

MAURITIUS TIMES

"We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." - Martin Luther King Jr.

Interview: Prof Sheila Bunwaree



“When trust is broken between the rulers and the ruled, it is important to work on rebuilding that trust”

See Pages 7-8

Editorial



Reopening of borders: A tough call

See Page 2

No, we are not hardwired for fraud and corruption



The root of corruption goes even deeper, into our soul so to speak: corruption is an existential threat. In fact, the cause is well known to all of us: it is our greed

By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee See Page 3

Les navires-épaves et le ‘Oil Spill Preparedness’: Une négligence planétaire ?



Selon le National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration aux Etats-Unis, en tenant compte des aléas climatiques, dans 5 à 10 ans, le peak leak ou le déversement massif des navires-épaves de guerre est prévu vers 2025 - 2030

Par Vina Ballgobin Voir Page 4

Rewriting History

By Dr Rajagopal Soondron See Page 9

A Rational Approach to Grassroots Issues

By Nita Chicooree-Mercier See Page 16

Reopening of borders: A tough call

The world is currently undergoing some major events – both artificial and man-made -- that are testing capacities, threatening lives, causing deaths, challenging leaders and political systems, and that are unsparing of the mighty and the powerful.

In the Mediterranean, Turkey and Greece are sparring over claims to the eastern part which have been found to contain oil; in Belarus, voters have not accepted the results of the elections that they feel were rigged so as to bring back to power the quasi-dictator who has ruled for nearly 25 years; in China huge floods have caused the Yangtze River level to rise above dangerous levels, flooding areas upstream to the Three Gorges dam and displacing hundreds of thousands of people, with loss of lives as well; this takes place against the backdrop of the confrontation in the Himalayas opposing China with its neighbour India which is similarly battling floods.

In Hong Kong fresh protests have erupted against the postponement of general elections; Lebanon is a total wreck after the violent explosion at Beirut port which has killed 200 people and maimed thousands of others; in the US, besides fighting the forest fires that are associated with hitherto unseen temperatures – up to 49 degrees in Los Angeles yesterday – the campaign for the general elections in November is taking place against a background of racist violence that seems endless and unstoppable. And so on.

The tragic thing about all these troubles, many of which are avoidable, is that they are consuming the resources and energies of these countries which could have been put to better use in fighting the one common enemy that is threatening their very survival – which means, in fact, that of the world. And that is the Covid-19 pandemic. At the last count, 27 million people are affected worldwide, and 881,000 have died already. Although WHO estimates that it is only by the end of 2021 that the world may see a stop to the spread of the virus, in truth nobody knows for certain.

However, as is well known by now, the pandemic is not only taking away lives, but is also causing havoc to economies, as a result of which millions of livelihoods have been put at severe risk. Tens of millions of people have lost their jobs, economic growth has slowed down due to diminished productivity, and several countries have already announced that they have entered a recession.

It is understandable, therefore, that in all countries, governments are under tremendous pressure to open up the economies, to open up interstate or international borders so as to allow the engines of economic activity to start running again, more than

they are currently doing – or where they have practically shut down, a situation which concerns the tourism industry especially. And this is despite being fully aware that removing lockdowns even partially has been accompanied within short periods by surges in the incidence of Covid cases. To say that governments are facing a real hard dilemma is to put it mildly. But the reality is that each government has to take the call individually based on country situation and realities.

However, the delicate decision to remove lockdown or to open borders depends on a combination of factors common to all countries: capacity to test and the reliability of tests available (which means having to make the ‘best’ choice); the arrangements for quarantine that must be made for tourist, fellow citizens and expat arrivals, and the list of countries from which tourists will be accepted (for example Seychelles 28; France is excluded); and the compliance of people, including tourists, with the norms laid down by WHO and implemented at country level – SMS or Sanitiser-Mask-Social Distancing.

Whereas as far as the tests and the quarantine arrangements are concerned they are more or less straightforward enough, the major problem that all countries are facing is the *behaviour of people*. The latter question the use of masks, bringing up all sorts of pretexts – e.g. ‘it’s my right to choose to wear or not’ -- not to wear them, when in fact this simple measure has been found to be by itself probably the most effective and the easiest one to follow, and this is particularly the case in situations where social distancing is not possible.

Defying advice, people continue to gather in closed places such as churches (that led to surges in Korea, France initially), and congregate in large numbers on the beaches or in nudist colonies (in France).

Here government has announced that there will be an opening up in phases, and this is probably the safest approach to the conundrum of getting the economic engine running again. Like it or not, the health of the people has to take priority, and there can be no compromise on that. We have to be patient for some more time, and keep abreast of the world situation as it is evolving dynamically, and adjust accordingly as the weeks ahead unfold. We can well understand that the Covid pandemic has brought the tourism and associated sectors down to their knees, but it is to be hoped that the government will not give way to the reopening lobby without weighing carefully the medical implications of such a decision in the current circumstances, especially as regards the state of the pandemic in our tourist industry’s main markets.

The Conversation

We need to unpack the word 'race' and find new language

When we use 'race' we need to be very specific about what we mean. Race is not biology, nor is it class

The addictiveness of race-thinking thwarts all efforts to unite humanity into a common cause. New endeavours to utilise race for economic, educational, biological, and – most recently – genetic reasons continue despite the fact that people share so many overwhelming commonalities. Any subdivisions erected between people are essentially meaningless.



Many embrace race as a concept, but it mostly persists because the damage caused by racism persists. The economically powerful see race as a shorthand for class, intelligence, education, ability, as well as biology. The economically disadvantaged see it as the cause of their suffering and as a uniting principle. In both cases, it is a factor used to justify an Us-Them dichotomy.

What can be done about the durability of the concept of race? One thing we can consider is changing the vocabulary.

Language and power

Language space is constantly changing, but the reuse of value-laden words has the power to reinforce past preconceptions and prejudices. Reusing old race words in new contexts doesn’t remove their original meanings, it only adds to them. The language-space of race is so crowded that new terms (neologisms) with no connections to past meanings are hard to derive, but a new vocabulary is what is needed because so many of the old words are derogatory and hurtful.

Neologisms like “people of colour” arose in the 1930s after “coloured people” became restricted to mean African American people in the United States. It was revived again at the end of the twentieth century as an inclusive group of people identified as anyone who wasn’t a person of European descent with light skin – “whites” – and who were subjected to differential treatment by the dominant white culture.

Repurposing official race labels like the apartheid-era “Black” and “Coloured”, for utilitarian purposes of government and social restitution in South Africa, has not seen the power and confusion of those words diminish much. Any reuse or redefinition of race-thinking terms just reinforces all previous meanings.

What does “race” actually mean?

So, should we stop talking about race? In a word, no. We must understand the full expanse and power of racial language. Denial of race will not bring about the demise of race, instead it only cloaks terms that perpetuate the power of the concept and its potential for harm.

What we need to do is unpack the term “race” from other confusions surrounding it.

Do races have a biological reality? If race is biologically real, then it should only be defined by a biological meaning.

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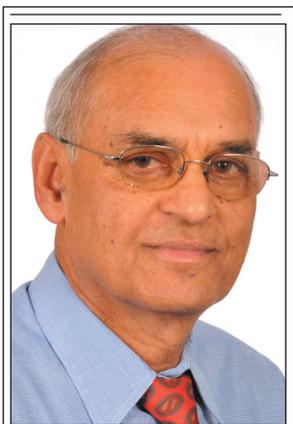
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No, we are not hardwired for fraud and corruption



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

There is not a single day that goes by without the media across the world, including our own local media, reporting on some case or the other of a scandal or multiple scandals of fraud and corruption. They take place in all countries big and small, and it's all about dirty money that X, Y or Z want to accumulate for themselves

or their families, or privileges that are obtained as trade-offs in deals that are made involving both government and private sectors. There is no one that seems to be exempt from the tendency – individuals rich and poor, companies, corporates, banks, NGOs: you name it, or think of it, and it will be up there on the fraud/corruption list in one way or another if you scan the web.

To use modern terminology, fraud and corruption look like they are 'hardwired' in the 'system'. And since the system is inert and is made up of and by human beings, it follows that this 'hardwiring' could well and only be in the – another modern terminology – DNA of human beings. Perversely, one almost wishes that this were the case. If that were so, we could have held the hope that it would only remain for scientists to look for and find the

“Perhaps one might have even pushed for the development of a vaccine against fraud/corruption? How neat that would be! Unfortunately, though, we have to abandon this kind of wishful thinking, because the root of corruption goes even deeper, into our soul so to speak: corruption is an existential threat. In fact, the cause is well known to all of us: it is our GREED. As if to strike home the point more deeply, it was in this single word that the author of a several pages long article in Newsweek magazine, writing in the wake of the financial crisis of 2008, concluded his reasoning about its cause. And that is why it will take a very long time to eradicate corruption – if ever...”

gene responsible for this aberrant behaviour of ours. Because, if indeed it were identified, the next step would have been for the scientists to genetically engineer human DNA, tweaking that gene so as to eliminate this destructive tendency in humans. Or perhaps remove it altogether using the CRISPR technique that can target DNA with even greater precision.

Alternatively, perhaps one might have even pushed for the development of a vaccine against fraud/corruption? How neat that would be! Unfortunately, though, we have to abandon this kind of wishful thinking, because the root of corruption goes even deeper, into our soul so to speak: corruption is an existential threat. In fact, the cause is well known to all of us: it is our GREED. As if to strike home the point more deeply, it was in this single word that the author of a several pages long article in Newsweek magazine, writing in the wake of the financial crisis of 2008, concluded his reasoning about its cause. And that is why it will take a very long time to eradicate

corruption – if ever. But, alas, in the meantime more headlines will bristle with ever more scandals.

We need not go into the gory details of the local ones that have rocked us within living memory, and the others that have been exposed more recently. The earlier sums involving, millions of rupees, pale in comparison to the billions that are nowadays bandied about, a trend that has been on since the eruption of the BAI scandal. It will be recalled that the latter incident had revealed alleged malfeasances and ramifications that extended so far beyond our shores that we could not even begin to think whether any radical remedy was even possible. As laymen, we shuddered just at the astronomical volumes of money that were cited.

But we have to face another reality that is equally unpalatable and hard to take in: a lot of taxpayer money continues to go into the investigations that frequently lead nowhere. But there are also the bailouts that had to be extended in the case of the financial crisis, for example, and as we learnt subsequently, there was a good amount of abuse of these packages. It goes without saying that much of this money could have put to better use elsewhere, in so many public sectors that are chronically running short of funding. As usual, it is those at the lower rungs of the ladder who have to bear the brunt of the *apparent* lack of funds.

And that was another paradox of such crises: the bigger they are, the more likely they are to benefit from government generosities. Again the financial crisis of 2008 comes to mind: the huge bailouts to banks and companies didn't prevent CEOs from getting their inordinately large packages despite losses their organizations were putatively making!!

Sadly, we seem to have entered an era of grand corruption on an apparently unstoppable scale. However much we may deny it, there can be no doubt that as far as we are concerned the image of the country has been tarnished as a result – and the fact that many other countries, including advanced ones, are also battling against the same demon, does not give us any claim for either justifying what's happening over here or claiming a moral high ground. Like, if everyone in our circle is corrupt, so who's to say what? We have reached a stage so low that, for some, it seems to be a matter of pride to be the pot that calls the kettle black!

A few years ago, a book was reviewed in *The Economist* which gave an insight into the ramifications of Grand Corruption of nightmarish proportions. It was written by

Jason Sharman, professor of international relations at Cambridge University who has specialized in the subject of Grand Corruption, which was defined as the 'theft of national wealth by kleptocratic leaders and their cronies, often in poor countries', who used shell companies and other such instruments to hide their ill-gotten gains.

To me what is most galling about this whole issue of corruption involving politicians in particular is that they have a first-hand knowledge of the plight of the people. I found this for myself in the first and only political campaign that I ever took part in, and that was in constituent-



There is no one that seems to be exempt from the tendency - individuals rich and poor, companies, corporates, banks, NGOs: you name it, or think of it, and it will be up there on the fraud/corruption list in one way or another.

Photo - www.justice.gov.il

cy No. 7 during the by-election of 2003 in Riviere du Rempart. It was about a month long, and after helping out at Piton I was 'posted' at Barlow for the last ten days, to give a hand to Mr Jeelall who was till then single-handed there.

All that I will say is that their elected representatives do not have the moral right to betray those who have placed their trust in them, to belie the hopes and promises they make and disappear for the next five years - and then come begging shamelessly for votes again. Instead of wasting their energies in wheeling-dealing for personal benefit, they ought to strive to improve the lot of the people whom they pledge to serve, and restore the notion of nobility to service by genuinely fulfilling their obligation to the people. In other words, sincerely doing their avowed duty. Which we also should do in our respective callings, whatever that be, for all work is noble.

Is there a fundamental remedy to greed? There is, only one. Soul-searching. How many are prepared to do it?



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Les navires-épaves et le 'Oil Spill Preparedness': Une négligence planétaire?



Vina Ballgobin

Selon le National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration aux Etats-Unis, en tenant compte des aléas climatiques, dans 5 à 10 ans, le peak leak ou le déversement massif des navires-épaves de guerre est prévu vers 2025 - 2030

Certains navires ont atterri au fond des océans à cause d'un accident en mer ou des conditions climatiques extrêmes: personne n'est à blâmer. Mais pour d'autres, comme dans le cas du *Wakashio*, ce serait peut-être par erreur humaine, comme on entend ici et là.

De temps à autre, quand une marée noire ou des nappes d'hydrocarbures atteignent des côtes, le citoyen ordinaire prend conscience et s'émeut de la dégradation causée à son environnement.

Trevor Gilbert de l'*Australian Maritime Safety Authority*, Dagmar Etkin de l'*Environmental Research Consulting* des Etats-Unis avec leurs équipes ont travaillé sur la compilation de navires potentiellement polluants, gisant sous les océans. En 2005, ils estimaient qu'il y avait 8,569 épaves dont 1,583 transportaient des huiles lourdes. Ces chercheurs estiment qu'il y aurait entre 2.5 millions and 20 millions de tonnes d'huiles à l'intérieur des épaves. Ces chiffres sont alarmants car c'est au moins 60 fois plus que ce qui a été déversé lors de l'accident de l'*Exxon Valdez*. Dans le Pacifique, 85% des navires-épaves sont japonais, et plus de 10% restants sont américains. Dans la Méditerranée, l'océan Atlantique et l'océan Indien, environ 50% des navires-épaves sont anglais et 16% sont américains. On pense qu'il y aurait environ 20,000 épaves uniquement dans les eaux américaines.



"La loi internationale stipule que tout navire-épave appartient à son gouvernement là où il se trouve en cas d'accident ou s'il a sombré sous les eaux. Parfois les gouvernements réclament leur épave et demandent que le site soit protégé. Lorsque le navire transporte des produits polluants et toxiques, alors c'est une menace pour le pays où se trouve l'épave, et subséquemment, à son économie. Alors qui est responsable pour la protection et le bien-être de la flore et de la faune marines, des secteurs de l'économie y relatifs, et des humains associés d'une manière ou d'une autre ?"

Mais selon un chercheur nommé Ryan Gilbert, cela fait environ 70 ans que plus de 7,800 navires de guerre et 860 pétroliers gisent sous les océans... avec une somme importante de carburant et d'autre produits toxiques, et ce, à cause des guerres. Tous ces navires sont de véritables bombes à retardement pour les écologistes.

Ainsi, plus de 75% des épaves contenant des huiles lourdes sur la planète sont liées à la Seconde Guerre mondiale : navires marchands coulés sur les routes commerciales ; l'attaque surprise des troupes aéronavales japonaises contre la base navale américaine de Pearl Harbour ; les représailles américaines tout aussi meurtrières avec plus de 50 navires et 400 avions coulés lors de la bataille au lagon de Chuuk au nord de l'Australie, considéré aujourd'hui comme le plus grand cimetière militaire sous-marin. Lors de la guerre impitoyable entre Américains et Japonais pour le contrôle de l'île de Guadalcanal en 1943, ces derniers ont dû y laisser un cargo de 6,800 tonnes, le *Hirokawa Maru*.

Après plus de 50 ans sous les océans, l'armature des navires-épaves s'est nettement dégradée. Les épaves coulées dans les eaux chaudes et tropicales se dégradent plus rapidement que celles qui sont dans les eaux froides (quantité d'oxygène et de microbes, mauvais temps, instabilité du sol et courants marins). A cause de la corrosion, plusieurs de ces bateaux ont déjà des fuites d'huiles, avec un dégoulinement par gouttelettes. Selon le *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* (NOAA) aux Etats-Unis, en tenant compte des aléas climatiques, dans 5 à 10 ans, le déversement massif commencera et aggravera la pollution des océans. Le **peak leak** ou le **déversement massif** des navires-épaves de guerre est prévu par les spécialistes vers 2025 - 2030.

Quelques cas de marée noire

- **1953.** Le *Jacob Luckenbach* coule après une collision. Le navire tangue régulièrement sous l'eau et pendant les périodes cycloniques relâche des bulles d'huiles. Mais, au début des années 1990s, un sanctuaire marin au sud de San Francisco est souillé d'huiles. En 2001, on compte plus de 50,000 oiseaux marins et des loutres de mer morts. Environ 100,000 km² des marais littoraux sont pollués par ces huiles.
- **1989.** Un pétrolier iranien, le *Khark 5* explose et prend feu près des îles Canaries. Environ 450,000 barils (19 millions de gallons) sur 1,714,300 barils (72 millions de gallons) polluent les mers. Le navire dérive vers le sud des îles Canaries. Les autorités marocaines se mobilisent pour contrer les effets

néfastes, et les gouvernements espagnol, français et américain leur apportent une assistance technique. Les Hollandais réparent un trou (60 x 90 pieds) dans la coque du navire. Il est difficile d'éloigner le navire des côtes à cause des vagues et des vents. Finalement, il est remorqué au Portugal car ni le Maroc ni l'Espagne n'acceptent ce navire dans leur port respectif. 14 avions et 7 bateaux sont utilisés pour étaler des produits sur la marée noire. 600 mètres de barrage gonflable sont placés dans le lagon pour protéger les huîtres. Des séparateurs d'huile sont employés pour récupérer les huiles flottantes. Plusieurs jours s'écoulent avant que la presse internationale ne soit alertée de l'accident. 11 jours s'écoulent avant la mise en place de solutions à cause du litige concernant les financements entre les propriétaires iraniens et la compagnie de nettoyage hollandaise.

- **1991.** Le pétrolier *Haven* prend feu à 7 milles des côtes de l'Italie. Après plusieurs explosions, le navire se brise en trois parties. Une partie du navire s'éloigne vers le sud-ouest. Une partie coule dans des eaux peu profondes. 154 milles carrés de marée noire souillent les côtes de la France ; Saint Tropez recevant le plus de produits polluants. Monaco est moins atteint mais on y voit des traces de la marée noire quand même.
- **2001.** Suite à un typhon en 2001, les plages sont remplies d'huiles émanant du USS *Mississinewa*, coulé en 1944 à 35 m de profondeur avec 20,000 tonnes d'huiles.
- **2020.** *Wakashio* et *Sir Gaëtan*. Des enquêtes sont en cours pour déterminer la/les causes de l'accident et du remorqueur.

Peut-on enlever les huiles des navires-épaves ?

Vers 2016, les chercheurs ont utilisé des techniques extrêmement onéreuses pour pomper l'huile du *Jacob Luckenbach*. Cela a coûté 19 millions de dollars pour couvrir le navire. Quant au USS *Mississinewa*, c'était une somme de 5 millions de dollars déboursés pour extraire 6,000 tonnes d'huiles. Tout dépend de l'état de l'épave, de sa profondeur et de son emplacement. Selon Etkin, le coût peut s'élever entre 2,300 à 17,000 dollars par tonne d'huiles. Mais il est aussi vrai que cela coûte très cher pour nettoyer les océans, les mers et les plages une fois qu'il y a un déversement de produits polluants.

Plusieurs techniques existent pour contrer ou retarder la corrosion, allant de l'utilisation d'extracteurs à l'emploi de bactéries mangeuses d'huiles. Les Etats-Unis considèrent plusieurs plans pour protéger les océans autour du continent, sachant que le secteur du tourisme et de la pêche, et l'environnement marin sont menacés. Il en est de même pour d'autres pays comme l'Allemagne et la Grande Bretagne, par exemple. Mais les actions concrètes tardent à faire surface. Les pays riches pourraient utiliser un plan d'action étalé sur plusieurs années pour extraire et récupérer les huiles lourdes. Malheureusement, tel n'est pas le cas actuellement.

China's 'secretive' reusable spacecraft lands successfully - state media

The mission comes three years after China vowed to make a reusable spacecraft that could fly like a plane.

China's experimental reusable spacecraft has successfully landed back on Earth, according to state media.



The craft was launched with a Long March-2F carrier rocket, as seen here with the Shenzhou-11 in 2016. Photo - news.sky.com

The spacecraft launched into orbit from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on Friday, with a Long March-2F carrier rocket, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Its purpose was to test reusable technologies, providing "technological support for the peaceful use of space", the report added. The spacecraft landed at a designated site on Sunday. According to the South China Morning Post, the mission was "shrouded in secrecy".

The newspaper reported on an official memo that warned staff and visitors to the launch not to film it or discuss it online.

The Post quoted a military source as saying: "There are many firsts in this launch. The spacecraft is new, the launch method is also different. That's why we need to make sure there is extra security."

The mission comes three years after China vowed to make a reusable spacecraft that could fly like a plane.

Don't expect global vaccine against coronavirus until mid-2021, says WHO

The World Health Organization says it does not expect widespread immunisation against Covid-19 until mid-2021, despite growing expectations in the United States, the worst-hit nation, that a vaccine could be released within weeks.

The Geneva-based WHO also insisted it would never endorse a vaccine that has not proven safe and effective, amid concerns over the rush to develop a jab for Covid-19, reports AFP.

The disease has killed nearly 870,000 people and infected more than 26 million others worldwide as well as upended hundreds of millions of lives and wreaked havoc on the global economy. The UN health agency welcomed the fact that a "considerable number" of vaccine candidates had entered final stage trials, which typically involve tens of thousands of people. But "in terms of realistic timelines, we are really not expecting to see widespread vaccination until the middle of next year," WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris said.

'Trials too small'

Russia has already approved a vaccine, and research published in *The Lancet medical* journal on Friday said patients involved in early tests developed antibodies with "no serious adverse events". But scientists cautioned the trials were too small -- just 76 participants -- to prove safety and effectiveness.

Washington has also urged US states to get ready for a potential vaccine rollout by November 1, sparking concerns President Donald Trump's administration is rushing to begin distributing a vaccine ahead of the November 3 election. The United



Photo - mk0laprensaltice12d.kinstacdn.com

States has suffered the largest number of deaths and infections of any country in the world.

Under normal procedures, test administrators must wait for months or years to verify that vaccine candidates are safe and effective.

But there has been massive pressure to roll out a vaccine quickly as the pandemic continues to take its toll.

Celebrities hit

Celebrities and public figures have not been spared, with Italy's flamboyant former premier Silvio Berlusconi taken to hospital with the disease. The list also includes three Paris Saint-Germain footballers including Brazilian star Neymar.

Also on the list are movie stars Tom Hanks and more recently Robert Pattinson, whom Hollywood trade publications said contracted the disease while filming the latest Batman movie in Britain.

Workers avoiding office

All over the world, businesses and individuals are counting the cost of the

pandemic, as flare-ups continue to force governments into imposing restrictions. France registered 8,975 new coronavirus cases over the past 24 hours, its highest daily figure since the pandemic swept into the country last March.

The rise comes as Paris and other cities have started requiring face masks in all public areas, including for children above 11 who returned to school this week. Even in areas where curbs have eased, those who can work from home prefer to keep

doing so rather than return to the office.

In London's normally bustling centre, eateries once packed with customers are suffering. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government is trying to encourage people to return to the office, but that is easier said than done.

Oil giant BP, which is slashing 10,000 jobs after the pandemic crushed energy demand and prices, is actively encouraging non-frontline staff to work from home. At Barclays, HSBC and Lloyds banks, meanwhile, much of the staff is working remotely.

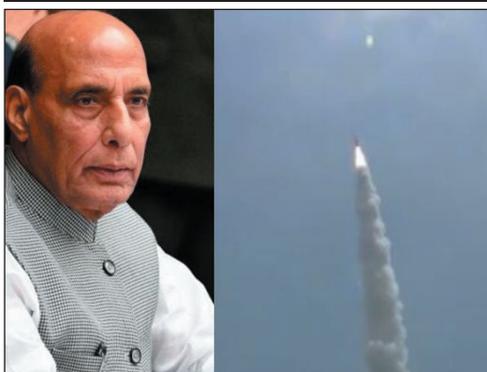
Tentative recovery

It is not all bad news, though.

Both the US and Canadian economies added jobs in August, in a tentative sign of recovery from the pandemic.

And for businesses in specific sectors like personal protective equipment, Covid-19 has triggered such fierce demand that they are struggling to keep up.

India is proud: Rajnath Singh after DRDO tests hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle



A "landmark achievement", says Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Photo - assets-news-bcdn.dailyhunt.in

The Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Monday successfully demonstrated the Hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology with the flight test of Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV) at 11:03 am from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, off the coast of Odisha.

The hypersonic cruise vehicle was launched using a proven solid rocket motor, which took it to an altitude of 30 km, where the aerodynamic heat shields

were separated at hypersonic Mach number. The cruise vehicle separated from the launch vehicle and the air intake opened as planned, reports India Today.

The hypersonic combustion sustained and the cruise vehicle continued its desired flight path at a velocity of six times the speed of sound i.e. nearly 2 km/s for more than 20 seconds. The critical events like fuel injection and auto ignition of scramjet demonstrated technological maturity and the scramjet engine performed in a textbook manner.

With this successful demonstration, many

critical technologies such as aerodynamic configuration for Hypersonic manoeuvres, use of scramjet propulsion for ignition and sustained combustion at hypersonic flow, thermo-structural characterisation of high-temperature materials, separation mechanism at hypersonic velocities, etc., were successfully tested.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO over the successful test flight of the HSTDV, calling it a "landmark achievement".

Cont. on page 6

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI becomes oldest pope in history

At the age of 93 and nearly five months, Benedict XVI officially became the oldest pope in history on Friday, even if the record is complicated by the fact that he stepped down in 2013 and holds the status of "pope emeritus".

Benedict was the first pope to retire in 700 years -- citing his diminishing strength -- after eight years in office.

He was succeeded by Argentinian Jorge Bergoglio, 10 years his junior and who adopted the name Francis.

Born on April 16, 1927, Benedict -- whose civilian name is Josef Ratzinger -- officially broke the previous longevity record held by Italian Leo XIII who died in 1903 at the age of 93 years, four months and three days, according to the calculations of the Italian episcopal journal, *Avvenire*, and the magazine *Famiglia Cristiana*.

"34,111 days in the service of God, the world and the ecclesiastical community," wrote

Famiglia Cristiana, referring to Benedict.

Aside from Benedict's retired status, Vatican experts say the record could also be disputed because, going back 1,400 years, the ages of previous popes may not always be completely accurate.

The previous record holder, Leo XIII, is known for having written the first encyclical on social problems.

Unlike Benedict's relatively short reign as pontiff, the Italian aristocrat led the church for more than 25 years. By comparison, Pius XI was pope for 31 years and John Paul II for 26 years.

And the first-ever pope, Peter, reigned for at least 34 years, said French historian, Christophe Dickes.

Benedict lives "hidden from the world" in a former convent inside the Vatican grounds.

Often in a wheelchair, he has appeared increasingly frail



Pope Emeritus Benedict. Photo - media.nbcphiladelphia.com

recently.

But the author of dozens of books, who was nicknamed "God's Rottweiler" as a cardinal, is still mentally sharp, according to people close to him.

Despite his limited mobility, Benedict travelled to his native Bavaria in June to the bedside of his 96-year-old brother, Georg.

The two were very close and Georg died on July 1. Both had been ordained priests on the

same day, in June 1951.

Benedict has lived with a pacemaker since 1997, while a brain haemorrhage in 1991 left him blind in his left eye.

The former theology professor, who taught for 25 years before being appointed Archbishop of Munich, went on to become the man in charge of preserving Catholic doctrine by defending points of Christian tradition which seem to be in danger.

Iran's enriched uranium stockpile '10 times limit'

Iran now has more than 10 times the amount of enriched uranium permitted under an international agreement, the UN's nuclear watchdog says.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Iran's enriched uranium stockpile had reached 2,105kg (4,640lb), reports BBC.

Iran insists its nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes.

It comes after Iran gave IAEA inspectors access to one of two suspected former nuclear sites.

The agency said it would take samples at the second site later this month.

Last year, Iran began deliberately and publicly reneging on commitments it had



Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium is well above the limit set in a 2015 nuclear agreement. Photo - EPA

made under the international nuclear accord, signed in 2015 by Iran, China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK and the US.

This included the production of more enriched uranium than it was allowed - although only at enrichment levels far below that required for use in atomic

weapons.

Iran's move came in retaliation against US sanctions reinstated by President Donald Trump when he abandoned the deal.

To manufacture a nuclear weapon, Iran would need to produce 1,050kg of 3.67% enriched uranium, but would then need to further enrich that to 90% or more, according to US-based advocacy group the Arms Control Association.

The deal set a limit of 300kg of enriched uranium in a particular compound form (UF₆), which is the equivalent of 202.8kg of uranium.

Low-enriched uranium - which has a concentration of between 3% and 5% of U-235 - can be used to produce fuel for power plants. Weapons-grade uranium is 90% enriched or more.

Experts say the enrichment process could take a long time, if Tehran chose to do so.

Last week, Iran said it had agreed "in good faith" to let weapons inspectors access sites to resolve outstanding issues related to nuclear safeguards.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

We need to unpack the word 'race' and find new language

☛ Cont. from page 2

All people living today belong to one species, *Homo sapiens*, and this species has never been divided into separate groups that were on their way to becoming new species.

People have always moved and intermixed, but, despite this, the concept of population isolation and a belief in "pure races" is common.

But species are individuals in the logical sense. Subsets of species, whether called subspecies or races, have no such individual reality. They are always in flux and have identities that vary according to the time and place of their definition.

The categories of race and ethnicity used by the United States Census such as "Black or African American" and "Asian" are good examples because they have very specific meanings for the census, but change regularly and are only understood clearly by people of the time and place the usage was developed. These widely used terms lack any biological reality, but that association still exists for most people because race started out as a quasi-scientific concept.

Let's find new words

Race is not biology nor is it a linguistic-ethnic grouping. It is not class. Race is not shorthand biology or any other grouping definition. But continued belief in the existence of real races and the biological or social reality of the race concept provides justification for the continuation of a racially inequitable status quo -- and the social marginalisation of historically disadvantaged groups.

When we use race we need to be very specific about what we mean. Using race to describe inequality is misleading when what we seek to discuss are socioeconomic disparities.

Let's find new terms to describe these phenomena. It's essential that we abandon official race labels and stop educating children about race categories because these concepts are freighted with toxic baggage.

We cannot just keep the "good parts" of race because othering has no good side. Race should be spoken about only in an historical context or in terms of current racism.

Nina G. Jablonski & George Chaplin,
Pennsylvania State University

Prof Sheila Bunwaree



Mauritius Times: Most of the people you come across these days might not be happy with the way the government has been running the country; in fact, they might even be angry. But do you understand why they chose to respond to the call of one individual who had remained unknown for the multitude until the Wakashio shipwreck and whose backings are also unknown?

Prof Sheila Bunwaree: Before I even start responding to your question, allow me to say that I am doing so in my capacity as a social scientist, 'Researcher/Consultant' on 'Governance and Development' and not as a political party member/representative. That said, it must be clear to all those asking themselves questions about my political allegiance, that I am well anchored within the MMM and very proud to be part of the MMM family – a party whose values and principles I adhere to. But enough of my political belonging, let's get to your question.

“Who at MIC has the competence and aptitude to appreciate and understand the technicalities of companies in difficulties and new projects? Are the companies being imposed necessary conditionalities such as environment protection, EIAs, and a minimum amount of new jobs created to absorb the unemployed, etc.? It's all shrouded in opacity...”

The country is running amok. Injustices of all sorts, nepotism, corruption, ineptitude, rapid shrinking of the democratic space, erosion of workers' rights, waste, attempts of some obscure minds to divide the country, have become the order of the day, causing a lot of frustration and anger.

While people's taking to the streets is largely attributed to the call of that one individual - Bruneau Laurette, we must not forget the context. He appears on the scene in the context of the Wakashio oil spill. He certainly needs

“When trust is broken between the rulers and the ruled, it is important to work on rebuilding that trust”

Sheila Bunwaree is a member of the MMM but she makes it clear that in this interview she is speaking mainly as a social scientist who is a 'Researcher/Consultant' on 'Governance and Development'. She salutes Bruneau Laurette for initiating the protest march of Saturday 29 August but feels that it is the two traditional parties, MMM and Labour Party, which have the pool of competent people who are willing to engage and cogitate on the major issues that the country is facing, and propose solutions based on a human rights approach, as the current ones making up the alliance are in disconnect with the people.

to be saluted for his mastery of knowledge around issues of maritime security, etc., as well as his capacity and courage to denounce a rotten and malfunctioning system and to lean on a private prosecution in an attempt to put an end to a 'culture of impunity' and irresponsibility. Congrats to Bruno Laurette!

Several analyses have been made but his action and subsequent moves will demand sustained observation and deeper analysis. He has certainly been a catalyst in pulling out the big crowd of August 29, but it is important to remember that the country has gone through a triple crisis: a sanitary crisis which worldwide is still not under control, an ecological crisis with the Wakashio affair, an economic crisis which started well before Covid, destroying livelihoods and lives.

The sufferings of the people are multiple - loss of jobs, drugs destroying families, criminality and violence, their sea and its marine life brutally taken away from them, children losing their lives because of lack of decent housing, and the dead dolphins - were far too much for an 'environmentally conscious' youth to remain insensitive and silent. When all of this happens within a framework of arrogance and denial: 'Kotte mone fauter?' people cannot help but get angry.

All Mauritians who believe in the necessity of standing together as ONE in the face of adversity, immorality and opacity, used social media to call upon each other to show solidarity in saying 'enough is enough' and that we refuse to be taken for granted. Some others, including myself, concerned also about our social cohesion, national unity and maintenance of peace and stability, also made a call to the people to join the protest march and make our voices heard.

* One could presume that the government could have been taken aback at the crowd that assembled in Port Louis on Aug 29 to defy it despite all the moneys that it has been distributing all around in terms of increased pensions, assistance to employees and corporate sector, etc., with a view to keeping everybody happy and quiet. It does not seem to work that way all the time, right?

The government has definitely been taken aback although it would not admit it. Let alone that, it also fails to respond to the population adequately.

Listening to the PM on MBC TV two days after the protest march, we can only conclude that he is incapable of understanding ground reality and remains very poorly advised despite the millions of rupees of taxpayer money channeled to pay their fat salaries and privileges.

On the one hand, you have a nation which is hurting, whose trust in the authorities has dwindled, which seeks transparency and the truth, and which expects a well-defined strategy to put the country back on track. On the other, you have a PM who shows neither compassion, nor an indication of how he is going to handle the multiple problems the country is confronted with. Well, we heard what we heard, leading to greater frustration and anger. You are right: the 'goodies' offered do not mitigate the profound malaise that the country is experiencing.

“The challenge is for the leaders of the Labour Party and MMM to let go of their egos, make space for renewal, innovate and ensure that the phrase 'it cannot be business as usual' does not remain mere rhetoric. Needless to say, that in a sea of confusion and chaos, these two parties are indeed the best options for the country...”

No matter what you give or do to try and buy people's conscience, when people have a 'ras le bol' and when their aspirations and expectations are no longer met, there is bound to be further discontent and wrath.

What one expects from a 'commander in chief' under such circumstances is someone who shows empathy, readiness to listen and to act accordingly. When TRUST is broken between the rulers and the ruled, it is important to work on rebuilding that trust. But it takes much more than simply inheriting a throne to be able to do this.

* Politicians' moral behaviours affect how the people evaluate them. Does Laurette's success in mobilizing that crowd unseen for a long time therefore mean that the traditional politicians across the board are also a devalued lot?

That people's moral behaviours affect how people evaluate them is undeniable. By and large, people want to see politicians who are ethical, competent, honest, humble, respectful of the 'Other', capable of devising and implementing a societal project which speaks to the betterment of each and all.

I hesitate to attribute the success of the crowd solely to Bruneau Laurette although his initiative and efforts must be saluted, as I mentioned earlier.

Coming to the traditional politicians being a devalued lot - I would tend to disagree.

'The challenge is for the leaders of the Labour Party and MMM to let go of their egos, make space for renewal, innovate'

☞ Cont. from page 7

For sure, traditional politicians have made mistakes; but looking at the incredible numbers of young people, professionals, new blood, emerging activists as well as old ones, coming back to the mainstream parties, I would be tempted to say that there is a growing recognition in the population that 'l'heure est grave, il y a urgence' and that we need to use our collective intelligence, to offer a new political landscape and an innovative societal project to the nation - one that works, one which takes a plurality of ideas on board, one which can respond and adapt to the complex geo- strategic relations unfolding in front of us.

But to transit to a new polity, the country needs to give itself the chance of a transition period. The traditional parties have within them people of great experience and wisdom with an agenda for change and transformation. True, these parties may be having ways and methods that people are tired of. The question of succession planning, dynastic politics, inequitable women's representation, rigid hierarchies and party structures, disconnect with the grassroots, the reproduction of the same political elite remains problematical.

But in the face of lies, incompetence, floor crossing infused by the mere desire of power, privileges and control, citizens who are truly concerned with the betterment of society, who see politics as genuine service to the nation, are still willing and ready to bring their contribution within the traditional mainstream parties.

The devalued lot are those politicians who so easily renege on their values and ideals simply because they have to be 'redeivable' to their boss, they are those who condone the many lies and incompetence of those at the top. The devalued lot are those who use and thrive on occult forces to divide the nation, those who have no other argument than systematically pulling examples from prior to 2014 in an attempt to show the failings of their opponents. Such an approach is an insult to the Mauritian citizen's intelligence!

“Politicians, the intelligentsia and civil society at large have the potential of steering clear from populism and demagoguery if they embark on some serious rethinking and make the reinventing of our nation a priority. 52 years after independence, we are still stuck with a political and economic system ill adapted to modern times...”

* But if there is indeed a feeling of disenchantment with the current politicians who have occupied the political stage for a long time, there is the risk however that the current circumstances could make a fertile ground for demagogues or even populists to emerge. What's your take on that?

Indeed, such a risk exists. We have seen the rise of demagogues and populism across the globe. But it seems to me that there is a growing awareness in many quarters, both internationally and locally, that we are at a

turning point in our social, political, economic and juridical history and that the current juncture - the search of a 'new normal', while full of challenges also constitutes an opportunity.

Politicians, the intelligentsia and civil society at large have the potential of steering clear from populism and demagoguery if they embark on some serious rethinking and make the reinventing of our nation a priority. 52 years after independence, we are still stuck with a political and economic system ill adapted to modern times.

A good starting point would be to revisit our Constitution and for all citizens to be given the opportunity to pronounce themselves on what kind of constitutional changes and society they aspire to. But we must act fast!

* How would you respond to the view that the Labour Party and the MMM remain to this day our best options for the country despite their shortcomings?

Both the Labour Party and the MMM have a very rich historical past and have fundamental values and principles which have informed the development strategies of the country. The visionaries of these two parties have been the hallmarks of same. Their strong links with the workers of the country enabled them to have a strong power base but they have both, perhaps inevitably, experienced some forms of 'embourgeoisement'. But despite this, they carry much more weight in people's minds.

The Labour Party and the MMM are seen as more credible than those political parties which are born in the corridors of power and/or those which are tiny, insignificant offshoots of one or two people who have deflected from the mainstream parties. People like charismatic leaders and want substance and strategy. Both the MMM and the LP have these. This does not mean that they do not have shortcomings, they do. But they also have the capacity of revamping themselves.

The challenge is for the leaders of the Labour Party and MMM to let go of their egos, make space for renewal, innovate and ensure that the phrase 'it cannot be business as usual' does not remain mere rhetoric. Needless to say, that in a sea of confusion and chaos, these two parties are indeed the best options for the country.

* The recent Labour Party, MMM and PMSD 'entente' to counter the government has been decried by some as 'l'alliance de la honte, de la haine vis-à-vis de Jugnauth'. What potential do you think the synergy between three parties hold for the future?

I am more inclined to say that this TRIO is an alliance of 'Experience, Wisdom and Intellect', imbued with true democratic principles, coherence and a strong predisposition to synergise and collaborate further in order to save our country from a motley of groupings (MSM, ML, Plateforme militante, parti cerise/ou poire?) who clearly are unable to get the country out of the abyss into which it has sunk.

The towering political figures of each of the three parties you mention, have a legacy that they wish to leave behind. Having the capacity to pool together the best ta-



“The traditional parties have within them people of great experience and wisdom... True, these parties may be having ways and methods that people are tired of. The question of succession planning, dynastic politics, inequitable women's representation, rigid hierarchies and party structures, disconnect with the grassroots, the reproduction of the same political elite remains problematical...”

lents of the country, these three parties' synergy does hold a lot of potential. Being cognizant of the threats hanging on our heads and the danger that Jugnauth's regime re-presents for the nation, the three parties may have to engage in certain compromises and their followers should strategise pragmatically in the best interests of the nation.

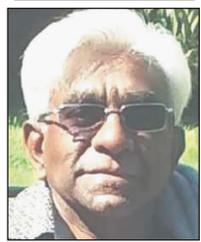
I am confident that as true patriots, they can do this much and so much more for the nation.

* What about our small parties which have been unable to go beyond their sincere and useful contributions to debates on policy issues?

I had myself founded a small party: 'Parti Justice Sociale' and we can see increasing numbers of small parties - sometimes driven by a strong personality, with very interesting and innovative ideas, but sadly these small parties will not be able to make a breakthrough.

Some of the older small parties too definitely make significant contributions to debates on certain policy issues but, unfortunately, the current electoral system and the prevalence of 'money politics' does not allow for a level playing field. As such, there is very little room for a plurality of ideas.

☞ Cont. on page 10



Dr Rajagopal
Soondron

Rewriting History

The new generation has to keep an open mind with a view to reviewing our history, rediscovering and understanding human nature, unearthing new pre-historical evidence; they will also have to make new adjustments and corrections, forgive always and forget where possible...

As primary school students we had to learn from our geography book, by Ardill, how Mauritius, the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, lies on the route between India, the Far East and the Cape of Good Hope which the captain of MV Wakashio ignored. And within our lifetime we saw cane sugar harvesting, then our only Mauritian source of foreign exchange, moving to the fourth place while tourism came to top the list. As grown-ups we asked ourselves how long will tourism occupy the top position without jeopardizing our economy? The cleverest of us thought of climate change with the subsequent rise in sea level eroding our beautiful shores as a potential threat.

None of us thought of any imminent danger to our tourism, until Covid-19 struck and practically shut down our hotel industry and tourism; nor were we prepared for the manmade Wakashio disaster. And we suddenly discovered that cane leaves could be used as artisanal buoys to salvage our shores from the leaking oil from a shipwreck - well after they were used as fodder for our erstwhile thatched houses or for producing energy or manure.

In a decade these tragedies striking our shores, Covid-19 and other Wakashio, would be history

That *History*, linked inevitably to the presence of human beings, is just a mirror to the past nature of man and women interacting with nature; it's about their emotions, failings, decline and their faculty of rationalization. In 80% of cases it may be about their egoism, cruelty, bias and sadism, while 20% may be attributed to their altruism and budding intelligence.

Few of us simpleton adolescents of the 1960s could have appreciated that truth at secondary school -- much to the despair of our history teacher who tried to infuse such wisdom into our heads; but unfortunately, our grey cells were too immature. Leaning towards the science subjects with contempt for such abstract topics like History and too ready to give it a skip, we would still squirm in our shoes when we reminisce about those boring classes, where the only innovation and revenge we dreamed of was to nickname our history teacher "Sommeil".

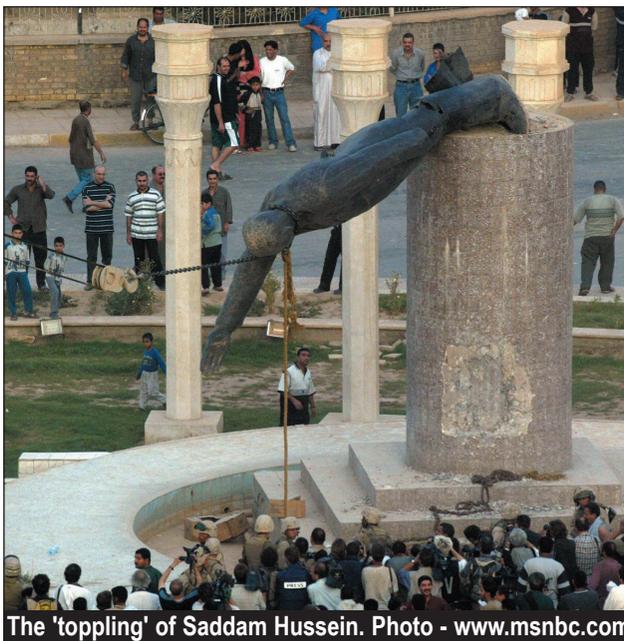
Only time and maturity would rekindle in us the truth that history is all about our *own* ancestors; gradually Socrates' axiom *know thyself* would tickle our guilty conscience, driving us back to our past.

History

History, be it social, military, geographical, political, biological, genetic, religious, intellectual, philosophical or scientific, is like a flowing river of subtle 'cause and effect' past events prior to the present time. But is that past a few seconds, some months, years, decades or millennia away?

Consider ourselves. Are we of the future? Surely not. Of the present? This lasts only about two minutes, we are told. So surely, along with our personality and character, we are just the progeny of a past.

Are we not the products of our chromosomes, genes and genomes -- where do they come from? They have evolved, mutated and morphed during hundred thousands of years to produce us - a living proof of time gone by. Similarly, the chemical elements in our bones, flesh and



The 'toppling' of Saddam Hussein. Photo - www.msnbc.com

“ Some 20 years ago when the Americans and British invaded Iraq illegally, many Iraqis were glad to pull down the statue of Saddam Hussein, siding with the invaders; the same attitude prevailed in Libya where Gaddafi was dethroned and killed; but surely nowadays many of these local rebels in both countries would have second thoughts with the present chaos prevailing in their countries. Pulling down statues has not brought any solution to their woes... ”

organs have been compounded in the bowels of dying stars millions of years ago; we are walking pieces of stars. Recorded within us is the past of our universe. We are history alive! But some smart one may ask: Is the unrecorded past History or Prehistory?

But generally, when we talk of history, we mean recent social, political or military past events that have impinged on our present state of mind, fortune and situation.

Falsification

As history is a record of our past, it means that someone would be the recorder. And the ultimate question is, how impartial and intellectually honest was the boss of that time or his recorder or scribe? As our ancestors were tribals before forming countries and nations, it was inevitable that each nation had derived different views about what happened in the past. Nowadays each nation or country, limited by its own boundary and laws, would have its own heroes who grew at the expense of other people -- the latter viewing the former as villains. The French think Napoleon Bonaparte was a great emperor, but the Russians viewed him as an anti-Christ; those very Slavs who defeated Hitler also, and lost more millions of people than any nation in the Second World War; but the West would still like to belittle the Russians.

Jean Marie Le Pen of France was convinced that the Holocaust, which occurred some 70 years ago, never existed; so also the modern Japanese history books fail to mention the horrors the Japanese military perpetuated in

concentration camps in China during that War. The fact is some authorities want to alleviate either their guilty conscience or to suppress the good deeds that the vanquished people had left behind. With time our history gets biased and skewed. Or still as racist emotions run high after a conquest, minority languages or cultures were obliterated to be replaced by those of the victors. And with modern democracy the descendants of those minorities reclaim their suppressed heritage.

The Balkans can illustrate this very well; recently the old Byzantine St Sophie Church in Turkey has come to question historical past -- first a church, then a mosque, then a museum under a secular policy -- it has again been reconverted into a mosque in a more Islamised Turkey which is obliterating its Christian past. India's Supreme Court's verdict has put a rest to the dispute about Ayodhya being the birthplace of Lord Ram who is revered by Hindus. In one case the conquerors have monopolized the monument of the vanquished, and in the other the vanquished have come back to lay claim to their rightful heritage. History is being rewritten.

Along with Africans or Asians flocking to richer countries for a better life, descendants of all unfortunate slaves discover that they have to cohabit with the old masters' descendants on new shores, where the majority community have statues of their heroes who epitomized the devil to the newcomers. Winston Churchill is admired by the Anglo-Saxon for his warfare performance during the Second World War, but others elsewhere in the world hated his racist deeds and remarks. So in the UK a majority of those immigrants want his statue to be pulled down, leading even his sensible granddaughter to suggest that it be shifted to a museum. But the majority of the Anglo-Saxons are not of that view -- Churchill is their hero who must go down in history books, forming part of those who contributed to the fame and valour of their population at a certain time in the past. And after the homicide of the Afro-American George Floyd in the USA, which subsequently unleashed worldwide civil unrest against the atrocities of some colonial-minded authorities, there has been a call to review history, to rewrite it. By extension some past racist heroes and their statues were targeted, for they were no saints just like George Floyd was no angel.

Some 20 years ago when the Americans and British invaded Iraq illegally, many Iraqis were glad to pull down the statue of Saddam Hussein, siding with the invaders; the same attitude prevailed in Libya where Gaddafi was dethroned and killed; but surely nowadays many of these local rebels in both countries would have second thoughts with the present chaos prevailing in their countries. Pulling down statues has not brought any solution to their woes.

The European colonialists were convinced that their language was superior; they scrapped and replaced the local ones by theirs, which is still news in South America. Unfortunately, many indigenous people themselves became apologists for those very oppressors, recording history to the detriment of their own people, while the real bitter truths are buried below tons of historical camouflage.

It is against the backdrop of such historical past that the new generation has to keep an open mind with a view to reviewing our history, rediscovering and understanding human nature, unearthing new pre-historical evidence; they will also have to make new adjustments and corrections, forgive always and forget where possible... Surely pulling down statues of heroes -- a symptom of our times but not a solution *per se* -- would in itself become another facet of History.

Emergence of demagogues or populists: "Such a risk exists"

☞ Cont. from page 8

The country has everything to lose if we continue this way.

In the persistent absence of an electoral reform, we have to devise a new 'modus operandi' so as to be more inclusive and forge political consensus on key societal and environmental issues. Citizens' awakening and new forms of civic engagement with multiple pressure points and initiatives will certainly contribute to transforming the political landscape with the smaller parties having more 'voice' and 'agency'.

*** What do you think are our best, or let's say the least worst option in the circumstances for promoting the people's welfare through human-centred economic development, and advancing the country's interests within the democratic framework?**

Given the complexity and scale of challenges we face, our best option, in fact our priority should be the revival of our eco-



“What one expects from a 'commander in chief' under such circumstances is someone who shows empathy, readiness to listen and to act accordingly. When TRUST is broken between the rulers and the ruled, it is important to work on rebuilding that trust. But it takes much more than simply inheriting a throne to be able to do this...”

nomy, while ensuring that it is inclusive. We cannot possibly go on indebting the nation and future generations, stifling all creativity and innovations, and risk a Greece-like crash.

We need a new development paradigm with the environment, green jobs, technology and innovation as the central pillars. But if we carry on focusing on growth without creating productive employment, we are doomed. 1 in 4 of our young people and large proportions of working age women are without jobs. A nation with little or no work opportunity is

doomed to fail.

If we look at our institutions, let us take the case of the newly created Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC) for instance, there is every reason to worry. Some Rs 80 billion have been put at the disposition of the MIC to supposedly assist enterprises with difficulties and to finance new development projects. Initially the name of Lord Meghnad Desai was brandished around to tell us that he will play a lead role in the organization but that name seems to have disappeared.

Who at MIC has the competence and aptitude to appreciate and understand the technicalities of companies in difficulties and new projects? Are the companies being imposed necessary conditionalities such as environment protection, EIAs, and a minimum amount of new jobs created to absorb the unemployed, etc.? It's all shrouded in opacity.

It is our legitimate right to know, but sadly we are not informed where our scarce resources are going to? How can we possibly advance the country's interests under such conditions?

*** The focus in a preceding question was on human-centred economic development, but for that to happen, it would probably require a rethinking on our democracy, of the way the country is governed at different levels and in different sectors, on re-distribution of wealth and resources, including our lands, on the delivery**

of social services, etc. What are your thoughts on these issues?

Indeed, we need to rethink our democracy and urgently address wealth concentration and the land question. Ensuring a human-centred economic development cannot happen without an underlying rights approach to development. The right to food, to decent housing, to a safe environment, to quality healthcare and education are fundamental human rights. Without these, democracy loses its significance.

Shifting our focus from electoral democracy - (i.e. alternating government peacefully every 5 years) to substantive citizen-centric democracy is therefore a must. Citizens should be empowered to revoke their parliamentary representative(s) if the latter fails the constituents. There should be no room for complacency. The introduction of a "recall your parliament" legislation is an absolute necessity.

Opportunity to participate in public forums/debates on critical issues shaping citizens' lives is also very important. Bottom up governance is necessary to ensure that a rights approach to development is pursued and delivered.

Les navires-épaves et le 'Oil Spill Preparedness': Une négligence planétaire?

☞ Suite de la page 4

La loi internationale stipule que tout navire-épave appartient à son gouvernement là où il se trouve en cas d'accident ou s'il a sombré sous les eaux. Parfois les gouvernements réclament leur épave et demandent que le site soit protégé. Lorsque le navire transporte des produits polluants et toxiques, alors c'est une menace pour le pays où se trouve l'épave, et subséquemment, à son économie. Alors qui est responsable pour la protection et le bien-être de la flore et de la faune marines, des secteurs de l'économie y relatifs, et des humains associés d'une manière ou d'une autre ? Pourquoi tant de passivité face à ce problème ? Le profit-making est plus important que la sauvegarde de l'environnement et la sensibilité écologique?

Le choix politique de la Norvège : Emergency preparedness

En 2017, un *White Paper* en Norvège définit trois priorités : utilisation durable et création de valeurs, océans propres et salubres - avec vision Zéro pour la pollution des mers par le plastique et autres déchets dans les milieux marins - et une Economie bleue (*blue economy*) durable. Dès lors, plusieurs ministères travaillent



Photo: s.rfi.fr

en étroite coordination : *Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Ministry of Transport*, etc.

Pourquoi ? D'abord, plus de 200,000 personnes travaillent dans le secteur pétrolier, le *seafood hub* et l'industrie maritime. Mais quatre accidents importants ont eu lieu avec déversement entre 100 et 500 tonnes d'huiles lourdes à chaque fois (*Rocknes* en 2004, *Server* en 2007, *Full City* en 2009 et *Godafoss* en 2011). Des études ont été menées surtout depuis 2009, pour mieux comprendre et gérer la situation car plusieurs facteurs sont responsables pour différents types de dégâts causés à l'environnement marin, aux oiseaux, aux mers et aux régions côtières : les variétés d'huiles, les quan-

tités d'huiles déversées, la période de l'année et les aléas climatiques.

La *Pollution Control Act* oblige l'ensemble des opérateurs à maintenir un niveau de préparation élevée et une capacité de réaction maximale en cas d'accident et de pollution accidentelle. Le *Kystverket* ou *Norwegian Coastal Administration* sous l'égide du *Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries* est responsable de la coordination des actions au niveau national. The *Ministry of Climate and Environment* est responsable de la préparation des municipalités et des entreprises privées. Le *Norwegian Environment Agency* approuve les plans dans le respect des règlements. Le *Norwegian Clean Seas Association for Operating Companies* (NOFO) travaille en étroite collaboration avec ses membres pour la formation continue et aussi être à la pointe des nouvelles technologies dans ce contexte. Des exercices de simulation sont organisés chaque année par cet organisme.

La Norvège a un niveau élevé de préparation aux fins d'intervention en cas de catastrophe. Ce pays reste déterminé en alerte en cas d'accident. Par conséquent, le *Oil Spill Preparedness Plan*

“Après plus de 50 ans sous les océans, l'armature des navires-épaves s'est nettement dégradée. Les épaves coulées dans les eaux chaudes et tropicales se dégradent plus rapidement que celles qui sont dans les eaux froides (quantité d'oxygène et de microbes, mauvais temps, instabilité du sol et courants marins). Selon le *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* (NOAA) aux Etats-Unis, en tenant compte des aléas climatiques, dans 5 à 10 ans, le déversement massif commencera et aggravera la pollution des océans...”

est régulièrement revu et amélioré.

La Norvège est le seul pays qui a commencé le pompage des huiles et d'autres matières toxiques des navires se trouvant au fond de l'océan pendant que tous les autres pays réagissent bien trop lentement. D'autres ne réagissent pas du tout et attendent la prochaine marée noire.

Pour le texte complet, veuillez consulter notre site web : www.mauritiustimes.com

In a light vein

How were people born?

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on."

The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now."

The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

Wife: "How would you describe me?"

Husband: "ABCDEFGHIIJK."

Wife: "What does that mean?"

Husband: "Adorable, beautiful, cute, delightful, elegant, fashionable, gorgeous, and hot."

Wife: "Aw, thank you, but what about IJK?"

Husband: "I'm just kidding!"

Q: Is Google male or female?

A: Female, because it doesn't let you finish a sentence before making a suggestion.

A lady goes to the doctor and complains that her husband is losing interest in sex. The doctor gives her a pill, but warns her that it's still experimental. He tells her to slip it into his mashed potatoes at dinner, so that night, she does just that.

About a week later, she's back at the doctor, where she says, "Doc, the pill worked great! I put it in the potatoes like you said! It wasn't five minutes later that he jumped up, raked all the food and dishes onto the floor, grabbed me, ripped all my clothes off, and ravaged me right there on the table!"

The doctor says, "I'm sorry, we didn't realize the pill was that strong! The foundation will be glad to pay for any damages."

"Nah," she says, "that's okay. We're never going back to that restaurant anyway."

Girlfriend: "Am I pretty or ugly?"

Boyfriend: "You're both."

Girlfriend: "What do you mean?"

Boyfriend: "You're pretty ugly."

Bob was in trouble. He forgot his wedding anniversary. His wife was really angry. She told him "Tomorrow morning, I expect to find a gift in the driveway that goes from 0 to 200 in 6 seconds AND IT BETTER BE THERE!"

The next morning he got up early and left for work. When his wife woke up, she looked out the window and sure enough there was a box gift-wrapped in the middle of the driveway.

Confused, the wife put on her robe and ran out to the driveway, brought the box back in the house. She opened it and found a brand new

bathroom scale. Bob has been missing since Friday.

A lady comes home from her doctor's appointment grinning from ear to ear.

Her husband asks, "Why are you so happy?"

The wife says, "The doctor told me that for a forty-five year old woman, I have the breasts of a eighteen year old."

"Oh yeah?" quipped her husband, "What did he say about your forty-five year old ass?"

She said, "Your name never came up in the conversation."

A wife comes home late one night and quietly opens the door to her bedroom. From under the blanket, she sees four legs instead of just her husband's two. She reaches for a baseball bat and starts hitting the blanket as hard as she can.

Once she's done, she goes to the kitchen to have a drink. As she enters, she sees her husband there, reading a magazine. He says, "Hi darling, your parents have come to visit us, so I let them stay in our bedroom. Did you say hello?"

Wife: "In my dream, I saw you in a jewellery store and you bought me a diamond ring."

Husband: "I had the same dream and I saw your dad paying the bill."

A husband exclaims to his wife one day, "Your butt is getting really big. It's bigger than the BBQ grill!"

Later that night in bed, the husband makes some advances towards his wife who completely brushes him off. # "What's wrong?" he asks.

She answers, "Do you really think I'm going to fire up this big-ass grill for one little weenie?"

A married man was having an affair with his secretary. One day, their passions overcame them in the office and they took off for her house. Exhausted from the afternoon's activities, they fell asleep and awoke at around 8 p.m.

As the man threw on his clothes, he told the woman to take his shoes outside and rub them through the grass and dirt.

Confused, she nonetheless complied and he slipped into his shoes and drove home.

"Where have you been?" demanded his wife when he entered the house.

"Darling," replied the man, "I can't lie to you. I've been having an affair with my secretary. I fell asleep in her bed and didn't wake up until eight o'clock."

The wife glanced down at his shoes and

Thoughts to live by

Be good! Do good!

When a bird is alive, it eats ants, but when the bird dies, it is the ants that eat it.

Time and circumstances can change at any time. So don't devalue anything around you. Today you can have power, but remember: time is much more powerful than anything else! Know that from a tree you can produce a million of matchsticks, but a single matchstick is enough to burn millions of trees.

So be good! Do good!

Time is like a river: you can never touch the same water twice, because the water that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every

minute of your life and remember:

Never try to be only good looking because physical aspect changes over time.

Don't look for perfect people, because they don't exist. Above all, look for a man who knows his true value.

Have four loves: God; life; family and good friends.

- God because he is the master of life;
- Life because it is short;
- Family because it is unique;
- Good friends because they are rare!

Newton's Law of Holiday:



A body at rest will continue to be at rest until the wife notices and finds some work for him!

ANGER MANAGEMENT



Angry with someone? Think before you talk..

If the person is junior to you.. count upto 10 and then talk.

If the person is Equal to you.. count upto 30 and talk..

If the person is Your senior to you then count 50, then talk..

If the person is your wife.. keep counting..don't talk!

If the person is your husband... keep talking don't count!

See what pistachios, chocolate, and orange veggies can do for your health

To change your diet, add good foods rather than denying yourself bad ones. As you get used to eating more fruits, vegetables, lean meats, and whole grains, these foods may come to replace some of the less healthy choices. Leslie Bonci, MPH, RD, a dietitian for the Pittsburgh Steelers offers a sports metaphor to sum up the benefits: You'll play better today and stay in the game longer.

Tart Cherries

How do the Pittsburgh Steelers soothe sore muscles? Cherry juice. Bonci says she keeps some in their training room at all times. "The pigment in cherries and cherry juice mimics the effects of some anti-inflammatory medicines," says Bonci. "And there are no side effects."

Chocolate

Chocolate may improve blood flow if you eat the right kind. The flavanols in dark chocolate may curb levels of bad cholesterol, improve circulation, and keep blood pressure in check. Men with poor blood flow are more likely to have erection problems, so heart-wise foods may protect your sex life, too. But too much chocolate can lead to weight gain. Enjoy 1 ounce a day instead of other sweets.

Shellfish

Shellfish and other types of seafood are rich in zinc, which is critically important for the heart, muscles, and reproductive system. Zinc levels below normal are linked to poor sperm quality and male infertility. Not fond of seafood? Turkey, chicken, nuts, and seeds offer a healthy dose of zinc, too.

Avocado

Sure, this creamy fruit is high in fat, but it's the good kind. The monounsaturated fat in avocados packs a one-two punch against cholesterol. It can knock down total cholesterol and "bad" cholesterol (LDL), too. The trick is to use a "mono" fat instead of saturated or trans fats. And eat no more than 25%-35% of all your calories from fat. Olive oil and nuts also contain good fats.

Fatty Fish

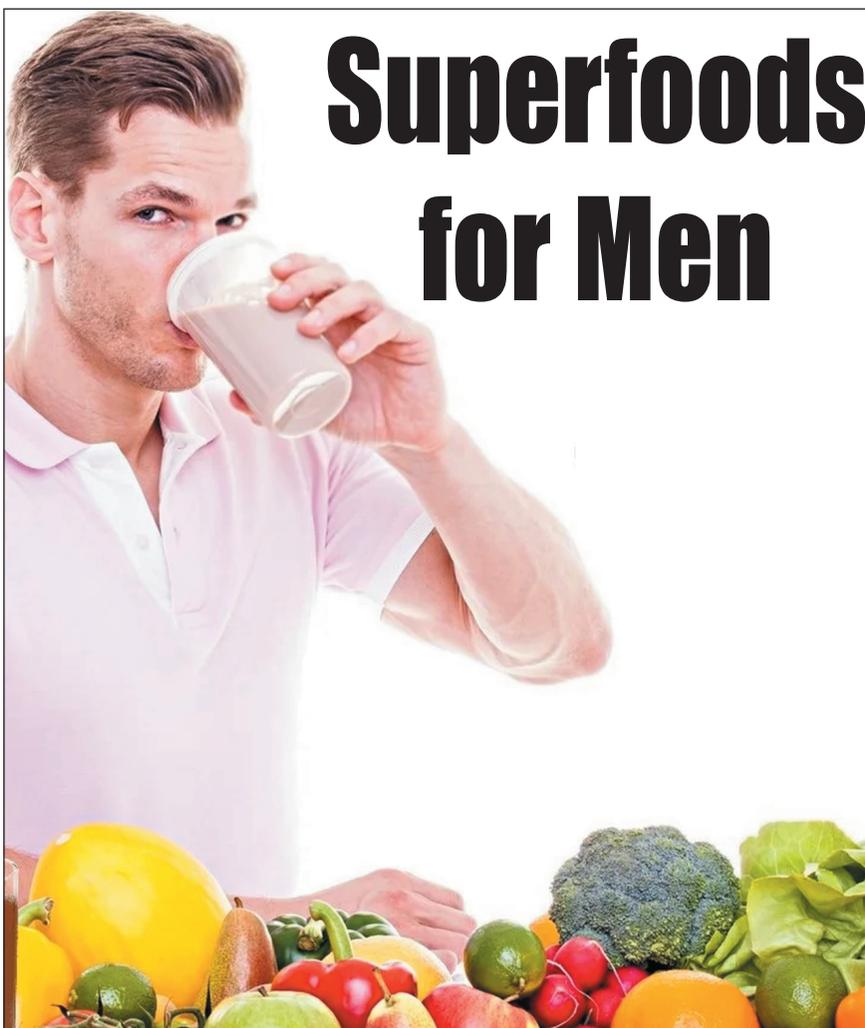
Fatty fish like salmon, herring, sardines, and halibut are another excellent source of healthy fat. They have a special type known as omega-3 fatty acids. These protect against heart disease, the top killer of men in the U.S. Two servings of fatty fish a week can lower your chances of dying from heart disease.

Ginger

Slices of this spicy root are often served with sushi or grated into an Asian stir-fry. Health-wise, ginger may help calm inflammation in the body -- which can come in handy when you push yourself too hard. Eating ginger regularly may help reduce the pain of exercise-related muscle injuries.

Milk and Yogurt

The whey in milk and yogurt is another source of leucine, a muscle-building amino acid. Bonci recommends Greek yogurt, with a thick, creamy taste that men may like better. It's also packed with protein, potassium, and friendly bacteria that keep the gut healthy. "Plus, it requires no preparation whatsoever."



Superfoods for Men

Bananas

The banana is celebrated for its bounty of potassium -- and with good reason. Potassium is critical for muscle contractions and bone health. It also helps blood pressure. Getting enough potassium may be as important as eating less sodium when it comes to lowering blood pressure.

Pistachios

Nuts provide protein, fiber, and zinc while satisfying the urge for a crunchy, salty snack. Pistachios are a stand out -- higher in plant sterols that can improve cholesterol levels. Eat them from the shell, so you work harder for each one. It's a fun way to snack and keeps you from gobbling up too many calories too quickly.

Tomato Sauce

Tomatoes are rich in lycopene, a substance that may protect against some cancers. Some research suggests that men who eat tomato sauce regularly are less likely to get prostate cancer, but not all studies support this. Tomatoes have many other plant nutrients, too, that support good health. Adding salsa to a burrito or tomato sauce to pasta is an easy way to make a meal more nutritious.

Soy Foods

The food that offers the best protection against prostate cancer may be soy. That's the finding from a study of 40 nations. Tofu, miso soup, and soy milk are all delicious ways to eat more soy. In Asian countries, people eat up to 90 times

more soy foods than Americans eat. And prostate cancer is far less common in those countries.

Mixed Vegetables

Vegetables are packed with phytochemicals, nutrients that boost cell health and protect against cancer. There are many different phytochemicals, and the best way to get a variety of them is to eat different colored veggies. "There should be color on your plate at every meal," Bonci says.

Orange Vegetables

Orange vegetables are an excellent source of beta-carotene, lutein, and vitamin C. These nutrients may lower your odds of developing an enlarged prostate, according to a large study. Good choices include red bell peppers, carrots, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes.

Leafy Green Vegetables

Spinach, collard greens, and kale can help the eyes as well as the prostate. These leafy green vegetables have plenty of lutein and zeaxanthin. Both nutrients protect against cataracts and age-related macular degeneration, an eye disease that impairs vision.

High-Fiber Cereal

Fiber may not sound manly, but it can be a performance enhancer. Executive or athlete, you can't focus on your goals if your gut is acting up. Fiber keeps you full longer and helps your digestive system run smoothly. This doesn't mean you have to give up your favorite cereal -- just try mixing in some shredded wheat. "Don't deprive yourself," Bonci advises, "but add something good."

Berries

"Berries can help you be on top of your game mentally as well as physically," Bonci says. They're loaded with antioxidants that may help lower the risk of cancer. Animal studies suggest blueberries can also enhance memory and thinking. Similar research in people is in its infancy, but looks promising. When fresh berries are expensive or tough to find, try buying them frozen and making a shake.

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'A lot of movie action in *Extraction* was done by me on painkillers,' reveals Randeep Hooda

Randeep Hooda will be next seen in Salman Khan's *Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai*, which also stars Disha Patani and Jackie Shroff in pivotal roles.



Randeep Hooda is undoubtedly one of the finest actors of Bollywood, who has impressed us with his performances in films like *Kick*, *Highway*, *Sarbjit* and many others. He was recently featured in Chris Hemsworth starrer *Extraction* and garnered praises and accolades for his character. The actor recently underwent a major surgery of his leg, as it got infected. Talking about it, Randeep told TOI, "People close to me were shaken. It wasn't a small surgery, it took a few hours but it wasn't coronary, Covid-19 related or life threatening. I have four staples in my body. What happened to me is a long story. 12 years ago in 2008, I met with a major accident on the polo field. My horse Raja, who has passed away now, slipped and fell on my right leg. It was my mistake. I stretched out a bit too much to get to the ball, forget-

ting the fact that the horse is old. After he got up and my leg was still stuck, he kept looking at me wondering if I was okay. I remember his face so well. I could hardly breathe and he kept thinking if I was fine. Any other horse would have bolted and that could have killed me but he stood still. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't have been alive. Raja taught me how to play Polo."

"After the accident, I had metal plates and screws inserted to hold the bones together, heal the leg and bring it back to life. I was bedridden for a long time and all my projects evaporated during that time. I was supposed to take these plates out in a year but either I didn't have the money, or didn't have the time. After living with the metal plates for 12 years, which is perhaps my longest relationship in the physical sense (smiles), I had to get them removed because the leg got infected. The foreign body got sick of me. The surgery became a necessity. I don't know if I will be the same actor once I go back to the movie set," Randeep added.

The actor also revealed that he took painkillers while performing action sequences in *Extraction*. "When it doesn't hurt you, you think it's fine to delay the surgery. In all these years, my leg would pain occasionally, especially if it was hit by something but painkillers would keep the pain at bay. Two years ago, while rehearsing the action scenes for *Extraction*, the leg got infected. A lot of movie action was done by me on painkillers. I didn't want to tell anyone because people get too careful around you. I decided to have an elective surgery to end the trauma once and for all," said the handsome hunk.

Deepika Padukone to spend 3 days to complete brand commitments before heading for her film's shoot

As the country witnesses unlock of the lockdown slowly, B-town celebs have resume shooting following the necessary precautions. Like other few actors, Deepika Padukone to resume shoot adopting the new normal with all the necessary precautions.

Deepika is soon supposed to leave for Goa, where she will be starting shooting for Shakun Batra's next. The film also stars Ananya Panday and Siddhant Chaturvedi. But before she flies to Goa, according to the sources, "Deepika has dedicated three days to finish her brand commitments which were on halt because of the COVID 19 situation all over. Once the



actress gets into shooting for her film, then there won't be any time for this, hence she is wrapping it up prior."

The 'Padmaavat' actress has many brands in her kitty, who have been associated with her for years. During the lockdown, she signed another big brand as well. Deepika productively used this lockdown by conducting online narrations and preparing for her upcoming role.

Meanwhile, on the work front, she will be next seen in Shakun's film, a remake of 'Intern', a film with Prabhas which is a PAN India multilingual project helmed by Nag Ashwin. She is playing the role of Romi Dev in Kabir Khan's '83 opposite Ranveer Singh.

Geetika Vidya Ohlyan on nepotism in Bollywood: Bhaichaara runs deep in our blood

Actor Geetika Vidya Ohlyan says her experience has been all that people who work in the film industry are just people who have chosen artistic ways of running their lives



The constant narrative around Bollywood having a culture of sidelining outsiders has been all pervasive for the past couple of months. Geetika Vidya Ohlyan, a newcomer with just two films in her kitty so far, says she'd like to believe that there's still hope when it comes to the film industry.

"I'm glad to realise that my experiences as of now haven't given me enough raw material to answer this question. I've met humans who've collected together to make a movie. Most of them are warmer, and more sensitive than humans I meet outside the film world," says the Thappad and Soni (2018) actor.

From her experience, Geetika believes that all the people who work in the film industry are just people who've chosen artistic ways of running their lives.

"Flawed like other humans, yet united to tell a story. I have a supportive family at home, very accessible loving friends in Bombay and a reliable management that's got my back. If I ever witness the 'bad dark side' I'm hopeful I'd be able to reach out to my people and pull myself out of harm's way," she adds.

The nepotism debate is also something that has gained prominence amid all this chatter. However, the actor is quick to say, "I struggle to make sensible arguments around this topic."

She argues that there are star kids on screen because the audience is more ready to spend their money on someone's son or daughter rather than a new name.

"Don't we all do it? We support people we know when they open a new business. If we ourselves make business plans we count our family members as our most trusted allies. Bhaichaara (brotherhood) runs deep in our blood as a Indian cultural mineral!" she adds.

Having said that, Geetika explains that her film Soni that has received an overwhelming amount of love from audiences and appreciation from industry veterans, had no 'insider' as part of it. "My most recent Thappad is helmed by Taapsee Pannu 'an outsider' herself. 'Unfair and Lovely' the film I am currently working on is being shouldered by Ileana D'Cruz, Randeep Hooda and I all of us 'outsiders'. These facts of my career and my perspective give me hope and strength to keep giving my best to whatever comes my way and not limit my experiences with imagines chains," she concludes.

Kamya Panjabi: Society uses the phrase 'separation and divorce' as an abuse, I am re-married and happy

Actor Kamya Panjabi says people troll those who are divorced or a single parent, or if they want to start a new life.

Kamya Panjabi is known to be fearless when it comes to talking about anything, be it her own life, or even the rampant unfair practices in showbiz. The actor says that the mentality of the society still is such that they can't accept a woman taking critical life decisions for herself. In her case, it was divorcing and re-marrying, reports Rishabh Suri of Hindustan Times.

She shares, "I'm trolled on social media that 'in our families, separation and divorce doesn't take place'; 'Divorce is a very painful word, bhagwaan na kare kisi ke saath ho'. Our society uses that word as an abuse. If someone is divorced or a single parent, or wants to start a new life, they will get trolled, and people will not support them."

Panjabi is now married to Shalabh Dang. The 41-year-old still has to field trolls on social media.

On how does she not let it get to her, she says, "It makes me stronger? See where I am today, and the kind of work I am doing. I raised my voice, darr ke nahi baithi 'Oh, I can't start my life again, or I can't marry again'. I did that with a very nice man, I am happy. I didn't think that I am a woman, so I can't speak, or I will get trolled if I do."

She reveals that a lot of people, including celebs hesitate in being vocal about their opinion on anything - just because they are scared of the trolling. "I have seen a lot of people, who don't raise their voice, and I am talking about celebs. 'Chhodo, kaun bolega', they think like this. This is how we have been brought up, we run away from things," says Panjabi, who decided to instead channelize her thoughts into a short film centred on the girl child recently.

She tells us, "It's a mirror to society, and the hard truth. I have seen so many families where the girl is intelligent in studies, but she is married off. If the first child is a girl, the family wants a boy, and another child is born within another year. Women are also beaten. It has also happened that I fight for them, but the girl herself is not taking a stand because she has grown up like that, they don't take a stand. That's why I wanted to make a film on this subject, and I also didn't sell it intentionally, I didn't want to monetise it."

Ram Kapoor opens up about his body transformation, said he fasted every day for 16 hours

anything at all. I have given up dairy, oil, most carbs and sugar. I have given up normal food as I know it."

Back in 2013, Ram had told Hindustan Times in an interview that he had no intention of working on his physique. "I don't want to work on my physique, absolutely not. It has already become a brand," Ram had said.

But last year, Ram accepted that he has been an unhealthy man for a long time and thanked his fans for accepting him nevertheless. "I knew this journey is going to be tough. It is a hard decision to stop work completely for such a long period. I have been an unhealthy man for the last 10 years of my career. I am grateful that my fans accepted me the way I was, and that I had a career. At some point, I had to decide to get healthier. Once I made that decision, my health became the priority and my career took a back seat," he said.

Ram was last seen in *Abhay 2* and in BBC's *A Suitable Boy*. He was also seen in Anubhav Sinha's *Thappad* earlier this year.

Actor Ram Kapoor turned 46 on Tuesday. The television star recently underwent a massive body transformation, losing multiple kilos and choosing a healthier way of life.

Ram left all his fans surprised when he shared pictures of his transformation on social media and got a tonne of compliments for his dedication and hard work. He opened up about his weight loss in an interview with Mumbai Mirror.

As he turned 45, he realised it was time to get fitter. But it was not all that easy considering his work commitments. "I decided that if I wanted to achieve my weight goals, I will have to take time off from work. It would need to be a substantial length of time - six months to a year."

Speaking about his daily schedule, Ram said, "As soon as I wake up in the morning, I do an hour of weight-lifting on an empty stomach. And, at night just before I sleep, I do cardio. I eat limited food during a period of eight hours. For the rest of the 16 hours, I don't eat

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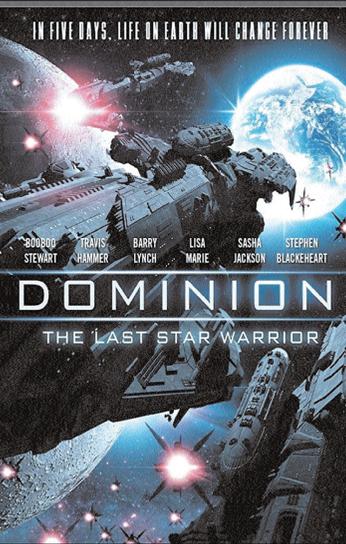
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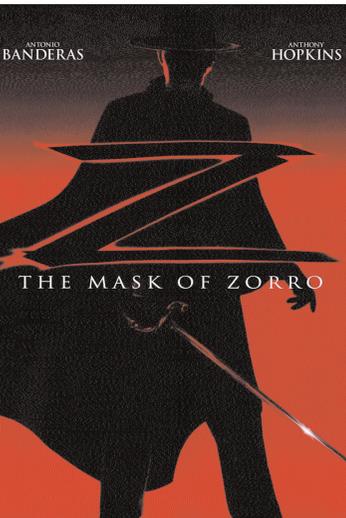
Dominion: The Last Star Warrior

Barry Lynch, Travis Hammer, Christine Joëlle



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MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
mardi 8 septembre 07.05 Local: People 09.40 Local: Couleur Marine 10.30 Mag: Euromaxx 11.00 Local Prod: Rodrig Mo Pei 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Mag: Women Who Changed 12.35 Doc: Visite Guidee 14.15 Magazine De La Sante 14.30 D.Anime: Kid-E-Cats 15.17 D.Anime: Petit Creux 15.33 D.Anime: Poko 16.14 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies 16.30 D.Anime: Uma And Devan... 17.05 D.Aimes: Roger 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.00 Local: Priorite Sante 21.10 Film: Dominion 22.35 Serial: The Blacklist 23.20 Le Journal	10.00 Serial: CID 10.44 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha 12.04 Film: Baharon Ki Manzil Starring: Meena Kumari, Dharmendra, Rehman 14.31 DDI Magazine 15.00 Mag: Comedy Classes 15.28 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee... 15.43 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 16.13 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal 16.33 Serial: Bisaat-E-Dil 16.54 Mehandi Tohra Naam Ke 17.17 Serial: Gangaa 18.00 Serial: Die Now 18.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Raja Rani Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Sharmila Tagore 23.06 DDI Live	06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.44 Mag: World Stories 07.00 Mag: Voa Connect 07.25 Mag: Garden Makeover 07.30 Mag: In Good Shape 09.00 Doc: 360 GEO 10.39 Doc: Bugs: Nature's Little... 11.25 Mag: Eco@Africa 11.51 Mag: Urban Gardens 12.12 Mag: World Stories 12.24 Mag: Voa Connect 12.59 Mag: In Good Shape 14.20 Doc: 360 GEO 15.12 Mag: Global 3000 16.08 Doc: Bugs: Nature's Little.. 16.50 Mag: Eco@Africa 17.16 Mag: Sur Mesure 18.26 Mag: Urban Gardens 18.30 Doc: Obsession Magnifique 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.52 Mag: Garden Makover	00.20 Film: Savage Pampas 02.12 Serial: The L.A. Complex 02.52 Serial: Dynasty 2 03.31 Film: Woochi, Le Magicien... 05.41 Tele: Totalement Diva 06.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue 07.11 Serial: The Bletchley Circle 09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire 09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant 10.35 Serial: Dynasty 2 11.18 Tele: Dulce Amor 12.00 Film: Runaway 13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva 14.45 Film: The Bletchley Circle 16.40 Serial: Chicago Fire 17.21 Serial: Shades Of Blue 18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant 19.10 Tele: Dulce Amor 20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 20.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue 21.15 Serial: Unforgotten	08.00 Film: Life Ki Aisi Ki Taisi 12.04 / 19.54 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam 12.26 / 20.11 - Kullfi 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 15.09 Film: Kya Kehna Starring: Preity Zinta, Saif Ali Khan, Chandrachur Singh 18.00 Live: Samacher 18.30 Kumkum Bhagya 18.51 Piya Albela 19.13 Mere Angne Mein
mercredi 9 septembre 06.30 Local: La Mauricienne 07.30 Local: Priorite Sante 09.00 Doc: Ghana - Business On... 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Local: Groov'in 13.30 Local: Generations J 14.00 Local: Priorite Sante 14.30 D.Anime: Kid-E-Cats 14.46 D.Anime: The Minimighty Kid 14.54 D.Anime: In The Night Garden 15.16 D.Anime: Petit Creux 16.11 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies 16.28 D.Anime: Petit Creux 16.37 D.Anime: Sindbad And The 7 17.35 Serial: Lucas Etc 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.00 Prod: Lottotech 21.10 Film: Avenging The Throne 22.50 Serial: The Blacklist 23.31 Local: Le Journal	10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha... 11.17 Suhani Ek Ladhi 12.00 Film: Johar Mehmood In Hong Kong Stars: Mehmood, Sonia Sahnii, I. S. Johar, Aruna Irani 14.15 DDI Magazine 15.21 Honaar Soon Mee Hya... 15.43 Mooga Manasulu 16.10 Apoorva Raagangal 16.34 Bisaat-E-Dil 16.47 Mehandi Tohra Namam Ke 17.10 Serial: Gangaa 17.29 Serial: Kulvadhu 18.00 Serial: Die Now 18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Programme In Marathi 21.00 Film: The Boy From The Dark Street Starring: Cheng Chao, Hung-Lieh Chen, Jen-Lei Chen	06.00 Mag: Rev: The Global 06.26 Mag: Urban Gardens 06.57 Mag: Check In 07.57 Love Matches Not Wanted... 08.24 Doc: Digital Nomads 08.48 Women Who Changed... 10.04 Doc: Charcoal 11.47 Doc: "Dearest Juliet..." 12.46 Mag: Made In Germany 14.55 Mag: Close Up 16.32 Mag: REV: The Global Auto... 16.58 Mag: Urban Gardens 17.29 Mag: Check In 17.55 Mag: Motorweek 18.26 Mag: Urban Gardens 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.05 Doc: Trajectory 20.30 The World From Above 20.57 Local: News (English) 21.16 Doc: Master Of Engineering 22.08 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.33 Mag: Focus On Europe	01.26 Film: Unforgotten 02.58 Serial: Dynasty 2 03.39 Film: Murder, She Baked 05.04 Tele: Totalement Diva 05.59 Serial: Shades Of Blue 06.40 Film: Hope Dances 09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire 09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant 10.35 Serial: Dynasty 2 11.30 Tele: Dulce Amor 11.49 Film: Murder, She Baked 13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva 14.45 Film: Hope Dances 16.40 Serial: Mission: Impossible 17.22 Serial: Shades Of Blue 18.12 Tele: Soleil Levant 19.00 Tele: Dulce Amor 20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 20.30 Tele: Esmeraldas 21.15 Film: Le Masque De Zorro 23.27 Tele: Totalement Diva	08.00 Film: Kya Kehna 12.04 / 19.54 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam 12.26 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna 13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe 13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.20 / 21.59 - Jai Kanhaiya Lal... 14.36 / 22.25 - Bitti Business... 15.09 Film: Dil Tujhko Diya Starring: Kumar Gaurav, Rati Agnihotri, Mala Sinha, Parikshat Sahni, Amrith Puri 17.30 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 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
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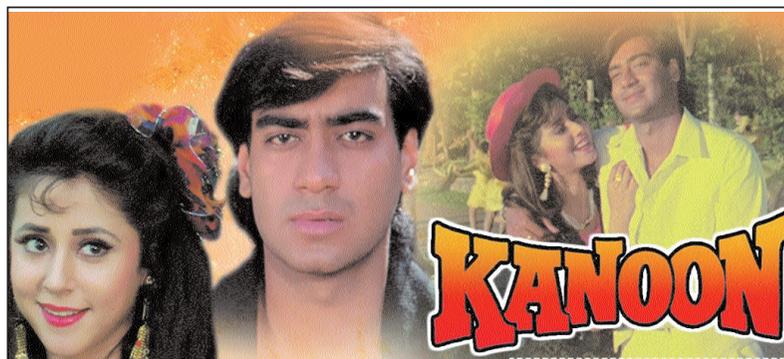
Jeudi 10 septembre - 15.09

Stars: Ajay Devgn, Urmila Matondkar, Kiran Kumar



Jeudi 10 sept - 20.25

Stars: Rajkumar Rao, Shruti Haasan, Gautam Gulati





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

A Rational Approach to Grassroots Issues

Contrary to what is being aired right and left, there is no unifying cause which drew a number of citizens to the recent protest march in the streets of the capital. Different groups joined in for different reasons and hoped to reap benefits as varied as the number of causes they claimed to be defending.

For instance, corporate business represented by the private sector oligarchy has its own agenda in offering free transport with five buses filled with fishermen and their families living on the East coast. In normal electoral campaigns the same category of voters have given up the habit of acting as vote banks and inflating numbers to please orators on soap boxes from parties they traditionally voted for. The motivations of the generous bungalow owners and the common folks they ushered into buses are diametrically opposite. The first group uses the second one to send a message to the government. Their main interest is their own corporate interest. They want their share in the billions of public funds allocated by the government to investment, and they want the billions unconditionally.

On the other hand, the idea of a saviour, a king hailing from their own ranks is deeply ingrained in the psyche of the common folks, a phenomenon which V.S. Naipaul observed as 'kingdoms of the night' which desperate subdued people re-created with music and songs during gatherings in the middle of the night in colonial times. In the present circumstances they are hoping that a new hero is going to fulfil his promise of defending their cause.

Political parties which saw their vote banks rush to the call for the rally have started thinking things over. They are likely to keep a low profile in the background and adopt a wait-and-see posture or withdraw altogether amid uncertainties over the organizers' motivations. Given that the parties governed together in the past, depending on their changing alliances, some of them are simply eager to come back to power by whatever means while shady characters among them have no qualms in fanning hatred to the point of threatening social harmony. Media spokespersons change allegiance every five years, with some of them being the right arm of corporate business.

Amid all the cacophony which should not fool the public, what is worth considering is the official prime motive of the organizers who consider their people as victims of historical injustice, and blame governments since Independence for their situation. However, instead of this emotional approach which is characteristic of like-minded defenders of the downtrodden, their case would have been stronger by making a more objective analysis - perhaps with field research by a social scientist or a team of them - to look into the real root causes of their tribulations. Adopting the mindset of the pre-independence period, whereby the traditional private sector oligarchy backed such champions against majoritarian rule in a divide-and-rule strategy which shifted the focus away from the oligarchy's role in the tribulations of the aggrieved underprivileged people, is not likely to address their problems concretely.

Living conditions, social status, housing issues, land acquisition and squatters' plight are the major grievances put forward. Reportedly, the rally organizers aired their stance on the necessity of Affirmative Action like in South Africa, another version being Positive Discrimination claimed in the 90s in the US.

However, as mentioned above, all the factors which seemingly are the causes for resentment and hostility have to be examined through the prism of a rational and honest scrutiny, in the context of our broader socio-economic development post independence, to obtain a more balanced national picture. On this score, it would be interesting to know if the Truth and Justice Commission has gone further than assess the historic roots of issues impacting the population today? Have any measures proposed by it been effectively implemented ever since the report was issued? The obstacles hindering the application of solutions have to be identified, such as whether successive governments support the status quo of the bourgeoisie and are reluctant to bring any change.

Factually, land acquisition issue dates back to the late 19th century at a time when liberated slaves - who were not paid by their owners -- were not in a position to buy lands, because they were not paid by their owners and therefore had no money. This situation continued into the early 20th century. There were legal provisions which enabled other groups to purchase lands. Thus, in their ignorance, what was legal for some might have been viewed as unfair by others. Why this point is worth considering today is that it is at the root of resentment and claims for a fairer distribution of lands. This is where the authorities have a responsibility and duty to put forward the true picture which historical analysis provides.

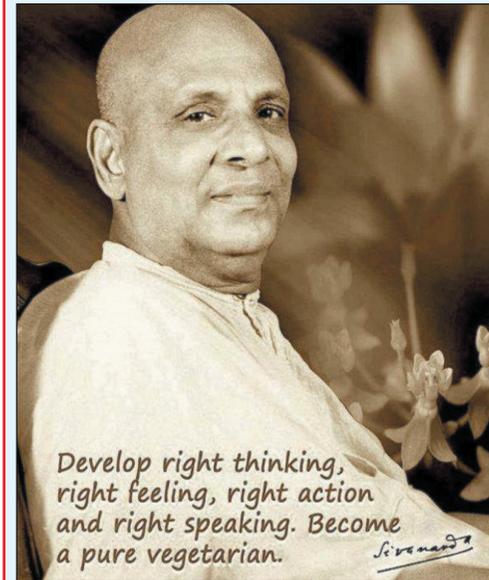
As of 2020, hardships to acquire lands and build houses impact on the aspirations of the younger generation in all communities across the board. But when two thousand people illegally occupy coastal lands near the seaside and start building small houses without any permit in one part of the island, then their brethren suddenly walk into unoccupied lands and start measuring them to distribute and build huts or whatever, without considering if the lands are already owned by others, one is bound to ask how fair is this vis-a-vis others who follow the legal route to acquire land and housing?

So it is a real issue which has to be addressed rationally. The point is: Who should part with lands to distribute them to the descendants of those who were deprived of them in the 19th century? It is a fact that governments have continuously built housing estates for the poor, and more plans are in store with the cooperation of the private sector companies. Is it the only option?

A real dispassionate debate between rally leaders, sociologists, historians, economists, activists and so on is necessary to enlighten one and all. Politicians have shown little interest to promote a culture of debate and discussion of ideas so far. It will be a sign of responsibility and maturity if they start it now.

Spirituality

Swami Sivananda: The Godly Man of Science



By Dr Mohunlall Soowamber

Once in a while we are blessed with the emergence of a man who manifests such divine qualities that we regard him as an incarnation of the Lord. One such man was Swami Sivananda who by his exemplary life of universal love and selfless service transformed the lives of millions throughout the world. Born on 8th September 1887 in India, Swamiji became a doctor and worked away from his homeland in Malaya where he served the sick and the poor with zeal and determination. He was a fast learner and would occupy different positions - as a sports writer and administrator during his college years.

To those who were striving for happiness and a better life he exhorted them to look within. He pointed out that the fountain of joy and happiness lies within us and not in outward things. Within us lie light, peace and bliss. He taught purity of mind through yoga asanas, prayer, meditation, repetition of God's name. Without this disposition of mind it is difficult to cultivate love for one's fellowmen, and without love we cannot serve others in a detached spirit, without regard to any prize, name and fame. What is lacking in our modern society is this kind of attitude. When we offer help to others, we should expect no medals attached to it. To Swami Sivananda all beings are manifestations of the same divinity and in the final analysis we are all alike whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, sick or healthy. He said "never feel I have helped that man, always think the

Lord has given me an opportunity to serve him".

Swamiji founded the Divine Life Society in 1936 in order to disseminate the ideals of love, service, control of mind and, above all, the belief in a purpose in life. Swamiji also founded the All World Religious Federation in 1945 in order to bring about unity among all nations. He said: Every faith, every religion is a path to God; so, everyone should grow and develop in whatever faith he or she is brought up without infringing on the freedom of others.

In his book 'Conquest of Mind', Swamiji teaches various ways of controlling the mind which according to him is the cause of both bondage and liberation. He advocated control of mind through self-discipline, self-surrender, self-sacrifice, negation of what is evanescent and fleeting, through discrimination and dispassion, self-examination, and above all by eradicating our worldly desires which bring turbulence to the unreflective mind.

One thinks of culture as something abstract and above our reach. Swamiji regards culture as the discipline of head, heart and hand. True culture is the attainment of wisdom through right thinking, right speaking, and right living.

In a world where man is dazzled by the glitter of material goods and comfort, it is not easy to keep a calm and balanced mind. Swamiji, through his numerous books, discourses and practical teachings on yoga, on the nature of our true self, on self-discipline, and the need to go beyond human effort can help us become better individuals which in turn will create better homes and a more stable society and, above all, a peaceful and secure world.

In Mauritius, Swami Venkatesananda, one of the foremost disciples of Swami Sivananda, was been the driving force in spreading the message of universal love and service through yoga, self-discipline, control of the mind and always enquiring: Who am I? What is the purpose of life? And, in what direction am I headed?