

MAURITIUS TIMES

• *“Leading people is the most challenging and, therefore, the most gratifying undertaking of all human endeavors”. -- Jocko Willink*



Can we expect a better future?

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“We are in serious rough waters.

We need competent people to help steer the ship”

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Safe City?

In reply to a Parliamentary Question at the National Assembly on Tuesday 11th August 20, the Prime Minister, Hon Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, revealed that 'a total of 2 761 Intelligent Video Surveillance (IVS) cameras have been installed at 1429 different sites across Mauritius in the context of the Safe City project. As for Intelligent Traffic Surveillance (ITS), 140 cameras have been installed over 68 identified sites along motorways and other main roads. He further indicated that 101 cases which required a Police enquiry have been detected through the Safe City cameras. The Prime Minister also highlighted that under the project, 4500 multimedia radios have been delivered and the state-of-the-art Main Command and Control Centre, located in Ebène, is operational since August 2019.

Speaking about works that are still in progress in the context of the Safe City project, Mr Jugnauth underscored that they include the setting up of: a modern Integrated Emergency Response Management System; seven Sub-Command Centres at the level of seven regional Headquarters; a Traffic Management and Control Centre at the Line Barracks; and a Monitoring Bay at each of the 71 Police Stations and one Police Post'.

The justification for setting up the Safe City project was that public concern about safety and crime had risen in recent years, resulting in an increasing demand for security services, especially with a view to safeguard Mauritius' reputation as a safe tourist destination, tourism being one of the major pillars of the Mauritian economy. The government seeks to safeguard Mauritius' reputation as a safe tourist destination.

The main suppliers of security and safety equipment to Mauritius in 2017 were China, South Africa, Portugal, Thailand, Israel, and the United States. It is public knowledge that the total cost of the CCTV surveillance system is Rs 19 billion with an operational cost of about Rs 350 million per year.

With such an enormous capital investment, and the implications in terms of debt per household and for future generations of citizens, the logical expectation of the public is that these cameras would function perfectly. After all, China is known to have the world's topmost expertise in Artificial Intelligence which is the basis of the Safe City surveillance system. It would be an inexcusable indictment if the authorities were to put the absence of records of the movements in the ongoing investigation of the death of Soopramanien Kistnen to the failure of the CCTV cameras – to all intents and purposes an impossibility for such a highly sophisticated system.

That they work and are operational, and that the signals are properly transmitted is confirmed by the fact that during the lockdown one early morning some people were visited by the police when they were doing some morning exercise in Plaines Wilhems. The exercisers were told that their presence had been signalled to the police station by the Traffic Management and Control Centre at the Line Barracks, and the police officers had been sent by their superior to warn those people.

There is therefore no reason to suspect that the surveillance system is faulty, which makes the alleged absence of records very suspect. Giving rise to even more doubts in the mind of the public is that no answers are forthcoming in Parliament – the Leader of the Opposition has been suspended, sessions are held such that there is no time for PNQs. If questions cannot be asked by the duly elected representatives of the people who seem to be deliberately prevented from doing so, it is but a small step for the people to wonder whether all this is tantamount to an attempt at cover-up. Will the government put to rest any such assumption before its already falling image gets another bashing?

At the end of the day, the core question: can we really talk of 'safe city'?

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The Conversation

From the White House to ancient Athens

Hypocrisy is no match for partisanship

Though hypocrites seemingly relinquish their moral authority, the trial against Socrates shows us that our favoritism for public figures is stronger than our judgments of their hypocrisy



Socrates in prison about to drink hemlock given by his executioner. Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Collection, Wolfe Fund, 1931

Donald Trump has spent a lot of time on golf courses during his presidency.

That may come across as hypocritical if many of us consider how Trump criticized Barack Obama for playing golf during his presidency instead of attending to the country's needs.

Such hypocritical behaviour, of course, is not unique to one politician or political party.

Immigration advocates have criticized Barack Obama for presenting himself as a champion of immigration reform. They point out that during his presidency he deported more immigrants than any other president.

You may ultimately support these politicians despite their respective actions. This fact reveals a stark truth: Our biases toward a person are stronger than our moral judgments of their hypocrisy.

As a philosopher focused on the history of philosophy, I spend a lot of time studying big ideas like God, justice and scepticism.

In reflecting on such ideas, I realize that many seemingly straightforward concepts are more complex than they initially seem.

Hypocrisy is one such concept.

Hypocrisy as morally reprehensible

It's often difficult to determine how the hypocrisy of public figures plays into our moral judgments of them.

Some researchers have argued that when

it comes to political preferences, voters' concealed opinions about political candidates belie their openly stated views.

Nonetheless, numerous studies show that people respond with outrage against public figures once their hypocrisy has been discovered.

Philosophers and psychologists who have studied this phenomenon agree: When it comes to people who are in positions of moral authority – from family members to our priests or religious mentors – we tend to react negatively to their hypocrisy.

Perhaps that's because hypocrisy adds deception to a lie. Moral authorities who are discovered to be hypocrites have doubly deceived us. They have not only contradicted their stated moral views but also pretended that they have not done so.

Recall, for example, the scandal surrounding the Rev. Jesse Jackson in 2001, when it was discovered that he had a child out of wedlock. For years, Jackson had hidden the affair he was having. When the truth emerged, people were outraged by the hypocrisy of someone who publicly deemed himself a spiritual and moral leader.

Raman Sachdev

Visiting Instructor of Philosophy, University of South Florida

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Can we expect a better future?



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

*All the strength and succour
you want is within yourselves.
Therefore, make your
own future.*

— Swami Vivekananda

Whoever one talks to these days cannot but feel a certain sense of despondency about what the future holds for us both individually and collectively. Obviously the widespread negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has done little to mitigate this pessimism and the foreboding of more doom to come. This is despite the announcement that the vaccines that have been announced and have started to be rolled out (in the UK and the US) represent a hopeful beginning in the eventual control of the epidemic. Nevertheless, as the authorities have cautiously reminded us the reality is that it is still going to be hard times ahead for a couple of years more. But all told, past experience tells us that in these matters it is better not to make any predictions, so we still have to keep our fingers crossed.

What is one to do faced with this situation? A good start is to draw some courage and inspiration from our sages. I have always found the quotation by Swami Vivekananda cited above to be of tremendous help. It applies to individuals as well as countries, for Swami Vivekananda always meant his messages for mankind in general, although he always emphasized individual understanding and initiative. Quite naturally of course because if we have to change mankind we have to begin with man.

In modern times we have been heavily influenced by a Freudian concept of the mind, which is basically that it is a store of repressed urges that cannot wait to get out and take hold of our lives. We are hapless victims of these impulses, and in order to understand ourselves we need to undergo psycho-analysis. This will reveal the devious rages that drive us, and by understanding them — during costly couch sessions — we should be able to reorder our lives.

The predicament of our present so-called civilization with screaming war-mongers at the helm is evidence that this method has failed. Urges continue to dominate our lives, in line with which we have tended to think of life as a disease to be cured instead of being an opportunity to express the beautiful side of our nature. Is it any wonder that we should be tottering on the brink of collective madness?

In 'Learn to live,' a publication of the Ramakrishna Mission, Chennai, we read: 'This is the best of times and perhaps also the worst. On the one hand the marvellous

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"Where are the role models that we can recommend to the youth? They are to be found neither in the highest forum, the National Assembly, nor are they to be found amongst those whose underhand and shady dealings are hidden by the veneer of their educational and professional backgrounds..." National Assembly, nor are they to be found amongst those whose underhand and shady dealings are hidden by the veneer of their educational and professional backgrounds..."

"Where are the role models that we can recommend to the youth? They are to be found neither in the highest forum, the National Assembly, whence examples of gutter language and cheap jibes have been regularly reported — and now also seen on the television courtesy direct transmission for a number of years —, and which prevent debate at a level which would do Mauritian citizens proud. Nor are they to be found amongst those whose underhand and shady dealings are hidden by the veneer of their educational and professional backgrounds, something that would lead the youth to expect from them a standard of behaviour that they would wish to emulate..."

advance of science and technology is showering on us comforts and luxuries galore...The reverse of the coin, however, is terribly grim. Mindless violence stalks the world. Crime rules the roost. The exploitation of the "have-nots" by the "haves" is terrifying. At all levels shameless corruption has become a way of life.'

These lines were written in 2000, but they could as well have been written yesterday, when we realize that the chilling realities that they describe are being played out around the world and at home too daily, right now in fact, and for how long more nobody seems to know.

Unless...

Unless we change our mindset and our course towards MAD: mutually assured destruction. 'Learn to live' is particularly concerned about and addressed to the rising generations who are 'caught in this whirlpool,' and whose greatest needs of the hour are 'proper ideas, inspiring models and appropriate guidance.'

Leaders who rule the world today are locked in a seemingly unending spiral of violence. Through the bloody clash of the societies over which they preside or tele-control, triggered and sustained by the monster of terrorism and similar destructive impulses that arise from their dark insides, they are dragging along with them the rest of the

world which wants to live in peace. All the billions that are being squandered to destroy people, countries and trust, and to constantly threaten each other could have been put to better use to feed, clothe, house, save from disease and treat the nearly two billion people who live in poverty.

On the local scene, where are the role models that we can recommend to the youth? They are to be found neither in the highest forum, the National Assembly, whence examples of gutter language and cheap jibes have been regularly reported — and now also seen on the television courtesy direct transmission for a number of years —, and which prevent debate at a level which would do Mauritian citizens proud.

Nor are they to be found amongst those whose underhand and shady dealings are hidden by the veneer of their educational and professional backgrounds, something that would lead the youth to expect from them a standard of behaviour that they would wish to emulate. The tragedy and irony is that such people are found in the key sectors of our society, in all professions, and at levels of society responsible for providing the multitude of public and private services on which the foundations of a smooth-running and just society depend.

To stop the rot from turning into deadly gangrene we need to understand ourselves as human beings whose essential nature is goodness. We have allowed this goodness to be damped down by layers of expectations and desires that, sure enough, arise in our minds. We must therefore go beyond the mind to what is meant to guide it, the *buddhi* (loosely translated as intellect) which can discriminate not only between right and wrong but also between the good and the bad when properly trained, that is, fed with good thoughts and filtered information especially that which is freely available on the internet and social media. It is only with this level of understanding and knowledge that we shall be able to tap the 'strength and succour' that is within ourselves, change ourselves as individuals for the better and impact upon others positively, and collectively prepare the future for our coming generations.

The cliché GIGO applies here: garbage in garbage out. We have seen how the minds of many young people around the world are being fed with radicalizing, ideological garbage that is leading to terrorist and other types of violence, resulting in the destruction of innocent lives in so many countries. As if the ravages wrought by the Covid pandemic were not enough. On the other hand, at the more mundane level there is an overload of consumerist information that builds up to excessive levels at this time of the year, a time of frenzied buying and spending — which will still be pursued Covid notwithstanding!

That is all the more reason why we need the discriminating power to spend wisely, among other things, and be wary of indulgence in matters of food and drink in particular. Enjoyment does not mean that we must ruin our bodies through excessive and improper consumption. If we care to reflect but a moment, we will realise that 'making our own future' starts by caring for our physical body and feeding our minds also with right thoughts, for a sound mind makes for a sound body: *mens sana in corpore sano*. Something to keep... in mind as we rush towards the festive season, dampened though it may be by the epidemic.

Agalega and Geopolitics in the Indian Ocean

We have a role to play on this chessboard. However, as in all games of chess, we have to make smart moves in order to establish a credible foreign policy that is both realistic and pragmatic

Krishna Bhardwaj

From time to time, a controversy gets sparked off locally whenever a local paper would refer to news reports appearing in the Indian media about negotiations/deal between India and Mauritius for Agalega to be ceded to India. Successive Prime Ministers have strongly denied that there was any deal of the sort. If one were to rise beyond petty considerations, there is much we can do by putting a premium on our geographical location and our existing privileged relations with the parties having a geostrategic interest in the Indian Ocean.

At one time, Mauritius used to be referred to as the “land of rainbows, waterfalls and shooting stars” as well as the “star and the key of the Indian Ocean”. To the kids who were being taught geography in such terms in those colonial days, the latter phrase conveyed a romantic view of the beauty of their island home. Little did they suspect that the real reference was to Mauritius’ location in the southern Indian Ocean as a strategic position in maritime trade in an era dominated by ocean transportation and travel. The Suez Canal had yet to become the alternative major passageway between the East and the West so that sea-going vessels went round the Cape of Good Hope, making Mauritius a key port of call during this long voyage of mostly sailing ships from Europe to its colonies. Once steamships and airplanes became more common modes of transportation, it was no longer necessary to pause in Mauritius over the long haul. Besides, Mauritius did not identify itself as



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an active entrepôt for international trade as did Singapore. We fell out of the mainstream of international transport, losing both the star and key positions.

Missed the boat – but all is not lost

Today, with a world closely networked through computing and the internet, we have missed the boat again as we did not develop ourselves into an important hub of international communications that cannot be missed. Instead of incentivising our own boys and girls to become smart software developer wizards of high international reputation, as it befits an essentially service-provider nation, we remained content to offer BPO services on the back of a communication infrastructure bent more towards maximizing short term profits than positioning the country outstandingly on the World Wide Web. The consequence is here to see: we have become a nation of mobile phone chatters having nothing to do with the production of the hardware or software that goes into such products of mass consumption. All is not lost yet. We have to reconfigure our priorities and present ourselves as a gateway for reconciliation of power pursuits in this part of the globe. Nature has put us in the near-middle of the Indian Ocean while our demographic composition and cosmopolitan

culture can help to lift ourselves profitably beyond the power struggles of the different forces vying for pre-eminence in the world.

It may not be obvious on the surface but the Indian Ocean still holds a lot of interest in the post Cold War superpower struggle. The Americans and, ironically enough, the British through them, are present in the defence of their geopolitical interests in this part of the world. This is in the shape of their presence on the Mauritian archipelago of Diego Garcia. The attitude posted by the Anglo-American interests regarding the Chagos issue shows that they consider it as an important physical fallback position in the Indian Ocean which is now at the heart of global geopolitics.

Play our card, smartly

We do not have to take sides in the competition of the great powers. However, we can adopt a calculated attitude of understanding of the diverse historical positions in the interest of geopolitical stability. This is where we must play our card, smartly. Obviously, we have to go far enough to state our position that we will not be supportive, neutral or be earning the sympathy of the international community in this power struggle in exchange for sheer peanuts. To get to concrete results

in this regard, our diplomacy will have to play an important role. Our Indian Ocean strategy will show whether we are really up to it.

The French struck a deal with us regarding their continued occupancy of part of our territory, notably the Tromelin Islands. They have agreed to a co-management of this part of our territory. It is a first step in the right direction, a step that will keep this delicate issue from coming under the glare of international floodlights. Civilised cultural and trade relations with France will help keep another potential NATO (for whatever it is worth in the post Cold War era) member by our side.

While we may not have capabilities to exploit the resources lying under Antarctica, the bigger countries may be nursing their own ambitions over there. India is one of them. There are several areas in which both Mauritius and India can cooperate to drive a mutually beneficial agenda for growth. The Indian Ocean is the most important link between the two countries in this regard. We need to ensure that this ocean becomes a field for generating more cooperation towards advancing the economic and strategic interests both nations.

It is being said that China which looks upon Africa as a potential economic partner has already done a lot of its homework to affirm this sort of relationship on the Continent. Other than having set down firm outposts on the African continent, China is even present in Mauritius through the Jin Fei project which is based on an area of land ceded by the government in the vicinity of Port Louis harbour. China is deemed to be the number two global economic power. It has had ties with us for a long period. As in the case of India, we import a good part of our needs from China. China has a major interest in the Indian Ocean because a lot of materials it employs for its industry are sourced from neighbouring Africa.

We have a role to play on this chessboard. However, as in all games of chess, you have to make smart moves in order to establish a credible foreign policy that is both realistic and pragmatic. Look at Singapore. It depends a lot for its economic well-being on its trade links with the West. It has for long been a gateway as well for finance and capital channelled to China. But it has signalled its position clearly enough in order not to allow itself to be checkmated by either of the two. The founding Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew had once stated that its sticking to free market rules is unquestionable but so equally is its attachment to Confucian Asian family values, rather than to atomised structures, to hold the fort together in moments of distress. This unabashed affirmation of its stance makes it unassailable from both the East and the West. Doing so is an art. We need to master it as well if we want to make the most of our strategic location in the Indian Ocean.

“We do not have to take sides in the competition of the great powers. However, we can adopt a calculated attitude of understanding of the diverse historical positions in the interest of geopolitical stability. This is where we must play our card, smartly. Obviously, we have to go far enough to state our position that we will not be supportive, neutral or be earning the sympathy of the international community in this power struggle in exchange for sheer peanuts...”



Joe Biden & Kamala Harris: Time's 2020 Person of the Year

in-chief Edward Felsenthal wrote.

* * *

Brexit: A no-deal was still "most likely", warns Boris Johnson

Brexit talks are poised to carry on until Christmas or beyond after the UK and EU stepped back from the brink of settling for a no-deal outcome - but with no breakthrough that takes that scenario off the table, reports The Independent.

A Sunday deadline for an agreement was ripped up after a 30-minute phone call between Boris Johnson and the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, amid cautious hints of progress in Brussels. But the optimism was quickly punctured by the UK Prime Minister, who warned a no-deal was still "most likely", saying: "Let's get ready for the World Trade Organisation option, that's what I told the Cabinet."

* * *

John le Carre dies aged 89

John le Carre, the celebrated author famous for his spy novels, has died

at the age of 89 after a short illness. Among his 25 books were the best-sellers *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* (1963) and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* (1974). Both were adapted for the screen, gaining the writer a wider audience.

Literary agency Curtis Brown said the author and former espionage agent, real name David Cornwell, died on Saturday evening after a short illness that was not related to Covid-19.

* * *

In the US, White House staffers who work in close physical proximity with Donald Trump are expected to receive vaccine doses for the coronavirus in the coming days, making them among the first Americans to be inoculated.

The first wave of the FDA-approved vaccine from the drug manufacturer Pfizer is set for distribution this week. It will be going to healthcare workers across the US as well as nursing home patients, who are getting priority because there is a finite number of doses in the first roll-out.

Time magazine has named US president-elect Joe Biden and his running mate Kamala Harris for its 2020 Person of the Year. The pair were chosen ahead of three other runners, which included frontline health-care workers, Dr Anthony Fauci, the Black Lives Matter racial justice movement and Donald Trump, whom Mr Biden defeated in November's election, reports The Independent.

"For changing the American story, for showing that the forces of empathy are greater than the forces of division, for sharing a vision of healing in a grieving world, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are Time's 2020 Person of the Year," editor-

South Africa's chief justice unrepentant for linking Covid vaccines to Satanism

South Africa's chief justice has dismissed concerns that he may be endangering people's health by linking coronavirus vaccines to a "satanic agenda".

The comment by Mogoeng Mogoeng marked the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic that a senior judge had aired such preoccupations.

South Africa has registered more than 22,700 deaths from Covid-19, by far the highest number on the continent. Worries quickly surfaced, in a country where new medical interventions are often controversial, that people might avoid vaccination as a result of the comments.



Chief Justice Mogoeng said people should be spared any vaccine that sought to 'advance a satanic agenda of the mark of the beast'. Photo - Reuters

After South Africa began hosting the continent's first coronavirus vaccine trial, anti-vaccine activists protested against Africans being used as test subjects. Two decades ago, the then-president Thabo Mbeki questioned whether HIV caused Aids, which has ravaged the country.

Mogoeng, who frequently displays his Christian faith while performing his duties, prayed at a public event on Thursday that people should be spared any vaccine that sought to "advance a satanic agenda of the mark of the beast".

Addressing questions about this at a news conference last Friday to release a judiciary report, he said: "If there is any vaccine that is deliberately intended to do harm to people, that vaccine must never see the light of day. I cry unto God to stop it."

Mogoeng added: "I don't think the vaccine must ever be compulsory ... You can't impose a vaccine on people. Why should you?"

The Sunday Times Daily news site quoted Barry Schoub, a virology professor at Wits University and head of a ministerial advisory committee on Covid-19, as saying: "It is unfortunate that someone of that stature is misleading people because vaccines are such a major part of controlling this epidemic and it is unfortunate that someone with such influence is opposing efforts to control it."

But Mogoeng said he would not be silenced: "I don't care about the consequences. We've been quiet for far too long, toeing the line."

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Bhutan becomes latest Asian nation to dial back anti-gay laws

Lawmakers in the Kingdom of Bhutan, which prides itself on maximizing "gross national happiness", voted last week to amend a line from Bhutan's penal code that criminalizes "sodomy or any other sexual conduct that is against the order of nature," previously treated as a reference to gay sex. The move, which still needs the king's approval to become law, was the latest example of an Asian government loosening restrictive laws governing the private lives of L.G.B.T. people, reports Mike Ives of *New York Times*.

In neighbouring India, the Supreme Court unanimously struck down one of the world's oldest bans on consensual gay sex in 2018, ruling that gay Indians were to be accorded all the protections of the Constitution.

Last year, lawmakers in Taiwan voted to legalize same-sex marriage, a first for Asia. That gave new leverage to activists campaigning for marriage equality in Japan and beyond.

And in July, Thailand's cabinet said that it had approved a



Bhutan's upper house of Parliament meeting in January. A joint session voted on Thursday to change a section of the country's penal code that criminalized gay sex. Photo - Getty Images

draft bill that would give same-sex unions many of the same benefits as heterosexual marriages. The legislation avoided the term "marriage," but allowed for the legal registration of same-sex partnerships.

Bhutan's penal code was introduced in 2004, four years before this Buddhist-majority nation of 800,000 people held its first elections as part of a transition from absolute monarchy to constitutional democracy. Much of the code was adopted

from criminal laws in the United States, according to a recent analysis by the legal scholars Dema Lham and Stanley Yeo.

The parts about sodomy and "unnatural sex," though, are identical to language in other penal codes around South Asia that was copied from the Indian Penal Code, a law introduced in the 1860s by the British colonial authorities, said Tashi Tsheten, a founding member of a vocal advocacy group Rainbow Bhutan. Individuals charged with "unnatural sex" acts in Bhutan would be subject to penalties consistent with a petty misdemeanour.

Covid: Trials to test combination of Oxford and Sputnik vaccines



tection.

Are two vaccines better than one?

The hope is combining different vaccines will give either stronger or longer-lasting immunity to the virus.

There are reasons to think this might be beneficial for the Oxford and the Sputnik V jabs.

Both use harmless viruses to deliver the important part of the vaccine (a bit of the coronavirus' genetic code) into the body.

The risk is the body becomes immune to the "viral postman" making the second or booster jab less effective.

This is one explanation for why Oxford had better results from giving someone a half dose followed by a full one, rather than two normal doses.

Other vaccine combinations are also planned in the hope that approaching the challenge from different angles will lead to better results.

UK and Russian scientists are teaming up to trial a combination of the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Sputnik V vaccines to see if protection against Covid-19 can be improved.

Mixing two similar vaccines could lead to a better immune response in people.

The trials, to be held in Russia, will involve over-18s, although it's not clear how many people will be involved, reports BBC.

Oxford recently published results showing their jab was safe and effective in trials on people.

The researchers are still collecting data on the effectiveness of the vaccine in older age groups while waiting for approval from the UK regulator, the MHRA.

AstraZeneca said it was exploring combinations of different adenovirus vaccines to find out whether mixing them leads to a better immune response and, therefore, greater pro-

Raja Chari among 18 astronauts to be trained for Nasa's Artemis moon landing program

Nasa is sending 18 astronauts to the moon's surface for the first time since 1970s. The 18 astronauts, comprising nine men and nine women, have been chosen for the mission under Nasa's Artemis program, reports India Today.

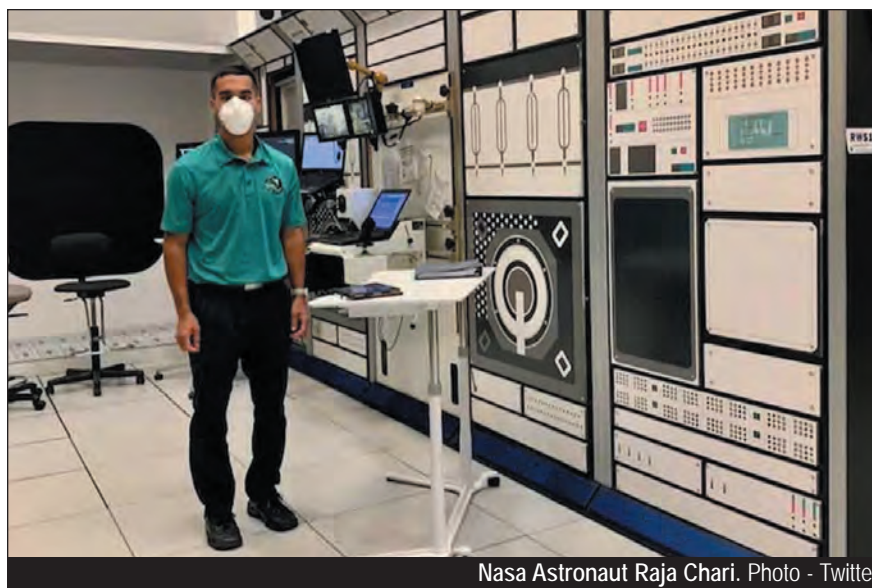
Vice President Mike Pence introduced the astronauts Wednesday at the close of his final meeting as chairman of the National Space Council. The announcement was made at Florida's Kennedy Space Center, beneath one of only three remaining Saturn V moon rockets from the 1960s and 1970s Apollo program.

The team of astronauts also includes an Indian-American astronaut -- Raja Chari.

According to reports, Chari's father Sreenivas V Chari had immigrated to the US from Hyderabad. The Indian-American astronaut was raised in Iowa, a Midwestern US state, and served as a colonel in the US Air Force. Chari has a bachelor's degree in astronautical engineering and a master's in aeronautics and astronautics.

Chari had reportedly joined the astronaut corps in 2017.

The 41-year-old was among 11 new Nasa graduates who successfully completed their basic astronaut training



Nasa Astronaut Raja Chari. Photo - Twitter

in ov over two years in January 2020.

The astronauts were selected among 18,000 applicants in 2017 after Nasa announced its Artemis programme. Chari was selected by Nasa to join the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class. He reported for duty in August 2017 is now eligible for a mission assignment as he has completed the initial astronaut candidate training.

The space agency is aiming for a moon landing by 2024, although the chances of that happening are growing increasingly dim. The upcoming change in administration also adds uncertainty.

India farmers: Misleading & fake claims about high-profile support

The protests by farmers in India over new pricing laws has become highly politicised, with many thousands of farmers blocking access roads around the capital Delhi with their tractors and other machinery.

Both sides have sought to control the social media narrative, and BBC has taken a look at attempts to spread misinformation about well-known personalities taking sides in the dispute.

Did Obama say meeting Modi was 'shameful'? Fake

Our first example is a claim concerning former US President Barack Obama, who met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a number of occasions when he was in office.

Social media posts have appeared which show a picture of the two men together, with Mr Obama now apparently voicing his regret about meeting Mr Modi at the White House in 2014.

Some of these posts have hashtags showing support for the farmers' protests.

The image is real enough and it is from an actual meeting between the two men that year.

However, the Twitter post is fake. The text is written in poor English with a spelling mistake, and President Obama's Twitter profile appears to have been edited on to it.

And a check back through Mr Obama's Twitter timeline shows that there's no such tweet by him since the protests started last month.

Justin Trudeau in a 'show of solidarity'? Misleading

The next one is about Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who's been involved in a controversy after he voiced concern about the Indian government's response to the demonstrations.

This earned a public rebuke from the Indian government.

That issue aside, some people took to social media to circulate what is a misleading image of Mr Trudeau, claiming it showed him sitting with a group of Sikhs (many of India's farmers are Sikhs) in a show of solidarity.

Canada has a significant Indian-origin population, including many Sikhs.

But this image is misleading, because it is at least five years old.

This was confirmed to the BBC by the prime minister's office, who pointed out that Mr Trudeau now sports a beard, whereas the image shows him beardless.

It's from a visit he made in November 2015 to a Sikh religious centre in Ottawa. There's a local news report at the time about the visit.

Whatever Mr Trudeau's views are on the current protests in India, this photo has been used out of its proper context.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Manisha Dookhony – Economist

“We are in serious rough waters. We need competent people to help steer the ship”



Manisha Dookhony, qualified in Economics and Public Administration from Harvard University, shares her views on a number of events and issues currently of concern to the country. For her our public administrative system needs in-depth reforms so as to make our institutions truly independent in their functioning and regain the trust of the public. She cites the example of Rwanda where this has happened. She also thinks that we need to refocus our efforts towards accessing new markets given the changed conditions caused by the Covid pandemic. She agrees that our political parties need an infusion of new blood and is engaged with citizens at grassroots level in various localities to promote the idea.

Mauritius Times: What would your generation be thinking about the bad news that have dominated the headlines in the country since these past few weeks? I am referring in particular to the Angus Road saga and to what's coming out in the judicial inquiry into the suspicious death of MSM activist Soopramanien Kistnen?

Manisha Dookhony: We are still unsure about the facts in all these affairs and we should be careful not to jump to conclusions. In the latter case, the general thought coming out of several conversations is the feeling of mistrust in the working of our institutions. If it is proven that a crime was indeed labelled a suicide, this is worrisome as institutions meant to protect the interest of the public would then appear to be involved in cover-ups. The mere fact that the latter case is requiring a judicial inquiry and that lawyers are having to become detectives, is an indication that something is wrong somewhere.

“If it is proven that a crime was indeed labelled a suicide, this is worrisome as institutions meant to protect the interest of the public would then appear to be involved in cover-ups. The mere fact that the latter case is requiring a judicial inquiry and that lawyers are having to become detectives, is an indication that something is wrong somewhere...”

*** True, a lot of what has been heard lately are mere allegations that have yet to pass the test of judicial scrutiny. But is there the feeling that we have somehow entered into rough and violent waters?**

As an economist, I would say that the times that we are living now are already rough. With the *annus horribilis* we have lived through with the Covid pandemic and the economic crisis facing us, our focus should be on defining ways for economic recovery. All the scandals are unfortunately deviating us all from this. We seem to be in

some sort of a board game played at the national level, with us, citizens as pawns in this game. People have been quite angry regarding the alleged insider contracts that happened during the great lockdown.

There are many cleavages that have been exacerbated recently along party lines, between the public and the private sectors. We should be careful not to be distracted from the real challenges. Now is the time for us to stand together as a nation and come up with solutions to get out of these testing times.

*** Without prejudicing the outcome of the judicial inquiry, does it seem to you however that our investigative bodies in the field of law and order may be falling short of the expectations of the public?**

There are many good, competent and ethical people in investigative bodies in the country. However, we are not safe from rogue elements within institutions and those who try to influence the working within institutions.

When I analyze issues arising out of the incidents being uncovered one after another, it seems that there is a need to review the functioning of our public administrative system, modernizing it, putting in checks and balances and in particular reducing interference – these are essential to ensure rendering of justice.

Montesquieu's inspired principle of the separation of powers is still considered today as an essential element of democratic governments and that needs reminding and reinforcing.

*** One could argue that there is something fundamentally wrong when allegations are levelled at a Government minister in what could turn out to be a criminal case, and when a former Commissioner of Police is ordered by the Supreme Court to report to the Central CID to submit explanations, likely “under warning”, in the investigation relating to the issue of a passport to a drug trafficker. Do you think that's indeed the case, or would you say the system is working?**

I am not an expert on these affairs and only know of what I hear in the news. Mauritius is not privy to such affairs. French politician Francois Fillon is now serving a two-year jail term for a case of ‘emploi fictif’. Nicolas Sarkozy is facing numerous cases of corruption, influence peddling and attempted bribery of a judge. In other countries, accused figures often step down or aside voluntarily to allow investigations to proceed unhindered.

On another note, the fact that the former Commissioner of Police is being investigated under warning is something that would have perhaps not happened if we were in a total ‘non-democracy’.

The role of the press as the 4th pillar of democracy is important to highlight. The mere fact that the press is asking questions indicates that some elements of democracy are still working.

*** On the other hand, economists/economic historians would tell us that countries that succeed owe a lot to, amongst others, the robustness and independence of their institutions. Do you think that institutions that should be fostering and sustaining democracy in the country, like the National Assembly, for example, are living up to the expectations of the people?**

“We tick the box in terms of the existence of institutions. However, when it comes to outcome and delivery of these institutions, it is far from what is needed for us to be competitive and successful. To maintain the status of high-income country, we cannot continue having institutions stuck in another era...”

I believe a lot in institutions and part of my work across the African continent is to help governments prioritize and implement reforms so as to create efficient institutions for delivery of economic services.

Rwanda is an example of how reforms within institutions have not only rendered the country relatively corruption free but also very efficient in attracting business. Madagascar has started on the path of modernizing its institutions and there is already good traction. Namibia, another country that I advise, has already started looking at changes to economic governance to equip the country with more robust institutions through its Harambee prosperity plan. Large and strategic investors are already eyeing opportunities in the country.

Institutions are important because they help cement, protect and organize a country. Countries in the high income bracket are characterized as having high levels of institutional capacity and integrity. Deep reforms will be required. We tick the box in terms of the existence of institutions. However, when it comes to outcome and delivery of these institutions, it is far from what is needed for us to be competitive and successful.

To maintain the status of high-income country, we cannot continue having institutions stuck in another era.

'With the the Covid pandemic and the economic crisis facing us, our focus should be on defining ways for economic recovery.

All the scandals are unfortunately deviating us all from this'

☞ Cont. from page 8

*** As regards the state of our economy in the wake of the Covid pandemic, the private sector would want us to believe that economic recovery hinges on the reopening of our borders, whilst the Government would seem to believe that a Covid vaccine will see us through the current crisis and back to the previous normal. Is it as simple as that?**

Vaccines will help to a certain measure, but will not be the solution to all our economic woes. Even reopening the borders with no restrictions, no quarantine, no PCR test is not a guarantee that tourists will come again.

There are over 100 vaccine candidates currently being developed across the world. Four of the most promising ones are the ones being developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna using messenger-RNA. Data released shows both vaccines are highly effective, with minimal side effects. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has obtained regulatory approval in Britain. It will be rolled out in the US in a few days. The Moderna vaccine will soon be approved. The AstraZeneca vaccine is already under clinical trials in many parts of the world. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine being developed in collaboration with Harvard Medical School scientists is expected to complete phase 3 trials in January 2021.

Although a lot of hope is being put on vaccines, we need to be aware that vaccines will not be available so quickly, there will be a lot of logistics issues, their worldwide distribution is not easy and there will have to be a priority list. The remarkable thing however is that for the first time in history a vaccine has been developed so fast. The US's top infectious disease expert Dr Anthony Fauci expects that if the vaccine campaign goes well, we should be seeing the end of the pandemic there towards end of 2021.

Thus there is still a long road ahead. In a couple of weeks we are speaking with Stéphane Bancel the CEO of Moderna, a Harvard alumnus who has used mRNA sequencing to develop the vaccine. I will be able to know a bit more then.

*** What according to you would be required to get GDP growth back in the positives?**

It will certainly take some time to re-ignite the economy. We should not expect tourism numbers to simply jump back to where they were at the same time last year. We will not have as many people who want to invest in the country in the current sectors. Trade will remain disrupted. It is not sure that some jobs will come back.

Our economy has been fuelled by consumption, infrastructure investment by the government and real estate investments. It will take a lot of concerted effort and a real change in strategy to bring actual new productive investments to our shores.

Many countries across Africa are already surfing on new changes and trends in the world. With changes in geopolitics and trade wars, companies are opting to find alternatives to production in China for example. In that event, some countries are already gearing up to welcome electronics and non-textiles goods manufacturing. I think we could also diversify in a comprehensive manner our



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“The times that we are living now are already rough. With the annus horribilis we have lived through with the Covid pandemic and the economic crisis facing us, our focus should be on defining ways for economic recovery. All the scandals are unfortunately deviating us all from this. We seem to be in some sort of a board game played at the national level, with us, citizens as pawns in this game...”

“When I analyze issues arising out of the incidents being uncovered one after another, it seems that there is a need to review the functioning of our public administrative system, modernizing it, putting in checks and balances and in particular reducing interference – these are essential to ensure rendering of justice...”

manufacturing and attract big players. Unfortunately, I hear too often that our companies are not competitive as labour is too costly. If that is so, my question is how does France or Germany continue to produce and export?

We will need to think seriously about modernizing our agribusiness and putting in the means to do so. Modernization does not only mean putting in machines to cut cane, but it also means looking at fruit and vegetable production in a more modern and ecology-friendly manner as is being done in places like South Africa, Singapore or New Zealand.

We need to refocus our export and import activities towards accessing new markets. Business access to the Chinese market will be made easier with the Mauritius-China free trade agreement becoming operational. We are already exporting more to Africa than we did 10 years ago. We will need to enhance these linkages and expand value chains across the Indian Ocean and African region.

We will have to develop a new and enhanced economic diplomacy with diplomatic and economic missions in more countries across Africa if we want to have a real Africa-focused strategy.

Finally, I think there should be a real focus on competence first, rather than putting in people in decision-making places based on their affiliation and affinity. We are in serious rough waters. We need competent people to help steer the ship. We have come together with a team of professional economists and statisticians of Mauritius and are actively thinking about the solutions for coming out of this crisis. We shall be able to share our comprehensive thoughts over the next few weeks.

*** On the political front, we would like to believe that the people are fed up with the way politics is being conducted locally; they might be looking forward to see change happening at that level as well as with regard to the faces leading the political parties. But with no alternative in view, the people might end up saying: ‘Vaut mieux Navin/Paul’. How do you react to that?**

What I hear more often are people, young and old and from all social circles, saying that we need a new breed of leaders, with strong ethics and who would have a real vision for Mauritius, not just a vision for themselves or their inner circle.

There is already more citizen engagement and I would say that with new tools and the youth of today, there shall be more engagement of citizens. I have also noted that this engagement is not only of youth. It is also of elder people who want to see change happen for future generations.

There are many potential alternative politicians. However, it is really hard for small parties to succeed as money matters in elections and small parties do not have the reach that larger parties have. With promises and higher means, members of small parties are easily poached by larger parties. What I see however is that some mainstream parties have started investing in younger members with some of them really doing well. Hence, we may see the new breed emerging from within the ranks of established parties.

Oregon just decriminalized all drugs - here's why voters passed this groundbreaking reform

Problem drug use is a public health challenge to be managed, not a war that can be won

Oregon became the first state in the United States to decriminalize the possession of all drugs on Nov. 3, 2020.

Measure 110, a ballot initiative funded by the Drug Policy Alliance, a nonprofit advocacy group backed in part by Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, passed with more than 58% of the vote. Possessing heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and other drugs for personal use is no longer a criminal offense in Oregon.

Those drugs are still against the law, as is selling them. But possession is now a civil - not criminal - violation that may result in a fine or court-ordered therapy, not jail. Marijuana, which Oregon legalized in 2014, remains fully legal.

Oregon's move is radical for the United States, but several European countries have decriminalized drugs to some extent. There are three main arguments for this major drug policy reform.

1. Drug prohibition has failed

In 1971, President Richard Nixon declared drugs to be "public enemy number one" and launched a "war on drugs" that continues today.

The ostensible rationale for harshly punishing drug users is to deter drug use. But decades of research - including our own on marijuana and drugs generally - has found the deterrent effect of strict criminal punishment to be small, if it exists at all. This is especially true among young people, who are the majority of drug users.

This is partly due to the nature of addiction, and also because there are simply limits to how much punishment can deter crime. As a result, the U.S. has both the world's highest incarceration rate and among the highest rates of illegal drug use. Roughly 1 in 5 incarcerated people in the United States is in for a drug offense.

Criminologists find that other consequences of problematic drug use - such as harm to health, reduced quality of life and strained personal relationships - are more effective deterrents than criminal sanctions.

Because criminalizing drugs does not really prevent drug use, decriminalizing does not really increase it. Portugal, which decriminalized the personal possession of all drugs in 2001 in response to high illicit drug use, has much lower rates of drug use than the European average. Use of cocaine among young adults age 15 to 34, for example, is 0.3% in Portugal, compared to 2.1% across the EU. Amphetamine and MDMA consumption is likewise lower in Portugal.

2. Decriminalization puts money to better use



Arresting, prosecuting and imprisoning people for drug-related crimes is expensive.

The Harvard economist Jeffrey Miron estimates that all government drug prohibition-related expenditures were US\$47.8 billion nationally in 2016. Oregon spent about \$375 million on drug prohibition in that year.

Oregon will now divert some the money previously used on drug enforcement to pay for about a dozen new drug prevention and treatment centers statewide, which has been found to be a significantly more cost-effective strategy. Some tax revenue from recreational marijuana sales, which exceeded \$100 million in 2019, will also go to addiction and recovery services.

Oregon spent about \$470 million on substance abuse treatment between 2017 and 2019.

Not everyone who uses drugs needs treatment. Decriminalization makes help accessible to those who do need it - and keeps both those users and recreational users out of jail.

3. The drug war targets people of colour

Another aim of decriminalization is to mitigate the significant racial and ethnic disparities associated with drug enforcement.

Illegal drug use is roughly comparable across race in the U.S. But people of color are significantly more likely to be searched, arrested and imprisoned for a drug-related offense. Drug crimes can incur long prison sentences.

Discretion in drug enforcement and sentencing means prohibition is among the leading causes of incarceration of people of color in the United States - an injustice many Americans on both sides of the aisle increasingly recognize.

Freed up from policing drug use, departments may redirect their resources toward crime prevention and solving violent crimes like homicide and robbery, which are time-consuming to investigate. That could help restore some trust between law enforcement and Oregon's communities of colour.

Risks of decriminalization

One common concern among Oregonians who voted against decriminalization was that lessening criminal penalties would endanger children.

"I think it sends a really bad message to them, and influences their perception of the risks," James O'Rourke, a defense attorney who helped organize the opposition to measure 110, told Oregon Public Broadcasting in October.

But U.S. states that legalized marijuana haven't seen adolescent use rise significantly. In fact, marijuana consumption among teens - though not among college-aged Americans - actually declined in some states with legal marijuana. This may be because legal, regulated marijuana is more difficult for minors to get than black-market drugs.

Research also shows that for some people, particularly the young, banning a behavior makes it more alluring. So defining drugs as a health concern rather

than a crime could actually make them less appealing to young Oregonians.

Another worry about decriminalization is that it will attract people looking to use drugs.

So-called "drug tourism" hasn't really been a problem for Portugal, but it happened in Switzerland after officials in the 1980s and 1990s began officially "ignoring" heroin in Zurich's Platzspitz Park. People came from across the country to inject heroin in public, leaving discarded needles on the ground.

The local government shut down Platzspitz Park. But rather than chase off or arrest those who frequented it, it began offering methadone and prescription heroin to help people with opioid use disorder. Public injection, HIV rates and overdoses - which had all become a problem in Zurich - plummeted.

Certain parts of Oregon already have higher rates of public drug consumption, namely Portland and Eugene. Because public drug use is still illegal in Oregon, however, we don't expect a Platzspitz Park-style open drug scene to emerge. These places should benefit from the expansion of methadone programs and other medication-assisted treatment, which is endorsed by the American Medical Association.

If neighboring Washington state decriminalizes drugs, which it is considering, the chances of drug tourism would drop further.

Upside - and downside

There are risks with any major policy change. The question is whether the new policy results in a net benefit.

In Portugal, full decriminalization has proven more humane and effective than criminalization. Because drug users don't worry about facing criminal charges, those who need help are more likely to seek it - and get it.

Portugal's overdose death rate is five times lower than the EU average - which is itself far lower than the United States'. HIV infection rates among injection drug users also dropped massively since 2001.

These policies show that problem drug use is a public health challenge to be managed, not a war that can be won.

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From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4th Year No 154

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 19 July 1957

Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth. -- George Washington



A meeting convened by the Manilal Memorial Committee, was held at the

Manilal Memorial Committee

Paying tribute to Manilal Doctor in the Mauritius Times of 27 January 1956 - 'First Leader of Indo-Mauritians', Jay Narain Roy concluded on this note: "I appeal to the Indian Community to put up a committee to raise funds with the idea of erecting a bust for that great public benefactor."

Mr Beekrumsing Ramlallah, the Editor, set the ball rolling, and in the MT edition of 21 September 1956, he announced the setting up of the 'Manilal Memorial Committee', comprising Messrs Vanprasthi Dhurundur, M. Sangeelee, R. Chellum, M. Nathoo, P. Moutou, L. Sohun, M.I. Khadaroo, K. Tirvengadam. I. Satan, K. Bappoo, R. Lutchmaya, and H. Dave.

Trinity College on Sunday 14 July 1957 to form an organising committee in connection with the celebration on 13 Oct 57 of the 50th anniversary of the coming of the late Manilal Doctor to Mauritius.

The following are the societies which responded to the invitation and their representatives:

- **Cockney Hidayatool Islam Society** represented by Mr S. Shiek Omar and Mr I. Sheik Dawood.
- **Hindi Pracharini Sabha** by Mr S Bhuckory
- **Societe de Secours Mutuels Hiztullah** by Mr Azize Peeroo
- **Mauritius Andhra Maha Sabha** by Mr S.K.R. Pydiah and Mr S.Chiniah

- **Madad-ul-Islam** by Mr I. Lakhi
- **Arya Pratinidhi Sabha** by Mr T. Callycharun
- **Muslim Scouts Sports Club** by I. Bawamia
- **Sanathan Dharma Pracharini Sabha** by A. Ramsaha
- **Goolshaney Mohammady** by Mr A.A. Noor Hossen and Mr A.H. Soobraty
- **Ahmadia Association of Mauritius** by Mr Roshunally Bhunnoo, Mr Zeedhally Bhunnoo and Mr Osman Bhunnoo
- **Societe Nasrat-ul-Musleim** by Mr A.Raghoonath
- **Anjoumane Tophee Mohabbat Society** by Mr Idiss Purabmud

- **Ravi Oodaye Vidya Samaj** by Mr H. Purmanund
- **Kabir Dharma Maha Sabha** by Mr S. Baichoo
- **Anjoumane Mohabbat-ul-Islam** by Mr A.R. Dawagazee and Y. Nabeebaccus
- **Second Tamil Scouts** by Mr H.K.Tirengadam and Mr Valaydon
- **Plaine Verte Muslim Association** by Mr A. Nuckchady and Mr A. Rossan.

Messrs B. Ramlallah, L. Badry and D. Napal were also in attendance.

The Organising Committee elected the following persons to form a Working Committee.

Chairman: Vanprasthi Dhoorundur

Secretary: M. Sangeelee

Treasurer: Issac Sattan

Members: B. Ramlallah, L. Badry, S. Bhuckory, D. Napal, G. Bawamia, S.K.R. Pydiah, S. Chiniah, I. Lakhi, H.K. Tirvengadam.

* * *

The fund raising campaign was held between 1956 and 1958. In 1959, a life-size statue of the great historical figure was inaugurated in the Jardin de la Compagnie.

The Age of Commissions

Somduth Bhuckory

Within three days we have learnt of the appointment of three commissions. Our age is surely one of commissions.

Last Saturday it was announced in the press that the Salaries Commission has been appointed with Mr Howes the Commissioner. On the same day we were informed of the appointment of a Working Party, which has been set up to review the structure, operation and system of recruitment of the Civil Service. And lastly, last Tuesday, the appointment of the Electoral Boundary Commission was published.

Here, it appears that it has become an invariable practice of entrusting various committees with the care of studying various problems. The appointment of a committee is a good way of taking the urgency off a problem and clothing it with the shawl of serious purpose. And finally, when the committee reports the whole problem is neatly set forth and considered recommen-

dations made. What happens later? More often than not, the problem lies as snugly as a bug in a rug between the blue covers of the report. What has, in the last analysis, come out of the long and arduous work of the Population Committee?

The Working Party may be said to be just a committee to re-organize the Civil Service. It does not hold out any promise to the civil servant. Maybe it will raise some false hopes in some quarters that while the Salaries Commission is going to look after the big guns, the Working Party is going to cater for the small fry.

We are certain that the Salaries Commission will solve the problem it has before it with the utmost dispatch. It will not be so, we are sure, when an Unemployment Commission comes. Where is that Commission by the way?

The Electoral Boundary Commission too is going to produce quick results. We don't think Sir Malcolm and his two colleagues will have to rack their brains and go through sleepless nights to produce their report.

The Boundary Commission has been given wide powers indeed. If it finds that it is not possible to demarcate single member constituencies, it will proceed to

demarcate boundaries for eleven three-member constituencies. So, we are now at the mercy of the Commission. There seems to be no question of not accepting its findings.

It is of course possible to have single member constituencies. What is apparently impossible is to have the kind of single member constituencies incorporated in the London Agreement and included in the terms of reference of the Commission. But it's too late now to discuss the terms of reference. It's like crying over spilt milk.

We are eager now to see not only the Boundary Commission at work but also the subscribers and the supporters, of the London Agreement.

It has been officially announced with some reserve that the Secretary to the Boundary Commission will be a member of the Colonial Office. He must be surely somebody who understands the policy of Mr Lennox-Boyd in and out.

It has also been announced that Mr Ardill will act as Liaison Officer with the Commission. Although Mr Ardill left the Information Office quite long ago, he seems to be still retaining something of his old job. We hope that Mr Ardill will endeavour to establish the right contacts. We cannot wonder, however, why it has been judged right to hitch a Liaison Officer to the Commission. What an innovation! And what a Liaison Officer!



Edward Anderson
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Confronting colonial legacies in London's 'Little India'

Removing the name of a notorious colonialist from one street in Southall is clearly of symbolic significance. But for many, taking down a statue or a street sign is just the beginning of decolonising 21st-century Britain

Addressing the legacies of colonialism and slavery has been a prominent narrative throughout 2020. A number of calls to recognise, remove, rename, repatriate, and redress have underlined the extent to which Britain's history of slavery and colonial exploitation are woven into, and layered over, the built environment.

One such call has made a breakthrough. On November 25, Ealing Council in London's west London officially announced that it was renaming Havelock Road in Southall. It is one of the dozens of places around the world named after one of Britain's most prominent military leaders in colonial India. Havelock Road will now become Guru Nanak Road, after the founder of the Sikh faith.

The London suburb of Southall, in which three-quarters of the local population are of South Asian descent, is home to one of the largest Sikh communities outside India. On Havelock Road, itself is Europe's largest Sikh temple, the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara.



Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara - Photo - Reid Photography

What's in a name?

Responding to Britain's post-war recruitment drive across the empire and Commonwealth, thousands of Sikh immigrants sought jobs in Southall's factories from the 1950s. This move followed the independence and partition of India, in which the Radcliffe Line split Punjab in two. This was a traumatic and dislocating experience for inhabitants of the region, which had a profound and enduring impact on the South Asian diaspora.

Life for the growing immigrant communities of London's "Little India" was by no means easy. Intense racism led to murders, street fights, and unrest on the streets of Southall, particularly in the 1970-80s. By the early 2000s, the socio-economic status of Southall's Sikhs had considerably improved and films such as *Bend It Like Beckham* further increased the area's visibility. But inequality, marginalisation, and discrimination in many ways endure.

The stark symbolic juxtaposition between the gurdwara and the area's inhabitants with their address has been noted long before the recent push to "decolonise" things and even long before the gurdwara's construction in 2003.

The Member of Parliament in Southall, Virendra Sharma, was born in Punjab four months before the British partitioned and left India in 1947. Sharma emigrated to West London in the 1960s, becoming a councillor in 1982 and MP for Ealing Southall in 2007. Talking in a recent video about campaigning in the 1980s, he said: "I have often been ashamed [that] the names of empire still pervade our streets," adding that "names like Havelock belong in books, classrooms and museums, not on the streets to be celebrated".

Also commemorated with a statue in Trafalgar Square, Henry Havelock was a distinguished East India Company general. He became famous for his brutal suppression of the 1857 Indian Rebellion at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Before this, however, he had battled the Sikhs in the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46), which culminated in the British annexing a large swathe of Punjabi territory.

Not everyone's happy

The decision to change the name followed a process of consultation which responded to the Mayor of London's announcement, in June this year, to appoint a commission to review and improve the diversity of community representation across London's public memorials. Ealing



Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara -- Photo - i.ytimg.com

Europe's largest Sikh temple, the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara, at Havelock Road, now renamed Guru Nanak Road

Council's consultation resulted in a small majority favouring the renaming, though overall response rates were low.

One of Henry Havelock's descendants, Emily McKenzie, welcomed the news. "This makes me really happy," she wrote. "My ancestor's story will always be part of British history, but his living relatives have a much different view on the world and are very happy to celebrate Sikh influences and culture in the UK."

The announcement of the change at Havelock Road has, however, not been universally welcomed. Much of the backlash argues it's the result of "political correctness" and constitutes an "erasure of history". One person tweeted: "What a load of nonsense. What if we went to India and started changing their street names." Unsurprisingly, Twitter users responded in their hundreds to this reactionary colonial amnesia, including many people from India where countless place names were Anglicised, or changed entirely, over more than three centuries.

Urban environments in the colonised world, and the imperial centre, both reflected – and were tools of – colonisation. Civic spaces symbolised the power of the state, its development prowess, civilising mission, and, ultimately, the supposed superiority of the coloniser. The current resistance to addressing legacies of imperialism reflects an enduring and even growing feeling of colonial pride and nostalgia.

But renaming the street after Guru

Nanak has proved contentious among some Sikhs as well. Nanak is considered a universal, inclusive icon by those who suggested celebrating his name in Southall. However, others have argued that the Guru is at risk of being disrespected. These people claim that drug and alcohol abuse, gambling and prostitution take place in the area.

Opponents are also concerned that Ealing Council is simply indulging in a superficial name-changing in response to this summer's heated protests, but is otherwise doing little of real value to promote community uplift in the borough's socially deprived areas. As part of the new statement issued on November 25 to announce the name change, Ealing Council also reiterated its plans to proceed with a review of all structural inequalities in the borough by May 2021. But it remains to be seen what practical changes this will bring.

Removing the name of a notorious colonialist from one street in Southall is clearly of symbolic significance. Sharma told us: [Havelock's] name is to me, and I am sure millions of other British Indians, British Pakistanis and British Bangladeshis, synonymous with murder, oppression and thuggery. It means memories of stories told by parents and grandparents of being a second-class citizen in your own country.

But for many, taking down a statue or a street sign is just the beginning of decolonising 21st-century Britain.

From the White House to ancient Athens

Hypocrisy is no match for partisanship

* Cont. from page 2

So, it seems reasonable to argue that hypocrites relinquish their claim to moral authority and deserve blame.

But if we look at the experience of the Greek philosopher Socrates on trial, we might come to a different conclusion.

Socrates' experience as a guide

Plato's "Apology" recounts Socrates' self-defence against two charges: corrupting the youth and believing in false gods.

been affected by my accusers, I cannot tell," he says, "but I know that they almost made me forget who I was – so persuasively did they speak; and yet they have hardly uttered a word of truth."

In an exchange with Socrates, Meletus claims to have thought seriously about the charges brought against Socrates, one of them being the corruption of the youth. But then he states that Socrates is the only person in Athens harming the city's young people.

"Hypocrisy" is defined as "a feigning to be what one is not or to believe what one does not: behavior

vinced, and they find him guilty.

Two sides of the aisle

Socrates' trial resonates in today's highly polarized political climate. Although many people may view hypocrites as deserving of moral disgrace – especially when they're public figures – their biases for or against such people mitigate the intensity of their moral judgments about them.

Americans' strong support of one politician, or their bitter distaste for another, will play a big part in how they view their respective acts of hypocrisy.

Antipathy between Republicans and Democrats is so strong that influential politicians on either side of the aisle can act immorally and hypocritically without any significant negative repercussions from their voter bases.

Despite his immigration policies, for example, Obama retained significant Latino voter support. And the historically high voter turnout in support of Trump during the 2020 U.S. presidential election, in spite of his hypocritical behaviour, further reveals the extent of this extreme partisanship.

Raman Sachdev is a Visiting Instructor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of South Florida. He teaches philosophy, and he leads discussion-based classes at the university's Judy Genshaft Honors College, where he has created and instituted novel courses like "Mental Illness, Suicide, and Moral Responsibility" and "Music and the Emotions/Music and the Screen."



Photo - m.dailyhunt.in

Meletus, Lycon and Anytus – three highly influential men in Athens – bring these charges against Socrates, and a jury of about 500 citizens decide his fate. Socrates' accusers claim that he broke the law by teaching young people to question Athenian customs and by introducing strange new gods into the Greek pantheon.

Socrates denies the claims. He argues that public opinion had been prejudiced against him for years – that his accusers are insincere in their accusations.

But the jury finds Socrates guilty. As punishment, he is forced to drink poison hemlock.

What fascinates me most about the trial is how Socrates presents an argument against hypocrisy.

He chastises his accusers for being pretenders – public figures who give the impression of telling the truth, all the while knowing that their words are lies:

"How you, O Athenians, have

that contradicts what one claims to believe or feel."

A hypocrite, then, in the most basic sense of the word, is someone who doesn't practice what he preaches.

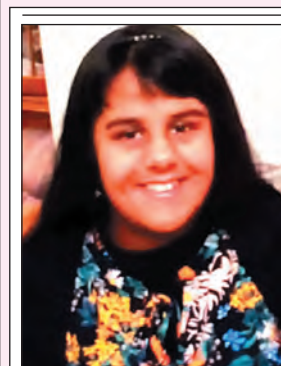
In this case, if we understand a hypocrite to be someone who pretends to have a virtuous character when he in fact does not, then I argue that Meletus fits the bill. From a moral high ground, he claims to have good reasons for accusing Socrates, and when it's publicly revealed that he doesn't, he presses on nonetheless.

Socrates plainly shows the hypocrisy of his accuser when he says:

"Meletus is a doer of evil, in that he pretends to be in earnest when he is only in jest, and is so eager to bring men to trial from a pretended zeal and interest about matters in which he really never had the smallest interest."

But the jurors remain uncon-

2020 - The Unique Year



Sonakshi Seetohul
London

We all know that 2020 will be unique

As days turn into weeks, then months

We near the end of the year

When lockdowns have taught us to value and appreciate whatever we have

At first we thought Covid-19 was a type of flu

And would soon go away

But it looks like it has come to stay

We listen to the government as we think they know what's best

Stay at home and isolate is the request

Masked faces, sanitized hands and social distancing have become the norm

Grounded planes no longer leave

As the virus spreads from one country to another

Travel restrictions imposed on whatever holidays planned
Air travel and foreign holidays may become a distant memory

But we can still keep in touch with our friends and family far away

As we can use Zoom and WhatsApp to connect with loved ones abroad

Had it happened 20 years ago, life would have been different

No video calls or online shopping

In this great world of ours there is so much to see,

But all our streets are empty

Shops, pubs and theatres are closed

Usually bustling and full of sparkling lights

Especially as Christmas approaches

All music has ceased

All performances remain unclapped

History books will talk of the time the world stood still

At war with an enemy unseen -

A nasty bug called Covid-19

Hoping one day we shall step out of doors

Without sanitizing hands and putting masks on our faces

Walk down the streets,

Meet families and friends,

Enjoy a cup of coffee and maybe a slice of cake.

Dec 2020



Protecting lives, ensuring happiness



1956-2020

LIC Centre, 1st Floor,
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Port Louis

marketing@licmauritius.intnet.mu

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



A girl asks her father, "Why does it rain? Is it God sweating or crying?"

"No," says her father, "it rains to make the plants grow. Do you understand?"

"Not exactly," says the girl. "Why does it rain on the sidewalk?"

"Mom, does God go to the bathroom?" a son asked.

The mom replied, "No son, why?"

The son said, "Well every morning Dad goes to the bathroom and pounds on the door and shouts, 'Oh God! Are you still in there?'"

A man went to the All Stars game with two front row seat tickets. He sat down and then another man asked him if the other chair was taken.

The man said: "No, it was supposed to be for my wife."

The other man said: "Well, where is she?"

And he said: "She died two days ago from a stroke."

The other man said: "Well that's unfortunate, I'm so sorry for you. But shouldn't you give this seat to other family members?"

And the man said, "No they're all at the funeral."

Q: What's the difference between a genealogist and a gynecologist?

A: The genealogist checks the family tree and the gynecologist checks the family bush.

Little Johnny came in from the backyard sobbing. His mother asked "What's the matter?"

"Dad was fixing the fence and hit his thumb with the hammer," he said through his tears.

"That's not so serious," his mother said, "and a big boy like you shouldn't cry about that. Why didn't you just laugh?"

"I did!" cried Johnny.

Playing ball

1. The sport of choice for the urban poor is basketball.
2. The sport of choice for maintenance level employees is bowling.
3. The sport of choice for frontline workers is football.
4. The sport of choice for supervisors is baseball.
5. The sport of choice for middle management is tennis.
6. The sport of choice for corporate executives and officers is golf.

The amazing facts are:

The higher you go in the corporate structure, the smaller your balls become.

There must be a boatload of people in Parliament playing marbles.



A: I have the perfect son.

B: Does he smoke?

A: No, he doesn't.

B: Does he drink whiskey?

A: No, he doesn't.

B: Does he ever come home late?

A: No, he doesn't.

B: I guess you really do have the perfect son. How old is he?

A: He will be six months old next Wednesday.

Words to Live by

Beautiful poem by Mario de Andrade

Poet, novelist, essayist and musicologist - San Paolo 1893-1945



My soul has a hat

I counted my years
& realized that I have
Less time to live by,
Than I have lived so far.

I feel like a child who won a pack
of candies: at first he ate them
with pleasure
But when he realized that there
was little left, he began to taste
them intensely.

I have no time for endless meetings

where the statutes, rules,
procedures & internal regulations are
discussed, knowing that nothing
will be done.

I no longer have the patience
To stand absurd people who,
despite their chronological age,
have not grown up.

My time is too short:
I want the essence,
my spirit is in a hurry.
I do not have much candy
In the package anymore.

I want to live next to humans,
very realistic people who know
How to laugh at their mistakes,
Who are not inflated by their
own triumphs?
& who take responsibility for their
actions. In this way, human dignity is
defended and we live in truth and
honesty.

It is the essentials that make
life useful.

I want to surround myself
with people who know how to touch
the hearts of those whom hard
strokes of life have learned to grow
with sweet touches of the soul.

Yes, I'm in a hurry.
I'm in a hurry to live with the intensity
that only maturity can give.
I do not intend to waste any of the
remaining desserts.

I am sure they will be exquisite,
much more than those eaten so far.
My goal is to reach the end satisfied
and at peace with my loved ones
and my conscience.

Laughter is the Best Medicine

A man in a bar sees a friend at a table, drinking by himself. Approaching the friend, he comments, "You look terrible. What's the problem?"

"My mother died in August," he said, "and left me \$25,000."

"Gee, that's tough," he replied. "Then in September," the friend continued, "my father died, leaving me \$90,000."

"Wow. Two parents gone in two months. No wonder you're depressed."

"Then last month, my aunt died and left me \$15,000."

"Three close family members lost in three months? How sad."

"Then this month," continued the friend, "absolutely nothing!"

Teacher: "If you had one dollar and you asked your father for another, how many dollars would you have?"

Vincent: "One dollar."

Teacher: "You don't know your arithmetic."

Vincent: "You don't know my father."

What is the difference between an outlaw and an in-law? Outlaws are wanted.

Coach: "Why are you late for the game?"

Caterpillar: "I had to put my shoes on."



12 habits of super-healthy people

The healthiest people you know eat breakfast every day, learn new skills, and do these other things

Having breakfast is important for a bunch of reasons. It jump-starts your metabolism and stops you from overeating later. Plus, studies show that adults who have a healthy breakfast do better at work, and kids who eat a morning meal score higher on tests. If a big plateful first thing isn't for you, keep it light with a granola bar or a piece of fruit. Just don't skip it.

Plan your meals

It'll help you save time and money in the long run. Block out some time, then sit down and consider your goals and needs. Do you want to lose weight? Cut back on sugar, fat, or carbs? Add protein or vitamins? Meal prep keeps you in control. You know what you're eating and when. A bonus: It'll be that much easier to skip those doughnuts in the breakroom at work.

Drink plenty of water

It can do so many good things for you. Staying hydrated is at the top of the list, but it may also help you lose weight. Another reason to go for H₂O? Sugary drinks are linked to obesity and type 2 diabetes. If you aren't a fan of plain water, add flavor with slices of orange, lemon, lime, watermelon, or cucumber.

Take an exercise break

Don't just grab another cup of coffee -- get up and move. Do some deep lunges or stretches? It's great for your body and mind. Just 30 minutes of walking five times a week may help keep the blues at bay. And if you can't do those minutes all at once, short bursts help, too.

Go offline

Checking your email and social media a lot? Sure, your friends' and family's latest updates are just a click away, but do you really need to see pictures of your cousin's latest meal? Let it wait until morning. Set a time to log off and put the phone down. When you cut back on-screen time, it frees you to do other things. Take a walk, read a book, or help your cousin chop veggies for their next great dinner.

Learn something new

New skills help keep your brain healthy. Sign up for a dance class or a creative writing workshop. Better yet, master a new language. The mental work it takes can slow the signs of aging and may even delay the effects of Alzheimer's disease.

Don't smoke

If you light up, quit. It's a big move toward better health. Your body repairs itself quickly. As soon as 20 minutes after your last cigarette, your heart rate and blood pressure drop. Why wait? Kick the habit, today. Your doctor will be happy to help you get started.

Sleep well

There are almost too many benefits to list. A good night's sleep keeps you in a better mood, sharpens memory and focus, and helps you learn new things. In the long term, it lowers your risk of heart disease and helps you keep trim. Aim to get 7 to 9 hours a night. For the best rest, do it on schedule -- turning in and waking up at about the same times every day.

Train your muscles

Strength training helps your body trade fat for muscle mass. That means you'll burn more calories even when



you're being a couch potato. But these workouts can also help you slim down, strengthen your heart, and build up your bones. Do strength-training exercises -- like push-ups, lunges, and weight lifting -- at least twice a week.

Head outdoors

A few minutes in the sunshine raises vitamin D levels, and that's good for your bones, your heart, and your mood. Plus, being outside means you're more likely to move your body instead of parking it in front of the TV or computer. Choose nature over city streets, if you can. One study found that people who strolled in urban green spaces were calmer than people who walked in built-up areas.

Keep your balance

If you're young and active, good balance will help you

avoid injuries. If you're older, it will keep you active longer and lower the chances you'll fall and break a bone. No matter your age, good balance means better muscle tone, a healthier heart, and greater confidence. Yoga and tai chi are great ways to work on it, but just about anything that keeps you moving, even walking, can help.

Be mindful

It can mean meditating or simply stopping to smell the roses. However, you do it, studies show mindfulness slashes stress, relieves pain, and improves your mood. And scientists are beginning to understand how. One study found that 8 weeks of regular meditation can change parts of your brain related to emotions, learning, and memory. Even washing dishes can be good for your brain, as long as you do it mindfully.

WebMD

Food for Thought

Words for Teenagers

Northland College (NZ) principal John Tapene has offered the following words from a judge who regularly deals with youth:

"Always we hear the cry from teenagers 'What can we do, where can we go?'"

"My answer is this: 'Go home, mow the lawn, wash the windows, learn to cook, build a raft, get a job, visit the sick, study your lessons, and after you've finished, read a book. Your town does not owe you recreational facilities and your parents do not owe you fun.'

"The world does not owe you a living, you owe the world something. You owe it your time, energy and talent so that no one will be at war, in sickness and lonely again. In other words, grow up, stop being a cry baby, get



out of your dream world and develop a backbone, not a wishbone. Start behaving like a responsible person. You are important and you are needed. It's too late to sit around and wait for somebody to do something someday. Someday is now and that somebody is you!"

Karisma Kapoor to Shilpa Shetty...

5 super-fit actresses' serious workout, yoga and diet inspiration



Instagram offers some serious health and fitness tips if you follow Kapoor's rigorous meal plans, Shetty's daily workouts or Malaika Arora's yoga poses - how to stay fabulous over 40, celebrity style. A report by Umesh Bhagchandani of South China Morning Post.

Sushmita Sen

The long-legged beauty started working more on her fitness after she slipped a disc over a decade ago. From aerial silk yoga to body weight training in her home gym, Sen likes to push the boundaries and is said to clock in four days a week for a two-hour gym session.

"She spends hours researching new techniques," her personal trainer, Nupur Shikhare, told Vogue India, also sharing the 45-year-old's diet that consists of a "wholesome

mix of microbes, carbs, fat and proteins".

Shilpa Shetty

Often complimented on her physique in the media, Shetty swears by yoga and daily workouts for her posture. After an episode of cervical spondylosis, she learned and fell in love with yoga and has mastered the *Ashtanga* and *Vinyasa Asanas* over the years.

With 18 million followers on Instagram, the actress-cum-entrepreneur diligently updates them on the latest exercises and healthy eating tips (she doesn't do strict diets and grows her own vegetables). Last year, Shetty, now aged 45, launched her all-inclusive fitness app that marks a first among Bollywood stars.

Malaika Arora

Model-turned-producer Malaika

Arora shot to stardom after appearing in the dance number for 1990s iconic song *Chaiyya Chaiyya*, from the film *Dil Se* starring Shah Rukh Khan. Her hourglass figure has kept her in the public eye ever since. A fitness fiend by heart, Arora sees exercising as a means to keep both body and soul healthy.

From doing *Surya Namaskar* in the morning to intermittent fasting, the 47-year-old sticks by her routine and avoids fad diets. "I've always been somebody who's very particular about what I eat and when I eat it," she told GQ India.

Bipasha Basu

Starting out as a model, Basu stole the spotlight in Bollywood with her toned figure. Decades later, Basu has had three successful fitness DVDs, million-view YouTube videos and plans to write a fitness book, according to Bollywood Hungama.

The 41-year-old is said to follow strict workout plans - cardio, cycling, cross training - for six days in a week, but always reminds her fans not to "starve for a good toned body" as per The Economic Times.

Karisma Kapoor

The elder Kapoor has managed to keep a slender figure since her debut in the 1990s. The mother-of-two loves a good hour of daily yoga and squeezes other workouts (walking is her favourite) into her busy schedule. She is also keen on a balanced and healthy diet, sharing her meals with her 5.7 million Instagram followers.

"I eat six to seven small meals in a day, keeping a gap of two to three hours between each," the 46-year-old told Times of India.

Bollywood's beauty guru shares 5 skincare tips for dry and parched skin

To prevent the skin from drying out and becoming flaky, follow these skin care tips. After all, make-up looks best on hydrated, moisturised skin.

Invest in a good quality humidifier

The humidifier's purpose is to increase the moisture levels in the air. Not only does it add moisture to the indoor air, but it also keeps the skin hydrated and radiant. The best time to run your humidifier is at night. Just before you hit the sack, turn it on and let it run all night. Make this your bedtime ritual so that your skin stays soft.

Be mindful of your bathing ritual

Avoid bathing in piping hot water as it will dry out the skin and strip it from its natural oils. To be safe, opt for lukewarm water. Say no to soaps and cleansers that have SLS, parabens, fragrances in them as they tend to damage and irritate the skin. And finally, when wiping your skin dry with a towel, always pat the skin dry instead of rubbing. Once that's done, and your skin is damp, slather a thick layer of moisturiser on it. This method will help your skin to retain its moisture.

Buff & repeat

A sure way to get healthy-looking skin is to exfoliate the skin and get rid of the top layer of dead skin cells. To get the job done, you can either use a scrub or a chemical exfoliator. If it's a scrub that you're opting for, make sure that you are gentle while exfoliating your skin. If it's a chemical exfoliator like glycolic or lactic acid, then use a cotton pad to apply the product. Exfoliate the skin once or twice a week. Avoid over-exfoliating your skin as it could irritate it. Once the skin is polished and buffed, it becomes easier for skincare products to penetrate deeper.

Befriend the lip balm

Chapped lips are a sign that your skin desperately needs a dose of moisture. First, exfoliate your lips with a lip scrub and then apply a lip balm. The best moisturising ingredients you should look for in a lip balm are lanolin, Vitamin E, honey, cocoa butter, shea butter, kokum butter and beeswax.

Switch to rich & heavy moisturisers

Lotions are decent skincare products for moisturising the skin, but heavy-duty creams are better for dry skin types. When investing in a cream, keep an eye out for hydrating ingredients like olive oil, jojoba oil, shea butter, ceramides and hyaluronic acid. They will not only keep your skin moisturised, but nourish it to the tea as well.

Source - Times of India

From Priyanka to Kangana: Bollywood actors who bagged the Padma Shri title

The Padma Shri award, one of the most prestigious Indian awards instituted in 1954, is given as a mark of recognition to citizens of India across themes of arts, education, industry, literature, public affairs, social service, science and more. Here's a list of Bollywood celebrities who bagged the title of the honorary Padma Shri along with several other accolades as reported by Simren Rodrigues of Republic World.

Priyanka Chopra: Priyanka was conferred with the Padma Shri in the year 2016. Recently, she took to Instagram to post a series of pictures that reflected the time she was honoured with the prestigious award. In the pictures, Priyanka dotted a lemon-yellow saree with white florals laced on it. In her caption, Priyanka wrote about how the pictures bring back so many memories. She also revealed that it is a personal achievement and what made it even more special was the joy and pride it gave to her family.

Kangana Ranaut: Kangana is the only Bollywood

actor to receive the Padma Shri Award in the year 2020. Ranaut is also the recipient of several other accolades that includes three National Film Awards and four Filmfare Awards. Kangana rose to fame after her debut with the film *Gangster* that released in 2006. Later, she featured in Madhur Bhandarkar's *Fashion* and bagged her first National Film Award in the year 2009.

Vidya Balan: Vidya bagged the fourth-highest civilian award in 2014 in a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Vidya made her film debut with the Bengali film titled *Bhalo Theko* while she made her Bollywood debut with the film *Parineeta*. She received critical reviews for her performance in the film. Other films that starred the actor were *Paa*, *Ishqiya*, *No One Killed*



Jessica, Kahaani, The Dirty Picture and *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*.

Madhuri Dixit: Madhuri Dixit was awarded the Padma Shri Award in 2008. The recipient of several other accolades such as six Filmfare Awards, Madhuri made her acting debut with the film *Abodh*. She rose to prominence for her performance in the film *Tezaab*. She also featured in films such as *Parinda*, *Devdas*, *Lajja*, *Dedh Ishqiya* and *Total Dhamaal*.

Sridevi: Veteran actor Sridevi received the honorary award in 2013.

She started her career at a very young age as a child artist with the Tamil film *Kandhan Karunai*. She gained recognition for her performance in the romantic drama *Julie*. Sridevi also starred in *Chandni*, *Lamhe*, *Khuda Gawah*, *Judaai*, *Mr India*, *English Vinglish* and *Mom*.

Lovely is like my alter ego and I enjoy playing her : Anjali Anand of *Kulfi Kumar Bajewala*

Actress Anjali Anand looks gorgeous and carries her unconventional look with utmost grace and elan! Her acting prowess has been outstanding in her shows *Dhhai Kilo Prem* and *Kulfi Kumar Bajewala*.

As *Lovely* in the ongoing popular Star Plus show *Kulfi Kumar Bajewala* produced by Gul Khan and Nilanjana Purkayastha, Anjali has enacted the role of the over-protective mother to perfection.

In an exclusive interview with IWMBuzz.com, Anjali gets to talk about the show and its success, on her role, the kids on the show and her co-actor Mohit Malik.Excerpts:

What is the best way in which you would describe Lovely?

Lovely is not completely a vamp. If you ask me, I will say that Lovely is very human. We see people changing with situations and this is what happens with her. She has now finally understood that whatever she did was very wrong. But she had her own valid reasons for what she did. But she is now regretting doing those deeds.

She is like a pampered kid who got a kid when she herself was very small. She did not know how to handle her kid as she had gotten married hastily. In simple words, she had a kid in her lap even before she could understand life. Now she is learning from her mistakes and is trying to correct herself. It is good to see Lovely stand by Sikandar now to make the lives of Kulfi and Amyra better.

Which has been the best phase for you in your character?

I cannot point out to one particular phase as such. But I would say that I loved it when Lovely mocked people and knew she was ahead of the game and had someone else in her hand. I am totally opposite to this in real life. I am this lost puppy who is very sensitive; I am not like

Lovely at all. Lovely is like my alter ego and I am enjoying playing her.

Lovely has come a full circle and is at her emotional best now.

Yes, it is good to showcase this new trait of Lovely. I don't think many people would have expected Lovely to apologize to Kulfi in the way she did. She is really sorry, and at the end of the day, she knows Kulfi is also a child. Initially, when she got Kulfi home, Lovely was really close to Kulfi. But the moment she realized the threat that Kulfi was turning out to be, the mother's instinct in her forced her to harm Kulfi in order to protect her own kid. So yes, for a change it is good to be on the emotional side too.

Tell us about how you felt personally when you shot for the hurtful scenes with Kulfi?

Kulfi aka Aakriti Sharma and I share a very good bond in real life. So to be hurting her in the show was really hurtful to me personally. I can never see the girl crying. And to have turned around in the show, and showing some concern for Kulfi now makes me feel good.

How has it been with the two kids Aakriti and Myra?

Well, when I was offered this role, I was scared to be shooting for a show which has kids. I was told that kids exposed to acting tend to be open to the world too soon as a result of which there are chances of them turning snobbish. We are so glad that both of our kids are still kids. They don't have that air in the head and we try to keep it that way. We treat them like Kulfi and Amyra. They are so very pure at heart. We have literally seen them grow as actors and as individuals. In fact, I have been measuring their heights every few months (smiles). It is an amazing feeling to be with them. Their skills are outstanding and they are possibly the best actors in the country as of now.



Tell us about your co-actor Mohit Malik.

Mohit and I are very intelligent actors. We know each other well and also know our characters very well by now. When we are in our characters, he is really Sikandar for me and I am Lovely to him. We exactly know how the other person will react. We go with the flow when it comes to our scenes. We have to thank our Director for giving us the freedom to work on our scenes.

What has made *Kulfi Kumar Bajewala* the success that it is?

The whole team of *Kulfi Kumar Bajewala* has something special. From the people who have created it to the people writing it, and the aspects like music are so strong. Our Producers and creatives are so good at their work. Anyone who comes to our set is simply shocked to see the way in which we shoot. *Kulfi Kumar Bajewala* is not an easy show to shoot. It involves kids and is musical by nature. Also we have sequences which are difficult to shoot in a TV show. We just pull it off by the grace of God because the people involved are so very good at it. Kudos to the entire team of the show for this success.

Last but not the least, how has the fan reaction been for the journey that Lovely has had?

(laughs) Well, to tell you frankly, I get threatened at times. People who don't differentiate between the actor and character think that I am like Lovely. But when people get to see me, they realize I am so different. However, I have had people coming and telling me various things on how a mother should not be so cruel. People who know me personally are shocked to see me in this avatar, as I am nothing like that in real life.

Your message to fans.

I would want to say that you have been with us in this journey for long. We want you to stick to us in the same way for few more hundred thousand episodes (smiles). If Lovely has till now shown 1700 shades, she will want to show you many more hundred shades of hers in the coming time. We promise to keep you all entertained as much as possible.

Lastly, we have a dream vision of a story in mind, that of Sikandar and Lovely striving hard to make life happy for both Kulfi and Amyra. Will this ever come true?

Aah, that is a cute one. This will be a real dream wish for us too. But as you know, the world around us is not that perfect (smiles).

Gautami Kapoor is back in the gym to shed extra lockdown flab

Ghar Ek Mandir fame Gautami Kapoor is now focused on losing weight. The actress shared a picture recently of her tummy flab, and wrote about 'getting there'.

Seen at her gym in her track pants, Gautami looks motivated to shed the extra flab. She wrote alongside, "Long way to go.... but getting there slowly !!! Flab to flat.... hopefully some day!!!! One day at a time," reports Times of India.

Her comments section was flooded by people who praised her. Some even complimented her by saying she is ageing backwards.

For the uninitiated, Gautami's husband and popular actor Ram Kapoor was in news last year for shedding several kilos. The actor, who was obese, lost weight and made headlines for his transformation.

Back then Ram had revealed his diet plan, his workout regime and most importantly the support of his wife and kids during the phase.



In fact, talking about Ram's weight loss, Gautami had shared with Etimes TV last year that it had not been easy for Ram yet he was dedicated.

She had shared, "With Ram, when he decided to do it,

he went for it. He is a foodie, so for him to do this, is a big thing. He has taken a long time to lose all the weight. He has not supplemented and it is going fit completely in a natural way.

Gautami had also spoken about her weight loss story post two pregnancies. "I have been into fitness from the past 20-25 years. During both my pregnancies, I was on my feet till the last day. I had put on 25 kilos during pregnancies and lost all the baby fat in a few months. I have been working out and it is a part of my life. I eat everything and have a great appetite but it is all disciplined. Ram has inspired me all the more."

Ram and Gautami are quite popular in the entertainment industry. They first met on the sets of their TV show, *Ghar Ek Mandir* and dated for a while before tying the knot in 2003.

The couple is blessed with two kids - a daughter and a son. They have been married for over 17 years now.



Mardi 15 Dec - 21.05

Death Fighter

Avec: Matt Mullins, Don Wilson,
Cynthia Rothrock

Mercredi 16 Dec - 21.15

The Midnight Swim



Jeudi 17 Dec - 21.15

Avec: Moani Aipia-Dolan, Brent Bailey,
Sonya Balmores

MBC 1

07.00 D.Anime: Teenie Weenie
07.39 D.Anime: Little Spirou
08.37 D.Anime: Petit Creux
09.50 Magazine: Origami
10.00 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.50 Doc: Foodland - Christmas...
14.00 Mag: Word On The Street
14.30 D.Anime: Twirlywoos
14.41 D.Anime: Robot Trains
15.22 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune...
16.00 Film: Fishtales 2
17.15 Serial: Backstage
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Priorite Sante
20.40 Local: MBC Prod
21.05 Film: Death Fighter
23.00 Le Journal

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: CID
10.43 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha
12.04 Film: Chori Mera Kaam
Starring: Ashok Kumar, Shashi Kapoor, Zeenat Aman
15.00 Mag: Comedy Classes
15.21 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee...
15.43 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
16.06 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.32 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
16.50 Serial: Achra Ke Moti
17.11 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance
18.30 DDI Magazine
20.00 Tamil Programme
20.30 Film: Haqeequat
Starring: Asrani, Raj Babbar, Beena Banerjee, Jeetendra, Jaya Pradha
22.49 DDI Live

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
06.26 Mag: Foodland
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: Arts And Culture
12.09 Mag: Voa Connected
12.48 Mag: Urban Gardens
12.54 Mag: In Good Shape
13.20 Doc: Amazing Gardens
14.14 Doc: 360 GEO
14.58 Doc: Global 3000
15.33 Mag: Washington Forum
16.44 Mag: Eco@Africa
17.23 Mag: World Stories
18.16 Doc: Superfoods
18.45 Student Support Prog...
19.11 Mag: Made In Germany
19.55 Doc: Builders Of The Future

Cine 12

01.32 Film: Night Wolf
02.54 Serial: Chicago Med
03.33 Serial: Island Doctor
05.27 Tele: Totalement Diva
06.58 Film: Signed, Sealed...
09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible
09.48 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: Signed, Sealed...
16.45 Serial: Mission: Impossible
17.23 Serial: L.A.'s Finest
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant
19.10 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: L.A.'s Finest
21.15 Film: Race To Win
22.45 Tele: Totalement Diva
23.10 Serial: Totalement Diva

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Tell Me O Kkhudda
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 - Sanjivani
13.29 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.52 / 21.46 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.12 / 21.59 -
Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
14.32 / 22.25 -
Ikyawann
15.30 Film: Daud
Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Urmila Matondkar, Manoj
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka

mardi 15 decembre

mercredi 16 decembre

jeudi 17 decembre

06.30 Local: Sur Prise
07.00 D. Anime: Teenie Weenie
09.50 Magazine: Origami
12.00 Le Journal
12.55 Doc: Foodland - Christmas...
13.00 Local: Profil - Robert Ng...
14.05 Mag: Word On The Street
14.30 D.Anime: Twirlywoos
14.40 D.Anime: Robot Trains
15.10 D.Anime: The Hive
15.49 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...
16.05 Film: Alpha & Omega
16.40 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
16.52 D.Anime: Dragons: Par-Delà
17.15 Serial: Backstage
17.45 Doc: Foodland - Christmas...
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.15 Prod: Lottotech
21.15 Film: The Midnight Swim
23.00 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Serial: Pyar Ka Dard Meetha
11.16 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki
12.00 Film: Dhoop Chhaon
Stars: Sanjeev Kumar, Hema Malini, Yogeeta Bali
14.05 Mag: DDI Magazine
15.00 Serial: Comedy Classes
15.21 Honaar Soon Mee Hya...
15.44 Mooga Manasulu
16.10 Apoorva Raagangal
16.30 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
16.48 Achra Ke Moti
17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.33 Serial: Kulvadhu
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: Rivals Of The Silver...
Starring: Casanova Wong, Kim Ki-Ju

06.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto
06.26 Doc: Foodland
06.39 Doc: Superfoods
07.31 Mag: Urban Gardens
08.06 Doc: Builders Of The Future
08.56 Antoine De Saint-Exupery
10.21 Local: Klip Seleksion
11.50 Doc: Foodland
12.29 Doc: Superfoods
12.55 Mag: Check In
13.21 Mag: Made In Germany
13.50 Doc: Builders Of The Future
14.16 Doc: Ville En Fête
15.33 Mag: National Geographic...
15.48 Prod: The MIC Africa
17.28 Mag: REV: The Global Auto
18.00 Mag: Motorweek
18.26 The Solar Power Brokers
19.00 Student Support Prog...
20.05 Mag: Tendence XXI
20.29 Mag: Shift
21.00 Local: News (English)

00.26 Serial: L.A.'S Finest
01.32 Film: Avenging The Throne
03.06 Serial: Chicago Med
03.46 Film: The Ballad Of Lucy...
05.22 Tele: Totalement Diva
06.14 Serial: L.A.'S Finest
06.56 Film: Race To Win
08.24 Mag: Hollywood Best Film...
09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible
09.49 Tele: Soleil Levant
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
11.00 Serial: Chicago Med
12.00 Film: The Ballad Of Lucy...
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva
14.52 Film: Race To Win
16.31 Serial: Mission: Impossible
17.19 Serial: L.A.'S Finest
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: Finding Forrester

08.00 Film: Daud
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
13.54 / 21.46 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.20 / 21.59 - Jai Kanhaiya Lal...
14.36 / 22.25 - Ikyawann
15.30 Film: 3 Bachelors
Starring: Sharmen Joshi, Negar Khan, Manish Nagpal, Manoj Pahwa, Raima Sen, Riya Sen, Himani Shivpuri
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka
19.13 Mere Angne Mein

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
06.45 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
09.50 Mag: Origami
10.00 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A...
11.10 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.55 Doc: Foodland - Christmas...
13.30 Local: Zanafan Nou Zil
14.30 D.Anime: Twirlywoos
15.10 D.Anime: The Hive
15.18 D.Anime: Les Triples
15.48 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...
16.05 Film: Fishtales 3
17.15 Serial: Backstage
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
18.55 Local: Chaar Dham Tirth...
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Film: R... Rajkumar
23.00 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani
12.05 Film: Ganga Ki Saugandh
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha, Amjad Khan
15.00 Serial: Comedy Classes
15.21 Honaar Soon Mee Hya
Gharchi
15.43 Mooga Manasulu
16.06 Apoorva Raagangal
16.29 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
16.51 Serial: Achra Ke Moti
17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.31 Local: Amrit Vaani
18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance
18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da
Devi Maiya
20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
21.15 Film: Seized
Starring: Scott Adkins, Mario Van Peebles, Karlee Perez

06.00 Mag: Motorweek
06.25 Doc: Foodland
06.39 Doc: The Solar Power...
07.05 Mag: Arts.21
08.47 Doc: Zenith
11.40 Doc: Foodland
11.56 Mag: Motorweek
12.22 Doc: The Solar Power...
12.48 Mag: Arts.21
13.52 Mag: Tendence XXI
16.48 Doc: Josephine Baker
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.30 Mag: Shift
18.44 Student Support Prog...
19.36 Doc: Foodland
21.00 Local: News (English)
21.10 Doc: 360 GEO
22.29 Doc: Stolen Soul
23.06 Doc: Displaced: Tomatoes...
23.48 Mag: Eco India
00.19 Mag: Shift

01.12 Film: Cassidy Red
02.42 Serial: Chicago Med
03.22 Serial: Sherlock
04.51 Tele: Totalement Diva
05.45 Serial: Seal Team
06.32 Film: Finding Forrester
09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible
09.45 Tele: Soleil Levant
10.35 Tele: Tant Amor
11.00 Serial: Chicago Med
12.00 Serial: Sherlock
13.30 Tele: Totalement Diva
14.23 Film: Finding Forrester
16.40 Serial: Mission: Impossible
17.23 Serial: Seal Team
18.05 Tele: Soleil Levant
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.08 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Beauty And The Beast
21.15 Film: A Midsummer's...
22.45 Tel: Totalement Diva

08.00 Film: 3 Bachelors
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 Ki
14.36 / 22.25 -
Ikyawann
15.20 Film: Sunday
Starring: Ajay Devgan, Arshad Warsi, Paresh Rawal, Ayesha Takia
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.52 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka
19.12 Mere Angne Mein



Jeudi 17 Dec

- 15.20

Stars: Ajay Devgan, Arshad Warsi, Paresh
Rawal, Ayesha Takia

Jeudi 17 Dec

- 20.20

Stars: Shahid Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha,
Sonu Sood

Breakfast With Bwana



Anil Madan

The Cleveland Indians (feather, not dot) are not really Indians. In some years, they are a baseball team. In other years, they pretend to be a baseball team.

Now, after years of protest from American Indian... er Native American... groups, the team has decided to stop calling itself the Indians. Well, as The New York Times reports, the name has been considered a racial slur. Well.

That's hard to fathom. After all, American Indians long ago stopped calling themselves "Indians" and chose to be known as Native Americans. Never mind that calling someone a "native" is considered a slur in other countries.

It seems to me that this change of identity frees up the term "Indian" and leaves it up for grabs. But why should one have to grab for that which one owns? I refer, of course, to the real Indians after whom the American Indians and eventually, the Cleveland Indians, were named. We all know that the confusion was originally the result of a failure of Christopher Columbus's GPS navigation system. The failure was that it had not yet been invented.

So, Chris thought he had reached southern Asian shores when he had actually reached the then nonexistent United States. You see, it is entirely possible to not use a nonexistent GPS system and not get to where you think you are going. Now do you understand why Donald Trump thinks that he did not lose the election and that he is soon going to be not the President?

But back to matters at hand. I suppose it would be too cute to rename the Cleveland team as the Cleveland Indians with an asterisk thus:

The Cleveland Indians*

(*formerly the Cleveland Native Americans).

I am fairly confident that Indian Americans (the dots, not feather) don't think it is racist to be called an Indian.

We all know that the football team in the nation's capital formerly known as the Washington Redskins is either in search of a new name or has hit on a great

Of Dots and Feathers



After years of protest from Native American groups, the Cleveland Indians team has decided to stop calling itself the Indians. The name has been considered a racial slur. Photo - Getty Images

marketing strategy by simply calling itself the Washington Football Team. That's about as non-partisan as it gets. I would have preferred that the team call itself the Washington Samosas or even the Washington Tikka Masala.

Anyhow, we have the Atlanta Braves, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the Chicago Blackhawks as candidates for real Indian names.

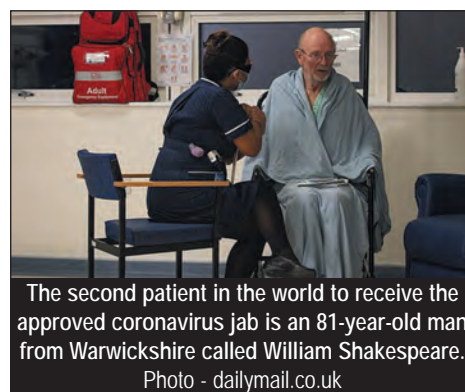
All of this brings to mind a story that has been going around.

Trump, Putin, and Xi ignored Modi who looked on while they argued about who is in charge of the world... the United States, Russia, or China? Exasperated at their inability to persuade each other, they finally turned to Modi and asked him, "Okay, so what do you say, who's in charge of the world?"

Modi replied, "All I know is

1. The CEO of Google is an Indian
2. The CEO of Microsoft is an Indian
3. The CEO of Adobe is an Indian
4. The CEO of NetApp is an Indian
5. The CEO of MasterCard is an Indian
6. The CEO of DBS is an Indian
7. The CEO of Novartis is an Indian
8. The CEO of Diageo is an Indian
9. The CEO of SanDisk is an Indian
10. The CEO of Harman International is an Indian
11. The CEO of Micron is an Indian
12. The CEO of Palo Alto Networks is an Indian
13. The CEO of Reckitt Benckiser is an Indian
14. IBM CEO is an Indian
15. Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer is an Indian
16. Britain's Home Secretary is an Indian
17. Ireland's Prime minister is an Indian

So, who's running the World?"



The second patient in the world to receive the approved coronavirus jab is an 81-year-old man from Warwickshire called William Shakespeare.

Photo - dailymail.co.uk

On a lighter note: British vaccine fallout

It all started when Margaret Keenan a 90-year-old woman from a little hamlet in England was the first person in the world to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. Well, she wasn't really the first-let us not forget the volunteers in the trials who received or didn't receive the hoped-for vaccine.

But details aside, Margaret Keenan received the first shot of the vaccine after it was given emergency authorization in the United Kingdom.

Evoking memories of D-Day, the British who have a penchant for that sort of thing immediately dubbed the start of the massive vaccination undertaking V-Day.

British hyperbole also led some to declare V-Day a great day for medical science and the future. In Britain, the quality of mercy is not strained and the second person to get the vaccination was none other than William Shakespeare. No, they didn't exhume Will for lack of willing Brits lining up for the shot.

The emergence of the bard's name-sake prompted quips. If Keenan was Subject 1A, was William Shakespeare Subject 2B ... or Not2B?

Shakespeare received his vaccination in Coventry, 20 miles removed from Stratford-Upon-Avon.

Twitter went ablaze with some referring to "The Taming of the Flu" and "The Two Gentlemen of Verona."

One Tiernan Douieb who describes himself as a comedian but sounds like a medication, quipped:

"Actually I heard the second person to get the vaccine was Christopher Marlowe but William Shakespeare took all the credit," an unkind allusion to the fake news theory that some of Shakespeare's plays were written by his contemporaries.

As might be expected from the limited character development that Twitter allows, some were content with the vapid observation "All's well that ends well".

A slightly more punny post came from one Twitterer: "I'm surprised they let William Shakespeare have the vaccine. I thought he was Bard." Also on Twitter, Amanda @Pandamoanimum quipped: "People are making a big thing about the second man to receive the Covid-19 vaccine being called William Shakespeare, but I think it's much ado about nothing."

Donald Trump weighed in as well. Miffed that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration appeared to be slacking in giving the vaccine emergency use authorization and that Boris Johnson had trumped him by making Britain the first country to approve a sort of Vaxit, he snorted: "I'm not happy with Boris. That was the most unkindest shot of all."

Picking lemons

Trump's immigration crackdown and the coronavirus pandemic have caused a severe labour shortage in the agricultural sector.

This is a heartwarming story of how Trump has successfully brought low paying jobs back.

Thanks to John S for this. - some editing by yours truly.

Sally Mulligan of Coral Springs, Florida, read an ad online for one of the jobs that most Americans are not willing to do and decided to apply. Desperate for work, and seeing this: 'ONLY U.S. CITIZENS OR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS NEED APPLY', she decided to give it a shot.

She submitted an application to a Florida lemon grove but seemed far too qualified for the job. She has a liberal arts degree from the University of Michigan, and a master's degree from Michigan State University.

For a number of years, she had worked as a social worker, and also as a school teacher. The foreman studied her application, frowned, and said, "I see you are well-educated and have an impressive resume. However, do you have any actual experience in picking lemons?"

"Well, as a matter of fact, I have," she said. "I've been divorced three times, owned two Chryslers, and voted for Trump."

She started work yesterday.