

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Voting is as much an emotional act as it is an intellectual one." -- Monica Crowley

US Elections

For the winner of the election, the moment of victory brings unbridled joy and acclamation. This isn't so for the loser



What It's like to Lose a Presidential Election

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Social mobility: Boon and bane



Experts have yet to agree on the exact connection between the levels of education and the degree of social mobility, but there is no doubt that education does play a significant role

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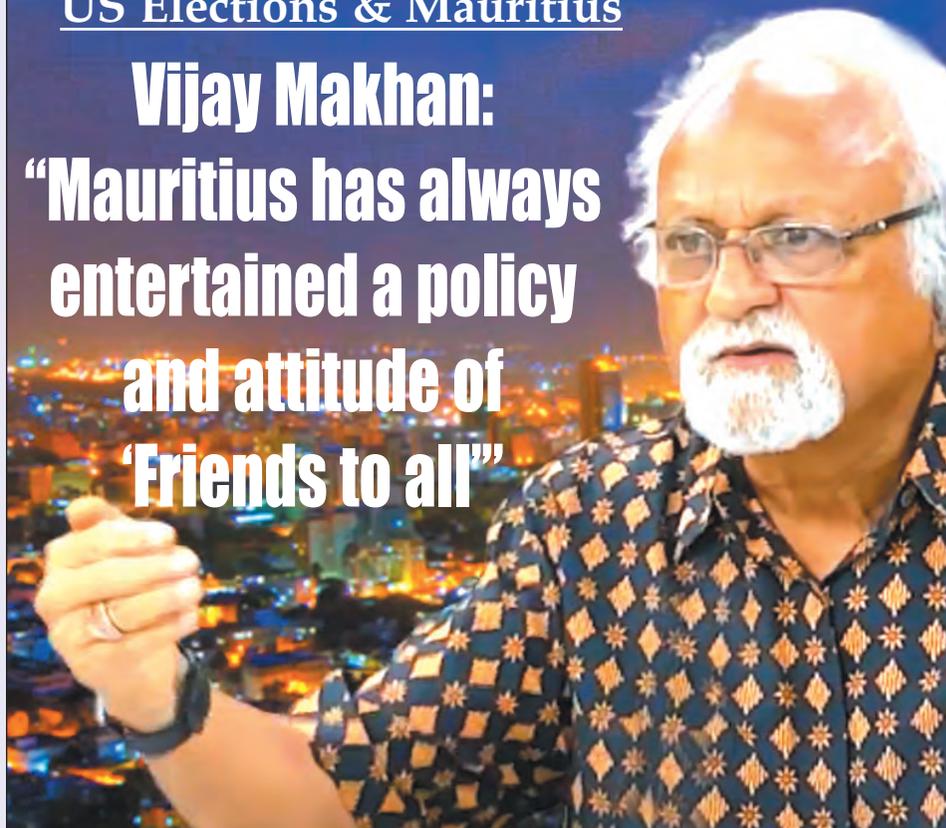
Letter from New Delhi

Who becomes US President? Some Indians care and want to know

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US Elections & Mauritius

Vijay Makhan:
"Mauritius has always entertained a policy and attitude of 'Friends to all'"



'We would hope that a Biden administration would pay heed to the position of the international community on the Chagos issue'

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Changing World Order

At the time of writing (yesterday afternoon) by all accounts the Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden was leading in the American elections that were held on November 3rd, the tally then being Biden 264 as against Trump's 214 (Total seats 270), with counting still going on in a couple of States. The whole world is waiting for the final outcome, because despite all the turbulence that has been shaking it up, America still remains the global power number one in terms of its economy, and whatever happens there impacts the whole world whether we like it or not.

As a country we do not have any great penetration in the US trade-wise, barring the African Growth and Opportunity Act, meant for Africa essentially, but which allowed us to make an inroad into the American market. Still, we have to be concerned because the Indian Ocean is fast becoming the pivotal centre of global geopolitics, and this has been triggered in recent times by the outreach strategy of China which extends to our region as well.

Thus, China has a military base in Djibouti, ostensibly to better monitor and control piracy in the region which threatens the transport of its oil supplies. But other powers view this as part of its larger strategy of global dominance, in line with its activities in the South China Sea and the Malacca Strait, which are considered to imperil the free movement of international maritime traffic in those parts. Neighbouring countries resent this perceived threat of China, but this is also true for the US, India, Australia and Japan. They have allied to form the QUAD, to counter the growing military push and clout of China in the Indian Ocean region.

As far as we are concerned, the Chagos issue is still not completely resolved despite the ruling of the International Court of Justice in our favour, and now there is the problem of tuna fishing which brings in the UK in the Indian Ocean region through its association with the Maldives.

Though we are a small island state, our location in the Indian Ocean nevertheless places us at practically the centre of this power game going on, and we must craft our foreign policy in such a way as to leverage it to our advantage, which means at all times defending and securing our interests. We have always adopted the line of being friendly to all, and we must make sure that the powers that be understand that it cannot be

otherwise. That is why any negotiations in which we are involved must be carried out by seasoned diplomats and ambassadors, and because personal contacts are so vital in this respect, there must be no reluctance on the part of the authorities to have recourse to former cadres if need be. The interest of the country must be paramount.

As far as America is concerned, there is not likely to be any major change in policy in the Indian Ocean region even if Biden becomes President. This is the view of Vijay Makhan, former Commissioner of African Union, and Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mauritius, in his interview to this paper today.

As he opines, '...the USA objectives will continue to be dominated by its security concerns and naturally it will continue to strengthen its position within the regions... Besides, let me just reiterate that when it comes to foreign policy objectives and US security considerations, these are established by the two major departments which are the State Department, that is foreign affairs, and the Pentagon, that is defence.

Obviously, any American administration will follow keenly the India-China glaring ongoing competition in the region, and Washington will continue to scrutinise, analyse and assess the aspirations of both these countries and determine its policy accordingly. I do not see a Biden administration changing the status quo except in its approach'.

Further on, he points out that 'Mauritius has always entertained a policy and attitude of "Friends to all". I hardly see any reason for us to depart from that stance. On the contrary, we will have to be very careful and maintain that approach. We should always be conscious of the fact that we are a small nation, highly dependent on the outside world for our economic progress and development.

It would hardly serve us to choose one camp or another. We have no alternative than to continue to pursue a more or less neutral path, that is, from the geo-strategic point of view. It is our permanent interests that will have to prime at all times.'

This is all the more important as we have no control over the future that is unfolding, but must be vigilant and prepare to actively adapt to the shifting circumstances if we are to survive in this increasingly difficult international order.

The Conversation

US election: why democratic legitimacy remains at stake

The political and social crisis in the US has its roots in twin challenges.

Even as millions of votes in key battlegrounds were being counted, Donald Trump incorrectly declared victory in the US presidential race. The US will sit in limbo until the results from swing states are in. The Trump campaign has committed to pushing this political battle into the courts should he lose, and the Biden campaign has promised to meet the challenge.

Throughout the 2020 campaign, polls suggested that whatever the outcome, significant parts of the US would see their new leader as illegitimate. Regardless of whether Trump or Joe Biden is ultimately inaugurated as their 46th president, millions of Americans will see the outcome as "the end of democracy".

The apocalyptic tenor of the election reflects deeper, foundational challenges to the legitimacy of American democracy of which Trump is a symptom more than a cause.

This crisis finds its roots in twin challenges. The first stems from accumulated procedural violations in all branches and levels of government. The second is grounded in the type of authority that Trump commands.

Flouting norms

The procedural challenges to democratic legitimacy include norms being flouted by both parties in Congress, the norms of public behaviour destroyed by the Trump presidency, and most recently, the electoral upheaval exacerbated by COVID-19.

The Republican Party's recent insistence on a rapid confirmation process for conservative supreme court nominee Amy Coney Barrett especially after its refusal to do the same for Democratic nominee Merrick Garland in 2016, has made Barrett's confirmation deeply divisive. Democrats do not have a clean track record in this arena, either: most recently, senate majority leader Chuck



The US is facing a crisis of democratic legitimacy.
Photo - Clemens Bilan/EPA

Schumer reportedly threatened that nothing was off the table if the Democrats take the senate.

Trump himself has also made lasting changes to the institutions of government. His catalogue of sins is lengthy and well-rehearsed, and his disregard for the rule of law has been patent. As worrisome as the violations themselves is the precedent that his behaviour sets for the standards of presidential probity.

A further threat to legitimacy comes not from the federal government or Trump himself, but from longstanding and intensifying attempts to derail citizens' ability to participate in the democratic process. Observers have detailed the modes, extent, and history of voter suppression in the 2020 election cycle. These include convoluted registration laws that disadvantage specific (mostly Democrat-leaning) groups, intimidation or discouragement at the polls, and the disqualification of cast ballots.

Voters in Atlanta, Georgia in precincts with largely African American populations encountered waiting times of up to 12 hours during early voting.

Nadia Hilliard
Lecturer in US Politics, UCL

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Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy

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

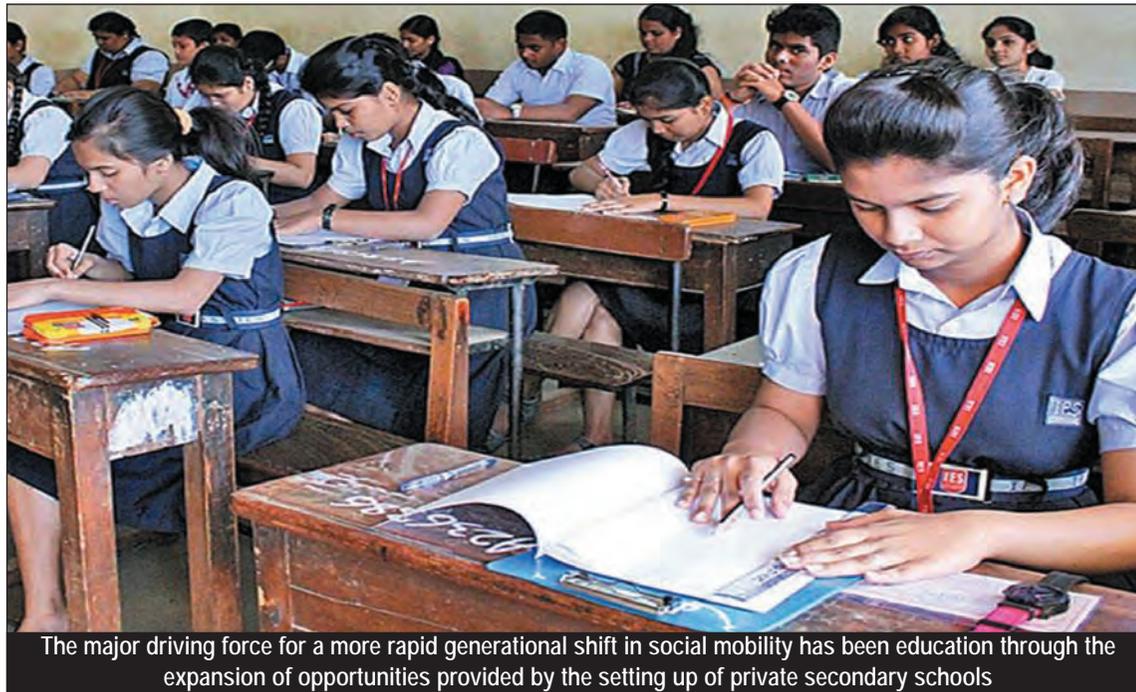




Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Social mobility: Boon and bane

Social mobility can be both a boon and a bane. The choice is ours to make, and unless we make a return to at least some of the wholesome universal human values, the future is likely to be a grim one



The major driving force for a more rapid generational shift in social mobility has been education through the expansion of opportunities provided by the setting up of private secondary schools

Everybody aspires for a better quality of life, which is usually viewed in material terms of a good job, good earnings, decent housing, fame and standing in society. Social mobility is about the possibility of moving in society to attain this type of a better economic and social future if one does not already enjoy such a status. Thus, in contemporary society, the perception – and ambition – is to climb upwards from the lower class to the middle class and if possible higher still to the upper class, which is how society is generally stratified, though of late the rise of ‘identity politics’ has come to complicate an already difficult situation. Indeed, social mobility is a very complicated issue, and at the outset it can be appreciated that this movement depends on a whole lot of factors which can either facilitate or obstruct the process.

In general it can be said that the advent of science and technology and the march of industrialisation, especially after the end of World War II, have enabled the majority of the growing world’s population to make social progress, though this has been uneven depending on each country’s specificities. And so, despite the advances made, hundreds of millions of people are still living in poverty, and even in the so-called highly developed countries, there is an increasing gap between the haves and the have-nots so that social inequalities are rising.

As regards our own country, we have gone through very dark times during the periods of slavery and indenture, during which social mobility for the majority of the workers was constrained given the conditions under which they laboured. There are many factors – social, political, economic, institutional, etc – that have contributed to Mauritians emerging relatively successfully from slavery and indenture and gain in social mobility. It has clearly not been easy, being a constant, relentless struggle, with lots of obstacles on the way – many of which still exist, and have to be overcome by recourse to the law, and here the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights that applies to all countries has certainly been a major instrument in support of all peoples in their fight for their dignity and respect, with-

out which no advancement could take place.

Here I must, however, mention what I think is the major push that was given to social mobility locally, and that is the advice given by Gandhiji during his visit to Mauritius in 1901, namely to engage in politics and to pursue education, as I wrote in my article in the issue of this paper of 2nd November. As regards education, experts have yet to agree on the exact connection between the levels of education and the degree of social mobility, but there is no doubt that education does play a significant role.

My own experience about social mobility dates from the time of my growing up in the post World War II period onwards. As I see it, there has been a more rapid generational shift in social mobility since then, when compared to the much slower pace – if at all and that also of only a few – in the preceding period of nearly 250 years beginning with colonisation by the French, as mentioned already.

The major driving force for that generational change has been education through the expansion of opportunities provided by the setting up of private secondary schools, which added to the existing government colleges and the confessional schools and colleges, as well as the offer of scholarships by various friendly countries such as newly independent India, the USSR and several East European countries. Other options included proceeding to the UK to pursue successful careers in nursing, the possibility of pursuing external degrees (London University), among others.

But to receive education we had to be of sound health, and this is where the welfare state model came in, and later universal

health coverage – with a series of public health measures implemented which, along with gradual consolidation of our curative services greatly led to improvement of our health status. So health has been an important element in fostering social mobility. It helped to produce a healthy, employable workforce which facilitated industrialization, generate better earnings with consequent improvement in living conditions. This in turn led to further progress in education that facilitated access to other sectors that were opening up over the last 30 years in business, finance, services, IT and so on. The result has been enhancing further our material comforts and living standards.

But we have turned full circle, for that very same material prosperity has made us become victims of the ‘diseases of affluence’ as the Non-Communicable Diseases are known, with a parallel upshoot in the social dysfunctions that are plaguing other countries equally. Amongst others: family breakdowns and separation (nuclear families); social ills on the increase - alcoholism, drugs, divorces, crimes of all kinds; aloofness of the elite etc.

Underlying these is the loss of values of social solidarity that alone can sustain communities and societies, why the whole world itself, and allow us to enjoy to the full the gains made by social mobility. In other words social mobility can be both a boon and a bane. The choice is ours to make, and unless we make a return to at least some of the wholesome universal human values, the future is likely to be a grim one.

But it need not be. We live in a diverse, plural society, and each community is inspired by its own set of values and principles over and above those which are common to the polity, such as justice, fairness, abiding to the rule of law... It is therefore

each community’s responsibility to help spread such notions amongst themselves and share with others too.

“My own experience about social mobility dates from the time of my growing up in the post World War II period onwards. As I see it, there has been a more rapid generational shift in social mobility since then, when compared to the much slower pace -- if at all and that also of only a few - in the preceding period of nearly 250 years beginning with colonisation by the French. The major driving force for that generational change has been education through the expansion of opportunities provided by the setting up of private secondary schools, which added to the existing government colleges and the confessional schools and colleges, as well as the offer of scholarships by various friendly countries such as newly independent India, the USSR and several East European countries...”

It is in this context that recently the Sanatan Vedic Trust (SVT), an NGO registered with Macoss, held a workshop focused on, aptly, ‘Fostering Social Mobility in a Changing Society’. Presentations were made on the historical evolution of social mobility from the time of slavery to date, the rights aspects, the consequences of social mobility, the role of education, and the Universal Vedic values and principles which guide the vision of SVT, namely ‘Welfare and well-being of all’. The insights gained will help to plan further such sessions and share what is learnt.

The efforts of every community will add up to build a safe and sound future for the upcoming generations, especially in the tough Covid times that are awaiting us.

Union of Finance Officers

AGM Notice to all Members

Members are kindly informed that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the above Union will be held at RABITA HALL in Port Louis, on Wednesday 25 November 2020 from 11.30 am to 14.30 pm

AGENDA

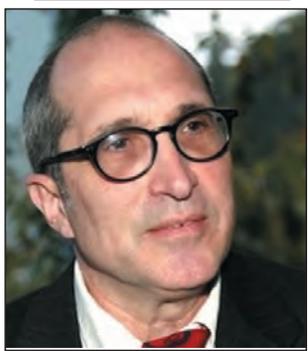
1. Welcome address by the President
2. Address by Chief Guest
3. Reading and approval of minutes of last AGM
4. Matters arising
5. President Report
6. Approval of Financial Statements for 2019 and Estimates 2020
7. AOB

R. Mungur
Secretary

3 November 2020

What It's like to Lose a Presidential Election

For the winner, it's the achievement of a lifetime. For the loser, not so much



By Chris Lamb, Professor of Journalism, IUPUI

The American public may not find out who wins the presidential election on Nov. 3 or Nov. 4 or even Nov. 5. But, at some point, we will learn whether Republican Donald Trump is elected to a second term or if Democrat Joe Biden will be the next president.

For the winner of the election, the moment of victory brings unbridled joy and acclamation, applause, laughter, hugs and champagne to celebrate the biggest prize in politics.

This isn't so for the loser, who must ultimately accept the responsibility for the defeat.

In my book, "The Art of the Political Putdown," I tell the story of Thomas Dewey, the Republican presidential candidate in 1948, who was heavily favoured to win the election - only to lose to Harry S. Truman, the incumbent.

On election night, according to one story, Dewey, the governor of New York, asked his wife, "How will it feel to sleep with the president of the United States?"

"A high honour," his wife replied, "and quite frankly, darling, I'm looking forward to it."

But Truman won the election. The next day at breakfast, as the story goes, Dewey's wife said, "Tell me, Tom, am I going to the White House or is Harry coming here tonight?"

A disappointing letdown

Losing the presidency is a crushing defeat. The incalculable hours of giving speeches, campaigning and fundraising came to naught. The candidate feels like they have disappointed the millions of people who believed in them, who contributed to the campaign, who voted for them and who thought they were going to win.

The pain associated with losing the presidential election remains for a long time. A dozen years after George McGovern lost the 1972 presidential election in a landslide to Richard Nixon, he was asked how long it had taken for him to recover. "I'll let you know when I get there," McGovern said.

After losing the 2008 presidential election, John McCain said he slept like a baby: "Sleep two hours, wake up and cry," he said, adding, "sleep two hours, wake up and cry."

In 2016, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton woke up on Election Day ahead in most of the polls and thought she would become the first woman president. By the time the day was over, those hopes had faded, and by early the next morning, when she called her opponent Donald Trump to concede, those hopes had disappeared entirely.

"This is not the outcome we wanted or we worked so hard for," Clinton told her supporters. "I know how disappointed you feel because I feel it, too... This is painful, and it will be for a long time."

Concessions are difficult

When a person has committed so much to running for the president for so long, it's not easy to let go. In the early morning hours of election night 2000, then-Vice President Al Gore conceded in a call to his Republican opponent, George W. Bush, then retracted the concession in another call when the results in the decisive state of Florida appeared uncertain. Thirty-six days passed before Bush's victory was confirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In her 2017 book, entitled "What Happened," the title itself a statement of disbelief, Hillary Clinton remembered calling Donald Trump to concede the election. She said she offered to help him in any way she could. "It was all perfectly nice and weirdly ordinary, like calling a neighbour to say you can't make it to his barbecue," she wrote. "It was mercifully brief ... I was numb. It was all so shocking."

The 1960 presidential election between Democrat John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon, the Republican vice president, remains one of the closest in history. Nixon said that he was advised by President Dwight Eisenhower to challenge the results because of cheating by the Democrats but refused, he said, because it would cause a "constitutional crisis" and "tear the country apart." This, he added, would result in him being called a "sore loser" and jeopardize any chance of him running for president again.

When Nixon ran for the presidency in 1968, he was elected and then reelected in 1972, before resigning in disgrace in 1974. Nixon was the last person who won his party's nomination after previously losing a presidential election.

After the loss

But if there's little hope of a fresh attempt at the presidency, losing candidates have found second acts in



Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaking with supporters at a campaign rally at the Intramural Fields at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Photo - flickr.com

American politics.

President Jimmy Carter, who was defeated by Ronald Reagan when he sought reelection in 1980, became an international human rights activist and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. Gore became an environmentalist and shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize and a 2007 Academy Award for best documentary for a pioneering examination of climate change.

John Kerry, who lost to George W. Bush in 2004, became secretary of state in the Barack Obama administration. John McCain, who lost to Obama in 2008, stayed in the U.S. Senate. Mitt Romney, who lost to Obama in 2012, now serves in the U.S. Senate.

The transfer of power

Losing is hard, but losing as the incum-

bent, as Carter and George H.W. Bush did, is probably harder. But Carter and Bush understood the importance of the peaceful transition of power.

President Donald Trump repeatedly has cast doubt on whether he will accept the results of the election and peacefully hand over power if he loses to Biden. This could well result in the constitutional crisis to which Nixon referred.

In early 2020, when the Democratic primaries were still going on, Trump again expressed his unwillingness to vacate the White House - which drew a retort from Pete Buttigieg, who ultimately lost the Democratic nomination to Biden. Buttigieg said he had an idea for handling Trump, joking "If he won't leave, I guess if he's willing to do chores, we can work something out."





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LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Protecting lives, ensuring happiness

LIC Centre, 1st Floor,
John Kennedy Street,
Port Louis

marketing@licmauritius.intnet.mu

208 1485, Ext 24 [Port Louis]
4674960 [Qautre Bornes]

64th ANNIVERSARY
1956-2020

Biden's campaign ready for a legal battle with Trump



The Democratic former vice president celebrated receiving more votes than any presidential candidate in history. Photo - media.washtimes.com

Joe Biden has inched to within six Electoral College votes of the 270 necessary to win the US presidential election after taking Michigan and Minnesota, two states key to Donald Trump's surprise victory in 2016. The president's route back to the White House now requires him to win all four of the battlegrounds of Nevada, Georgia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, reports The Independent.

Speaking in Wilmington, Delaware on Wednesday afternoon, the Democratic former vice president celebrated receiving more votes than any presidential candi-

date in history and said he was "on path" to securing the Oval Office. His campaign also said that it was ready for a legal battle with Mr Trump after the president's claims of widespread electoral fraud. Both campaigns are fundraising for potential court battles in key states, with Mr Trump demanding a recount in Wisconsin where Mr Biden leads by less than 1 per cent.

* * *

In the UK, England has joined countries across Europe in entering a second coronavirus lockdown, with orders to stay at home and avoid foreign travel where possible among the restrictions now in

force.

The measures came into effect at midnight on Wednesday - more than six weeks after the government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (Sage) advised a so-called "circuit-breaker" lockdown, echoed shortly afterwards by Labour, to prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed.

Hours earlier, all but 56 MPs approved Boris Johnson's proposed set of measures during an often fiery debate in the House of Commons, as the prime minister warned some hospitals were already caring for more Covid-19 patients than during the first spike and daily fatalities neared 500.

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China suspends entry for residents of Britain

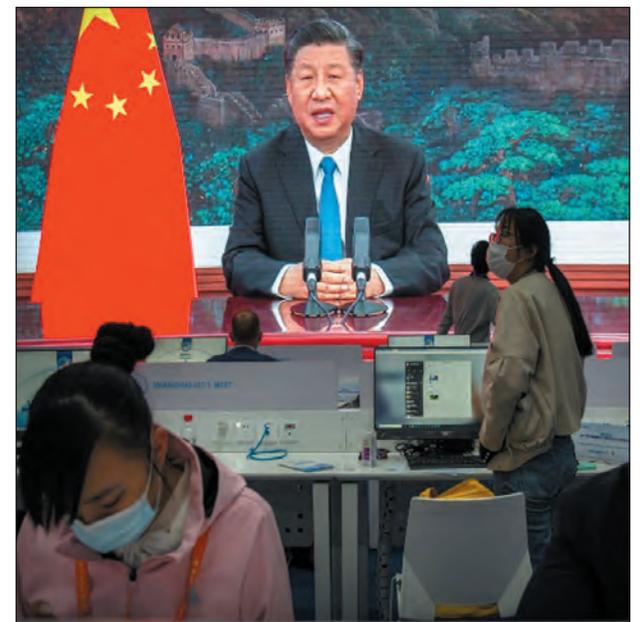
China is suspending entry for most foreign passport holders who reside in Britain, reacting to a new surge of coronavirus cases in the United Kingdom,

reports AP.

The suspension covers those holding visas or residence permits issued prior to Nov. 3, with exceptions for diplomats and some others. Foreign nationals wishing to visit China for emergency needs may apply for special case visas.

The Chinese Embassy in London says the suspension will be "assessed in accordance with the evolving situation and any adjustment will be announced accordingly."

China has largely contained the spread of coronavirus within the country but continues to record imported cases, including another 20 reported Thursday. Chinese officials require all people arriving in China to undergo two weeks of quarantine.



Chinese president Xi Jinping - Photo - expressandstar.com

Europe took centre-stage in global spread of the coronavirus, says new research

Genome researchers have discovered that it is Europe, not China, which has been the main source of spreading the coronavirus disease around the world.

A collaboration between genome researchers at the University of Huddersfield and Portugal's University of Minho has led to one of the largest analyses of its kind focusing on thousands of virus genomes sampled from all around the world.

The University of Huddersfield's Archaeogenetics Research Group has mapped out the dispersal of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, responsible for the current worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

The group's findings, recently



Protestors gather in Trafalgar Square, during a coronavirus anti-lockdown protest, in London, Oct. 24, 2020. Photo - voanews.com

published in a special issue of the peer-reviewed journal Microorganisms, confirm that the virus originated in China and most likely jumped into humans from

horseshoe bats. But that it is Europe, not China, which has been the main source for spreading the disease around the world.

The research also suggests that travel restrictions across Britain and Europe seem to have been too little and too late and that the actual spread of the virus to America and other parts of the world was largely via Europe, and not directly from China.

The study focused on 27,000 virus genomes, sampled from all around the world. The researchers usually work on tracking ancient human migrations using mitochondrial DNA, and they capitalised on the fact that the virus genome is similar in crucial respects.

Still, the mammoth size of the database, even back in May when the study began, makes this one of the biggest analyses of its kind ever undertaken.

The intensive data analyses were carried out by clinical geneticist Dr Teresa Rito and evolutionary geneticist Dr Pedro Soares. Both are based at the University of Minho, in Portugal and have worked closely with the University of Huddersfield's Professor Martin Richards and Dr Maria Pala, as part of the Archaeogenetics Research Group, on many occasions.

Professor Richards explained how there is a huge ongoing worldwide effort to understand the spread of the coronavirus and that researchers are trying to make their work available to the public as fast as possible.

US elections: What is at stake for India

A lot is at stake for the world and India in the US presidential election. India's stake is high because this election may change how the US deals with its prime concerns regarding China, economy, climate change and terrorism, writes Prabhaskar K Dutta Of India Today.

The current Donald Trump versus Joe Biden fight for the US presidency is a high-stake contest for India. This election is additionally historical as it is being held in the middle of a pandemic that is forcing the thinkers and strategists to find new ways to shape the post-Covid-19 world.

The issues that concern India are: China's behaviour as an unbridled power, inward-looking US policies, the direction of climate change strategies and terrorism. Read on:

China

China is now the new power in the world, particularly under its current President Xi Jinping. India, being its immediate neighbour, has, therefore, to deal with an ongoing military standoff for over six months, support to terror fomenting regime in Pakistan and the Chinese attempts to turn India's friends-in-the-neighbourhood into rivals and foes (Nepal, Bangladesh, Maldives).

Till the presidency of Barack Obama, the US admitted that it had a role to ensure rule-based world order. The emphasis ensured that China felt hesitant in asserting itself as an uninhibited power. In the last four years, the US receded towards its own frontiers leaving the space for a Chinese expansion. India is hugely concerned over it.

But with Donald Trump, India could effect some counter measures including a rejuvenated Quadrilateral coalition and a little assertion on rule-based order in the South China Sea. But the same Trump philosophy has brought India in a direct confrontation with China.

An introvert US

Donald Trump may be an extrovert person with a reputation of being a motormouth but under his watch, the US has become an introvert global power. "Make America Great Again" is a philosophy that is reversing the policies that actually made the US a great global power in the last century.

India suffers a lot with this US policy thrust in terms of



In Donald Trump versus Joe Biden fight in the US presidential election, there is a lot at stake for India. Photo - India Today

loss of economic opportunities in trade and agriculture, earning opportunities for Indian professionals and companies hence loss of remittances, losing solid support on issues such as Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and democratic ideology-based support on global issues.

This policy of the US also meant that India's persistent effort to arrive at a global strategy to deal with Covid-19 pandemic for containing its spread and finding a credible vaccine could not succeed. The US promoted what is being called as "vaccine nationalism" which is not conducive to the fight against a true pandemic.

Climate Change

For decades, the US accepted that climate change was among the biggest challenge to the world and admitted that it contributed to this problem on its path to become an industrialist nation, and hence it owed it to the world to contribute more in combating climate change and global warming.

This stand gave countries like India more elbow room to shape its development strategies. But a change in the

stand in the last four years left India with greater burden of a safer future. Climate change policies are inherently linked with cooperation in technology development and sharing. With olden days' industrial technology, India will continue to lag behind the developed world by a few decades.

Terrorism

The US did not take the threat of terrorism seriously until 9/11 happened in 2001. India has been a victim of terrorism rather export of terror from Pakistan since the late 1980s. The US for long regarded it as a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan.

But it came with the wrapper of a mediation offer on the issue of Kashmir. However, India successfully fixed the mediation bug and the two countries have appeared on the same page on the issue of fighting terrorism or global terrorism supported by a select group of countries.

The electoral outcome of Trump versus Biden fight may require a readjustment by India over the next four years.

Some Americans say they want to leave if Trump wins again

Some Americans have threatened to move to another country depending on the election outcome Tuesday, reminiscent of the dismay they felt after the 2016 presidential contest results, reports Jessica Menton of USA Today.

But not everyone ditched the USA as they claimed they would, including actor Samuel L. Jackson and comedian Jon Stewart. One sheriff in Ohio, Richard K. Jones, is already mocking celebrities who said they'd leave four years ago but didn't. Now he's offering a one-way ticket for them out of the country.

Still, record numbers of Americans have wanted to flee in the U.S. in recent years during President Donald Trump's administration, according to Gallup's World Poll in 2019. The 16% of Americans who said in 2017 and again in 2018 that they would like to permanently move to another country is higher than the average levels during either the George W. Bush (11%) or Barack Obama administrations



Chelsea Handler, Snoop Dogg, Miley Cyrus and more are among the celebs who vowed to flee the country in 2016 if President Trump won over Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. Photo - Fox News

(10%).

The number of Americans, particularly young women, who say they desire to leave the U.S. permanently is on the rise. In fact, 40% of women younger than 30 say they would like to leave, the study showed.

Maggie Fitzsimmons, 28, is one of those women. She moved to London in 2017 after living in New York City. She realized she felt most at home across the pond after traveling there for personal and business reasons.

"I'm loving it. It's been enlightening being here, especially during a time when there's turmoil in the U.S.," says Fitzsimmons, a client partner at a digital product company. "I have friends who've been exploring how to work from London temporarily, particularly citing the political turmoil and pandemic chaos."

US Elections & Mauritius

Vijay Makhan: "Mauritius has always entertained a policy and attitude of 'Friends to all'"

'I hardly see any reason for us to depart from that stance. It is our permanent interests that will have to prime at all times'

Vijay Makhan, former Commissioner of African Union, and Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mauritius, give us his views on the elections in the US, and the likely scenarios should either of the candidates win. He discusses America's changing role in the geopolitical system as a result of the moves made by Trump and speculates on what may happen if Biden wins. He also comments on the USA's relations with Africa and the issue of Diego Garcia.

Mauritius Times: According to the latest figures, at the time of speaking, it would seem that Donald Trump would defy the polls for a second time and beat challenger Joe Biden in his bid to win the 2020 US presidential election. It should not come as a surprise, isn't it, given the complexity of the American electoral system?

Vijay Makhan: As you say, at the time of speaking (Wed 4 Nov), the outcome could belie the projections of the polls, but we are not there yet and I am not prepared to join the camp that gives Donald Trump a victory, precisely on account of the complexity of the US electoral system.

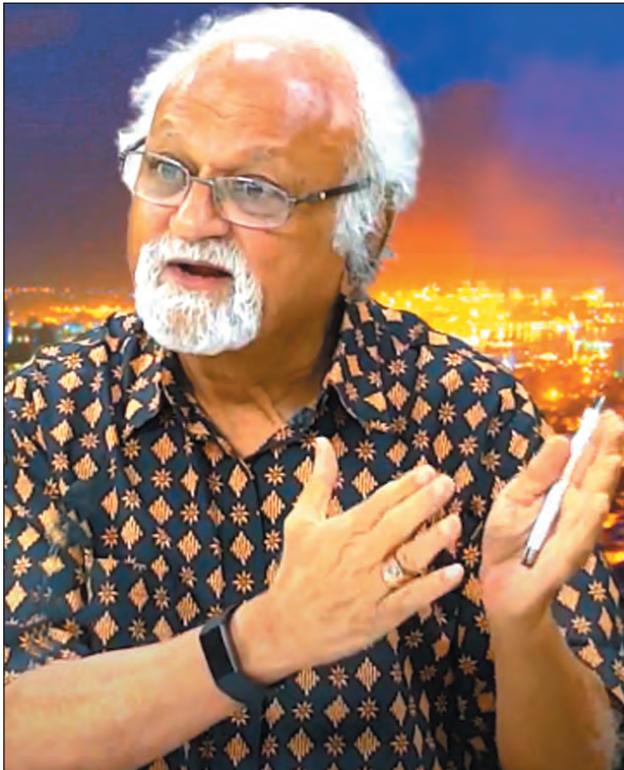
In the states where the figures so far are too close to call or make a projection as to the likely winner, the absentee votes and postal votes are yet to be counted. While Joe Biden has stated that the election is not over until every vote is counted, Trump has come out to say that he has won the election and he will move the Supreme Court to have the counting stopped for them, meaning the Democrats, are in the process of stealing the election, besides accusing them of fraud. This is not substantiated and is quite telling.

“We should never lose sight of the fact that we are an African nation and that in consequence we need to play the role that we need to and indeed that is expected of us. Hence the need for us to consult regularly and be more pro-active and participative in the deliberations of the African institutions...”

But, be that as it may, neither candidate has yet garnered the 270 electoral college votes required to be declared the winner. Legal battles appear unavoidable. Let's see.

*** One interesting finding of a poll by CBS/YouGov, conducted a few weeks back, to name the most important presidential characteristic, 46% of Americans mention leadership, while 35% cite management and executive skills. Only 16% mentioned personal morality as the most important feature of the presidency. This seems to echo much of what's happening elsewhere in many countries: ethics do not really matter to voters. What do you think?**

That is indeed a sorry state of affairs. It is the democratic system itself that appears to be weakening. It is failing the very people it is supposed to serve. Instead of plug-



ging the loopholes that exist, the political leadership, in general, is happy, in and for its own interests, to let that system run and exploit the advantages that the loopholes provide.

Regrettably, the electorate seems equally happy to allow such a system to run its course and chooses its representatives not necessarily on sound leadership characteristics that one would expect, but more in accordance with other considerations, including what it considers to be of immediate material benefit to it as well as other generous promises.

In certain places, it is ethnic politics that comes into play. Such characteristics as high personal morality are unfortunately secondary for the voter in general to the extent that even management and leadership skills often count for little in his considerations at the time of election. Our own country is no exception.

*** Whatever his ethics, when you look at it from a foreign policy perspective, would you say however that Trump had been right on the fundamentals as regards the US foreign policy decisions or trade?**

As you may be aware, Donald Trump made the slogan 'Make America Great Again' coupled with 'America First' as his battle cries for the 2016 election. From an international

perspective, in the four years that have elapsed since his election, the US does not seem to have attained either target. Quite the contrary, one would be tempted to say. But these were catchy targets that resonated very well with the American voter and got translated in Trump's election.

On the other hand, the 'America First' policy has not amused the traditional partners of the US, especially within the European Union. You will recall, for example, how against the reservations of his partners, Trump pulled out of the Paris Accord on Climate Change, he unilaterally banged the door on the Iran nuclear agreement despite his partners' plea not to tread that path.

While pursuing such policies, I think he has alienated a number of countries and disturbed the geopolitical system as it had existed. While I agree with the view that he has adopted a foreign policy primarily motivated by domestic concerns, he has managed to more or less isolate the USA on the international front.

“It is not that we have quietly moved away from the Non-Aligned Movement and neither have others for that matter. It's just that the geopolitical set-up has changed over the years especially since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the crumbling of the former USSR. The Non-Aligned Movement has more or less lost its relevance within the international system, when the two distinct blocs, East and West existed, spearheading two different doctrines...”

His all-out trade war with China and to a lesser extent his blow hot blow cold relationship with Russia, not to mention his handling of North Korea, have not helped to maintain the level of leadership that the USA had hitherto held on the international scene. The same goes for his rather abrasive approach to the Middle East issues.

*** Given the central place the United States still holds in the global system what would a win by either of the two presidential candidates mean for the rest of the world in relation to issues that affect all countries like climate change, public health, trade, etc.?**

There is a lot of reconsideration or reconstruction of American policy to be undertaken in the next four years. Should Trump win a second term, there will be need to reconsider his approach to all the issues I have just mentioned including those that you raise in your question. As a matter of fact, corrective measures will have to be taken to return America to the pole position it had hitherto held.

Besides, it appears that the Democrats are maintaining their majority in the House of Representatives and will possibly have a stronger voice in the Senate.

'We would hope that a Biden administration would pay heed to the position of the international community on the Chagos issue'

☞ Cont. from page 7

That should help such a reconsideration of policies arising from the checks and balances instrument that prevails in the American system.

On the other hand, a Biden victory will necessarily mean a systemic reconstruction of American policy - both domestic and foreign. Biden is on record to have said that the US will immediately rejoin the World Health Organisation from which the Trump administration had pulled out. Similarly with the Climate Change Accord.

While a Biden administration doesn't necessarily mean an immediate warming up of relations with China or Russia, the approach will most certainly be softer, I guess. And of course, the democratic system as it exists in the US at this time and which is permitting the ongoing electoral tussle will have to be reviewed and consolidated to avoid such situations, though that is easier said than done.

*** The world's geopolitical centre of gravity is shifting towards the Indian Ocean and given the regional aspirations of both India and China in this part of the world and the ongoing conflicts and tensions in the Gulf region, one could expect an intensification of security polarisation if Trump is re-elected. What if Biden get elected?**

As I have just said under Biden, the approach will certainly be softer. Having said that, the USA objectives will continue to be dominated by its security concerns and naturally it will continue to strengthen its position within the regions that you mention. Besides, let me just reiterate that when it comes to foreign policy objectives and US security considerations, these are established by the two major departments which are the State Department, that is foreign affairs, and the Pentagon, that is defence.

Obviously, any American administration will follow keenly the India-China glaring ongoing competition in the region, and Washington will continue to scrutinise, analyse and assess the aspirations of both these countries and determine its policy accordingly. I do not see a Biden administration changing the *status quo* except in its

approach.

*** What do you think could be the implications for Mauritius in a revisited Cold War environment?**

I suspect that you are referring to the frigid environment that has emerged in the US-China relations over the past four years since the advent of Trump in the White House.

Mauritius has always entertained a policy and attitude of 'Friends to all'. I hardly see any reason for us to depart from that stance. On the contrary, we will have to be very careful and maintain that approach. We should always be conscious of the fact that we are a small nation, highly dependent on the outside world for our economic progress and development.

It would hardly serve us to choose one camp or another. We have no alternative than to continue to pursue a more or less neutral path, that is, from the geo-strategic point of view. It is our permanent interests that will have to prime at all times.

“The Indian diaspora is consequential in the US and has been so for a number of decades. In the scientific fields as also in the technological fields, the Indians in the USA are well established. Besides, the democratic ticket for the current elections has Kamala Harris, whose mother was Indian, running for the vice-presidency...”

*** How about the rest of Africa? We know that that the Clinton administration was responsible for initiating a new era in US-Africa relations, but succeeding administrations have not shown the same interest, isn't it?**

Let us be candid. US policy towards Africa has always been a kind of footnote in their foreign relations.

It is true that since Ronald Reagan, every American president has lent his signature to what Washington has effectively qualified as US Africa policy. All such policies remained rather superficial, without any deep and presidential commitment, so to say. That is until the election of Bill Clinton who, to his credit, gave personal attention to the African continent by facili-



tating and indeed signing the bill that brought in the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act - the AGOA.

Under his two-term mandate, this was consolidated, and American investments in certain African countries given a boost. AGOA has survived a few presidencies and is still operational but its demise is announced for 2025.

Barack Obama came up with his 'Power Africa' and 'Feed the Future' initiatives, which were designed to address the chronic electricity and food shortages on the continent. His predecessor George W Bush had established initiatives for AIDS relief, to fight malaria and to support girls' education.

Trump initially had no time for Africa and in fact, provoked ire in Africa when a couple of years ago, he described certain countries of the continent as 'shithole' countries. But soon thereafter, the mandarins of the State Department got to work and 'Prosper Africa' was elaborated under his signature. But then, this instrument, launched in Mozambique by his then adviser, John Bolton, was not meant merely to placate Africa but in response also to China's

heavy investments in the continent.

It should also be borne in mind that Trump has not set foot in Africa. Let it also be underscored that all American initiatives towards Africa have had a bipartisan approach in the US Congress. As far as Biden is concerned, I am afraid I have not seen or read an Africa policy *per se* enunciated by his campaign.

So, I do not know whether Africa will yet again be a footnote in America's foreign relations, its military and security concerns aside.

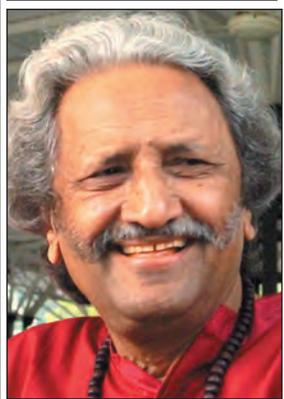
*** Take the Chagos issue: the US has conveniently passed the buck to the UK. Is that likely to remain the same should Biden win?**

Well, the American stand concerning our sovereignty dispute over the Chagos Archipelago was that this was an issue that should be determined by the UK.

Every time successive Mauritian governments raised the matter in Washington, we were always told that we needed to discuss with the UK and the latter conveniently always said that they will have to check with the US, especially when it came to the proposal to surrender the outer islands while Diego Garcia would be kept on the negotiating table.

“We would hope that a Biden administration would pay heed to the position of the international community on the Chagos issue as well as the conclusion of the International Court of Justice and of the UN. But for that to happen, Mauritius will have to develop an appropriate lobbying strategy in Washington. I cannot say at this point whether we have established contact with the Biden campaign as we should have done...”

☞ Cont. on page 11



Kul Bhushan

Who becomes US President? Some Indians care and want to know



Donald Trump holds a string while checking a charkha, or spinning wheel, as Melania Trump (2L) and Narendra Modi (L) look on during their visit at the Gandhi Ashram in Ahmedabad on February 24, 2020. Photo - AFP

Who wins the US presidential election? Donald Trump or Joe Biden? The result is awaited with personal interest by select group of Indians in India since 2.5 million Indians have settled in the USA. Despite emigrating over half a century in most cases, these American Indians have relatives in India who are concerned about the election result. And some specific groups of Indians have special interest.

First, the retired middle-class couples who have their children settled in the USA are anxious about the safety of their children and grandchildren in violence-prone American cities. They see images of shops in US cities being boarded to keep looters

away as if, instead of election results, a cyclone is going to hit the cities. Racial tensions are very high in most American cities, although the suburbs are safe where the high-income Indians live. And, they are also worried that US taxes will go up for their high earners which will affect the money they send back to India.

Second, the techies in cyber-hubs of Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai, Delhi and Hyderabad want to see if Biden will ease the work visas that were cut down by Trump.

Some had to cut down their stay in the US due to the visa clampdown by Trump. This is crucial for their income. In 2018, no less than 170,000 Indian IT experts were working in the US. This number declined after visa cuts by the Trump administration to give jobs to Americans. Now the IT sector is keen to know if these cuts will continue under the new administration.

Third, school leavers who aspire for higher education in US. They want to see how the new president shapes policies in relation to higher education and study visas for students. The new government policies, following the Wuhan virus lockdown, are still to be worked out. Another category is the hundreds of students who have returned to India after the closure of their universities and higher education institutes who want to know when and on what terms will their instructions re-open. After all, India sends around 100,000 students to study in USA.

Four, business executives who import and export to US are awaiting any changes in US trade regulations following the election results.

In general, Indian opinion has veered towards Trump after US Secretary State Mike Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark Esper visited New Delhi a week before the

US elections and signed a defence agreement with India. This has boosted India's power at a time when China has deployed massive military presence on the Himalayan border.

Indians traditionally favour Democrats but the cordial bonhomie between Indian Prime Minister Modi and Trump has changed this equation. The two mega-meetings, 'Howdy Modi' in Texas last year and 'Namaste Trump' in Ahmedabad this February strengthened personal and national bonds.

Above all, India's relations with USA have improved in this century no matter who was in power in USA, Democrats or Republicans, and also the same for Indian governments whether Congress or BJP. The Indo-US Civil Nuclear Power agreement in 2006 is a case in point.

The vast majority of 1.3 billion Indians do not have any interest in this outcome as they are too involved in tackling domestic challenges of jobs, medical care, housing, education and the threat from China during an economic slowdown.

Ask them about US elections, and pat comes the answer, "We have our own elections in Bihar."

Sean Connery's Kenya Bond: 'Tarzan'

The original James Bond 007, Sir Sean Connery, who passed away last weekend, has a Kenya connection, recalls Kul Bhushan, who interviewed him at Nairobi Airport then at Muthaiga Golf Club

In 1973, Sean Connery arrived in Nairobi for the Kenya Open Golf tournament at Muthaiga Golf Club, and I had a long interview and spent some quality time with the famous actor on a leisurely Sunday.

"That's James Bond!" cried a number of fans on spotting him with his long side-burns at Nairobi Embakasi Airport when he walked the tarmac, in the company of two smiling air hostesses.

Hero of the Bond phenomena, probably the greatest rage of the Sixties and the Seventies, 007 James Bond Connery recalled how he rocketed to stardom after shooting *Tarzan* films in Thika in 1960.

Relaxing at Muthaiga Golf Club later in the morning, he told me:

"We were here 13 years ago on *Tarzan* films when I heard that Ian Fleming had an idea on what his hero should be like. Back in Europe, I learnt that they wanted to test screen personalities for the part. I said I would not submit myself for the test to find out if I was okay but I still got the part," he recalled.

Asked what role he was playing in the *Tarzan* film being shot in Kenya, Sean said: "I was the villain. Quite a few years have



Sean Connery in a memorable photo for Kul Bhushan and his seven-year son, Nyay, at Muthaiga Golf Course in 1973

Good friends and great actors: Michael Caine and Sean Connery in 'The Man Who Would be King' in which Connery sported a handle-bar moustache. Photo - i.pinimg.com

passed since then and I am interested to see what's happened here."

Queried on how he fitted the role of Bond, he replied in a very Scottish accent which he subdued in his films: "I played the part! But now I have left it - on a permanent

basis."

"But still people call you James Bond, don't they?"

He was quick to retort: "You haven't called me James so far."

How did he do all those super-human acts of his mindboggling films?

"Stamina! But seriously, I end up by doing only about 50 percent of those stunts. We have stand-ins who go through some of the rougher stuff," he explained.

What hobbies do you have beside your work?

"Golf in the UK, I have a handicap of seven."

Very appropriate, I thought.

"After the Kenya Open Golf championship, I will be holidaying here and if I see something that might fit into my forthcoming movies, I all certainly include it but certain filming facilities are lacking

here."

Recalling his pre-Bond days, he said he had acted on the stage, television and films. "I have played all sorts of parts. "In *Tarzan* films, Alexander the Great, Macbeth,

Requiem for a Heavyweight, Euripides, Arthur Miller stuff, and many others before turning to Bond."

Are you here on a secret mission?

"No, only a sporting one."

As soon as we finished talking, Chandu Vasani, an ex-Nation photographer joined us.

"Hello, how are you. I remember you," said Sean.

At once, he recognized the young studio owner in Thika who invited the *Tarzan* film unit to a curry dinner so many years ago.

After retiring in 2003, he rarely appeared in public and spent his time with his grandchildren. He retired to Bahamas Islands until his last breath.

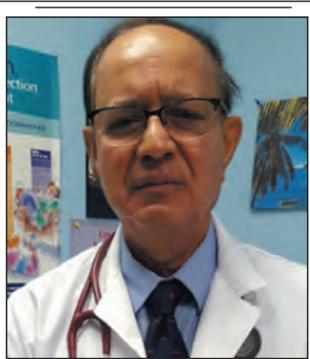
But his charisma remains as he was approached for an autograph by a fan who recognized him.

He was intrigued by my handle bar moustache. No wonder he sported the same style in his hit movie, *The Man Who Would be King!*

His good friend and co-hero in this movie paid him the ultimate tribute. Michael Caine, wrote, "Sean Connery A Great Star, Brilliant Actor and a wonderful friend. The Man Who Would Be King was THE KING."

Kul Bhushan worked as a newspaper Editor in Nairobi for over three decades and now lives in New Delhi

Diabetes and heart failure: A deadly connection



By Dr Mohunlall
Soowamber

There are actually about 463 million people globally suffering from diabetes. Mauritius is one of the leading countries with over 20% of its population diagnosed as diabetics.

The challenge in diabetes treatment is overwhelming as it is not simply a question of controlling blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure. It is a multisystemic disease i.e. it affects all organs from head to toe. In the last five years, research has provided us with tools not only to achieve our recommended targets of HbA1C, LDL and blood pressure, but allows us to go beyond these criteria.

Nowadays, the focus is on the profile of the patient: with or without atherosclerotic disease (which narrows arteries), with or without heart failure or renal disease.

The diabetic patient is at high risk of heart failure due to a problem of the:

Pump (the heart) - heart failure

Pipes (the arteries) - coronary artery disease

Filters (the kidneys) - renal disease

In heart failure, the heart is unable to pump enough blood to bring oxygen to all the organs.

Statistically, the diabetic patient will experience heart failure before having a heart attack or a stroke. The main risk factors for heart failure in the diabetic patient

are the pump itself which can suffer from a direct effect of inflammation in the small arteries of the heart, a disease of the heart muscle which affects its contraction and relaxation. And if the pipes (arteries) are clogged, the heart will not be able to supply the demands of the organs for oxygen.

The filters (kidneys) are also connected to the heart; we call it the cardio-renal connection. As the kidneys get damaged, so does the ability of the heart to pump blood. Chronic kidney failure is linked to heart failure as the latter worsens with poor kidney function.

What are the signs and symptoms of heart failure?

They may go unnoticed at the beginning. Later they manifest as fatigue, palpitations, shortness of breath on exercise, having to add more pillows to sleep in a more comfortable position, swelling of feet and ankles.

On examination of the patient, the doctor may hear abnormal sounds in the heart, or notice increase of pressure in the jugular vein of the neck, wheezing or rales on auscultation of the lungs.

The doctor can order an ultrasound of the heart which is the preferred test in heart failure. If the patient is suspected to have angina which may be silent, an angiogram can be ordered along with scan or MRI of the heart.

Since a few years, a blood test consisting of measuring BNP (which is a substance produced by the strain on the ventricles) has been available. Depending on age, there are values above which we can predict a failing heart.

Are there any new strategies for pharmacologic treatments?

Of course, we use:

- 1) Betablockers (ex: Bisoprolol, Metoprolol, Carvedilol). Start low, go slow. This class of medications decreases mortality by 34%.
- 2) ACE inhibitors or ARA (ex: Enalapril,



"The challenge in diabetes treatment is overwhelming as it is not simply a question of controlling blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure. It is a multisystemic disease that affects all organs from head to toe. In the last five years, research has provided us with tools not only to achieve our recommended targets of HbA1C, LDL and blood pressure, but allows us to go beyond these criteria..."

Candesartan). These drugs decrease mortality by 16-17%.

- 3) MRA (mineralo-corticoid receptor antagonist): Aldactone, Eplerenone. These agents decrease mortality by 30%.
- 4) ARNI (angiotensin receptor antagonist and neprilysin inhibitor). Ex: Sacubitril-valsartan. In a landmark study called Paradigm HF this combo drug was found to decrease mortality by 20% and hospitalisations for heart failure by 20%.

What about the residual risk?

Fortunately there is good news. Data from recent trials show that, in diabetics as well as non-diabetics, the use of agents called SGLT2 inhibitors can reduce hospitalisations for heart failure or cardiovascular death by 25-26%.

In conclusion, the diabetic patient is at high risk of suffering from heart failure. Heart failure patients have a poorer prognosis over five years than most cancers except lung cancer. The death rate is high in patients with heart failure, about 25% per year depending on the

NYHA classification (New York Heart Association). We must be able to diagnose heart failure early and be mindful that it can lead to sudden death.

Nowadays, we can help diabetic patients avoid the complication of heart failure by bringing the best medications available to them, so as to provide them with a longer and better quality of life.

Dr Mohunlall Soowamber holds a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from McGill University and completed his medical training at the Université Besançon in France. He was previously a member of the Club de Recherches Cliniques du Québec and has conducted research in many areas, namely asthma, COPD, diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, osteoporosis and renal function. He has also been a member of the Fédération des Médecins omnipraticiens du Québec (FMOQ) since 1984 and is now actively involved in its oversight of continual medical education programs that are presented in the province of Québec. He is presently Moderator & Directeur de la clinique médicale L'Espérance, Montréal.

In A Light Vein

Headache & Testicles

Joe had suffered from really bad headaches for the last 20 years. He eventually decides to go and see a doctor.

The doctor says, 'Joe, the good news is I can cure your headaches. The bad news is that it will require removing your testicles. You have a very rare condition, which causes your testicles to press on your spine and the pressure creates one hell of a headache. The only way to relieve the pressure is to remove the testicles.'

Joe is shocked and depressed. He wondered if he had anything to live for. He had no choice but to go under the knife. The surgery cost him Rs75,000. When he

left the hospital, he was without a headache for the first time in 20 years, but he felt like he was missing an important part of himself.

As he walked down the street, he realized that he felt like a different person. He could make a new beginning and live a new life. He saw a men's clothing store and thought, 'That's what I need... A new suit.'

He entered the shop and told the salesman, 'I'd like a new suit.'

The elderly tailor eyed him briefly and said, 'Let's see... Size 44 would fit fine.'

Joe laughed, 'That's right, how did you know?'

'Been in the business 60 years, sir!' the

tailor said.

Joe tried on the suit it fitted perfectly.

As Joe admired himself in the mirror, the salesman asked, 'How about a new shirt?'

Joe thought for a moment and then said, 'Sure.'

The salesman eyed Joe and said, 'Let's see, 34 sleeves and 16-1/2 neck.'

Joe was surprised, 'That's right, how did you know?'

'Been in the business 60 years, sir.'

Joe tried the shirt and it fitted perfectly.

Joe walked comfortably around the shop and the salesman asked, 'How about some new underwear?'

Joe thought for a moment and said, 'Sure.'

The salesman said, 'Let's see... size 36.'

Joe laughed, 'Ah ha! You got it wrong this time! I've worn size 34 since I was 18 years old...'

The salesman shook his head, 'You can't wear a size 34, sir. A size 34 would press your testicles up against the base of your spine and give you hell of a headache.'

Surgery - Rs 75,000. New underwear - Rs 75.

Always take a second opinion before going under the surgeon's knife!

'We should never lose sight of the fact that we are an African nation and that we need to play the role that is expected of us'

Cont. from page 8

But then, as soon as Mauritius made it known that it would take the issue to the United Nations, the US changed its stance thereon to say that as far as it was concerned, it is the UK that has sovereignty. This was clearly demonstrated at the International Court of Justice at The Hague as well as in New York at the United Nations when the relevant resolutions were tabled on the question of our sovereignty, including referral of the matter to the ICJ.

We would hope that a Biden administration would pay heed to the position of the international community on the question as well as the conclusion of the International Court of Justice and of the UN. But for that to happen, Mauritius will have to develop an appropriate lobbying strategy in Washington.



“Mauritius has always entertained a policy and attitude of 'Friends to all'. I hardly see any reason for us to depart from that stance. On the contrary, we will have to be very careful and maintain that approach. We should always be conscious of the fact that we are a small nation, highly dependent on the outside world for our economic progress and development. It would hardly serve us to choose one camp or another...”

I cannot say at this point whether we have established contact with the Biden campaign as we should have done.

* Besides increasing convergence of interests between India and the US, it is said that the personal relationship of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Donald Trump also allowed the two countries to deepen their defence and trade links. Does that indeed help in the conduct of foreign policy?

Indeed, that is true. There is a personal relationship that has been established between the two leaders. Again, as your question suggests the interests of both the US and India appear to converge at this given point, the common denominator being China as both countries are wary about the latter's attempt to assert supremacy in this region. Indeed, India-US trade links have been strengthened as well as American investments in the subcontinent.

One should also not disregard the fact that the Indian diaspora is consequential in the US and has been so for a number of decades. In the scientific fields as also in the technological fields, the Indians in the USA are well established. Besides, the democratic ticket for the current elections has Kamala Harris, whose mother was Indian, running for the vice-presidency.

It is absolutely essential in international relations and diplomatic practice to establish a rapport at a personal level with one's interlocutors. It certainly helps when you know who you are dealing with and if, on top of that, there is an established chemistry between the two, it is easier to iron out differences and dovetail common actions.

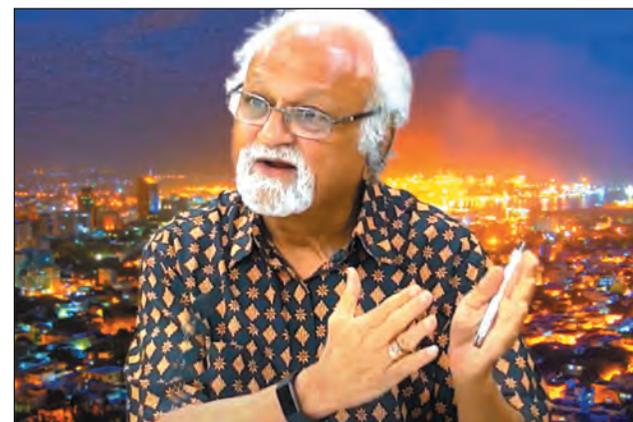
* We, and so it is for many of its member-states as

well, appear to have quietly moved away from the Non-Aligned Movement of yesteryears. What's the way forward for Mauritius?

It is not that we have quietly moved away from the Non-Aligned Movement and neither have others for that matter. It's just that the geopolitical set-up has changed over the years especially since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the crumbling of the former USSR. The Non-Aligned Movement has more or less lost its relevance within the international system, when the two distinct blocs, East and West existed, spearheading two different doctrines.

The Movement then assembled within its fold States which supposedly professed an independent approach to issues of international concern without joining one camp or the other. It should also be recognised that over the past few decades some of its leading members have emerged in their own right as lead players in their respective regions and on the international scene as such.

As I said earlier, Mauritius has no option than to continue to nurture the relationships that it has established with its major partners over the years since Independence. It also requires to concert more within the region, with the other independent islands and take its commitment within Africa to higher levels. It has to engage itself more actively and at all levels with the institutions of the continent, principally the African Union as well as with the sub-regional organisations like SADC and COMESA.



“We would hope that a Biden administration would pay heed to the position of the international community on the Chagos issue as well as the conclusion of the International Court of Justice and of the UN. But for that to happen, Mauritius will have to develop an appropriate lobbying strategy in Washington. I cannot say at this point whether we have established contact with the Biden campaign as we should have done...”

We should never lose sight of the fact that we are an African nation and that in consequence we need to play the role that we need to and indeed that is expected of us. Hence the need for us to consult regularly and be more pro-active and participative in the deliberations of the African institutions.

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Kaju Roll
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Chocolate Slice
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Halwa Special
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Kalakhan
Kaju Katli

Bombay Mishthan
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Opposite Arcade Virginie
Flacq
Tel. 413 1919

**Le magasin sera ouvert
le jour de Divali de 9hr à midi**

**Veillez placer vos commandes
à l'avance: date limite 07 novembre 2020**

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Opposite SBI Rte St Jean
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US election: why democratic legitimacy remains at stake

* Cont. from page 2

This has not been helped by a lack of effort by the Republican-led state legislature to increase the number of polling stations across the state. This kind of partisan electoral engineering has a history with deep racial overtones.

Both gerrymandering and the make-up of the electoral college currently give an advantage to Republican candidates, but have not always done so historically.

Sources of authority

Procedural integrity is certainly one prerequisite for democratic trust and legitimacy, but it is not the only one. While polarisation is hardly a novel feature of the American political landscape, the reluctance to accept one's opponent as legitimate is new. This second challenge to a shared sense of legitimacy strikes at the very core of the country's democratic framework. American citizens are divided not only culturally, but also with regard to the very sources of authority that underpin their political worldviews.



The US's track record on democracy at home and abroad has always been deeply flawed. Picture: Getty Images

As the historian David Bell argues, modern democracy cannot do without charismatic leaders. Trump's charisma and his social authority, derived from his celebrity status as a television personality and businessman, appeal to millions of Americans and make him a legitimate authority figure in their eyes.

Unlike previous charismatic presidents, such as Ronald Reagan or Barack Obama, Trump's appeal in the eyes of his

supporters does not lie in his competence or political vision – he appears to have little of either. For his base, the source of his authority – and thus, of his legitimacy as a leader – lies far from the attributes that Reagan and Obama displayed and that grounded their leadership: vision, persuasive skill, and respect for the political process.

But social and political authority are not synonymous. The Trump era has brought to the fore the distinct democratic challenge posed by self-aggrandising charisma without an accompanying foundation in procedural legitimacy.

A loyal opposition

What does this mean for the future basis of democratic legitimacy in America? The principle of loyal opposition is the idea that the losers of a political battle not only remain loyal to the fundamental political framework, but also make important contributions to political life, such as providing accountability and articulating an alterna-

tive political programme. It is fundamental for a healthy, diverse democracy – and it requires agreement on the basis of political legitimacy.

When the rules underlying the basic institutions upon which a democracy rests are flouted and rewritten, the basis for loyal opposition is undermined for both sides. And though the partisan jibes that eroded a sense of loyal opposition preceded Trump by decades, his presidency has forced a radical question for all: will I accept the outcome if my opponent wins?

These twin challenges will require multiple remedies. Restoring institutional integrity through processes of accountability and reform can and should be a point of agreement between conservatives and liberals, and reforms such as the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact might go some way to reversing institutional imbalances. Both parties should recognise that continued polarisation is in neither their interests, nor those of the country as a whole. Ultimately, a radically polarised nation is a broken nation.

Programme des Courses					
1 THE STUDDERED CHALICE - JMLS CANCER SUPPORT 1450 m Valeur [0-15] Time - 12h15					
1	CAPTAIN MOSS	P	8-7-3-8-4	61	S.Bussunt 6 1200
2	GIMME A SWINGER	PM	3-5-4-6-5	61	C.Segeon 3 550
3	MIDNIGHT MESSENGER	SPN	7-8-9-1-5	61	G.D.Aucharuz 7 1000
4	NORTHERN REBEL	JMH	7-R-5-8-4	61	B.Bhaugerothee 9 1100
5	GREATFIVEEIGHT	CD	9-5-7-8-6	60.5(-4)	A.Sonaram 2 1600
6	NEW GOLDEN AGE	P	R/2-R-5-3	60.5	R.Joorawon 5 470
7	VALERIN	CD	1/3-5-2-3	60.5	I.Chisty 8 620
8	BLUE JEANS	CR	5-5-4/7-8	59.5	B.Sooful 10 3000
9	SPECIAL FORCE	SPN	11-6-7-8-2	59.5	K.Kalychurun 11 2000
10	BLUNDERBUSS	CR	4-8-2-3-1	59	J.Allyhosain 1 300
11	SPUN OUT	SH	6-6-5-9-6	56	S.Rama 12 1600
12	KINGS EMPIRE [EA]	SH	5-6-5-4-6	61	----- 4 ----
2 THE LIQUID MOTION CUP 1500 m Valeur Benchmark 31 Time - 12h50					
1	DO OR DARE	CD	0-0-7-1-2	60	I.Chisty 4 330
2	IT DOESN'T MATTER	GR	4-4-5-1-6	60	N.Teeha 9 1600
3	RIVER THAMES	SJ	7-8-6-2-1	60	J.Allyhosain 6 350
4	DECLARATOR	RG	6-9-2-3-6	59.5	D.David 7 1600
5	MEMPHIS MAFIA	RM	2-7-10-1-1	59.5	P.C.Orffer 1 500
6	TYRIAN	PM	2-5-6-3-1	59.5	R.Joorawon 2 550
7	KALGOORLIE	G	0-0-4-1-4	59	S.Rama 5 700
8	DEALER'S CHARM	VA	2-3-4-1-1	58.5	B.Fayd'herbe 3 900
9	CARLTON HEIGHTS	AS	5-3-8-8-3	58	M.Martinez 8 1100
3 THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC TROPHY 1450 m Valeur Benchmark 36 Time - 13h25					
1	AFFRANCHI	VA	0-0-7-6-6	60	B.Fayd'herbe 4 1200
2	CARLAS MAMBO	SJ	10-6-5-2-1	59.5	J.Allyhosain 3 320
3	DREAMFOREST	CD	7-6-5-3-6	59	I.Chisty 7 2500
4	KINGSMAN	PM	0-0-0-R-R	59	C.Segeon 6 2500
5	IRON WOLF	GR	3-10-7-7-2	58.5	N.Teeha 5 800
6	WHY WOULDN'T YEW	RM	6/1-1-6-4	58.5	P.C.Orffer 8 720
7	ZIGI ZAGI ZUGI	SN	1-1-7-3-3	58.5	G.D.Aucharuz 2 350
8	NAO FAZ MAL	RG	0-0-5/7-6	58	D.David 1 700

4 THE SAY'S ACADEMY SOUVENIR CUP 990 m Valeur Benchmark 41 Time -- 14h00					
1	MONTEGO BAY	GR	0-0-0-5-8	61.5	N.Teeha 7 2200
2	EMERALD BAND	VA	3-1-1-2-2	61	B.Fayd'herbe 2 220
3	GREAT STOHVANEN	AS	6-R-1-4-2	61	M.Martinez 9 1300
4	HARMONICA	CD	0-0-6-2-7	61	I.Chisty 1 550
5	NINOTTO	RG	3-1-1-3-5	60.5	D.David 3 920
6	RAHEEB	RM	1-8/10-3-3	60.5	P.C.Orffer 5 1400
7	SAVVY	SJ	0-0-0-0-6	60	K.Kalychurun 6 3500
8	TORO BRAVO	SN	0-2-4-1-1	60	G.D.Aucharuz 8 310
9	MR CRUMFORD	SN	10-3/7-7-5	59	R.Hoolash 4 3300
5 THE LIVERPOOL FC FAN NEWS SOUVENIR CUP 1600 m Valeur Benchmark 46 Time - 14h35					
1	ROLL OF DRUMS	CD	0-0-0-7-7	60.5	I.Chisty 1 1700
2	DUKE'S DOMAIN	RG	6/1-1-4-3	59.5	D.David 6 750
3	INAUGURATION	PM	1-4/1-5-9	59.5	C.Segeon 4 1500
4	JET STREAM	AS	1-3-3-3-4	59.5	M.Martinez 5 420
5	YANKEEDOODLEDANDY	G	6-2-6-6-4	59.5	S.Bussunt 3 1000
6	LIGHTHEARTED	SH	0-0-0-2-7	59	S.Rama 9 2500
7	VIKING TRAIL	SJ	9/3-3-4-2	59	G.D.Aucharuz 8 550
8	CHARLESTON HERO	VA	4-4-3-1-3	58.5	B.Fayd'herbe 7 570
9	ALL ABOARD	GR	1/4-1-2-1	57	J.Allyhosain 2 330
6 THE KMK2 SOUVENIR CUP 1365 m Valeur Benchmark 56 Time -- 15h10					
1	WAVE	G	nouveau	60	J.Allyhosain 10 1100
2	MAMBO ROCK	GR	2-4-2-2-2	59	N.Teeha 2 450
3	PERA PALACE	RM	7-6/8-5-4	59	P.C.Orffer 8 2000
4	HUYSTSTEEN	RG	3/7-2-1-4	58.5	D.David 9 700
5	PURPLE TRACTOR	P	5-10-9/6-7	58(-4)	B.Deenath 4 3500
6	GIMMETHERAIN	SJ	0-3-1-1-5	57.5	K.Kalychurun 6 1300
7	TRIPOD	PM	3-1-2-6-3	57.5	R.Joorawon 5 1200
8	SHADOWING	AS	5-4-1-1-1	57	M.Martinez 7 300
9	CHOIR OF ANGELS	JMH	1/2-1-1-2	56.5	G.D.Aucharuz 3 420
10	SUGOI [EA]	SH	0-0-4-4-6	56.5	----- 1 ----
7 KISNAH RAMALINGUM MEMORIAL SOUVENIR CUP 1400 m Valeur [50+] Time -- 15h45					
1	RULE THE NIGHT	GR	3-1-6-1-3	61	N.Teeha 6 430
2	BARITONE	PM	8/2-1-1-2	60	C.Segeon 7 570
3	VASCOSTREETTRACTOR	SJ	1-3-1-3-2	55.5	J.Allyhosain 5 900
4	HAYLOR	SJ	1-1/5-3-2	54	R.Joorawon 1 700
5	MARAUDING	G	1-1-1-2-1	53	S.Rama 2 250
6	TRIPLE FATE LINE	SH	0-0-0-4-5	52.5	B.Sooful 4 5000
7	HENRY TUDOR	CD	4-4/2-2-6	52(-4)	A.Sonaram 3 1200

25e Journée - samedi 7 novembre 2020					
8 THE MR BROCK CUP 990 m Valeur Benchmark 31 Time -- 16h20					
1	DARK FORCE	RM	2-3-3-2-6	60.5	P.C.Orffer 6 400
2	SANDY SPORT	P	9-6-3-6/8	60.5	R.Hoolash 4 3000
3	VISION OF TRUST	SPN	8-4-5-9-10	60.5	G.D.Aucharuz 9 2000
4	POINCIANA	SJ	2-2-2-2-1	60	J.Allyhosain 3 280
5	KU DU TU	VA	5-N-8-3-4	59.5	B.Fayd'herbe 8 900
6	MARULA	JMH	9-7-4-8-5	59.5	B.Sooful 2 1200
7	MINNESOTA DREAM	GR	5-6-1-4-R	59	N.Teeha 5 450
8	RUBY SPIRIT	AS	0-5-7-5-6	59	M.Martinez 7 2500
9	INTERNET KID	VA	7-6-7-9-6	57(-3)	A.Roy 1 5000
9 THE FRANCE ULCOQ PLATE 1600 m Valeur [0-25] Time -- 17h00					
1	EAGLES VISION	SPN	0-0-0-6-5	61	G.D.Aucharuz 3 650
2	MIDDLE PATH	RG	6-3-1-5-3	61	D.David 5 550
3	AMANDLA	JMH	3-4-4-3-6	60.5	B.Bhaugerothee 6 370
4	BOUCLETTE TOP	G	C-6-7-6-2	60.5	J.Allyhosain 4 900
5	MINALOUSHE VENTURE	AS	3-7-7-R-5	60.5	M.Martinez 2 900
6	PRIDE ROCK	CD	7-9-3-5-5	60	I.Chisty 10 1100
7	SIR CAPERS	PM	3-4-2-1-4	60	R.Joorawon 8 1000
8	SILVER SONG	CD	6-1/3-4-5	59.5(-4)	A.Sonaram 7 2500
9	ITALIAN WAY	VA	8-6-7-2-1	59	B.Fayd'herbe 9 720
10	DELUSIONAL	SPN	7-8-10-9-7	55	R.Hoolash 1 3300
SELECTIONS					
1. BLUNDERBUSS, VALERIN, NEW GOLDEN AGE					
2. DO OR DARE, RIVER THAMES, TYRIAN					
3. CARLAS MAMBO, ZIGI ZAGI ZUGI, IRON WOLF					
4. EMERALD BAND, TORO BRAVO, NINOTTO					
5. ALL ABOARD, VIKING TRAIL, JET STREAM					
6. MAMBO ROCK, SHADOWING, CHOIR OF ANGELS					
7. MARAUDING, HAYLOR, VASCOSTREETTRACTOR					
8. POINCIANA, DARK FORCE, MINNESOTA DREAM					
9. AMANDLA, ITALIAN WAY, MIDDLE PATH					

In a light vein

The old man's tomatoes

An elderly Italian man living alone in New Jersey wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, since the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:



Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad, because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days.

Love, Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Pop,

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.
Love, Vinnie

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Pop,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love you, Vinnie

An Engineer in the Hell!

An engineer dies but lands in hell. He is talking with Yama and says, "What a terrible place! It's very hot, dark, smoky!"

Yama replies, "Well, what did you expect? This is the hell!"

The engineer says "Do you have a compressor, some tubing, and wire?"

Yama says, "Yeah, we might have some of that stuff around, I'll check and see what I can find for you."

Yama finds the stuff and the engineer starts designing improvements. After a while, hell has air conditioning, iced water, good lighting, flush toilets and escalators. The engineer is pretty popular!

One day God calls and tells Yama, "Say, we had a mix-up. I was checking records and discovered that by error an engineer got sent down to you. He should have come to heaven. All engineers go to heaven. You need to transfer him up here."

Yama says, "Why, things are going great. We've now got air conditioning, iced water, flush toilets, great lighting, and escalators, and there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next. We like him! We're going to keep him."

God is horrified. "That's clearly a mistake! He should never have gone down there in the first place! Send him up here immediately!"

Yama says, "No way! I really like having an engineer on the staff. I'm keeping him."

God says, "Send him back up here or I'll sue you!!!"

Yama laughs, "Yeah, OK, good luck on that. Where are you going to find a lawyer?"



Life's Lessons

Never forget your friends

I never sat on a sofa with my father and after my marriage, I had already left him.

Many years ago, after I got married I was sitting on a couch on a hot, humid day, sipping frozen juice during a visit to my father.

As I talked about adult life, marriage, responsibilities and obligations, my father thoughtfully stirred the ice cubes in his glass and cast a clear, sober look at me.

"Never forget your friends," he advised, "they will become more important as you get older."

"Regardless of how much you love your family and the children you happen to have, you will always need friends. Remember to go out with them occasionally, do activities with them, call them..."

"What strange advice!" I thought. I had just entered the married world, I am an adult and surely my wife and the family that we will start will be everything I need to make sense of my life.

Yet I obeyed him; kept in touch with my friends and annually increased their number. Over the years, I became aware that my father knew what he was talking about!

In as much as time and nature carry out their designs and mysteries on a man, friends are the bulwarks of his life.

After 64 years of life, here is what I learned:

Time passes.

Life goes on.

The distances increase.

Children grow up and become independent and although it breaks the parents' heart, they are often separated from them.

Jobs come and go.



Illusions, desires, attractions, sex... weaken.

People do what they should not do.

Parents die .

Colleagues forget the favours.

The races are over.

But true friends are always there, no matter how long or how many miles away they are.

A friend is never more distant than the reach of a need, reaching out to you, intervening in your favour, waiting for you with open arms or with blessings for your life.

When we started this adventure called life, we did not know of the incredible joys or sorrows that were ahead.

We did not know how much we would need from one another.

Love your parents, take care of your children, but keep a group of good friends.

Self Help

How to protect yourself when alone in the company of a strange male

What should a woman do if she finds herself alone in the company of a strange male as she prepares to enter a lift in a high-rise apartment late at night?

Experts say: Enter the lift. If you need to reach the 13th floor, press all or most of the buttons up to your destination. No one will dare attack you in a lift that stops on a number of floors.

What to do if a stranger tries to attack you when you are alone in your house...

Experts say: Run into the kitchen. You alone know where the chilli powder and turmeric are kept. And where the knives and

plates are. All these can be turned into weapons. If nothing else, start throwing plates and utensils all over. Let them break. Scream. Remember that noise is the greatest enemy of a molester. He does not want to be caught.

Taking a taxi at night

Experts say: Before getting into an auto at night, note down its registration number. Then use the mobile to call your family or friend and pass on the details to them in the language the driver understands. Even if no one answers your call, pretend you are in a conversation. The driver now knows someone has his

details and he will be in serious trouble if anything goes wrong. He is now bound to take your home safe and sound. A potential attacker is now your de facto protector.

If you are stalked at night...

Experts say: Enter a shop or a house if you are near one and explain your predicament. If it is night and shops are not open, go inside an ATM box. ATM centres always have closed-circuit television. Fearing identification, no one will dare attack you.

After all, being mentally alert is the greatest weapon you can ever have.

7 Health symptoms that a woman should never ignore

An ache here or a sleepless night aren't usually worrisome enough for a woman to book a doctor's appointment. On the other hand, certain health symptoms or persistent problems can be a sign something is really wrong. You never want to find yourself in a position where you put off something serious for too long, so pay attention to what's going on with your body. If find yourself experiencing any one of these seven symptoms, get it checked out.

1. Sudden, extreme weight gain

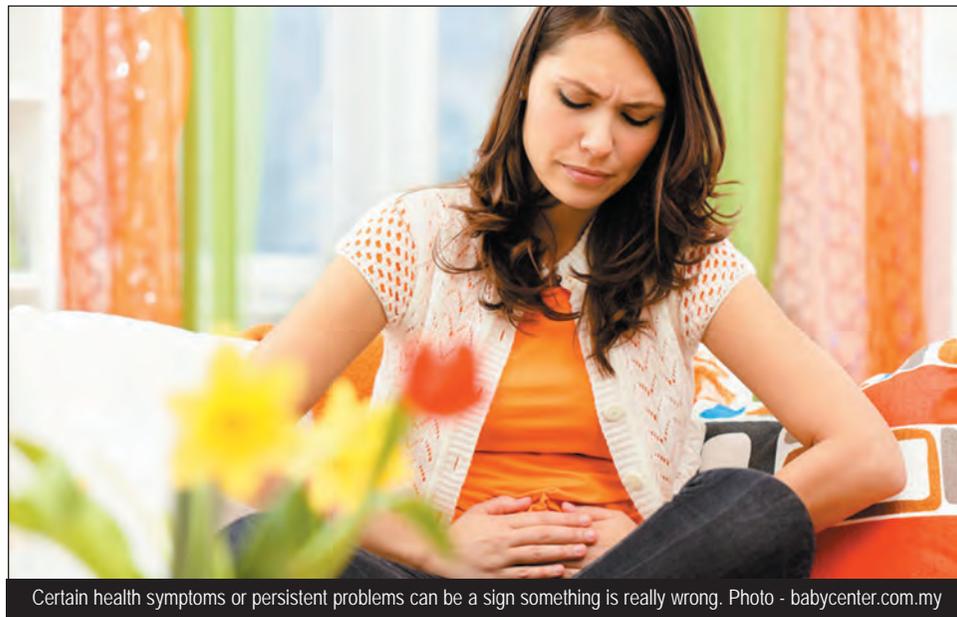
A sudden surge in the number you see on the scale can usually be explained by getting too lax about your diet. But even a week or two of indulging shouldn't make a drastic difference. After all, one often-cited study found most adults only gained about 1 pound during the holiday eat-a-thon. If you find your weight keeps climbing and climbing despite no real changes in eating or exercise habits, something's probably off.

Surprisingly, medication is a big source of unexplained weight gain, particularly anti-depressants. The frustrating thing is no one seems to be able to explain why these drugs lead to excess poundage. One large study published in JAMA Psychiatry sought to figure out the weight problem using records from more than 22,000 adults, but the only real takeaway was that it's complicated. If your medication is causing problems, your doctor may be able to recommend a new prescription that works better for you.

A number of more serious conditions can also explain sudden weight gain. Though many are quick to blame an under active thyroid, weight gain alone rarely leads to this diagnosis. For some women, the problem is caused by a condition called polycystic ovarian syndrome where your body's hormones are out of balance. Shape reports, while difficult, it is possible to drop pounds with this condition.

2. Changes in breasts

Notice we didn't specify lumps. While most women think a bump is the only



Certain health symptoms or persistent problems can be a sign something is really wrong. Photo - babycenter.com.my

cause for concern, any changes in your breasts can be a sign of cancer. According to Everyday Health, bloody discharges from your nipples and persistent rashes can also signal breast cancer. Also keep in mind not all tumors are cancerous. You'll need to get a biopsy to know for sure.

And don't go into an immediate panic if you do feel something. WebMD explains many women feel tenderness and a general lumpiness while menstruating. If you continue to notice something that seems unusual long after your period ends, schedule an appointment to see your doc.

3. Sharp stomach pain

Remember the pilot episode of Step by Step where Al's dad thought she was faking stomach pain to get out of school only to find out later she had appendicitis? A lot of women brush off stomach pain just as easily, which runs the risk of a burst appendix. Women's Health says the pain may also be due to an ovarian cyst. In both cases, you'll likely need surgery.

Before you run to the emergency room in a panic, do your best to analyze your specific pain because it may just be a sign

of constipation. For appendicitis, the discomfort occurs in the lower-right portion of your abdomen. For both conditions, the pain usually intensifies as well.

4. Painful urination

A burning or stinging sensation when you urinate can be a sign of a vaginal infection, but it's usually a urinary tract infection (UTI). This condition is much more common for women than men simply because of anatomy. Medscape explains a woman's urethra is shorter than a man's, so bacteria can work its way in more easily. Though UTIs are usually easy to treat, you do want to act as soon as possible to avoid causing damage to your kidneys.

In some cases, the pain may be due to irritation. According to Cleveland Clinic, this can be caused by sex or even scented products that may not be delicate enough for your skin.

5. Bizarre discharges

The word bizarre is important here because regularly finding your underwear with spots from vaginal discharge just means your body is cleaning itself normally. Mayo Clinic says you don't need to be

worried unless you notice itching, off colors, foul odours, or extremely heavy discharges. These could indicate a sexually transmitted infection, a yeast infection, or an overgrowth of vaginal bacteria. No matter the reason, you'll want to schedule a pelvic exam to make sure you get proper treatment.

6. Chest discomfort or shortness of breath

Women who feel winded or notice an unusual sensation in their chest often don't realize they're having a heart attack. It sounds strange, but the American Heart Association says women can experience these more subdued symptoms while men will typically have more overt pain or tightness in their chests. It sounds extreme, but you really should call 911. Heart disease remains the number one killer of women in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, so it's better to be on the safe side.

7. New or irregular moles

Most people have plenty of moles, which are perfectly harmless. If you notice new moles cropping up later in life or changes in the way they appear, though, it's time to visit the dermatologist. The American Cancer Society explains changes in shape, size, and color can all indicate melanoma. Of course, the only way you'll notice such changes is if you keep an eye out in the first place. Just like with a self breast exam, you should regularly check out your skin.

Surprisingly, irregular moles may not actually mean much. Many people have them and they're often harmless. It used to be common practice to have any atypical ones removed, but not all dermatologists are so quick to make this call. You'll want to chat with him or her about if you have a family history of skin cancer and do some biopsies before making a decision. The Skin Cancer Foundation says frequent monitoring is often a good option.

Christine Skopec

This Crazy World

In the beginning...

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth, and populated the Earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow, and red vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and lead healthy lives.

Then using God's great gifts, Satan created Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. And Satan said, "You want chocolate with that?" And Man said, "Yes!" and Woman said, "And as long as you're at it, add some sprinkles." And they gained 10 pounds. And Satan smiled.

And God created the healthful yogurt so that Woman might keep the figure that

Man found so fair.

And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat, and sugar from the cane and combined them. And Woman went from size 6 to size 14.

So God said, "Try my fresh green salad."

And Satan presented Thousand Island Dressing, buttery croutons and garlic toast on the side.

And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the feast!!!

God then said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them."

And Satan brought forth deep fried fish and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained more weight

and his cholesterol went through the roof.

God then created a light, fluffy white cake, named it 'Angel Food Cake', and said, "It is good."

Satan then created chocolate cake and named it 'Devil's Food'.

God then brought forth running shoes so that His children might lose those extra pounds.

And Satan gave cable TV with a remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering blue light and gained pounds.

Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition.

And Satan peeled off the healthful skin

and sliced the starchy centre into chips and deep-fried them. And Man gained pounds.

God then gave lean meat so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite.

And Satan created McDonald's and its 99-cent double cheeseburger. Then said, "You want fries with that?"

And Man replied, "Yes! And super size them!"

And Satan said, "It is good."

And Man went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery.

Then Satan created private medical insurance!

Bollywood and television actresses who are living 'happily ever after' with their in-laws

A mother-in-law is not always a 'monster-in-law' and the celebrities saas-bahu duos, as reported by Ekta Chanana of bollywoodshaadis.com, have proved it right. Read on

It is said that once the honeymoon period gets over, reality strikes in and that's when we realise the bumpy journey of getting married. Since time immemorial, the relationship shared between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is considered dramatic, horrible and full of hatred. However, there are some celebrity saas-bahu duos that never fail to show us the rosy side of this complicated relationship.



Shilpa Shetty Kundra and mum-in-law

Shilpa Shetty Kundra

Bollywood actress, Shilpa Shetty had tied the knot with Raj Kundra on November 22, 2009, and had added the 'Kundra' to her name. After 11 years of marital bliss, the duo still radiate couple goals. While we all know that Shilpa is a loving wife, she is also an adorable daughter-in-law. She knows how to take care of her MIL (Mother-In-law). On her sasu-ma's birthday this year, Shilpa had shared her dancing video. Alongside it, she had written, "Happyyyyy birthdayyyyyy to the most amazing Mom (in law). You are the ultimate Rockstar in our family... We are so lucky to have your hands on our heads. I'm the luckiest daughter (in law) to have a friend and dance partner in you. May you always dance through life with happiness and good health. Keep inspiring

us with your joie de vivre. We love you."

Shilpa is not just close to her mother-in-law, but she also loves her father-in-law, and never misses a chance to show it. On her father-in-law's birthday, she had shared his birthday celebration pictures and had penned, "Happy Birthday to the BESTEST Father in law in the world. Thank you for all the love and encouragement u give me especially. You are such an inspiration, and an unconditional GIVER. Keep smiling always dad, may you be blessed with great health and happiness always. We love you #celebration #birthdayboy #fatherinlaw #love #gratitude."

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and her bond with her mother-in-law, Jaya Bachchan is an inspiration for millennials. The actress is a 'Miss World' and a prominent name in the world of glam and glitz, yet at home she is a humble daughter-in-law. In a 2015

interview with the DNA, Abhishek Bachchan had opened up on Jaya Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's bond. He had said, "Ma and Ash gang up against me and they keep rattling on in Bengali. (Laughs) Mom knows the language because she is Bengali and Aishwarya had worked with Rituda (the late Rituparno Ghosh) in Chokher Bali, so she also can speak the language quite well. So whenever they have to team up against me, they start talking in Bengali (smiles)."

Talking about another instance, we all know that a woman loves her mom's saree collection, but have you ever seen her flaunt her mother-in-law's saree. Well, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan had happily done it, when she was pregnant with Aaradhya Bachchan.

Sameera Reddy

Sameera Reddy, who has redefined maternity fashion and getting comfortable in your own skin, has been acing her role as 'mommy bear'. Amidst the pandemic, she has gained a lot of love from the audience with her series, 'Messy Mama'. However, it is her 'Sassy Sasu' series that has received a lot of love from the netizen. In the series, we can see Sameera and her MIL, Manjri Varde camaraderie. In an interview with World Samachar, Sameera had talked about spending lockdown with her 'darling mom-in-law'.

She had said, "The lockdown has really handed off nicely due to my mother-in-law. We now have this banter between us all day and I take pleasure in her firm. She (Manjri Varde) lets



Sameera and her MIL, Manjri Varde

me be and could be very vocal about sure issues I do, with out being judgemental. Because the lockdown continued, we cooked and considered recreating a brand new recipe with leftovers. That's how we shot the 'rotla' video (chapati with leftover rice)"

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Don't play at making your loved one jealous; his/her reactions could be devastating. In family, don't judge everything in relation to yourself. Slow down your expenses without delay in order to avoid a somewhat critical situation.

Lucky Numbers: 16, 22, 27, 31, 36, 39

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

You'll round a turning point by making an essential discovery about yourself. An unfavourable week for settling an inheritance issue. Take advantage of the current positive influxes to put some order in your household if you're married.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 22, 29, 30, 35, 37

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Your relationships with the other sex won't be easy because of your provocative moods. A rather austere astral climate, which will facilitate your theoretical researches on a high and long-term plane. Improve your relations with your parents.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 14, 18, 24, 29

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your children will give you some hard times but everything will be smoothed out. The stars will be on gamblers' side; bet, throw the dice: you'll have good chances to win; but don't go so far as to bet your own shirt!

Lucky Numbers: 8, 13, 19, 23, 26, 33

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

All contracts and all associations will be favoured. Love plans will be favoured by fortune. In work, patience will be necessary, because it'll be useless to want to go ahead of schedule. If you can't manage to concentrate, postpone all your tedious works.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 6, 14, 17, 24, 29

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Keep your head on your shoulders, don't pursue utopian projects. You're likely to fall victim of an aggression; don't go home alone late in the evening, avoid risky quarters and nightclubs.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 10, 12, 17, 25

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You're likely to be fidgety; think of reducing tensions. Your professional life will be fraught with some rather sharp tensions; try to keep a very low profile. You'll be inclined to let yourself be taken care of by others; react, assume your responsibilities.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 9, 11, 16, 19, 31

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

For once, you'll be able to conciliate work and family life. Fantastic week for your love affairs; only the most pleasant things will happen to you, even if you're absent-minded or indifferent.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, 11, 16, 21, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

It'll be sunny in the sphere of love; your heart will be full of joys. It would be the right moment to make peace with certain members of your family; don't let this situation of misunderstanding last any longer.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 13, 14, 18, 28

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Your love life will be extremely animated and completely passionate. Don't let your authority weigh too much on your family. Don't let your minor health problems worry you too much; take all the necessary precautions to put a halt to them.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 12, 15, 18, 20, 33

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You can't avoid having clashes with your superiors or your colleagues; try to keep a low profile. Don't neglect your loved ones, particularly your children. If someone tries to tread on your toes, don't let him/her do it: react!

Lucky Numbers: 20, 23, 26, 28, 30, 36

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Your love life will take on an enriching twist. You'll be the heart and soul of your home and will be able to create a privileged climate in your household. Don't be indifferent to the small pleasures of everyday life.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 4, 5, 11, 15, 22

Donal Bisht: 'Namik and Vikram pampered me like a child'

Donal Bisht became a popular face of the Indian television industry after she appeared in the show 'Ek Deewana Tha' as Sharanya. The show was one of its kind, which was an amalgamation of horror and romance. The Donal Bisht starrer show marks it's the third year this month. Expressing her feelings on the same, Donal recalls all the fond memories that she had during the shoot of this show, reports Times of India.

Talking about how the show is still fresh in the minds of people and how people still date ask her about if it's sequel coming up, she says, "I'm so happy that I started with such a great show that everybody still remembers and misses me on screen. Even today, wherever I go people ask me 'When is *Ek Deewana Tha 2*' coming up? We were the first one to come up with a show which was one of its kind, a mixture of horror and romance.

"The journey of EDT was amazing. My co-stars Vikram Singh Chauhan and Namik Paul had pampered me like a child as it was my first show as a lead. So I can never ever forget them and how nicely and respectfully they treated me on the set. And it feels



amazing when you have such good people around you who teach and guide you. And of course, Prateek Sharma, who chose me to play Sharanya's part. The concept which he introduced is something out of the box. It is still fresh in the minds of everyone and it is one of the most cherishable phases of my life"

Moreover, the 'Roop' actress also extended her heartfelt gratitude to all the fans who made the show a huge hit. The actress added: "Lastly, I would like to thank all the fans for loving Sharanya, Vyom and Shiv."

Urvashi Dholakia revisits Shrikant

Urvashi Dholakia has been part of hit TV shows like Ghar Ek Mandir, Kabhii Sautan Kabhii Saheli, Kahiin To Hoga and Chandrakanta. It was, however, her turn as Komolika in Kasautii Zindagii Kay that remains etched in the minds of the audience.

Urvashi Dholakia believes she was destined to be an actor. Today, her name might remind us of the unforgettable characters she's played on screen, but Urvashi rarely goes back to watch her performances.

While many believe Urvashi's acting debut was 1993 hit Doordarshan show Dekh Bhai Dekh, the actor has another story to tell. She considers Dekh Bhai Dekh her first commercial show, as her work as a child artist cannot be ignored.

So how did it all begin for Urvashi Dholakia? Here's what the actor shared with Indian Express:

*** What was your first acting project? How did the project come to you?**

It was around 1986. I was a child. My mom used to send my pictures to every production house. That's how they called me. Those days, sometimes there were no auditions also. They used to just see you because you were a baby.

So, I got selected for this TV show called Shrikant. Praveen Nischol, Navin Nischol's brother, was the director, and Bimal Roy's daughter was the controller of the look of the show. My mother took me there. I was basically selected on the basis of the length of my hair because I had long hair.

The show was based on a novel by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyaya. It was about how Raj Lakshmi (Sujata Mehta) nurses Shrikant (Farooq Sheikh) during a plague. I was playing Raj Lakshmi's younger version. The show had a huge star cast - Irrfan Khan, Mrinal Kulkarni, Rita Bhaduri, Tiku Talsania, AK Hangal and Ajit Vachani. So, to be a part of a show with such stalwarts was a blessing.

*** What do you remember of your first day on**

set?

My first day of shooting was somewhere in Madh Island. That time it was a forest area. The set up was that of the 19th century when girls were not allowed to go to schools. So there was a school set up with all the boys going there. I remember there used to be karonde (type of berries) which I plucked and ate. They used to treat me like their daughter; I was so pampered. I refused to go on set if they did not give me mangoes. So, they used to bribe me. The atmosphere which we worked in was very homely.

I was supposed to be there for one episode. But Praveen ji took such a liking towards me and my performance that he extended it to a couple of more episodes. We were not ready for that because I had school. And in those days, acting was quite a taboo, not everybody appreciated it. Ultimately, I was a part of at least eight episodes.

*** Were you nervous?**

I started acting when I was six. Considering I've always been a director's actor, whatever I was asked to do, I did. Acting came very naturally to me. I never went through any manager or agency. So, I was comfortable.

*** How was the rapport with your co-stars?**

Considering it was a childhood part, so the kids who were playing the childhood characters of the entire cast were my co-stars. Doordarshan was the only running channel that time. Working with already established names at that time and then not having an ounce of nervousness, was something that makes me feel lucky.

*** One film or role that inspired you to become an actor?**

When I did Tejasvini, it made me realise that acting is not a piece of cake. My favourite actor has been Rekha. It started from Mr Natwarlal. Whenever she came on TV, I used to call her 'Rekha mummy'. I remember writing a letter to her, which I never posted. My admiration for her was at another level.

TV SERIAL

Bade Achhe Lagte Hain

Friday 6 Nov: Ram is surprised to see Rajat working in the office till late evening, thus he forces her to leave office as Pooja/Priya is coming at her place to teach Cady. At Rajat's house, Pooja has arrived in Rajat's mansion and Rajat is super excited to meet Pooja/Priya. However Daijaan stops him from meeting her. Cady sends Pihu to give Rakhi to Ram as he wanted to courier it to India and he was surprised to meet Pihu and also spends a rocking time together. Rajat reaches there and insist her to have dinner with him and his family. Priya/Pooja is surprised by Rajat's gestures; on the other side, Rajat reveals to Pooja/Priya that Ram is his best buddy and also requests her to meet Ram, but Pooja/Priya gets tensed and decides to leave Rajat's house.

Monday 9 Nov: Priya forces Pihu to hurry up as she wants to leave Rajat's house before Ram arrives. Later, Pihu rushes to Ram's room and leaves a letter for him, as he gave her his favorite chocolate. At Priya's house, Pihu gives Priya's rakhi to Ram and thus she has a fear that Pihu should not reveal anything about her to Ram. Rajat gets upset as Pooja will not be able to attend his function, as she is ill, so Ram advices Rajat to gift her a bouquet of flowers.

Tuesday 10 Nov: An emotional moment takes place between Pihu and Ram's son. Khush as Pihu ties rakhi to him. In the mall, Priya gets angry at Cady for taking Pihu to Rajat's house without informing Priya. Cady reveals to Pooja that she wanted to be a part of "Rakshan Bandhan" festival. At Vikram house, the auspicious occasion of "Raksha Bandhan" ceremony takes place between Rahul and his sisters. In the mall, Priya urgently hides in the bathroom as she observes Rajat and Ram together, but a shocking incident occurs: Aisha couldn't believe her eyes that her elder sister Priya is alive. She tries to follow her to reconfirm but fails to inform Ram as his mobile phone was unreachable. Neha observes Vikram giving warnings to an unknown person.

Wednesday 11 Nov: Cady informs Priya that she has finally got an opportunity to do internship in Kapoor's fashion house with Natasha Kapoor who is one of the finest fashion designers of India. Priya gets emotional as she observes Karthik after a long time later. Ram advices to Rajat is to tell Priya to take precautions but Priya politely ignores Ram and Rajat's advice. Pihu reveals her mother that she has finally found a brother who has tied rakhi to Ram's son Khush. Aisha fails to reveal to Ram about Priya as she was stunned to see her expensive gift. Pihu gets upset as Ram informs him that he is leaving for India and also invites Pihu and her mother at Rajat's house for dinner.

Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

Friday 6 Nov: Sonakshi hatches a clever plan to divert Tapasya's reporters outside the Sippy Mansion. Later, Rohit consoles an inconsolable Sonakshi.

Monday 9 Nov: The Sippys are shocked when Tapasya reaches the hospital along with the police. Later, a furious Sonakshi slaps Tapasya.

Tuesday 10 Oct: The Sippys are stunned by Pooja's shocking announcement while a furious Pulkit sternly warns Pari. Later, Rohit vents his anger out at Sonakshi.

Wednesday 11 Oct: The Sippys are shocked by Sonakshi's unbelievable act while Rohan attempts to meet Pari. Later, Pooja puts forth a demand before YK and Nishi.

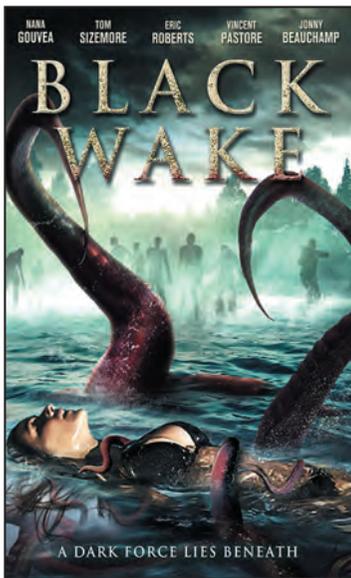
Thursday 12 Oct: Rohit gives Sonakshi an unusual gift on their special night and the duo share a romantic moment. However, they are interrupted by a mysterious phone call.



Samedi 7 Nov - 22.15

Black Wake

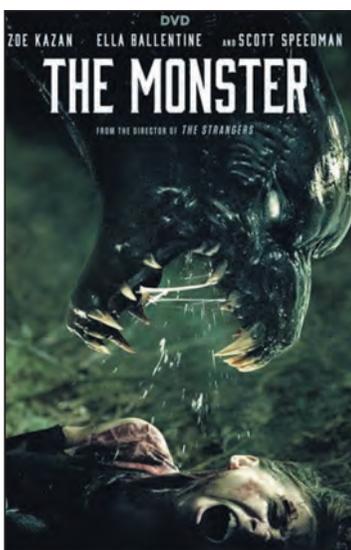
Avec: Nana Gouvea, Tom Sizemore, Eric Roberts



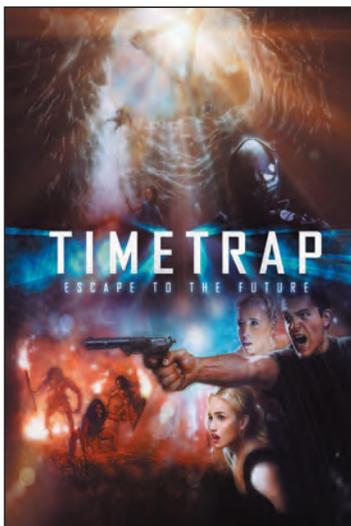
Samedi 7 Nov - 21.10

The Monster

Starring: Zoe Kazan, Ella Ballentine, Aaron Douglas



Dimanche 8 Nov - 21.15



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
07.05 Local: Au Tour Du Livre 10.30 Mag: Arts.21 11.00 Doc: A Question Of Science 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Mag: Urban Gardens 13.00 Doc: 360 GEO 13.55 Doc: World Stamps 14.30 D.Anime: The Zoo 14.52 D.Anime: In The Night... 15.54 D.Anime: Astrology 16.00 D.Anime: Monster Math... 17.30 Mag: Zoboomafo 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.15 Live: Focus 21.15 Serial: When Calls The Heart 22.40 Serial: The Blacklist 23.15 Le Journal 23.50 Mag: Eye On SADC	10.00 Serial: Mah-E-Tamaam 12.00 Film: Pasanga 2 Starring: Suriya, Amala Paul, Ramdoss 14.07 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 Mehandi Tohra Namam Ke 17.11 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.35 Serial: Chhanchhan 18.00 Serial: My Little Princess 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Serial: Tawaan 20.44 Local: Anjuman 21.11 Local: Urdu Programme	06.00 Mag: Eco India 06.34 Mag: Healthy Living 07.05 Mag: Border Crossing 07.35 Mag: Tomorrow Today 08.01 Doc: Brains In Danger 08.57 Doc: 2D Innovations 09.01 Doc: 360 GEO 11.49 Mag: Eco India 12.38 Mag: Shift 12.54 Mag: Border Crossing 13.20 Mag: Urban Gardens 13.25 Mag: Tomorrow Today 14.50 Doc: 360 GEO 16.10 Doc: D-Mark Unification... 16.53 Doc: The Thousand Headed 17.45 Mag: Healthy Living 18.00 Doc: Boeing - Deadly... 18.42 Mag: Green Touch 19.00 Student Support Prog... 21.00 Local: News (English) 21.10 Doc: 2D Innovations	01.27 Film: Tumbledown 02.57 Serial: Chicago Med 03.37 Film: A Gift Horse 05.59 Serial: Seal Team 06.41 Film: The Last Bridesmaid 09.00 Serial: The Magicians 09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.00 Serial: Chicago Med 12.00 Film: A Gift Horse 13.34 Tele: Totalement Diva 14.46 Film: The Last Bridesmaid 16.44 Serial: The Magicians 17.25 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: S.W.A.T 22.45 Tele: Totalement Diva	08.00 Film: Laila Majnu 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 14.37 / 22.25 - Ikyhawann 15.20 Film: Shikaar Starring: Abhishek Kapoor, Vikas Bhalla, Ayesha Jhulka 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Piya Albela 19.24 Mere Angne Mein

vendredi 6 novembre	samedi 7 novembre	samedi 8 novembre
06.00 D.Anime: Little People 06.27 D.Anime: HTDT 08.08 D.Anime: Petit Creux 08.24 D.Anime: Looped 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: People 12.30 Doc: Glwar Dantan 14.30 D. Anime: The Zoo 14.37 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur 15.01 D.Anime: Nutri Ventures 15.33 D.Anime: The Minimighty... 16.54 D.Anime: Astrology 17.25 Mag: Zoboomafo 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Entertain: Nach Baliye 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.00 Prod: Lottotech 21.15 Local: RDV Muzikal 22.15 Film: Black Wake Starring: Nana Gouvea, Tom Sizemore, Eric Roberts	07.00 Film: Sur Sangam Starring: Girish Karnad, Jaya Prada, Sachin 09.29 DDI Magazine 10.00 Bade Acchelagte Hai 12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare 12.29 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 12.52 Serial: High School 13.16 Annakodiyum Ainthus Pengalum 13.35 Serial: Anu Pallavi 15.26 Film: Dishoom 18.07 Mag: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 20.05 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 20.30 Serial: Bitti Business Wali 21.00 Film: Sarfarosh Starring - Amir Khan, Naseeruddin ShahSonali Bendre, Mukesh Rishi 23.11 DDI Live	06.00 Doc: Boeing - Deadly... 06.42 Doc: Arts And Culture 07.02 Mag: Global 3000 07.37 Mag: Euromaxx 08.03 Doc: Wildlife Heroes 09.00 Doc: Farah Diba Pahlavi... 09.51 Doc: Hidden Treasures 11.19 Doc: Boeing - Deadly 12.10 Mag: Arts And Culture 12.23 Mag: Global 3000 12.57 Mag: Euromaxx 13.23 Doc: Wildlife Heroes 15.15 Student Support Program... 17.54 Open Univ: Student Support 19.30 Mag: Check In 20.05 Doc: Hunters 21.00 Local: News 21.10 Mag: 2D Innovations 21.11 Doc: 360 GEO 22.02 Doc: Farming Policies For... 22.45 Doc: Never Enough 23.27 Doc: Amazing Gardens

06.00 D.Anime: Little People 06.23 D.Anime: Fruit Ninja Frenzy... 08.25 D.Anime: Looped 09.35 Serial: Waffle The Wonder... 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Local: Saver KilTirel 14.00 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer... 14.30 D.Anime: The Zoo 15.23 D.Anime: The Minimighty... 15.43 D.Anime: Gadget And The... 16.05 D.Anime: Monster Math... 16.16 D.Anime: Alisa Knows What... 16.54 D.Anime: Astrology 17.30 Mag: Zoboomafo 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Big B: Superstar... 19.30 Le Journal 20.00 Local: Info 7 Sur 7 21.20 Film: Time Trap Star: Andrew Wilson, Cassidy Gifford, Brianne Howey	07.00 Film: Kabuliwala Starring: Balraj Sahni ,Usha Kiran ,Sajjan 09.16 Mag: DDI Magazine 10.00 Local Production 11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai 11.23 Serial: Santoshi Maa 12.00 Film: Yamla Pagla Deewana Starring - Dharmendra, Sunny Deol, Bobby Deol 14.25 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: Devu	06.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens 06.26 Doc: Ville En Fête 06.52 The World From Above 07.15 Mag: Check In 08.39 Doc: 2D Innovations 09.30 Doc: Farming Policies For... 10.13 Doc: Never Enough 11.09 Doc: Amazing Gardens 12.17 Mag: Check In 13.39 Doc: 360 GEO 16.26 Doc: Ville En Fête 17.17 Mag: Check In 17.43 Doc: Set One: Heavy Load... 18.00 Doc: Olivia's Garden 18.30 Doc: Garden Party 21.00 Doc: News (English) 21.10 Doc: 2D Innovations 22.41 Doc: Eva A-7063 - Victim... 23.24 Doc: Olivia's Garden 23.50 Doc: Garden Party 00.16 Doc: Georgia On The Move
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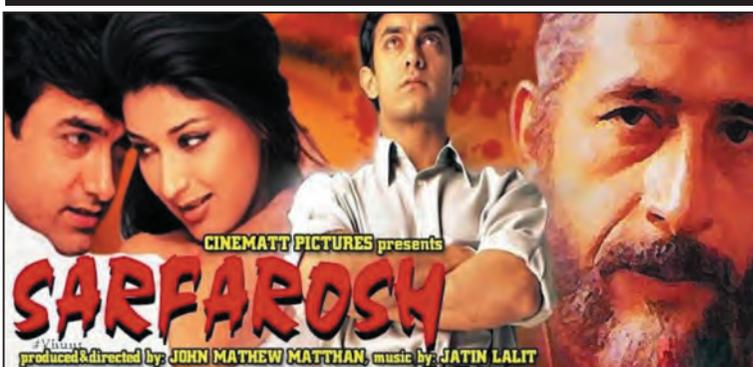
MBC 2 Samedi 7 Nov - 21.00

Stars: Amir Khan, Naseeruddin ShahSonali Bendre, Mukesh Rishi



Dimanche 8 Nov - 18.30

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Rawal, Suniel Shetty, Tabu



Virtue, vice and the presidency

Must The President be a Moral Leader?

The good leader, insisted Machiavelli, is morally right to do what is usually taken as wrong. He or she must be cruel, deceptive and often violent



President Donald Trump, former President Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton, during the funeral for former President George H.W. Bush. Photo - AP - Alex Brandon, Pool

The good leader, insisted Machiavelli, is morally right to do what is usually taken as wrong. He or she must be cruel, deceptive and often violent

The best presidents - including figures such as Abraham Lincoln and George Washington - are celebrated not only as good leaders, but as good men. They embody not simply political skill, but personal virtue.

Why, though, should anyone expect a president to demonstrate that sort of virtue? If someone is good at the difficult job of political leadership, must they demonstrate exceptional moral character as well?

Character and democracy

Voters disagree about the extent to which the president must demonstrate moral leadership. Scholars who study political ethics disagree as well.

Those who insist that the president must be virtuous often begin with the thought that a person in that office will face new and unanticipated problems during his or her term. A president whose decision-making is informed by a consistent character, will, in the face of new challenges, rely upon the lessons that have built that character.

As scholar James David Barber wrote, the best way to understand a president's likely responses to a crisis is to understand what that president values most highly.

Abraham Lincoln, for instance, consistently and publicly referred to the same set of moral values throughout his life - values centred on a deep, while imperfect, belief in the moral equality of people. These principles provided him with guidance throughout the horrors of the Civil War.

A president whose decisions are not

grounded in the right sort of ethical values may be less well-equipped to respond well - and, more importantly, might be frighteningly unpredictable in his or her responses.

Other political ethicists have emphasized the ways in which democracies can fall apart in the absence of personal virtue. Conservative thinkers, in particular, have argued that political institutions can only function when all those who participate within them are capable of compromise and of self-government. Rules, to put it simply, don't work unless people governed by those rules care about them and voluntarily choose to abide by them.

If this is true of citizens, it is even more true of the president, whose opportunities to damage the system through unprincipled actions are so much greater.

Vice and efficiency

These arguments have been met with powerful objections. Political philosophers - including, most prominently, Niccolo Machiavelli - have argued that the nature of political life requires a willingness to demonstrate habits of character that would ordinarily be understood as vices. The good leader, insisted Machiavelli, is morally right to do what is usually taken as wrong. He or she must be cruel, deceptive and often violent.

The philosopher Arthur Applbaum refers to this as role morality. What a person is right to do, argues Applbaum, often depends upon the job that person is doing. The good lawyer, for instance, may have to bully, browbeat or humiliate hostile witnesses. That is what a zealous defense might require. Machiavelli notes simply that, in a hostile and brutal world, political leaders might have similar reasons to do what is usually forbidden.

Modern philosophers such as Michael Walzer have continued this line of reasoning. If the world is imperfect, and requires a politician to lie, cheat or otherwise do wrong in the name of doing good, then there is sometimes a moral reason for the politician to do that wrong.

George Washington, for example, was quite happy to engage in deception, if that deception would help protect the United States. He consistently sought to deceive his adversaries about his intentions and his resources - and, importantly, sought to deceive his own subordinates, reasoning that a lie must be believed at home for it to be useful abroad.

A president who refused to engage in this sort of deception, argues Walzer, would be choosing to keep his or her conscience clear, instead of providing some genuine and concrete help to others. Walzer's conclusion is that a good political agent must often refuse to be a good person. It is only by sometimes doing what is ordinarily wrong, that the politician can make the world better for all.

Virtue, vice and the presidency

These ideas have, of course, been a part of many long-standing debates about presidential morality. Henry Kissinger, for instance, defended the Nixon administration's decision to seek the firing of the special prosecutor, based upon the need for that administration to present itself to the Soviet Union as both powerful and unified.

It was not necessary, Kissinger wrote later, that the American leadership displayed personal virtue. It was enough that their decisions enabled a society in which the American people were capable of demonstrating that virtue.

More recently, many evangelical supporters of President Trump have used the Biblical story of Cyrus the Great, an ancient Persian king, to explain their continued support for the president. Although Cyrus was not himself Jewish, he chose to free the Jews held as slaves in Babylon. Evangelical leader Mike Evans noted that that Cyrus, like Donald Trump, was an "imperfect vessel," whose decisions nevertheless made it possible for others to live as God wished them to.

So, too, some evangelicals argue that President Trump's own seeming lapses of virtue might not disqualify him from the presidency - so long as his decisions enable others to lead lives exemplifying the virtues he does not always show himself.

Effective vice

These debates - between those who seek a president who models ethical virtue, and those who would regard that desire as misguided at best - are likely to continue.

One thing that must be acknowledged, however, is that even the best defenses of presidential vice cannot be taken to excuse all forms of moral failure.

Machiavelli, and those who follow him, can at most be used to defend a president whose vices are effectively able to create a more ethical world for others. Not all sorts of wrongdoing, though, can plausibly be thought to have these effects.

Some vices, such as an outsized confidence, or the will to use violence in the name of justice, may be defended with reference to the ideas of Machiavelli or Walzer.

Other ethical failings, however - such as a vindictive desire to punish perceived enemies - often seem less likely to lead to good results. This sort of failure, however, appears to be common among those who have sought the presidency. It is a failure, moreover, that does not depend upon party affiliation.

In recent years, for example, both Lyndon Baines Johnson and Richard Nixon took particular delight in humiliating and degrading their political adversaries. Both, perhaps, might have been better leaders, had they been more reflective about when and how to wrong.

In presidential politics, all parties might at least agree on this much: If there is sometimes a reason to seek an ethically flawed president, it does not follow that all ethical flaws are equally worth defending.

Michael Blake
University of Washington