orques ont des techniques de chasse bien développées. Elles peuvent attaquer en masse des êtres vivants bien plus massifs qu'elles-mêmes. Pour cette raison, on donne un surnom à l'orque : c'est le «loup des mers». Les jeunes orques apprennent en observant les plus âgées.

En ce qui concerne la relation avec les humains, habituellement, les orques sont pacifiques et nagent à côté des bateaux. L'orque, noire sur le dessus avec la partie ventrale blanche, suscite l'admiration par ses sauts, ses bonds et ses pirouettes hors de l'eau. Les humains sont fascinés par le système de communication des orques et les considèrent comme des mammifères intelligents. Celles-ci émettent plusieurs sons : grincements, sifflements, grognements, cris et clics pour l'écholocation. Chaque famille a son propre répertoire vocal. Il existerait des «clans acoustiques» par transmission culturelle d'une génération à une autre au sein de chaque groupe spécifique. Chaque individu possède sa signature vocale.

## Changement de comportement récent

Depuis juillet 2020, certaines orques sont devenues agressives envers les embarcations des humains dans les mers européennes. Le 29 juillet 2020, une passagère a dit que l'attaque de son navire semblait organisée par les orques. Elles communiquaient entre elles et tentaient de faire chavirer l'embarcation. Le 30 août 2020, une



«Au cours des deux derniers mois, le long des côtes espagnoles et portugaises, des marins ont envoyé plusieurs appels de détresse après que des orques se sont violemment attaqués à leurs bateaux. Photo - www.ulyces.co»

bande d'orques pourchassait un navire français qui a dû signaler cette attaque aux garde-côtes. Un peu plus tard, le même jour, un navire espagnol a signalé l'attaque de l'embarcation par des orques. Le 11 septembre 2020, une orque a attaqué un yacht de dix mètres à 15 reprises. Une autre fois, quatre orques s'amusaient à faire tourner un bateau sur lui-même. Au large des côtes espagnoles et portugaises, les orques de 6 à 8 mètres de long attaquent les bateaux causant plusieurs dégâts, entre autres, elles endommagent la coque du bateau ou le gouvernail. D'autres fois, ce sont les passagers qui sont blessés à cause des mouvements brusques du bateau.

**« Marco Lambertini du World Wildlife Fund explique que la planète Terre est en souffrance à cause de la mondialisation, de la consommation effrénée d'une population insatiable, de la déforestation foudroyante, entre autres. Le «budget biologique» consomme plus que les capacités de régénération de la Terre, dit-il. Le WWF propose depuis quelques années des solutions pour une gestion durable des activités de pêche dans des mers et des océans surexploités... »**

Bien entendu, les spécialistes sont interpellés par ce phénomène inhabituel et, pour l'instant, il y a plusieurs hypothèses pour expliquer le changement de comportement des orques envers les humains.

- Le neuro-spécialiste, Lori Marino, parle de l'effet Covid-19. Etant donné que les activités humaines avaient été arrêtées temporairement, les mers étaient calmes. Le retour des bateaux aurait probablement dérangé les orques. Ces dernières attaqueraient les bateaux afin que les humains s'éloignent de leur milieu de vie.

- Un autre spécialiste travaillant à l'université de Séville, Rocio Espada, parle de stress qui affecte les orques. Ces dernières sont menacées de disparition. Dans le Déroit de Gibraltar, il ne reste plus qu'une cinquantaine d'orques.
- La pêche industrielle de thons dont se nourrissent aussi les orques a provoqué un déséquilibre dans la chaîne alimentaire. La surpêche a entraîné une réduction massive de thons... De plus, les équipements blessent ou tuent les orques qui sont malencontreusement capturées par les filets ou autres matériaux de pêche.
- Certains pêcheurs blessent ou tuent les orques, soit au moyen de filaments électriques, ou ils les arrosent de pétrole, ou ils coupent leurs nageoires dorsales.
- La pollution marine affecte et stresse les orques.

Marco Lambertini du World Wildlife Fund (WWF) explique que la planète Terre est en souffrance à cause de la mondialisation, de la consommation effrénée d'une population insatiable, de la déforestation foudroyante, entre autres. Le «budget biologique» consomme plus que les capacités de régénération de la Terre, dit-il. Le WWF propose depuis quelques années des solutions pour une gestion durable des activités de pêche dans des mers et des océans surexploités. Pourtant, certaines espèces sont en voie de disparition comme l'orque...

L'instinct de survie de l'orque la pousserait-elle à communiquer avec l'homme? Voudrait-elle vraiment vivre en paix dans son habitat et essaie-t-elle de nous faire comprendre l'urgence d'un changement de comportement individuel et collectif? Il faudrait moins de bateaux qui tuent non seulement les adultes, mais aussi les bébés et les orques en gestation... Est-ce une requête, une revendication, une protestation véhémente ou une supplique d'une espèce en détresse? Et les humains sont-ils prêts à écouter les orques? Charles Nodier a dit que l'expérience nous apprend la réalité des choses et élève notre esprit à la connaissance des vérités...



# Now everyone's a statistician. Here's what armchair COVID experts are getting wrong

*The pandemic has exposed many of us to new statistical concepts, on the news, in everyday conversations and on social media. But how many are you getting wrong?*

If we don't analyse statistics for a living, it's easy to be taken in by misinformation about COVID-19 statistics on social media, especially if we don't have the right context.

For instance, we may cherry pick statistics supporting our viewpoint and ignore statistics showing we are wrong. We also still need to correctly interpret these statistics.

It's easy for us to share this misinformation. Many of these statistics are also interrelated, so misunderstandings can quickly multiply.

Here's how we can avoid five common errors, and impress friends and family by getting the statistics right.

## 1. It's the infection rate that's scary, not the death rate

Social media posts comparing COVID-19 to other causes of death, such as the flu, imply COVID-19 isn't really that deadly.

But these posts miss COVID-19's infectiousness. For that, we need to look at the infection fatality rate (IFR) — the number of COVID-19 deaths divided by all those infected (a number we can only estimate at this stage, see also point 3 below).

While the jury is still out, COVID-19 has a higher IFR than the flu. Posts implying a low IFR for COVID-19 most certainly underestimate it. They also miss two other points.

First, if we compare the typical flu IFR of 0.1% with the most optimistic COVID-19 estimate of 0.25%, then COVID-19 remains more than twice as deadly as the flu.

Second, and more importantly, we need to look at the basic reproduction number ( $R_0$ ) for each virus. This is the

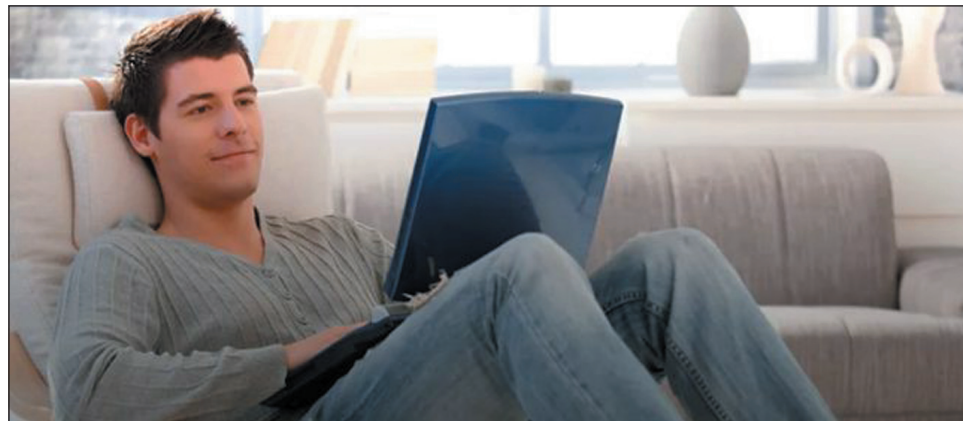


Photo: tagg.com

number of extra people one infected person is estimated to infect.

Flu's  $R_0$  is about 1.3. Although COVID-19 estimates vary, its  $R_0$  sits around a median of 2.8. Because of the way infections grow exponentially (see below), the jump from 1.3 to 2.8 means COVID-19 is vastly more infectious than flu.

When you combine all these statistics, you can see the motivation behind our public health measures to "limit the spread". It's not only that COVID-19 is so deadly, it's deadly and highly infectious.

## 2. Exponential growth and misleading graphs

A simple graph might plot the number of new COVID cases over time. But as new cases might be reported erratically, statisticians are more interested in the rate of growth of total cases over time. The steeper the upwards slope on the graph, the more we should be worried.

For COVID-19, statisticians look to track exponential growth in cases. Put simply, unrestrained COVID cases can lead to a continuously growing number of more cases. This gives us a graph that tracks slowly at the start, but then sharply

curves upwards with time. This is the curve we want to flatten, as shown below.

However, social media posts routinely compare COVID-19 figures with those of other causes of death that show:

- more linear patterns (figures increase with time but at a steady rate)
- much slower-growing flu deaths or
- low numbers from early stages of the outbreak and so miss the impact of exponential growth.

Even when researchers talk of exponential growth, they can still mislead.

An Israeli professor's widely-shared analysis claimed COVID-19's exponential growth "fades after eight weeks". Well, he was clearly wrong. But why?

His model assumed COVID-19 cases grow exponentially over a number of days, instead of over a succession of transmissions, each of which may take several days. This led him to plot only the erratic growth of the outbreak's early phase.

Better visualisations truncate those erratic first cases, for instance by starting from the 100th case. Or they use estimates of the number of days it takes for the number of cases to double (about six to seven days).

## 3. Not all infections are cases

Then there's the confusion about COVID-19 infections versus cases. In epidemiological terms, a "case" is a person who is diagnosed with COVID-19, mostly by a positive test result.

But there are many more infections than cases. Some infections don't show symptoms, some symptoms are so minor people think it's just a cold, testing is not always available to everyone who needs it, and testing does not pick up all infections.

Infections "cause" cases, testing discovers cases. US President Donald Trump was close to the truth when he said the number of cases in the US was high because of the high rate of testing. But he and others still got it totally wrong.

More testing does not result in more cases, it allows for a more accurate estimate of the true number of cases.

The best strategy, epidemiologically, is not to test less, but to test as widely as possible, minimising the discrepancy between cases and overall infections.

## 4. We can't compare deaths with cases from the same date

Estimates vary, but the time between infection and death could be as much as a month. And the variation in time to recovery is even greater. Some people get really ill and take a long time to recover, some show no symptoms.

So deaths recorded on a given date reflect deaths from cases recorded several weeks prior, when the case count may have been less than half the number of current cases.

The rapid case-doubling time and protracted recovery time also create a large discrepancy between counts of active and recovered cases. We'll only know the true numbers in retrospect.

## 5. Yes, the data are messy, incomplete and may change

Some social media users get angry when the statistics are adjusted, fuelling conspiracy theories.

But few realise how mammoth, chaotic and complex the task is of tracking statistics on a disease like this.

Countries and even states may count cases and deaths differently. It also takes time to gather the data, meaning retrospective adjustments are made.

We'll only know the true figures for this pandemic in retrospect. Equally so, early models were not necessarily wrong because the modellers were deceitful, but because they had insufficient data to work from.

Welcome to the world of data management, data cleaning and data modelling, which many armchair statisticians don't always appreciate. Until now.

**Jacques Raubenheimer**

Senior Research Fellow, Biostatistics,  
University of Sydney





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# 'Lorsque nous vivons surtout en "tribus", parmi nos semblables, nous n'avons pas suffisamment de recul pour réaliser que nous pouvons aussi intérioriser des valeurs toxiques'

☞ Suite de la page 8

Au contraire, cette rupture a été mise sous inspiration idéologique, dogmatique et académique avec l'accent essentiellement sur "Put Big Business First", soit le contraire de l'approche singapourienne, pour prendre un exemple.

L'obsession qui perdure toujours pour le 'benchmark' *Ease of Doing Business* - de plus en plus désavoué internationalement d'ailleurs - ne contribue pas à stimuler notre productivité locale et notre compétitivité internationale. La bureaucratie lourde est une contrainte certaine. Et les coûts d'exploitation des entreprises alors? Et l'*affordability* et la qualité de la nourriture, de l'habitat, du transport public, de la scolarité, etc., des ménages et des individus?

Il ne suffit surtout pas de fantasmer sur la disparation de la corruption et du communalisme ou de brandir sans aucune considération anthropologique et neuroscientifique "plutôt apprendre à pêcher que de donner un poisson". C'est l'implémentation d'un ensemble de conditions,



“Si nous réduisons l'identité d'une personne à sa seule dimension ethno-religieuse sans intégrer son genre et son positionnement sur l'échelle sociale, je pense que nous nous éloignons de ce qui constitue son existence. Donc, ce n'est pas l'*identity politics* en soi qui soit nocif, mais l'instrumentalisation des composantes de nos identités pour *divide and rule*...”

capables de créer une synergie entre tous les *stakeholders*, qui peut nous libérer de ce cercle vicieux. L'identification au projet *Nouvo Moris* ne se décrete pas. Si seulement!

**\* Peut-on prévoir comment la situation post-Covid va se présenter sur le plan social, économique et politique, selon vous?**

Les prochains mois vont être manifestement plus difficiles qu'ils auraient pu et dû l'être si nos élites dirigeantes

n'avaient pas focalisé nos ressources sur la bétonisation du pays, par exemple. La complaisance de la majorité de nos leaders d'opinion et autres *zistwariens* par rapport à notre "miracle", à la désindustrialisation brutale et nos chaînes logistiques dépassées doit aussi être mise en évidence. Notre intégration, même si temporaire, au rang des pays à haut revenu est le portrait craché de "*lies, damned lies and statistics*".

Pouvez-vous imaginer, disons, des riches Norvégiens exhiber leur voiture de

super luxe sans qu'ils soient victimes de *reverse snobism*, c'est-à-dire sans susciter le mépris? Les incitations pour redynamiser les *smart cities* pour étrangers essentiellement ont été au contraire dopées malgré une demande modifiée selon les exigences post-Covid.

Le leadership d'Angela Merkel et de Jacinda Ardern, sans l'idéaliser - qui n'est ni clivant ni empathisant avec les *fat cats* mais qui fait preuve d'une certaine sagesse - mérite notre attention. Quand nous internalisons dans nos comportements que nous sommes inter-connectés, nous faisons en sorte à ne connecter que les énergies positives du système national.

Ici, on reparle de localisme, de souveraineté alimentaire, d'économie bleue et de réindustrialisation mais toujours dans un équilibre existentiel. Juste pour survivre. Et, en contrepartie, pour détourner en catimini, en toute légalité et impunité la richesse nationale. Approche intégrée et visionnaire, *manze bwar sa?* Ma foi, quel gâchis! Vivement ce cycle vertueux.

## Climate explained: will the tropics eventually become uninhabitable?

☞ Cont. from page 2

Different parts of the world respond in different ways to warming from greenhouse gas emissions. The projected warming in the tropics represents about 40% of the expected temperature rise in the Arctic.

High-latitude regions - far north or south of the Equator - warm more rapidly than the global average because excess heat in the tropics creates a temperature and pressure gradient. This drives heat up to higher elevations and higher latitudes through an atmospheric circulation called the Hadley cell.

The stronger the gradient, the more heat is exported.

### Hot in the city

There is one additional factor: urbanisation. Singapore is a good place to look at actual climate change in the tropics.

Records from Singapore indicate temperatures have in-



Working outdoors in the increased heat and humidity will get harder. Flickr/Jorien, CC BY-NC

creased by 1.1°C over 42 years to 2014. This is nearly twice the average global rate of warming over recent decades and is opposite to expectations.

The difference appears to be due to a heat island effect caused by the city itself. This is important because changes in land use amplify background global climate change and put

tropical cities at greater risk of extreme heat. As populations are concentrated in cities, this increases the risk to human health.

The mean average temperature for Singapore is about 27°C, whereas Jakarta in Indonesia is slightly warmer. At the scale of predicted mean annual temperature change, neither of these

cities would become uninhabitable. But even a small temperature increase would make life more challenging.

This is made worse in at least some parts of the tropics, because total rainfall is increasing, suggesting a long-term rise in humidity. For example, average rainfall in Singapore increased by more than 500mm from 2,192mm in 1980 to 2,727mm in 2014.

### Deadly heat

People working outdoors are at higher risk, as are vulnerable populations, including the elderly. Under the IPCC's high-emission trajectory, heat-related deaths in Jakarta in August are expected to rise from about 1,800 in 2010 to nearly 27,000 in 2050.

Even allowing for a significant increase in elderly people as the Indonesian population ages, this means about 15,000 excess deaths in this month. Estimates under high-emission predictions

for the tropics and mid-latitudes suggest about a 40% decline in the ability to undertake manual work during the warmest month by 2050.

These impacts will be stronger in the seasonally wet tropics (such as the Northern Territory of Australia), where more extreme warming is expected than in the equatorial zone.

Predictions for Darwin, in northern Australia, suggest an increase in days with temperatures above 35°C from 11 days a year in 2015 to an average of 43 days under the mid-range emission scenario (IPCC's RCP4.5 scenario) by 2030 and an average of 111 (range 54-211) days by 2090. Under the higher emission scenario (IPCC's RCP8.5), an average of 265 days above 35°C could be reached by 2090.

In summary, while absolute temperatures are expected to rise more slowly in the tropics when compared with higher latitudes and polar regions, the combination of heat and rising humidity will make life challenging, but not impossible.

James Shulmeister,  
University of Canterbury



# Parenting: why one size doesn't fit all

*Research conducted elsewhere in the world suggests that cultural context is an important consideration when it comes to parenting and child development*

There are a few established "rules" for being a good parent. Praise your children for their achievements, big or small. Be warm and happy when you're around them. Smile at them and stay upbeat. When it comes to babies, make lots of face to face verbal contact. Look at and talk to them while they babble and play.

These approaches are based on extensive studies that seek to understand the relationship between parenting and child outcomes. Again and again, research has found that parenting behaviours have a huge impact on child development and success, from school performance to good peer relationships. The conclusion? Parenting matters and certain ways of parenting are better than others.

But how much does where you live or grew up influence how you parent? And are the same parenting techniques relevant in every setting? This is what I have studied while researching my PhD.

## Research gaps

Most research into child development and parenting has been conducted in the West - specifically in North America and Eastern Europe. It is done by Western researchers studying Western children with Western parents. But only 12% of the world's children and parents live in the West. The vast majority of families in huge swathes of the world have not been studied. What researchers currently know, and what's presented as "optimal parenting", can only be assumed to explain a small group of people.

Research conducted elsewhere in the world suggests that cultural context is an important consideration when it comes to parenting and child development. It has also found that while some aspects of good parenting are universal, others look



very different from country to country.

Praise, face-to-face verbal contact and putting on a warm, positive attitude when around your children are not found universally. They are not assumed to be as important in some places - like Alexandra, a large township in Johannesburg, South Africa, where I am conducting my research - as they are in Western contexts.

## Parenting in context

My study in Alexandra, which many people call by its nickname, Alex, has backed up an idea that's emerging in parenting research from elsewhere in the developing world. This is the notion that parenting practices are and should be intimately related to the context, culture and social values in which a child is being raised.

For example, a child raised in New York's Westchester County needs to fit in and function in his individualistic culture.

Where he's from, success is likely measured by personal career achievements and individual social standing. This means he will likely need a good job.

To find a job, he will probably need a good Western education. To get a good Western education he will need confidence, good verbal skills and a friendly, smiley disposition. So, as a baby, it makes sense that he will need a chatty, smiley mother who praises and encourages him.

The causal chain is somewhat different for a child growing up in Alexandra, a densely populated area with primarily informal dwellings. It has a very high crime rate, high levels of drug use and domestic violence, and low levels of employment. Important child outcomes are different for parents in this context. Keeping your children away from drugs and out of trouble are far bigger concerns than how many friends they have.

Culturally - as is the case across the African continent - collectivism is valued over individualism in Alexandra. Children are considered to have been raised well if they respect their elders and comply with traditional practices. Modesty is valued. This may mean that effusive praise is discouraged, because it's seen as putting an individual's success ahead of a group's. Parents aren't trying to build confidence to achieve personal success. Instead, they are focused on building protective strategies and compliance.

## Seeking a culturally specific parenting approach

As with any society, some parents in Alex are getting things right while others are not. Some parents raise successful children. Others have told me they are endlessly frustrated with their child's "bad behaviour" or "poor school performance".

Many of these struggling parents turn to psychologists and social workers for help. But experience and research is showing that helping is not as simple as applying Western interventions based on Western research. And it's not quite clear where we should start to develop something culturally and contextually appropriate.

My research sets out to establish the "rules" of being a good parent in the very unique context of Alexandra. Ultimately, my work will outline what parental behaviours and practices in Alex are positive and lead to good outcomes. It will also examine which behaviours are not helpful, and where these are coming from.

**Nicola Dawson**

Psychologist - Infant Mental Health,  
University of the Witwatersrand

## In A Light Vein

### New golf shoes

Bert, at 85 years old, always wanted a pair of soft spike golf shoes like Freddie Couples, so seeing some on sale after his round, he bought them. He was so delighted with his purchase, he decided to wear them home to show the Mrs.

Walking proudly into the house, he sauntered into the kitchen and said to his wife, "Notice anything different about me?"

Margaret at age 83 looked him over and replied, "Nope".

Frustrated as all get out, Bert stormed off into the bathroom, undressed and walked back into the kitchen completely naked except for the new golf shoes.

Again, he asked Margaret, a little

louder this time, "Notice anything different now?"

Margaret looked up and said in her best deadpan response, "Bert, what's different? It's hanging down today, it was hanging down yesterday, and it'll be hanging down again tomorrow."

Furious, Bert yells out, "And do you know why it's hanging down, Margaret?"

"Nope. Not a clue," she replied.

"It's hanging down, because it's looking at my new golf shoes!"

Without missing a beat, old Margaret replies, "You should buy a new hat."

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### In a light vein

## Robert Mugabe Hilarious Quote

The African education system produces surprising outcomes.

The smartest students pass with 1st Class and obtain admission to medical and Engineering schools. The 2nd Class students get MBAs and LLBs to manage the First-Class students. The 3rd Class students join politics, and rule both the 1st and 2nd Class students. The failures join the army and control politicians who, if they are not happy with, they kick or kill...

The best of all are those who did not attend any school, become prophets and witch doctors, and everybody follows them.

\*\*\*

A man joins a soccer team and his new teammates inform him, "At your first team dinner as the new guy, you will have to give us a talk about sex."

The evening arrives and he gives a detailed, humorous account of his sex life. When he got home, his wife asked how the evening went and not wanting to lie, but also not wanting to explain exactly what happened, he said, "Oh, I had to make a talk about yachting."

His wife thought this a little peculiar but said nothing more and went to sleep. The next day she bumped into one of his new teammates at the supermarket and asked, "I heard my husband had to make a speech last night. How did it go?"

His mate said smiling, "Oh, it was excellent! Your husband is clearly very experienced!"

The wife looked confused and replied to his mate, "Strange, he has only done it twice and the second time he was sick."

\*\*\*

A man escapes from prison where he has been for 15 years. He breaks into a house to look for money and guns, and finds a young couple in bed. He orders the guy out

of bed and ties him to a chair. He ties the girl to the bed and he gets on top of her, kisses her neck, and then gets up and goes into the bathroom.

While he's in there, the husband tells his wife, "Listen, this guy is an escaped convict, look at his clothes! He probably spent lots of time in jail and hasn't seen a woman in years. I saw how he kissed your neck. Don't resist, don't complain, do whatever he tells you. Satisfy him no matter how much he nauseates you. This guy is probably very dangerous. If he gets angry, he'll kill us. Be strong, honey. I love you."

His wife responds, "He wasn't kissing my neck. He was whispering in my ear. He told me he was gay, thought you were cute. Be strong honey. I love you, too!"

\*\*\*

Teacher: "Answer this math problem: if your father earns \$500 a week and gives half to your mother. What will he have?"

Student: "A heart attack."

### Irish jokes

## An Irish blonde in a casino

An attractive blonde from Cork, Ireland arrived at the casino. She seemed a little intoxicated and bet 20,000 Euros on a single roll of the dice.

She said "I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm completely naked."

With that, she stripped from the neck down, rolled the dice and with an Irish brogue, "Yelled Come on, baby,

Mama needs new clothes!"

As the dice came to a stop, she jumped up and down and squealed: "Yes! Yes! I won, I won!"

She hugged each of the dealers, picked up her winnings (and her clothes) and quickly departed.

The dealers stated at each other dumbfounded. Finally, one of them asked, "What did she roll?"

The other answered, "I don't know - I thought you were watching the dice."

*Moral of the story: Not all Irish are drunks. Not all blondes are dumb. But all men... are men.*

### Life lessons

## 25 life lessons I wish I knew when I was 25. As a much older man, I share them from some experience

1. That most of the things we worry about never come to pass.
2. That life has an intelligence we cannot understand yet everything happens for our best.
3. That sunrises and star showers are more valuable than success and influence.
4. That forgiveness is something you do to free your self.
5. That sometimes silence is the loudest reply.
6. That old people tell the best stories.
7. That often the simplest of human beings have the strongest of characters.
8. That friendship is a priceless treasure.
9. That keeping a journal is praying on paper.
10. That following the crowd never gets you very far.
11. That critics are critics because they can't produce their own art.
12. That deep change is meant to be uncomfortable.
13. That people you love will betray you but that's no reason not to love.
14. That kindness is more powerful than brilliance.
15. That genius basically comes from a terrific work ethic.
16. That sleep is a top performer's secret weapon.
17. That most people have great hearts and will show you them if they feel safe.
18. That if someone took advantage of you it's because you allowed them to take advantage of you.
19. That once you dream up the "what" the "how" always falls into place.
20. That life expands to the size of your vision.
21. That it's wiser to master 10 books than rush through 100.
22. That inner power is more soulful than outer power.
23. That leadership is simply the opposite of victimhood.
24. That creativity demands solitude.
25. That real success means being yourself.

Robin Sharma

Humanitarian + Leadership Missionary

## Your wife is your wife

*No one else can misunderstand a husband better, than a wife?*

A married couple was walking through a garden, suddenly a dog ran towards them.

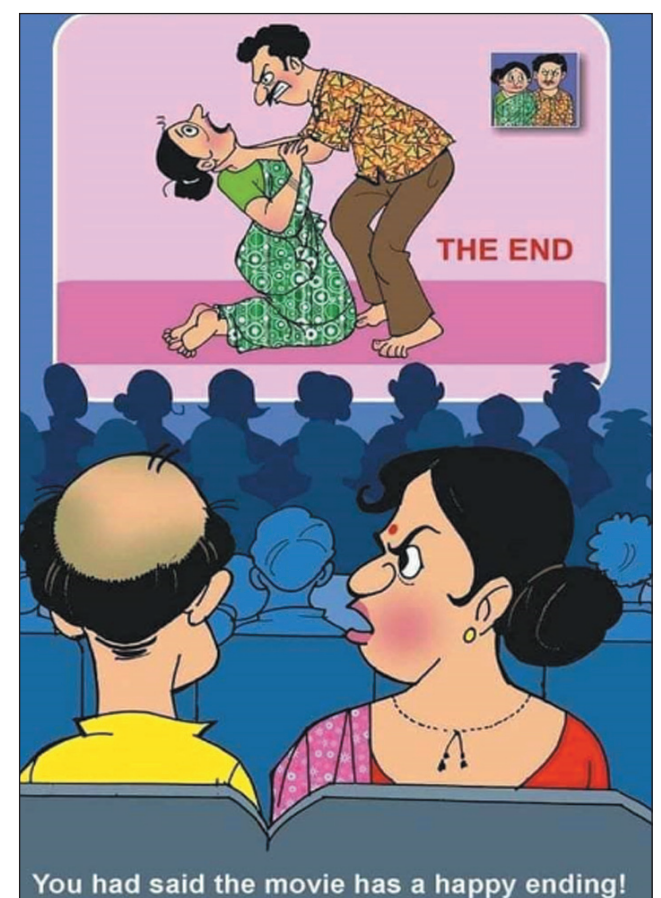
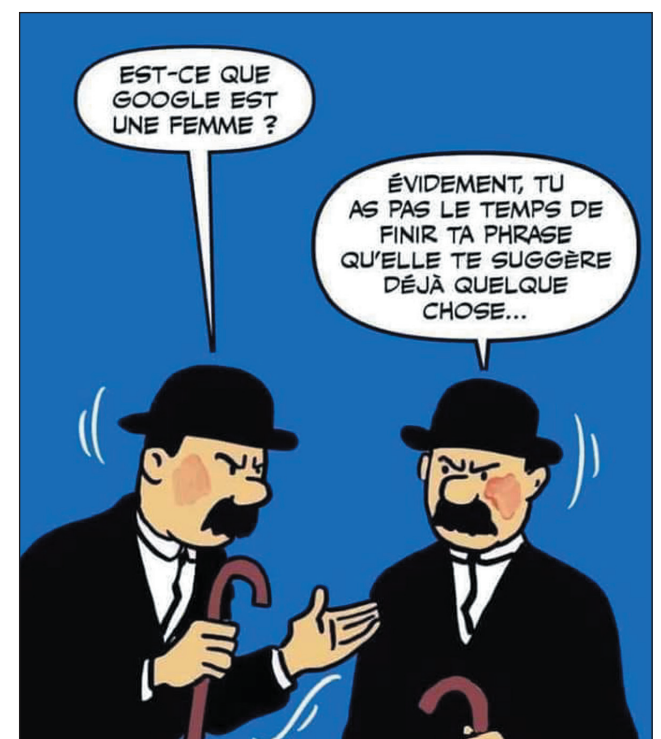
They both knew it will bite them...

The husband lifted his wife to let the dog bite him rather than his sweetheart.

The dog stopped before them, unsure what to do, barked a little and ran away.

The husband put his wife down, expecting a hug and a few kind words of gratitude from her.

But his wife shouted "I've seen people throwing stones & sticks at a dog; this is the first time I see someone trying to throw his wife at a dog."





## Men's Health

# Embarrassing male body problems and what to do about them

For many men, something on this list is a source of embarrassment or discomfort. Whether it's back hair or body odour or razor bumps, you can usually do something about it.

## Back hair

By the mid-20s, a man will know his back hair destiny: barely there, a few tufts, or full and bushy. Is yours a magnet for women? Or a throwback to the Stone Age? If you want to tame the shag, laser hair removal can thin back hair or remove it all, and the results are nearly permanent. Cheaper options include waxing, hair removal creams, and razors, with results that last up to a few weeks.

## Beer belly

You don't have to drink beer to get a beer belly. Men are more likely to gain fat around the waist, so anything fattening can pad the paunch. Unfortunately, belly fat raises the risk of heart disease, especially if your waist size is more than 40 inches. But there is good news: If you follow a weight loss plan, belly fat is usually the first to go.

## Excessive sweating

Men have a higher "sweat output" than women. That's a fact. But if you always need to wipe your hands or often sweat through clothes, it may be more than a "guy" thing. It could be excessive sweating, called hyperhidrosis. Emotions or heat -- or nothing at all -- can trigger the downpour. It usually affects the armpits, palms, or soles of the feet. Effective treatments are available through a health professional.

## Unibrow

Now here's a hair problem that affects men of all ages. The same hormones that make your beard grow can make eyebrows so thick and bushy that they meet in the centre. "Unibrow" is the most common reason young men get electrolysis. This procedure uses tiny electric shocks to permanently destroy the hair follicles. Waxing is another way to shape brows, but it must be repeated every four to six weeks.

## Razor bumps

You work hard for that close shave. So it can be exasperating when small bumps mar otherwise smooth skin. Razor bumps form when hairs curl back on themselves and grow into the skin. To keep the bumps at bay, take a hot shower before shaving. Apply a thick gel, and always shave in the direction your beard grows.

## Rosacea

Maybe it's not embarrassment that's causing all that blushing. Rosacea is a condition that causes the face to flush, and symptoms tend to be worse in men. The nose may become thick, red, or bulbous. Pimples and tiny red lines can appear on the cheeks. Alcohol can trigger a flare up, but the distinctive, red nose of rosacea can occur in a teetotaler. Medications can prevent it from getting worse, so be sure to discuss symptoms with a dermatologist.

## Receding hairline

The painful truth is most guys have noticeably thinner hair by age 35 and significant hair loss by age 50. The pattern usually begins with a receding hairline and may progress to bald spots on the top of the scalp. Hair restoration surgery offers a way to reduce bald patches. Or you can talk to your doctor about prescription medications for hair loss. But beware of other products that prom-



Snoring can also be a sign of a more serious problem. Photo - images.onhealth.com

ise the moon.

## Colour blindness

Color blindness usually does not mean seeing the world in black and white. The most common form makes it difficult to tell red from green. The way the condition is inherited makes it far less common in women. There's no treatment, but most people can learn to work around the colour confusion.

## Snoring

Face the music: Snoring is a surefire way to disrupt your bed partner's sleep, and men are more likely to be the perpetrators. In most cases, snoring is not harmful. But snoring regularly can chip away at the quality of your own sleep. It can also be a sign of a more serious problem called sleep apnea. If you feel snoring is disrupting you or your partner's sleep, consult a doctor.

## Belching

Burping may not be the picture of politeness, but in some cultures a hearty belch shows appreciation for a good meal. In either case, burping a few times after eating is normal. It's the body's way of freeing the air that you've swallowed. Frequent burping combined with other symptoms, such as nausea or belly pain, could be a sign of a digestive disorder. Check with your doctor if the problem continues.

## Gas

Perhaps no bodily function has inspired as many jokes as gas. While the sound and smell can be embarrassing, passing gas is harmless. It's nothing more than air moving through the digestive tract or gas from the breakdown of food by bacteria in the gut coming out -- well, we all know where.

Gas facts: Most people pass gas 6-20 times a day. Beer, soda, beans, and many fruits and vegetables are all likely to gas you up.

Foods that cause gas differ for each person.

## Body odour

Whether you're working hard or playing hard, any strenuous activity can result in strong body odour. The culprit is not sweat itself, but the bacteria that use sweaty

skin as a breeding ground. You can fight the bacteria by showering regularly with soap and using antiperspirant. Also be sure to wash workout clothes often. If body odour persists, try avoiding smelly foods like garlic and onions.

## Jock itch

You don't have to be a pro athlete to get jock itch. This fungal infection spreads easily at your local gym -- or from another part of your own body. Hands, towels, and stepping into underwear are common culprits. The symptoms include a patchy rash on the groin or inner thighs, along with the telltale itching. It's treated with non-prescription antifungal creams. Keeping the area dry and avoiding tight clothing helps to avoid a repeat engagement.

## Athlete's foot

When the fungus that causes jock itch targets the feet, you have athlete's foot. Walking barefoot in locker rooms or near pools is the most common way to pick up this infection. Symptoms include itching, burning, blisters, or cracks on the feet and toes. Athlete's foot is treated with antifungal cream. If you have both jock itch and athlete's foot, be sure to treat them at the same time.

## Ingrown nails

Grooming nails may not be the highlight of your day, but it's worth your time to get the job done right. Clumsy nail trimming is the top cause of ingrown toenails, which can cause pain, swelling, and infections. The most common mistake is trimming the nails too short. To avoid this, check the drugstore for nail "nippers" that are shaped to follow the natural curve of the nail.

## Bad breath

You probably know that smelly foods and smoking can sabotage breath. But the most common culprit is bacteria. When you brush teeth, brush the tongue as well to banish the bacteria that thrive there. If good hygiene doesn't sweeten your breath, see your dentist and doctor. Gum disease, dry mouth, or acid reflux could be part of the problem.

## Sexual dysfunction

Men may not be eager to discuss sexual troubles, but nearly a third of guys experience problems. This may include a sagging libido, premature ejaculation, or erectile dysfunction (ED). ED means a man is unable to develop or sustain an erection. Risk factors for ED include diabetes, heart disease, neurologic conditions, smoking, circulation problems, and some medications. Talk to your doctor if you have ED or other sexual problems to help evaluate the problem and recommend treatment.

## Hearing loss

Men are more likely to experience hearing loss than women, and noisy jobs may contribute. Think miners, carpenters, and soldiers. But any loud or continuous noise can damage delicate ear structures, including music piped in through ear buds. On the job, use special ear protection. Keep personal music players at or below 85 decibels (dB). Most can crank up to 105 dB, louder than a motorcycle, wood shop, or snowmobile.

## Enlarged prostate

Along with wrinkles and gray hair, an enlarged prostate is an unavoidable part of aging for many men. The medical term is benign prostatic hyperplasia or BPH, an enlargement of the gland that surrounds the urethra. This growth causes symptoms in about half of men over age 75. As the prostate grows, it may squeeze the urethra, making you feel nature's call more often. There are strategies and medications to help reduce the symptoms.

WebMD





## Malaika Arora on coronavirus: Blessed to have overcome with minimum pain

*Malaika Arora was quarantining at home since September 7, when she had tested positive for coronavirus*

**M**alaika Arora on Sunday said that she has tested negative for coronavirus, and thanked doctors, family and fans for making her treatment swift and easy. Malaika had tested positive for Covid-19 earlier this month. At the time she had shared she was asked to home quarantine.

On Sunday, sharing a photo of herself from her home, Malaika wrote that she was finally out of her room and felt blessed that she suffered "minimum pain and discomfort" during her quarantine.

"Out and about...M finally out of my room after so many days, it feels like an outing in itself.. I feel so blessed to have overcome this virus with minimum pain and discomfort. A big thanks to my doctors

for their medical guidance, to BMC for making this process hassle-free, to my family for their immeasurable support and to all my friends, neighbours and fans for all their good wishes and the strength that I got from your messages and support. I can't thank you all enough in words for what everyone has done for me in these difficult times. All of you please stay safe and take care..." she posted.

Before testing positive for COVID-19, Malaika Arora had been busy with the shoot of India's Best Dancer, where she is one of the judges. It was later reported that a few unit members of the dance reality show were tested positive for coronavirus, leading to the suspension of the shoot.

## Rosie The Saffron Chapter: Vivek Oberoi shares his first look from the film

*Rosie The Saffron Chapter marks Shweta Tiwari's daughter Palak Tiwari's debut. The film is directed by Vishal Ranjan Mishra*

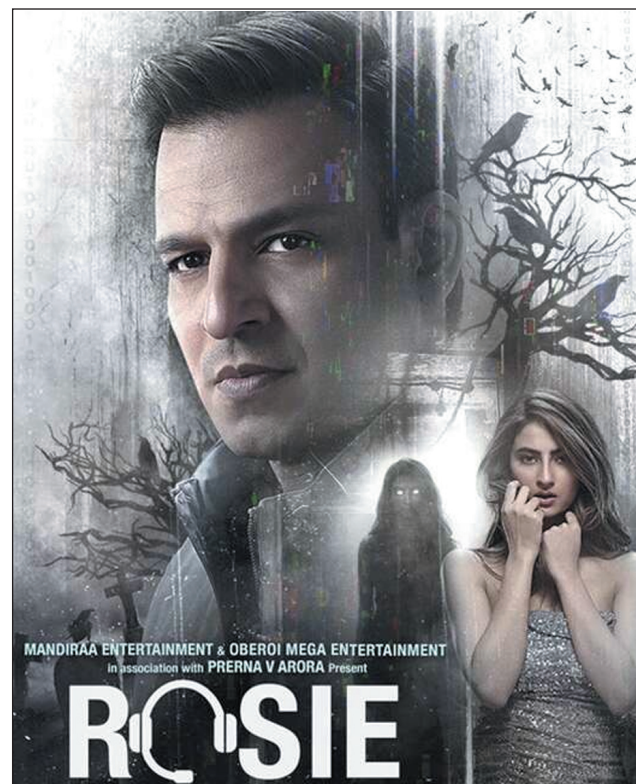
**V**ivek Oberoi on Sunday took to Twitter to share his first look from his upcoming film *Rosie The Saffron Chapter*. Sharing the poster on Twitter, Vivek wrote, "Things are not always as #Rosie as they seem, so #PalatKarMatDekhna! Glad to join the cast & present my first look in *Rosie: The Saffron Chapter*, directed by @mishravishal. Hope you like it."

The poster also features Shweta Tiwari's daughter Palak Tiwari. The film marks Palak's Bollywood debut.

*Rosie: The Saffron Chapter* revolves around the sudden disappearance of a woman named Rosie, who was an employee at a BPO company in Gurugram.

Trade analyst Taran Adarsh also tweeted a motion poster, featuring Palak Tiwari. He also shared that the filming of *Rosie: The Saffron Chapter* will begin in December.

Earlier, Palak Tiwari had shared how she was going to prepare for her role in the film. She said, "Preparing for the character is going to be tricky, but I definitely intend to draw inspiration from all our classic heroines that lay the foundation of Bollywood as we know it today. They are



the pillars of authenticity. Sadhna ji's work in *Woh Kaun This* is definitely a close point of reference. Performances from that era in general are so immensely edifying. So, I shall surely be looking more into that."

*Rosie: The Saffron Chapter* is bankrolled by Vivek Anand Oberoi, Girish Johar, Kussum Arora, Reshabh D Saraf, Keyur Pandya and Sanjeet S. Yermal.

## On Batman Day, watch these films featuring the superhero online

*Batman Day is a celebration of the Caped Crusader and to celebrate that day, watch these movies on the superhero online*

**O**ne of the most popular comic-book superheroes around, Batman has seemingly been around forever. It appears as though there has been a Dark Knight for every generation.

Batman Day is a celebration of the Caped Crusader and to celebrate that day, watch these movies on the superhero online.

It was *The Dark Knight* that made Christopher Nolan one of the top filmmakers in the world. The uncrowned king of all superhero movies, the film released in 2008 and is still one of the fan favourites. Although it was certainly a superhero movie, it did not have a large scale climactic battle between a good guy and a bad guy, both costumed. Its antagonist was a great mind (no matter how sick and twisted), and not a great fighter. The *Dark Knight* also explores a bunch of complex ideas, one among them being the War on Terror.

Batman Begins is more than just a Batman movie. It is also a story of prevailing over adverse circumstances. Bruce is haunted by his father's lines that encourage him whenever he falters: "Bruce, why do we fall? So that we can learn to pick ourselves up." Later, Alfred reminds Bruce of these lines when Bruce thinks he has lost every-

thing in the wake of Wayne Mansion's destruction. It is a lovely scene and epitomises in brief what the film wants to say. *Batman Begins*, as dark it is, is ultimately an optimistic story of overcoming one's inner demons.

Zack Snyder has great ideas but they don't always



translate well. It is a welcome change to pit a jaded Batman against an indignant *Superman* who refuses to smile (compare Cavill's Superman in this film to Christopher Reeve's in 1978 film, *Superman*). And the fight works, and it actually is comic-y in the best way, until the infamous 'Martha' moment. Still, if you wish to see these superhero icons slug it out in live-action, this remains your only option.

This DC team-up movie, despite its flaws, made me more hopeful as to where DCEU is going. Of course, it gets several things wrong – the villain could not be more generic. But the jocular, fun interplay between the main characters and watching some of the greatest comic-book superheroes come to life was an unforgettable experience.

The beginning of *The Dark Knight Rises* has to be the best establishing scene in superhero movies. It is all downhill from here, and yet Nolan's most blockbuster-ish movie is pretty entertaining. It concluded Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* Trilogy and brought the most terrifying villain Bane (Tom Hardy) before a rusty Batman. The film explored what happens when you break Batman, metaphorically and physically.



# Meet 'Zindagi Ki Mehak' fame Karan Vohra aka Shaurya



**Z**indagi Ki Mehak is an Indian television series which aired on Zee TV in the year 2016. The show starred all-time favorite Karan Vohra as Shaurya Singh/Khanna and Samiksha Jaiswal as Mehak Khanna.

But Mehak was a middle-class girl, all low with confidence whereas Shaurya was a wealthy man.

This show was shot indoors of Delhi. Mehak is a very passionate cook and is very shy of connecting people. But her life went through a drastic change when she met so-called 'khadus' but top chef Shaurya who had his own style of cooking. But due to their different style of cooking, they kept clashing and later fell in love with each other.

As we all know how young and handsome actor Karan Vohra is married and is living a happy life with his beautiful and adorable wife Bella Vohra.

As per the rumors, Bella was not happy with Karan's co-star Samiksha coming close to Karan and she apparently slapped him. Later Karan clarified that no such thing ever happened between them, reports iwmbuzz.com.

Dashing dude Karan is also a model who is not shy of sharing his hot and cool pictures on social media to entertain his fans. Also, he is a gym freak and loves to flaunt his look in a beard.

**T**here are very few actors who gain immense popularity from their debut show and one of them is Samiksha Jaiswal who gained a humongous fan following with her character portrayal as Mehek in Zee TV's *Zindagi Ki Mehak*.

Samiksha was later seen in Colors' *Bahu Begam* where she played a multi-shaded character.

Samiksha recently went live with her *Zindagi Ki Mehak* co-star Radha Bhatt who spoke in brief about her *Zindagi Ki Mehak* journey, life in lockdown and more, reports Tellychakkar.

In one of the conversations, when Radha asked Samiksha how she felt when her character changed to a boxer in *Zindagi Ki Mehak*, she replied, "It was completely opposite to the role of Mehek, who was a simple and homely girl who loves to cook."

"But in the second season I played a boxer out of nowhere. I used to feel embarrassed about what I was doing on national television while shooting boxing scenes as I didn't know boxing."

"However, Saurabh sir and I had a chat that we are taking a chance. I think I liked having variation as I was getting bored after playing the same character for two years. Hence, I was excited to play something new."

When Samiksha Jaiswal felt embarrassed while shooting for 'Zindagi Ki Mehak'



## Every woman should be given a certain personal allowance: Phool Singh of 'Bitti Business Wali'



Phool Singh who plays the role of Ladoo Singh in 'Bitti Business Wali' talks about his role, the concept of the show and much more to iwmbuzz.com...

"In the same vein like our female lead, Bitti (Prakruti Misra) demands wife allowance, having seen her mother die due to lack of money and her *bhabhis* having to beg for a few hundred rupees from their husbands. No wonder she decided to start earning herself," Phool adds.

Talking about his character in the Raakesh Paswan show, he says, "I play a mafia don, Ladoo Singh, who brooks no interference in his matters, but yes, he really loves his younger son, Mahi (Abhishek Bajaj). Interestingly, it is Bitti's dadi, Santoshi (Pratima Kannan), who stands up to his high-handedness, which he obviously can't tolerate."

Being a method actor, Phool, when first given the script, started to work on the mannerisms and body language of the character. "I grew a beard for the same."

Unlike other senior actors, Phool does not have grouses against Generation Next. "I always believe in the philosophy of love and peaceful co-existence. I just wish that they would come a bit more trained, which would make things better for all concerned."

He has previously worked in several shows such as *Uttaran*, *Ishq Ka Rang Safed*, *Bhagya Vidhata*, etc. He also has no problem with TV being female-dominated. "Women always play an important role in life."

**V**eteran TV actor Phool Singh is hopeful that his women empowerment show, *Bitti Business Wali*, will spread awareness about the need for the fairer sex to be self-sufficient.

"Every woman has certain personal expenses, for which she needs to ask money from her father, husband, brother or son. Would it not be better that, apart from running the house, the men could give a certain amount to the female, to spend as per her convenience," the actor states.

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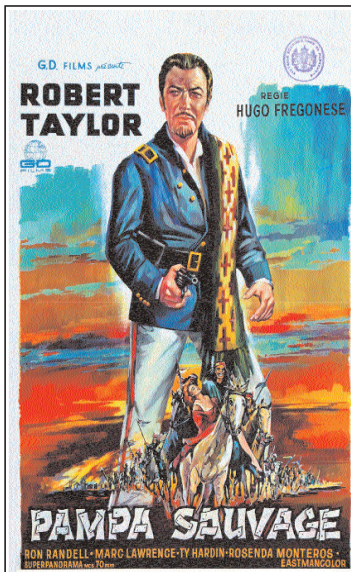
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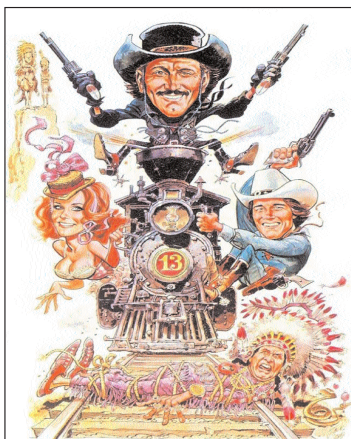
Mardi 22 sept - 21.20

## Savage Pampas

Avec: Robert Taylor, Mario Lozano,  
Felicia Roc

Mercredi 23 sept - 21.15

## The Villain



Jeudi 24 sept - 20.47



### MBC 1

mardi 22 septembre

07.05 Local: People  
09.40 Local: Couleur Marine  
10.15 Mag: Euromaxx  
10.45 Local Prod: Rodrig Mo Pei  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 The Real Dr. Strangelove  
13.25 Local: Proze Dime  
14.30 D.Animes: Grenadine Et...  
14.35 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur  
15.08 D.Anime: Petit Creux  
15.49 D.Anime: Teenies Craze...  
16.16 D.Anime: Uma And Devan...  
16.25 Sindbad And The 7 Galaxies  
16.51 D.Aimes: Trollhunters  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.00 Local: Priorite Sante  
20.40 Local: Generations J  
21.20 Film: Savage Pampas  
23.05 Serial: The Blacklist

### MBC 2

10.00 Serial: CID  
10.44 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha  
12.04 Film: Harjaee  
Starring: Shammi Kapoor,  
Mala Sinha, Randhir Kapoor  
14.10 DDI Magazine  
15.00 Mag: Comedy Classes  
15.21 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee...  
15.43 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
16.06 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal  
16.28 Serial: Bisaat-E-Dil  
16.50 Mehendi Tohra Naam Ke  
17.11 Serial: Gangaa  
18.00 Serial: Die Now  
18.30 DDI Magazine  
20.00 Local: Tamil Programme  
20.30 Film: Khatta Meetha  
Starring: Ashok Kumar,  
Rakesh Roshan, Bindiya  
Goswami  
22.36 DDI Live

### MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
06.44 Mag: World Stories  
07.00 Mag: Voa Connect  
07.32 Mag: In Good Shape  
07.58 Doc: The Last Harvest  
08.48 Doc: 360 GEO  
10.32 Doc: No-Holds-Barred  
11.01 Mag: Eco@Africa  
11.48 Mag: World Stories  
12.03 Mag: Voa Connected  
12.27 Mag: Garden Makeover  
12.32 Mag: In Good Shape  
14.42 Mag: Global 3000  
15.08 Mag: Washington  
16.03 Mag: Eco@Africa  
16.56 Mag: World Stories  
17.27 Mag: In Good Shape  
18.21 Mag: Green Touch  
18.30 Doc: Resourceful Pioneers  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.29 Mag: Garden Makeover

### Cine 12

02.17 Film: Contract Killerw  
04.36 Film: Drôle De Père  
05.58 Tele: Totalement Diva  
06.49 Serial: S.W.A.T  
07.30 The Bletchley Circle  
08.31 Mag: Close Up  
09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire  
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant  
10.35 Serial: Dynasty 2  
11.30 Tele: Dulce Amor  
12.00 Film: Drôle De Père  
13.55 Tele: Totalement Diva  
14.48 Film: The Bletchley Circle  
16.40 Serial: Chicago Fire  
17.21 Serial: S.W.A.T  
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant  
19.10 Tele: Dulce Amor  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Serial: S.W.A.T  
21.15 Serial: Unforgotten

### Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Krishan Avatar  
12.04 / 19.54 -  
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam  
12.26 / 20.11 -  
Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala  
12.38 / 20.32 Radha Krishna  
13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe  
13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.56 / 21.46 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.20 / 21.59 -  
Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki  
14.39 / 22.25 -  
Bitti Business Wali  
15.30 Film: Officer  
Starring: Sunil Shetty, Raveena  
Tandon, Danny Denzongpa,  
Sadashiv Amrapurkar  
18.00 Live: Samacher  
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya  
18.51 Piya Albela

mercredi 23 septembre

06.30 Local: La Mauricienne  
07.30 Local: Priorite Sante  
09.00 Doc: The Digital Age  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Local: Groov'in  
13.30 Doc: World Stamps  
13.50 Local: Priorite Sante  
14.30 D.Anime: Grenadine Et...  
14.46 D.Anime: In The Night Garden  
15.08 D.Anime: Petit Creux  
15.13 D.Anime: Twirlywoos  
16.02 D.Anime: Investigation Story  
16.25 D.Anime: Sindbad And The 7  
16.37 D.Anime: Roger  
17.30 Serial: Lucas Etc  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.00 Prod: Lottotech  
21.10 Film: District 9  
22.55 Serial: The Blacklist  
23.40 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha...  
11.17 Suhani Ek Ladhi  
12.00 Film: Judaai  
Stars: Jeetendra, Rekha  
14.29 DDI Magazine  
15.21 Honaar Soon Mee Hya  
Gharchi  
15.44 Mooga Manasulu  
16.10 Apoorva Raagangal  
16.34 Bisaat-E-Dil  
16.53 Mehendi Tohra Namam Ke  
17.10 Serial: Gangaa  
17.29 Serial: Kulvadh  
18.00 Serial: Die Now  
18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine  
19.30 DDI Magazine  
20.00 Programme In Marathi  
21.00 Film: The Dream Sword  
Starring: Nora Miao Ke-Hsiu, Tsung  
Hua, Yueh Hua

06.00 Mag: Rev: The Global  
06.26 Mag: Green Touch  
06.57 Mag: Check In  
07.57 Doc: Garden Party  
08.24 Doc: Ville En Fête  
08.53 Doc: Photo Number 6  
10.05 Doc: Peace Talks  
11.45 Mag: Green Touch  
12.42 Mag: Garden Makeover  
14.57 Mag: Close Up  
15.23 Doc: Peace Talks  
16.34 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto..  
17.34 Mag: Check In  
18.00 Mag: Motorweek  
18.26 Mag: Green Touch  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
20.05 Doc: Trajectory  
20.30 Local: Sree Venkateswara  
20.57 Doc: New (English)  
21.10 Local: News  
21.35 Mag: Women Who Changed  
22.40 Mag: Initiative Africa

02.09 Film: Unforgotten  
03.38 Serial: Dynasty 2  
04.18 Film: Aladdin And The Death  
06.05 Tele: Totalement Diva  
06.31 Serial: SWAT  
07.13 Film: SOX  
09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire  
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant  
10.35 Serial: Dynasty 2  
11.31 Tele: Dulce Amor  
12.00 Film: Aladdin And The Death  
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva  
14.45 Film: SOX: A Family Best...  
16.40 Serial: S.W.A.T  
17.22 Serial: Mission: Impossible  
18.12 Tele: Soleil Levant  
19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Tele: Esmeraldas  
21.15 Film: The Villain  
22.45 Tele: Totalement Diva

08.00 Film: Officer  
12.04 / 20.06 -  
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam  
12.26 / 20.26 -  
Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala  
12.47 / 20.46 Radha Krishna  
13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe  
13.31 / 21.31 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.56 / 21.46 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.20 / 21.59 - Jai Kanhaiya Lal..  
14.36 / 22.25 - Bitti Business...  
15.09 Film: Parampara  
Starring: Aamir Khan, Sunil  
Dutt, Vinod Khanna, Ashwini  
Bhave, Saif Ali Khan  
18.00 Live: Samacher  
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya  
18.51 Piya Albela  
19.13 Mere Angne Mein  
19.33 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

jeudi 24 septembre

06.00 Klip Seleksion  
07.00 Local: Paul Et Virginie...  
09.00 Doc: Nollywood  
09.45 Local: Prodiksion Alimanter  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Doc: Hugo Pratt, Trait...  
13.30 Mag: Urban Gardens  
14.30 D.Anime: Granadine Et...  
14.35 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur  
14.46 D.Anime: In The Night Garden  
15.08 D.Anime: Petit Creux  
15.10 D.Anime: Twirlywoos  
15.26 D.Anime: Poko  
15.44 D.Anime: Teenies Craze...  
16.02 D.Anime: Invention Story  
16.14 D.Anime: Petit Creux  
16.27 D.Anime: Sindbad And The 7  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Jamai Raja  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.10 Film: Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety

10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani  
12.05 Film: Jurmana  
Starring Rakhee Gulzar, Amitabh  
Bachchan, Shreeram Lagoo  
14.24 DDI Magazine  
15.00 Serial: Comedy Classes  
15.21 Honaar Soon Mee Hya  
Gharchi  
15.43 Mooga Manasulu  
16.06 Apoorva Raagangal  
16.29 Bisaat-E-Dil  
16.51 Mehendi Tohra Naam Ke  
17.13 Gangaa  
18.00 Serial: Die Now  
18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da  
Devi Maiya  
20.00 Local: Sur Prise  
20.47 Film: Brush With Danger  
Starring Ken Zheng, Livi  
Zheng, Nikita Breznikov  
22.21 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Motorweek  
06.25 Mag: The Melting Arctic  
07.26 Doc: Garden Makeover  
08.51 Mag: Women Who Changed  
10.49 Charlie And The Humans  
11.18 Mag: Motorweek  
11.41 Doc: The Melting Arctic  
12.15 Mag: Arts 21  
14.10 Doc: Women Who Changed  
17.08 Doc: The Melting Arctic  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
18.34 Mag: Sur Mesure  
19.05 Open Univ: Student Support  
19.29 Mag: Garden Makeover  
19.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
21.15 Doc: 360 Geo  
22.02 Mag: Strictly Street  
22.31 What If Earth Were Unique  
23.12 Mag: Eco India  
23.47 Mag: Sur Mesure  
00.00 Mag: Shift

01.31 Film: The Villain  
02.55 Serial: Dynasty 2  
03.36 Film: Manchester By The Sea  
06.14 Tele: Totalement Diva  
06.41 Film: Savage Pampas  
09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire  
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant  
10.35 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
11.16 Tele: Dulce Amor  
11.40 Film: Manchester By The Sea  
13.52 Tele: Totalement Diva  
14.45 Film: Savage Pampas  
16.40 Serial: Chicago Fire  
17.20 Tele: Esmeraldas  
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant  
19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Serial: Esmeraldas  
21.15 Film: Psycho  
22.46 Tele: Totalement Diva

08.00 Film: Parampara  
12.04 / 19.54 -  
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam  
12.26 / 20.11 -  
Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala  
12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna  
13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe  
13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.56 / 21.46 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.20 / 21.59 -  
Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ke  
14.36 / 22.25 -  
Bitti Business Wali  
15.20 Film: Sitamgar  
Starring: Dharmendra, Rishi  
Kapoor, Parveen Babi,  
Poonam Dhillon  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.52 Piya Albela  
19.14 Mere Angne Mein

Jeudi 24 sept -  
15.20Stars: Akshay Kumar, Ashwini Bhave,  
Sudesh BerryJeudi 24 sept -  
20.10Stars: Rahul Mody, Luv Ranjan Stars: Kartik  
Aaryan, Nushrat Bharucha, Sunny Singh



# Asian Americans' political preferences have flipped from red to blue

*Asian Americans were engaged in an electoral realignment long before Kamala Harris was added to the 2020 Democratic ticket*



Asian American men and women prefer the Democratic Party by wide margins. Photo - brookings.edu

Asian Americans used to be a reliable Republican voting bloc. But long before Kamala Harris, who is Indian American and Black, became Joe Biden's running mate, they shifted to support the Democratic Party. This is true across ages, genders and ethnic origins of Asian Americans - including Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese and Hmong.

As a political scientist, I'm not just interested in voting, but also in how groups change their party preferences. This subject of study, known as "critical elections," looks at how political party fortunes change over time as a result of racial, religious or regional groups' changing views.

## The timing of the transition

Back in 1992, The New York Times added the Asian American demographic to its exit polls. In that election, Asian Americans preferred incumbent Republican President George H. W. Bush to Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, a Democrat, by 24 percentage points - 55% to 31%. (Businessman and independent candidate H. Ross Perot got 15% of the Asian American vote, and Clinton won.)

Four years later, in the 1996 presidential election, 48% of Asian Americans supported Republican Bob Dole, and 43% supported Clinton - just a five-point Republican advantage.

Then, in 2000, Democrat Al Gore received 54% of the Asian American vote, against 41% for Republican George W. Bush, the son of the man who had won a strong majority of the group's vote just eight years earlier.

The trend continued in 2004 as 56% of Asian Americans backed Democrat John Kerry and in 2008 with a whopping 62%-35% advantage to Barack Obama in those New York Times exit polls.

More recently, CNN's exit polls showed a 73%-26% split in favor of Obama over former Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts in 2012, and a 65%-27% preference for Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump in 2016.

Preliminary data from late August 2020 polls shows Biden leading comfortably among Asian Americans as well.

Since 2000, the Asian American population has climbed 87%, now exceeding 22 million. In that same period, the number of Asian Americans eligible to vote has more than doubled, making it the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the electorate.

Once known for low turnout at the ballot box, Asian American voting rates increased from 27% in 2014 to 40% in 2018, which is a big jump for a midterm election, showing an increased willingness to participate politically.

## Almost all Asian groups now back Democrats

It's true that Asian Americans are not necessarily a homogeneous group. Some have wondered if those with ties to countries that experienced communist rule might be more supportive of the Republican Party, which has historically strongly opposed communism.

Research by Catalina Huamei Huang delves into these details, using data from the National Asian American Survey.

She finds that all but one of the groups included in the survey's fall 2016 poll - Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese and Hmong - have an unfavourable assessment of the Republican Party. Cambodian Americans are split on the subject, with just under half disliking the party and a similar percentage liking it. In most groups - except Filipinos, Cambodians and Hmong - fewer than one-third view the Republican Party favorably.

By contrast, in the same study, more than two-thirds of Hmong, Japanese and Indians view the Democratic Party favourably. Vietnamese and Cambodians are the only groups with fewer than half of their members who view the Democratic Party favourably. As Huang found, those numbers are similar to results in a spring 2016 survey by the civil rights group Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

## Asian American demographics go Democratic

Huang's analysis of both surveys also showed that Asian Americans of all ages are likely to be critical of Republicans. Younger people are more likely to be critical than their elders. All ages are also more likely to perceive the Democratic Party favourably,



Asian Americans. Photo - pewresearch.org

especially those under the age of 35.

Asian American men and women prefer the Democratic Party by wide margins, and think less well of the GOP.

Those demographic splits were also supported by Asian Americans' assessments of the 2016 presidential candidates, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, in both polls, with the exception of Vietnamese Americans who were divided. In 2020, Asian Americans are, if anything, more negative about Trump than they are toward his party. With Biden's choice of Harris as a running mate, Asian Americans of all backgrounds may further solidify their support for the Democratic Party.

**John A. Tures**

Professor of Political Science,  
LaGrange College



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

## We Are Beings of Light

It is through our connection to our light that we know things beyond what the visible world can tell us.

We are all beings of light. Put another way, we are spiritual beings having a human experience. As children, most of us know this, but other human beings who have forgotten what they really are and who cannot help us to know ourselves train us to forget. As a result, we are led to believe that magic is not real, that our invisible playmates do not really exist, and that we are limited beings with only one earthly life to live. There is enormous pressure to conform to this concept of ourselves and so we lose touch with our full potential, forgetting that we are beings of light.

At this time, many of us are reawakening to the truth of who we are, because we are living amidst such large-scale changes in the world. We need to access this light in order to not only survive but thrive as we shift into a new order of consciousness. As the changes around us proceed in rapid progression, we will want to be able to trust our own ability to sense what is happening and how we can best respond. We are no longer living in a predictable world in which we can trust external authority figures and prior ideas about reality to guide us. We need to be able to access the information that will help us navigate these uncertain waters, and the ultimate authority resides in our awareness of ourselves as beings of light.

It is through our connection to this light that we know things beyond what the visible world can tell us, and we see things beyond what the physical world reveals. In order to access this wisdom, we can simply allow ourselves to remember that we are not limited, as we have been taught. In fact, we are filled with divine grace and power that is ours for the asking. A daily practice of tuning into this vast potential, conversing with it, and offering ourselves up to it opens the door through which we can reclaim our true identity, taking ownership of the calling that the time has come to create bliss on earth.