

# MAURITIUS TIMES

● "In a society governed passively by free markets and free elections, organized greed always defeats disorganized democracy." -- Matt Taibbi, Griftopia

Interview : Jack Bizlall

**"Si on veut changer les choses à Maurice, il faut à tout prix passer à la Deuxième République"**

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## Covid-19 vaccines are coming - how will we know they work and are safe?



If the vaccine is to be widely applied, the medical community and the public need to be reassured about its safety

By Adam Kleczkowski, University of Strathclyde \* See Page 2

## Election results no surprise but...



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## Villages: The Irreversible March of Modernity



By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee \* See Page 3



## Election results no surprise but...

**W**hat would have been surprising would have been if the results had been otherwise, that is, the MSM-backed or leaning factions had obtained a landslide victory. What these results seem to indicate is that the uncovering of so many irregularities and dysfunctions in the governance of the country have definitely had an impact on a good proportion of the citizenry, sufficient enough for them to show their dissatisfaction by voting for the opposing forces that were aligned. The successful management of the Covid-19 pandemic has not been a strong enough counterweight against the negative image that has been trailing the government to date, and that looks set to endure. Unless...

Unless, that is, the government is more forthcoming in the elucidation and explanation of a number of dark zones that continue to plague several matters of national concern. And these have to be explicated in a clear and convincing communication exercise that has been lacking so far, not least being the cavalier manner in which questions being asked in Parliament are being handled. This compounds the bad image that already prevails, more so since debates are now televised live and people can form their own opinions. After all, they are literate, educated, and able to judge for themselves standards of behaviour and practice by comparison with other, more mature jurisdictions, and are less and less hesitant about expressing their anger and disgust. And since any direct confrontation is likely to be met with uncommon force, they have made judicious use of the ballot to express themselves.

Together with these dysfunctions, there is another perception that has gained ground, and that is that those close to the power nexus are out to make as much for themselves as is possible at the expense of the people. In other words, they are busy enriching themselves in the face of a calamity so widespread – the pandemic – that, as they acknowledge themselves, there is

as yet no end in sight for the crisis.

On the other hand, people are also irked by the repeated refusal of the authorities to provide information about the modalities and conditionalities attached to the generous fiscal stimulus packages accorded to various companies and businesses, attempts to do so in Parliament being waived off summarily, or squarely ignored.

Jobs are being lost, salaries are being curtailed, thousands of families – and therefore many more thousands of people – are failing to provide enough for themselves, let alone being able to put aside anything for the future which every sensible family would do. On the contrary they are having to draw upon whatever savings – if any – that they have, and naturally these are dwindling. Savings can only go so far after all. They therefore see the future as bleak, and are not comforted by the official narratives that seek to reassure them that things are going to look up. Especially not in view of the proposed dismantling of the NPF with the money being transferred to the Consolidated Fund which everybody knows is used to fund the Budget, whereas the NPF acts as an autonomous reserve which guarantees that pensions are paid.

Under more favourable circumstances, that is if the economic situation were really better or there were promising prospects of forthcoming significant improvements and restoration of lost employment, etc, this shift at the polls may not have been so much a matter of concern. After all, interim polls everywhere always downgrade the ruling team.

But things are different. Although there are four more years to go before the general elections are held, there is no saying how things will pan out on the economic front. There is therefore much that needs to be done if this shift is to be reversed – but that the people have signalled that they want change so early in the government's mandate is unmistakable.

## The Conversation

## Covid-19 vaccines are coming – how will we know they work and are safe?

*The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine may be rolled out in mere weeks*

**P**fizer and BioNTech have just released interim results of their Covid-19 vaccine trial. Although it is not the only vaccine in the late stages of testing, the large size and careful design of the trial, not to mention the promising results, have caused understandable enthusiasm around the world. As we get nearer the long-awaited start of a Covid-19 vaccine roll-out, it is worth looking at how statisticians help medics establish the safety of vaccines.

### How effective is the vaccine?

It is not easy to find out how effective a vaccine is. First, researchers need to know whether just an act of injecting somebody can help. The trials involve a large number of people, with half of them given a vaccine and the other half a placebo. Then the participants need to be exposed to the infection with the expectation that most of those in the control group become ill, but vaccination protects at least some in the treated group.

In some cases, such as for HIV or Ebola, even giving a placebo can be ethically controversial as they have such a high death rate. For coronavirus, the researchers need to rely on natural infection because no study, at the moment, intentionally exposes participants to the coronavirus. As a result, the efficacy calculation is based on a relatively small number of those who caught Covid-19 by contact with other infected people.

Vaccine efficacy reflects a proportion of the number of those who became ill in the vaccinated group and in the non-vaccinated group. The Pfizer/BioNTech trial involved nearly 44,000 participants, with 21,999 given the vaccine. The researchers use statistical analysis to set up milestones at which they can be increasingly confident that the vaccine works – or it does not – as the cases trickle in. If the numbers are small, it would not be clear whether the difference in the outcomes between the placebo and the treated groups is real or just a result of a random fluke.

Statisticians use the so-called “power analysis” to discover how many cases we need to observe. For the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine, the target was 164 cases when the final estimation of efficacy



If the vaccine is to be widely applied, the medical community and the public need to be reassured about its safety.

Photo - news.un.org

can be made, but this was based on the assumption that the vaccine is only 60% effective. This was based on the seasonal flu vaccine efficacy. However, with the numbers exceeding expectations, the company decided to release the results at one of the interim analysis points.

Ninety-four cases were reported and the split of about 86 cases in the placebo group and eight cases among vaccinated yielded 90% efficacy. This level of protection against infection is remarkable. Even though the study is based on a relatively small number of cases, statistical analysis allows the researchers to extrapolate to what might happen when the vaccine is rolled out.

The trial included different ages as well as people from different ethnic minority groups, but more studies would be needed to assess how the most vulnerable groups are protected.

The final efficacy is likely to be lower, as administering the treatment is difficult for many logistical reasons, including the requirement of mRNA-based vaccines, of which the Pfizer vaccine is one, to be stored at very low temperatures. In the real world, the vaccine might not be stored at the correct temperature and hence may spoil.

### How safe is the vaccine?

If the vaccine is to be widely applied, the medical community and the public need to be reassured about its safety.

The Pfizer vaccine was administered to 21,999 people. Some people reported a reaction similar to the one after the seasonal flu vaccination, but so far no serious side-effects have been reported.

Adam Kleczkowski  
University of Strathclyde

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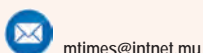
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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Villages: The Irreversible March of Modernity

**W**e are said to be living in a 'global village', a term coined by the Canadian thinker Marshall McLuhan in the 1960s, who envisioned the world interconnected via electronic communications.

Moving on, the definition of a global village now is the idea that people are connected by easy travel, mass media and electronic communications, and have become a single community. An extension of this idea is the 'Concept of Global Villages', which refers to the 'vision of a new human habitat which offers virtually all of the services and amenities of cities while still preserving the rural quality of life and care for healing and human dimension'.

The assumption here is that somehow the rural quality of life is better, but it is contradicted by the reality that the trend of humanity continues to be increasing urbanization, and rural to urban migration takes place continuously all over the world - suggesting that city life is preferable?

Scaling down to our little island, there is no doubt that both rural and urban areas now avail of practically all services and amenities. I asked myself what remains of village life - or of 'village type life' that many of us have experienced as children growing up when the village-town divide was still quite stark, probably until the 1980s at least. I think that most of the candidates who have stood for the village elections on Sunday last have not experienced anything like true village life because from the beginning they have had access to amenities and services that are no longer confined to the towns and cities only.

But change came only very slowly and gradually, and what we take for granted today - clean water, electricity, tarred roads - were not the norm until but a few decades ago. Thus, while they were absent in the villages, even in towns like Curepipe and its outlying areas where I live, as regards water for example many houses would have a single outside tap for all purposes, and one in the simple bathroom that would be situated outside.

In the yard there would a stone slab mounted on a stand for washing clothes, but it was also a common practice for womenfolk to carry bundles of clothes on their heads and walk towards the rivers in the locality where they would do the washing. I, my siblings and cousins would accompany our mother, aunty, grandma, and while they were busy, we children would gambol from rock to rock and splash in the clear unpolluted waters of the river. And we would carry tin cans in which we would put the tiny fishes we caught, the *millions* which we would delight in catching using makeshift handkerchiefs.

Nowadays for children it's the TV or smartphone screens that keep them glued. What a far cry from the simpler pleasures of yesteryear! But then, alas, it is also a fact that rivers have become dry streams for most of the time as I have had numerous occasions to witness at first hand, and there's no choice but to wash clothes at home - and most households nowadays would have washing machines.

In the villages of course, houses didn't have running



"In the villages of course, houses didn't have running water, and many a time I had accompanied my cousins during their visits to their grandparents' place with their mother, in Midlands which is only a few kilometers from Curepipe..."

water, and many a time I had accompanied my cousins during their visits to their grandparents' place with their mother, in Midlands which is only a few kilometers from Curepipe, and had also stayed overnight on occasions. There was not even a public fountain, like the one we had down the road from our house in Curepipe, so water had to be collected from the river and brought back in buckets, and strained before drinking and cooking. And of course, it was great fun for us to play in the river and to help fill the buckets, why even stretching out our tiny hands to help 'carry' the buckets!

For lighting there was only the old-style conical metal lamp and wick, with kerosene as fuel. All houses were thatched, and cow dung served as covering for the floor. But in Curepipe too I had a few friends living not far from our house (which was of the 'colonial' type) who lived in thatched houses with the cowdung flooring which I recall having a pleasant, faint aromatic smell.

Fast forward 40 years later to the early 1990s and we are a group of friends, mostly doctors, who have been doing Sunday treks regularly. One of our favourite trails was in the Midlands area past Bananes village towards Eau Bleue and the surrounding hills. And as often happens in our profession, we develop long-lasting friendships with some patients.

One of us had such a friend who lived in Midlands. He not only offered us the facility of parking our cars at his place, but this was topped by the hospitality of refreshments prepared and lovingly laid out by his wife when we would come back tired and thirsty from our forays into the woods. That, perhaps, could be considered as one of the enduring traits of village folks who willingly share whatever little they have, for the joy of it. And this friend's place was a mandatory stopover so many times - and despite the treks having stopped, he still keeps in touch.

But this aside, it was literal shock to encounter the modernity in the village. It was unrecognizable from what I recalled of its layout and visuals - as I searched my

memory for landmarks that I vaguely remembered. Similarly, for some other villages that I had known in the 1960s, like Barlow in Riviere du Rempart, surrounded by sugarcane fields, where my sister had married. And which made her say one day, not long after she had tied the knot, that **'zone jette moi dans caro cane!'** ('you have dumped me in the sugarcane fields!') - practically eons before the expression *'dans caro cane'* gained popularity in our electoral campaign jargon...

We have indeed moved on very far in almost all the villages, in the name of progress and modernity. Along the way to the cities, we have lost many of the fundamentals of humane and community living that despite everything else, used to be part of village and rural life. So, while we cannot not frown on or reign in modernity in our villages, we must ensure that the cachet of village is maintained so that we do not forget their inestimable value in the provision of much of the food that we consume for both survival and enjoyment. As also for the infinite supply of fresh air and a clean atmosphere which the presence of green fields and forest lands contribute to, and which are also a soothing sight when we are driving past them.

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# Lessons from around the world on fighting Covid's second wave

*Here's what the West can learn from South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and more*

**A**s the northern hemisphere moves into winter, coronavirus rates are rising in parts of Europe and the USA. Experts are warning of a long winter ahead as Covid-19 and influenza put the squeeze on hospitals and other healthcare facilities. In response to the threat presented by the second wave, European countries and many US states have instituted population lockdowns that involve varying restrictions on movement, meeting people, work, schooling, shopping, hospitality and entertainment.

We have seen from the first wave that, when instigated at scale, these measures can shrink the epidemic but at a tremendous cost to society and economic life. When applied for a long time such as in Melbourne, Australia, which locked down for nearly four months, the number of cases can be reduced to close to zero with rigorous wearing of masks, night-time curfews, closed schools, strict travel restrictions and heavy policing.

But is there another way? Ten months into the pandemic, what have we learned and what other measures do we have in our collective toolkit?

## Mass testing

China, having controlled the first wave of the epidemic and with fewer than 100 reported cases per day, now use a mass testing strategy whenever a new cluster appears. This was successfully conducted in Wuhan (a city of 11 million) in May, and the cities of Qingdao and Kashgar in October.

This has been carried out efficiently using PCR (polymerase chain reaction) testing of batches of five to ten samples at a time, then going back to test individual samples if a batch tests positive. The rationale for this approach is to find people who did not know they were infected so they can be advised to isolate and therefore reduce transmission.

Chinese authorities have also acted with speed to protect a population that remembers the SARS outbreak and hence takes control of an epidemic seriously, showing high levels of compliance with public health measures. People are willing to wear masks and accept other interventions are part of a commitment to the greater good at the expense of individual freedoms. This is accompanied by strict enforcement from the government which has at times deployed drones using loudspeakers to rebuke citizens who are not following the rules.

In Europe, Slovakia instituted mass testing of their entire population of 4 million over two weekends during October and November. About 95% of the targeted population has now been reached and tested, with 38,000 positive cases being asked to go home and self-isolate. This represents a 1% positivity rate. This is an expected rate for a European country's population at present. Slovakia also used rapid antigen testing, which despite having a variable false positive rate, can give results with-



Taiwan has been free of coronavirus deaths for months. David Chang/EPA

“Taiwan, where there have been no reported deaths since May, has probably the most effective testing and tracing programme. Cases are followed up twice daily by telephone, text messages or home visits to reinforce the self-isolation message, and to offer support, which can include meal and grocery delivery...”

in 30 minutes, is cheaper than PCR, and can be done without the need for a specialised laboratory.

The World Health Organization has supported the development and facilitated access to affordable rapid tests, at less than US\$5 per test, particularly for low and middle-income countries.

Rapid tests have been trialled in other part of Europe, for example in Liverpool in the UK. In cases where there is a dedicated test site and trained personnel, these tests returned positive results for 99.6% of true infections, and returned negative results for 76.8% of people who did not have COVID-19.

The implications of this are that if there is a general positivity rate of 2.2% in the local population, as suggested by the most recent surveys, for every 1,000 people tested, 17 will be identified correctly as infected and advised to self-isolate, five uninfected people will be incorrectly identified as infected and unnecessarily advised to self-isolate and three who are infected will be incorrectly identified as uninfected. Since those three people will probably have low viral loads, they may not be very infectious.

The upshot is that if people take up testing and follow the advice (which is not guaranteed) this approach has the potential to reduce transmission and hence new infections by at least 50% in the short term.

## Effective contract tracing

Vietnam has used aggressive contact tracing since the start of its epidemic, and there are currently less than 100 reported cases per day in the country, and no recent deaths. Anyone who is infected is hospitalised, which helps to enforce isolation, while contacts are isolated at home with the immediate neighbourhood placed under a local lockdown. There has been clear communication and

the issue is seen as non-political and a matter of public health.

South Korea, meanwhile, has used retrospective contact tracing to investigate outbreaks and understand where transmission is occurring. As a result many bars, night clubs, karaoke bars and places of worship have been closed.

Taiwan, where there have been no reported deaths since May, has probably the most effective testing and tracing programme. Cases are followed up twice daily by telephone, text messages or home visits to reinforce the self-isolation message, and to offer support, which can include meal and grocery delivery. Contact tracing is highly effective, identifying on average 20-30 contacts per case.

Crucially, contact tracing only works if it's done properly. The World Health Organization stresses the importance of not just identifying cases, but following them up and giving support. They estimate that on average each case needs three days of work from the testing and tracing team. Clearly, this can only be feasible if the number of daily cases is brought down to manageable numbers, which is not the case in many European countries, nor in parts of the US.

Unfortunately, with case numbers as high as they are in these places, the best approach for western countries getting through the winter seems to be to continue to use national or local lockdowns. But these should be combined with new tools, including mass testing, to bring down the number of new infections so that effective case detection and contact tracing with local follow-up and support can control continuing chains of transmission.

Of course, the success of all these measures will depend on understanding, trust and participation from all population groups.



# Trial of ex-president Sarkozy a landmark for France



Singer Carla Bruni married then-president Sarkozy in 2008 - and wowed French society. Photo - AFP - ichef.bbc.co.uk

**H**e was nicknamed the "bling-bling" president for what many in France saw as his lavish tastes - but now Nicolas Sarkozy faces the stark reality of a soulless courtroom, reports BBC.

He is going on trial accused of corruption and influence-peddling, for allegedly trying to bribe a magistrate in return for information about an investigation into his party finances.

He will be the first ex-president in modern France to appear in the dock. He led France from 2007 to 2012.

There is some procedural uncertainty about this trial, however. Court hearings have been disrupted by the coronavirus crisis and a key figure in the case, former senior judge Gilbert Azibert, is 74 and will not appear in court.

The France Info news website says proceedings will be adjourned on Monday because Mr Azibert has to undergo a medical check. The trial is set to run until 10 December.

Another former right-wing president, Jacques Chirac, was given a two-year suspended prison sentence in 2011 for diverting public funds and abusing public trust. The offences dated back to his time as mayor of Paris. But he did not appear in court, owing to ill health. He denied wrongdoing.

## What's this case all about?

French magistrates have spent years investigating allegations of corruption dating back to Mr Sarkozy's election campaigns and period in office.

This case is linked to a long-running investigation into the right-wing politician's suspected use of secret donations to fund his 2007 presidential campaign.

The prosecution alleges that Mr Sarkozy and his then lawyer Thierry Herzog sought to bribe Gilbert Azibert with a prestigious job in Monaco in return for information about that investigation.

It is known as the "wiretapping case" in France, because phone calls between Mr Sarkozy and Mr Herzog were tapped in 2013-2014, in which Mr Sarkozy used the alias "Paul Bismuth" and they discussed Judge Azibert.

French media report that Mr Sarkozy was heard telling Mr Herzog "I'll get him promoted, I'll help him."

Mr Sarkozy denies any wrongdoing - and he points out that Judge Azibert did not get the Monaco position.

"Gilbert Azibert got nothing, I made no approach [on his behalf] and I've been rejected by the Court of Cassation," Mr Sarkozy said in 2014, referring to his battle to clear his name.

In October 2013 magistrates dropped him from their investigation into claims that he had accepted illicit payments from L'Oreal heiress Liliane Bettencourt for his 2007 presidential campaign.

## What are Mr Sarkozy's other trials and tribulations?

Prosecutors suspect that Mr Sarkozy and several associates received millions of euros of Libyan cash to fund his 2007 presidential campaign. At that time the late Libyan dictator Col Muammar Gaddafi was in power.

In 2018 Mr Sarkozy was charged with corruption, illegal campaign financing and benefiting from embezzled public funds.

Last month, magistrates also charged him with "membership in a criminal conspiracy". The charges could lead to a trial.

Mr Sarkozy has rejected all the charges.



Israeli reports say Netanyahu met Saudi Crown Prince. Photo - The Economic Times

## Israeli reports say Netanyahu met Saudi Crown Prince, but Saudis deny it

**P**rime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel flew to Saudi Arabia for a covert meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, Israeli news media reported on Monday.

Hours after those reports, attributed to an unidentified Israeli official, the Saudi foreign minister flatly and publicly denied that such a meeting had taken place, reports New York Times.

The confusing turn of events came as Israel and the Trump administration have promoted the idea that a diplomatic opening between Saudi Arabia and Israel is only a matter of time, while the Saudis have continued to insist that an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal must come first.

The meeting, if confirmed, would be the first known to have taken place between high-level Israeli and Saudi leaders.

But the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, denied that any meeting with Mr. Netanyahu had taken place, insisting that Prince Mohammed had met only with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who was completing a seven-nation farewell tour.

"There was no meeting," Prince Faisal wrote in a text message when asked about Mr. Netanyahu.

Prince Faisal said he had accompanied Mr. Pompeo during his visit and that "Saudi and American officials were the only ones present throughout."

# First US coronavirus vaccines could arrive on Dec. 12

**T**he head of the US effort to produce a coronavirus vaccine says the first immunizations could happen on Dec. 12.

A Food and Drug Administration advisory committee is set to meet Dec. 10 to discuss Pfizer Inc.'s request for an emergency use authorization for its developing Covid-19 vaccine. Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech recently announced that the vaccine appears 95% effective at preventing mild to severe Covid-19 disease in a large, ongoing study.

Dr Moncef Slaoui, head of the Operation Warp Speed, the coronavirus vaccine program, says plans are to ship vaccines to states within 24 hours of expected FDA approval.



A lab technician sorts blood samples for Covid-19 vaccination study at the Research Centers of America in Hollywood. Photo - AFP

Slaoui told CNN he expects vaccinations would begin on the second day after approval, Dec. 12

The Washington State Hospital Association is optimistic about the timeline.

"The very first round will go to especially the folks who work in the intensive care units, emergency departments and the first responders but it's being manufactured quickly so it's a fast ramp," WSHA president Cassie Sauer said.

On Wednesday, the Washington State Department of Health is holding a briefing to further discuss coordination and planning for Covid-19 vaccine distribution.

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# India, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Taiwan can play a key role to counter China: US Senate report

A new report released by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday enlists India, along with Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Taiwan to play a decisive role in countering China in the Indo-Pacific.

The report said that the degree to which China can dominate the Indo-Pacific will have a direct impact on the ability to project power globally.

Since the Senate is likely going to be controlled by Republicans, the report could serve as a blueprint for the Joe Biden administration's China policies. Biden has extensive foreign policy experience, having served twice as the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The report, titled "The United States and Europe: A Concrete Agenda for Transatlantic Cooperation on China," puts emphasis on boosting ties with European allies to counter China. Several European countries have their own Indo-Pacific strategy.

The European Union published a strategy to boost economic connectivity between Europe and Asia in 2018. France published a strategy in 2019, and called the region "crucial for global peace and security, multilateralism, the preservation of global public good, and world economic



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian PM Narendra at the BRICS summit in Xiamen, China, in Sept. 2017. Photo - Reuters.com

development and trade." In September 2020, Germany published a new strategy. The UK's upcoming Integrated Security and Defense Review will likely focus on the Indo-Pacific, as well.

The report noted that the US and India welcomed

European participation to boost security in the region. Specifically, it said, "key regional actors like Japan, Australia, India, and ASEAN have also demonstrated their interest in a larger European role and increasingly hope for, and even expect, greater European contributions to prosperity, security, and good governance in the Indo-Pacific."

The report stated that America has to work "with advanced democracies such as Japan, Australia, India, Canada and New Zealand" to find opportunities for collaboration on technology. This would help set baseline standards for technology, and "values that should be upheld in the usage of emerging technologies."

Concerns about a rising China has been a key driver of Indo-US relations since at least the mid-2000s, though a strategic partnership between the countries has levelled up in recent years. Currently, the navies of India, US, Japan and Australia are in the middle of the second phase of the Malabar naval exercise in the northern Arabian Sea.

## G-20 leaders seek to help poorest nations in post-Covid world

Leaders of the 20 biggest economies on Saturday vowed to ensure a fair distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, drugs and tests around the world and do what was needed to support poorer countries struggling to recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

"We will spare no effort to ensure their affordable and equitable access for all people, consistent with members' commitments to incentivize innovation," the leaders said in a draft G20 communique seen by Reuters. "We recognise the role of extensive immunization as a global public good."

The twin crises of the pandemic and an uneven, uncertain global recovery dominated the first day of a two-day summit under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia, which hands off the rotating presidency of the G20 to Italy next month.

The Covid-19 pandemic, which has thrown the global economy into a deep recession this year, and efforts needed to underpin an economic rebound in 2021, were at the top of the agenda.

"We must work to create the conditions for affordable and equitable access to these tools for all peoples," Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz said in his opening remarks. G20 leaders are concerned that the pandemic might further deepen global divisions between the rich and the poor.

"We need to avoid at all costs a scenario of a two-speed world where only the richer can protect themselves against the virus and restart normal lives," French President Emmanuel Macron told the summit.

To do that, the European Union urged G20 leaders quickly to put more money into a global project for vaccines, tests and therapeutics - called Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator - and its COVAX facility to distribute vaccines.

"At the G20 Summit I called for \$4.5 billion to be invested in ACT Accelerator by the end of 2020, for procurement & delivery of COVID-19 tests, treatments and



At a camp for internally displaced persons in northeastern Nigeria, Feb. 2. Photo - AFP

vaccines everywhere," European Commission head Ursula von der Leyen said on Twitter.

"We need to show global solidarity," she said. Germany was contributing more than 500 million euros (\$592.65 million) to the effort, Chancellor Angela Merkel told the G20, urging other countries to do their part, according to a text of her remarks.

Russian President Vladimir Putin offered to provide Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine to other countries and said Moscow was also preparing a second and third vaccine. China, where the pandemic originated a year ago, also offered to cooperate on vaccines. China has five home-grown candidates for a vaccine undergoing the last phase of trials.

"China is willing to strengthen cooperation with other countries in the research and development, production, and distribution of vaccines," President Xi Jinping told the G20 Summit.

"We will ... offer help and support to other developing countries, and work hard to make vaccines a public good that citizens of all countries can use and can afford," he said.

## Lord Vishnu's 1300-Year-old temple discovered in Northwest Pakistan

A Hindu temple, believed to have been constructed 1300 years ago, has been discovered by Pakistani and Italian archaeological experts at a mountain in northwest Pakistan's Swat district.

The discovery was made during an excavation at Barikot Ghundai.

Announcing the discovery on Thursday, Fazle Khaliq of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Department of Archaeology said that the temple discovered is of Lord Vishnu.

It was built by the Hindus 1300 years ago during the Hindu Shahi period, he said.

The Hindu Shahis or Kabul Shahis (850 1026 CE) was a Hindu dynasty that ruled the Kabul Valley (eastern Afghanistan), Gandhara (modern-day Pakistan-Afghanistan), and present-day northwestern India.

During their excavation, the archaeologists also found traces of cantonment and watchtowers near the temple site.

The experts also found a water tank near the temple site which they believe was used for bathing before worship.

Fazle Khaliq said that Swat district is home to a thousand-year-old archaeological sites and the traces of the Hindu Shahi period have been found for the first time in the area.

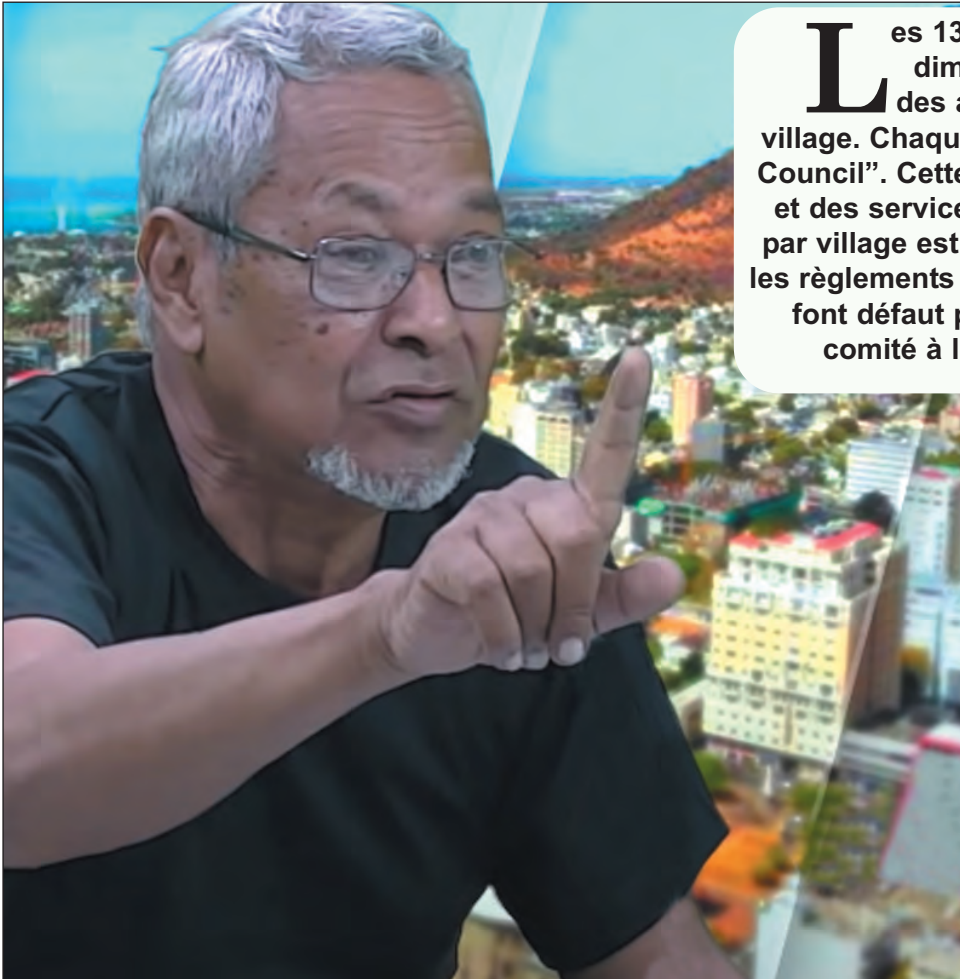
Dr Luka, the head of the Italian archaeological mission, said this was the first temple of the Gandhara civilisation that was discovered in Swat district.

Several places of worship of Buddhism are also situated in Swat district.



Jack Bizlall

# “Si on veut changer les choses à Maurice, il faut à tout prix passer à la Deuxième République”



**L**es 130 villages du pays étaient mobilisés pour les élections villageoises dimanche dernier. En général, chaque conseil de village est responsable des activités sportives, culturelles et éducatives qui se déroulent dans leur village. Chaque “village council” envoie aussi un ou deux représentants au “District Council”. Cette institution est responsable du maintien des rues, de l'environnement et des services publics d'assainissement. Est-ce que l'élection de neuf conseillers par village est justifiée étant donné la perception que les élus connaissent rarement les règlements et les lois régissant le Local Government et que les moyens financiers font défaut pour concrétiser des projets? Jack Bizlall, qui participe au sein d'un comité à l'élaboration d'une nouvelle Constitution, répond à nos questions.

**Mauritius Times :** On a noté un engouement de la part des jeunes et des moins jeunes pour participer aux élections villageoises tenues dimanche dernier. Parmi il y a sans doute certains proches du pouvoir ou de l'opposition, mais il semble qu'il y a eu aussi un bon nombre sans aucune affinité politique mais qui s'intéressent à l'amélioration des conditions de vie dans leur village. Quelle lecture faites-vous de cette nouvelle effervescence?

**Jack Bizlall :** Cette question mérite une réponse de fond et, ensuite, une appréciation de l'évènementiel par rapport à ces élections.

Sur le fond, permettez-moi de vous dire que notre attitude, nous Mauriciens, est infecte. Nous sommes des citoyens de la République de Maurice et nous avons à respecter les autres régions et les autres populations qui maintiennent des différences géographiques, ethniques, voire culturelles.

Notre ethnocentrisme nous fait adopter des comportements que les Rodriguais, les Chagossiens et les Agaléens n'aiment pas. Nous perdons leur amitié et leur respect. Les Mauriciens conjuguent leur vie aux verbes “avoir” et “paraître”. Personne ne parle de ces po-

pulations et de leurs îles. Quelqu'un poserait-il la question si on a tenu des élections villageoises à Rodrigues et à Agaléga? Et si les Chagossiens sont intéressés à élire leurs dirigeants?

Nous perdons pourtant une chose. Il existe à Agaléga et à Rodrigues des structures socioéconomiques totalement différentes de la nôtre et si je dois établir une comparaison sur le plan de l'indicateur du bien-être (IBEE), les indices de la démocratie, etc., nous sommes en dernière position... Les gens qui habitent Agaléga et Rodrigues sont de loin plus heureux que nous. Ils n'ont pourtant aucune élection de village parce qu'ils travaillent tous pour eux-mêmes et dirigent leur vie en décidant eux-mêmes ce qu'ils veulent faire.

Il y a 98 comités de village autogérés à Rodrigues. L'élection d'un comité de village est supervisée par le comité du village voisin. A Agaléga, tous travaillent

pour la communauté et, ainsi, ils sont engagés dans ce que j'appelle la démocratie directe.

**\* Revenons à Maurice : comment se présentent les choses sur ce plan-là?**

En ce qu'il s'agit de Maurice, nos villages n'ont aucun pouvoir de décision sinon de faire du travail social et de protester auprès du Conseil de District pour les immondices que l'on ne ramasse pas...ou encore d'organiser des rencontres pour servir de tremplin aux dirigeants

En attendant, ce qui se passe c'est que graduellement la classe moyenne étend son hégémonie sur l'ensemble de la société. La classe moyenne occupe toutes les fonctions de pouvoir - économiques, politiques, sociales, culturelles, religieuses. Le dernier bastion va tomber cette année - le contrôle des villages. J'ai peu de respect pour les partis politiques qui veulent tout contrôler. La Révolution sortira de la classe moyenne... ou ce sera le statu quo politique. C'est la classe montante.

“Les changements vont venir... Ce sont les réalités politiques, économiques et sociales qui génèrent le changement. Je ne cesserai pas de dire à mes amis que la révolution sociale a débuté depuis la révolution néolithique quand nous sommes sortis de la prédation de la nature pour entrer mécaniquement dans la production culturelle...”

politiques. Nos conseils de villages ne sont utiles que pour constituer le Conseil de District et pour élire un Président.

Pour les conseils municipaux, la situation est pire. Tous les quartiers qui élisent pourtant leurs conseillers n'ont rien de valable en termes de participations démocratiques, sociales et économiques. Lisez la loi régissant la Rodrigues Regional Assembly, et vous serez émerveillé de l'étendue de ses pouvoirs.

**\* Que faut-il pour changer cet état des choses?**

Un comité travaille sur une nouvelle constitution depuis le 7 août 2020. D'ici le 8 décembre 2020, vous serez invité à l'Université de Maurice pour participer à un débat et à l'écriture d'une nouvelle constitution. Attendons voir.

Quand certains me parlent de changement, permettez que j'exprime des doutes sur leurs intentions. La dernière découverte, c'est de proposer des rassemblements citoyens pour étouffer la lutte des classes. J'ai de respect pour celui qui fait de la politique uniquement s'il de toutes les classes sociales et s'il se construit un savoir-être.

Au cas contraire, rien ne changera. Tous finiront par soutenir un parti politique... Au pouvoir comme dans l'opposition. Ainsi la couleur politique du Président du Conseil de district déterminera quel parti politique contrôlera l'ensemble du district. C'est une aberration immonde.

Deux effets peuvent donc changer les choses dans un contexte où on fait deux pas en arrière et un pas en avant : la pression de la pandémie Covid-19 sur notre conscience collective et notre psyché individuelle. Il faut se méfier de l'opportunisme de la classe moyenne et des dégâts dans ce sillage... Étudiez les noms des partis politiques qui participent à ces élections et vous vous ferez une idée de la classe sociale d'appartenance.

☞ Suite en page 8

“Voilà qu'un élément fondamental de la République - les élections libres et honnêtes - est constamment perverti. La question est donc : “Pourquoi?” Tout simplement pour retourner à des pratiques fondamentalement antirépublicaines que sont les dynasties politiques, soutenues par des oligarchies économiques et des mafias de toutes sortes...”



# 'Les élections sont terminées, attendons voir. La situation à venir ne peut être pire que ce que nous connaissons déjà!'

☞ Suite de la page 7

**\* Quels sont les enjeux de ces élections, selon vous ?**

Il n'y a aucun enjeu politique sérieux. Mais chacun groupe va vouloir s'imposer comme 10% citoyens, 100% citoyens, 1000% citoyens... Les enjeux sont le pouvoir politique et celui de l'argent. Je connais personnellement plusieurs d'entre eux. Il n'y a aucun enjeu de changement de rapport des forces de nature de classes sociales. L'utilisation du terme "citoyen" tue la lutte des classes... Certains savent consciemment pourquoi ils utilisent cette stratégie.

Nous aurons bientôt une compétition dans nos régions rurales puisque les 'Smart Cities' sont construites sur la base de l'autonomie énergétique, l'autonomie de l'approvisionnement en eau, l'autonomie des loisirs et de la consommation...

Et pire, chaque 'Smart City' sera dirigée non pas par le conseil de village mais par une agence qui s'occupera de tout contre une taxe ou une contribution aux syndicats... Il y aura 8 grands villages en tout... C'est un système qui fera venir à Maurice des milliers de familles étrangères achetant des maisons secondaires qu'ils vont certainement louer pendant 9 mois de l'année.

Je crois que les questions les plus importantes n'ont pas été posées :

- (1) Entrons-nous dans un cadre ségrégationniste?
- (2) Serons-nous au service des familles aisées?
- (3) Quel métier exerceront nos enfants : bonne, gardi en, caddy, etc ?

D'ici 2033, les élections villageoises n'auront-elles plus aucune importance politique ?

La covid-19 a eu un élément positif, elle va ralentir la

“Seule la population rodriguaise peut nous guider dans ce sens. Elle n'a pas été pervertie par le capitalisme... Malheureusement, j'ai des problèmes avec certains militants indépendantistes qui n'ont pas une conception claire de leur combat. Et il existe aussi à Rodrigues certains politiciens qui n'hésiteront pas à brader Rodrigues aux capitalistes...”

construction ségrégationniste de ces 'Smart Cities'. Déjà il existe trop de villages privés qui sont construits à travers le pays. Il faudra les ouvrir à la population. Aucun endroit ne peut être privé, aucune rue ne peut être réservée...

**\* Pour certains observateurs, ces élections indiquent une volonté de se démarquer de la politique politicienne de nos formations politiques et il y aurait un effort de renouvellement des représentants du peuple, ce qui échappe aux partis traditionnels ou même aux "petits partis" depuis des décennies?**

Baliverne... Plusieurs de ces personnes n'ont rien



dans le ventre et n'ont aucune proposition crédible. Nous voulons nous débarrasser des oligarchies qui nous gouvernent pour les remplacer par d'autres oligarchies naissantes. Si on veut changer les choses à Maurice, il faut à tout prix opter pour une nouvelle constitution et passer à la Deuxième République...

Je me fais une idée de la crédibilité de ce qu'un individu propose uniquement par rapport au système d'intelligence qu'il utilise, à sa vie personnelle loin du pouvoir de l'argent (qui détermine sa position de classe progressiste) et à celui du pouvoir pour le pouvoir, et surtout à son état psychique... A son passé... Il y en a un, il me semble, qui fut recruté par le Mossad.

Du temps de Marx, on n'avait pas encore découvert beaucoup de choses... La Cosmologie nous a ouvert vraiment la porte de l'Univers et de l'espace-temps en 1990. Freud, lui, n'a présenté sa découverte de l'inconscient qu'en 1915. Bateson ne parle de la génétique qu'en 1905.

Nous avons encore beaucoup à apprendre des gens avant de leur faire confiance. Les élections sont terminées, attendons voir. La situation à venir ne peut être pire que ce que nous connaissons déjà !

**\* Pour revenir aux villageoises, donc, vous n'avez pas le sentiment que ce nouvel engouement a le potentiel de créer une nouvelle dynamique politique**

**dans le moyen terme ou est-ce conjoncturel?**

Les changements vont venir... Ce sont les réalités politiques, économiques et sociales qui génèrent le changement. Je ne cesserai pas de dire à mes amis que la révolution sociale a débuté depuis la révolution néolithique quand nous sommes sortis de la prédation de la nature pour entrer mécaniquement dans la production culturelle.

“Nous voulons nous débarrasser des oligarchies qui nous gouvernent pour les remplacer par d'autres oligarchies naissantes. Si on veut changer les choses à Maurice, il faut à tout prix opter pour une nouvelle constitution et passer à la Deuxième République...”

Nous avons fait beaucoup de bonds en avant par des phases distinctes de la révolution sociale qui est - somme toute -- une révolution permanente. Ce sont les centaines de révolutions politiques qui nous ont fait avancer dans notre histoire. Nous avons un gros problème à régler : c'est la production culturellement prédatrice qui détruit notre planète et ses millions d'écosystèmes, ce qui risque de nous mener vers la pratique de l'eugénisme par la désocialisation de la production... et je vois venir des révoltes de la classe moyenne...pour accaparer le pouvoir économique et politique.

**\* Par ailleurs, on a l'impression que les moyens dépensés lors des élections villageoises sont nettement inférieurs à ceux des élections générales, même si elles concernent 526,597 électeurs sur les 941,719 que compte le pays selon le recensement de 2019. Est-il possible alors de réduire l'influence des lobbyistes et d'autres financiers lors des élections à Maurice?**

Au risque de me répéter, je vous dirai que je suis intéressé à assumer quatre choses :

- (1) dégager un programme et une stratégie pour confronter l'incapacité de la dynastie Jugnauth de sortir de la crise économique provoquée par la pandémie Covid-19. Un programme sera présenté le samedi 27 novembre 2020 à une assemblée de 9 syndicats qui se réunira à la salle Eddy Norton à 13.30. Un premier document entre sous presse jeudi de cette semaine.
- (2) produire avec des amis juristes du droit constitutionnel, historiens et écrivains de la chose politique, un texte qui sera publié avant la conférence prévue pour le 8 décembre 2020 ;
- (3) faire que le Mouvement Premier Mai soit une organisation qui s'affirme en construisant des proto-alternatifs politiques, qui publie ses propositions et qui surtout à une stratégie de pouvoir extraparlamentaire. Il nous faudra impérativement organiser notre congrès avant le 1er mai de 2021.

☞ Suite en page 9



# 'Les changements vont venir... Ce sont les réalités politiques, économiques et sociales qui génèrent le changement'

☞ Suite de la page 8

(4) sauvegarder la Fédération of Progressive Union (FPU) de toute attaque venant des gens qui veulent faire d'elle une agence syndicale, un moyen pour imposer le corporatisme syndical et une marionnette organiquement attachée à un parti politique de gauche.

Le reste n'est que les effets de notre culture politique dominée par les dynasties Jugnauth, Ramgoolam, Duval et Bérenger, sans oublier les Boolell, les Mohamed... Savez-vous combien de scandales ce pays a connus depuis MedPoint? Ce que vous voulez faire disparaître n'arrivera pas puisque de telles influences sont importantes pour que perdurent les dynasties...

**\* On a tendance à se focaliser sur les dépenses électorales des partis et à oublier la quantité d'argent non dépensée qui, paraît-il, serait considérable et pas nécessairement versée dans les fonds des partis. Il y aurait là beaucoup de choses à nous raconter...**

C'est un fait que pour chaque élection générale, il y a beaucoup d'argent qui entre dans les poches de nos dirigeants politiques. Beaucoup ! Les élections générales à Maurice sont un des moyens pour corrompre les partis politiques, nos dirigeants politiques et les électeurs.



“Je me fais une idée de la crédibilité de ce qu'un individu propose uniquement par rapport au système d'intelligence qu'il utilise, à sa vie personnelle loin du pouvoir de l'argent (qui détermine sa position de classe progressiste) et à celui du pouvoir pour le pouvoir, et surtout à son état psychique... A son passé... Il y en a un, il me semble, qui fut recruté par le Mossad...”

Voilà qu'un élément fondamental de la République - les élections libres et honnêtes - est constamment perverti. La question est donc : "Pourquoi?" Tout simplement pour retourner à des pratiques fondamentalement antirépublicaines que sont les dynasties politiques, soutenues par des oligarchies économiques et des mafias de toutes sortes...

En proposant une nouvelle constitution, il faudra définir le rôle et le fonctionnement des partis politiques. Je sais qu'il existe au moins une organisation politique qui veut exclure les partis politiques de toute couverture constitutionnelle. Je maintiens que des partis politiques de nature autocratique ou monarchique ne peuvent appliquer une Constitution de

nature républicaine, une fois au pouvoir.

Ne sortons pas en dehors de la République ... Si demain, il faut passer à une société sans classe, la Constitution devra être post-républicaine... C'est dans ce sens que je propose une Deuxième République.

Je viens de terminer la rédaction d'un opusculé qui soutient le passage à la Deuxième République. Quant à la société post républicaine, depuis 2012, je dessine ses contours par des recherches personnelles. Les concepts de "Nouvelle République pour le Nouvel Homme" sont eugéniques. Éminemment dangereux... L'Homme sortira de l'humanité et de son humanisme... Avis à ceux qui s'octroient le concept d'une alternative... Il ne faudrait pas qu'ils pervertissent la sémantique révolutionnaire.

Je demande à la population de suivre le dossier suivant : Celui des moteurs de Saint Louis. C'est un cas où il y a eu des paiements de rétro-commissions. Certes, il y a les dossiers comme MedPoint, les achats des terrains de Jugnauth, les achats des équipements pour la Covid-19, etc. qu'il faudra reprendre.

Mais tant que certains resteront à l'ICAC, je ne crois pas que l'on fera des progrès dans la lutte anti-corruption. Si vous voulez changer les effets, modifiez les causes...

**\* Par ailleurs, il y a la question du fonctionnement des administrations régionales tant en régions urbaines que rurales. Rien n'a changé puisque les élus dépendent toujours de l'administration centrale avec une 'Local Government Act' dépassée. Il n'y a aucune volonté de changement, paraît-il?**

Personne ne se rend compte que la Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act a jeté des bases assez intéressantes pour l'élargissement de la démocratie comme notre Constitution le permet déjà.

Je pense qu'il faudra partir de cette loi pour progresser vers la Deuxième République. Je soutiens l'action politique

à Rodrigues depuis 1974, avec un projet en tête : celui de passer à la Deuxième République et libérer les quatre populations qui constituent la République de Maurice.

Seule la population rodriguaise peut nous guider dans ce sens. Elle n'a pas été

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pervertie par le capitalisme... Malheureusement, j'ai des problèmes avec certains militants indépendantistes qui n'ont pas une conception claire de leur combat. Et il existe aussi à Rodrigues certains politiciens qui n'hésiteront pas à brader Rodrigues aux capitalistes.

A Maurice, nous avons de gros problèmes à résoudre:

- (1) la cassure ville/campagne ;
- (2) l'exode des gens vers les villes pour laisser la place à la vente des terres du littoral aux multimilliardaires étrangers ;
- (3) la destruction de nos écosystèmes ;
- (4) l'utilisation de nos lagons pour l'expansion de l'aquaculture ;
- (5) l'accaparement des terres de l'État, de nos plages et de nos lagons par des capitalistes prédateurs ;
- (6) le ségrégationnisme dans l'habitat ;
- (7) la prédation culturelle, etc.

Permettez-moi de le dire : certains propriétaires tuent des requins et des dauphins qui sont attirés par les élevages de poissons...

Nous pouvons construire notre démocratie à partir d'une refonte de ce que nous nommons la démocratie régionale. Il faut utiliser le terme de démocratie régionalisée...

**\* Rama Sithanen avait introduit la 'National Residential Property Tax' (NRPT), ce qui avait alors soulevé beaucoup de critiques. Pensez-vous que Maurice est prête pour introduire la taxe rurale?**

Il faut cesser avec cette histoire de

taxe rurale. Il y a dans les faits deux taxes.

(1) Celle que l'État impose directement et indirectement sur les gens... Ce n'est pas sur toutes les commodités que l'on doit payer le VAT et c'est à partir d'un seuil de salaire que l'on doit payer la taxe directe. Il existe plusieurs autres formes

de taxes. Savez-vous que l'on paye de grosses taxes sur le loisir.

(2) Par ailleurs, les administrations régionales peuvent imposer une taxe pour les services qu'elles donnent... Cela coûte plus cher par tête d'habitant pour le Conseil de district du Nord de maintenir un service de voirie dans des endroits où vivent les gens extrêmement riches sur le littoral que de maintenir le même service à Rivière du Rempart ou à Goodlands.

Quand j'étais adjoint Maire à Beau-Bassin Rose-Hill, je faisais des calculs comparatifs entre la région de Balfour et la région de Plaisance ou de Tréfles. J'avais des scrupules pour taxer plus certains habitants. Pourquoi ? Parce que tout service à la population est régi par l'universalisme des services, des bénéfices et des contributions.

Il y a une équation à ne pas pervertir entre les capacités de payer, les coûts et la qualité des services. Les habitants des grands domaines de Tamarin ne sont pas intéressés de savoir si les gens vivent bien dans les endroits souvent insalubres où vivent la "populace" comme ils les qualifient. Ce constant est dramatique.

Prenons l'exemple de Baie du Cap... Allez voir ce que le Conseil de Village a fait de cet endroit ! Je dois affirmer ici que les conseils de villages jouent le jeu des riches, de la classe moyenne, des étrangers qui vivent ici. Je crains fort que cette situation ne s'aggrave. En parlant de coût, veuillez vérifier ce que nos "conseillers" vont toucher comme cachets pendant les cinq prochaines années. Il n'y a plus de bénévolat dans notre pays.



From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4<sup>th</sup> Year No 152

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 5 July 1957

To our ministers: 'Power is no blessing in itself, except when it is used to protect the innocent.' – Jonathan Swift

D. Napal

# Nkrumah Sets The Pace

That we have marched forward in our constitutional struggle, no one can deny. But the ultimate end is yet to come. The ministerial system is only the prelude to complete autonomy. For the furtherance of that goal, however, much depends on the ministers themselves. They must show their mettle and convince the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the colony is ripe for self-government. Any weakness on their part, any mistake or lack of firmness and foresight while dealing with thorny problems will have deep repercussions on our future Constitution for all is not settled yet. The pot is still boiling.

Our ministers of today throughout their political life until yesterday have had but an experience of opposition to government. Today their role is suddenly reversed - they are saddled with power. In their turn they will have to face opposition which is bound to come from the Council, from the people at large and even from their own party, if ever they waver or show any sign of failure to be able to meet difficult situations which will crop up. These are not mere surmises. These are hard facts which our ministers will have to face sooner or later. On how they will do it much depends. If they fail, and we fervently hope they will not, the rosy picture of self-government on the horizon will be blurred. And we can say with much truth that their responsibilities are greater than many imagine. Acceptance of the ministry is not merely a taste of power. It will not be plain sailing.

We have reached a point in our public affairs when the recent history of the Gold Coast, at present re-christened Ghana may serve as an eye-opener. The old oft-quoted saying, history repeats itself is as true of politics as of history. And, after all, what is politics if not tomorrow's history? The recent history of Ghana is repeating itself here.

Even before Kwame Nkrumah had founded the Convention People's Party (CPP), when he was still Secretary of the United Gold Coast Convention with which he had to break because it was a party of armchair politicians who did not keep contact with the masses, he had outlined a programme in which mention was made of a shadow cabinet in the following words: "The formation of a shadow Cabinet should engage the serious attention of the Working Committee as early as possible. Membership to be composed of individuals selected ad hoc to study the jobs of the various ministers that would be decided upon in advance for the country when we achieve independence. This Cabinet will forestall any unpreparedness on our part in the exigency of self-government being thrust upon us before the expected time."

He also advocated the coordination of all various organisations under the G.Y.C.C., constant demonstration throughout the country to test their organisational strength, making use of political crisis and organised demonstration, boycott and strike as weapons to support their pressure for self-government.

When Nkrumah formed the C.P.P., he set before him the objective of complete autonomy embodied in his slogan "Self-Government Now". He knew that the source of power was the masses and he took pains not to lose touch with them.

As a result of the determination, single-minded purpose and sincerity of its leaders, foremost among whom undoubtedly was Nkrumah himself, the C.P.P. returned a majority of thirty-four out of thirty-eight elected seats in the legislative elections held in February 1951. Kwame Nkrumah, then in prison, stood as candidate as the Gold Coast laws had no provision to bar him from doing so. He was returned polling 22,780 votes out of a total of 23,122. The colonial government of the Gold Coast could do no better than release him from prison and according to the Constitution, which came into being as a result of the Coussey Commission to ask Nkrumah leader of the C.P.P. to suggest the names of the ministers on whom power was to be conferred for the first time. We are not, however, concerned either with the different phases which led to this momentous event or with the names and functions of the different ministers.

What is of valuable importance in the present context is how Nkrumah faced the novel situation - the sudden coming into power. He knew that ahead lay "dangers and difficulties" against which the would-be ministers were to be put on guard. He therefore held a meeting of the "C.P.P. Assemblymen" and delivered them an address copies of which were printed and circulated. His design was that the ministers should ever have before them the policy they were to follow.

He told them that the ministerial system was not an end in itself but a step forward towards self-government. He warned them that "coalition with the other political groups in the country would be dangerous". He put them on their guard



1957 - Ghana Celebrates Independence. Photo - Pinterest

might hope to bring off with cocktail parties." Moreover, he was strongly of opinion that "all party members of the Assembly, as well as ministers, should surrender their salaries to the Party and draw instead agreed remuneration from party funds." The reason for this was to "prevent careerism and induce those in high office to live simply and modestly and so maintain contact with the common people."

Contact with the common people - in these words lie the secret of Nkrumah's power and the emergence of Ghana as a sovereign state. The ministers were not to forget that they "were leaders of the mass of the

people outside the Assembly," and they had to explain the policy of the party to the people "whenever a new situation arose."

That was in 1951. Only a year after there was again constitutional reform and Nkrumah became Prime Minister. Since then the Gold Coast marched forward until it stood before the wondering world as the Sovereign State of Ghana.

In our colony today is happening what happened in the Gold Coast six years ago. Full of hopes we are looking up to our ministers. How they will shape things, how they will mould our destiny, it is for them to see.

*Editor's Note: The information contained in this article is obtained from the 'Autobiography of Nkrumah', published by Messrs Nelson to whom we are highly indebted.*





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64<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1956-2020



# Covid-19 vaccines are coming – how will we know they work and are safe?

\* Cont. from page 2

But how can we be sure that this holds if the treatment is rolled out to millions of people?

Statisticians came up with the "rule of three". The rule tells us that if 21,999 participants were treated with no side-effects, then with 95% confidence, the probability of a side-effect from the vaccine is expected to be less than three (hence the name) divided by 21,999 and so less than one in 10,000. The chance of these side-effects is probably even lower, but the researchers will be keen to extend the trials further to confirm this.

Safety is just as important as efficacy. If you take a probability of one in 10,000 and extrapolate that out to the 300 million population slated for vaccination in the US alone, the number of people with side effects could be as high as 30,000. Clearly, the doctors need to ensure they are not causing harm, but also any serious side-effect attributable to the vaccine would damage the reputation and significantly affect the take-up.

## How to use the vaccine so it is effective and safe?

Medical authorities are now designing ways to implement vaccination in nationwide programmes, but the details on how to do this depend on several factors. The UK government has ordered 40 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine which – with two-dose treatment – would vaccinate 20 million people, that is, everyone aged 55 and up. However, the roll-out will not be fast since production and delivery will take time.

The strategy also depends on what the vaccination



Pfizer has revealed it hopes to authorise a vaccine for November - Copyright AP

programme is supposed to achieve. Childhood vaccines, such as measles, are given to newborns to maintain herd immunity. In this case, only a relatively small proportion of the population needs to be vaccinated. With the rapid spread of Covid-19 – and high levels of existing infection – the proportion would need to be much higher.

Predictions for the level of immunity required to reach herd immunity depend on our estimate of the Covid-19 basic reproductive number, R. In absence of any control measures, R is estimated to be around 3 and so at least 67% of the public need to be fully immune just for the epidemic to stop growing. Higher values would need to be achieved if the aim is to eradicate the virus.

This level will hardly be achievable with 60% efficacy, even if the whole population is vaccinated. The value of  $R=3$  assumes the return to the behaviour before the pandemic. If we keep some level of restrictions and use

masks, R could be lower and the herd immunity easier to achieve.

On the positive side, our simple models might be too pessimistic about the herd immunity levels. Additionally, if perhaps as many as 20% of the public already have had Covid-19, the required level of vaccination might be much easier to achieve.

Alternatively, vaccination can be applied to these segments of the society who are either at high risk of infection (healthcare and care home workers) or high risk of death (vulnerable, care home residents). This is the recommended strategy in the UK.

## Are we there yet?

The results of the Pfizer vaccine trial are highly promising. But the road to eradicating the coronavirus is likely to be long and difficult. Besides establishing the potential for the vaccine to protect against the virus, we also need to know whether it gives a lasting immunity or whether it would need to be applied repeatedly, for example, as with tetanus or seasonal flu vaccines.

But the policymakers and researchers also need to balance the requirement for stopping the pandemic with the fears of side-effects and the resulting vaccine hesitancy. While it is easy to dismiss these concerns, they need to be taken seriously if the vaccination is to be successful.

Adam Kleczkowski,  
University of Strathclyde

# What is the Bandwagon Fallacy?

-- Richard Nordquist

Bandwagon is a fallacy based on the assumption that the opinion of the majority is always valid: that is, everyone believes it, so you should too. It is also called an appeal to popularity, the authority of the many, and argumentum ad populum (Latin for "appeal to the people"). Argumentum ad populum proves only that a belief is popular, not that it's true. The fallacy occurs, says Alex Michalos in 'Principles of Logic', when the appeal is offered in place of a convincing argument for the view in question.

## Examples

- \* "Carling Lager, Britain's Number One Lager" (*advertising slogan*)
- \* "The Steak Escape. Americas Favorite Cheesesteak" (*advertising slogan*)
- \* "Margaret Mitchell enhanced the 'Gone With the Wind' mystique by never publishing another novel. But who would be so churlish as to want more? Read it. Ten million (and counting) Americans can't be wrong, can they?"

-- John Sutherland, *How to be Well Read*. Random House, 2014

## Hasty conclusions

"Appeals to popularity are basically hasty conclusion fallacies. The data concerning the popularity of the belief are simply not sufficient to warrant accepting the belief. The logical error in an appeal to popularity lies in its inflating the value of popularity as evidence."

-- James Freeman, quoted by Douglas Walton in 'Appeal to Popular Opinion' - Penn State Press, 1999

## Majority rules

"The majority opinion is valid most of the time. Most people believe that tigers do not make good household pets and that toddlers shouldn't drive... Nonetheless, there are times when the majority opinion is not valid, and following the majority will set one off track. There was a time when everyone believed the world was flat and a more recent time when the majority condoned slavery."

As we gather new information and our cultural values change, so too does the majority opinion. Therefore, even though the majority is often right, the fluctuation of the majority opinion implies that a logically valid conclusion cannot be based on the majority alone. Thus, even if the majority of the country did support going to war with Iraq, the majority opinion is not sufficient for determining whether the decision was

correct."

-- Robert J. Sternberg, Henry L. Roediger, and Diane F. Halpern, 'Critical Thinking in Psychology', Cambridge University Press, 2007

## "Everyone's doing it"

"The fact that 'everyone's doing it' is frequently appealed to as a reason why people feel morally justified in acting in less than ideal ways. This is particularly true in business matters, where competitive pressures often conspire to make perfectly upright conduct seem difficult if not impossible."

"The 'everyone's doing it' claim usually arises when we encounter a more or less prevalent form of behaviour that is morally undesirable because it involves a practice that, on balance, causes harm people would like to avoid. Although it is rare that literally everyone else is engaged in this behaviour, the 'everyone's doing it' claim is meaningfully made whenever a practice is widespread enough to make one's own forbearing from this conduct seem pointless or needlessly self-destructive."

-- Ronald M Green, "When Is 'Everybody's Doing It' a Moral Justification?" *Moral Issues in Business*, edited by William H Shaw and Vincent Barry, Cengage, 2016

## Presidents and polls

"As George Stephanopoulos wrote in his memoir, Mr Dick Morris lived by a '60 percent' rule: If 6 out of 10 Americans were in favour of something, Bill Clinton had to be, too..."



"The nadir of Bill Clinton's presidency was when he asked Dick Morris to poll on whether he should tell the truth about Monica Lewinsky. But by that point he had already turned the ideal of the presidency upside down, letting arithmetic trump integrity as he painted his policies, principles and even his family vacations by the numbers."

-- Maureen Dowd, "Addiction to Addition," *The New York Times*, April 3, 2002



# It's not just you - work during Covid has become much harder



**Eva Selenko**  
Senior Lecturer in Work  
Psychology, Loughborough  
University

**T**he pandemic has seriously altered how we work. According to statistics published by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in September 2020, US\$35 trillion (£26 trillion) has been lost globally in labour income. There has also been an estimated loss of 17% of working hours worldwide since 2019, with young people and women being hit hardest. And many of those still in jobs are working under very different conditions.

We are just beginning to understand the long-term consequences of this change, for worker wellbeing, for how work is carried out and for society and economies as a whole. As a work psychologist, I am interested in how these pandemic-induced changes affect individual people's wellbeing, their behaviour and their attitudes - and what the broader effects for society as a whole might be.

The pandemic is increasingly understood as a shock, an event beyond our control that disrupted our normal ways of working and living. This shock was more disruptive for some than others. Some people saw their workload skyrocket and had to work around the clock to meet the new demands they were facing - for example, healthcare workers or supermarket staff. Others suddenly had to work from

*Juggling work and family becomes all the more difficult when you're trying to figure out how to work Zoom, and stressing about losing your job*

home, having to adapt to different procedures and trying to balance the challenges of family life with work.

Many lost their jobs, and some their occupations as entire sectors closed down. Someone who worked very hard to become an actor or an aerospace engineer or a pub landlord will not want to work in a different profession, let alone be trained for it. In this case, someone has not only lost their livelihood but also part of their identity. This can have dramatic consequences for how people feel about themselves and their place in society.

Different to previous recessions, some countries have introduced furlough schemes. Despite the protection they receive as a result, those on furlough still frequently report strong worries and uncertainty about job loss. Perceived job insecurity is recognised as a serious stressor affecting mental and physical health but also work behaviour and even political attitudes. Meanwhile, actual unemployment in the UK, even with the furlough, has risen to 4.8%, and the Bank of England is predicting this will double by 2021.

These effects of furlough and job loss are compounded by income loss. The pandemic has pushed more people into (working) poverty, as increased levels of consumer debt and a rise in first-time food-bank users show. The resulting financial strain and precarity is likely to magnify stress from the challenges that people face.

The majority of people still have their jobs, even if they have sometimes changed beyond recognition. Newly introduced social distancing rules and Covid health regulations affect how people interact with customers, patients, and colleagues at work. Working from home comes with its own challenges, such as changes in communication, technological difficulties, interference of private life or



higher self-organising demands, to name just a few.

All of these changes demand a great deal of adjustment from people, requiring an extra amount of effort, grit and creativity to make them work. This is happening against the backdrop of a pandemic that has already forced us to adjust to undesirable patterns of living, with reduced and changed types of social interactions and increased health worries.

Seen from a stress perspective, the different types of work-related changes that people experienced and had to deal with can be seen as extra demands, pushed onto an already busy and disrupted life. So don't be surprised if you feel exhausted by the end of 2020.

Stress, as we know from research, comes with several side-effects related to how we communicate and interact with others. So if we see people making more errors or sometimes being uncivil, we need to understand this within the current context of extra demands. Give yourself (and others) a break. The person who reacted weirdly might simply be exhausted.

But there may also be a silver lining to this strange year. What 2020 has shown us is that people have shown incredible resilience and a talent and creativity to adapt and navigate dramatic changes at work and life. Despite a changed social reality, travel bans and everything else, many people have found a way to still run their businesses, to socially interact with work colleagues, to structure their days and manage their workloads. Looking back and reflecting on the accomplishments this year should give us some confidence and belief in our own abilities to manage challenges.

And while our individual journeys through this pandemic have been unique, we all have navigated this year together. It will be a memory that we share, together. So who knows, perhaps the knowledge that we have suffered through this as a community can bring us closer, and bridge older divides. We might or might not experience such a dramatic change in life and work again during our lifetimes, but if we do, I hope we can look back to 2020 and trust in our experience and skill in dealing with the unforeseen.

## The Parable of the Baltimore Stockbroker

*How not to be wrong: the hidden maths of everyday life*

**I**magine getting a mail from a little known stockbroking firm. The mail predicts that a certain stock will rise this week. You leave the mail aside, as you have seen enough such mails. But the prediction turns out to be right.

The following week, the Baltimore stockbroker mails again, with another tip - this time, of a stock going south. The message turns out right too and you decide to mark the Baltimore stockbroker as 'not spam'.

Week Three, another hit. And your interest is piqued.

This goes on for ten weeks. Ten accurate predictions from the Baltimore stockbroker.

You, the guy who recently retired with a substantial gratuity in the bank, are hooked.

Week eleven, the Baltimore stockbroker sends you an offer to invest money with him, for a substantial fee of course. There is the usual caveat of past performances not guaranteeing future success, but the Baltimore stockbroker nudges you to consider his ten week streak.

You do the math. Every week, the stockbroker had a 50% chance with his prediction. Either he would be right, or wrong.

Combining the probabilities for ten weeks, the chances of the Baltimore stockbroker to be right ten weeks in a row work out to.  $1/2 \times 1/2 \times 1/2 \dots$  ten times... =  $1/1024$ .

You consider. The Baltimore stockbroker must be onto something. And it would be worthwhile to invest your

nest egg with him. You go in for the offer!

Things, from the view of the Baltimore stockbroker, are a bit different.

What he did, was start out with sending 10,240 newsletters!

Of these, 5120 said a stock would go up, and 5120 said otherwise.

The 5120 who got a dud prediction never heard from the Baltimore stockbroker again.

Week Two, the Baltimore stockbroker sent 2560 newsletters, and the following week he again halved the number, based on who got his correct prediction.

This way, at the end of week 10, he had ten people, convinced he was a financial genius.

That's the power of probabilities, cons, and the impact of mathematics on daily life... Just one aspect!

*Borrowed from 'How Not to be Wrong: The Hidden Maths of Everyday Life' by Jordan Ellenberg*



## In a light vein

## Contemporary Kidding

Not even in my wildest dreams did I imagine myself entering a bank, wearing a mask and asking for money.

Never thought my hands will one day consume more alcohol than my liver... ever!

Quarantine seems like a Netflix series... just when you think it is over, they release the next season.

I'm starting to like this mask thing... went to the supermarket and two people that I owe money to didn't recognize me.

Who was complaining that 2020 didn't have enough holidays... now what?

I need to social distance myself from my fridge; I tested positive in excess weight!

Can someone tell me if the 2nd quarantine will be with the same family... or we can change?

In just two weeks we will hear if there are still two more weeks to let us know that two more weeks of quarantine are

needed...

I'm not planning adding this 2020 to my age... I didn't even use it!

We want to publicly apologize to the year 2019 for all the bad things we said about it.

To all the ladies who were praying for their husbands to spend more time with them... how are you doing?

My washing machine only accepts pajamas... I put a pair of jeans and a message came "stay at home"!

After all that we have been through, the only thing missing is that the vaccine will be available only in suppository form.

I feel like a teenager... no money in my wallet, hair long and out of control, thinking what to do with my life, and grounded home.

If I see anyone on December 31 crying for this year ending, I will use a bottle on their head!

Smile, release stress, and be safe!

## Go get your mother!

An Amish husband, wife and son travel to the city on vacation. They visit a shopping mall and while the mother is shopping, the father and son are standing in awe in front of an elevator (having no idea what it is).

As they watch, an elderly lady walks into the strange silver doors and the doors close. The father and son watch as the numbers go up, and then back

down. When the doors open, a beautiful young woman walks out.

The father leans over and whispers to the son, "Son, go get your mother!"

\*\*\*

Q: What is white when it's dirty and black when it's clean?

A: A chalkboard.

\*\*\*

A husband got his mother-in-law a cemetery plot for Christmas. It came with a coffin, tomb stone, and the works.

Next Christmas comes by and the husband gets her nothing.

When the mother-in-law asks, "Why didn't you get me a gift?" the husband says, "You haven't used the one I got you last year!"

Q: Why are hairdressers never late for work?

A: Because they know all the short cuts!

\*\*\*

A little girl is serving her father tea while her mother is out shopping. The mother comes home and the father says, "Watch this!"

The little girl goes and serves the mother tea. The mother responds, "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water is the toilet?"

\*\*\*

I couldn't find the lock, so I wrote "Covid-19 positive" on the door and left.

When I came back, I saw that the inside was empty, my Corona notice

disappeared

And instead hung another notice: 'Disinfection done. Everything cleaned.'

\*\*\*

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

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

\*\*\*

A mom text, "Hi! Son, what does IDK, LY, & TTYL mean?" He texts back, "I Don't Know, Love You, & Talk To You Later."

The mom texts him, "It's ok, don't worry about it. I'll ask your sister, love you too."

## True Story

## Journey to Sweden

*The man (Dr Pradyumna Kumar Mahanandia) who cycled from India to Europe for love (Charlotte Von Schedvin)*

Pradyumna was born in 1949 in a poor family in Odisha. He experienced many insults because of untouchability. Later in 1971, he joined the College of Arts in New Delhi and gained popularity for making portraits. He had an amazing capability to paint the picture of any person on a canvass.

In 1975, Charlotte Von Sledvin was a student in London. She heard the mind-blowing capability of Pradyumna in painting portraits.

She came to India, met him and requested him to paint her portrait.

During the time of painting her portrait, they fell in love with each other. Charlotte took the Indian name Charulata and they both married according to Indian traditions. When Charlotte was leaving India, she requested Pradyumna to come along with her to Sweden.

But he was still a student and wanted to finish his studies. She offered him money for airtickets. But he refused and said that he would come to her with his own money. After she had left, the two lovers kept in touch through letters.

His studies were completed later. He decided to go to Sweden to meet his wife Charlotte. But it was not an easy task. He had no money. Then he sold all his belongings and bought a second-hand bicycle. Carrying all his paints and brushes, he did an unbelievable journey.

That was 1978. He started his journey to Sweden. Riding his bicycle, from New Delhi, he reached Amritsar. In those days, visa was not required to enter many countries. Riding his bicycle, he crossed Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Germany, Austria and Denmark. His cycle broke down many times on the way and he even had to go on without food for days. But nothing could break his very strong determination to meet his wife Charlotte.

After four months and three weeks of stunning journey, he finally reached Gothenburg, Sweden, where he was questioned by immigration officers. When Pradyumna said that he had come from India by bicycle, the officers were totally shocked.

Pradyumna told the officers the reason behind his visit and he showed photographs of his marriage with Charlotte. The authorities were surprised and did not believe that someone of royal



Dr Pradyumna Kumar Mahanandia and Charlotte Von Schedvin, with son and daughter. Image credit: Dr P.K Mahanandia

blood from Europe would marry a poor Indian. The surprise of the officers made him doubtful about whether his wife Charlotte would accept him or not.

Charlotte heard about the man from India who cycled all the way for nearly 5 months. Immediately she drove to Gothenburg and received her husband with a lot of happiness. In those days, there was a tradition in Europe that white people should not marry non-whites. But her parents accepted Pradyumna as a part of their family by breaking the royal tradition.

After 40 years of marriage, Dr PK Mahanandia has served as the Odiya Cultural Ambassador of India to Sweden and lives with his wife Charlotte and two children in Sweden. Once his village insulted him as an untouchable. But now the same village gives a wonderful welcome every time he makes a visit.

Pradyumna's paintings have been exhibited in the major cities of different countries and published in the prestigious UNICEF greeting cards. On 4 January 2012, he was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Utkal University of Culture in Bhubaneswar, Odisha state. He was also designated as the Oriya Cultural ambassador to Sweden by the Government of Odisha.

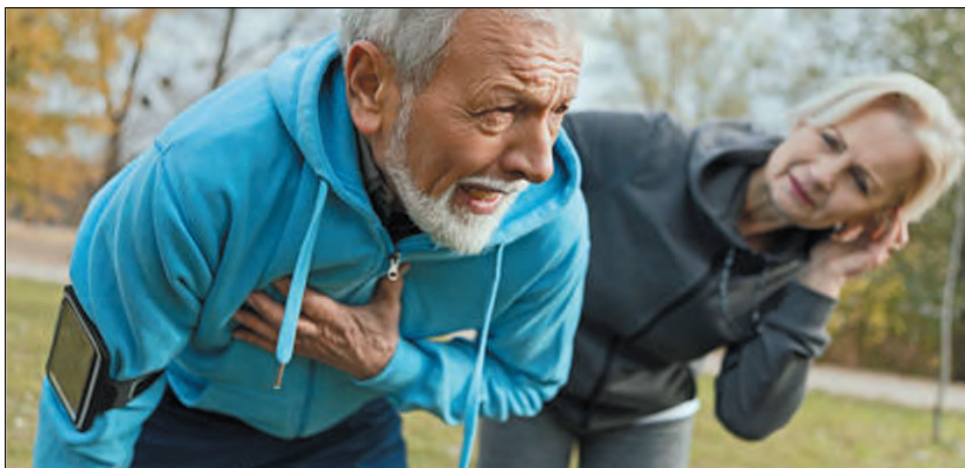
Bollywood film maker Sanjay Leela Bhansali is planning to make a film on the love story of Pradyumna and Charlotte.



## Health Matters

# What happens during a heart attack?

*Chest pain isn't the only warning sign. Know the symptoms and what to do*



**W**hen blood can't get to your heart, your heart muscle doesn't get the oxygen it needs. Without oxygen, its cells can be damaged or die.

The key to recovery is to get your blood flow restored quickly. Get medical help right away if you think you're having symptoms of a heart attack.

**Causes:** Over time, cholesterol and a fatty material called plaque can build up on the walls inside blood vessels that take blood to your heart, called arteries. This makes it harder for blood to flow freely. Most heart attacks happen when a piece of this plaque breaks off. A blood clot forms around the broken-off plaque, and it blocks

the artery.

**Symptoms:** You may feel pain, pressure, or discomfort in your chest. You could be short of breath, sweat, faint, or feel sick to your stomach. Your neck, jaw, or shoulders might hurt.

**Men and women can have different symptoms.** Men are more likely to break out in a cold sweat and to feel pain move down their left arm.

**Symptoms in Women:** Women are more likely than men to have back or neck pain, heartburn, and shortness of breath. They tend to have stomach trouble, including an upset stomach, feeling queasy, and throwing up. They may also

feel very tired, light-headed, or dizzy. A couple of weeks before a heart attack, a woman might have flu-like symptoms and sleep problems.

**What to do:** If you or someone you're with has symptoms that might be a heart attack, go to the nearest hospital immediately. If it is, you're more likely to survive if you get treated within 90 minutes. If available, the person should chew and swallow an aspirin (unless they're allergic) to lower the risk of a blood clot. Are they unconscious? Hands-only CPR can double their chances of survival.

**Diagnosis:** An EKG, which checks your heart's electrical activity, can help doctors see if you're having a heart attack. It can also show which artery is clogged or blocked.

Doctors can also diagnose a heart attack with blood tests that look for proteins that heart cells release when they die.

**Treatment:** Doctors will quickly act to get blood flowing to your heart again. You may get drugs that dissolve blood clots.

You'll likely have a procedure called a coronary angiogram. A thin tube with a tiny balloon on the end goes through your artery. It opens up the blockage by flattening the plaque against the walls. Most times, doctors place a small, mesh tube called a stent in your artery to make sure it stays open.

## What puts you at risk?

Your odds of having a heart attack go up with age, and men are more likely to have one than women. A family history of heart disease also increases your risk. Smoking raises your chances of a heart attack. So does having high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, diabetes, and being obese. Stress, a lack of exercise, and depression can, too.

**Prevention:** If you smoke, stop. It will immediately cut your chances of a heart attack by a third.

Get exercise and eat right. The American Heart Association recommends 30 minutes of moderate exercise a day, 5 days a week. Eat plenty of fruits, veggies, and whole grains to keep your arteries healthy.

For some people, taking a daily aspirin will help. Talk to your doctor to see if it's right for you.

Find positive ways to manage your stress.

## Life after a heart attack

If you're in the hospital, you may come home after just a few days. You can get back to your normal daily life in a few weeks.

Cardiac rehab can help you recover. You'll get your own fitness program and learn how to keep up a heart-healthy lifestyle.

## Self-improvement

# 5 ways to make your voice powerful and effective

**T**o be effective, people must listen to you. To be powerful, what you say must be real. Real speech means that what we say is accurate, relevant, engaging and constructive.

Here are six communication tools that are simultaneously effective techniques for better communication, straightforward practices to develop greater communication ability, and skillful ways to wake up and be more present in our lives.

Good or evil, right or wrong are childish notions of morality. The question is "Does what we say relate to what is actually happening in our lives?" If it doesn't, it's not real. It's something else -- a fairy tale, a story to distract or entertain, a way of controlling how we (or others) think and act.

Here are six ways to make what you say real.

**1. Take a breath before saying anything.** Always. At the practical level, this tool ensures that we do not interrupt others. It also ensures that people will actually listen to what we have to say. An added benefit is that it may stop you from saying something you will later regret. As a practice, it develops patience, mindfulness and compassion. And it naturally opens up space in a conversation, cutting through mindless repartee and thoughtless asides.

**2. When you speak, listen to your own voice as if you were listening to another person.** With this practice, we quickly become aware of when an edge has crept



into our speech, when one or other pattern has taken over the microphone, when we are speaking offensively or when we are just babbling. It puts us in touch with our own voice. Even only a few days of this practice results in our being able to appreciate the clear powerful resonance of real speech.

**3. Ask open questions.** Open questions invite the person to express their views and ideas rather than simple facts or "yes" or "no." You will find out much more about a person and how they think if you give them a chance to express their thoughts and ideas, and you will avoid polarization and opposition because you are unambiguously demonstrating that you are interested in what he or she has to say.

For instance, at a lunch with a person I didn't know at all, I asked, "What do you think of the upcoming election?" The ensuing conversation was fascinating. He told me a lot about politics, and many other things I knew nothing about and the conversation never deteriorated into the polarization that is so common today.

**4. When you apologize, apologize for your actions, not for possible results.** Name and take responsibility for the action. "I'm sorry if I offended you," is not a real apology. "I'm sorry that I called you a monster," is. We can't always see the results of our actions. If we regret the results, apologize for the action itself, or the oversight that led to the action. To apologize for the result is to avoid responsibility. It takes humility to apologize and it takes trust and openness, too.

**5. Be impeccable with your word.** This bit of advice comes from the Toltec tradition. How we talk with others directly shapes our relationships with them. When we say what we mean and mean what we say, we inspire trust and confidence and others take us seriously. This also applies to how we speak to ourselves. Too often, we do not use a real voice, but the voice of one or other of our parents or others who have criticized or built us up to make use of us for their own needs. To be impeccable with our word means that we speak in our own voice, we say what we mean and we mean what we say. This is real speech and it is powerful.



## Bollywood Roundup

# Waluscha De Sousa, Elli AvrRam, and more...

## Waluscha De Sousa plays boss lady in 'Escapade Live'

**W**aluscha De Sousa plays a woman who calls the shots in a man's world, in the upcoming technological thriller, *Escapade Live*.

"My character in this series is very powerful and strong - a 21st century boss lady, a woman in control. She is one who calls the shots in a man's world," Waluscha elaborated.

"I'm excited to be working on this tech thriller series. It's a very current topic. It's fresh in terms of its approach and idea. Technology and social media have taken over our lives in a big way or, I dare say, even rule many of our lives currently. This series dives into what really goes on behind the scenes and lives of people using it," she said.

The show by Siddharth Kumar Tewary follows five Indians who are desperately trying to make something out of their mundane lives. Social media seems to be a route to "escaping" the mediocrity of their lives. Apart from producing, Tewary is also the show creator and co-director. It also stars south star Siddharth and Shweta Tripathi.

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## Urvashi Rautela reasons why the present is called so

Bollywood actress and former beauty queen Urvashi Rautela has shared her logic on why the present is called so.

"Being able to live in the present moment is a gift that's why we call it a present," she wrote in a new Instagram post.

In a picture she posted with that line, Urvashi wears a fitted black crop top and sweatpants. She completed her look with minimal make-up and big sunglasses.

Recently, Urvashi turned out in a leather lehenga with hand-crafted zardozi and jewellery ensemble worth Rs 5.5 million at the wedding of singers Neha Kakkar and Rohanpreet Singh.

The actress is currently busy shooting for the upcoming Telugu film *Black Rose*, a heroine-centric thriller directed by Sampath Nandi.

"Black Rose is first bilingual film in world to start and finish shooting during pandemic. Immensely grateful & it's a teamwork," she wrote on social media while talking about her film earlier this month.

\*\*\*

## Elli AvrRam plays pool in bikini by the beach

Swedish-Greek actress Elli AvrRam had a double dose of bikini delight for fans in separate Instagram posts recently.

In her latest post, Elli plays pool by the beach in a bikini. She is a portrait of concentration in the set of images as she takes aim for a shot at the pool table.

"Never give up until the last ball falls baby," she captioned her post.

Earlier in the day, Elli had shared another picture in a bikini. In the picture, she dons minimum make-up, round sunglasses and has her hair tied in buns.

"Spot the bird x #ElliAvrRam #yourstruly," Elli had captioned the image.

Recently, back from a vacation in Maldives, Elli had posted a string of photographs from her holiday time on Instagram.

On the work front, Elli recently announced she will be seen acting in a Swedish short film titled "With You".

Earlier this year, the actress was seen in Mohit Suri's "Malang". Apart from Bollywood, she was also seen in the Tamil film "Paris Paris" and the Kannada release "Butterfly" in the recent months.

\*\*\*

## After Poonam Pandey, Milind Soman's nude pic creates stir in Goa

After model-actor Poonam Pandey was arrested recently for an allegedly obscene photoshoot at a restricted site in Goa, model and actor Milind Soman's photograph of a nude run at a Goa beach on his birthday on November 4 has now come under the spotlight.

The Goa Suraksha Manch, a regional political party, has now filed a complaint before the Vasco police station, which has alleged that the photo of his nude run uploaded on

Soman's social media page is obscene and "spoiling the image and insulting the culture of Goa".

On November 4, Soman had uploaded a photo on Twitter showing him running nude on a Goa beach on his 55th birthday. "Happy birthday to me Y...55 and running! Y". @5Earthy," he captioned the image clicked by his wife Ankita Konwar.

\*\*\*

## Rakul Preet Singh reveals an unusual 'main character' from her next film

Bollywood actress Rakul Preet Singh reveals that a bling bag is one of the main characters in her upcoming film, which also features John Abraham, Arjun Kapoor, and Aditi Rao Hydari.

Rakul posted a picture on Instagram, where Arjun is seen giving a metallic coloured bag to the actress.

"That bling bag is also one of the main characters what say @kaachua @arjunkapoor #lifeon-set #laughter #worklife," Rakul Preet said.

The yet-untitled film is a romantic comedy and directed by Kaashvie Nair.

Rakul recently shared a picture posing with vegetables and spoke of veganism.

"There is so much I can eat being vegan... and no I don't mean just lettuce.

Veganism is a lifestyle not a diet or a fad. It's as simple as dal, roti, sabzi. Happy world vegan day #eatclean #healthyliving," she wrote.(IANS)

## Cinema Sirsa - Castel



Tuesday 24 Nov to Tuesday 1 Dec 2020  
10:15 -- 13:15 -- 16:15 -- 20:15





## I will never regret playing Sherlyn in 'Kundali Bhagya': Ruhi Chaturvedi

*Ruhi Chaturvedi who essays the role of Sherlyn in Kundali Bhagya gets into a conversation with IWMBuzz.com about her role*

**R**uhi Chaturvedi has emphatically taken the hate messages that she gets for her negative persona of Sherlyn in Zee TV's popular show *Kundali Bhagya* in her stride.

Says Ruhi about the journey of Sherlyn to becoming a Luthra bahu, "Now that she is the daughter-in-law in the Luthra house, it is easier for Sherlyn to keep an eye on the Luthras. Also it is easier for her to feed people with information against Preeta."

On the growth of her character, Ruhi Chaturvedi states, "As you know, this is my first show on TV. I was pretty raw as an actor when I came in. As a character too, she was earlier very scared of Karan. But now there have been scenes where she has said things on the face of Karan."

Ruhi who has been a model for most of the time had scary moments when she started shoot for *Kundali Bhagya*. "On day one, I simply could not walk during my entry scene. It was scary for me being a model. But now, I am getting better as an actor. I have been with the show for almost two years now. It has been a good growth. I had

nothing before this, and *Kundali Bhagya* has given me everything that I have today."

"All the actors on *Kundali Bhagya* are so good. When I have heavier scenes with Shraddha Arya, she will give her inputs. Even Supriya ji helped me a lot in the heavy scenes that we had. There is too much fun working with all these actors. I come with huge excitement everyday on the set. And that's the amazing part."

Ruhi Chaturvedi considers that her career growth is because of the inputs given by director Neeraj Baliyan. "He is a perfectionist and he has converted me from being a raw girl to an actress. And recently when I got praised by him for a scene, the feeling was awesome."

Ask Ruhi whether she is ever perturbed over not getting a next positive character after playing this big an evil role and she avers, "Whatever I have heard from people, it is indeed tough to break the shackles of an image created. But I believe that everything depends on me. When I get into a new show and get an opportunity, I will have to prove my mettle. I am a person who has got everything because of this character. So I will never regret playing Sherlyn. Whatever is in my destiny will come to me. There has been a SRK who did *Darr*. I feel a negative character is tough to perform when compared to doing a positive role. So I will test the new waters of playing a positive role when it comes to me."

## More about Ruhi Chaturvedi

*As told to Aastha Jha of The Wedding Journals*

### My Journey

I was a fashion model, and I wanted to do movies, but it did not happen due to various reasons. Then I started giving auditions for TV, and I did my last show in January 2017. In August, I was already on the floor, working for my current show. So, there were not many struggles as God has been kind to me.

### Defining moment

I always wanted to be an actor. Madhuri Dixit used to stay in my building. Being a child, I have practi-

cally grown up at her place, and I have gone to the sets with her. So, I always knew I loved dancing or being in front of the camera.

### Role I feel most comfortable with

I haven't done too many roles yet, and to get into the whole skin of Sherlyn took some time. But I think I am pretty comfortable right now, so currently I would go with Sherlyn. Sherlyn is the character that's close to my heart.

### Those who supported me

I come from a Marwari family, and

lots of girls are not allowed to join this field. They are narrow-minded, but my mother, father, grandfather, grandmother, brother, everyone was super-supportive. You know there were times when I wanted to give up, but they are always there. They kept reminding me why I started in the first place and always pushed me.

### My celebrity crush

George Clooney and Milind Soman. I feel they are too hot.

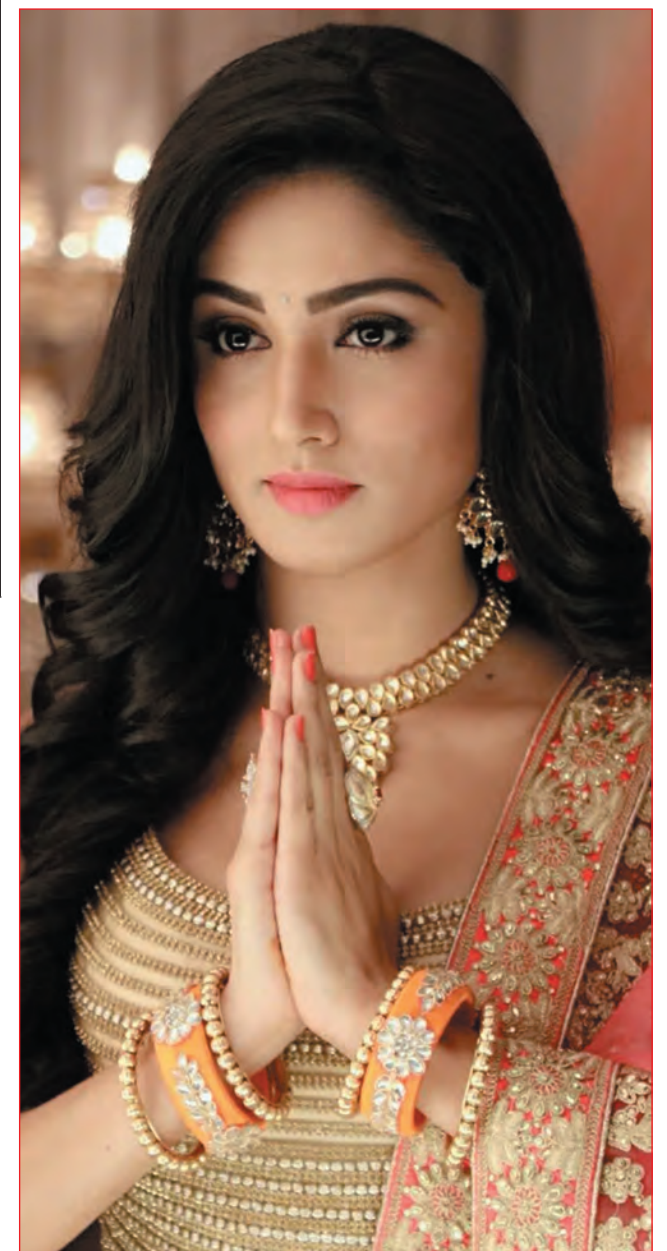
## Donal Bisht: I still get emails from people saying they want a 'bahu' like me

**S**everal actors expressed their love for television on World Television Day, which fell on Nov 21. Donal Bisht who's popular for her roles in television shows like *'Ek Deewana Tha'*, *'Roop'*, *'Kalash'* among others, shares her most favourite things about Indian television. She tells Farzana Patowari of Times of India, "I think what I like the most about the Indian television industry is that it is so special to every household. The connectivity factor is high and people can relate to the stories shown on a television show. I mean, I still get emails from people saying they want a 'bahu' like me, based on the roles I played on various shows. And not just from India, but from different countries across the world!"

"I think it's also very beautiful how countless households know the characters I played through my career in

the television industry, and thankfully I got some great characters to play too that are adored by many! I also feel people build a connection with my character, they also started looking up to me in real life. I can feel that there is some change I can bring to people's perception. So, as an actor, I take it as my duty to speak responsibly and be positive to spread positivity!"

Donal also shares a sweet memory from her childhood that shows her love for TV. She says, "When I was little, I'd just wait for the clock to strike eight so I and my entire family could watch *'Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahi'* together. I think it's absolutely special how people look forward to seeing their favourite show and characters on television every day!"







Mardi 24 Nov - 21.05

## Space Station 76

Avec: Patrick Wilson, Liv Tyler, Marisa Coughlan



Mercredi 25 Nov - 21.15

## Starship Troopers 3



Jeudi 26 Nov - 21.21

Avec: Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway



### MBC 1

07.20 Local: Sekirite La Route  
07.39 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL  
08.30 Local: Rodrig Prog  
09.45 Local: Le Naufrage De Pieter  
10.15 Local: Fam Model  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
12.55 Local: Elle - No9  
13.50 Local: Proze Dime  
14.30 D.Anime: The Zoo  
14.41 D.Anime: Little People  
15.32 D.Anime: Yo Yo  
17.05 Serial: Grandpa In My Pocket  
17.30 Massive Monster Mayhem  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local: Priorite Sante  
20.40 Local: An Eta Dalert  
21.05 Film: Space Station 76  
22.45 Serial: The Blacklist

### MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: CID  
10.43 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha  
12.04 Film: Yeh Dil Kisko Doon  
Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Ragini  
13.56 DDI Magazine  
15.00 Mag: Comedy Classes  
15.21 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee...  
15.43 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
16.06 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal  
16.32 Serial: Bisaat-E-Dil  
16.50 Mehendi Tohra Naam Ke  
17.14 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance  
18.30 DDI Magazine  
20.00 Tamil Programme  
20.30 Film: Haathi Mere Saathi  
Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Tanuja  
23.20 DDI Live

### MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
06.26 Mag: Arts And Culture  
07.00 Mag: Voa Connected  
08.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens  
08.46 Doc: 360 GEO  
10.04 Mag: Washington Forum  
11.19 Mag: Eco@Africa  
11.58 Mag: World Stories  
12.09 Mag: Voa Connected  
12.37 Mag: Urban Gardens  
12.42 Mag: In Good Shape  
13.08 Doc: Amazing Gardens  
14.06 Doc: 360 GEO  
14.58 Doc: Global 3000  
15.24 Mag: Washington Forum  
16.39 Mag: Eco@Africa  
17.29 Mag: Voa Connected  
18.27 Doc: Zambia - Invasion Of...  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.34 Mag: Made In Germany  
20.05 Doc: Garden Party

### Cine 12

01.32 Film: Dark Tourist  
02.51 Serial: Chicago Med  
03.30 Serial: Island Doctor  
04.58 Tele: Totalement Diva  
06.40 Film: Dominion  
09.00 Serial: The Magicians  
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant  
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor  
11.00 Serial: Chicago Med  
12.00 Serial: Island Doctor  
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva  
14.48 Film: Dominion  
16.40 Serial: The Magicians  
17.23 Serial: S.W.A.T  
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant  
19.10 Tele: Tanto Amor  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Serial: S.W.A.T  
21.15 Film: The Breed  
22.47 Tele: Totalement Diva  
23.38 Serial: The Magicians

### Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Masoom  
11.55 / 19.54 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam  
12.23 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
12.44 / 20.32 Radha Krishna  
13.09 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe  
13.29 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.52 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.20 / 21.59 - Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki  
14.39 / 22.25 - Ikyawann  
15.30 Film: Jagga Jasoos  
Starring: Ranbir Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Saswata Chatterjee  
18.00 Live: Samacher  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.51 Rishta Saajhedari Ka

mardi 24 novembre

mercredi 25 novembre

jeudi 26 novembre

06.30 Local: Avant Scene  
07.30 Local: Priorite Sante  
09.45 Local: Entractes  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.50 Local: Urban Gardens  
13.30 Local: An Eta Dalert  
14.05 Local: Priorite Sante  
14.30 D.Anime: The Zoo  
14.40 D.Anime: Little People  
15.03 D.Anime: Caillou  
15.40 D.Anime: Poko  
16.03 D.Anime: The Garfield Show  
16.15 D.Anime: Alisa Knows What..  
17.05 Serial: Grandpa In My Pocket  
17.30 Massive Monster Maythem  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.15 Prod: Lottotech  
21.15 Film: Starship Troopers 3  
22.55 Serial: The Blacklist  
23.40 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Serial: Pyar Ka Dard Meetha  
11.16 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki  
12.00 Film: Badle Ki Aag  
Stars: Sunil Dutt, Dharmendra, Jeetendra  
15.00 Serial: Comedy Classes  
15.21 Honaar Soon Mee Hya...  
15.44 Mooga Manasulu  
16.10 Apoorva Raagangal  
16.30 Serial: Bisaat-E-Dil  
16.53 Mehendi Tohra Namam Ke  
17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.33 Serial: Kulvadh  
18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance  
18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
19.30 DDI Magazine  
20.00 Programme In Marathi  
21.00 Film: Parambi - Marathi Film  
Starring: Bhushan Pradhan, Sai Lokur, Uday Tikekar, Ganesh Yadav

06.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto  
06.26 Doc: Zambia - Invasion...  
06.52 Mag: Check In  
07.18 Mag: Urban Gardens  
07.51 Doc: Garden Party  
08.42 Doc: Le Funeste Destin...  
10.06 Mag: Klip Seleksion  
11.33 Mag: REV: The Global Auto  
12.25 Mag: Check In  
12.51 Mag: Urdan Gardens  
12.59 Mag: Made In Germany  
13.25 Doc: Garden Party  
14.16 Doc: Le Funeste Destin...  
15.14 Mag: Close Up  
16.21 Doc: Can The Citarum Still...  
17.04 Mag: REV: The Global Auto  
17.30 Doc: Zambia  
18.00 Mag: Motorweek  
18.29 Doc: Italy??s Little Criminal  
20.05 Mag: Tendence XXI  
20.29 Doc: The World From...  
21.00 Local: News (English)

00.26 Serial: S.W.A.T  
01.28 Film: The Breed  
02.50 Serial: Chicago Med  
03.29 Film: Brush With Danger  
04.53 Tele: Totalement Diva  
06.09 Serial: S.W.A.T  
08.24 Mag: Hollywood Best Film  
09.00 Serial: The Magicians  
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant  
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor  
11.00 Serial: Chicago Med  
12.00 Film: Brush With Danger  
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva  
14.45 Film: 2 Years Of Love  
16.43 Serial: The Magicians  
17.21 Serial: S.W.A.T  
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant  
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Serial: Seal Team  
21.15 Serial: Island Doctor

08.00 Film: Jagga Jasoos  
12.04 / 20.06 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam  
12.23 / 20.26 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
12.47 / 20.46 Radha Krishna  
13.09 / 21.09 - Sanjivani  
13.31 / 21.31 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.20 / 21.59 - Jai Kanhaiya Lal..  
14.36 / 22.25 - Ikyawann  
15.25 Film: Parineeta  
Starring: Vidya Balan, Saif Ali Khan, Sanjay Dutt  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya  
18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka  
19.13 Mere Angne Mein  
19.35 Yeh Pyaar Nahi Toh Kya..  
20.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum  
20.28 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion  
06.45 Local: Sur Prise  
09.46 Local: Encounter  
10.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
11.00 Mag: A Question Of Science  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
12.55 Local: RDV Muzikal  
13.55 Doc: World Stamps  
14.30 D.Anime: The Zoo  
15.03 D.Anime: Little People  
15.25 D.Anime: Caillou  
15.48 D.Anime: Yo Yo  
16.03 D.Anime: Poko  
16.26 D.Anime: The Garfield Show  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Jamai Raja  
18.55 Local: Chaar Dham Tirth...  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.15 Film: Bheja Fry 2  
23.00 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani  
12.05 Film: Phagun  
Starring: Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Sridevi  
15.00 Serial: Comedy Classes  
15.24 Honaar Soon Mee Hya  
Gharchi  
15.43 Mooga Manasulu  
16.06 Apoorva Raagangal  
16.29 Bisaat-E-Dil  
16.51 Mehendi Tohra Naam Ke  
17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.37 Local: Amrit Vaani  
18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance  
18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da  
Devi Maiya  
20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
21.00 Film: Hollows Grove  
Starring: Mykelti Williamson, Lance Henriksen, Matthew Carey

06.00 Mag: Motorweek  
06.25 Doc: Italy??S Little Criminal  
06.52 Mag: Arts.21  
07.18 Doc: Urban Gardens  
08.54 Doc: Gutenberg, L'Aventure  
11.43 Doc: Italy??S Little Criminal  
12.09 Mag: Arts.21  
12.35 Mag: Urban Gardens  
12.43 Doc: Garden Party  
14.02 Doc: Gutenberg  
16.34 Mag: Motorweek  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
18.30 Mag: Shift  
19.05 Open Univ: Student Support  
19.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
20.05 Doc: Charles Pathé...  
21.10 Local: News (English)  
21.10 Doc: 360 GEO  
22.29 Doc: Global Conflagration  
23.11 Doc: Fly Rocket Fly  
23.55 Mag: Eco India

00.20 Serial: Seal Team  
01.26 Film: The Head Hunter  
02.36 Serial: Chicago Med  
05.11 Tele: Totalement Diva  
06.01 Serial: Seal Team  
06.43 Serial: Island Doctor  
09.00 Serial: The Magicians  
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant  
10.35 Tele: Tant Amor  
11.00 Serial: Chicago Med  
12.00 Serial: Sherlock  
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva  
14.45 Serial: Island Doctor  
16.40 Serial: The Magicians  
17.27 Serial: Seal Team  
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant  
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor  
20.08 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Serial: Seal Team  
21.21 Film: Les Miserables  
23.58 Tel: Totalement Diva

08.00 Film: Parineeta  
12.03 / 19.54 - Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam  
12.26 / 20.11 - Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
12.47 / 20.32 Radha Krishna  
13.09 / 21.09 - Sanjivani  
13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.56 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.20 / 21.59 - Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ke  
14.36 / 22.25 - Ikyawann  
15.20 Film: Helicopter Eela  
Starring: Kajol, Riddhi Sen, Tota Roy Chowdhury  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.52 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka  
19.12 Mere Angne Mein



Jeudi 26 Nov - 15.20

Stars: Kajol, Riddhi Sen, Tota Roy Chowdhury



Jeudi 26 Nov - 20.30

Stars: Vinay Pathak, Kay Kay Menon, Minisha Lamba, Suresh Menon, Amol Gupte





# Religion, race and nationality - what are our prejudices and how can we overcome them?

*Religion is perhaps one of the last prejudices people are comfortable expressing openly*



A majority within the survey agreed that ethnic diversity is good for British society. Photo - newstatesman.com

**W**hat do you think of your neighbours? And what do they think of you? Concerns around increasing division and polarisation in the UK have persisted stubbornly since the EU referendum in 2016. We hear a lot from academics, politicians and journalists about a supposedly fractured nation. But how divided is Britain? Our new report - the largest study of attitudes to diversity in England and Wales - gives some interesting insight.

The report, published by the Woolf Institute, presented findings from a survey conducted by Survation of more than 11,000 adults that asked a series of questions concerning ethnic, national and religious diversity. Has diversity been good for Britain and for your local community? How would you feel if a close relative married someone from a different ethnic, national or religious background? How diverse are your friends and workplaces?

Our statistical analysis revealed that religious intolerance - such as antisemitism and Islamophobia - is a bigger driver of prejudice than ethnicity or nationality. Data from the survey strongly suggests that religion is perhaps one of the last prejudices people are comfortable expressing openly.

And according to our data, religious diversity remains the least popular form of diversity. When asked the question above about marriage, non-Muslim respondents were least comfortable about a close relative marrying a Muslim person. Attitudes between faith groups also tend to be less positive than between ethnic groups.

Our findings also revealed that people in work tend to be more positive towards diversity and more likely to have diverse friendship groups than both unemployed and economically inactive people. One big concern is that Covid, lockdowns and working from home threaten people's opportunities to encounter others and difference in

the workplace.

## General attitudes

But what about general attitudes towards diversity among the public? Here the data provided an intriguing puzzle.

On the one hand, attitudes towards diversity are largely positive. Thinking nationally, a majority within the survey agreed that ethnic diversity is good for British society. More than twice as many agreed than disagreed that migrants are good for British society. In fact, and despite the explosiveness of issues around immigration, migrants appeared more popular than religious diversity. Thinking more locally, nearly two thirds agreed that ethnic diversity is good for the local community and majorities agreed that migrants and religious diversity are good for it. That's the good news.

On the other hand, 60% agreed that the number of migrants in Britain has increased too quickly in the last ten years. Over twice as many agreed than disagreed that ethnic and religious diversity has increased too quickly. In terms of local communities, a majority agreed that increases in the number of migrants have been too quick.

Our report describes this as an "emerging national consensus". But what type of consensus are we talking about? Over a third of those who expressed an opinion and agreed that ethnic diversity is good for Britain also agreed that it has increased too quickly. So, a majority think diversity is a good thing but around a third of that majority think things are moving too quickly. In other words, one large group of people who are positive about diversity is made up of two smaller groups - one positive about change, one less so.

## Reaching a new consensus

For many, this third of people who think diversity has increased too quickly represents a problem. Academics and

journalists are far more likely to be highly educated, liberal and mobile ("anywheres" rather than "somewheres"). It is unsurprising that opposition to change from those less educated, less liberal and less mobile is seen as problematic. That said, defining negative attitudes to local change - small-c conservatism - as forms of hostility or bigotry is unlikely to bring different groups back together anytime soon.

But there may be another way. Perhaps the data are telling us something hopeful about possible routes out of divided and divisive circumstances and away from further polarisation. No one single argument, and especially none around race, ethnicity or immigration, will appeal to everyone. But, as previous reports have suggested, perhaps consensus is achievable.

Take anti-racism, it has become a powerful force in British politics, with mainstream buy-in (footballers taking a knee before games, for example). This, and our data, suggest a public in tune with racial equality.

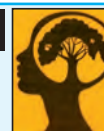
What our data also suggest is that stronger forms of activism may represent the right approach for some Britons who value diversity, but not all. Issues such as institutional racism could be tackled more effectively by recognising the common ground between people whose lifestyles and world-views are very different but who share the same basic position - in this case, that diversity is a good thing.

This is the common ground on which large-scale societal change can be built, especially around election times. But to start building, we need to loosen the requirements for ideological purity on these issues. Doing so will help us forge a broader consensus among those who share some, but not all, of our views.

By Julian Hargreaves,  
University of Cambridge

## Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor



# Brand-New Day

**W**e can start fresh in this very moment, not needing to wait for a new day to start anew.

When today is not going well, it is tempting to focus on tomorrow as a blank slate with all the possibilities that newness provides. It is true that tomorrow will be a brand-new day, but we do not have to wait until tomorrow to start fresh. We can start fresh at any moment, clearing our energy field of any negativity that has accumulated, and call this very moment the beginning of our brand-new day.

There is something about the sunrise and the first few hours of the morning that make us feel cleansed and rejuvenated, ready to move forward enthusiastically. As the day wears on, we lose some of this dynamic energy and the inspiration it provides. This may be why we look forward to tomorrow as providing the possibility of renewal. Many traditions consider the light of the rising sun to be particularly divine in its origins; this is why so many people in the world face east when performing ritual. We too can cultivate that rising sun energy inside ourselves, carrying it with us to light our way through any time of day or night, drawing on its power to awaken and renew our spirits.

One simple way to do this is to carry an image or a photograph of the rising sun with us in our wallet or purse. We can also post this image on our wall at work or at home, or have it as our screensaver on our computer. When we feel the need to start fresh, we can take a moment to gaze at the image, allowing its light to enter into our hearts. As we do this, we might say out loud or quietly to ourselves, I am ready to let go of the past and start anew. We might visualize anything we want to release leaving us as we exhale, and as we inhale, we can take in the fresh energy of the eastern sun, allowing it to light the way to a brand-new day.