

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." --William Arthur Ward

Interview : Yvan Martial, Journaliste

"Ce gouvernement ML dispose de quatre autres années pour creuser davantage sa... tombe

... mais avec l'électorat tellement inintelligent qui est le nôtre, nous sommes sûrs que Pravind Jugnauth sera brillamment plébiscité en 2024/25"

+ Voir Pages 7-8-9



Mauritius Investment Corporation and the bailout of distressed companies



Ensuring That Every Rupee Is Accountable

By Mrinal Roy + See Page 4



Locked up and still free...

Par Nita Chicooree-Mercier + Voir Page 18

Protests: Duties and rights



'Democracy and dissent go hand in hand... (But) Occupying public places like Shaheen Bagh for protests is not acceptable... Authorities have to act on their own and cannot hide behind courts'

By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee + See Page 3

Alternative Government

What started off as a Paul Bérenger-inspired initiative in favour of setting the stage for a "gouvernement d'alternance" seems to be gathering speed if we go by the latest joint press conference of the leaders of the Labour Party (LP), MMM, PMSD and with the Leader of the Opposition in attendance. The next step agreed and announced, last Saturday, will take place on October 12 with a meeting of the same leaders for discussions on the modalities of a LP-MMM-PMSD alliance, the distribution of electoral tickets amongst the three parties and of constitutional posts in an eventual government, as well as an electoral programme to be agreed upon – the latter being the least determining factor for winning elections in Mauritius.

Unless the political circumstances were to change following a Supreme Court judgement in favour of opposition parties' challenge of the results of the 2019 elections or in specific constituencies, that would trigger a different political dynamic in the country, the haste to go towards putting in place an electoral alliance four years ahead of the next elections may come as a surprise to most political observers and the people generally. It could however be surmised that that initiative is being in the main driven by the leaders of the LP and MMM with a view to pre-empt any eventual challenge to their leadership at the head of their respective parties – yet another of the leaders' political ambitions trumping over their parties' interests as happened at the fateful 2014 general elections with their controversial Second Republic agenda.

Political expediency will in the circumstances surely have the better of the hitches that could come in the way of an electoral alliance between the three parties, essentially a) the Ramgoolam factor, which will consist in assuaging the reluctance of the MMM electorate to go for yet another alliance with a Ramgoolam-led Labour Party after the bitter experience of 2014; b) the composition of the front bench of an eventual LP-MMM-PMSD government and the candidates to constitutional posts what with the demands of our multi-ethnic society and of the electoral reservoir of both the three parties; and c) even if the electoral pro-

gramme does not weigh heavily in electoral outcomes, agreement on major public policy issues, besides personality clashes, are what undo government alliances. Thus, we have yet to know whether the LP and the MMM are on the same wavelength about the energy issue, the conditionalities to be attached to the disbursement of the billions of public funds by the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd to distressed large companies in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, or whether they will elect to water down their ideological stance as regards these issues – both of which have received no mention during the joint press conference of the leaders of the LP, MMM and PMSD, who have instead chosen to voice their disagreement on issues of lesser importance.

But there is more. As mentioned by Lindsay Rivière in a recent interview to this paper, Navin Ramgoolam needs time to constitute a 'Hindu alternative' to Pravind Jugnauth, and in this regard he would not want to be seen stuck in an alliance with two parties which draw their support from mostly the minorities. All the noises from the street protests held in the wake of the Wakashio shipwreck, the vociferations on social media or published by a section of the press do not seem to be making a dent in the power base of the MSM – from Constituency No. 4 to 14 and that elects parties/alliances to power. It would require much more to overwhelm the present dispensation, and if anything they might prove to be the best agents of an MSM-led alliance next time round.

A lot of water will surely flow under the bridge from now on to 2024, but the way things are going, it is to be hoped that the proposed alliance will make fruitful use of the time – four years – to come up with a concrete vision of the future of the country with agreement on core issues as mentioned above, which must then be articulated clearly and in one voice to the people. When that day dawns and the latter can look forward to a real transformation of the country's governance and an assurance about the autonomy of its institutions, the people may then be prepared for the change. But this remains to be seen.

The Conversation

COVID-19: examining theories for Africa's low death rates

The gap between predictions of COVID-19 deaths in Africa and what has actually happened is staggering

As the threat of a COVID-19 pandemic emerged earlier this year, many felt a sense of apprehension about what would happen when it reached Africa. Concerns over the combination of overstretched and underfunded health systems and the existing load of infectious and non-infectious diseases often led to it being talked about in apocalyptic terms.

However, it has not turned out quite that way. On September 29th, the world passed the one million reported deaths mark (the true figure will of course be higher). On the same day, the count for Africa was a cumulative total of 35,954.

Africa accounts for 17% of the global population but only 3.5% of the reported global COVID-19 deaths. All deaths are important, we should not discount apparently low numbers, and of course data collected over such a wide range of countries will be of variable quality, but the gap between predictions and what has actually happened is staggering. There has been much discussion on what accounts for this.

As leads of the COVID-19 team in the African Academy of Sciences, we have followed the unfolding events and various explanations put forward. The emerging picture is that in many African countries, transmission has been higher but severity and mortality much lower than originally predicted based on experience in China and Europe.

We argue that Africa's much younger population explains a very large part of the apparent difference. Some of the remaining gap is probably due to under reporting of events but there are a number of other plausible explanations. These range from climatic differences, pre-existing immunity, genetic factors and behavioural differences.

Given the enormous variability in conditions across a continent – with 55 member states – the exact contribution of any one factor in a particular environment is likely to vary. But the bottom line is that what appeared at first to be a



Minister Jackson Mthembu assesses government's response to COVID-19 at Harry Gwala District Municipality, South Africa 5 September 2020 - Photo: healthpolicy-watch.news

mystery looks less puzzling as more and more research evidence emerges.

The importance of age

The most obvious factor for the low death rates is the population age structure. Across multiple countries the risk of dying of COVID-19 for those aged 80 years or more is around a hundred times that of people in their twenties.

This can best be appreciated with a specific example. As of September 30th, the UK had reported 41,980 COVID-19 specific deaths while Kenya, by contrast, had reported 691. The population of the UK is around 66 million with a median age of 40 compared with Kenya's population of 51 million with a median age of 20 years.

Corrected for population size the death toll in Kenya would have been expected to be around 32,000. However if one also corrects for population structure (assumes that the age specific death rates in the UK apply to the population structure of Kenya), we would expect around 5,000 deaths. There is still a big difference between 700 and 5,000; what might account for the remaining gap?

Other possible contributors

One possibility is the failure to identify and record deaths.

Kenya, as with most countries, initially had little testing capacity and specific death registration is challenging.

Kevin Marsh, University of Oxford;
Moses Alobo, African Academy of Sciences

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Protests: Duties and rights

'Democracy and dissent go hand in hand... (But) Occupying public places like Shaheen Bagh for protests is not acceptable... Authorities have to act on their own and cannot hide behind courts'



The Shaheen Bagh protest went on for 100 days and was a sit-in by women and children relaying each other, most of whom had no clue what they were protesting about. Photo - indiatvnews.com

“The Shaheen Bagh protesters blocked a nodal highway linking New Delhi to one of the two important adjoining townships, Noida, the other being Gurugram, officially Gurugram. Journeys that used to take commuters less than one hour either way were now taking four to five hours, and one can imagine the inconvenience that this was causing. Initially the protesters didn't allow even ambulances and school buses to go through, although afterwards they gave way. Unimaginable callousness, putting at risk lives and the future of children...”

Frequently some of our legislators have referred to judgements made by the Supreme Court of India to support their position on certain issues. The ruling of the Indian Supreme Court a few days ago in what came to be known as the Shaheen Bagh protest will no doubt be of interest not only to them but to the general public as well. Of course, it will be for legal minds to go into the details of the judgement when it becomes available and possibly consider any element that might be of relevance or help in the local context in future, if at all deemed necessary. Nevertheless, from a layman's perspective there are some salient points that should retain our attention.

Needless to say the media in India has been awash with comments and analyses in the wake of the judgement. Two points were considered to be key highlights:

1. That people have a democratic right to protest;
2. That in so doing, however, they must not cause inconvenience to other citizens for an indefinite period.

All laymen will surely salute these as logical and commonsensical, although it's like stating the obvious - but framed within a Supreme Court judgement, they have broader implications, as posted by Times Digital, **'What the top court said:**

- 1 No person or group of persons can block public places or carriageways to demonstrate or express dissent.
- 1 Authorities should remove such blockade.
- 1 Protest should be at designated places.
- 1 Occupation of public places or roads by demonstrators, which cause inconvenience to a large number of people and violate their rights, is not permissible under law.
- 1 Right to peaceful protest is a constitutional right and it has to be respected. But that does not mean agitating people should adopt means and modes of protest that was used against colonial rulers during the struggle for independence.
- 1 In today's time, social media can be used to create a highly polarised situation, which was seen at Shaheen Bagh protests.'

The Shaheen Bagh protest was held earlier this year, ostensibly against the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) which had been passed by the Indian Parliament and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). It went on for 100

days and was a sit-in by women and children relaying each other, most of whom had no clue what they were protesting about, when some journalists asked them pointed questions. Some famed film stars of Bollywood who rallied in Mumbai to express support were similarly ignorant. One of them was asked what was the CAA and why he was protesting; he had no clue about the CAA, and answered that he came along to join his coterie.

From my contacts in New Delhi who lived not far from the site of the protest (an area which I know) I learnt that the protesters were being paid Rs500 rupees each per night, and that food was being prepared and taken to be distributed there 24/7. There were even posts on social media at the time showing food being cooked and packed for delivery.

The Shaheen Bagh protesters blocked a nodal highway linking New Delhi to one of the two important adjoining



“Several protests that have taken place around the world in recent times have been associated with hooliganism, violence and deaths of innocent civilians, similarly causing inconvenience and hardships to the common man. At least we can be sober about our record in the two protests that took place here in the wake of the Wakashio shipwreck, in the sense that they were organized for Saturday afternoon and not on working days which would have caused great disturbance. They were also orderly and by and large peaceful, although we could have been spared some of the verbal violence...”

townships, Noida, the other being Gurugram, officially Gurugram. Journeys that used to take commuters less than one hour either way were now taking four to five hours, and one can imagine the inconvenience that this was causing. Initially the protesters didn't allow even ambulances and school buses to go through, although afterwards they gave way. Unimaginable callousness, putting at risk lives and the future of children.

Obviously, the impact on economic activity was concerning, the reason for welcoming the Supreme Court decision by Dr Nasir, President Shaheen Bagh Market association, who said, 'We welcome the SC verdict, around 200 shops were shut down and 2000 workers were jobless. All the shops are of branded items. We have faced a loss of crores.'

Tellingly, the judges opined: 'Democracy and dissent go hand in hand... (But) Occupying public places like Shaheen Bagh for protests is not acceptable... Authorities have to act on their own and cannot hide behind courts... Public places cannot be occupied indefinitely like during the Shaheen Bagh protests.'

This was in response to the petition which 'sought direction from the court on the right to protest, namely 'It is disappointing that the state machinery is muted and a silent spectator to hooliganism and vandalism of the protesters who are threatening the existential efficacy of the democracy and the rule of law and had already taken the law and order situation in their own hand.'

That there was more to the Shaheen Bagh protest and other so-called anti-CAA riots that took place in New Delhi has been amply exposed in a book by a Supreme Court lawyer, Smt Monika Arora titled *'Delhi Riots 2020: The Untold Story'*, wherein she has presented in detail the evidence she has amassed about how they were planned and orchestrated by forces which aimed at destabilizing the country.

Several protests that have taken place around the world in recent times have been associated with hooliganism, violence and deaths of innocent civilians, similarly causing inconvenience and hardships to the common man. At least we can be sober about our record in the two protests that took place here in the wake of the Wakashio shipwreck, in the sense that they were organized for Saturday afternoon and not on working days which would have caused great disturbance. They were also orderly and by and large peaceful, although we could have been spared some of the verbal violence, which some justified by reference to some behaviours in Parliament and statements by some top political leaders.

For one, two wrongs do not make a right, and secondly it should remind public figures that, as has been repeatedly said, they have a duty and a responsibility to lead by example. Perhaps if they did that, then, along with the relatively peaceful nature of our local protests, we could be an example to the wider world. A long shot, but one can never know...

Mauritius Investment Corporation and the bailout of distressed companies

Ensuring That Every Rupee Is Accountable



Mrinal Roy

MIC must ensure that bailout terms provide a fair return, funds are secured and it truly becomes a potent instrument of transformational change to help recast the ownership of prime assets in the country

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought the whole world on its knees. It has caused an unprecedented health crisis, a high death toll and costly socio-economic fallouts. More than nine months after the coronavirus outbreak, the world is still fighting an uphill battle against the virus. The closure of frontiers and

the enforcement of diverse restrictions by countries across the world to contain the spread of Covid-19 have disrupted supply chains and trade flows, sapped economies, employment and the livelihoods of people.

It is in times of crisis that the mettle, competence and management acumen of governments and its leaders are tested. In Mauritius tens of billions of Rupees are being spent to manage the Covid-19 crisis in a context where government revenue is significantly reduced and GDP is expected to contract by 13%. Total government debt stood at 73.4% of GDP as at June 2020. The trade deficit for 2020 is forecast at around Rs 123.3 billion.

The current state of the Covid-19 pandemic in the world marked by new spikes of infection in Europe and other countries across the world and the enforcement of new lockdowns and diverse restrictions has heightened uncertainties and impacts the decisions of governments, economic actors and consumers. In a context of rising prices of essential consumer goods and precarity, consumers in Mauritius are in a prudent spending mode in order to tide over the difficult times ahead. Supermarkets are multiplying their sales campaigns to wean consumers



Photo - channelnews.mu

“Government must however first put its house in order to ensure that every Rupee is judiciously spent. The country cannot afford the questionable spending largesse of a whopping Rs 381 million contract between the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority and the Liverpool Football Club for two minutes of advertisement to promote Mauritius during every Liverpool match over three years at a time when our borders are closed. It is evident that this important sum of scarce funds can be better used in these challenging times...”



“The first commitment of Rs 1 billion by the MIC to LUX* Resorts & Hotels have already raised legitimate interrogations in the press by professionals in this specialized field questioning the rationale of the terms agreed and highlighting the unfairness of the deal for the MIC. This should be a jolting wake-up call for government and people at large. This is the more so as the MIC has an obvious negotiating leverage when bailing out a distressed company with the support of substantial funds. This will not do...”

with significant eye opening price discounts under the nose of government consumer protection services.

In such a grim economic context, it is therefore essential that government manages public finances with rigour and competence, the more so as the Covid-19 crisis is expected to be a long drawn one and likely to continue into 2021 until a safe, effective and affordable vaccine is available for dissemination across the world. Government will therefore have to continue to provide, where necessary, wage assistance support and other support measures to economic actors to help them tide over the crisis which will put additional strain on limited government finances.

No to spending largesse

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has forecast that the impact Covid-19 on the major economies will be four times worse than the 2008 global financial crisis. We must therefore realize as a nation that we are in this difficult battle together. It is a time for unequivocal solidarity. We must individually and collectively cushion some of the impact of the crisis ourselves. The government cannot be expected to finance all and sundry indiscriminately and grapple with the multiple challenges of the Covid-19 crisis on its own. This is the time for us to ‘ask what we can do for our country’. We above all need to get our priorities right and have clarity of thought in these difficult times. Other stakeholders having the means and resources to do so must contribute to alleviate the burden on government finances and help the most vulnerable and destitute.

Government must however first put its house in order to ensure that every Rupee is judiciously spent. The country cannot afford the questionable spending largesse of a whopping Rs 381 million contract between the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority and the Liverpool Football Club for two minutes of advertisement to promote Mauritius during every Liverpool match over three years at a time when our borders are closed. It is evident that this important sum of scarce funds can be better used in these challenging times.

Similarly, questions were recently raised regarding the tenders for the procurement of essential medicine and protective gear during the Covid-19 lockdown period. It is therefore important that government ensures that all procurement tenders and procedures involving government expenditure are transparent, accountable and above all value for money. It is also high time to put an end through above board tender procedures to the whispering campaign of innuendos and allegations which have plagued government procurement tenders.

It is equally important that the Rs 60 billion provided by the Bank of Mauritius to the government for economic stabilization in the context of the adverse fallouts of the Covid-19 crisis be judiciously used in a transparent and accountable manner. There is therefore an imperative need for regular reports on the use of these funds to be made available for public scrutiny and comment.

Game changer

However, what is much more important to monitor and oversee is the fund of up to US \$ 2 billion (about Rs 80 billion) drawn from the foreign exchange reserves of the Bank of Mauritius provided to the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC) to assist important and viable companies in Mauritius, which are financially distressed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. MIC will *inter alia* invest in large and medium-sized enterprises having a minimum annual turnover of Rs100 million. The key objective of the MIC is to invest these funds through a number of investment tools including both equity and quasi-equity instruments and manage them with a view of building a value base for the citizens of Mauritius.

It is therefore imperative to lift the opacity which shrouds the decisions of the MIC involving substantial bailout funds to support large distressed companies.

If judiciously managed, the MIC investments could be a game changer in the shareholding of prime assets in the country.

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'They knew and they covered it up': Harris lands punches over Trump's record in only VP debate



Kamala Harris and Mike Pence spat over the Trump administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic. Photo - abc.net.au

Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris repeatedly attacked incumbent Mike Pence over the Trump administration's record during their one and only televised debate on Wednesday evening, regularly rebuking him for interrupting her. "Mr Vice President, I'm speaking. I'm speaking," the California senator said, forcing Mr Pence to quieten down, reports The Independent.

Overall, Ms Harris appeared to narrowly win the night, especially when she called the Trump administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic the biggest failure ever by an American administration. But she declined to answer a question on whether she and Mr Biden intend to expand the Supreme Court by adding liberal justices should they win and Democrats take over the Senate.

As the encounter drew to a

close, Mr Pence faltered badly when he would not say clearly that Mr Trump would accept the outcome of the election if he loses.

After returning to the White House in dramatic fashion following his short hospital stay, Donald Trump continues to insist he is feeling much better and has "beaten" the coronavirus. The US president is now vowing to resume campaigning and is already previewing a final re-election message that will see him downplay a virus that has killed at least 210,000 Americans.

Mr Trump claimed in a new video released Wednesday night to have found a "cure" for coronavirus even though he was talking about a drug only intended to tackle his symptoms and that left him short of breath and with lower-than-normal blood oxygen levels while hospi-

talised. After spending parts of four days in a military hospital, the president essentially said his single experience of taking the drug proves it is effective.

He went so far as to call his contracting the disease "a blessing from God." The drug, which he was given during his weekend stay at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, is called Regeneron and is considered a therapeutic medication - not a vaccine. "I view these... to me, it wasn't therapeutic," Mr Trump said standing near the Oval Office, to which he returned on Wednesday. "I call that a cure."

In the UK, the chief executive of NHS England has warned of the strain facing the health service after a "disturbing" increase in coronavirus infection rates and hospital admissions. The number of UK cases rose by 14,162 on Wednesday, with a further 70 deaths recorded, while the number of Covid-19 patients in hospital in England has risen by nearly 1,000 in a single week.

Health secretary Matt Hancock warned that the virus was spreading "quite sharply" among the over-60s, an age group more prone to serious illness or death from the disease. Amanda Pritchard, the chief operating officer of NHS England, has spoken of the toll taken on "traumatised" frontline staff, many of whom have lost family, friends or colleagues to the virus.

Hathras case: Rs 500 million sourced from Mauritius by PFI to incite violence, say sources India

In yet another twist to the Hathras case, the Uttar Pradesh Police has alleged that funding of around Rs 50 crore (Rs 500 M) was sourced by the Popular Front of India (PFI) from Mauritius to incite casteist violence in Hathras.

The Enforcement Directorate had earlier said that they will seek all files from the UP Police and look into the financial angles in the case.

On Monday night, four persons who were on their way to Hathras from Delhi were apprehended from Mathura. They were found to have links with PFI, UP Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said. The four have now been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and for sedition. They have been remanded to 14 days judicial custody.

The four men, including a Delhi-based journalist from Kerala, were arrested in Mathura when they were going to Hathras to meet the family of the 19-year-old



#HathrasCasteHatePlot

woman who died on September 29. They have been identified as Siddique Kappan from Malappuram, Atiq-ur Rehman from Muzaffarnagar, Masood Ahmed from Bahraich and Alam from Rampur.

The Popular Front of India has released a statement saying, "these are baseless allegations".

Meanwhile, an FIR was also filed against Congress leader Shyoraj Jivan Valmiki who was caught on camera allegedly inciting caste riots.

The head of the 19-year-old Dalit victim's village earlier today made shocking revelations in connection with her alleged gang rape and murder. He alleged that the victim and the main accused were in constant touch over the phone. He also said that the victim's family had objected to their alleged relationship.

As of now, the three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by Under Secretary (Home) of UP government has got an extension of 10 days for the completion of the probe in the case.

Australia partner visas: Immigration law 'to require English test'

Australia will require foreign partners of existing residents to pass an English language test before gaining a permanent visa, its government says. The controversial immigration requirement, if approved by parliament, would apply from mid-2021. It would also force the partners of applicants to prove a level of English proficiency, reports BBC.

Critics have called the change "discriminatory", but the government says it will build "social cohesion".

"We will require an applicant and a sponsor to have met functional level English or to have at least made reasonable efforts to learn English," Immigration Minister Alan Tudge said.

In recent years, Australia's conservative government has called for prospective migrants to face mandatory, rigorous testing on their English language skills.

English proficiency is currently a requirement for some other work and study

visas. Anyone applying for Australian citizenship must also pass an English test.

More than one-fifth of Australia's population speaks a language other than English at home, with the figure above 35% in the largest cities of Sydney and Melbourne.

Why has the Australian government announced this?

Mr Tudge said there were about one million people living in Australia with poor or no English skills, which he argued limited their work and social skills.

He said the new changes would also help protect vulnerable immigrants from controlling partners.

"In some cases, the husband will not want his partner or wife to learn English. And in part that's for control reasons," he said.

He said "reasonable efforts to learn" would constitute an applicant taking about 500 hours of English classes which would be available under a free government programme.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said partners could still arrive on a temporary visa, but once in the country they should learn "Australia's first language" to remain permanently.

What's been the reaction?

Some critics say the requirement is "racist", arguing it targets people from non-Western nations and their partners.

They pointed to language tests used in the infamous "White Australia" policy which effectively prevented non-European immigration to the country from 1901 until the late 1960s.

The Labor opposition said the changes "take us back to the 1950s".

Couples facing the partner application process have told local media the requirement is an "additional burden" to the existing tests.

Currently there is a two-year waiting period for permanent partner visas, and applications start from A\$7,715 (£4,260; \$5,500).

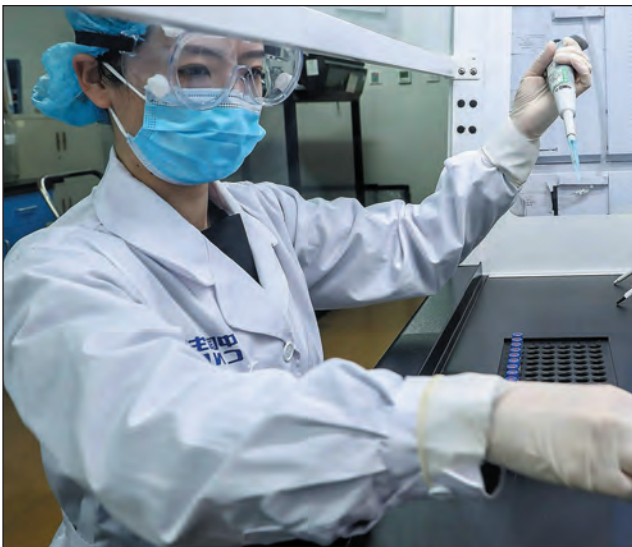
About 40,000 visas were granted in 2017-2018 according to the most recent figures, and there were double that number in pending applications.

According to the 2016 census, more than 300 languages are spoken in Australia.

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Partners will now need to prove their English proficiency to gain a visa. Photo - thefinancialexpress.com.bd



A Sinopharm employee worked on Covid-19 vaccine development in April. The state-owned company has tested the vaccine on over 2,000 people in China and began clinical trials in the United Arab Emirates last week.
Photo: Zhang Yuwei/Associated Press

China's experimental COVID-19 vaccine appears safe in early trials: Study

A Chinese experimental coronavirus vaccine being developed by the Institute of Medical Biology under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences was shown to be safe in an early stage clinical trial, researchers said.

In a Phase 1 trial of 191 healthy participants aged between 18 and 59, vaccination with the group's experimental shot showed no severe adverse reactions, its researchers said on Tuesday in a paper posted on medRxiv preprint server ahead of peer review, reports Reuters.

The most common adverse reactions reported by the trial participants were mild pain, slight fatigue and redness, itching and swelling at the injection site.

The candidate also induced immune response.

"All the data obtained in this trial support the safety and immunogenicity of this inactivated vaccine and are encouraging with regard to further studies of its efficacy in the future," the paper said.

China has inoculated hundreds of thousands of essential workers and other groups considered at high risk with other vaccines, even as clinical trials had not been fully completed, raising safety concerns among experts.

China has at least four experimental vaccines in the final stage of clinical trials.

On Vladimir Putin's birthday, Russia tests hypersonic cruise missile

Russia successfully test launched a Tsirkon (Zircon) hypersonic cruise missile in the Barents Sea on Tuesday, a senior Russian commander told Vladimir Putin on the Russian leader's 68th birthday.

Speaking to Putin by video conference, Valery Gerasimov, chief of the army's general staff, said the test strike had been carried out from the Admiral Gorshkov vessel which was located in the White Sea.

Putin has pledged to beef up Russia's military presence in the Arctic.

Scientists win historic Nobel chemistry prize for 'genetic scissors'

Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna are the first two women to share the prize, which honours their work on the technology of genome editing. Their discovery, known as Crispr-Cas9 "genetic scissors", is a way of making specific and precise changes to the DNA contained in living cells. They will split the prize money of 10 million krona (£861,200; \$1,110,400), reports BBC.

Biological chemist Pernilla Wittung-Stafshede, commented: "The ability to cut DNA where you want has revolutionised the life sciences." Not only has the women's technology been transformative for basic research, it could also be used to treat inherited illnesses.

On being one of the first two women to share the prize, Prof Charpentier said: "I wish that this will provide a positive message specifically for young girls who would like to follow the path of science... and to show them that women in science can also have an impact with the research they are performing."

During Prof Charpentier's studies of the bacterium *Streptococcus pyogenes*, she discovered a previously unknown molecule called tracrRNA. Her work showed that tracrRNA is part of the organism's system of immune defence. This



French microbiologist Emmanuelle Charpentier and professor Jennifer Doudna of the U.S. pose for the media during a visit to a painting exhibition by children about the genome, at the San Francisco park in Oviedo. Photo - reuters.com

system, known as Crispr-Cas, disarms viruses by cleaving their DNA - like genetic scissors.

In 2011, the same year she published this work, Prof Charpentier began a collaboration with Prof Doudna, from the University of California, Berkeley. The two had been introduced by a colleague of Doudna's at a cafe in Puerto Rico, where the scientists were attending a conference.

And it was on the following day, during a walk through the streets of the island's capital, San Juan, that Prof Charpentier proposed the idea of joining forces.

Emmanuelle Charpentier was born in 1968 in Juvisy-sur-Orge, France. She obtained her PhD while at the Institut Pasteur in Paris and subsequently worked at scientific institutes in the US, Austria, Sweden and Germany - in addition to her native France.

Jennifer Doudna was born in 1964 in Washington DC but spent much of her childhood in Hilo, Hawaii. She was awarded her PhD by Harvard Medical School.

This year is the first time any of the science prizes has been awarded to two women without a male collaborator also listed on the award.

Hong Kong will stay a key financial hub say experts

Hong Kong's status as a key Asian financial hub will remain intact according to business experts

Speaking to the BBC they said new security laws and protests are unlikely to scare off investors to other countries.

Supporting this, Hong Kong's stock exchange raised \$11bn from 59 new listings in the first half of 2020.

And the blockbuster debut of Ant Group is likely to see that number grow considerably later this month.

The Chinese financial technology group could raise more than \$30bn (£23bn), more than any other stock market debut this year.

Numbers like this make Hong Kong irresistible for many investors, according to Tara Joseph from the American Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong.

"The flow of money that comes in and out of Hong Kong on a daily basis, that goes into mainland China and comes out, is very hard to replicate," she told the BBC's Asia Business Report.

Critics have previously raised the possibility that security legislation and the ongoing trade war with China will push businesses and investors to look elsewhere.

But the sheer ability to raise money outweighs many other factors, according to Drew Bernstein, co-chairman of Marcum, Bernstein and Pinchuk, an accountancy firm.

"These companies are basically going to do whatever they have to do to have access to capital," he said.

Asian contenders

A recent survey by the chamber found that nearly 40%



New security laws and protests are unlikely to scare off investors to other countries Photo - www.dw.com

of US companies were considering moving capital, assets or operations out of the city due to concerns about the new security laws.

Other Asia Pacific centres are trying to burnish their credentials as financial centres.

On Monday Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told financial news outlet Nikkei that his government will consider lowering tax rates and promoting diversity in boardrooms to attract foreign talent in an effort to reinvent Tokyo as a global financial hub.

Australian Liberal Senator Andrew Bragg has been pushing his government "to capitalise on the disintegration of Hong Kong as a financial centre by attracting businesses to Sydney."

Some have suggested that Singapore, a country with similar tax rates and a business-friendly environment, is the natural successor to Hong Kong.

However, it lacks Hong Kong's proximity to the Chinese market and its stock exchange is far smaller.

Yvan Martial, Journaliste

"Ce gouvernement ML dispose de quatre autres années pour creuser davantage sa... tombe

... mais avec l'électorat tellement inintelligent qui est le nôtre, nous sommes sûrs que Pravind Jugnauth sera brillamment plébiscité en 2024/25"



Mauritius Times : On célèbre, cette année-ci, l'anniversaire de la naissance de quelques grands hommes qui ont laissé leurs empreintes dans l'Histoire politique du pays (100e anniversaire de Sir Satcam Boolell et celui de Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, et prochainement le 90e de Sir Gaëtan Duval). Au-delà de leurs empreintes, ce sont aussi des hommes qui (pour paraphraser Gérard Sanspeur) n'ont pas eu "à passer une bonne partie de leur vie à ôter des masques pour en revêtir d'autres". Quels sentiments ressentez-vous à la relecture du parcours politique et des traces laissés par ces tribuns ?

Yvan Martial : Il faut s'entendre sur les anniversaires de Mauriciens émérites à commémorer et pas seulement ceux de nos anciens politiciens trop hâtivement baptisés "tribuns". Concédonsons des 10e et 15e anniversaires pour de récents défunts, laissant empreinte tangible. Après quoi, la sagesse recommande de s'en tenir aux anniversaires marquant des quarts de siècles (25e, 50e, 75e).

Si vous insistez pour les 90 berges de Gaëtan Duval, il faudrait ajouter celui de Bai Anerood mais aussi d'Edouard Maunick, d'Amédée Nagapen, de Mgr Adrien Wiehe.

Quid des 120 berges de Seewoosagur Ramgoolam ? Pourquoi s'arrêter aux seuls politiciens ? Il y a tellement d'autres Mauriciens, en ce monde ou ailleurs, et dont la vie

“ Notre histoire partisane nous apprend que nos leaders politiques sont mieux connus et détestés pour leur capacité maligne de faire le vide autour d'eux. Ils font de piètres rassembleurs, même si nous nous efforçons de voir chez un Seewoosagur Ramgoolam une capacité plus grande de repêcher et d'accueillir les fils prodigues ou dégoûtés...”

Le système politique mauricien a résisté à bien des mouvements de protestations et des vagues de mécontentement, assurant une certaine stabilité sur le plan socio-économique. Toutefois, les tendances autoritaires ont extrêmement augmenté au sein des partis politiques au fil des années, affaiblissant les gouvernements successifs. Par ailleurs, le refus des leaders de céder la place à d'autres membres de leur parti, qu'ils soient jeunes ou non, jette le discrédit sur l'ensemble de la classe politique et décourage ceux qui souhaiteraient servir la patrie. Yvan Martial pense ce qu'il dit, et nous livre ses impressions avec une franchise presque troublante.

est autrement plus passionnée et passionnante, instructive, exemplaire que la leur ?

Qui dit commémoration doit dire public talentueux, voulant et réclamant cette commémoration, comme l'animal assoiffé recherche désespérément la source d'eau vive pouvant éteindre sa soif. Pèlerins et dévots, se pressant, annuellement ou plus fréquemment, par dizaines de milliers, autour du tombeau d'un apôtre ou d'un vénérable gourou, pourraient être en quête d'une connaissance plus approfondie de la vie et de l'œuvre du saint qu'ils vénèrent, pour pouvoir mettre plus fidèlement leurs pas dans les siens.

S'il y a un public assez talentueux pour réclamer un surcroît d'instruction donnée par un plus sage qu'eux, le message instructif doit suivre. Avec un public talentueux, nous pouvons tout réussir. Mais sans public talentueux, rien ne vaut la peine d'être entrepris. Que vaut une commémoration quand l'auditoire songe prioritairement à marquer sa présence plutôt que d'être en quête d'un changement pour le mieux de leur façon d'agir socialement ?

Par politesse peut-être excessive, nous préférons taire la face cachée de nos grands hommes, surtout politiciens. Gardons-nous d'ôter certains masques, de peur de rouvrir quelques anciennes blessures mal cicatrisées, des tares soigneusement cachées.

Quand aurons-nous le courage de l'avocat du Diable ? Tout grand homme a descendance que nous essayons de ménager. Courtoisie peut-être excessive...au détriment probablement de la vérité historique. Mais toute vérité n'est peut-être pas bonne à rappeler ? Qui sommes-nous, après tout, pour juger même le dernier des derniers parmi nous ? Souvenons-nous des mauvais larrons (car repentis) qui nous précéderont au paradis...

De quelle relecture de la vie d'autrui que nous, êtres humains tellement limités en de multiples façons, sommes-nous capables ? Heureux sommes-nous si nous pouvons seulement effleurer la vie d'autrui, alors que nous devrions

pouvoir la contempler globalement en justice et en vérité, et décider si elle est digne ou non de notre admiration. Ce n'est pas demain que nous pourrions scruter le cœur et les reins des êtres qui nous entourent, qu'ils soient géants ou nains. Laissons cette tâche à un souverain Juge.

*** Diriez-vous quand même que, tout bien considéré, l'Histoire retiendra que ce sont ces tribuns, avec d'autres assurément, qui nous lèguent nos institutions et une culture politique, en faisant avancer le pays ?**

Espérons que les "autres", auxquels vous faites allusion, complètent avantageusement ces tribuns qui - pour trop de compatriotes et de contemporains, dont, hélas, des journalistes - seraient seulement des politiciens, pour ne pas dire pire.

Retenons donc la culture "politique" à condition de donner à cet art de gérer la ville, la cité, le pays, la communauté, la société, notre population, bref notre Humanité, son sens le plus noble, à savoir de nous mettre continuellement et humblement au service de nos frères et sœurs, avec une option préférentielle pour les moins chanceux d'entre nous.

Le pays avance et progresse, et notre population peut s'en réjouir seulement quand chacun d'entre nous, sans exception aucune, met sa joie et son épanouissement à servir leurs frères et leurs sœurs, surtout ceux qui sont dans le besoin, avec l'amour le plus fraternel qui soit. Nul besoin pour cela d'être politiciens, militants, candidats, élus ou malheureux.

“ Revoilà le Paul Bérenger que nous avons toujours connu...L'éternel insatisfait, démantibulant hâtivement ce qu'il vient laborieusement de parachever...Celui qui, porté en triomphe par des militants enthousiastes, le conduisant aux portes de l'Hôtel du Gouvernement, leur réclame un tour supplémentaire, pour ensuite retrouver closes ces portes qui lui étaient pourtant entrouvertes...”

Qui rend systématiquement service aux autres fait avancer le pays, avec le règne de l'amour fraternel dans nos cœurs. Si, de surcroît, nous avons la chance d'être appelés à servir au sein d'une formation politique structurée et crédible, tant mieux.

Mais rappelons-nous que les seuls politiciens qui doivent trouver grâce à nos yeux sont ceux capables d'être, parmi nous, de nouveaux Gandhi, Martin Luther King ou Mandela. Il ne suffit pas que deux jouvencelles en sari orange nous précèdent pour ressembler à Gandhi, tandis que nous collectionnons des biens, peut-être mal acquis, valant des dizaines de millions, que nous dissimulons la face la plus infamante de notre existence et que l'opacité la plus ténébreuse recouvre notre prétendu respect pour la totale transparence.

☞ Suite en page 8

'L'Opposition, surtout parlementaire, le meilleur agent électoral du MSM, rend inutile tout effort gouvernemental pour affaiblir la contestation déjà moribonde'

☞ Suite de la page 7

Gandhi aussi a été crucifié parce qu'il ne voulait pas être un roi temporel distributeur de prébendes mais parce qu'il voulait régenter nos cœurs, en nous invitant à nous débarasser des pesanteurs matérielles empêchant notre envol vers une destinée - la plus spirituelle, la plus purifiée.

*** Faut-il regretter qu'ils n'aient toutefois pas pris le temps et l'initiative d'assurer le renouvellement de la classe politique, ce qui a facilité l'émergence des dynasties au sein de nos grands partis politiques?**

“Oui à nos partis politiques, préparant prioritairement mais séparément nos prochaines mais hypothétiques élections villageoises et municipales. Pas de coze cozé avant l'année électorale décisive (2024), pouvant même être une année financière (2024/25). Gouvernement d'alternance ou alternative crédible et solide ou alliance électorale : c'est kif-kif. Cela endort surtout l'enthousiasme des jeunes militants...”

Entendons-nous d'abord sur le sens du terme “classe politique” dont nous pourrions souhaiter le renouvellement. Si “politique” est employé dans son sens le plus noble, autrement dit le service de la communauté humaine nous entourant, son renouvellement dépend de toutes les forces vives d'une population, sans exception aucune, éducation comprise, même si d'aucuns contestent un système éducatif, synonyme d'industrie de leçons dites particulières au service d'un rats' race derrière des centaines de bourses d'études supérieures de l'Etat ou offertes par des pays amis, dont voleurs et receleurs d'archipel. Si la politique doit ici s'entendre en son sens partisan le plus étriqué, nous ne pouvons qu'appréhender tout renouvellement de sa part, tout en sachant que, à propos des hydres, mille têtes plus effrayantes remplacent toute tête pouvant tomber, même de putréfaction.

Notre histoire partisane nous apprend que nos leaders politiques sont mieux connus et détestés pour leur capacité maligne de faire le vide autour d'eux. Ils font de piètres rassembleurs, même si nous nous efforçons de voir chez un Seewoosagur Ramgoolam une capacité plus grande de repêcher et d'accueillir les fils prodiges ou dégoûtés.

Même dans la politique la plus partisane, sinon militante, il n'y a pas d'autre façon que de vouloir réellement le renouvellement de la classe politique qu'en attirant une certaine jeunesse, en lui offrant une certaine marge de manœuvre assez autonome pour la séduire.

Si une aile jeune pouvait être désignée démocratiquement - autrement dit en totale liberté - ne serait-ce qu'un des neufs candidats d'un parti à nos Législatives, pour chacune de nos régions Nord, Est, Sud, Ouest, Port-Louis, Hautes et Basses Plaines-Wilhems, nous verrions de nouveau nos jeunes se passionner pour la chose publique.

Accordons les mêmes faveurs à toute aile féminine et, du coup, voilà notre classe politique se féminisant par enchantement. Mais notre leader politique qui accepterait pareille délégation de ses pouvoirs (qu'il pense peut-être de droit divin) n'est probablement pas encore né.

Voilà pourquoi le renouvellement de notre classe partisane se résume misérablement par l'accueil de nouveaux venus, peut-être mieux nés que leurs devanciers tellement décevants. Avec pareille stratégie, notre démocratie ne peut que régresser.

*** Pensez-vous que ces “dynasties politiques” soient une mauvaise chose pour le pays et bloqueront-elles tout projet de démocratisation de nos partis politiques?**

Je m'interroge en vain... J'ignore toujours si nos dynasties politiques résultent d'une stratégie népotiste de leur leader ou s'il s'agit du résultat d'une politique tellement autoritaire qu'elle incite le peu qui reste à demeurer familialement fidèle au Grand Manitou, jamais plus Pater Familias.

Des intellectuels, aussi paumés que moi, peuvent abhorrer les dynasties politiques mais que peuvent-ils faire face à ces hordes de partisans parfois rémunérés, plus amarrés encore à nos chefs dynastiques quand d'accommodantes caméras de télévision filment leurs débordements débridés...

Comment ne pas comprendre alors nos chaumières frémissant à l'idée de pouvoir se rallier à nos familles politiques pivotant si bien autour d'un unique gond mais paraissant tellement indéracinable?

Elles oublient alors le coup de balai du 11 juin 1982, le *batté-bef* du 17 décembre 1995, le *Macarena* démodé du 11 septembre 2000, les vagissements d'une Seconde République mort-née du 10 décembre 2014... La faute à notre mémoire-passoire sur laquelle mise avantageusement nos leaders politiques, en quête de réélection, sinon de retour au pouvoir...

Quant à la démocratisation de nos partis politiques, elle s'éloigne à tire d'aile, puissamment aidée par cette familiarité grandissante avec nos partis-dynasties politiques. Toujours cette question du bon acte de naissance, devant décourager même nos patriotes les plus endurcis. Les élections internes de nos partis politiques sont aussi rares que nos élections régionales... Constamment renvoyées pour des raisons que peuvent connaître uniquement nos leaders-*Pater Familias*. Peu d'élus désormais parce que de moins en moins appelés... La famille politique se suffit à elle-même...

“Ce Gouvernement ML dispose de quatre autres années pour creuser davantage sa...tombe. Notre économie, devant aller de récession en récession, hâtera encore sa descente aux enfers. Mais avec l'électorat tellement "inintelligent" qui est le nôtre, nous sommes sûrs et certains que Pravind Kumar Jugnauth sera brillamment plébiscité en 2024/25...De nouveau, sans opposition ou presque...”

*** Quels sentiments vous inspire la situation actuelle et la nouvelle génération politique? Ce que nous voyons aujourd'hui sur le plan politique vous fait-il regretter le passé?**

La nouvelle génération politique n'existe que si elle dispose d'attaches familiales suffisamment solides, voire castéistes. Pour les autres jeunes, cela n'est que *manze pis-*



tasse guette cinéma. Et comme on nous inflige d'affreux navets des années 1983 et suivantes, nous comprenons mieux l'attrance juvénile pour des paradis artificiels...

Regretter le passé ne sert à rien même pour moi : bientôt, je ne pourrai plus lire *Tintin*... Si nos jeunes veulent vraiment se défaire de nos dynasties politiques, de cette politique à papa, ils doivent s'insurger contre cette perversité. Notre jeunesse devra d'abord se défaire de tout ce qui l'anesthésie et l'oblige à prendre les vessies de nos leaders politiques pour des lanternes illuminatrices. Il faudrait un sursaut des cœurs militants semblables à celui des années de braise.

Pas d'*Hosannah* sans *Sursum Corda* préalable...Et en guise d'*Ite missa est*, disons que les carottes sont peut-être déjà cuites...

*** A quatre ans des prochaines élections, on parle déjà de “gouvernement d'alternance”, d’“alternative crédible, solide, qui provoquera le départ de Pravind Jugnauth”, comme proposé par Paul Bérenger. Est-ce prématuré, selon vous?**

Revoilà le Paul Bérenger que nous avons toujours connu...L'éternel insatisfait, démantibulant hâtivement ce qu'il vient laborieusement de parachever...Celui qui, porté en triomphe par des militants enthousiastes, le conduisant aux portes de l'Hôtel du Gouvernement, leur réclame un tour supplémentaire, pour ensuite retrouver closes ces portes qui lui étaient pourtant entrouvertes ; et à travers lesquelles il lui suffisait de s'infiltrer pour s'y installer durablement.

Apitoyons-nous plutôt sur ce chef né mais irrémédiablement allergique au Pouvoir- hélas ! synonyme de mesures impopulaires, de poêlon brûlant, de l'impérieuse nécessité d'utiliser chaque seconde d'un mandat forcément limité, pour concrétiser toutes les promesses électorales, même si cela doit empêcher une réélection parfois légitime et méritée, en dépit de l'ingratitude électorale. Tout le monde n'est pas Emmanuel Macron, futur perdant de la prochaine Présidentielle française, dit-on...

☞ Suite en page 9

'Si nos jeunes veulent vraiment se défaire de nos dynasties politiques, de cette politique à papa, ils doivent s'insurger contre cette perversité'

☞ Suite de la page 8

Répétons-nous...L'attente des prochaines Législatives (au mieux 2024) doit être remplie prioritairement par la consolidation des bases populaires d'un parti, circonscription par circonscription, village par village, faubourg par faubourg, revitalisation des moindres cellules, raffermissement des structures à la fois démocratiques et hiérarchiques du parti, la mise à l'épreuve d'ambitieux voulant rivaliser avec les serveurs les plus efficaces, les plus performants du parti, pour être jugés dignes, au Jour J, à l'heure H, de défendre de manière optimale les couleurs du parti.

Oui à nos partis politiques, préparant prioritairement mais séparément nos prochaines mais hypothétiques élections villageoises et municipales. Pas de *coze cozé* avant l'année électorale décisive (2024), pouvant même être une année financière (2024/25). Gouvernement d'alternance ou alternative crédible et solide ou alliance électorale : c'est kif-kif. Cela endort surtout l'enthousiasme des jeunes militants...

A quoi bon militer si, par-dessus nos têtes, TOUT se décide déjà, y compris la distribution des tickets électoraux et même d'hypothétiques maroquins ministériels. Comprendons que nous ne sommes pas de la bonne famille... Nous n'avons pas le bon acte de naissance... Alors à quoi bon militer... Hôtel du Gouvernement et Cabinet

doivent se fendre la pêche.

*** Voyez-vous la contestation, de ces derniers temps, en mesure de provoquer le départ du Gouvernement? Les manifestants de rue et les actions syndicales, comme l'histoire politique du pays nous l'a démontré, même au plus fort de l'opposition militante contre le gouvernement de SSR dans les années 70, n'avaient pu réussir cela...**



“ Nous avons le Gouvernement et l'opposition surtout parlementaire que nous méritons amplement...Ne pleurons pas sur les pantins désarticulés se démenant devant nous, sur la scène politique. Pleurons plutôt sur nous, tout juste bons à nous contenter de ce macatia rassis et gluant, si vous permettez la comparaison pour la gouvernance et aussi pour l'opposition...”

Contestations et autres plaisirs solitaires, manifestations de rue, actions syndicales (mais quand elles sont plus efficaces que neuf militants brandissant des pancartes épistolaires, au lieu de slogans, devant l'Hôtel du Gouvernement, avec l'aimable autorisation du Commissaire de Police), tout cela est *dilo lors feille sonze*... Pas plus d'effet qu'une calotte cardinalice donnée à qui se goinfre de *panadols* grégoriens...C'est du *passe di beurre* après le soufflet.

La devise du Gouvernement ML-MSM est : "J'y suis, j'y reste" ...Venez me déloger si vous en êtes capables... Nous ne pouvons pas mieux manifester notre impotence face au Gouvernement que nous venons de plébisciter... Frauduleusement, selon certains, ne pouvant même pas s'entendre sur une stratégie juridique... Croyez-moi... L'hilarité va croissant à l'Hôtel du Gouvernement, comme au Cabinet...

*** Dans ce cas, l'attente sera longue, puisque le Gouvernement dispose de quatre années pour se refaire une santé politique et remonter la pente... sauf si l'économie flanche ou que les pétitions électorales changent la donne. N'est-ce pas?**

Erreur sur toute la ligne... Ce Gouvernement ML dispose de quatre autres années pour creuser davantage sa... tombe. Notre économie, devant aller de récession

en récession, hâtera encore sa descente aux enfers. Mais avec l'électorat tellement "inintelligent" qui est le nôtre, nous sommes sûrs et certains que Pravind Kumar Jugnauth sera brillamment plébiscité en 2024/25... De nouveau, sans opposition ou presque...

*** Le Gouvernement, sachant bien qu'il n'y a, dans les circonstances actuelles, aucun moyen constitutionnel de le déloger, pourrait aussi choisir de "bide its time" en espérant que la contestation s'affaiblira avec le temps. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

L'Opposition, surtout parlementaire, le meilleur agent électoral du MSM, rend inutile tout effort gouvernemental pour affaiblir la contestation déjà moribonde sur le plan politique et électoral. L'opposition, tous partis confondus, hormis Résistans ek Alternativ, creuse sa tombe encore plus vite que le ML-MSM. La victoire reviendra au fossoyeur le... moins efficace...

Ne nous faisons aucune illusion... Nous avons le Gouvernement et l'opposition surtout parlementaire que nous méritons amplement...Ne pleurons pas sur les pantins désarticulés se démenant devant nous, sur la scène politique. Pleurons plutôt sur nous, tout juste bons à nous contenter de ce macatia rassis et gluant, si vous permettez la comparaison pour la gouvernance et aussi pour l'opposition...

COVID-19: examining theories for Africa's low death rates

*** Cont. from page 2**

However, Kenya quickly built up its testing capacity and the extra attention to finding deaths makes it unlikely that a gap of this size can be fully accounted for by missing information.

There has been no shortage of ideas for other factors that may be contributing.

A recent large multi-country study in Europe reported significant declines in mortality related to higher temperature and humidity. The authors hypothesised that this may be because the mechanisms by which our respiratory tracts clear virus work better in warmer more humid conditions. This means that people may be getting less virus particles into their system.

It should be noted however that a systematic review of global data – while confirming that warm and wet climates seemed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 – indicated that these variables alone could not explain most of the variability in disease transmission. It's important to remember that there's considerable weather variability throughout Africa. Not all climates are warm or wet and, if they are, they may not stay that way throughout the year.

Other suggestions include the possibility of pre-existing protective immune responses due either to previous exposure to other pathogens or to BCG vaccination, a vaccine against tuberculosis provided at birth in most African countries. A large analysis – which involved 55 countries, representing 63% of the world's population – showed significant correlations between increasing BCG coverage at a young age and better outcomes of COVID-19.

Genetic factors may also be important. A recently described haplotype (group of genes) associated with increased risk of severity and present in 30% of south Asian genomes and 8% of Europeans is almost absent in Africa.

The role of these and other factors – such as potential differences in social structures or mobility – are subject to ongoing investigation.

More effective response

An important possibility is that public health response of African countries, prepared by previous experiences (such as outbreaks or epidemics) was simply more effective in limiting transmission than in other parts of the world.

However, in Kenya it's estimated that the epidemic actually peaked in July with around 40% of the population in urban areas having been infected. A similar picture is emerging in other countries. This implies that measures put in place had little effect on viral transmission per se, though it does raise the possibility that herd immunity is now playing a role in limiting further transmission.

At the same time there is another important possibility: the idea that viral load (the number of virus particles transmitted to a person) is a key determinant of severity. It has been suggested that masks reduce viral load and that their widespread wearing may limit the chances of developing severe disease. While WHO recommends mask wearing, uptake has been variable and has been lower in many European countries, compared with many parts of Africa.

So is Africa in the clear? Well, obviously not. There is still

plenty of virus around and we do not know what may happen as the interaction between the virus and humans evolves.

However, one thing that does seem clear is that the secondary effects of the pandemic will be Africa's real COVID-19 challenge. These stem from the severe interruptions of social and economic activities as well as the potentially devastating effects of reduced delivery of services which protect millions of people, including routine vaccination as well as malaria, TB and HIV control programmes.

Research agendas

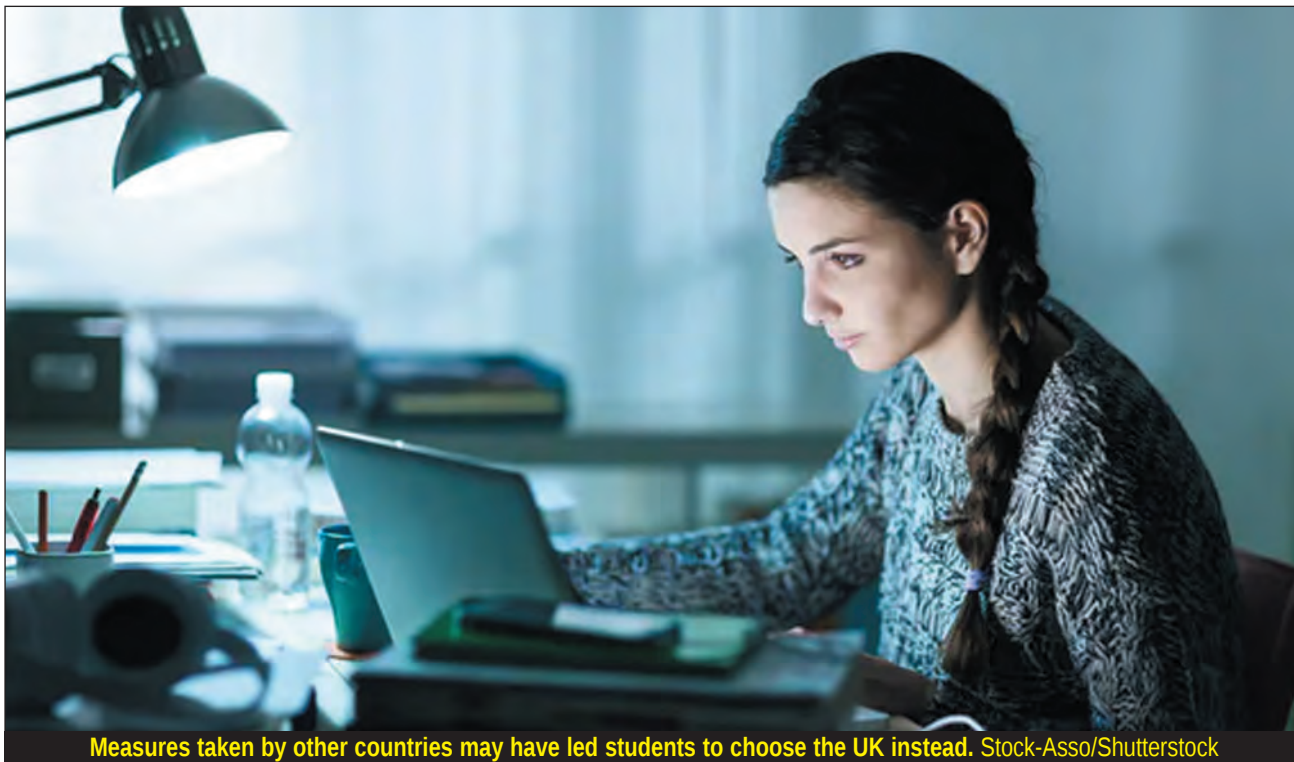
Major implications of the emerging picture include the need to re-evaluate African COVID-19 research agendas. While many of the priorities originally identified may still hold, their relative importance is likely to have changed. The key point is to deal with the problems as they are now rather than as they were imagined to be six months ago.

The same thing applies for public health policy. Of course, basic measures such as hand washing remain essential (regardless of COVID-19) and wearing masks should be continued while there is any level of COVID-19 transmission. However, other measures with broader effects on society, especially restrictions on educational and economic activity, should be under continuous review.

A key point now is to increase surveillance and ensure that flexible responses are driven by high quality real time data.

Why international students are choosing the UK - despite coronavirus

Shifts in global politics and other countries' response to the coronavirus may have made the UK a more attractive option for international students



Measures taken by other countries may have led students to choose the UK instead. Stock-Asso/Shutterstock

Despite early predictions that the coronavirus pandemic would cause international student numbers to decline, the UK is set for a record increase, with enrolments from non-EU international students up 9% this academic year.

Universities had feared that a fall in international student numbers would lead to a significant loss in revenue from tuition fees. For now, at least, this has been averted.

It is too soon to say whether a dip in international student numbers has been avoided completely or is still on the horizon for future years. Nevertheless, there are several explanations for why international students are attracted to British universities. These include global politics, opportunities for employment and perceived teaching quality.

Global tensions

Global politics have a direct impact on higher education. This is particularly relevant for relations with China, the country where the largest number of international students originate.

Increased tension between China and the US has led to the cancellation of thousands of visas for Chinese students to study in the US. One of the reasons for this is Chinese students' supposed ties to the Chinese military. The Trump administration has claimed that Chinese international students seek access to American intellectual property or sensitive technologies.

These claims have been challenged, but may still lead Chinese students to reconsider their plans to study in the US.

The way countries have dealt with the coronavirus pandemic will also affect the number of international students they attract. For the US - where international student numbers have been falling since 2015 - perceptions of a botched response to the pandemic and fears of

future visa policy changes may lead to a further decline.

Other countries have become less attractive to international students due to their actions during the pandemic. For example, in a widely criticised move, the Australian government encouraged foreign students to return home. Australia and New Zealand's borders continue to be closed to foreign nationals.

This may mean that the UK has become more attractive as an alternative destination. A survey by a Chinese education agency found that the UK has surpassed the US as a destination of choice for students.

The UK also offers students several other advantages. Most undergraduate courses last three years and masters degrees one year, which is shorter than degree programmes in countries such as the US. While tuition fees in the UK are high in comparison with other countries, these shorter courses keep overall costs down.

The reintroduction of the two year post-study work visa may also encourage international student applications. This means students can stay in the UK and seek employment after completing a degree. It is aimed particularly at Indian students, whose numbers dropped significantly when the post-study work visa was removed in 2010.

Most students continue to feel the UK offers a high quality of teaching, although not without reservations. Students from East Asia are more likely to express disappointment about their learning experiences - a major concern given the UK's

reliance on Chinese students. Reasons may include cultural and historical differences in approaches to education and a failure by universities to focus consistently on inclusive and innovative teaching practices.

Continuing challenges

We cannot assume that a recruitment crisis has been fully avoided. Ongoing concerns include rising numbers of COVID cases on campuses and stringent lockdown measures which have seen students instructed to self-isolate or avoid socialising outside their accommodation.

For international students, discrimination and racism is a key concern, especially for students from China or East Asian countries. Research shows that safety is a priority for applicants and their families. COVID-related discrimination has been widely reported and remains unaddressed, despite calls for universities to actively combat xenophobia.

The move to online teaching may also affect student satisfaction. Students often do not perceive online learning as of the same quality as face-to-face teaching.

International students are also looking for experiences beyond the classroom. One test will be whether British universities can still offer adequate social and cultural opportunities for international students, despite reduced opportunities for socialising.

Altogether, future international student recruitment depends greatly on the experiences provided by UK universities in the coming months. There are opportunities for UK universities to provide meaningful learning and life experiences for international students through empathy and care. Yet, this requires investment and support for staff by university leadership, providing necessary resources and manageable workloads amid unanticipated student numbers and shifts to online learning.

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Why 'namaste' has become the perfect pandemic greeting

An Indian greeting is replacing the handshake. An expert explains its roots and why it affirms our inter-connectedness with one another



'Namaste' at the end of a yoga class. Yelp Inc./Flickr, CC BY-NC-ND

Hands over the heart in prayer pose. A little bow of the head. A gesture of respect. An acknowledgment of our shared humanity. And no touching.

As people the world over are choosing to ditch the handshakes and hugs for fear of contracting the coronavirus, namaste is becoming the perfect pandemic greeting.

As a scholar whose research focuses on the ethics of communication and as a yoga teacher, I'm interested in how people use rituals and rhetoric to affirm their inter-connectedness with one another - and with the world.

Namaste is one such ritual.

I bow to you

Originally a Sanskrit word, namaste is composed of two parts - "namas" means "bend to," "bow to" or "honor to," and "te" means "to you." So namaste means "I bow to you." This meaning is often reinforced by a small bow of the head.

In Hindi and a number of other languages derived from Sanskrit, namaste is basically a respectful way of saying hello and also goodbye. Today, namaste has been adopted into the English language, along with other words from non-English sources. Many words, when borrowed, keep their spelling but acquire new meanings. This is the case with namaste - it has shifted from meaning "I bow to you" to "I bow to the divine in you."

For many American yoga teachers, beginning most likely with Ram Dass in the 1960s and 1970s, namaste means something like "the divine light in me bows to the divine light within you." This is the definition of namaste I first learned and have often repeated to my students.

In the words of the popular American yoga teacher Shiva Rea, namaste is "the consummate Indian greeting," a "sacred hello," that means "I bow to the divinity

within you from the divinity within me."

Deepak Chopra repeats a similar definition on his podcast "The Daily Breath with Deepak Chopra": namaste means "the spirit in me honours the spirit in you" and "the divine in me honours the divine in you."

Namaste has a sacred connotation. When you bow to another, you are honoring something sacred in them. When you bow to another, you are acknowledging that they are worthy of respect and dignity.

I bow to the divine light in you

However, there are critics who say that global yogis have taken namaste out of its context. Some claim that the greeting has been infused with a religious meaning that doesn't exist in Indian culture.

I see things differently. Many common salutations have religious roots, including adios, or "a Dios," to God, and goodbye - a contraction of "God be with you."

Most Indian religions agree that there is something divine in all individuals, whether it's a soul, called the "atman" or "purusha" in Hinduism, or the capacity for awakening in Buddhism.

As I argue in my forthcoming book, "The Ethics of Oneness: Emerson, Whitman, and the Bhagavad Gita," this idea, of bowing to the divine in others, also resonates with a deep spiritual inclination in American culture.

Beginning in the 1830s and 1840s, the influential philosopher and essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson, in dialogue with a number of other thinkers, invented a form of spiritual practice that encouraged Americans to actively address the divine soul in others every time they spoke.

Of particular note is that Emerson often used the metaphor of light to imagine this inner divinity, likely because of his great

admiration for the Quakers, whose Christian denomination holds that God lives inside of us all in the form of an "inner light."

The definition of namaste as "the divine light in me bows to the divine light in you" is very much in the spirit of both Indian religions and 19th-century traditions of American spirituality.

Namaste as an ethical commitment

In today's global yoga culture, namaste is typically said at the end of class. As I understand, for yogis, saying namaste is a moment of contemplating the virtues associated with yoga - including peacefulness, compassion, and gratitude and how to bring those into one's daily life.

I asked Swami Tattwamayananda, the head of the Vedanta Society of Northern California in San Francisco and one of the world's leading authorities on Hindu ritual and scripture, how he felt about Americans like me saying namaste.

He responded: "It is perfectly appropriate for everyone, including Westerners like yourself to say namaste at the end of your yoga classes." He also reiterated that namaste means "I bow down to you" - in the sense that I bow down to the divine presence in you.

One need not be a Hindu, or a Buddhist, or a yoga teacher to say namaste. Namaste can be as religious or secular as the speaker desires.

What matters most, I believe, is the intention behind the word namaste. When you bow to another, the question to consider is this: Do you truly recognize them as a fellow human being worthy of dignity, bonded in shared suffering and a shared capacity for transcendence?

This recognition of our interconnectedness is what namaste is all about - and exactly what we need during the pandemic.

Jeremy David Engels

Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences, Pennsylvania State University

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Mauritius Investment Corporation and the bailout of distressed companies

Ensuring That Every Rupee Is Accountable



* Cont. from page 4

The people are therefore tuned and alert as to the manner the \$ 2 billion advanced by the Bank of Mauritius to the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd will be managed.

- Will this colossal sum of scarce financial resources be rigorously allocated on the basis of strict business savvy decisions grounded on pointed technical analysis and financial best practice norms?

- Will they be secured by sound guarantees and provide a fair return?

- Will the financially distressed companies seeking MIC bailout funds be subject to a thorough due diligence evaluation, a

commercial assessment, cede equivalent equity and grant board membership to assure oversight of the company's decisions and strict adherence to principles of corporate good governance and sustainable development?

As a custodian of substantial national funds, MIC must therefore review its structure and beef up its technical team with in-house experts having the pointed skills required to competently carry out its mandate with if required the advice of seasoned professionals in the field of distressed investing.

The first commitment of Rs 1 billion by the MIC to LUX* Resorts & Hotels have already raised legitimate interrogations in the

press by professionals in this specialized field questioning the rationale of the terms agreed and highlighting the unfairness of the deal for the MIC. This should be a jolting wake-up call for government and people at large. This is the more so as the MIC has an obvious negotiating leverage when bailing out a distressed company with the support of substantial funds. This will not do. The hotel industry which was heavily indebted has borne the brunt of the Covid-19 pandemic in the wake of the closure of borders. It has accumulated debts exceeding Rs 70 billion. According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the Covid-19 pandemic will result in a contraction of the tourism sector

by 20% to 30% in 2020.

Drawing lessons from 2008

The world has drawn potent lessons from the 2008 financial crisis. When governments bailed out distressed banks with public funds at the time they should have obtained an adequate shareholding of the banks as a trade off but they did not. In essence, public funds were used to bolster the finances of distressed banks. The risk taken by taxpayers' money was never remunerated with a fair return and more importantly with a share of the enormous profits made when the situation was normalized. The same mistakes cannot be repeated.

Similarly, there is a debate cur-

“The world has drawn potent lessons from the 2008 financial crisis. When governments bailed out distressed banks with public funds at the time they should have obtained an adequate shareholding of the banks as a trade off but they did not. In essence, public funds were used to bolster the finances of distressed banks. The risk taken by taxpayers' money was never remunerated with a fair return and more importantly with a share of the enormous profits made when the situation was normalized...”

rently raging in the US that the stimulus package provided to businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic disproportionately favours large companies as opposed to small businesses.

Every commitment of funds by the MIC must therefore be effected in a transparent and accountable manner. It must also meet the test of public and expert scrutiny. The country therefore needs to put an end to the long list of costly botched decisions and past blunders by ensuring that all its key institutions are manned by seasoned and competent professionals. It must ensure that every Rupee is accountable. It is therefore imperative that urgent corrective steps are taken to review the thrust of the MIC with the induction of the professional team of experts required to ensure that the bailout terms agreed provide a fair return, that the funds are secured and that above all the MIC truly becomes a potent instrument of transformational change to help recast the ownership of prime assets in the country for the common good.

Beyond the rhetoric, it is opportune to finally deliver on the seminal promise of a real democratization of the economy.

Mrinal Roy

Programme des Courses

20e Journée - samedi 10 Octobre 2020

1 THE BRIEF AFFAIRE - SOLIDARITE MARYE PIKE CUP 1600 m Valeur [0-15] Time - 12h50									
1	GIMME A SWINGER	PM	9/3-5-4-6	61.5	C.Segeon	6	500		
2	DELUSIONAL	SPN	8-7-8-10-9	61	R.Boutanive	7	2000		
3	DESERT THIEF	RG	3-3-2-3-5	60.5	S.Bussunt	2	330		
4	MISTY ROLLER	CD	2-1/2-9-7	60.5	S.Rama	4	600		
5	NIGHTINGALE LANE	CR	4-9-8-6/6	59.5	R.Joorawon	1	310		
6	SIERRA REDWOOD	JMH	5-9-8/10-7	59	B.Bhaugerothee	3	650		
7	SPUN OUT	SH	6/6-6-5-9	56.5	D.Bheekary	5	620		

2 THE MAURITIUSTURFCLUB.COM CUP 990 m Valeur [0-25] - 13h25									
1	ENGAGE AND BEWARE	SJ	7-5/R-8-0	61	B.Bhaugerothee	7	2500		
2	GREENFLASHSUNSET	RM	8-7/1-6-3	61	D.Bheekary	6	1000		
3	POINCIANA	SJ	R-2-2-2-2	61	G.D.Aucharuz	2	190		
4	STRAIGHT	CD	8/2-4-1-3	61	S.Rama	8	600		
5	FINAL CUP	AS	10-10-9-10/9	60.5	K.Kalychurun	5	3500		
6	YANKEE FORCE	RG	0-0-7-4-5	60	S.Bussunt	9	700		
7	XANTHUS	PM	8/8-3-3-4	59.5	C.Segeon	1	800		
8	LOONEY BIN	SH	nouveau	59	R.Joorawon	10	1400		
9	REAL VISION	JMH	9-5/9-6-5	59	O.Sola	4	1600		
10	FREDDIE FLINT	SPN	7-7-6-9-2	55.5-3	A.Roy	3	900		

3 THE RAM RUHEE OBE MEMORIAL TROPHY 1365 m Valeur Benchmark 36 Time - 14h00									
1	WELL CONNECTED	VA	4-2-3-2-5	60	B.Fayd'herbe	6	550		
2	LAGACIO	G	R/2-2-2-1	59.5	R.Joorawon	5	290		
3	ROCK MANOR	PM	0-0-9-2-1	59.5	C.Segeon	8	550		
4	A P STRIKE	SH	1-3-R-6/6	59	N.Teoha	2	3000		
5	IRON WOLF	GR	9/3-10-7-7	59	N.Juglall	4	1200		
6	DARK FORCE	RM	1/2-3-3-2	58.5	D.Bheekary	3	500		
7	DONNAN	SN	0-2/6-10-1	58.5	G.D.Aucharuz	1	300		
8	MARULA	JMH	0-0-9-7-4	58.5	S.Bussunt	7	1400		

4 THE CHANG FONG MARINE & SHIPPING LTD TROPHY 1850 m Valeur Benchmark 31 Time -- 14h35									
1	IT DOESN'T MATTER	GR	5-4-4-5-1	61	N.Juglall	6	480		
2	WEST COAST WARRIOR	RG	10-5-9-3-6	61	S.Bussunt	2	1200		
3	BURG	SN	7-4-5-6-2	60.5	G.D.Aucharuz	3	550		
4	DEER PARK	G	0-4-1-3-4	60.5	R.Joorawon	4	550		
5	STOLEN PARADISE	AS	0-0-7-10-4	60	K.Kalychurun	1	1100		
6	STAR OF ZEUS	PM	R-2-1-2-5	59.5	C.Segeon	7	340		
7	MIDNIGHT ORACLE	CD	8/2-4-1-3	59	S.Rama	8	750		
8	NAPOLI	SN	9-2-7-2-8	56	D.Bheekary	5	900		

5 THE DOMINIQUE GALEA CUP 1850 m Valeur Benchmark 46 Time - 15h10									
1	LEMON DROP SHOT	SH	0-5-2-1-2	61.5	R.Joorawon	4	290		
2	INN A MILLION	SN	6-3-3/4-5	61	G.D.Aucharuz	7	2500		
3	PROTEA PARADISE	RG	0-0-7-6-6	61	S.Bussunt	1	1400		
4	SIR BERNADINI	PM	6/8-7-3-4	61	C.Segeon	5	650		
5	CRAZY VISION	AS	5-7-8/5-4	60(-4)	B.Deenath	6	1400		
6	MIND BLOWING	GR	4-2/6-2-2	60	N.Juglall	3	300		
7	ARLINGTONS REVENGE	SJ	6-9/7-8-8	59.5	B.Bhaugerothee	8	3000		
8	ALSSAKHRA	G	9-5-N-7-4	55	N.Marday	2	1200		
9	EIGHT CITIES	VA	5-2-4-1-8	55(-3)	A.Roy	9	800		

6 THE PENG & CO. LTD TROPHY 1365 m Valeur Benchmark 71 Time -- 15h45									
1	PIETRO MASCAGNI	SN	0-0-4-7-4	60	G.D.Aucharuz	8	1000		
2	THE DAZZLER	AS	nouveau	60(-4)	B.Deenath	4	1200		
3	PUGET SOUND	CD	0-0-0-10-8	59.5	D.Bheekary	5	2500		
4	VIRTUE	PM	3-1/5-2-1	59.5	C.Segeon	1	260		
5	TRIPPI'S EXPRESS	RG	0-1-2-3-1	57	R.Joorawon	3	300		
6	HAYLOR	SJ	2-1-1/5-3	56.5	B.Bhaugerothee	7	470		
7	KING'S COUNTY	GR	3/4-4-2-5	56	N.Juglall	2	1000		
8	HENRY TUDOR	CD	1-4-4/2-2	53.5	S.Rama	6	430		

7 THE GOLD LEAF HOTEL CO. LTD TROPHY 1450 m Valeur (0-25) Time-- 16h20									
1	PERFECT PURSUIT	AS	4-10-9/8-6	61.5(-4)	B.Deenath	2	1200		
2	MIDDLE PATH	RG	3-6-3-1-5	61	S.Bussunt	3	800		
3	TROJAN WINTER	SPN	5-7-5-7-2	60.5	G.D.Aucharuz	7	420		
4	SEVENTH EXPRESS	G	0-9-8-3-1	60	R.Boutanive	6	280		
5	MANOLETE	CD	4-2/2-2-2	59.5	S.Rama	4	280		
6	HEAD OF THE PACK	SPN	9-9-5-8-8	57.5	K.Kalychurun	1	3000		
7	THE BARRISTER	SN	6-5/5-9-5	57.5	D.Bheekary	5	1600		

8 THE FACET'S MAGIC PLATE 1600 m Valeur (0-15) Time -- 17h00									
1	KINGS EMPIRE	SH	9-9-5-6-5	62(-3)	A.Roy	8	800		
2	SLIGHTLY SCOTTISH	AS	10/6-8-10-6	61.5(-4)	B.Deenath	5	2500		
3	MIDNIGHT MESSENGER	SPN	10-7-8-9-1	61	B.Bhaugerothee	3	600		
4	VALERIN	CD	2-1/3-5-2	60.5	S.Rama	6	380		
5	BEAR HUG	JMH	8-6-4-6-3	60	O.Sola	9	1600		
6	KIMBERLEY	SN	9-3-2-5-6	59.5	G.D.Aucharuz	1	280		
7	SPECIAL FORCE	SPN	10/11-6-7-8	59.5	K.Kalychurun	4	3000		
8	NAIZAK	PM	9/5-8-9-10	57	C.Segeon	7	3000		
9	BLUNDERBUSS	CR	5/4-8-2-3	56.5	R.Joorawon	2	500		

SELECTIONS									
1.	DESERT THIEF, MISTY ROLLER, NIGHTINGALE LANE								
2.	POINCIANA, STRAIGHT, XANTHUS								
3.	LAGACIO, ROCK MANOR, DARK FORCE								
4.	STAR OF ZEUS, IT DOESN'T MATTER, DEER PARK								
5.	LEMON DROP SHOT, MIND BLOWING, EIGHT CITIES								
6.	TRIPPI'S EXPRESS, VIRTUE, HENRY TUDOR								
7.	MANOLETE, SEVENTH EXPRESS, TROJAN WINTER								
8.	VALERIN, KIMBERLEY, BEAR HUG								

Food for Thought

Peace is a state of mind

Murugan, the proprietor of a coffee shop, had been busy all day. Being Saturday, his shop was very crowded and the customers seemed unending. He had been on his toes since morning. Towards the evening he felt a splitting headache surfacing. As the clock ticked away, his headache worsened.

Unable to bear it, he stepped out of the shop leaving his staff to look after the sales. He walked across the street to the pharmacy to buy himself a painkiller to relieve his headache. He swallowed the pill and felt relieved. He knew that in a few minutes he would feel better.

As he strolled out of the shop, he casually asked the salesgirl, "Where is Mr Gopalan, the chemist? He's not at the cash counter today!"

The girl replied, "Sir, Mr Gopalan had a splitting headache and said he was going across to your coffee shop. He said a cup of hot coffee would relieve him of his headache."

The man's mouth went dry and he mumbled, "Oh! I see."

This is a typical case of looking outside ourselves for something that we have within us.

How strange, but true!

The chemist relieves his headache by drinking coffee and the coffee shop owner finds relief in a pain-relieving pill!

Similarly, many of us travel across the lengths and breadths of the universe and also visit several shrines and ashrams to find peace. Eventually, we come to realize that real peace is within our own hearts.

Peace is really a state of mind.

Inspiration

What is Chardi Kala?

Chardi Kala means keep your morale (spirits) high no matter what the situation is. Have faith and keep doing good and stay positive, leave rest to God. This positive thinking will give you calm, peaceful and positive mind that doesn't get bothered with obstacles of life; you will be in charhdi kala (high spirits) always.

Sikhs are always happy because of the "Charhdi Kala" given to them by Guru Gobind Singh, the Tenth Sikh Guru.

This concept is commonly translated as "high morale," but it is much more than that. According to Encyclopedia of Sikhism, "It stands for a perennially blossoming, unwilting spirit, a perpetual state of certitude resting on unwavering belief in Divine justice."

Word "Kala" of Sanskrit origin has several shades of meaning, but the dominant among which is "energy." Chardhi in Punjabi means rising, ascending, soaring. So "Charhdi Kala" means an intensely "engergized", ever-ascending state of the spirit of an individual or a group.

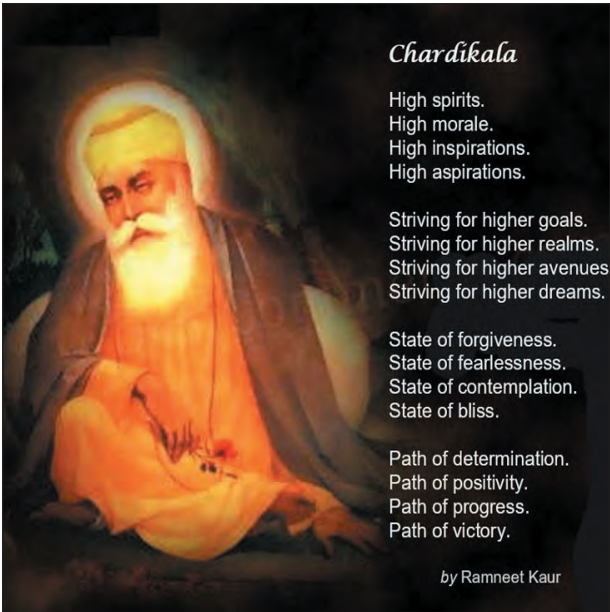
If someone asks a Sikh: 'Ki haal hai' (How are you?), his answer would be "In "Charhdi Kala!" - meaning 'I am in ascending spirits', even when he might be in great pain or sorrow!

Sikh meditate and pray every day. The prayer is concluded with the following liturgy:

Nanak Naam Charhdi Kala tere bhane sarbat da bhala.

(In the name of Guru Nanak, let there be ascending spirit and welfare of all.)

So, a Sikh prays not only for himself or his family,



but also for all living beings in the universe. When you have this kind of spirit and operate at that level, this brings happiness - Charhdi Kala just happens!

A Sikh prayer cannot be complete without praying for the welfare of all. So, this spirit has a lot to do with the power of prayer.

when one is facing a life and death situation. The spirit of defiance of all hardships is very much part of it. Sikhs are tenacious people who do not lose faith! Even when they lose, they do not know if they have lost because they never accept defeat!

This spirit of "Charhdi Kala" is unique to the Sikhs.

In a light vein

Your wife is your wife

A married couple was walking through a garden; suddenly a dog ran towards them. They both knew it might bite them...

The husband lifted his wife to let the dog bite him rather than his sweetheart. The dog stopped before them, unsure what to do, barked a little and ran away.

The husband put his wife down, expecting a hug and a few kind words of gratitude from her. But his wife shouted: "I've seen people throwing stones & sticks at dogs, this is the first time, I see someone trying to throw his wife at a dog."

Moral: "No one else can MISUNDERSTAND a husband better than a wife."

Time to ease the Covid lockdown

Medical experts in Melbourne were asked if it's time to ease the Covid lockdown.

Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but **dermatologists** advised not to make any rash moves.

Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but **neurologists** thought the government had a lot of nerve.

Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while **Ophthalmologists** considered the idea short-sighted.

Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while

paediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while **radiologists** could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and **pharmacists** claimed it would be a bitter pill to swallow.

Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would

"put a whole new face on the matter."

Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but **urologists** were pissed off at the whole idea.

Anaesthetists thought the whole idea was gas, and those lofty **cardiologists** didn't have the heart to say no.

Proctologists won out in the end, leaving the entire decision up to the assholes in politics.

An Inspirational speaker said...

“The best days of my life were the days I spent with another man's wife.”

The audience were in shock and silence.

He added: "And she is my mother."

A big round of applause and laughter followed.

One man who listened to the speech decided to crack this joke at home.

At dinner, he said to his wife: 'The best days of my life were the days I spent with another man's wife...'

After a moment he tried to recall

the second line...

By the time he regained his senses, he was on a hospital bed, recovering from burns of boiling water poured by his wife.

Moral lesson: Don't copy if you cannot paste.

Who are lizards?

Awesome answer by a kid: They are those poor crocodiles who forgot to have Horlicks when they were young.

What's the best example of "Once in a lifetime opportunity?"

A mosquito sitting on your wife's face.

That's indeed a once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity to give her a stinging slap on the cheek!!!

A little boy was in a bus eating a chocolate, then he took another one and then another...

A man next to him said: "Do you know that too much of it will damage your teeth?"

The boy replied: "My grandfather lived for 132 years."

The man asked: "Was it because of eating chocolate?"

The boy replied: "No! he always minded his own business!"

Son: Dad there's a small get-together at school tomorrow.

Father: Small get together? How small?

Son: Only me... you... and the Principal.

Health Matters

Grapes are a go-to snack for picnics and lunchboxes, but don't take them for granted. For thousands of years, they've been used in some cultures as medicine. Each of these small fruits is loaded with over 1,600 compounds -- and many of them can help keep you healthy.

Heart help

Grapes are a good source of potassium, a mineral that helps balance fluids in your body. Potassium can help bring down high blood pressure and lower your risk of heart disease and stroke. Most people don't get enough of this nutrient, so eating grapes can help fill the gap.

Healthy skin and hair

Grape seeds are rich in vitamin E, which helps your skin stay smooth and hydrated. Other compounds in grapes may help prevent acne and increase blood flow to your scalp for healthier hair.

Weight loss

You wouldn't think a fruit this sweet could help you drop some unwanted pounds, but grapes may do just that. A natural compound they contain appears to make it harder for your cells to store fat. It may also help fat cells in your body break up at a faster rate. Just be careful not to eat too many. One serving is 1/2 cup, or about 16 grapes.

Eye protection

Natural chemicals in grapes ease inflammation in your body and help protect your cells from damage. That's good news for your eyes. Studies show that a diet that

What's So Great About Grapes



includes grapes can prevent or delay common eye diseases like cataracts and glaucoma.

Immune system boost

A compound in grapes called resveratrol can help shore up the immune system -- your body's defense against germs. More research needs to be done to find out exactly how it may help, but one day, you might see resveratrol in products to help heal wounds or prevent bacterial infections.

Good for your brain

Resveratrol in grapes slows the breakdown of cells that naturally happens as you age. This may prevent harmful plaques from forming in your brain and

slowing down how well it works.

Constipation relief

The high water content in grapes can help your digestive system run more smoothly. Grapes are also full of insoluble fiber, which can lead to softer stools.

Better sleep

Grape skins are high in melatonin, a chemical that may improve your sleep. Studies show melatonin eases jet lag and insomnia, and may help steady your mood.

Keep blood sugar low

Grapes have a "low glycemic index," which means they don't raise your blood sugar too quickly. Because of that, they're

a good fruit choice if you have diabetes. The polyphenols in purple grapes -- the compounds that give them their color -- may also help prevent type 2 diabetes.

Cancer defense

Research shows antioxidants in grapes may prevent or delay the growth of cancer cells. Some cancers that they may protect you from include mouth, lung, throat, pancreas, prostate, and colon.

Fresh fruit vs. juice

Some supplements have the same nutrients as grapes, but eating fresh fruit seems to give you the most health benefits. And while grape juice is good for you as well, try not to drink it too often. Juice is high in sugar, and you'll miss out on the dietary fiber that whole grapes have.

Choose the right colour

The amount of antioxidants in grapes depends on the variety, where they're grown, and how they're picked and processed. It's clear, though, that dark red and purple grapes contain more antioxidants than white or green types.

What about wine?

Red wine can have health benefits, too. But don't overdo it. Men shouldn't drink more than 2 servings of alcohol each day. Women should stick to one. And if you don't drink alcohol, don't start now. You can easily enjoy fresh grapes and get health benefits from them, instead.

WebMD

Health Matters

Diet & Weight Management

How your waist affects your health**Why should you care about your waist size?**

The larger your waist, the more likely you are to have fat around your organs -- and these health issues.

Learn how to measure it correctly.

What your waist tells you

It's an easy measuring stick for good health. That's partly because it helps estimate a type of fat called "visceral," which forms deep inside your belly area and around your organs. In general, the larger your waist, the more likely you are to have it. Too much of any body fat is bad, but visceral fat may be worse than others. It makes you more likely to get a number of serious illnesses.

What's wrong with visceral fat?

As it breaks down, visceral fat sometimes puts too many fatty acids into your blood, which raises your chances of heart disease, Alzheimer's, and high cholesterol. It could also make your body more resistant to insulin, which can lead to type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes. Plus, proteins from visceral fat may inflame body tissues and narrow blood vessels, which can raise your blood pressure.

How Big Is Too Big?

Everyone is different, but there are general guidelines about waistlines. In women, 35 inches or more is typically a sign of visceral fat. In men, it's 40. These numbers may be slightly higher if your body is naturally very large. They're lower for people with Asian backgrounds: 31.5 for

women and 35.5 for men. Talk to your doctor to be sure about your waist size.

Belly Fat vs. Visceral Fat

Belly fat that you see and feel pushing against your jeans is often a sign of visceral fat, but not always. It's possible to have fat just under the skin and very little visceral fat. Sumo wrestlers who train daily, for example, often have very large waists and high BMIs and yet relatively low visceral fat. This can change very quickly, of course, when these athletes stop working out.

Metabolic Syndrome

The size of your waist is one of five things that can be a sign of a problem called metabolic syndrome. The other four are high levels of triglycerides, cholesterol, blood pressure, and blood sugar. Any one of these by itself could be a sign of serious illness. When you have three or more of them together, it adds up to metabolic syndrome -- a situation that raises your chances of heart disease, diabetes, and stroke.

Waist-to-Hip Ratio

It's another way to check the health of your waistline. You simply divide the distance around your waist by the distance around your hips. Anything higher than 0.85 for women and 0.95 for men could mean your health is at risk. Some doctors prefer the waist-to-hip ratio to a simple waist measurement, but studies suggest the two approaches are equally good at predicting health problems.

Measure your waist the right way

Accuracy is important. Stand up with your measuring

tape. Make sure the tape stays straight as you measure around your waist and above your hip bones -- about in line with your belly button. And sorry, you can't suck in your gut to get a lower number! You should be relaxed and take the measurement just after you breathe out, not after you breathe in.

Are you an apple or a pear?

An apple-shaped body, more common in men, means you tend to store fat around your stomach, while your lower body stays thin. That often means more visceral fat and so more health problems. A "pear shape" means your body stores fat in the hip and thigh area. It's more common among women and might be part of why women typically live longer than men.

Exercise

Even if you don't lose weight, exercise can burn visceral fat and build muscle. It doesn't take much. Take the dog for a brisk walk or go for a bike ride. Thirty minutes of physical activity on most days of the week will do the trick. Throw in some muscle-building exercise with weights, push-ups, or yoga to increase your fat-burning at rest. Check with your doctor first if you haven't been active much, are older, or have health problems.

What you eat

More calcium seems to help women lose visceral fat. Look for it in leafy greens, dairy, and fatty fish like sardines. Trans fats and fructose-sweetened foods, on the other hand, seem to encourage belly fat. Read the nutrition label, and try to avoid the bad stuff. And eat a variety of vegetables, fruits, whole grains like oatmeal and quinoa, and lean protein like skinless chicken, fish, eggs, beans, and low-fat dairy.

WebMD

Sayantani Ghosh: 'Every time I step out it is scary'

The actor knows the current working procedure will continue "till vaccines are available"

Shooting in the pandemic is taxing, especially when a number of actors from television have been tested positive. And Sayantani Ghosh, who started shooting a week ago for her TV show *Barrister Babu*, had barely stepped out in the last few months. "I had a lot of anxiety every time I stepped out to shoot. It is scary but one has to accept it and calm down. After seeing the measures on the sets, I felt better. This is the new normal and we need to accept it. We have to be more aware of our surroundings," she shares with Hindustan Times.

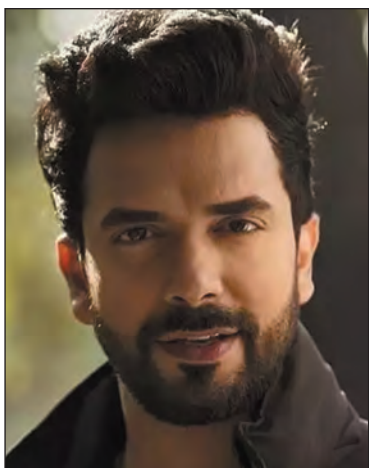
The actor has been taking all precautions on and off the set though her "frame of mind" is anxious but over a period of time she has become "more accepting". She avoids touching her face as much as possible. "Recently, I was quite sweaty after shooting for a dance sequence but I didn't touch my face till I washed my hands," she says.

Glad to be back on the sets, Ghosh knows the current working procedure will continue "till vaccines are available". "Instead of panicking, we should step out only when needed. Learn to live with the new normal. The experience so far is very new and very scary. I've been telling myself that this will go on for a while, so it's best to accept and move on. Adjusting does take time; it is a slow process but I am trying."

Looking back at the last six months, Ghosh is glad she got to spend quality time with her family who had come to visit and had to stay back due to the lockdown. "It was just wonderful. We were all at home and enjoyed cooking and being with each other for so many months after so long. They are still with her and it feels great to have family when I return home from work. Covid-19 has made me realise to live economically. We don't realise but we can survive with basics and the rest of our needs are just add-ons," she signs off.



Manit Joura reveals why taking up 'Kundali Bhagya' was extremely challenging for him



Manit Joura has become a household name with his appearance in Zee TV's popular show *Kundali Bhagya*. The show has been topping the TRP charts for a very long time now.

The handsome hunk plays the role of Rishabh Luthra in the show and fans are loving him for his stellar performance. Manit's character is quite delightful, and the actor has left no stone unturned to make it memorable for the viewers.

Kundali Bhagya has been running on small screens for more than three years now. The show has garnered praises from the viewers for its intriguing storyline.

In an exclusive chat with *TellyChakkar*, Manit spoke about his journey in the show, the reason why it was quite challenging for him to essay the role of Rishabh, and much more.

Manit said that he is extremely grateful to be a part of such a big TV show. He added that being a part of a daily soap is a huge commitment.

The actor revealed why it was extremely challenging for him to take up *Kundali Bhagya*: "I easily get bored with things. It was extremely challenging for me to take up a TV show after a very long time."

The actor further added, "I can't give my 100% to anything which doesn't excite me. What I love about *Kundali Bhagya* is that I have not got bored even after being a part of this show for such a long time."

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

If you're single, you'll be in a hurry to get married; still take time to think about it. Changes in your work; try to adapt yourself to the new situation. Sometimes you'll be a prey to anguish; show common sense and courage to get out of it.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 18, 24, 25, 26, 31

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

You'll be a prey to intensive urges: you'll fall in love unexpectedly, or you'll yield to your unreasonable desires for spending. Your professional future will seem promising. You're going to have huge successes in friendly and mundane meetings.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 15, 16, 20, 39, 40

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

On the heart's side, you'll be at crossroads but you'll be able to choose the right direction. Beware of excessive spendings that you'll have a hard time resisting! This time, you'll sort out your relations so as to retain only the surest ones.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 10, 20, 30, 35, 40

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

This week will be calm enough for you if you're reasonable about everything. The exchanges of ideas that you'll have during this week will reveal themselves very productive; try new ways of tackling the problems that are worrying you.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 18, 20, 27, 29, 33

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Very taken with your work, you'll tend to neglect your dear ones. If you're looking for a job, use the Internet, and you'll have the best possible chances. Watch out for your words, otherwise you're likely to get into a conflict with your beloved one.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 13, 17, 20, 30

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You'll undergo a slight setback in your business and some financial restrictions. If you continue to idealize your beloved one, you're finally likely to be disappointed. It would be about time to relax yourself if you want to avoid exhausting your reserves.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 13, 19, 30, 35

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You'll undergo certain financial constraint, and it'll be necessary to think about ways of spending less while still preserving your lifestyle. You'll have the possibility of definitely settling certain problems within your couple.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 15, 20, 26, 30

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Difficult week because of financial constraints; modify your spending habits. Concerning love, don't put stress on your partner's drawbacks. You'll have enough critical sense to resist the so-called appeals of sects of all kinds.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 12, 15, 19, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You'll feel a great desire to love and being loved, and your wishes will be fulfilled. All during this week your children will need your presence, your advice, and your encouragement.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 4, 9, 12, 30

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Avoid people who are too talkative. Thanks to the favourable influxes, you won't be disappointed with your affections; a small change in your everyday life will prove to be beneficial to your couple.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 6, 14, 20, 33, 36

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You'll have good chances to get a promotion or a better and more profitable activity. Listen to your heart rather than to your reason; don't hesitate this time to commit a small folly if you feel like it. Your children will cause you worries.

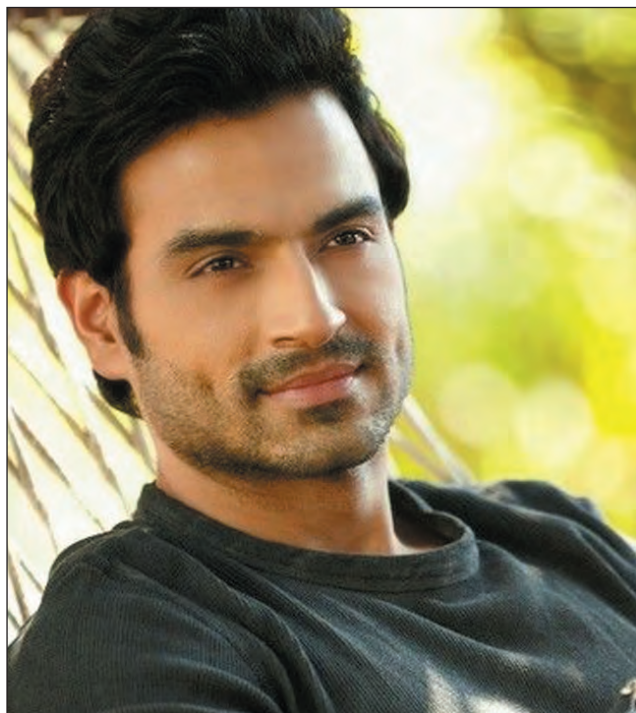
Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

If your spouse and children dream of calmness at home, they'll be disappointed, because you'll compel your whole small world to surpass themselves. Love and money won't get along well: think about it, otherwise you'll have problems.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 3, 9, 12, 22, 29

'Bin Kuch Kahe' - An interview with Sameer Arora and Shamata Anchan



Sameer Arora: 'I am an actor with my own methods'



Shamata Anchan: 'I admire Priyanka Chopra's work'

*** Tell us something about your character in *Bin Kuch Kahe***

Sameer Arora: I am playing half Brazilian half Indian, globetrotting international journalist working with international leading news channels, born in Brazil, character name is Kabir Miranda. He travels across the globe to cover different stories and for the same he is India, meets Myra Kohli in Mumbai.

Shamata Anchan: Myra Kohli is an aspiring journalist, she lives in Jaipur with her mother & three sisters. The show is about her bond with her family & how she bumps into Sameer Arora's character Kabir Miranda who she goes on to freelance for. Their rapport starts with that of hate but a few gestures from Kabir towards my character Myra, keeps

A 'Potpourri of Vestiges' recently caught up with Sameer Arora and Shamata Anchan who play Kabir Miranda and Myra Kohli, respectively, in Zee TV's 'Bin Kuch Kahe' for a chat

changing her initial thoughts about him. He changes her life. The genre is romantic comedy with a twist of family drama which makes it interesting. The relation my character shares with everyone is something that everyone can relate to, the intensity of those relation are not over the top.

*** How different is your character from the male protagonists we've seen on Hindi television shows?**

Sameer Arora: My character is very different from what the audience has seen on Hindi television shows. Kabir Miranda is suave, witty, intelligent, rich in his ideology, coming-of-age character.

I feel my producer and creator of the show Rajshree Ojha had a great vision and we together as a team worked on the characterization and made it classy. Kabir is uncomplicated, confident and believes in "where there is a will there is a way".

I studied the mannerisms of international leading journalists, Brazilian way of living, food, culture, language, etc.

This character is not all about good looks and 6 packs, it brings much more on the table where the audience can connect to it and feel the depth of it.

Shamata Anchan: Myra is today's girl, even though the show is set in Rajasthan, the makers are portraying a different side to the city of Jaipur which otherwise is displayed with girls roaming in *ghunghat* or even other people in traditional attire. There's no kitchen politics in our show. It's about a modern family residing in Jaipur who aren't too orthodox and very urban. The girls in our show are very fashion conscious, independent & strong, a Jaipurian side rarely seen.

*** Since this is your first project, how conscious were you of coming on board for this one & have you got a feedback from the fans of the show?**

Sameer Arora: I wasn't conscious, though was under pressure of presenting the character right the way my producer visualized. And adding to my happiness my director, producer also fans are very happy the way I portrayed, there is no single day I don't receive messages on social media by my fans talking about my character and how much they love it since it stands out and is different from other shows.

*** How is having Rajshree Ojha as a producer whose film *Aisha* was high on fashion? How different do you think is your styling in the show as compared to other lead actors on TV?**

Sameer Arora: It all starts with faith, my producer Rajshree Ma'am saw me as Kabir Miranda and worked really hard on the styling and the characterization.

She plays with colours and goes with the feel of the scene and character. Our head stylist Ghazal Lalwani Daing has also done a great job on our styling.

It's somewhere different from other lead actors on TV. You see a polished character here with great styling.

Shamata Anchan: We've tried to incorporate fashion that the youth can actually can actually relate to. My character of Myra Kohli has her own style. We've incorporated some Rajasthani culture with a twist of modernity. There's a lot of Indo-fusion in it. It's not typical of the norm of daily soaps. We've been styled by Ghazal Lalwani Daing who's done her fashion course from New York. It has been a great

experience working with Rajshree Ma'am. She's also given her directorial inputs for a few scenes. She's complimented me quite a few times which I feel grateful for, she's really chilled out producer, she pampers us and she's also strict when it comes to work so there's a good balance.

*** Who do you look up to when it comes to acting? Would you call yourself a director's actor or a method actor?**

Sameer Arora: I look up to real life characters when it comes to acting. I am an actor with my own methods to work on a character which also includes understanding the director's vision.

Shamata Anchan: I admire Priyanka Chopra's work, I love how far she's taken her career. Coming from a non-filmy background, she's achieved so much to a point where most of us can't even thinking of reaching. I look up to her. Personally, I am a director's actor, I am still new to the craft of acting as *Everest* was my first acting experience and I've not been trained in an acting school. As an actor I am dependent a lot on the director & the story writer for what they exactly want from me. I think I am really able to essay my characters much more easily that way. When it comes to method acting, I don't think I really could be a method actor, I am a more spontaneous actor.

*** How contrasting is your role in *Bin Kuch Kahe* from the character of your last show? Do you consider this your comeback like some TV fanatics believe?**

Shamata Anchan: I've done just one TV show before this where my character was very different from what I am playing now. It was an adventure drama called *Everest* where I played an aspiring mountaineer. There my character was innocent who wanted to prove her father of her potentials & it was physically very challenging. Whereas this show is of a completely different genre, it's a romantic comedy with a girl of today with modern characteristics that every girl can relate to.

As far as the question of a comeback goes, I would just say I've very careful of my choices. When 'Bin Kuch Kahe' came my way, I felt like I should do this for it being a five-night series which was being produced by Bollywood director Rajshree Ojha gave us the most fashionable film 'Aisha'. It wasn't a conscious decision to take a break but to do good work.

TV SERIAL Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

Friday 9 Oct: The Sippys celebrate the Haldi ceremony while Raima and Mahesh vow to cause trouble. Later, Rohit stops Veena from applying Haldi to Sonakshi.

Monday 12 Oct: An agitated Raima decides to leave the Sippy mansion. Rohit sends a sweet surprise for the Rastogis. Later, he suspects Mahesh's activities.

Tuesday 13 Oct: Having a bad feeling about Mahesh, Rohit summons him to the Sippy mansion. While Sonakshi's life is in danger, Mahesh hatches another plan to ruin the wedding.

Wednesday 14 Oct: Mahesh disrupts Sonakshi's shooting with a plan in mind while she is tensed about the same. Later, Rohit's Baraat reaches the marriage venue.

Thursday 15 Oct: Raima sets a trap to marry Rohit. Elsewhere, an evil Mahesh abducts Sonakshi.

CINE 12

Vendredi 9 oct - 21.15

Virtual Revolution

Avec: Mike Dopud, Jane Badler,
Jochen Hägele

MBC 1

Samedi 10 oct - 21.10

L'Echange

Star: Angelina Jolie, Colm Feore,
Amy Ryan

CINE 12

Dimanche 11 oct - 21.20



vendredi 9 octobre

MBC 1

07.05 Local: Passerelles
09.45 Local: Later Set Kouler
10.15 Local: Itinerer - Rodrig
11.00 Local Prod: Saver Kil Tirel
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Mag: Eye On SADC
12.55 Mag: Urban Gardens
14.00 Magazine
14.30 D.Anime: Grenadine Et...
15.21 D.Anime: The Minimighty...
15.40 D.Anime: Astrology
16.03 D.Anime: Monster Math...
16.40 D.Anime: Lucky Fred
17.14 D.Anime: Raju The Rickshaw
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local Prod
21.10 Serial: When Calls The Heart
22.30 Serial: The Blacklist
23.50 Mag: Eye On SADC

MBC 2

10.00 Serial: Mah-E-Tamaam
12.00 Film: Egise Taara Juvvalu
Starring: Jyothika, Urvashi,
Bhanupriya
14.05 DDI Magazine
15.00 Mag: Comedy Classes
15.21 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee
15.43 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.28 Serial: Bisaat-E-Dil
16.49 Mehendi Tohra Namam Ke
17.11 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.35 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.00 Serial: My Little Princess
18.30 DDI Magazine
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 DDI Magazine
20.00 Serial: Tawaan
20.44 Local: Anjuman
21.11 Local: Urdu Programme
22.06 DDI Live

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.44 Mag: Shift
07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today
08.01 Doc: David Hockney
08.58 Doc: 360 GEO
09.51 Mag: Strictly Street
11.41 Mag: Eco India
12.07 Mag: Green Touch
12.29 Mag: Shift
12.47 Mag: Border Crossing
13.13 Mag: Garden Makeover
14.39 Mag: Women Who Change...
16.43 Doc: Urmila, My Memory...
17.28 Mag: Eco India
18.00 Doc: Master Painter
18.40 Mag: Green Touch
18.48 Mag: Arts And Culture
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.34 Mag: Euromaxx

Cine 12

02.05 Film: Anna Karenina
04.05 Film: Clarity
05.52 Tele: Totalement Diva
06.42 Serial: Seal Team
07.21 Film: Boone
09.00 Serial: The Magicians
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant
10.35 Serial: Midnight, Texas
11.21 Tele: Tanto Amor
12.00 Film: Clarity
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva
14.45 Film: Boone: The Bounty...
16.40 Serial: The Magicians
17.21 Serial: Seal Team
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
21.15 Film: Virtual Revolution
22.46 Tele: Totalement Diva

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Naya Kadam
12.05/20.05
Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
12.30/ 20.11 -
Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna
13.10 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe
13.36 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.53 / 21.46 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.17 / 21.59 -
Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
14.43 / 22.25 - Bitti Business...
15.25 Film: Tu Chor Mein Sipahi
Starring: Akshay Kumar, Saif
Ali Khan and Tabu
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.51 Piya Albela
19.14 Mere Angne Mein

samedi 10 octobre

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains
06.27 D.Anime: HTDT
07.36 D.Anime: Linkers
08.36 D.Anime: Tintin
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Local: People
12.30 Doc: To The Moon
14.30 Local: Teenie Fables
14.37 D.Anime: In The Night...
14.59 D.Anime: Nutri Ventures
15.22 D.Anime: The Minimighty Kid
15.38 D.Anime: Astrology
15.40 D.Anime: Gadget And The...
16.00 D.Anime: Monster Math...
16.27 D.Anime: Lucky Fred
16.50 D.Anime: The Deep
17.11 D.Anime: Astrology
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.35 Entertain: Nach Baliye
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod: Lottotech
21.10 Film: L'Echange

07.00 Film: Dhund Lenge Manzil
Hum
Starring: Kalyanji Jana,
Dharmendra Singh
10.00 Bade Acchelagte Hai
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare
12.29 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.52 Serial: Brundavanam
13.16 Annakodiyum Ainthus
Pungalum
13.35 Serial: Anu Pallavi
15.23 Film: Benaam Badshah
Starring Anil Kapoor, Juhi
Chawla, Shilpa Shirodkar
18.00 Mag: DDI Magazine
19.00 Zournal Kreol
20.05 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki
Rahasya Gatha
21.00 Film: Rockstar
Starring - Ranbir Kapoor, Nargis
Fakhri, Shammi Kapoor
23.32 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Master Painter
06.49 Doc: Arts And Culture
07.02 Mag: Global 3000
07.36 Mag: Euromaxx
08.02 Doc: Wildlife Heroes
09.00 Mag: Photo Number 6
09.44 Paradise Or Roboclaypse
11.12 Doc: Master Painter
11.55 Mag: Green Touch
12.16 Mag: Global 3000
12.50 Mag: Euromaxx
13.16 Doc: Wildlife Heroes
15.40 Doc: Life After Crude
16.26 Doc: Master Painter
19.34 Doc: Dying To Live??
20.05 Doc: Revolte Dans La Mode
20.05 Doc: Empires Of Silver
21.00 Local: News
21.10 Live From Parama Bhakta...
00.15 Doc: Ville En Fête
00.41 Doc: The World From Above
01.07 Doc: Dying To Live?

01.34 Film: Virtual Revolution
03.05 Film: Chicago Fire
05.08 Tele: Destiny
05.56 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
06.38 Film: Pressure
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Serial: Shades Of Blue
09.59 Serial: Les Experts
10.40 Film: A Sunday Horse
12.21 Serial: Chicago Fire
13.00 Tele: Amanda
13.47 Tele: Premiere Dame
15.05 Serial: Midnight, Texas
16.31 Mag: Hollywood On Set
17.00 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
17.45 Film: Nessie & Me
19.45 Mag: Hollywood News Feed
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Series: Hawaii Five-0
21.15 Film: Cross
22.55 Tele: Eva Luna

04.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
04.26 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
04.51 Radha Krishna
05.14 Bin Kuch Krishna
05.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
06.01 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
06.22 Bitti Business Wali
06.45 Kundali Bhagya
07.07 Piya Albela
07.29 Mere Angne Mein
08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek
10.12 Yeh Pyaar Nahi Toh Kya...
12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
14.22 Bin Kuch Kahe
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.30 Film: Barsaat
Starring Bobby Deol,
Twinkle Khanna
21.17 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
21.59 Serial: Naagin
22.44 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek

dimanche 11 octobre

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains
06.27 D.Anime: HTDT
08.24 D.Anime: Asterix & Cleopatre
09.35 Serial: Waffle The Wonder...
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Doc: Builders Off The Future
13.55 Local: Coin Jardin
14.44 D.Anime: Nutri Ventures
15.30 D.Anime: The Minimighty...
15.47 D.Anime: Astrology
15.49 D.Anime: Gadget And The...
16.22 D.Anime: Invention Story
16.35 D.Anime: Lucky Fred
17.01 D.Anime: The Deep
17.22 D.Anime: Raju The Rickshaw
17.30 Mag: Zoboomafo
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.00 Local: Info 7 Sur 7
21.20 Film: A Room With A View

07.00 Film: Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi
Starring: Kishore Kumar,
Madhubala, Ashok Kumar
10.00 Local Production
11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai
11.21 Serial: Santoshi Ma
12.00 Film: Sanam Teri Kasam
Starring - Harshvardhan
Rane, Mawra Hocane, Vijay
Raaz
14.33 DDI Magazine
15.00 Mag: Comedy Classes
15.21 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
15.44 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht
16.06 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
17.00 Serial: Mahakali
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 DDI Magazine
20.05 Serial: Maharakshak: Devi
20.47 Serial: Naagin

06.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens
06.26 Doc: Ville En Fête
06.52 The World From Above
07.15 Doc: Dying To Live??
08.39 Mag: Women Who Changed
08.44 Doc: The Temple City Of...
10.18 The Ice Surfers Of Kamchatka
11.09 Doc: Amazing Gardens
12.21 Doc: Dying To Live??
16.34 Doc: Ville En Fête
17.25 Doc: Dying To Live??
18.00 Doc: Trajectory
18.30 Garden Party
19.05 Doc: Bearing The Burden
19.30 Mag: Future Mag
21.00 Doc: News (English)
21.10 Mag: Women Who Changed..
22.07 Doc: The Lure Of The Artic
23.31 Doc: Trajectory
23.57 Doc: Garden Party
00.23 Doc: Bearing The Burden

01.30 Film: Cross
03.43 Film: Road Games
05.13 Tele: Destiny
06.01 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
06.43 Film: The Pirate
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.16 Serial: The Enemy Within
10.02 Serial: Les Experts
10.40 Film: Nessie & Me
12.15 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
13.09 Serial: Amanda
13.45 Tele: Premiere Dame
15.05 Serial: Midnight, Texas
17.08 Serial: Hawaii Five 0
17.48 Serial: The Enemy Within
18.30 Film: For The Love Or George
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor
21.15 Film: Sniper Reloaded
22.45 Film: Nessie & Me

00.30 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
01.46 Bin Kuch Kahe
04.02 Pavitra Rishta
05.01 Film: Barsaat
Starring Bobby Deol,
Twinkle Khanna
08.06 Motu Patlu
08.31 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
09.54 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
11.40 Piya Albela
13.27 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum
15.16 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.00 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Nawabzaade
Starring: Dharmesh Yelande, Punit
Pathak, Raghav Juyal
21.59 Nach Baliye
21.58 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
22.48 Piya Albela

MBC 2 Samedi 10 oct - 21.00

Stars: Ranbir Kapoor, Nargis
Fakhri, Shammi KapoorDimanche 11 oct
- 18.30Stars: Dharmesh Yelande, Punit
Pathak, Raghav Juyal



Nita Chicooree- Mercier

Not only supermarkets, banks and restaurants as well offer what by now is a familiar scene of emptiness and scarce presence of customers, beaches are not attracting crowds even during the week-ends. Lockdown gave a respite to beaches from being trampled upon by thousands of feet every week-end and they recovered their former lovely pristine sandy stretches of the 80s.

The sand became whiter, saplings freely sprouted here and there, and the lagoon water became crystal clear, offering a landscape which we thought belonged to the past. Saplings have been removed but the beaches are still white and fresh, enjoying a breathing space with the gentle ebb and flow of mild waves. Luckily for the lagoons, people here keep away from wading into cold water during winter time.

No crowd rushed to relax and spend the day at the seaside since the end of lockdown. A few families scattered along the beach of Mont Choisy, and some more on Sundays. A sober atmosphere of folks taking time out, a far sight from the usual noisy Sunday crowd and music busters. Thinning bank accounts and unemployment are taking a toll which is likely to stay for a longer period. Simply, low-income brackets and low middle-class folks have no means to afford petrol for cars and extra food outside homes. Food stalls are closed; coconut and fruit vendors have disappeared.

A millionaire couple sitting on a bench, watching the sunset sounds realistic enough in the present circumstances. If two hotels are closed, they are kept afloat by cross-subsidies from other businesses. 'I am dreaming of flying away to all the places that are dear to my heart,' says the wife. She is a foreigner who is married to a Mauritian businessman. Sure, she is not the only one who is looking forward to taking up traveling to different continents. Her daughter has come back from France just before the 1st October and is in quarantine somewhere. She keeps looking at her phone in case she calls, no fun being locked up there. She set up several businesses and worked hard to make them thrive. She is one of the top, if not the first, successful businesswomen in the country.

The husband is a man of few words and has not been in good health for some time.

Locked up and still free...



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He attends meetings in boards of directors at several places, and has a competent staff to manage his businesses.

In casual encounters, sometimes in town and mostly at the beach, conversations quickly drift to travels, the joy of visiting countries and having a good time abroad, and where the kids are living abroad and how they are coping. Fortunately, there are conversations which centre on the good things in life and avoid toxic topics.

Hailing from a rich merchant class of Indian origin, his family and cousins have prospered in various sectors throughout the 20th century till today, are broad-minded and hold a modern outlook on everything. Polemics, heated debates and sectarian animosities are not his cup of tea. He leisurely brushes them aside with a shrug. 'There's a lot of people who claim to defend such and such lofty ideals,' he says, 'yet, they are the most intolerant people. They cannot accept that someone holds different views and defends a cause and expresses them freely.' Above all, he has a strong aversion to religious fanaticism and ethnic divides. 'The island itself looks like a prison. Well, no choice now, better takes things easy,' the wife observes, smilingly.

As we stroll along the beach, sunset casts its last rays on the horizon and the birds noisily bid good-bye to one another, hopping from one branch to another up there in the filao trees.

A woman from Reunion who is a resident in Mauritius talks about her quarantine experience at the bus stop. 'It was awful, I don't want to sound a racist, but...' Self-censorship in its most stupid version, conditioned by taboos and political correctness. Seeing things through the lens of race and

what not, or it may be an impulsive propensity to view social interaction in binary terms, which she takes along in her luggage.

What are the terrible conditions of quarantine? Three meals a day, no outside space to walk on and no one to talk to. The very definition of quarantine, what more do you expect? Up to you to bring along music and books, and be grateful that it is being financed from public funds.

And now, the island bets on its Covid-free brand in its marketing strategy. It sounds reasonable though you may complain about gilded prisons for exorbitant prices, which makes J.M. Leclezio's 'La Quarantaine' look like a holiday resort where inmates could still walk around Flat Island.

What does the near future look like? It is the topic of conversation at the small eatery in China Town. The son takes a break and smokes a cigarette on the threshold while talking to a passer-by who drops in for a chat. 'Hotels want to re-open', he repeatedly says, 'The lobby is putting pressure' - he delivers it as breaking news. His mother remains behind the counter.

'Well, it's better that way. Otherwise, we are going to pay taxes for those who don't work,' replies the passer-by, a Chinese man in his 60s. The street is empty; a few youngsters are busy making decorations with all sorts of stuff for a coming festival in a workshop nearby.

They look cool and happy with what they are doing. Things might get tougher in the coming months. They exude the confidence of youth, aware that whatever be the circumstances, a long life lies ahead and happier years will come. The world is their oyster.

Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor



Recharging Your Batteries

Getting worn out and run down robs you of receiving what you need from the universe.

Our natural state of being is vibrant, happy to be alive. Yet, there can be times when we feel run down and worn out. This does not mean that we are lazy or unfit for the tasks in our lives; it means that we need to recharge our batteries and find a way of keeping them charged. Vitamins and extra rest can be very helpful in restoring our physical bodies. And if we are willing to delve deeper, we may discover that there is an underlying cause for our exhaustion.

Whenever you are feeling run down, take an honest look at how you have been thinking, feeling and acting. You will likely find a belief, behavior pattern or even a relationship that is out of alignment with who you really are. Perhaps you believe you have to be perfect at everything or you have been bending over backwards to get people to like you. Maybe you are dealing with mild depression or simply have too much on your plate right now. There may also be people or situations in your life which are draining your energy. Once you get clear on the root cause, you can weed it out and better direct your flow of energy in the future.

In time, you might notice that the reasons you feel run down have less to do with how much you are doing and more to do with the fact that in your heart, you would rather be doing something else entirely. From now on, try and listen to what your heart really wants. It may take meditation, or just a moment of silent tuning in to gain the clarity you need, but it is well worth the effort. When you know what you truly want to do, and honor that in all situations, you will find that getting run down is a thing of the past.