

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• "A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go but ought to be". -- Rosalynn Carter

## Growing old, Staying youthful



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# Doing politics more seriously

Over the past few years, the public has had occasion to reflect upon the quality of politics which has been applied in the running of the country. The perception, if not conclusion, is that it has not had the expected positive impact on national affairs.

External factors have certainly not favoured a more assertive outgoing of initiatives by the private sector. With the global economy performing at low key for so long now as a result of the pandemic, it stands to reason that new business opportunities cannot be easily spotted.

This situation is compounded by the fact that we have actually identified how to break away from the current economic gridlock – adding new economic activities to those we have by enhancing our comparative advantages, opening up more to other than our traditional markets, churning up local skills different from what we've been doing so far to better match demand with supply in changing global conditions, intensifying our international networking to increase and build upon our existing economic scope, etc. - without putting in place the first signs of the confident platform on which to do all this.

In the absence of concrete results, the public have started doubting the capacity of our politicians to live up to their expectations in all these respects which, after all, are spelt out by the political leaders themselves during their electoral campaigns and thereafter repeated on official occasions regularly. The more politicians have tried to rationalise poor decisions they've taken, the more this feeling has actually sunk in. The more they have fetched odd reasons to explain away things, the more it has eroded faith in their good intent and capabilities.

The more aberrations of the past have been repeated, the more people have doubted whether we'll not keep seeing more of the bad things of the past... And wondered if the country's

superior interests will not ultimately be relegated behind other lower priority pursuits?

The public is "cautiously optimistic" that, given the parlous state of affairs, a politician may finally emerge from the ranks who might summon up control and real governance among the ruling politicians. Because, people feel, short of a "ressaisissement" from the power-game equation from which politics has been done so far, we'll keep drifting away from our real social and economic objectives. Our key institutions will keep being "instrumentalised" for sheer political purposes.

Politicians in the "values" they now incarnate have become more important than the State the government of which they have been entrusted with. The earnest political establishment of years past which had seen us through in post-independence days suddenly became something of the past. Whims and caprices of individual politicians overtook the values sober political leaders of the earlier generation had incarnated.

We may perhaps take cynical comfort from the fact that, with the coming on the scene of unpredictable and temperamental politicians of the calibre of Donald Trump and several other right wingers in Europe, Mauritius would not be alone in having a high price to pay for electing politicians who don't have "l'étoffe" to manage the country's affairs more soberly and with a clearer sense of the direction in which to steer the country and the strategies need to reach there.

The basic issue remains how to encourage or facilitate the emergence of a new breed of political players who would genuinely have the people's and the country larger interest at heart and engage themselves to fulfil this end. The imperative is still to change the way of doing politics, which has been promised so many times. How long more will we have to wait?

## The Conversation

# Climate-protected citadels, virtual worlds only for the privileged: is this the future of inequality?

*Researchers are imagining what the world might look like in 2048 — and the new forms of inequality and injustice that might exist*

Imagine visiting the Europe of 2048. The cities are strangely silent. Desperate communities in Paris, London and Berlin struggle in the shadow of hollowed-out buildings. The once-popular coastal resorts have also been abandoned, as rises in sea level have taken their toll.

Heading out to rural areas, you find where the fortunate few have gone: shining citadels, high-tech gated communities designed to protect residents from the ravages of climate change and ongoing pandemics.

That doesn't mean life in 2048 is always grim. The world is gearing up for the 39th Summer Olympics, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The greatest athletes will be attending, but also thinkers, artists and heroes nominated from around the globe for their work fighting the climate crisis.

Europeans, Americans and Australians are hoping for a great medal haul, but this year, as in most others, the country expected to dominate is China, the world's leader in the fight to survive climate change.

Is this the future we face? Even if it isn't, what can imagined scenarios like this teach us about the challenges we face in the present?

### Identifying inequality blindspots

Researchers from 13 countries are currently thinking about such questions as part of the IMAJINE project, funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme. IMAJINE's aim is to explore inequality and injustice across the European Union's member states.

Inequality isn't just the gaps between the haves and have-nots in the present. As the world changes and societies evolve, different forms of unfairness can arise.

COVID-19 has fuelled uncertainty and,



as both the pandemic and our response to it have reshaped societies, made these issues more urgent. We need to anticipate new and emerging forms of inequality and injustice — and understand how we can counter them.

To do this, IMAJINE uses scenario planning, a tool for envisioning different future worlds.

Scenarios aren't predictions; they are valuable even if they never come to pass. The aim of the four visions we've created isn't to forecast what will certainly happen, but to find our blindspots when it comes to planning for the future of inequality.

### A future of digital citizenship or five-person marriages

In our first scenario, outlined above, we picture a world in which cities are abandoned and today's rural backwaters become the most desirable places to live.

The fight against climate change is a global priority and next-generation clean manufacturing technology is expanding rapidly. Inequality here is based on who has the means to protect themselves from the changing climate.

Marie Mahon,

Senior Lecturer in Human Geography, National University of Ireland Galway &

Matthew Finch,

Adjunct Research Fellow, University of Southern Queensland

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

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*This epaper has been produced with the assistance of*

*Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy*

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



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Growing old, Staying youthful

*In the context of the pandemic, being old is seen as just one more comorbidity. It should not be*



Photo - healthcarefinancenews

One of the major concerns related to the Covid-19 pandemic has been about the elderly population. Not only have they suffered from a higher mortality from Covid infection than the rest of the population that also caught it, they were also not well looked after. There were even accusations of neglect, which has been a recurrent charge laid against the management in homes for the elderly in several countries. But specifically, as regards Covid at least initially there were allegations, in the UK for example, that they were deliberately not being given the due care that they deserved. Resources were concentrated on the younger age groups.

This prompted the authorities elsewhere to take a fresh look at the problems of what is now termed 'aged care', and recently a whole issue of *The Conversation*, an Australian online resource, was about this.

Interestingly, the terminology used has also been changing. The elderly has given way to senior citizens or *'troisième âge'*; we no longer grow old, we age, a noun has become a verb in the... age – or era – of smartphone messaging and texting in its own peculiar shorthand, with sounds implied rather than made explicit by the combination of alphabets as we of a certain generation had been used to. Thus, my preference for 'ageing' in lieu of 'aging'...

And so, we come to how we should go about ageing in such a way that we remain as fit as possible in doing so. One of the major reasons for the aged to have the higher mortality referred to above is that they have comorbidities, that is, they have disease conditions which make them more vulnerable. In the main these are what in modern medicine have come to be lumped in the category of NCDs or non-communicable diseases, all now well known to the layman because they receive a humongous amount of coverage in the media. They include diabetes, high cholesterol le-

vels, obesity, high blood pressure and heart disease due to narrowing of the arteries, kidney disease, dementia and Alzheimer's disease, cancers of various types, and so on.

However, even for those who do not have any of these NCDs, the normal process of ageing itself is associated with a number of problems that used to be considered as natural and about which nothing could be done – such as becoming frail, tendency to lose balance and fall sustaining injuries that include fractures, slowing down, annoying or debilitating impairment of faculties of hearing and seeing. The list is long, and can be forbidding too.

But, from my own personal experience and my professional vocation as a medical doctor, I long since realized that one could certainly age otherwise, and in a number of earlier articles in this paper I have written about this and given examples that would inspire others to take better care of themselves. This has the double benefit of keeping the person in good health, consequently reducing the burden on the health services of one's country.

In this context, therefore, I was happy to learn that the well-known UK medical journal *The Lancet* – which as medical students and doctors has been part of our lives as it were – has this month launched a new publication aptly titled *The Lancet*

« One of the major reasons for the aged to have the higher mortality is that they have comorbidities, that is, they have disease conditions which make them more vulnerable. In the main these are what in modern medicine have come to be lumped in the category of NCDs or non-communicable diseases... They include, diabetes, high cholesterol levels, obesity, high blood pressure and heart disease... However, even for those who do not have any of these NCDs, the normal process of ageing itself is associated with a number of problems that used to be considered as natural and about which nothing could be done – such as becoming frail, tendency to lose balance and fall sustaining injuries that include fractures. The list is long... »

*Healthy Longevity*, announced in a write-up 'Health For All, For Longer', whose first paragraph reads as follows:

'The coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic does not affect everyone equally. While anyone can contract Covid-19, accumulating data suggest that older people or those with pre-existing comorbidities are far more likely to have severe complications or die from the disease. While researchers scramble to unravel the mechanisms of action underlying the disease's wide-ranging effects, news that the disease hits older people hardest has been received without demur: it is widely accepted that to be old is to be fragile. Indeed, even in so-called normal times, everyone expects more things to break as people age: bones, hearts, brains. In the context of the pandemic, being old is seen as just one more comorbidity.

*It should not be.*' (italics mine)

The operative words for me are '*It should not be*', and I rather like this quasi-imperious assertion which concords with my own experience of ageing and of dealing with aged people, with whom I have had innumerable opportunities both to share experiences, to advise and treat, and to learn from as well. Looking back, and in light of the advances in the sciences of the ageing phenomenon, perhaps I should not be surprised at the resilience and optimism

that I have encountered among many an old person, not to mention the 'philosophical' dimension of the more mentally active among them, the wisdom that comes with the mellowness that accompanies the twilight years of most – but not all, unfortunately!

As the *Lancet* editorial notes, 'We accept growing old and losing our vitality as an inevitability of life. To do so is to overlook the fact that ageing is, fundamentally, a plastic trait—influenced both by our genetic predispositions and many (controllable) environmental factors', going on to add that 'the rate of ageing is not fixed. Fragility, vulnerability, and poor health need not necessarily follow advancing age'. Experiments have shown that as some 'animals live longer, they also have a longer youthspan—the proportion of their lives in which they retain the trappings of youth such as peak mobility, immunity, and stress resilience.'

And the editorial postulates that we human beings can also enjoy such a youthspan as we live longer, this having been made possible by the marked improvements that have been brought about by rising standards of living and advances in the medical and health sciences. As a result, the proportion of old people in all countries has increased, with the result that 'such changing demographics will profoundly affect all aspects of society' because 'an increasingly older population risks overwhelming the health and social care services. Moreover, as people age, they are more likely to develop a range of diseases, both physical and mental. Caring for those thus afflicted is a burden that many societies simply do not have the resources to deal with. Beyond the spheres of health and care, an inverted population pyramid has other repercussions for society, affecting everything from pensions to housing. Conversely, society has so much to gain if it can enable people to be productive and active members of social and economic life for longer.'

Calling this 'an unprecedented crossroads in global society, raising fundamental questions about how we live as individuals, and collectively', the journal makes a clear case that 'we have a choice' which will benefit us both individually and collectively (i.e. our societies) in that we as we age can 'experience longer periods of good health, a sustained sense of wellbeing, and extended periods of social engagement and productivity'. The outcome will be that we will thus not have 'a higher burden of illness, disability, and dependence on others'.

We can surely, knowingly make that choice...

# Education – Whither Bound?

*An enduring spirit of enquiry and a willingness to give up unnecessary baggage taken up at different stages of the education process will help create a fuller citizen ready to adapt to this world of perpetual changes*

MURLI DHAR

**N**ations that have made breakthroughs in the global economy are those that have used to the maximum the advantage conferred upon them by their education system. By 'education system', it is not meant the formal schooling and training and academia. The skills of those who have been taught to adapt quickly to changing circumstances and to innovate are part of it.

German engineers caught up and proved to be smarter than their British counterparts in a short lapse of time even though the Industrial Revolution began in Britain. Right real education gives those it trains the pragmatic faculties to extricate themselves from difficult situations in a bid to rise to a higher plateau or, if need be, to jump to another occupation if the current one is facing serious risks.

We have been witnessing a continuing deficit among the cadres of different key components of the economy in living up to this challenge. Several management shortcomings were observed which accentuated the stress of certain specific sectors in the prevailing difficult international economic situation, especially in the wake of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Air Mauritius, the tourism sector, and so many institutions have all suffered to an extent at one time or another from not having chosen the right strategy or not having applied the correct judgement to extricate themselves from difficulty before the tide turned. This kind of re-positioning starts with the mind. One has to be wise and flexible, anticipating events and making the right choices by drawing on the kind of education received. This is where our education system holds the key to the extent we can keep our economic activities vibrant and improve the inroads we can make internationally.

**"The finality of education is not necessarily to equip the individual with sheer materialistic pursuit. Its aim is to get to an individual endowed with a sense of fulfilment. This kind of objective is achieved on as broad a base as possible so that there emerges an all-embracing outlook in the person moving out of academic life. The one being trained up this way should exude a strong dose of self-confidence. An enduring spirit of enquiry and a willingness to give up unnecessary baggage taken up at different stages of the education process will help create a fuller citizen..."**

The Certificate of Primary Education has been replaced by the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC). The focus has, however, remained on the percentage of passes secured. Normally, the percentage will be lower the more difficult the questions and the less



« Any generalisation of a tendency to relax educational standards will finally make us poor competitors on increasingly globalising international markets. It is in this wider perspective that one should go about gauging the impact of vocational and academic outcomes from our learning institutions. The situation is such internationally that you can make inroads on condition you are at one in terms of capacity and skills with the best at the international level... »

lenient the marking. The converse is equally true. That applies across the board to all levels of formal education. If Cambridge were to bring down its standards for our Higher School Certificate, there would be more passes.

If our own University were to be lenient and it were to generalize exemptions when it came to complying with laid down rules for passing exams, several of those who will embark on the market from the University will not be able to handle their jobs efficiently. The University's image could suffer a blow out of this.

In simpler terms, any generalisation of a tendency to relax educational standards will finally make us poor competitors on increasingly globalising international markets. It is in this wider perspective that one should go about gauging the impact of vocational and academic outcomes from our learning institutions. The situation is such internationally that you can make inroads on condition you are at one in terms of capacity and skills with the best at the international level. This quest is altogether different from that of drawing satisfaction at a maximum number in the pass list.

There are different standards of teaching in different educational establishments of the country. With time and to give every child as equal a chance as possible, the distance in terms of standards among educational establishments should have been collapsed, lifting standards of

teaching at the same time across the board. The same process could preferably have raised the national platform to a stage where it could vie with the level of education dispensed in the better performing educational establishments of the world.

Certain countries which had a good start in the field of education in the past have neglected this factor at heavy cost. Apart from negative long term consequences, investment in education goes waste when standards decline in such circumstances. Frustration is also created by way of putting on the market increasing numbers of unemployed graduates not having the fundamental practical knowledge to cope with the realities of the workplace.

The finality of education is not necessarily to equip the individual with sheer materialistic pursuit. Its aim is to get to an individual endowed with a sense of fulfilment. This kind of objective is achieved on as broad a base as possible so that there emerges an all-embracing outlook in the person moving out of academic life. The one being trained up this way should exude a strong dose of self-confidence. An enduring spirit of enquiry and a willingness to give up unnecessary baggage taken up at different stages of the education process will help create a fuller citizen ready to adapt to this world of perpetual changes.

# US election 2020: Indian and Pakistani diaspora rally together

It was 14 December, 2012, when news broke of a shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

Indian-American investment banker Shekar Narasimhan recalls that he was at the White House for a party but the mood quickly turned sombre. He says everyone fell silent as details of the horrific attack emerged - 20 children, all under the age of 10, and six adults died in the shooting.

It was also on that day that Mr Narasimhan first met Dilawar Syed, a Pakistani American.

"Our hearts met," said Mr Syed, a tech entrepreneur in California. "I found one person in the room who happened to be a fellow South-Asian American who was as emotional as I was."

The two soon became close, co-founding the Asian American and Pacific Islanders Victory Fund (AAPIVF), a group that aims to mobilise and elevate voices from these communities in local and national politics, reports Vineet Khare of BBC News. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders account for more than 20 million people in the US, but their voter registration and turnout is said to be lower than the national averages for other communities.

And this is something Mr Syed and Mr Narasimhan hope to change through their organisation.

Indians and Pakistanis are often seen as being at loggerheads because of strained relations between their respective countries. But in the US, the two communities are part of the same South Asian diaspora and often work together during



Mr Biden with Mr Narasimhan (L) and Mr Syed (opposite). Photo - Shekar Narasimhan

political campaigns.

Their group endorsed Democratic candidate Joe Biden for presidency in January. The two men believe that Mr Biden's victory will lead to a "more equal, just" America.

Indians and Pakistanis have a lot in common - some of them speak a similar language, northern Indian and Pakistani food shares a history, and both countries are passionate about cricket and enjoy Bollywood.

But Mr Syed said that wasn't the only thing that brought them together: "Our values are the same."

## Rallying together

India and Pakistan also share a complicated and contentious history.

Independence from the British in 1947 was accompanied by a bloody partition of the subcontinent. Millions died in the religious violence that followed.

Since then, the nuclear-armed neighbours have fought two wars and a limited conflict over Kashmir. Both countries claim the Muslim-majority border region, which remains the biggest bone of contention between them. But Mr Narasimhan and Mr Syed don't discuss Kashmir. "We try and avoid it. We say to each other, look, this election is about domestic issues," Mr Narasimhan said.

Many Indian and Pakistani Americans say thorny issues back home haven't soured their ties in the US.

Mr Narasimhan said the two communities are far more concerned about issues

that directly affect their everyday lives - and that for their children, who were born and raised in the US, the India-Pakistan dispute is not a big factor.

"My son says what happened 50 or 60 years ago in India and Pakistan, what does that have to do with me?" Mr Narasimhan added.

The Pakistani-American community is nearly a million strong, while Indian Americans are said to total around 4.5 million. Both tend to lean Democratic. According to a 2016 survey, 88% of Pakistani Americans and 77% of Indian Americans voted for Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton last election. Only 5% of the former and 16% of the latter voted for Mr Trump, the survey found.

This year members of both diaspora are working together to rally support for the candidate of their choice - not just for the presidential election but also for the Senate and Congressional seats that are on the ticket.

It's the same on the Republican side. India-born realtor Raj Kathuria and Pakistani American Shahab Qarni are friends who live 20 minutes from each other. They have both been campaigning online for Mr Trump.

For Mr Kathuria, whose parents migrated from a newly-created Pakistan to India during partition, issues or tensions between the two countries are important and personal. But at the same time, he says, it doesn't affect his life in the US. "What affects us is the local politics," he added.

# France urges Arab nations to prevent boycotts over Macron's cartoons defence

France has urged Middle Eastern countries to end calls for a boycott of its goods in protest at President Emmanuel Macron's defence of the right to show cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

The French foreign ministry said the "baseless" calls for a boycott were being "pushed by a radical minority".

French products have been removed from some shops in Kuwait, Jordan and Qatar.

Meanwhile, protests have been seen in Libya, Syria and the Gaza Strip.

The backlash stems from comments made by Mr Macron after the gruesome murder of a French teacher who showed cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in class, reports BBC News.

The president said the teacher, Samuel Paty, "was killed because Islamists want our future", but France would "not give up our cartoons".

State secularism - or *laïcité* - is central to France's national identity. Curbing freedom of expression to protect the feelings of one particular community, the state says, undermines unity.

On Sunday, Mr Macron doubled down on his defence of French values in a tweet that read: "We will not give in, ever."

Political leaders in Turkey and Pakistan have rounded on Mr Macron, accusing him of not respecting "freedom of belief" and marginalising the millions of Muslims in

France.

On Sunday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan suggested, for a second time, that Mr Macron should seek "mental checks" for his views on Islam.

Similar comments prompted France to recall its ambassador to Turkey for consultations on Saturday.

## How widespread is the boycott on French products?

Some supermarket shelves had been stripped of French products in Jordan, Qatar and Kuwait by Sunday. French-made hair and beauty items, for example, were not on display.

In Kuwait, a major retail union has ordered a boycott of French goods.

In a statement, the French foreign ministry acknowledged the moves, writing: "These calls for boycott are baseless and should stop immediately, as well as all attacks against our country, which are being pushed by a radical minority."

Online, calls for similar boycotts in other Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia, have been circulating.

A hashtag calling for the boycott of French supermarket chain Carrefour was the second-most trending topic in Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's largest economy.

Meanwhile, small anti-French protests were held in



Calls for a boycott on French products have been circulating online in Arab countries. Photo - ichef.bbci.co.uk

Libya, Gaza and northern Syria, where Turkish-backed militias exert control.

## Why is France embroiled in this row?

Mr Macron's robust defence of French secularism and criticism of radical Islam in the wake of Mr Paty's killing has angered some in the Muslim world.

Pakistani leader Imran Khan accused the French leader of "attacking Islam, clearly without having any understanding of it".

Earlier this month, before the teacher's killing, Mr Macron had already announced plans for tougher laws to tackle what he called "Islamist separatism" in France.

\* More on Page 6

# How a Trump defeat could challenge Xi Jinping, Kim Jong Un, Saudi Prince...

If Donald Trump is forced from the White House in the November election, he won't be the only loser. Though many governments would likely celebrate the end of the most unconventional and at times chaotic U.S. presidency of modern times, others will have reason to miss it. For the leaders of Turkey, North Korea and Israel, the ledger has been almost entirely positive. Trump's ejection would confront them with immediate challenges.

The scorecard for countries like China is more nuanced. Even so, what the mostly authoritarian winners from Trump's four years in office have in common is a fear his departure would spell the return of a more conventional U.S. foreign policy, reports Marc Champion of Bloomberg.

That could see the U.S. mending alliances and promoting the universality of values such as democracy and human rights, or the fight against climate change. "This president embraces all the thugs in the world," Trump's opponent Joe Biden said at a recent town hall event, as he sought to highlight the political divide.

## Kim Jong Un

No relationship with the U.S. changed more under Trump than North Korea's. What began with mutual threats and insults morphed into a sometimes-bizarre love-in as Kim and Trump met three times and exchanged more than two dozen letters, showcasing their "mysteriously wonderful" chemistry.

Biden has said he won't meet without preconditions, making any rapid lifting of the sanctions that have tipped North Korea's economy into its worst recession for two decades less likely.

## Mohammed bin Salman

Trump set the tone for his approach to international relations in Saudi Arabia, choosing Riyadh for his first foreign visit in



Donald Trump's ejection would confront several other leaders with immediate challenges. Photo - cdn.cnn.com

2017. He was greeted by a huge image of his own face projected onto the facade of the palatial hotel where his delegation stayed.

The Saudi Crown Prince made important gains, above all Trump's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, his country's mortal rival. Trump also offered personal support and vetoed Congressional sanctions when MBS, as he's known, was besieged by allegations he'd ordered the 2018 murder of prominent regime critic Jamal Khashoggi.

There have been disappointments for Saudi, in particular Trump's failure to strike back militarily after a 2019 attack on oil facilities in eastern Saudi Arabia that the U.S. attributed to Iran. Saudi leaders say they're confident they could navigate a transition to Biden. Still, with Trump gone a more traditional U.S. focus on human rights is likely to return and a door could open to reviving the Iran accord.

## Recep Tayyip Erdogan

If anyone relies more on Trump than

MBS for political protection, it's Turkey's president. Trump has stood virtually alone between Turkey and the imposition of Congressional sanctions over Erdogan's decision to buy Russia's S-400 air defense missile system, despite being a North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally.

Their personal bond enabled Erdogan to persuade Trump to withdraw U.S. troops from Kurdish areas of Northern Syria so Turkey could send its own forces to take control of the zone. Trump made that decision without consulting the Pentagon or U.S. allies in the fight against Islamic State in Syria, including the U.K., France and Kurdish fighters that Turkey regards as terrorists.

With sanctions ready for enforcement and Biden previously calling on the U.S. to support Turkish opposition parties, Erdogan may have the most to lose from Trump's departure.

## Xi Jinping

Trump has been more aggressive toward China than any U.S. president in

recent memory, slapping tariffs on Chinese goods and moving to restrict its access to key technologies. Yet Chinese officials have said on balance the leadership would prefer Trump to stay.

Trump shook the system of post-World War II alliances that China sees as a constraint on its geopolitical ambitions, a considerable benefit. He also undermined America's international stature by exiting agreements in pursuit of "America First" policies, creating openings for the Chinese president to fill the resulting void of leadership on everything from trade to climate change.

Beijing's concern about Biden is that he would try to create a more coordinated international front in dealing with China, while maintaining the pressure on trade and technology. Even so, China might benefit from a less emotive relationship with Washington if Trump loses, according to Zhu Feng, professor of international relations at Nanjing University. "Do people really want to see China and the U.S. enter a cold war?"

## Vladimir Putin

Russia's alleged meddling in the 2016 election produced a formal U.S. investigation and 448-page report. But in some ways, Putin hit the jackpot. In office, Trump has questioned the value of NATO and even the status of countries such as Germany as allies, weakening a transatlantic alliance that Russian and Soviet leaders back to Joseph Stalin have sought to break.

There's every reason to think the trend would continue during a second Trump administration. Yet Russia's president secured few of the more concrete gains he wanted, from lifted sanctions to progress on arms control. Russian officials see few prospects for a thaw, and less so under a Biden administration.

## South Korea's richest man dies at 78: Here's how much Samsung chairman Lee Kun-hee was worth

South Korea's richest person and chairman of Samsung Electronics Co, Lee Kun-hee died on Sunday at the age of 78. The country's wealthiest stock owner, Lee helped grow his father Lee Byung-chull's noodle trading business into a conglomerate with assets worth USD 375 billion as of May 2020.

According to Forbes, Lee Kun-hee leaves behind a net worth of USD 20.9 billion to his son Lee Jae-yong and daughters Lee Boo-jin and Lee Seo-hyun.

Lee Kun-hee had stakes in four listed Samsung companies valued at USD 16.1 billion (18.2 trillion won) as of Friday's closing price. These include Samsung Life Insurance, Samsung C&T, and Samsung SDS. As per a report by news agency Reuters, Lee owned 4.18 per cent common shares and 0.08 of preferred shares of Samsung Electronics worth about 15 trillion won, reports IndiaToday.



Credited with growing his father's business into a global conglomerate, Samsung Electronics chairman Lee Kun-hee died at a hospital in Seoul on Sunday at the age of 78. Photo - rolebuild.com

Credited with transforming Samsung into a global tech giant, Lee Kun-hee was also the owner of two of the most expensive individual homes in all of South Korea. News agency Yonhap estimates that his houses in central Seoul are valued at 40.9 billion won and 34.2 billion won respectively.

Lee's widow Hong Ra-hee is also a billionaire with a net worth of USD 1.8 billion, according to Forbes.

His de facto heir, Lee Jae-yong holds stakes worth 7.2 trillion won in six of Samsung Group's listed affiliates. Forbes estimates Lee Jae-yong's worth at USD 6.9 billion.

Similarly, Lee Kun-hee's daughters - Lee Boo-jin and Lee Seo-hyun, are worth USD 1.6 billion and USD 1.5 billion respectively. While Lee Boo-jin is the president and chief executive of Hotel Shilla, her sister Lee Seo-hyun oversees the Samsung Welfare Foundation.

2020 United States Presidential Election – An Indian American’s Perspective

# Anil Madan: “The liberal media has created the notion that Trump encourages racial violence.

It is more accurate to say that Trump has been his own worst enemy”

Our interviewee this week is Anil Madan, whose father C.B. Madan was a Minister in the Kenya government from the mid-50s to 1961, became Chief Justice of Kenya and had met Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam a number of times. After his school education in Tamil Nadu and Nairobi (where he was born), Anil graduated from Cornell University, and Harvard Law School, in 1971. He has practised law in Boston since 1973 as a trial lawyer, representing the Harvard-affiliated hospitals and physicians, surgeons, and staff in medical malpractice cases; major manufacturers and Fortune 500 companies in product liability cases and handled environmental and employment discrimination cases. He has also handled commercial litigation, contract matters and consulted in providing strategic and business advice.

He blogs on subjects of avid interest to him - politics, law, social issues, science, technology, the arts, etc. He gives us his balanced views on various aspects of the forthcoming US elections, comparing some of the positions taken by the presidential candidates Trump and Biden on hot issues such as the handling of the Covid pandemic, climate change, the new deal between Israel and some Arab states, the inclinations of the American Indian diaspora amongst others.

**Mauritius Times: The 2020 United States presidential election has been qualified as “the most important election in US history” by Donald Trump himself. “American voters,” he said “face a clear choice between two visions and two agendas.” But it appears that many Republicans -- former senior officials who worked for previous Republican administrations, including several who worked for Trump himself, have openly warned that “a second Trump term represents an existential threat to American democracy”. What’s your take on that?**

**Anil Madan:** For as long as I can remember, almost every candidate declares the election in which or she is running, the most important election for the nation, for a state, city, even a school committee. Every election is important because elections have consequences. Witness the fact that Trump has had the opportunity to nominate three justices of the US Supreme Court and reshape that court so that it will have a decided right-wing lean for decades to come. More importantly, he has nominated hundreds of federal judges who, also for decades, will put a “conservative” cast on the interpretation of laws and regulations in ways that will reshape the way in which the federal government interfaces with citizens.



“The election is still tight in the swing states. We know that the early vote turnout, so far exceeding 54 million has been massive. Democrats are reportedly outnumbering Republicans in voting by mail. But the Republicans expect to mount a major push on election day for in-person voting. The rate of ballot rejection is reportedly much higher for Democrat voters than for Republican voters...”

Donald Trump’s statement about voters facing a clear choice should be taken with a grain of salt. The fact of the matter is that he really has no vision and no agenda. Sadly, the same can be said of Biden. To the extent that Trump has an agenda, it is to hope that the coronavirus goes away and the economy, at least as measured by the stock market and unemployment, comes roaring back. Certainly, he intends to carry on his mission of deregulation. Biden, on the other hand, talks nominally about creating jobs but with a vague promise that his approach to climate change and energy policy will do that. He also speaks to creating a much less restrictive immigration system, embracing Iran’s Ayatollahs by resurrecting the Iran nuclear deal, and perhaps extending health care coverage to more Americans.

The notion that Trump’s re-election represents a threat to American democracy is hyperbole and frankly, nonsense. After all, Trump is participating in the democratic process of running for elective office. He has used the

democratic process to nominate Supreme Court and other federal judges and used his authority over agencies to repeal regulations. If the Democrats retain control of the House of Representatives as it appears they will, Trump will have to negotiate with Nancy Pelosi or forgo legislative solutions and have limited ability to make changes by issuing Executive Orders. All of these will be subject to review by the courts. If the Democrats take the Senate, then even Trump’s executive appointments may face higher hurdles for confirmation.

“The economy is generally in pretty good shape. Yes, we have had a major hit to many industries and severe economic pain for about 20-30 million Americans. But, on balance, the digital economy, e-commerce, and the explosive power of the Internet will propel this nation forward. This has nothing to do with Biden. Or Trump...”

**\* But what if Trump gets re-elected despite the polls that are indicating today a Biden win on Nov 3? USA Today’s headline ‘Polls show Trump is losing to Joe Biden. They said the same thing 4 years ago against Hillary Clinton’ suggests that the presidential election is much, much closer than American polling data have been indicating lately, isn’t it?**

The national polls showing Biden with a healthy lead over Trump are probably an accurate reflection of voter sentiment. As in 2016, they do not necessarily tell the tale of the tape insofar as the electoral college is concerned.

Chase Harrison, senior preceptor in survey research in the Department of Government and associate director of the Program on Survey Research at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science, pointed out in a recent article in the Harvard Gazette that although there is not a lot of evidence that people lie to pollsters, the problem with polling is that those who respond don’t always do so in proportions that reflect the composition sample designed by the pollster. This requires adjustments for geographic region, sometimes urbanicity, gender, age, education, race. Once we accept that envisioning a sampling universe that accurately reflects those who will actually vote involves some guesswork, then we have guesswork upon guesswork when the polls results are tweaked for the factors mentioned.

Another problem is that pollsters often claim to sample “likely voters” and this can lead to wildly inaccurate results. Most people are likely to affirm that they are likely to vote because that is a desired norm. I see this as the obverse of the people who were Trump supporters but did not want to reveal their position to a pollster, indeed sometimes to their own families or neighbours.

The net result is that the election is still tight in the swing states. We know that the early vote turnout, so far exceeding 54 million has been massive. Democrats are reportedly outnumbering Republicans in voting by mail.

☞ Cont. on page 8

# “Wealthy Indians have resources to contribute. It makes sense for politicians to court them...”

☞ Cont. from page 7

But the Republicans expect to mount a major push on election day for in-person voting. The rate of ballot rejection is reportedly much higher for Democrat voters than for Republican voters.

That said, it appears that Trump has fewer paths to victory than Biden. Trump cannot afford to lose Florida. Biden seems to have a comfortable lead in Pennsylvania and Michigan. If he wins both of those states he will need to flip only one other state that Trump carried in 2016.

This is still too close to call.

**\* In his comments on the US elections Michael Hirsh writing in ‘Foreign Policy’ quotes Charles Kupchan, a Georgetown University political scientist and former diplomat saying that “One term is bad enough, but if Trump is re-elected, Americans and people around the world would no longer be able to say the American electorate made a mistake. Instead it would be an affirmation this is the direction Americans want to go.” How do you react to that?**

The idea that the American electorate made a mistake is an elitist liberal reaction, a refusal to accept the results of a democratic election. The reaction of Trump detractors outside the U.S. is more understandable. When he declared that he was for “America first” he was saying what most politicians are afraid to say in public, that he was going to put America’s interests ahead of their interests. It is even undiplomatic and perhaps counterproductive to make such statements.

The truth of the matter is that 66 million people voted for Hillary Clinton and 63 million for Trump. Those 63 million are also Americans. Our system built around the electoral college keeps the big coastal

☞ “Most voters are driven by bread and butter issues, healthcare and the economy. Prime Minister Modi’s visit to the US included a major rally attended by thousands of Indians. But again, as I said earlier, the Indian diaspora represents a teeny tiny piece of the puzzle. The top concern of Indian Americans is for their own welfare and as every American will, they have to decide which candidate best meets their needs. Modi is irrelevant in that equation...”

states from dominating the rest of the country. If you take the votes in the eastern coastal states, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, the western coastal states California, Oregon, Washington, and Illinois in the Midwest, Clinton had a lead of some 8 million votes. That means she lost by 5 million votes in the rest, the 42 states plus Washington DC, Puerto Rico, etc.

Another way to look at this is that the electoral college has been quite even-handed in modern times. Starting with Truman, we have had six Democrat presidents (years served in parentheses): Truman (8), John F. Kennedy/Lyndon B. Johnson (8), Carter (4), Clinton (8), Obama (8). We have had seven Republican presidents: Ike (8), Nixon/Ford (8), Reagan (8), George H.W. Bush (4), George W. Bush (8), and Trump (4 so far). 36 years for Democrats and 40 for Republicans.

As for the direction in which America wants to go, certainly Trump identified issues that struck a chord with many Americans: illegal immigration and lack enforcement, massive job losses to China, unfair trade deals, and a general sense of overreach and overregulation by Big

☞ “Indian immigration has exploded. More importantly, Indian Americans are a major economic force. As you know, the CEOs of major Fortune 500 companies are Indians. This is the most remarkable penetration of any ethnic group into the fabric of America’s corporate infrastructure. Wealthy Indians have resources to contribute. It makes sense for politicians to court them as they have always courted the wealthy...”

Government. For good measure, he added the jingoistic “Make America Great Again.”

If any other country played those themes, we’d call it nationalism. With Trump, things took a different turn because his statements about illegal immigrants from Mexico and his Muslim ban were seen as racist.

Now, Trump is able to claim that he had built the best economy ever and a soaring stock market as part of his doing. He’s wrong on both counts. He is entitled to his opinion that it was the best economy. It was not by many measures, but it was pretty darn good. His initial tax cut and

deregulation had a significant impact in the early months of his term, but it is the Internet economy, e-commerce, and innovation in the tech sphere, none of which has anything to do with Trump, that have propelled the stock market.

That said, if Americans perceive through association that Trump deserves credit, they are entitled to that view in a democracy.



The overhang of the Covid-19 crisis may not allow Trump the luxury of finding out.

**\* There are however those who argue that although ‘Trump has shown little respect for US science’ resulting in the poor response of the US to the Covid-19 pandemic, his ‘open encouragement of racial violence and national division’, he had been right on the fundamentals as regards the US foreign policy decisions or to trade. What’s your view?**

Trump’s rejection of the advice he got from the scientists is difficult to fathom. His lack of knowledge of a subject has generally been no impediment to the expression of his “learned” opinion on it. But Trump could easily have chosen to follow the advice of the scientists and escaped the blame he has brought on himself. The outcome, in terms of total cases and deaths might not have been substantially different no matter what we did as experience in Europe and elsewhere shows this virus to be malignant and unpredictable. But certainly, Trump’s disdain for masks and social distancing led to unnecessary surges.

It is, in my opinion, unfair to accuse Trump of encouraging racial violence. He condemned the violent riots. True, he did not outright condemn white supremacists but he has done that on other occasions.

The liberal media has created the notion that Trump encourages racial violence. It is more accurate to say that Trump

has been his own worst enemy on this subject. He simply seems to have no ability to articulate in a few short sentences what should be a simple proposition, that he rejects white supremacy, rejects racism, and that every single person in America is entitled to be treated with equal dignity and respect.

Trump has certainly been right about China’s exploitation of the US when it comes to trade, technology transfer, intellectual property theft. To the extent that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reflects a Trumpian view, he is entirely correct that China is encroaching in unfair and dangerous ways on the world stage.

Trump was right about Iran and right to impose sanctions on Russia. But we must not forget that he has achieved very little in terms of bringing Russia, China, Iran, and even Turkey to account. He’s given us a lot of talk and not much to show for it. His dalliance with Kim Jong Un is a glaring example.

Trump does deserve great credit for forging accords between Israel and Arab states. This is a massive achievement. Given Israel’s technological prowess and the continuing need for security in the region, here is the promise that vast new markets will be opened up and the lives of Arabs will be the better for it.

**\* Given the central place the United States still holds in the global system, would a Biden win restore US prestige by reversing ‘Trump’s failure on Covid-19, political polarization, the economy, global stability, and climate change’, as the Democrat candidate has promised to do?**

If anything is clear, it is that Biden has no strategy for Covid-19 that represents a fix for what Trump and many countries have not been able to achieve.

☞ Cont. on page 9

# 'The digital economy, e-commerce... will propel the US forward. This has nothing to do with Biden. Or Trump'

☞ Cont. from page 8

Indeed, we hear that China is conducting massive testing campaigns months after they supposedly had controlled the virus.

Here is Biden's response at the last debate with Trump as to what he would do to control the virus:

"What I would do is make sure we have everyone encouraged to wear a mask all the time. I would make sure we move into the direction of rapid testing, investing in rapid testing. I would make sure that we set up national standards as to how to open up schools and open up businesses so they can be safe and give them the wherewithal, the financial resources to be able to do that."

Respectfully, this is nonsense. Masks, testing and investing in rapid testing are not going to control the virus.

Political polarization has been an American phenomenon for the past forty years. It started with Ronald Reagan's declaration that government is not the answer, government is the problem. This is antithetical to the basic American notion, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, that governments are instituted among men to secure the unalienable rights which include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Sadly, the pursuit of happiness in America is now dulled by having to look over your shoulder for extremists from both the left and the right.

The economy is generally in pretty good shape. Yes, we have had a major hit to many industries and severe economic pain for about 20-30 million Americans. But, on balance, the digital economy, e-commerce, and the explosive power of the Internet will propel this nation forward. This has nothing to do with Biden. Or Trump.

I don't see global stability as a generally achievable goal. In the Middle East, Trump is bringing about a semblance of stability with new peace deals between Israel and Arab states. But the Palestinian issue remains a blistering sore as does Iran and there is no real peace in Iraq. Syria is a mess and Turkey is a local aggressor there as well as against Greece. In the South China Sea, China intrudes and flexes its muscle. North Korea is an ever-present threat.

On climate change, Biden may make a difference. Trump has shown himself to be entirely useless on that subject. Yet, we must take heed that there is no rapid shift away from fossil fuels possible without creating an economic downturn that will rival any depression. We need an intelligent response which means asking can



“The Indian diaspora is a tiny piece of the American electorate unlikely to have a major impact on the election in terms of sheer voting numbers. I do not see the Indian community being a major force one way or the other as far as Kamala Harris is concerned. She has chosen to categorize herself as Black and this is a conscious effort to ally herself with a voting bloc that is not Indian...”

we do anything to fix climate change, and if so, should we try?

This is not an idle question because first, we must know if we can address the cause of the problem, assuming that our assumptions about carbon are correct, and then, whether we can achieve a desired beneficial outcome at an acceptable cost. We must understand the cost of action and inaction, and also understand the downside to what we try. And, of course, there are unknown unknowns.

**\* A recent survey by the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Carnegie Endowment and University of Pennsylvania has revealed that nearly three-quarters of Indian Americans plan to vote for Joe Biden. The Democratic presidential candidate's choice of Senator Kamala Harris, a woman of Indian and African descent, as his vice-presidential candidate is apparently mobilising the vote to some extent and creating "greater enthusiasm" for the Democratic ticket. But Kamala Harris and her stand towards India have evoked mixed reactions. What do you think?**

It is a mistake to treat the Indian diaspora in the US as a monolith. While it is reasonable to expect that the professionals who make up a sizable chunk of the medical community are opposed to Trump, those who are involved on Wall Street, in money management, financial services, and at the managerial and executive levels in American corporate life, are not so easy to classify.

More importantly, the Indian diaspora is a tiny piece of the American electorate unlikely to have a major impact on the election in terms of sheer voting numbers. However, its major impact comes from the enormous financial contributions that Indians can make to politicians and the increasing influence they have on media outlets.

I do not see the Indian community being a major force one way or the other as far as Kamala Harris is concerned. She has chosen to categorize herself as Black and this is a conscious effort to ally herself with a voting bloc that is not Indian.

**\* One would have thought that Donald Trump's personal relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi would have helped garner support for the Republican candidate, but it appears that 'the strong Indian American support for the Democrats is driven by bread and butter issues, healthcare and the economy'. What does this say about the top concerns of the Indian Americans?**

Well, I think you have put your finger on it. Most voters are driven by bread and butter issues, healthcare and the economy. Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US included a major rally attended by thousands of Indians. But again, as I said earlier, the Indian diaspora represents a teeny tiny piece of the puzzle.

“Trump could easily have chosen to follow the advice of the scientists and escaped the blame he has brought on himself. The outcome, in terms of total cases and deaths might not have been substantially different no matter what we did as experience in Europe and elsewhere shows this virus to be malignant and unpredictable. But certainly, Trump's disdain for masks and social distancing led to unnecessary surges...”



The top concern of Indian Americans is for their own welfare and as every American will, they have to decide which candidate best meets their needs. Modi is irrelevant in that equation.

**\* According to that same survey, even Biden voters have a positive view of the Indian PM Narendra Modi, placing him at 52 while Trump voters put him at a high 76 on the likeability scale of 0 to 100. But when it comes down to reasons why Indian Americans lean towards the Democratic Party, 'a large number find the Republican Party "unwelcoming" because of its policies on immigration and treatment of minorities and the influence of Evangelicals on the Republican Party troubling'. India and "the Modi factor" do figure in the voters' calculations, it would seem?**

I think this split reflects the views of dif-

ferent segments of the Indian American population. On the one hand, the medical profession and academics who generally tend to be more liberal, are more likely to abhor Trump for his health and immigration policies. With business and financial types, they may hate Trump's views but he is good for their pocket books. My guess, and this is an educated guess, is that Modi is not a factor in this.

**\* The Indian American population grew by nearly 150 per cent, making it the second-largest immigrant group in the US, and according to American and Indian press reports, there is a growing, 'avid courtship' of the Indian American vote by both parties. Is that due to their growing numbers and influence in the political process?**

Yes, Indian immigration has exploded. More importantly, Indian Americans are a major economic force. As you know, the CEOs of major Fortune 500 companies are Indians. This is the most remarkable penetration of any ethnic group into the fabric of America's corporate infrastructure. Wealthy Indians have resources to contribute. It makes sense for politicians to court them as they have always courted the wealthy.

**\* Do you have the feeling that there is growing interest and concern amongst the Indian Americans about how the Diaspora is faring worldwide and resulting in shared ideals and ambitions?**

I think that among Indian Americans there is a natural curiosity about their fellow Indians in other parts of the world. I am less clear that there are shared ideals and ambitions other than that India should resist Chinese and Pakistani aggression. Perhaps the Indian Americans feel more strongly than their counterparts in the rest of the world that India is better served by allying with the US than with Russia.

Then, of course, there is the concern that Trump is not as committed to America's obligations to Europe and NATO as previous presidents were and whether that should counsel caution about America's bona fides.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4th Year No 150

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 21th June 1957

• *Responsibility walks hand in hand with capacity and power. -- Josiah Gilbert Holland*

# Ministers Must Go To It!

By Peter Ibbotson

The new Ministers will take office at a time when there are many drastic policies necessary to be followed to help the people. The finances of the island are in good shape; and should continue in good shape unless there is an unusually severe succession of cyclone years. Future prosperity based on a prosperous sugar crop seems assured; it will be assured as long as the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement runs. Unfortunately the present Tory government in Britain has taken the first step to undermine the Agreement, though the Agreement itself has until 1962 at least to run.

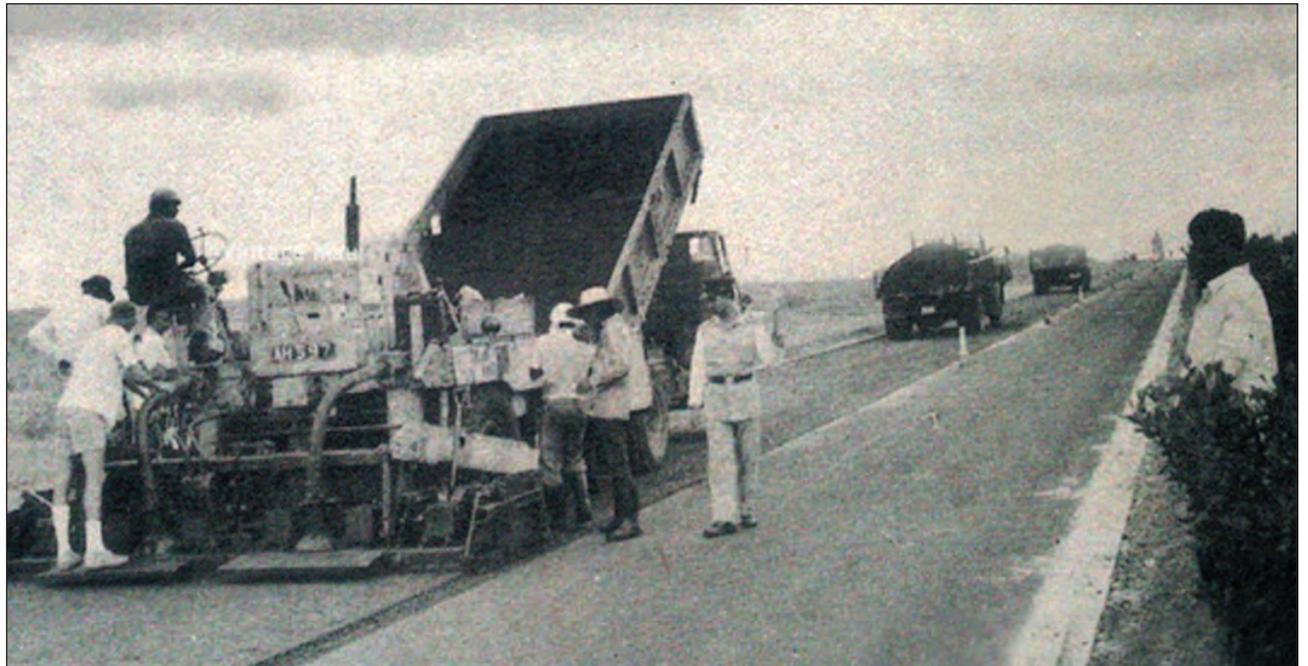
Given a healthy financial base, what are the people expecting from their ministerial government? Rightly, they are expecting that something will be done to help them. They are expecting that something will be done to reduce the high prices of essential foodstuffs. They are expecting that something will be done to benefit the unemployed and sick and old and poverty-stricken.

Everything cannot, of course, be done at once. But the new Ministers cannot be forgiven if they do not at once get on with the job of tackling the problems besetting Mauritius. The main problems are the need for a more balanced economy; the growth of population in an area of limited size; unemployment (which is bound up with the need for a more balanced economy); and inter-racial co-operation.

The new Executive Committee will, unless the statements of colonial policy voiced by Mr Lennox-Boyd and Mr Lyttelton before him are mere eyewash, have responsibility for the government of Mauritius. The Ministers will be responsible for the smooth running of Mauritian society; for the welfare of the people. The 1958 elections (whether held at the right time or postponed) will show how well or how ill they have discharged their responsibilities.

From the pure Crown Colony regime, with its Liaison Officers who lacked any responsibility in formulating policy, the new Executive inherits sticky problems. One is the matter of raising (or not raising) the salaries of Civil Servants with salaries of 10,320 rupees a year and over. The 1957-58 estimates allow for the proposed increase which has been communicated to M.L.C's in a Sessional Paper. Such a communication has the air of a fait accompli; but the new Ministers must not let the Financial Secretary get away with it so easily. Any proposal to increase the salaries of top civil servants must be carefully scrutinised. The people will not look kindly on salary increase being granted to top civil servants when there are thousands of Mauritians living in conditions of the utmost squalor and misery. The new Ministers are there to care for the welfare of the people of Mauritius, not merely for a small section of the population whose smallness is disproportionate to its vocality.

The whole question of wages and conditions of work needs looking into. Up to now, breaches of the Labour Code have been common. The agreements between the Sugar Producers' Association and the labourers' unions have, as far as the benefits additional to wages are concerned, often been breached. The people are expecting the Minister, who is really responsible for his Department instead of being a mere puppet liaison officer, to ensure



Construction of M1 Motorway from Phoenix to Port Louis- New Asphalt Technique - 1960s (Photo <http://vintagemauritius.org/>)

that the Code and these agreements are honoured in both letter and spirit. They are expecting too that the Minister for Labour will introduce a national wages policy. At present the national wages policy is based on the inhuman assumption that a labourer's wife works and that they add to their money-wage by keeping hens or cows and selling the eggs or milk. And the wages paid to all other workers are based on the wages paid in the sugar industry.

This inhuman wages policy must end, and end at once. It is true that wages outside the sugar industry must be related to wages inside that industry; after all, it is the basic industry on which Mauritius depends. But there must be an immediate end to the system which bases a man's wage on the fact that his wife must earn part of what is needed to keep him and their children for a year. The costs of production in the sugar industry are apparently wrapped in secrecy. At least they are shrouded in mystery. It is known that Mauritius is a low-cost sugar producing area; therefore, with world prices guaranteed it must be a high-profit area. But just how much a ton of sugar costs to produce, we don't know. The Sugar Producers' Association won't deign to tell us; perhaps they are too ashamed to admit just how much they are making out of the sweat of the labourer who, after all, produces 10 tons of sugar a year for his employer. If the sugar producers will not admit their costs of production, so that we may judge how high wages the industry can really afford - and make no mistake, the sugar industry can well afford higher wages than it is paying at present - then the Executive Committee should set up a Commission of Enquiry into Costs and Profits in the Sugar Industry. Such an enquiry would act as the base for a full economic survey of Mauritius.

When the new wage structure is being worked out, the fact that wives may also work should be utterly disregarded when determining the wage to be paid to an adult male worker. The Government should take the initiative in a wages policy; for the trade unions have shown themselves unable to do so. They have failed in their job of wage negotiation for a number of reasons.

One is that employers are not willing to recognise certain unions. Another reason is that members of unions are likely to be victimised by their employers (e.g. the sacked stevedores). Another reason is that the unions in Mauritius are unable to use the ultimate weapon of the union, the strike, since there is widespread unemployment, and the employers would (by playing off one section of the community against another) be able to drive a fairly substantial wedge into the ranks of the workers.

Rather than wait for legislation which will strengthen the unions and their activities, I suggest a Government-sponsored wages policy on a national basis though of course side by side with this must also come legislation designed to further the cause of trade unionism. Trade unions are a bulwark of democracy; they are also a training ground for the political leaders of tomorrow. In Mauritius they are weak; if they cannot be strengthened of themselves, they must be helped by sympathetic legislation. (There is no need for legislation sympathetic to the employers; they are strong enough to take care of themselves.)

What can the new Ministers do about the unemployment? There are a number of private members' motions which give the answer. A system of unemployment benefit is long overdue. The people are looking to the Ministers to introduce as soon as possible such a system. The grave unemployment existing in Mauritius causes the utmost misery. At present the unemployed have to seek either Public Assistance or charity. If they seek Public Assistance they are not always received sympathetically by the petty local officials of the Public Assistance Department. The charitable institutions and funds have not the resources needed to do much more than merely scratch the surface of the problem. Therefore some form of Unemployment Relief is necessary. The Ministers will be expected to produce concrete plans for Unemployment Benefit in a very short space of time. The need is urgent; now that Mauritius is internally self-governing there is no excuse for further delay.

(More next week)

# Consciousness Revisited

*Self-awareness and consciousness still elude our understanding*



Dr Rajagopal  
Soondron

If asked whether our far-away ancestors believed in an Almighty God, we would surely reply: coming out of the jungle and cave they could not have had the mental refinement to conceive of an abstract being.

For us modern man, who says God also implies a concomitant emergence of self-awareness.

Gradually there came religion and the Almighty; many would preach that God existed prior to everything else, prior to the universe and life itself - a Super Consciousness, a Super Ego out of which we all emerged. Still others would believe that the brain is just an instrument which evolved much later and was fine-tuned by evolution to tap into that Super Consciousness.

However, some of us, becoming more rational and materialistic but less holistic, started to see that there is a definite dichotomy between the body and the soul; matter and spirit, mass and energy.

And then came the Buddha, who did not agree with these views, and maintained that there is no God and that a lot of our beliefs have to do with our mind and experiences. Suppress the brain and nothing would exist. It is a bit of solipsism: the universe exists because we exist; the self is the only truth.

All leading to those rationalists who sincerely insist that the brain is the magic box that produces consciousness, full stop.

## We are baffled

Gradually we all realize, to our dismay, that self-awareness and consciousness are so elusive to grasp and define that many an atheist concedes that there are zones of darkness that baffle them. Being themselves subjected to these mysterious phenomena defied their scientific analysis to their utter embarrassment.

Consciousness, we must concede, is a tough baby to deal with, considered as the 'hard problem' of science. How do we explain to a blind person what the colour red or yellow is, how do we distinguish between sky blue and marine blue? Quale



comes in -- that capacity to define our subjective experiences by our senses, that power of being self-aware of our experiences. Where does this capacity arise within the brain cells? Which ones? How do the latter cooperate to produce it to give us that sensation of oneness, of consistency and of the self? After all, when we wake up every morning, we always feel we are our old selves; we do not change personality. What part of the brain produces that miracle? How does it do so - and where is the integrity of all these experiences being generated and stored?

While philosophers, down the ages, had been trying to unravel these questions, scientists thought that such metaphysical speculations did not deserve their attention. But nowadays the latter have grudgingly had to concede gradually that perhaps, after all, consciousness is the very hub to their scientific queries.

So here we are - a mass of well-organised living cells, gifted with some intelligent energy capable of self-awareness: where did all that come from?

In that miasma of contradictions and beliefs, scientists are convinced that we must perhaps look into the very formation of the universe if we want to know and understand ourselves and our self-awareness. After all, this follows from the logic that the universe existed first - then life and humans came later. Some of these scientists, swearing by eternal energy, are racking their brain to explain how energy got transformed into matter, matter into cells and life, simple organisms into complex ones like the mammals, how life produced intelligence, thinking power, beliefs - and finally how did consciousness and self-awareness pop out of all these complexities.

Being mathematicians and physicists, they conceive our beginning from a void, but a void full of energy, giving rise to matter. And then after billions of years the first unicellular creature would come on the scene, triggering a long march towards complexity, a string of causes and effects

being the inescapable part of these chain events, culminating in us humans fancying ourselves being at the apex of the pyramid.

## Roger Penrose

And that's where great physicists/mathematicians like Roger Penrose came in; he, along with many of his colleagues, such as the anaesthetist Dr Stuart Hameroff, is of the view that primitive consciousness (pre or proto consciousness) forms part of matter. They were intimately linked from the very beginning of time. To him, the void, teeming with Casimir energy, had to transit through the infinitely small - the quantum world - into the more palpable, classical macro-world of humans.

So, on one side is the microscopic and on the other is the macroscopic world. Where do these two universes meet; how do they morph from one into the other? In short, on one side is quantum physics and theory, and on the other is the classical physics we are used to.

And we must not assume that Roger Penrose is just dabbling into surmises and superficial hypotheses as some philosophers have done before; far from that.

The quantum world exists first. This is a strange, bizarre and weird world to say the least. There is the property of subatomic particles which can exist as particles at one time and at other times they act as a wave. They are capable of existing at different places at the same time, 'superimposed'; they can also be entangled - that is, a particle has a twin partner to which it is linked over long distances; changing the property of one of them influences the other correspondingly, however far they may be from each other. The void is not really a void; it is teeming with virtual particles popping in and out of existence, giving rise to a quantum foam. And into all that Penrose will draw us into his mathematics, and talk of Planck's magnitude - which seems to be a scale of 10 to the power of minus 33 centimeters, occurring in a time interval of 10 to the power of minus 43

second!! Our mind becomes foggy when we think of the vastness of the universe - now it becomes foggier when we are told about the characteristics of the quantum microscopic world.

And it seems that as those minute particles wallow into their world they can only obey a certain formula known as the wave function - which describes all the possibilities and properties that they can have or assume. But the moment we peep in and try to see what is happening - they stop their buzzing around and assume a definite property. This is known as wave collapsing.

Penrose tells us that this collapsing happens when quantum gravity acts on those virtual, enigmatic subatomic particles. It is as if this quantum gravity is the magician which pulls our classical world out of the blue, out of the quantum invisible world. And mathematically he proves how his concept evolves. All along he corroborates with Einstein's concept of universal space time, where space time curvature is energy equivalent to matter.

Particles of proteins in our cells, known as tubulin, interest Roger Penrose. His mathematics lead him to hypothesize that these minute particles in our body form part of the quantum world, and out of their bizarre behaviour comes something in the form of a very primitive pre-consciousness. He is telling us that out of nothingness - the void - came particles which gave rise to our protein, which themselves are embedded with some form of... proto intelligence. This he has called Orchestrated Objective reduction.

And after billions of years we came on the scene; was it an hazard or an inescapable destiny?

Suddenly we find ourselves hobnobbing too closely, for our rational mind, with the religious pundits who believe that God existed before everything, that there was always a super consciousness before everything, that we are part and parcel of this universal intelligent energy.

Penrose may be conveying to us that our body, built out of proteins and other elements, is just a pack of well-organized subatomic particles, all well-tuned to interpret and convert the primitive proto conscious property of the void into a more sophisticated, polished and final finish - which we call consciousness or super consciousness.

There was a time when we believed that our consciousness was the product of our evolving brain as our ancestors came out of the jungle. But here Penrose is suggesting a different story - backed by sophisticated mathematics, linked to modern quantum physics. Could this be a more acceptable, pleasing, logical scientific theory? It validates the old belief that all and everything in the universe is interrelated and interdependent, a concept so dear to many sages.

Self-awareness and consciousness still elude our understanding.

# Climate-protected citadels, virtual worlds only for the privileged: is this the future of inequality?

\* Cont. from page 2

Another scenario explores a world in which citizenship is entirely digital. It becomes so removed from your place of residence that you might be a European citizen online, even though you physically live in Australia.

The haves and have-nots in this future aren't defined by where they call home, but where they're allowed to work, play and gather in virtual space. Advanced technology lets the privileged explore, enjoy and profit from these digital environments, while the less fortunate are locked out.

Yet another scenario explores a breakdown of trust driven by "fake news", which leads to a fragmentation of cultures and values.

In that future, some parts of Europe celebrate five-person marriages, while others double down on traditional values. Where you live might hold you back from exploring your identity — or create new opportunities to define and celebrate who you are.

## Learning from imagined futures

Each of these scenarios shows how inequality isn't just a question of how wide the gap is between the haves and have-nots. It's also about the changing ways we understand injustice.

The IMAJINE team are inviting stakeholders to explore these worlds and consider how they relate to social challenges in the present. We want to inspire fresh solutions, not impose our own.

Policy decisions are still often based



Photo: micky.com.au

solely on the numbers: what policies cost, who and how many people benefit. Yet changing social and cultural values also steer people's perceptions of what is fair and acceptable, beyond the numbers.

The scenarios we've created test our sense of what matters when the world changes. They provide a stage on which to play out new ways of thinking when it comes to policy ideas. They help us devise policies that are broadly accepted and can be adapted to local needs.

These imagined futures may never happen, but they might keep us from sleepwalking into new kinds of inequality and prepare us for whatever shocks our world will inevitably encounter.



## COMMUNIQUE

### NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS AND SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS CSG / NSF / Training Levy

Employers are hereby informed that, following the introduction of the **Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG)**, the deadline for the submission of the **Monthly Contribution Return** and payment of contributions for the month of **September 2020** is **Monday 30 November 2020**.

The **Monthly Contribution Return** includes contributions in respect of the following:

1. **Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG)**
2. **National Savings Funds (NSF), and**
3. **Training Levy.**

The deadline for the submission of the **Monthly Contribution Return** for any subsequent month is the end of the following month. Thus, the **Monthly Contribution Return and Payment** for the month of **October 2020** shall also be made by **30 November 2020** at latest.

The facility for the submission of the **Monthly Contribution Return** and payment of the contributions is available on MRA's website: [www.mra.mu](http://www.mra.mu) and through the Mauritius Network Services (MNS).

Employers are informed that the facility to file the **Joint PAYE/Contribution Return** for the month of September 2020, onwards, will continue to be available on MRA's website. Moreover, no penalty and interest will be applicable for late payment of PAYE for the month of September 2020 where the return is submitted and payment is made on or before **Monday 30 November 2020**.

Self-employed individuals are informed that they, also, are required to submit a **CSG Return**. The return for the month of **September 2020** and the payment of CSG should be made on or before **Monday 30 November 2020**. The necessary facility will be available on MRA's website as from **Monday 16 November 2020**.

For further information, employers/self-employed individuals may visit the MRA's website or phone the MRA helpdesk on **207 6000** during office hours.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

26 October 2020

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius  
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### Apravasi Ghat Indian Indentured Immigrants (Girmitia) Arrival Celebration Committee

186th Anniversary Celebrations  
of Indentured  
Immigrants - Girmitia Arrival

2 November 1834 - 2 November 2020

The Apravasi Ghat Indian Indentured Immigrants Arrival Celebration

Committee is solemnly inviting you to be present at the

#### Annual YAJ Ceremony

to pay tribute to the Girmitias - Indian Indentured Immigrants.

#### Apravasi Ghat

Monday 2nd November 2020

From 8.00 am to 8.45 am

The programme will comprise Yaj, Prayers, Tribute, Lighting of Lamp and Shradhanjali with offering of flowers.

Please bring along garlands, flowers, bouquets for the Shradhanjali.

Rita Ramlallah  
Secretary

Sarita Boodhoo  
President

In a light vein**Sex and Good Grammar**

On his 70th birthday, a man was given a gift certificate from his wife.

The certificate was for consultation with a Native medicine man who was rumoured to have a simple cure for erectile dysfunction.

The husband went to see the medicine man who gave him a potion and, with a grip on his shoulder, warned: 'This is a powerful medicine. You take only a teaspoonful, and then say: '1-2-3.' When you do, you will become more manly than you have ever been in your life, and you can perform for as long as you want.'

The man thanked the old Indian, and as he walked away, he turned and asked: "How do I stop the medicine from working?"

"Your partner must say '1-2-3-4,' he responded, "but when she does, the medicine will not work again until the next full moon."

He was very eager to see if it worked so he went home, showered, shaved, took a spoonful of the medicine, and then invited his wife to join him in the bedroom.

When she came in, he took off his clothes and said: "1-2-3!"

Immediately, he was the manliest of men. His wife was excited and began throwing off her clothes, and asked: "What was the 1-2-3 for?"

And that, Guys, is why we should never end our sentences with a preposition, because we could end up with a dangling participle.

*James Ruddy Editor - Profitable Practice Magazine*

Wisdom**Honest Thief**

have gone to thieves; otherwise, why? Why should they be concerned? I am not concerned!"

The thief was very happy. He said, "Then it is okay. It seems that now I can become a disciple. You are the right Guru."

The Saint accepted him and said, "You can go and do whatsoever you like. Only one condition has to be followed: be aware of what you are doing and force produced by your actions! Go, break into houses, enter, take things, steal; do whatsoever you like, that is of no concern to me. But remember I am not a thief - but whatever I do I do it with full awareness and responsibility."

The thief could not understand that he was falling into the trap. He said, "Then everything is okay. I will try."

After one month he came back and said, "You are tricky because I can steal no more. If I steal, awareness disappears and only when awareness disappears attractions appear. I am in a fix."

The Saint said, "No more talk about your being a thief and stealing. I am not concerned; you decide if you want to be my disciple or you do not want to be."

The man said, "But now it is difficult. I have tasted something unique-I will leave anything, whatsoever you say. Just the other night I was able to enter the mansion of a very rich man. I opened the treasure chest. I could have become the richest man in the world-but your words, eyes and the commitment you made me undertake, followed me - that I had to be aware."

When I became aware, diamonds looked just like stones, ordinary stones. I looked at the paintings of voluptuous women and I saw their bodies decaying on the second glance, I saw powerful men ordering creation of magnificent temples to perpetuate their legends, but next moment nature made their edifice eat dust. I saw civilizations grow and empires rise but twist of times, an epidemic or a natural calamity eliminated their last vestiges. The transitoriness of existence is so scary.

When I lost awareness, the power of treasures was there, fragrance of curvaceous bodies was there, admiring glances for monuments were there, treatise on civilizations and empires were there, and suddenly they were non-existent.

And I waited and did this many times. I would become aware. I could not even touch it because the whole thing looked foolish, stupid -- just mundane, what am I doing? Losing myself over inconsequential trivialities?

But then I would lose awareness; they would become beautiful again. The whole illusion of a mirage. Finally, I have decided to come under the protective umbrella of your infinite grace which is eternal."

A thief was very impressed with the vast knowledge and compassionate nature of an eminent Saint. He had fallen in love with the Saint because he had never seen a person with such infinite tenderness and grace. He asked the Saint, "Is there some possibility of my growth also? But one thing I must make clear is that I am a thief. And another thing: I cannot leave my vocation, kindly do not make it a condition."

I will do whatsoever you say, but I cannot stop stealing.

I am a product of depravity. Whenever I see shops full of delicacies, pangs of hunger suffered in the past, start gnawing at my insides.

When I see affluence earned honestly or dishonestly multiplying, my mind goes into a violent protest against social injustice.

When I see luck favouring a few, I feel like burning places of worship to stand with the unfortunate who cannot make two ends meet.

When I see rotting skeletons not getting a few logs of wood, I am agitated to burn a few palaces to provide wood for their last rites.

Stimulated by such visions, something starts churning within, a compelling desire draws me to the object of my attention and I steal.

I have made several attempts but it never works. It is my destiny: I am going to be a thief, remain a thief and will die as a renowned thief. Let it be clear from the beginning."

The Saint said, "Why are you afraid? Who is going to talk about your being a thief?"

The thief said, "But whenever I go to a religious person, they always say, "First stop stealing. First stop enjoying life. First control desires. First embrace austerity. First renounce attachments."

The Saint laughed, "Then you must

**Final Exam Paper for Law Students**

**Q. A woman was driving a Nissan March car. She mistakenly hit a BMW car.**

The lady came out from her BMW, insulting the other lady for not being careful, asking her to repair her BMW.

The Nissan March woman called her husband; he replied: "I am very busy; please try fix the problem yourself."

The BMW lady called her boyfriend and said: "Sweetheart someone just hit the birthday gift you gave me; I am so angry, please come over."

A few minutes later her boyfriend came along. He is the husband of the lady with the Nissan March car!!!

**Discuss the possible legal consequences for all 3 parties. (20 Marks)**

**The Palace Meteorologist**

A king wanted to go fishing, and he asked the royal weather forecaster the forecast for the next few hours.

The palace meteorologist assured him that there was no chance of rain and so the King and the Queen went fishing.

On the way, he met a man carrying a fishing rod and riding on a donkey, and he asked the man if the fish were biting.

The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, you should return to the palace! In just a short time I expect a huge rain storm."

The King replied, "I hold the palace meteorologist in high regard. He is an educated and experienced professional whom I pay very high wages and he gave me a very different forecast that I trust."

The King continued on his way, but in a short time a torrential rain fell from the sky and he and the Queen were totally soaked. He was furious and he returned to the palace and gave the order to fire the meteorologist.

He then summoned the fisherman and offered him the prestigious position of royal forecaster.

The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, I do not know anything about forecasting. I obtain my information from my donkey. If I see his ears drooping, it means with certainty that it will rain."

The King then hired the donkey, and this is how began the practice of hiring dumb asses to work in influential positions of government.

The practice has continued to this date...

## Health &amp; Balance

# How to use your phone less

*Grab a rubber band -- and an alarm clock. We share tricks and tips to help you spend less time scrolling*



evening before dinner or every Sunday afternoon. Go for a walk, or play cards or a board game -- anything that gives you a chance to talk and engage with one another.

### Plan some offline fun

Try something simple like reading a book or going to the park with your dog. No need to post pictures about any of that on social media. Instead, invite some friends to meet you for coffee or a jog and see them in person. Tell them you're turning your phone off, and they may decide to do the same.

### Create phone-free zones

It's not a great idea to take your phone out in the bathroom. Mainly, for reasons of basic hygiene, but also because it can be good to keep your phone out of certain parts of your life. Those also might include meetings, playtime with your kids, and driving. It's a healthy way to get

used to short amounts of time without it.

### 'Do not disturb'

Some smartphones have a setting that lets you limit certain parts of your phone during a set time every day. For example, you could stop all calls and alerts between 5 and 9 p.m. and after midnight.

### Get rid of apps

Those games are designed to keep you coming back for more, but they can't if they're not there. You just might be able to get by with phone, text, and email on your phone -- you can check social media when you're on your computer.

### Helpful tools

Some apps can help limit the time you spend on your phone by locking you out of certain things during set times of day or after you've spent a specific amount of time on them. Others offer encouragement or reward you with time after you've done things like take 5,000 steps in a day.

### Talk the (right) talk

You're more likely to leave your phone in your pocket if you say "I don't check my phone at dinner" than if you say "I can't check my phone at dinner." It might be because "can't" suggests you've been denied something, but scientists don't know exactly why that one word can make a difference.

### Manage expectations

If you want to spend less time on your phone but are concerned that people will think you're rude or get upset if you don't respond quickly, just tell them. Say you're trying to break the phone habit and it might be a while before you get back to them.

### Trade your smartphone for a 'dumbphone'

If the temptation of a pocket-sized computer is just too much, a cell phone that can only call and text might be a solution. It can't download apps or access the Internet, but it's much less expensive and might be just the thing that sets you free.

Melinda Ratini - WebMD

# Inexpensive, natural ways to whiten your teeth

**W**ant a winning smile without investing lots of money or using strips? Here are safe at-home options that may work -- plus some that probably won't.

Some natural, at-home remedies are safe and can whiten your teeth. Find out what your best bets are, and which to not bother with.

### Brushing and flossing

Good oral hygiene is a tried-and-true method for keeping your smile looking its best. Toothpastes gently buff out stains from the surface of your teeth. Whitening toothpastes work the same way with more ingredients; they don't bleach your teeth. Flossing gets rid of food and bacteria that could harden into plaque, which makes your teeth look dull and darker.

### Oil pulling

This technique is popular in Ayurvedic medicine. You swish a tablespoon of oil (such as sesame, coconut, or olive oil) around in your mouth for up to 20 minutes to "pull out" bacteria. A recent study found that using coconut oil could prevent tooth decay, but there's no science to support it.

### Baking soda

Besides helping batter rise, it's also a mild abrasive that scrubs away stains. You could try using a DIY paste of baking soda, but you'll probably get better results by switching to toothpaste with sodium bicarbonate. Studies show brushing with products that have baking soda will work on surface stains over time.

### Apples, pineapples, strawberries

Malic acid in apples boosts saliva to wash away acids. Toothpastes with bromelain, a compound in pineapple, help whiten teeth. But there's no evidence that eating these fruits will make your grin gleam. Skip the strawberries, too. A study in Operative Dentistry found that brushing with a mixture of them and baking soda had no whitening effects. Even worse, the citric acid in strawberries can break down enamel, the outer shell of your tooth.

### Hydrogen peroxide

It's the bleaching agent found in most home whitening kits. It actually changes a tooth's colour. One study found that painting an over-the-counter gel with 6% hydrogen peroxide on teeth made a noticeable difference after 2 weeks. The inexpensive bottles of liquid you can buy in a drugstore usually have a lower percentage. And the American Dental Association says swishing will probably irritate your gums before it whitens your teeth.

### Apple cider vinegar

Gargle before you brush to help kill bacteria and remove stains, they say. You'll get a whiter smile, they say.

Sorry, no studies confirm these claims. While it can brighten the taste of your salad dressing, don't expect apple cider vinegar to brighten your teeth.

### Turmeric

The warm, bitter spice that's known for flavoring curry is also a natural dye that can turn white fabric a bright gold. Supposedly, turmeric paste can turn dingy teeth back to pearly white. Hold the mustard, though. There's no solid research to back this up.

### Watch what you eat

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Foods including dark berries and drinks such as coffee, red wine, and soda are known offenders, but you don't have to give them up. Enjoy these in moderation, and rinse with water right afterward so there's less chance they'll affect your teeth. (Wait 30 minutes before brushing to protect the enamel.)

Smoking and chewing tobacco can also cause stains, which is another reason to quit.

WebMD

Bollywood Roundup: Jacqueline Fernandez, Bhumi Pednekar, Anil Kapoor and more...

## Anil Kapoor reveals his weak point in life



**A**nil Kapoor made a confession on social media on Wednesday saying his weak point is food, reports India New England News

The actor also shared how he has adopted a new approach to eating with a goal of achieving a sharper look since lockdown.

Anil Kapoor wrote on his verified Instagram account: "Everyone has a weak point. Mine is food. The Punjabi boy in me needs the taste buds ignited, my eyes always bigger than my belly."

"During lockdown, I have set myself the task of achieving a new sharper look. This new look needs a new approach to eating. Both Harsh and my trainer Marc have taken it upon themselves to remind me constantly and lay down eating plans. I try and I battle. Sometimes I even fall. And what I've learnt through it all is that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. So everyone in the house had to get involved."

"From those who kindly cook my food to the support of my family gathered round me at meal time. Fitness is never a one man/woman crusade, it's about support and encouragement when we need it the most. (Always get family involved and on board to help you in any diet if you wish to make it truly a success)."

"Is it easy? Not always, if I am honest. Some days the Punjabi boy sulks a little, but then some days, like this day... it makes it all worth it," he concluded.

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### Madhuri recalls working with late Rishi Kapoor, Saroj Khan

Actress Madhuri Dixit Nene on Wednesday walked down memory lane and recalled working with the late co-actor Rishi Kapoor and late choreographer Saroj Khan in the 1995 release, *Yaarana*.

The David Dhawan directorial was inspired by the Julia Roberts-starrer "Sleeping With The Enemy" and is still remembered for Madhuri's hit dance number, "Mera piya ghar aaya". The number was choreographed by Saroj

Khan.

"Working alongside Rishi ji and learning the steps to #MeraPiyaGharAaya from Saroj ji are some of my fondest memories... Today as we mark #25YearsOf-Yaarana, remembering both of them. This is dedicated to them and the whole team."

The film released on October 20 in 1995. Incidentally, "Yaarana" clashed at the box office with the Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol starrer "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge", which also opened on the same day on the occasion of Diwali that year.

Madhuri shared her post along with a few throwback pictures, in which she poses with Rishi Kapoor and Saroj Khan on the set of the film.

Saroj Khan choreographed a series of superhit dance numbers for Madhuri, including "Ek do teen", "Dhak dhak karne laga", "Choli ke peeche kya hai", "Tamma tamma loge" and "Dola re dola".

\*\*\*

### Bhumi Pednekar starts preparing for 'Badhaai Do'

Bhumi Pednekar has started preparing for her character in *Badhaai Do*, co-starring Rajkumar Rao.

The actress shared an update on Instagram Story. She posted a selfie in the get-up of a PT teacher and wrote, "Day 1 #BadhaiDo Prep Begins".

The film is the second instalment in the "Badhaai Ho" franchise. Rajkumar will be seen playing the role of a Delhi cop, who is the only male police officer in a *mahila thana*.

"I have played many different roles previously in my films but my character in 'Badhaai Do' is truly special. I loved the script since the first narration as the subject is very relevant and is packaged in the most entertaining way. Since this is the first time I will be working with Rajkumar, I am super excited as we begin our shoot soon. 'Badhaai Ho' has been one of my favourites and it feels amazing to take this franchise forward," Bhumi said

at the time when the film was announced.

"Badhaai Do" is written by the writers of "Badhaai Ho", Akshat Ghildial and Suman Adhikary. Harshvardhan Kulkarni, who helmed "Hunrrrr" in 2015, will direct "Badhaai Do".

The first part "Badhaai Ho", directed by Amit Sharma, revolves around an aging couple, played by Neena Gupta and Gajraj Rao, who deal with a case of accidental pregnancy. Ayushmann Khurrana featured as their son.

\*\*\*

### Malaika turns 47: Happy birthday my fool, says Arjun Kapoor

Malaika Arora celebrated her 47th birthday recently, and rumoured boyfriend Arjun Kapoor had a mushy post on Instagram for her.

Arjun posted an image of Malaika in tracksuit, pouting and posing next to her dog.

"Happy birthday my fool," he wrote as caption.

Arjun and Malaika are yet to make an official announcement about their relationship but the two are often spotted at dinner dates, parties and film shows.

Arjun will next be seen in "Bhoot Police", helmed by Pawan Kripalani, who is known for directing thrillers like "Phobia" and "Ragini MMS".

He will also be seen opposite Rakul Preet Singh in a rom-com. and his film with Parineeti Chopra, "Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar", is also ready for release.

\*\*\*

### Preity Zinta: Missing those carefree days when pandemics were in history books

Preity Zinta misses the days when pandemic was a word in textbooks and safety was taken for granted.

Preity's new Instagram image has her kissing husband Gene Goodenough. "Missing those carefree days when Pandemics were in history books and we took our life, safety and health for granted and roamed around as free birds. Bring back those days," she wrote as caption.

Recently, Preity joked about becoming an expert at taking Covid-19 tests. The actress is currently in the UAE to support her cricket team Kings XI Punjab in the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), and she posted an Instagram video of her getting tested for coronavirus.

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### Radhika Madan hits Shaktimaan mode

Radhika Madan, who is known for the funny captions she gives to her social media posts, has made a hilarious revelation.

In a new Instagram picture, Radhika sits dressed in a sports bra and ripped pants.

For the caption, she borrowed a dialogue from the popular nineties tele-series "Shaktimaan".

"Gangadhar hi Shaktimaan hai," she wrote.

"Shaktimaan" narrates the adventures of the fictional superhero of the same name that Mukesh Khanna essayed in the blockbuster series that aired on Doordarshan from 1997 and 2005.

On the acting front, Radhika was last seen in "Angrezi Medium" and will next be seen in Kunal Deshmukh's "Shiddat", co-starring Mohit Raina, Diana Penty and Sunny Kaushal. (IANS)

## Shalini Kapoor is waiting to make comeback on TV with a mother's role

**T**V and film actress, Shalini Kapoor says when people ask her why hasn't she been doing much of TV since '*Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum*', she tells them that she is waiting for the right role.

Now, Shalini, who has also acted in shows like '*Mahadev*', '*Qubool Hai*', '*Swaragini*' and few films, says she has found the right role for herself. "Every era in TV ushered in a different trend and theme," says Shalini. She adds, "Once Gujarati shows were a hit, then Punjabi themes ruled shows, now I think the era is where showmakers are casting the mother as the central character in their shows."

Calling a mother as "a symbol of strength patience and love, besides a lot of other things," Shalini says is glad that the TV industry has thought of this trend too. "It's heartening to see that show makers thought about mothers and about making them the central figure in the current shows. We have to be thankful to them for this."

Shalini says the etching of the mother's character in contemporary TV shows tempts her into wanting one such role for herself. "I too would love to play the role of a strong family matriarch, who is central to the story of the show. That would be an ideal comeback for me right now," she says.

Shalini had played mother to Jhanvi Kapoor in the 2018 film, '*Dhadak*'.



## 'Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum' actor Farnaz Shetty: Raima is thoroughly positive



**F**arnaz Shetty debuted on the small screen with *Khoobsurat* and has gone on to be part of shows like *Veera*, *Balika Vadhu*, *Suryaputra Karn*, *Siddhi Vinayak* and *Waaris* among more. She plays the role of Raima in Star Plus' *Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum*.

Star Plus drama *Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum* has been winning hearts with its relatable storyline and impressive performances. The current track showcases the blooming love between the lead characters Rohit (Karan V Grover) and Sonakshi (Dipika Kakar). But their romantic story comes across a major roadblock with the entry of Rohit's ex-girlfriend Raima, played by Farnaz Shetty. The character that was in a coma until now enters Rohit's life.

Farnaz debuted on the small screen with *Khoobsurat* and has gone on to be part of shows like *Veera*, *Balika Vadhu*, *Suryaputra Karn*, *Siddhi Vinayak* and *Waaris* among more. In an exclusive chat with indianexpress.com, the actor shared that the offer to be a part of *Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum* came as a surprise to her. "Honestly, I was not

expecting something like this to happen. I got a call from the team, and I didn't even take it very seriously. But things just clicked and Sandeep (Sikand) sir really liked me and I got finalised for the part. It just happened," Farnaz told Indian Express.

Interestingly, she hasn't even watched a single episode of the show until then. She stated, "We actors hardly get time to watch television, and I too hadn't watched the serial. However, once when I was shuffling channels, I did notice the show. But as fate would have it, I was on board soon."

Giving more insights into the role, Farnaz Shetty said, "Whenever the third angle in a love story is introduced, it is usually negative. It is someone who tries hard to separate the hero and heroine. But it will be really different with this serial. Raima

is thoroughly positive. She is a happy-go-lucky person, who is bubbly, chirpy and quite restless. Four years back, she met with an accident and owing to Rohit's (Karan) unsuccessful operation, had slipped into a coma. Her mother, who blamed Rohit for her condition, had taken her away but now she has regained consciousness. Rohit, who was deeply in love with Raima, has now moved on with Sonakshi (Dipika), so Raima's re-entry will definitely add a lot of twist in their love story."

The actor also shared that her look in the series would be very different from how women are usually portrayed on screen. She said, "The character won't be saree or salwar-suit clad. She has a completely contemporary look. I am really excited to don this fresh avatar. Usually, on television, we don't see such characters. Also, since she is a patient who's just out of a coma, we will have a respiratory pipe in her nose and she would travel around with an oxygen cylinder. I am sure we haven't seen anything like this before on the small screen."

Actors who have played leads are usually sceptical to take up supporting roles. But Farnaz Shetty has a strong reason to go against the norm. She shared, "I think it all depends on actors. If you find meat in a character and know you can pull it off convincingly, you will never be bothered about being the lead or parallel lead. Also, in *Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum*, Raima is a prominent character and not just a sidekick. She has her own journey, and I am sure people will enjoy watching her."

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Mardi 20 oct - 21.05

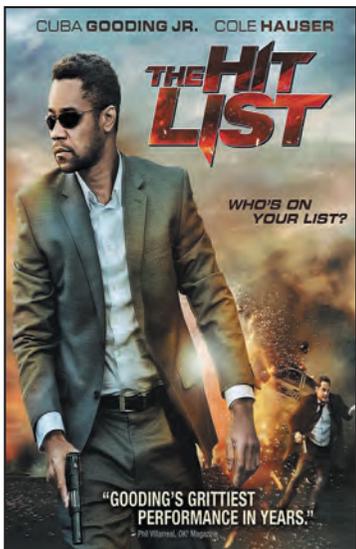
**Anaconda 3**

Avec: David Hasselhoff, Crystal Allen, Ryan McCluskey



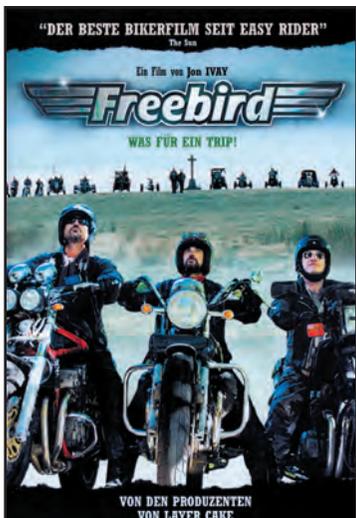
Mercredi 21 oct - 21.10

**The Hit List**



Jeudi 22 oct - 21.15

Avec: Alun ap Brinley, Geoff Bell, Peter Bowles

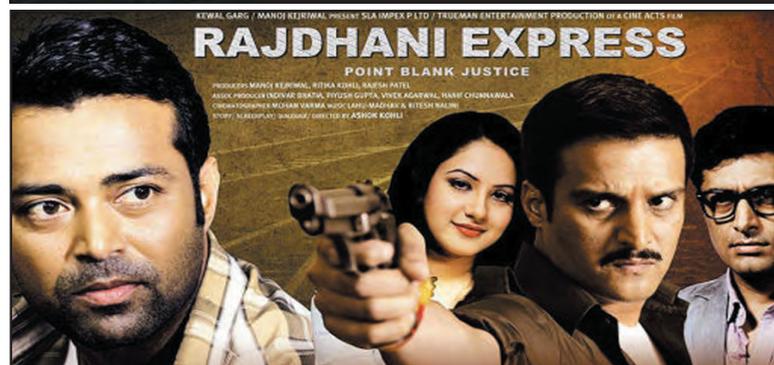


|                            | MBC 1  | MBC 2  | MBC 3   | Cine 12   | Bollywood TV   |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>mardi 27 octobre</b>    | 07.00 Local: People<br>07.21 Local: Sekirite La Route<br>07.40 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL<br>09.45 Local: L'ile Sucree<br>10.30 Mag: Euromaxx<br>11.10 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour<br>12.00 Le Journal<br>12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir<br>13.00 Local: Elle<br>13.47 Local: Proze Dime<br>14.13 Local: Artizan<br>14.37 D.Anime: Astrology<br>15.25 D.Anime: The Minimighty...<br>15.45 D.Anime: Gadget And The...<br>18.00 Live: Samachar<br>18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja<br>19.30 Journal & La Meteo<br>20.15 Local: Priorite Sante<br>20.45 Local: An Eta Dalert<br>21.05 Film: Anaconda 3<br>22.35 Serial: The Blacklist  | 10.00 Serial: CID<br>10.43 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha<br>12.04 Film: Do Bhai<br>Starring: Ashok Kumar, Mala Sinha<br>14.25 DDI Magazine<br>15.00 Mag: Comedy Classes<br>15.21 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee...<br>15.43 Serial: Mooga Manasulu<br>16.06 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal<br>16.32 Serial: Bisaat-E-Dil<br>16.50 Mehandi Tohra Naam Ke<br>17.08 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala<br>18.00 Serial: My Little Princess<br>18.30 DDI Magazine<br>20.00 Local: Tamil Programme<br>20.30 Film: Mere Apne<br>Starring: Meena Kumari, Vinod Khanna, Shatrughan Sinha<br>22.36 DDI Live | 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa<br>06.34 Mag: Arts And Culture<br>07.00 Mag: Voa Connect<br>07.28 Mag: Urban Gardens<br>07.58 Doc: Amazing Gardens<br>08.58 Doc: 2D Innovations<br>10.17 Mag: Washington Forum<br>11.26 Mag: Eco@Africa<br>11.54 Mag: Green Touch<br>12.06 Mag: Arts And Culture<br>12.30 Mag: Voa Connect<br>13.29 Doc: Amazing Gardens<br>14.38 Doc: 360 GEO - S2019 Ep 204<br>15.46 Mag: Washington Forum<br>16.12 Doc: The Wonderful World...<br>17.31 Mag: Arts And Culture<br>17.44 Mag: World Stories<br>18.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto...<br>18.34 Too Good For The Garbage<br>19.00 Student Support Prog...<br>19.34 Mag: Made In Germany | 01.26 Film: Cassidy Red<br>02.57 Serial: Chicago Med<br>03.37 Film: Android Apocalypse<br>05.08 Tele: Tolement Diva<br>06.38 Film: Second In Command<br>09.00 Serial: The Magicians<br>09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant<br>10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor<br>11.00 Serial: Chicago Med<br>12.00 Film: Mike Hammer<br>13.30 Tele: Tolement Diva<br>14.45 Film: Second In Command<br>16.40 Serial: The Magicians<br>17.23 Serial: S.W.A.T<br>18.05 Tele: Soleif Levant<br>19.10 Tele: Tanto Amor<br>20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir<br>20.30 Serial: S.W.A.T<br>21.15 Serial: Emerald City<br>22.45 Tele: Tolement Diva<br>23.36 Serial: The Magicians                      | 08.00 Film: Waqt Ki Awaz<br>12.04 / 19.54 -<br>Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam<br>12.23 / 20.11 -<br>Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala<br>12.44 / 20.32 Radha Krishna<br>13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe<br>13.29 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek<br>13.52 / 21.46 -<br>Bade Acche Lagte Hai<br>14.20 / 21.59 -<br>Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki<br>14.39 / 22.25 -<br>Bitti Business Wali<br>15.30 Film: Yateem<br>Starring: Sunny Deol, Farha Naaz, Danny Denzongpa<br>18.00 Live: Samacher<br>18.30 Kundali Bhagya<br>18.51 Piya Albel   |
| <b>mercredi 28 Octobre</b> | 06.30 Local: La Mauricienne<br>07.30 Local: Priorite Sante<br>09.50 Local: Entractes<br>12.00 Le Journal<br>12.51 Mag: Urban Gardens<br>13.50 Local: An Eta Dalert<br>14.06 Local: Priorite Sante<br>14.30 D.Anime: Raju The Rickshaw<br>14.37 D.Anime: In The Night...<br>14.48 D.Anime: Gadget And The...<br>15.02 D.Anime: Bugsted<br>15.34 D.Anime: Astrology<br>15.46 D.Anime: Gadget And The...<br>17.05 Serial: Grandpa In My Pocket<br>17.30 Mag: Zoboomafooo<br>18.00 Live: Samachar<br>18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja<br>19.30 Journal & La Meteo<br>20.00 Prod: Lottotech<br>21.10 Film: The Hit List<br>22.45 Serial: The Blacklist<br>23.30 Local: Le Journal | 10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha...<br>11.17 Suhani Ek Ladhi<br>12.00 Film: Roti<br>Stars: Rajesh Khanna, Mumtaz<br>15.00 Serial: Comedy Classes<br>15.21 Honaar Soon Mee Hya...<br>15.44 Mooga Manasulu<br>16.10 Apoorva Raagangal<br>16.30 Bisaat-E-Dil<br>16.53 Mehandi Tohra Namam Ke<br>17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala<br>17.33 Serial: Kulvadh<br>18.00 Serial: My Little Princess<br>18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine<br>19.30 DDI Magazine<br>20.00 Programme In Marathi<br>20.30 Film: Baap Janma<br>Starring: Pushkaraj Chirputkar, Sachin Khedekar, Akarsh Khurana     | 06.00 Rev: The Global Auto...<br>06.34 Too Good For The Garbage<br>07.00 Mag: Check In<br>07.29 Mag: Urban Gardens<br>08.00 Doc: Garden Party<br>08.54 Doc: 2D Innovations<br>10.17 Doc: High-Speed Internet...<br>11.36 Too Good For The Garbage<br>12.03 Mag: Check In<br>12.31 Mag: Urban Gardens<br>12.36 Mag: Made In Germany<br>13.02 Doc: Garden Party<br>14.53 Mag: Close Up<br>15.19 Doc: High-Speed Internet...<br>16.33 Open Univ: Student Support<br>17.00 Live From Jumma Masjid -<br>Special Programme On The Occasion Of Eid Meelad-Un-Nabi<br>20.05 Doc: Olivi's Garden<br>20.31 Doc: The World From Above                                | 00.20 Serial: S.W.A.T<br>01.25 Serial: Emerald City<br>02.48 Serial: Chicago Med<br>03.29 Film: Sept Ans Au Tibet<br>05.39 Tele: Tolement Diva<br>06.30 Serial: S.W.A.T<br>07.11 Film: I Think My Babysitter's<br>09.00 Serial: The Magicians<br>09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant<br>10.35 Serial: Chicago Med<br>11.16 Tele: Tanto Amor<br>11.38 Film: Sept Ans Au Tibet<br>13.48 Tele: Tolement Diva<br>14.45 Film: I Think My Babysitter's<br>16.43 Serial: The Magicians<br>17.26 Serial: S.W.A.T<br>18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant<br>19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor<br>20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir<br>20.30 Serial: Seal Team<br>21.15 Film: The Living And The Bead | 08.00 Film: Yateem<br>12.04 / 20.06 -<br>Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam<br>12.26 / 20.26 -<br>Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala<br>12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna<br>13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe<br>13.31 / 21.31 - Zindagi Ki Mehek<br>13.56 / 21.46 -<br>Bade Acche Lagte Hai<br>14.20 / 21.59 - Jai Kanhaiya Lal...<br>14.36 / 22.25 - Bitti Business...<br>15.25 Film: Samraat<br>Starring: Dharmendra, Jeetendra, Hema Malini<br>18.00 Live: Samacher<br>18.30 Kumkum Bhagya<br>18.51 Piya Albel<br>19.13 Mere Angne Mein<br>19.35 Yeh Pyaar Nahi Toh Kya.. |
| <b>jeudi 29 octobre</b>    | 06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion<br>07.00 Local: Fam Rakonte<br>09.45 Local: Prodkision Alimanter<br>10.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today<br>11.00 Mag: A Question Of Science<br>12.00 Le Journal<br>12.20 Autour De L'immigration<br>12.50 Mag: Urban Gardens<br>14.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil<br>14.30 D.Anime: Raju The Rickshaw<br>14.59 D.Anime: Bugsted<br>15.01 D.Anime: Nutri Ventures<br>15.32 D.Anime: The Minimighty...<br>15.40 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier<br>15.53 D.Anime: Gadget Andd The...<br>18.00 Live: Samachar<br>18.30 Jamai Raja<br>18.55 Chaar Dham Tirth Yatra<br>19.30 Le Journal<br>20.15 Film: Namaste England<br>22.25 Serial: The Blacklist                 | 10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani<br>12.05 Film: Raja Jani<br>Starring Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Prem Nath<br>14.18 DDI Magazine<br>15.00 Serial: Comedy Classes<br>15.21 Honaar Soon Mee Hya Gharchi<br>15.43 Mooga Manasulu<br>16.06 Apoorva Raagangal<br>16.29 Bisaat-E-Dil<br>16.51 Mehandi Tohra Naam Ke<br>17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala<br>18.00 Serial: My Little Princess<br>18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da Devi Maiya<br>20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes<br>21.00 Film: Fired Up!<br>Starring Eric Christian Olsen, Nicholas D'Agosto, Sarah Roemer                | 06.00 Mag: Motorweek<br>06.25 Mag: Green Touch<br>07.26 Doc: Garden Party<br>08.49 Doc: Tarzan, Aux Sources...<br>11.30 Mag: Motorweek<br>11.55 Mag: Green Touch<br>12.29 Mag: Arts 21<br>12.58 Doc: Garden Party<br>15.13 Mag: Business Africa<br>17.27 Doc: The Tyrannosaurus...<br>18.00 Mag: Eco India<br>18.30 Mag: Green Touch<br>19.05 Open Univ: Student Support<br>19.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today<br>20.05 Doc: Black Is The Colour<br>21.10 Doc: 360 Geo<br>22.02 Mag: Strictly Street<br>22.29 Doc: Bombs In The Sea<br>23.56 Mag: Eco India<br>00.22 Mag: Green Touch<br>00.30 Mag: Shift  | 00.20 Serial: Seal Team<br>01.23 Film: The Living And The...<br>03.01 Serial: Chicago Med<br>05.13 Tele: Tolement Diva<br>06.04 Serial: Seal Team<br>06.42 Film: Mike Hammer: Le Carnet Fatal<br>09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant<br>10.35 Tele: Tant Amor<br>11.00 Serial: Chicago Med<br>12.00 Film: Android Apocalypse<br>13.32 Tele: Tolement Diva<br>14.45 Film: Mike Hammer: Le Carnet Fatal<br>16.46 Serial: The Magicians<br>17.27 Serial: Seal Team<br>18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant<br>19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor<br>20.08 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir<br>20.30 Serial: Seal Team<br>21.15 Film: Freebird   | 08.00 Film: Samraat<br>12.05 / 19.54 -<br>Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam<br>12.26 / 20.11 -<br>Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala<br>12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna<br>13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe<br>13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek<br>13.56 / 21.46 -<br>Bade Acche Lagte Hai<br>14.20 / 21.59 -<br>Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ke<br>14.36 / 22.25 -<br>Bitti Business Wali<br>15.20 Film: Rajdhani Express<br>Starring: Leander Paes, Sudhanshu Pandey, Priyanshu Chatterjee<br>18.30 Kundali Bhagya<br>18.52 Piya Albel<br>19.17 Mere Angne Mein                      |



Jeudi 15 oct - 15.20

Stars: Leander Paes, Sudhanshu Pandey, Priyanshu Chatterjee



Jeudi 22 oct - 20.15

Stars: Parineeti Chopra, Arjun Kapoor, Satish Kaushik



# Trump v Biden: a duel of contrasting masculinities

*The 2020 US election is a battle of two masculinities - one authoritarian, the other paternalistic*



Although both protagonists are white, old, affluent men, they embody distinct and competing masculine identities. Photo - Etienne Laurent/EPA

The second and last US presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden was another round in a duel between two very distinct forms of masculinity. An excellent moderator, Kristen Welker, combined with rule changes that reduced the candidates' ability to interrupt each other, toned down the vitriol and helped create a calmer debate, with more room for discussion of policy.

But this didn't change the fundamental differences between the two men. Although both protagonists are white, old, affluent men, they embody distinct and competing masculine identities: one authoritarian and the other paternalistic.

For this debate, the Trump campaign recognised the need for the president to show more self-restraint, while Biden stuck to his script as a more conventional politician.

US voters have to choose between two profoundly different versions of manhood in a race being enacted in highly gendered ways. By repeatedly defining himself as a "strong man leader" and demeaning Biden's so-called "weak" manhood, Trump has turned the election into a masculinity contest.

## Trump: authoritarian

As in 2016, Trump's campaign is asserting a strong, authoritarian masculinity as a key plank of his re-election strategy. This was illustrated by the maskless Trump standing defiantly on the White House balcony on return from his hospitalisation with Covid-19.

Choreographed for early evening TV newscasts, this theatrical performance sought to reinforce Trump's masculine image of strong leadership supported by his claims to be a "warrior" now "immune from the virus". This claim to masculine power - to have beaten the virus - plays well with those voters who believe that masculinity, particularly white masculinity, is under attack.

At a rally in Sanford, Florida in early October, Trump re-emphasised how powerful he was now feeling. The warm-up

music was the song Macho Man by Village People and the message was clear: a vote for Trump is a vote for strong and decisive leadership which is necessary to "make America great again" and to stop what the Trump campaign calls the "socialist" tendencies of the Democrats.

Trump's campaign places a premium on appearing strong and supposedly never showing weakness or vulnerability. Trump likes to be in control, to be upbeat and positive at all times. His masculine authoritarianism prioritises dominance, aggression and winning at all costs - regardless of the rules. This was clear in the first presidential debate when Trump interrupted Biden at least 128 times in 90 minutes, yelling insults at his opponent.

The Atlantic recently reported that Trump once dismissed military self-sacrifice as being for "suckers" and "losers" to further assert his authoritarian masculinity. This same "tough guy", often overblown narrative shapes his response to the pandemic, including his disdain for mask wearing and social distancing, which he and his supporters have dismissed as "unmanly".

## Biden: paternalistic

Biden has not made masculinity an explicit theme of his campaign, but the contrast to Trump is unmistakable. He presents an understated, "old school" US masculinity characterised by caution, thoughtfulness and benevolent leadership. His paternalistic masculinity emphasises traditional qualities such as trustworthiness, reliability, integrity, decency and morality.

Biden's masculinity is premised on working hard, playing fair, having character, respecting science and knowledge, and behaving honourably: a paternalistic form of masculinity claiming to protect women and children.

As a long-serving senator, he positions himself as a seasoned protector of the nation in its time of need. By no means an ideologue, Biden is a pragmatic politician who knows how to persuade, charm and

negotiate compromise. Seeking to bring America together, he speaks of a less-polarised future when politicians could work together to create a consensus-based politics.

As a family man scarred by personal tragedies such as the death of his son from cancer, on the campaign trail Biden has displayed an authentic compassion with voters grappling with Covid-19. He promises a future that is more familiar, stable and safe, returning to a sense of calm normality.

## Playing the man card

Leadership in public spheres has historically been viewed as the province of men. This is certainly the case in the US, where all 45 presidents have been men, 44 of them white. For the first 100 years of the presidency, only white men had the vote.

Men's monopoly of the presidency has frequently meant that election campaigns have turned into masculinity contests. Since the 1960s, from Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan onwards, Republican candidates have perpetuated a masculine mystique around the presidency - the myth that men bring some kind of special magic to the office. Repeatedly positioning their party candidates as "strong men", Republicans have sought to undermine the masculinity of their Democratic opponents, depicting them as weak and soft on issues like crime and foreign policy.

In its historical context, Trump's intensified focus on men and masculinity simply continues the Republican tradition of playing "the man card" in presidential election campaigns. This masculine ploy appeals to the gendered expectations and longings of some of those they lead. It also perpetuates another Republican myth: that real - white - men don't vote Democrat.

David Collinson  
Lancaster University

Jeff Hearn  
University of Huddersfield

Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor



## Anything Can Be Overcome

Even when it seems like you have nowhere left to turn, there is a solution waiting for you. Always.

The journey that each human being makes through earthly existence can have hardship as often as it is touched by joy. When we encounter adversity, the stress we feel can erode our optimism, eventually convincing us that the issues we face cannot be overcome. In truth, there is no situation so dire, no challenge so great, and no choice so bewildering that it cannot be overcome. Though we may believe that all avenues have been closed to us or that our most conscientious efforts will come to naught, we are never without feasible options. The best course of action may be veiled in doubt, but it is there. When we are honest with ourselves with regard to this simple fact, we can overcome anything because we will never stop looking for a solution to the challenges before us.

Self-trust coupled with a sturdy plan is the ultimate antidote to adversity's tendency to inspire disillusionment in the human mind. As difficult as the obstacle seems, it is no match for the love of a supportive universe that has been a part of your life since the day of your birth and will be with you forevermore. Try not to be misguided by your fear as this gives rise to the notion that there are problems without solutions. If you believe in your capabilities and dedicate yourself to the creation of some form of resolution, you will be surprised to discover that paths that were once closed to you miraculously open. Even if all you can do is change your perspective to turn an impediment into an opportunity to grow, you will have found the hope that is an inherent element of all hardship.

Remember that your destiny is a product of your own creation. Even when it seems you have nowhere left to turn, there is a solution waiting for you. The only insurmountable obstacles are the ones you create in your own mind -- and these can only exert power over you if you let them. Uncertainty will always be a part of your existence, but perseverance and mindfulness will never fail to see you through to the other side of hardship where joy can thrive. Try and remember that no matter what life places at your feet, there is absolutely no situation that cannot be resolved with time, love, and friendship.