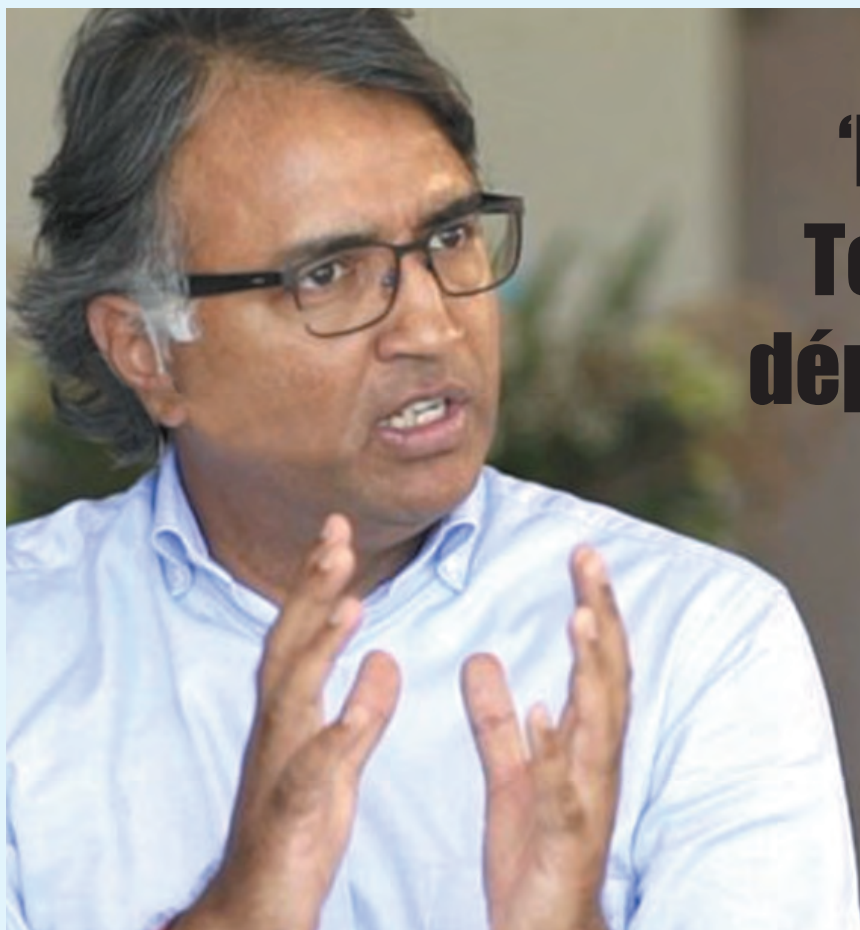


MAURITIUS TIMES

• "The question of questions for the politicians should ever be-What type of social structure am I tending to produce? But this is a question he never entertains." -- Herbert Spencer



Interview : Rabin Bhujun, Journaliste

'Ne soyons pas hypocrites. Tous les partis 'mainstream' dépassent allègrement le seuil autorisé par candidat'

'On ne se débarrassera pas si facilement de Ramgoolam. Il souffle d'ailleurs le chaud et le froid sur son retrait comme leader'

* Voir Pages 7-8-9

For some order out of the mess



At the end of the day, it always boils down to human behaviour. We are the ones who create our own mess

Dr R Neerunjun Gopee * See Page 3



There's no such thing as a free lunch... or a free shot

By Anil Madan * See Page 4

Trump: A Counterview

Par Nita Chicooree-Mercier * See Page 18

Electoral Supervision

The Electoral Supervisory Commission met last Friday to take cognizance of a request by 'Rezistans ek Alternativ' (ReA) made in a letter addressed to the Electoral Commissioner on 11 January 2021, wherein ReA referred to 'certain information in the public domain'. It called on the Electoral Commissioner (EC) and the Electoral Supervision Commission (ESC) to carry out an investigation and to determine whether any 'illegal practice' has been committed by any candidates in the last general elections, which might warrant a prosecution for an offence under the Representation of the People Act.

The Electoral Supervisory Commission recalls, in its response to ReA, as made public in a communiqué, that the functions of the Electoral Supervisory Commission/Electoral Commissioner, as set out in section 41 of the Constitution, do not extend to carrying out investigations into a suspected criminal offence of illegal practice nor to determine whether the facts might warrant a prosecution under the Act. In light of that limitation, the ESC has invited ReA, if it so wishes, to report such matters to the appropriate law enforcement and investigatory authorities, if it is of the opinion that the information relating to alleged electoral irregularities may have resulted in any breach of the provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

The ESC also recalls in its response to ReA its representations regarding electoral expenses made to the Sachs Commission on Constitutional Reform as far back as 2001. It adds that the Sachs Commission's recommendations, contained in paragraph 112 of its Report, that sought, amongst others, to empower the ESC to apply to the Court seeking annulment of the election of a candidate who has not adhered to the prescribed ceilings, have not been implemented.

The ESC also draws attention to the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Funding of Political Parties, in its report dated October 2004, which called for the revamping the Electoral Supervisory Commission, with a view to

- "receiving and making available for public inspection, disclosable donations, and annual accounts reported to the Electoral Supervisory Commission by registered political parties;
- "investigating the financial affairs of the political parties to ensure compliance with disclosure rules on party funding; and
- "receiving, scrutinizing and investigating accounts of general election expenditure by registered political parties and third parties."

These recommendations have also not been implemented. This should not come as a surprise. Objectively, it is generally known that most parties that have been in power have tended to have recourse to different forms of abuse to defeat their adversaries, as past electoral history would indicate. This is unfair and a heavy handicap for individual candidates or opposing parties which consequently need more resources to canvass their views. Several ruling alliances have in the past left no stone unturned to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat which, in their heart of hearts, they knew was certain, because of the numberless cases of protests, critical law and order situations, allegations of corruption at the highest rung of the ladder, and their failures to refrain from peopling the government with party loyalists, *transfuges*, ill-qualified advisers at the highest level and relatives. It is no wonder that there has been no attempt to reform the system and to empower the institutions that would have allowed them to perform the role for which they are meant – when the *status quo* clearly serves their interest.

At one time, the Indian Electoral Commission took the bull by the horns because it was then headed by a man who meant business. Politicians used to winning elections by capturing polling booths and by recourse to other corrupt practices till then had to reckon with this new force and there was a complete changeover in India on how elections would be conducted henceforth. Not only did the Electoral Commissioner TN Seshan get the compulsory use of the ID cards for voting established, the system even embarked on electronic voting later. It was an institution that knew what its mission was and was empowered to put matters right after decades of sloth and generalised anarchy.

More than ever, what with the delays and legal hurdles faced by unelected candidates who feel that there have been voting irregularities -- as evidenced by the cases entered after the last general election pending before the courts – bringing about the required reforms in our laws and/or Constitution to deal with these emerging challenges has become a matter of urgency. There is a restive generation coming up that will not be prepared to accept the status quo, which also results in contesting parties being shunted or shuttled from one institution to another thus further delaying determination of their cases – and of justice, which is therefore justice denied.

For how long? Indefinitely, as per existing procedures. Time to leap to a more effective and performing level that the contingencies are clamouring for.

The Conversation

What if the world was one country?

A psychologist on why we need to think beyond borders

"Research shows that when people feel insecure and anxious they become more concerned with identity values such as nationalism, status and success"

There are countless different species on the surface of this planet. One of these is the human race, which has over seven billion members. In one sense, there are no nations, just groups of humans inhabiting different areas of the planet. In some cases, there are natural borders formed by sea or mountains, but often borders between nations are simply abstractions, imaginary boundaries established by agreement or conflict.



What if we came together instead of pulling apart?
Photo - Pexels/Markus Spiske

Rusty Schweikhart, a member of the 1969 Apollo 9 space mission, explained how when he looked at the Earth from space, he experienced a profound shift in perspective. Like most of us, he was brought up to think in terms of countries with borders and different nationalities, but seeing the world from this new angle changed his view. He felt "part of everyone and everything". As he described it:

"You look down there and you can't imagine how many borders and boundaries you cross, again and again and again, and you don't even see them."

Schweikhart's perspective reminds us that we belong to the Earth rather than to a nation, and to a species rather than a nationality. And although we might feel distinct and different, we all have a common source. Our species originally developed in eastern Africa around 200,000 years ago and migrated out into the rest of the world in a series of waves. If there was an ancestry website that could trace our lineage back to the very beginning, we would find that we all have the same great-great (followed by many other "greats") grandparents.

How then do we explain nationalism? Why do humans separate themselves into groups and take on different national identities? Maybe different groups are helpful in terms of organisation, but that doesn't explain why we feel different. Or why different nations compete and fight with one another.

Steve Taylor, Senior Lecturer
in Psychology, Leeds Beckett University

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

For some order out of the mess

At the end of the day, it always boils down to human behaviour.

We are the ones who create our own mess

Just as we were looking forward to ending 2020 feeling relatively free from the year-long tension due to the Covid pandemic, 'the shit hit the ceiling fan' -- as the saying goes -- and muck started to spray all around, spoiling the social atmosphere. A succession of as yet unexplained deaths has led to revelations each one murkier than the other. The legal battles that have been initiated look set to be protracted. However, it is hoped that they will be shorter-lived -- that is, that the truth(s) be established as soon as possible -- and not drag on for an indeterminate period as seems likely to be the scenario for the pandemic, not expected by best estimates to be brought under control for at least a few years. Not to speak of economic recovery and the longer lag before our world gets back to another normal.

pop up on one's apps, and which one has to waste precious time in deleting every so often. What a pity that we have to continue to wallow in such dirt when instead we ought to have concentrated all our energies on dealing with the impacts of the pandemic in order to restore soundness and sanity in our lives, and prepare for a better future by dealing with the myriad problems affecting all the productive sectors concerning our health and livelihoods.

Bringing, in other words, some order out of the mess that we have found ourselves in, which is of course driven by nothing less than the basest of human instincts that we are capable of. That's why, when playing around in my mind with a title and a theme for this article, I found that 'mess' was more appropriate than 'chaos'. Because, in nature, even in chaos there is logic, as Nobel Laureate Ilya Prigogine and acclaimed philosopher Isabelle Stengers so beautifully demonstrated in their book 'Order Out of Chaos', described as 'a sweeping critique of the discordant landscape of modern scientific knowledge... an exciting and



“If only outgoing President Donald Trump had been as smart a politician as a businessman that he is supposed to be, he would have led by example in abiding by the rule of law and accepted defeat, agreed from the word go to exit gracefully from the White House, rallied his forces, analysed the causes of his losing the election, addressed the lacunae, and who knows that he would have roared back in 2024 by adding some more millions to the nearly 74 million that have voted for him in 2020 which was not a bad record after all...”

the poetic view of man’.

Let me emphasise once more that, alas, it is mess and not chaos that this write-up is about.

Yet, I must concede that there is some light at the end of the tunnel after all. There are two major events that are on the radar currently: first, the world's largest anti-Covid vaccine rollout taking place in India; second, the inauguration of Joe Poe Biden as President of the United States of America -- though, one wonders whether it should be the Dis-United States?, somewhat like reference was being made to the European Dis-Union or the Dis-United Kingdom when the full heat of exiting the EU was on. In both instances there are lessons that we can learn from.

As far as the rollout of vaccine in India is concerned, it has already achieved over 70% coverage out of the targeted 300,000 in three days (as of today), that is, 224,000, which is considered as very good by the authorities, since elsewhere the comparable figure has been around 50%. Importantly, there have been 447 adverse reactions reported (mild, moderate, severe). More noteworthy still is that only one person has had to be admitted with a severe reaction and is currently stable; two others didn't have to be admitted, and all the rest had only mild reactions (nausea, vomiting) which settled promptly.

One cannot go into details here, but suffice it to say that the Indian authorities have deployed their logistics with the same reputed effi-

ciency that obtains for the general elections organised by the Electoral Commission of India. In fact, a doctor intervening on the rollout did make reference to the Electoral Commission's model. From the factories to the State storage facilities, and distribution from there to the vaccination points with their personnel trained and geared up for both administering the doses, observing before allowing the subjects to go, and establishing the protocol for reporting and treating of adverse events -- every aspect has been worked out to the last and least detail.

India is using two vaccines produced locally: indigenously developed Covaxin from Bharat Biotech in Hyderabad in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and Covishield from the Serum Institute of India in Pune developed in partnership with AstraZeneca/Oxford, UK. Both of them have been approved for us by the regulatory authorities.

As happened in other countries, in India too there were some controversies raised, but as Dr Jacob John, former head of the Centre for Advanced Research in Virology at the Indian Council of Medical Research, underlined in an interview, 'The authorized regulator did not decide on its own... It asked a committee that had subject experts who sat long hours and discussed at length the date provided to them... The people sitting on these committees are not ignorant. They are taking a tough decision for the

whole country.'

The ignorant were the politicians indulging in vaccine politics, one of whom said that he will not take the 'BJP' vaccine', whereas the other did not trust the scientists and experts of his own country. That's why Rajiv Malhotra, founder of the Infinity Foundation, has to keep harping on the need to decolonize minds in India. Further comments are superfluous.

As regards the installation of Joe Biden, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a memorandum signed by its Chairman Mark A. Milley, General, U.S. Army, have undertaken that 'on January 20, 2021, in accordance with the Constitution, confirmed by the states and the courts, and certified by Congress, President-elect Biden will be inaugurated and will become our 46th Commander in Chief'.

They had 'witnessed actions inside the Capitol building that were inconsistent with the rule of law. The rights of freedom of speech and assembly do not give anyone the right to resort to violence, sedition and insurrection.

'As Service Members, we must embody the values and ideals of the Nation. We support and defend the Constitution. Any act to disrupt the Constitutional process is not only against our traditions, values, and oath; it is against the law.'

If only outgoing President Donald Trump had been as smart a politician as a businessman that he is supposed to be, he would have led by example in abiding by the rule of law and accepted defeat, agreed from the word go to exit gracefully from the White House, rallied his forces, analysed the causes of his losing the election, addressed the lacunae, and who knows that he would have roared back in 2024 by adding some more millions to the nearly 74 million that have voted for him in 2020 -- which was not a bad record after all.

But by his behaviour he messed up his chances to ever become the President of the US again.

When the new Covid variant was discovered and found to be more infectious, this is what I read in a US newspaper: '**Human behavior drives transmission.** Even without the new variant, *the biggest variable driving contagion is human behavior.*' (italics added)

At the end of the day, it always boils down to human behaviour. We are the ones who create our own mess.



“The Indian authorities have deployed their logistics with the same reputed efficiency that obtains for the general elections organised by the Electoral Commission of India. In fact, a doctor intervening on the rollout did make reference to the Electoral Commission's model. From the factories to the State storage facilities, and distribution from there to the vaccination points with their personnel trained and geared up for both administering the doses, observing before allowing the subjects to go, and establishing the protocol for reporting and treating of adverse events -- every aspect has been worked out to the last and least detail...”

Point is, ever since these 'affairs' erupted on the local scene, social media is full of all the sordid details of the goings-on on a 24/7 basis. There is news reporting to keep people abreast of the relevant information that will help them follow developments in the cases, but no one can deny that there is a surfeit of all kinds of unwarranted comments and speculations which

accessible account of the philosophical implications of thermodynamics... Prigogine and Stengers bring contradictory philosophies of time and chance into a novel and ambitious synthesis'. And a reviewer to extol it as 'an ambitious book which suggests that a new picture of the universe is emerging from the study of thermodynamics, and that this picture will heal the breach between the scientific and



Anil Madan

There's no such thing as a free lunch... or a free shot



Two doses more than doubles the logistical challenges of administering the vaccines. Photo - AP

The op-ed in *The Washington Post* appeared on January 3, suggesting that we skip the second shot or "chaser" of the Covid-19 mRNA vaccine until more supplies become available. Specifically, the authors Robert M. Wachter & Ashish K Jha wrote: "It's time to change the plan; namely, we should give people a single vaccination now and defer their second shot until more doses of vaccine become available."

Wachter is chair of the department of medicine at the University of California at San Francisco. Ashish K. Jha is dean of the Brown University School of Public Health. High positions, to be sure. But should we take this advice seriously? It appears that President-elect Biden has decided to release all available supplies of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and not hold back enough for the "chaser" shot that has been shown to have 94% and 95% efficacy.

I've thought for a long time that Ashish Jha loves to be on TV. He seems to get a little glow on his face - almost as if he's been nominated Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer.

Well, I wonder if Dr Fauci appreciates that Dr Jha may be trying to usurp his position as the Dean of Vaccines at the head of the Covid Sleight. Oh, deer!

Dr Jha is not an epidemiologist or virologist. He is described as an internist and academician in a Twitter profile. He has written articles on such varied subjects as Use of electronic health records in US hospitals, Health care spending in the United States and other high-income countries, Clinical supply shortages (this one about ventilators and PPE), Patients' perception of hospital care in the US, and so on. You get the idea. For all his appearances on TV as an expert, he has no expertise in virology or immunology. Dr Wachter coined the term "Hospitalist" and is often considered the father of the hospitalist field according to a publicity blurb on the UCSF medicine website.

The problem that I see with all this rambling from so-called experts is that they really don't know what they are talking about, but this doesn't stop them. Pfizer and Moderna must have some reason for requiring two shots even if the original reason was nothing more than a modern adaptation of The Shampoo Algorithm - Lather, Rinse, Repeat. (I have read that Benjamin Cheever's novel *The Plagiarist*, features a marketing executive who comes up with that direction to increase the usage and hence resultant sales of shampoo but I've also read that this actually happened, perhaps at the facilities of the maker of Breck shampoo).

But don't take my word on this. Here is what Dr Lewis Jacobson, Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences University of Pittsburgh wrote:

"The problem now is that if we don't give the second shot, the primary response fades in (usually) days to weeks. In the recent Pfizer and Moderna clinical trials, the second shot was given 3-4 weeks after the first, so any data on efficacy *between* shots tell us only efficacy at the narrow peak of the first wave of immunity. We know almost nothing about what will happen if people don't get the second shot. They may remain effectively immune for years (like chicken pox or tetanus), or they may become susceptible again in weeks. It probably won't be fully effective immunity.

"And that brings us to the *behavioural* hazard. People who have had their *one* (recommended!) shot will now behave as

if they're immune, and will be at higher risk for infection and transmission. We can't fix this by telling them their first shot is ineffective, because that will sabotage the entire vaccination push."

Anyhow, a more sensible discussion of vaccination logistics is that we will likely

"The problem now is that if we don't give the second shot, the primary response fades in (usually) days to weeks. In the recent Pfizer and Moderna clinical trials, the second shot was given 3-4 weeks after the first, so any data on efficacy *between* shots tell us only efficacy at the narrow peak of the first wave of immunity. We know almost nothing about what will happen if people don't get the second shot. They may remain effectively immune for years (like chicken pox or tetanus), or they may become susceptible again in weeks. It probably won't be fully effective immunity..."

-- Dr Lewis Jacobson, Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences University of Pittsburgh

have to find a way to administer the shots outside a hospital setting as hospital workers at all levels, are stretched thin and stressed.

Then there are the logistics involved. You have to maintain social distancing of six feet between the targets (okay, okay, I know we shouldn't call people getting shots "targets" - I wonder if Target, the Department Store calls its customers targets?). That seems somehow illogical because once you've been targeted, you start developing immunity. But, of course, it takes time.

That's not all. You also have to keep each target who has been "acquired" i.e.

jabbed, hanging around for fifteen to thirty minutes while waiting to see if there is a possible anaphylactic or other reaction. Meanwhile, the suckers... er targets... are spewing aerosolized breath even if only under their masks.

That's a formidable challenge. It's going to take a long, long time to vaccinate everyone.

Let us keep in mind the foundation on which these new approaches rest. Dr Anthony Fauci, who has been recruited as a key adviser to the Biden Administration that will take charge soon, asserted that there's no plan to abandon the two-shot regimen. The Biden team is "not talking about withholding and not giving the second dose," he said. "They are completely committed to giving the second dose on time. They feel that the importance of getting as many people as possible is worth the risk."

Media sources, including National Public Radio report that the Biden team is hopeful companies will be able to manufacture more doses quickly: "We have faith that the manufacturers can produce enough vaccines to ensure people can get their second doses in a timely manner, while also getting more people their first dose," Biden's incoming press secretary Jen Psaki said in a recent briefing. "The President-elect has said he will use the Defense Production Act as needed to help produce materials and whatever else is needed to ensure supply."

So, the Biden administration thinks it's worth taking the risk according to Dr Fauci. I suppose if you have the blessing of the nation's top epidemiologist on matters of risk, you can justify anything.

What's surprising to me is that they didn't make an epi-Pen like device for self-vaccination and sell it along with a second epi-Pen (the real kind, the price of which Senator Joe Manchin's daughter raised to over \$600 or so) in case of an allergic reaction.

Remember that these are the same people who told us that a three-week lockdown would stop the spread of the virus.

Free enterprise. Just tells you there's no such thing as a free lunch or a free shot.

Cheerz...
Bwana



The legislation will pave the path for around 11 million illegal immigrants to get US citizenship. Photo - NY Times

Joe Biden to introduce immediate legislation to legalise 11 million illegal immigrants

One of the first rounds of business for US President-elect Joe Biden will be to introduce a legislation which will legalise 11 million illegal immigrants in the US by reversing various Trump era policies, One America News Network has reported.

Biden is expected to usher in the legislation immediately after assuming office on Friday (22 January). He is expected to send the same to the US Congress for approval on his first day.

As per an Associated Press report, this legislation will pave the path for around 11 million illegal immigrants to get US citizenship. This was part of a slew of electoral promises made by Biden during his presidential run. If implemented this will be the first time when the US will provide such largescale citizenship to illegals after 1986 when the then President Ronald Reagan had provided an amnesty for 3 million illegals.

This potential move by the Biden administration will be in sharp contrast to the policies advocated by US President Donald Trump who is said to have toughened border security and made asylum seeking harder, citing national security.

A coronavirus patient admitted to hospital every 30 seconds in UK

A coronavirus patient is admitted to hospital every 30 seconds in the UK as the pandemic continues to grip the NHS, the health service's chief executive warned yesterday. Sir Simon Stevens said the NHS was in a perilous situation with 15,000 more inpatients than there had been on Christmas Day.

Hospitals across the country have been told to brace for a peak in cases in the coming weeks, with many intensive care units already short on beds, reports The Independent. But he also offered some hope, revealing that the vaccination programme was delivering 140 jabs per minute, while Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the government aimed to offer a first vaccination to the entire adult population by September.

On the other hand, the coronavirus crisis overwhelming the NHS has caused waiting lists for routine treatment to surge to the highest levels ever recorded, figures released last Thursday showed. More than 4.5 million people are currently on the health service waiting list, while almost 200,000 have been left waiting more than a year for treatment - a figure that stood at just 1,163 less than a year ago.

As hospitals are forced to free up intensive care beds for Covid-19 patients, hundreds of cancer operations have been cancelled across London with thousands waiting over the NHS target of 62 days for urgent treatment.

Professor Neil Mortensen, president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, said: "A huge, hidden waiting list is building up under lockdown. When we eventually emerge from this crisis, we will need sustained investment to treat all

those who have been waiting patiently for treatment."

Russian opposition leader and Vladimir Putin critic Alexei Navalny has been detained by police after returning to Moscow, five months after a near-fatal nerve agent attack. Footage showed Mr Navalny, 44, being met by police officers at passport control minutes after landing in the Russian capital. A statement from

August after collapsing on an internal flight in Siberia. Several European laboratories later determined he had been poisoned by a nerve agent of the Novichok class, used in previous attacks linked with the Russian state.

The Office for National Statistics has said the UK economy shrank by 2.6 per cent in November. This came following increase of 0.6 per cent in October and previous sixth consecu-



Ambulance staff 'at breaking point' as new Covid patients admitted to hospitals. Photo - The Independent

the state penitentiary service later confirmed Mr Navalny had been detained "pending a court hearing on 29 January".

A few moments before his arrest, Mr Navalny answered questions in front of a backdrop showing the red towers of the Kremlin. "This is the best day of the last five months," he said. "I'm not afraid, because I know I'm right. I'm not afraid of anything."

Sunday was the first time the Putin critic had set foot on Russian soil since being flown to Germany for emergency medical treatment in

five months of growth. This is the first drop since April, at the start of the pandemic. Andrew Bailey, governor of the Bank of England, warned that the UK economy is facing its "darkest hour" following a split among policy-makers about whether interest rates should be slashed below zero, to help economic growth. The latest figures was ahead of predictions of a 4.6 per cent decline for November but economists have warned that the UK could face a double dip recession if the current lockdown continues for any length of time.

Seychelles re-opens to any tourist who has received the Covid-19 vaccine

The traveller must also produce a negative PCR test taken within the prior 72 hours (Marco Verch, Flickr) Photo License: CC BY 2.0

Seychelles last Thursday re-opened its doors to visitors from anywhere in the world as long as they have taken both doses of the Covid-19 vaccination, said a top tourism official.

In addition to the vaccine, the traveller must also produce a negative PCR test taken within the prior 72 hours, the Minister for Tourism Sylvestre Radegonde told a press conference, reports Seychelles News Agency.

Tourists to the island nation must provide proof of the vaccination through an authenticate certificate. With all these, in order, the visitor will not need to go into quarantine upon arrival in the 115-island Indian Ocean archipelago.



Seychelles declared ready to re-welcome tourists. Photo- Google

"We hope that this will open up the tourism industry for the locals primarily for the small hotels who are struggling on La Digue, Praslin and also on Mahe. And also provide the kick that our economy desperately needs," explained Radegonde.

By mid-March visitors to the islands will only need to produce a negative PCR test as the country would have vaccinated 70 percent of its local population, achieving herd immunity.

As of Thursday, nearly 2000 vaccina-

tions had been administered since the programme rolled out five days ago.

According to the head of the National Technical Working Group for Covid-19 vaccination, Kathleen Cecile, the programme started slow, but by Wednesday 938 individuals took the vaccine, bringing the campaign close to its target of 1,000 doses per day.

Cecile said to date there have been no reports of serious adverse side effects on any person.

The Sinopharm vaccine is being given to 18-year-olds up to 60-year-olds in the island nation. There are all told 50,000 doses of the vaccines donated by the United Arab Emirates government which will cover 25,000 individuals in Seychelles.

* More on Page 6

Coronavirus: India launches massive vaccination drive



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the "world's largest" vaccination drive on Saturday campaign in a video address to the nation, starting with healthcare and frontline workers. The government has defended the Indian-made Covaxin jab.

"Normally, it takes many years to make a vaccine but in such a short span of time, not one, but two 'Made in India' vaccines are ready," Modi said in a livestreamed speech. Earlier, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan tweeted he would be joining the prime minister, doctors, and potential vaccine beneficiaries at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences

(AIIMS), New Delhi for the launch.

What is the plan?

Around 30 million healthcare and designated frontline workers, such as sanitation and security workers, will be the first to receive the vaccine. The next in line are Indians above the age of 50, or those considered as high-risk individuals due to pre-existing medical conditions.

"This vaccination program is based on the principles of priority groups to be vaccinated and healthcare workers, both in government and private sectors including ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) workers, will receive the

vaccine during this phase," the government said in a press release.

India plans to vaccinate around 300 million people with two doses in the next six to eight months. Modi himself was not due to be getting vaccinated on Saturday, and has stated that politicians will not be considered in the priority category.

What are the major hurdles?

Logistics for the vaccination drive were worked out during several trial runs conducted by government staff throughout the country.

The vaccines need to be stored at low temperatures at all times, which will be more challenging as the summer months are approaching. India has readied cooling apparatus for storage, including 45,000 ice-lined refrigerators, 41,000 deep freezers and 300 solar refrigerators.

The prime minister was also expected to launch Co-WIN, an online digital platform to track vaccines, storage, and individuals who have received the vaccine, as a tool for program managers who are conducting vaccination sessions.

Indians will be receiving either Oxford University/AstraZeneca's Covishield vaccine or Indian pharmaceutical company Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

Egypt unveils ancient treasures that "rewrite history"

Egypt on Sunday unveiled ancient treasures found at the Saqqara archaeological site near Cairo, including sarcophagi over 3000 years old, a discovery that "rewrites history", according to famed Egyptologist Zahi Hawass.

Saqqara is a vast necropolis of the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site home to more than a dozen pyramids, ancient monasteries, and animal burial sites.



Workers excavate a site at Egypt's Saqqara necropolis south of Cairo. Photo - c.ndtvimg.com

A team headed by Hawass made the finds near the pyramid of King Teti, the first pharaoh of the Sixth Dynasty of the Old Kingdom, reports AFP.

More than 50 wooden sarcophagi dating to the New Kingdom (16th century BC to 11th century BC) were found in a burial shaft, Hawass told AFP on Sunday.

"This discovery re-writes the history of Saqqara and more specifically the history of the New Kingdom, which began 3000 years ago," he said.

Hawass said his team had discovered a total of 22 shafts, including one containing a "soldier, with his battle axe resting beside him".

A stone sarcophagus was also found, he added, as well as "a papyrus around five metres long containing the 17th chapter of the book of the dead... masks, wooden boats, games the ancient Egyptians used to play".

"It is a rare and new discovery because most of the artefacts we found are dated back to the New Kingdom, whereas in Saqqara, it's usually more around 500 BC," he added.

A number of objects were displayed to the press on Sunday, while excavations of the site are ongoing.

"Seventy percent (of the new area) is still to be explored," he added.

Egypt's tourism and antiquities ministry had announced Saturday "major discoveries" at Saqqara, where there has been a flurry of excavations in recent years.

The ministry said the team had also discovered the "funerary temple of Queen Nearit, the wife of King Teti".

The Saqqara site is also home to the step pyramid of Djoser, one of the earliest built in ancient Egypt.

Later this year, and after several delays, authorities hope to inaugurate a new museum -- the Grand Egyptian Museum -- at the Giza plateau, home to the famed Giza pyramids.

Egypt hopes archaeological discoveries will spur tourism, a sector which has suffered multiple shocks, from a 2011 uprising to today's coronavirus pandemic.

Britain to host first G7 summit of Biden era in June

Britain will host a G7 summit in June, the government said Friday, announcing what will be the first face-to-face meeting of the group since the start of Joe Biden's US presidency.

Outgoing US President Donald Trump was forced to cancel last year's meeting of the G7 -- the world's most advanced economies -- due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Individual leaders have yet to confirm their attendance, but the summit is scheduled to take place on June 11-13 in Carbis Bay, a coastal town in Cornwall, south-west England.

The global response to Covid-19 and climate change are expected to rank high on the agenda at the group's first in-person meeting in nearly two years, reports AFP.

"As the most prominent grouping of democratic countries, the G7 has long been the catalyst for decisive international action to tackle the greatest challenges we face," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a statement.

"Coronavirus is doubtless the most destructive force we have seen for generations," he added, saying it was "only right that we approach the challenge of building back better by uniting with a spirit of openness to create a better future".

Leaders and ministers from the seven nations -- Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States -- have met virtually in recent months.

Johnson's office said he would use the summit to promote a green recovery from the pandemic, encouraging G7 members to unite to "make the future fairer, greener



Britain to host first G7 Summit of Biden era in June. Photo - c.ndtvimg.com

and more prosperous".

Britain, which holds the rotating presidency of the G7 in 2021, has invited leaders from Australia, India and South Korea to attend as guest countries.

Britain also takes over the presidency of the UN Security Council in February, and Johnson has signalled he is seeking to boost the UK's international presence as it embarks on a new path post-Brexit.

Britain definitively ended its 40-year membership of the European Union in December.

'Ne soyons pas hypocrites.'

Tous les partis mainstream dépassent allègrement le seuil autorisé par candidat'

Face au matraquage médiatique en lien avec les affaires Kistnen, et les déclarations des 'Avengers' et de l'opposition, l'atmosphère n'est pas à la détente. D'ailleurs, le ministre mentor lui-même est sorti de l'ombre pour passer sur les ondes. Toutefois, si cela faisait partie d'un exercice de communication, alors certains parlent de mauvaise stratégie ou de stratégie incompréhensible. En parallèle, les informations sont inquiétantes à propos de nos institutions régies par des règlements archaïques, démodés et inadaptés dans le monde contemporain. Rabin Bhujun nous donne son avis.

Mauritius Times: 'Nous ne sommes plus au bord du précipice, mais bien au fond de l'abîme,' a déclaré Antoine Domingue dans une interview accordée à *Défi Plus* récemment. On ne sait pas si c'est aussi le sentiment - à la fois de colère mais aussi d'impuissance - partagé par la grande majorité des Mauriciens, devant l'étalage des détails par rapport à toutes ces affaires de contrats, de mort d'hommes dans des circonstances mystérieuses qui ont dominé l'actualité depuis quelques temps. Qu'en pensez-vous ?

Rabin Bhujun: Me Domingue va peut-être vite en besogne. C'est presque encourageant d'entendre qu'on a touché le fond car on ne peut alors qu'espérer remonter. Mais ne sous-estimons pas la capacité de ceux qui ont le destin du pays en main. Ne sous-estimons pas leur capacité à faire pire. C'est ce qui se passe quand on s'enivre d'un cocktail d'arrogance, d'inafaillibilité et de cynisme électoral. Quand on transcrit, dans le contexte mauricien, la politique pratiquée par Trump: *'Us and our people against them'*.

Il y a, en effet, un climat d'inquiétude - une absence de sérénité - qui s'installe durablement. L'économie tourne au ralenti ; les Mauriciens devinent - sans mettre des mots sur ce sentiment - que 2021 ne sera probablement pas bien meilleure que 2020. J'ai un tel sentiment pour la première fois : il ne fait pas bon vivre à Maurice ces temps-ci. L'herbe n'est pas plus verte ailleurs, je l'admets aussi volontiers.

*** La démarche de l'ancien Premier ministre, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, de sortir de son mutisme pour défendre le gouvernement dirigé par Pravind Jugnauth et le ministre Sawmynaden, dans une interview accordée au Défi Quotidien et à la MBC, traduit un sentiment d'inquiétude au sein du pouvoir. Pensez-vous qu'on est arrivé au point où le cours des événements commence à échapper au contrôle du Gouver-**

“On sait que le MMM - et Bérenger lui-même - ne veut pas que Ramgoolam soit présenté comme le Premier ministre de l'alliance de l'opposition. On comprend donc que les mauves souhaitent que cet élément du package électoral soit acquis et annoncé publiquement avant de jeter tout leur poids derrière cette alliance. Mais je soupçonne qu'on ne se débarrassera pas si facilement de Ramgoolam...”

“Bruneau Laurette apparaît plutôt comme un donneur de voix professionnel maintenant ; c'est l'insoumis de service face aux dérives réelles du pouvoir. C'est sympathique. C'est romantique. Mais c'est un peu court. Et certainement pas révolutionnaire! Il y a aussi son attitude. Déjà en août, il n'avait pas apprécié que l'Eglise maintienne un évènement - prévu de longue date - le jour de la marche. Il avait obtenu qu'on le décale. Depuis, j'ai l'impression que Laurette, selon notre expression locale, inn gagn grandeur lakour...”

nement ?

Vous parlez de "démarche" de SAJ, mais rien ne dit que l'initiative a été la sienne. Depuis la campagne des législatives de 2019, l'ancien Premier ministre est une sorte d'accessoire soigneusement rangé ; qu'on sort dans un seul but: Tenir un discours balisé sur un ton particulier dans l'optique de rassurer ou de galvaniser une partie de la population.

Or, qu'a-t-on retenu de la sortie média-



tique de SAJ? D'abord, l'impression qu'il accourt au secours de son fils. Que dirait-on des qualités de leader de *Solskjær* s'il demandait à Ferguson de répondre à sa place à la suite de plusieurs mauvais matchs de Manchester United? Ensuite, dans sa forme, l'exercice n'a rien de spontané, l'ancien patron du MSM se forçant à lire péniblement un script qu'on lui a probablement demandé de suivre à la lettre. Enfin, sur le fond, SAJ nous sert du sous-SAJ. Diminué, le vieux roublard manque de panache, a perdu son sens de la répartie. S'il se voulait persuasif, l'ancien mentor n'a séduit que ceux qui étaient déjà convaincus. Autant dire donc que l'exercice est raté.

Pour en revenir à votre question, j'ai l'impression que ceux qui conseillent le Premier ministre sont surtout mal inspirés. S'ils ont estimé, avec raison, que le mood dans le pays se détériore, le *PR Stunt* auquel ils ont eu recours a été particulièrement mal pensé. Depuis peu, l'équipe de communicants du Premier ministre reçoit l'aide de personnes qui défendent d'habitude, dit-on, l'intérêt de gros clients du privé. Malgré l'apport de cette perspective externe, on nous a servi la soupe indigeste habituelle.

*** Toutefois, Sir Anerood Jugnauth a raison sur un point : le droit de tout citoyen, y compris du ministre Sawmynaden à la présomption d'innocence jusqu'à ce que leur culpabilité soit prouvée. Il n'existe, à ce stade, aucune preuve confirmée et suffisante pour écarter la présomption d'innocence, non ?**

Quand j'ai écouté ce propos de SAJ, je n'ai pu m'empêcher de penser à Ivan Collendavelloo. L'ancien numéro deux du Gouvernement a dû apprécier l'ironie de l'attachement de l'ancien ministre Mentor à la présomption d'innocence. Aucune charge provisoire ni formelle ne pèse contre Yogida Sawmynaden. C'est aussi le cas pour Ivan Collendavelloo dans l'affaire Burmeister & Wain. Néanmoins, le colistier du Premier ministre reste en place alors que le partenaire d'alliance de Jugnauth a été forcé de démissionner. Pourquoi deux poids deux mesures ? Est-ce parce que Sawmynaden est un ami et un allié indispensable ? Ou alors est-ce que l'affaire Burmeister & Wain était une aubaine à saisir pour mettre Collendavelloo à l'écart ?

*** Suite en page 8**

'Sawmynaden reste en place alors que Collendavelloo a été forcé de démissionner.

Pourquoi deux poids deux mesures? Est-ce parce que Sawmynaden est un ami et un allié indispensable?'



* Suite de la page 7

Pour ce qui est de la présomption d'innocence, vous avez raison, dans un Etat de droit, tout le monde y a droit. Même la personne accusée du crime le plus atroce. Toutefois, l'affaire de l'emploi fictif m'interpelle. Le fait que la mort suspecte de Soopramanien Kistnen ait été traitée avec tant de légèreté par la police suscite aussi des interrogations légitimes. Mais je ne cède pas non plus à la tentation de lier une demi-douzaine de décès à une conspiration tentaculaire sur fond politique.

* **Quelle opinion faites-vous, en tant qu'ancien journaliste, de la couverture et des enquêtes menées par la presse sur l'affaire Kistnen et aussi sur l'implication 'pro bono' des avocats dits 'Avengers' dans cette affaire?** Antoine Domingue disait dans l'interview de *Défi Plus* qu'un avocat ne devrait outrepasser son mandat d'avocat... on ne peut pas utiliser les intérêts d'une cliente pour promouvoir ses visées 'politiques'...

Même si mon activité principale est désormais le conseil aux chefs d'entreprise et le *media training*, j'écris de temps à autre pour des journaux étrangers. Je resterai toujours journaliste dans l'âme.

Commençons par la presse. Les journalistes sont dans leur droit et ils obéissent à leur obligation professionnelle en enquêtant sur les différents aspects de cette affaire. Elle est d'intérêt public. Toutefois, ils sont aussi tenus à un certain équilibre dans leur approche. Or, deux choses

“Par enchantement, les rubriques "confidentielles" parlent désormais toutes d'un poulain du leader des rouges. C'est étonnant que la relève semble ainsi servie sur un plateau alors que le MMM ne veut pas entendre parler de Ramgoolam comme futur Premier ministre en cas de victoire. Cela ne m'étonnerait pas qu'on utilise un poulain comme un appât dans une pêche au requin. Histoire de donner à croire que le changement s'effectuera...”

m'inquiètent dans la couverture médiatique.

D'une part, l'affaire semble tranchée pour un certain nombre de médias qui présentent les arguments presque exclusivement dans une perspective à charge. D'autre part, ces médias sont nourris au biberon par les avocats dont nous parlons. Alors que le journaliste a pour obligation de prendre du recul par rapport à ses sources. De questionner leur motivation. De flairer et d'éviter toute tentative de manipulation. Est-ce que les "enquêteurs" de la presse prennent suffisamment de précautions dans ce sens? On peut en

douter, vu la relation quasi servile qu'ils entretiennent avec certaines sources et qu'ils ont volontiers accepté de transformer en super héros en les appelant les "Avengers" dans leurs reportages et comptes-rendus.

Nous n'avons, toutefois, pas affaire à des super héros, mais bien à des humains très faillibles qui faisaient avant-hier des baisemains à leur leader et espéraient hier être repêchés par le pouvoir en place. D'autres critiquent aujourd'hui ceux qu'ils auraient continué à encenser s'ils avaient obtenu une investiture lors des dernières législatives. Quelques-uns sont peut-être frustrés de ne pas avoir été dûment reconnus et récompensés pour services rendus lors de la campagne électorale de 2019. Ne parlons pas de celui qui fait désormais l'acteur-clown dans une vidéo qui circule sur WhatsApp. Je me demande ce que le Bar Council pense de cela !

Les motivations politiques sont omniprésentes au sein de ce groupe d'avocats. Néanmoins, le travail qu'ils abattent demeure utile : aider la justice à établir la vérité sur ce qui s'est passé dans les affaires Kistnen est une mission d'intérêt public. Il faut juste ne jamais voir en eux des super héros désintéressés. Ils sont des politiciens avant tout... dans certains cas, de piètres politiciens, d'ailleurs.

* **Il n'y a pas que l'affaire de meurtre de Soopramanien Kistnen, il y a aussi l'affaire encore plus grave des 'Kistnen Papers' qui feraient état des dépenses électorales des élus au No. 8 en novembre 2019, documents authentifiés par un certain "Jules". Le Commissaire électoral aurait déclaré au dirigeant de *Rezistans ek Alternativ* que "la loi là pas bon !", et la *Electoral Supervisory Commission*, de son côté, a demandé à la police d'enquêter sur les allégations de pratiques électorales illégales. Attendez-vous à ce que la police fasse diligence?**

Le Commissaire électoral a offert ce qu'on pourrait appeler une *token victory* à *Rezistans ek Alternativ* (ReA). Or, le Commissaire électoral ou l'ESC auraient tout à fait pu renvoyer ReA à la police en leur demandant d'aller consigner une plainte en bonne et due forme car, aux termes de la 'Representation of the People Act' (RPA), ni l'un ni l'autre n'a la capacité d'agir dans ce cas de figure.

Dans le sillage des "Kistnen Papers", de nouvelles critiques ont plu à l'égard de l'ESC et de la Commission électorale. Quelque part, c'est parce qu'on connaît

mal la RPA et le *First Schedule* de notre Constitution. Mais il y a pire: ce procès permanent qu'on intente - pour des raisons basement politiciennes - à ces deux institutions depuis les dernières législatives.

Le dégât est déjà fait et il est durable. On ne se permettrait pas de critiquer un juge ou la Cour suprême sur le ton qu'on utilise envers le Commissaire électoral car le délit d'outrage à la Cour existe. D'une certaine manière toutefois, la Commission électorale est une institution aussi importante que nos tribunaux; étant responsable d'un pan crucial de notre vie démocratique : l'organisation des élections. Elle fait désormais l'objet de critiques intempestives et une partie des Mauriciens commence à penser qu'elles sont toutes justifiées.

Oui, il y a eu des couacs lors des dernières législatives: deux bulletins de vote se sont retrouvés dans la nature, des Mauriciens ont découvert qu'ils ne sont pas sur la liste électorale alors qu'ils avaient voté précédemment. Le système peut être amélioré mais la Commission électorale a l'obligation d'opérer dans un cadre juridique dépassé et archaïque. Irfan Rahman a donc raison de laisser entendre que notre loi électorale est dépassée. Ce n'est pas la première fois qu'il dit cela. Ceux qui lisent le rapport Sachs se rendront d'ailleurs compte qu'on répète la même chose depuis 19 ans!

* **Revenons à l'enquête policière...**

La police demandera sans doute à ReA de porter plainte en bonne et due forme, de soutenir ses dires par des éléments de preuve. ReA se base pour l'heure sur des photocopies d'un carnet de comptes. Il faut encore trouver l'original; en certifier l'origine et l'authenticité puis établir avec précision quelles dépenses ont été effectuées durant la campagne électorale du MSM à Moka/Quartier-Militaire en 2019; par qui et pour qui. Ce n'est pas une enquête aussi simple qu'on ne le pense. Les enquêteurs seraient-ils disposés à se tuer à la tâche...?

Pour conclure sur les dépenses électorales, ne soyons pas hypocrites. Tous les partis *mainstream* dépassent allègrement le seuil autorisé par candidat. Les leaders politiques l'admettent volontiers en privé, voire *on record*, comme Ramgoolam lors d'un entretien qu'il m'avait accordé en 2015. Mais ils sont incapables de s'entendre pour faire évoluer le cadre légal régissant le financement des partis politiques et les dépenses électorales.

* Suite en page 9

'On ne se débarrassera pas si facilement de Ramgoolam.

Il souffle d'ailleurs le chaud et le froid sur son retrait comme leader'

* Suite de la page 8

* Il n'y a pas que l'affaire Kistnen qui nous l'a démontré, cela dure depuis des mois déjà : le temps que certaines institutions ou départements au sein de ces institutions, censées appliquer les lois, pour mener certaines enquêtes considérées délicates, paraît-il - et poursuivre celles-ci 'to their logical conclusion'... Comment réagissez-vous à cela ?

Si vous faites allusion à la Commission anticorruption, je partage votre ressenti, qui est aussi celui du grand public. L'institution a été démonétisée et transformée en un outil politique sous les gouvernements successifs de Ramgoolam et des deux Jugnauth. On a comme l'impression que les intérêts de l'ICAC et ceux du pouvoir sont alignés. Dans le cas du Commissaire électoral, nous avons la bonne personne à la tête d'une institution opérant dans un cadre juridique dépassé. Pour l'ICAC, le cadre juridique est plutôt bon, mais l'institution est incapable d'incarner une image d'impartialité. Pour certains, c'est néanmoins un certificat de compétence, qui ouvre peut-être même droit à un renouvellement de contrat !

* Par ailleurs, si l'opposition a été plus discrète et même plus mesurée dans ses interventions par rapport aux affaires Kistnen, on a vu Bruneau Laurette encore une fois, après quelques mois d'hibernation depuis ses rassemblements à Port Louis et à Mahebourg, au-devant des attroupements devant le tribunal de district de Port Louis lors des comparutions du ministre Sawmynaden. Quelle analyse faites-vous de l'agenda de M. Laurette ?

Quelques jours après la manifestation monstre du 29 août 2020, je posais la question du "What next ?" du mouvement de Bruneau Laurette, quitte à passer pour un rabat-joie dans le climat d'excitation et d'espoir d'alors. J'attends toujours de comprendre ce que cette saute d'humeur collective a accouché en termes d'initiatives et d'organisation cohérentes.

Bruneau Laurette apparaît plutôt comme un donneur de voix professionnel maintenant ; c'est l'insoumis de service face aux dérives réelles du pouvoir. C'est sympathique. C'est romantique. Mais c'est un peu court. Et certainement pas révolutionnaire ! Il y a aussi son attitude. Déjà en août, il n'avait pas apprécié que l'Eglise maintienne un événement - prévu de longue date - le jour de la marche. Il avait obtenu qu'on le décale. Depuis, j'ai l'impression que Laurette, selon notre expression locale, *inn gagn grander lakour*, croyant, par exemple, qu'il pourrait faire de la Cathédrale St Louis - pas que du parvis apparemment - une succursale



“Les motivations politiques sont omniprésentes au sein de ce groupe d'avocats d'Avengers. Néanmoins, le travail qu'ils abattent demeure utile : aider la justice à établir la vérité sur ce qui s'est passé dans les affaires Kistnen est une mission d'intérêt public. Il faut juste ne jamais voir en eux des super héros désintéressés. Ils sont des politiciens avant tout... dans certains cas, de piètres politiciens, d'ailleurs...”

“Aucune charge provisoire ni formelle ne pèse contre Yogida Sawmynaden. C'est aussi le cas pour Ivan Collendavelloo dans l'affaire Burmeister & Wain. Néanmoins, le colistier du Premier ministre reste en place alors que le partenaire d'alliance de Jugnauth a été forcé de démissionner. Pourquoi deux poids deux mesures ? Est-ce parce que Sawmynaden est un ami et un allié indispensable ? ...”

de son action.

Je trouve que le Vicaire général Labour a envoyé un signal fort et clair de la volonté de l'Eglise de ne pas se laisser instrumentaliser ou embrigader dans un combat dont on connaît seulement le slogan et pas vraiment les tenants et aboutissants. L'Eglise a déjà assez à faire avec ses

urbain, les mauves et les bleus sont condamnés à travailler ensemble pour réussir face aux moyens de la machine orange.

L'entente harmonieuse MMM-Parti travailliste est, elle, loin d'être acquise !

Paul Bérenger est un livre ouvert. Lisons-le. Récemment, il nous a donné à comprendre que c'est le leadership de Ramgoolam qui pose problème. Qu'a dit le leader du MMM ? Qu'il faut d'abord défricher et sceller les termes d'une entente PTr-MMM-PMDS pour les législatives pour ensuite déboucher sur les modalités d'une collaboration formelle lors des municipales à venir. On sait que le MMM - et Bérenger lui-même - ne veut pas que Ramgoolam soit présenté comme le Premier ministre de l'alliance de l'opposition. On comprend donc que les mauves souhaitent que cet élément du package électoral soit acquis et annoncé publiquement avant de jeter tout leur poids derrière cette alliance.


Mais je soupçonne qu'on ne se débarrassera pas si facilement de Ramgoolam. Il souffle d'ailleurs le chaud et le froid sur son retrait comme leader. Je note ainsi que, par enchantement, les rubriques "confidentielles" parlent désormais toutes d'un poulain du leader des rouges. C'est étonnant que la relève semble ainsi servir sur un plateau alors que le MMM ne veut pas entendre parler de Ramgoolam comme futur Premier ministre en cas de victoire. Cela ne m'étonnerait pas qu'on utilise un poulain comme un appât dans une pêche au requin. Histoire de donner à croire que le changement s'effectuera. Mais on pêche aussi souvent avec des leurres !


En tous cas, du côté d'Angus Road, on souhaite ardemment que la pêche de Ramgoolam réussisse. Un Ramgoolam présenté comme Premier ministre demeure, à ce jour, l'un des principaux gages de réussite aux législatives pour Pravind Jugnauth.

prêtes qui chantent et ceux qui s'affirment dans l'action pour devoir aussi s'inquiéter d'un nouveau messie.

* L'opposition elle-même, ou plus précisément 'L'Entente' PTr, MMM et PMSD paraît être encore à ses balbutiements. Pour réussir un rassemblement qu'organiseront ces partis, Navin Ramgoolam pense que "chacun devrait mettre son égo de côté" et, en ce qui concerne les municipales, il a déclaré que "l'opposition ne doit pas être divisée". Soit la conviction n'y est pas au sein de l'Entente, soit on butte sur la question fondamentale - le leadership de cette 'Entente'. Votre opinion ?

Déjà, je dois avouer que je m'étais trompé sur une chose : L'entente MMM-PMDS se passe bien mieux que je ne l'aurais cru. Elle est mue par les jeunes, qui ne sont pas paralysés par les rancœurs historiques. La raison dicte aussi cette entente précise car, en milieu





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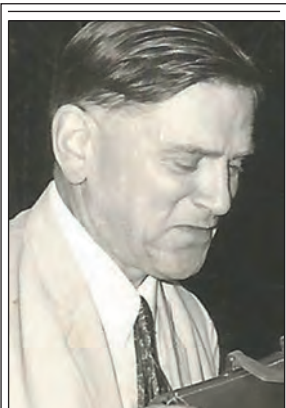
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MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 2 August 1957

Nothing in the world is more haughty than a man of moderate capacity when once raised to power. -- Baron Wessenburg

Unequal Educational Opportunity in Mauritius



Peter Ibbotson

In the House of Commons on July 16, Mrs Joyce Butler (Labour MP for Wood Green) asked what proportion of the total number of Indian children at school in Mauritius failed the Sixth Standard examination in the years 1954-57. The reply, given by Mr John Profumo, was that the information is not available; the lists of candidates give no indication of religion or race. Mrs Butler, who had been briefed by Mr Seetanah, Secretary of the

Mauritius League (he lives at 54, Clarence Road, London No 22, in Mrs Butler's constituency) pursued the matter in a supplementary question: she asked if the Colonial Secretary was aware **"that a considerable number of Indian children fail this examination because of the great difficulty they have in mastering the French language?"** She urged that the recommendation of the Ward Report be carried out that basic instruction should be in the children's mother tongue, and that French be no longer compulsory in the examination.

Mr Profumo said he had recently been in Mauritius, but **"was not made aware of this difficulty in any way"**. He did not believe that **"there is any reason to think that the Indo-Mauritians are suffering more than other children."**

If Mr Profumo believes that, he will believe anything (including, no doubt, the optimistic figures relating to unemployment supplied by the Labour Department). Of course Indo-Mauritian children are at a disadvantage in the Standard Six examination. French is a compulsory subject in which the candidates have to get at least 33 per cent; and to the Indo-Mauritians it is a foreign language. So is English. Thus, an Indo-Mauritian child has to master **two** foreign languages in order to compete in the Six Standard examination. And for a child of 12, this is a difficult task. Much fairer as an examination requirement would be English compulsory for all, with a second examination in the candidate's mother tongue. Some candidates would thus offer French, others Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Telegu, Chinese, etc. The beneficial effect of having languages other than French, to non-French speaking children as a Sixth Standard examination subject, would be revealed in a raising of the standard of these other languages; and with a better basis in the primary school, more future teachers of Oriental languages would be forthcoming.

Indo-Mauritian children are at a disadvantage when it comes to entering a secondary school. The proportion of Indo-Mauritian children at secondary schools is lower than the proportion of children from the General Population. In 1954 (the latest year for which the annual report of the Education Department is available), there were 25,140 children from the General Population at Government, Aided and Unaided primary schools. From the Indo-Mauritian population, there were 47,757 children; nearly twice as many. But at the Government, Aided and Unaided secondary schools there were 6,276 pupils from the General Population as against only 5,453 from the Indo-Mauritian population. That is, with nearly twice as many children in the primary schools, the Indo-Mauritian population had only nine-tenths the number of children in the secondary schools. The figures show that, with 25,140 children in primary schools and 6,276 in secondary,



Education in the 1950s

the General Population sends one in four of its children to a secondary school. With 47,757 children in primary schools and only 5453 in secondary, the Indo-Mauritians have only one in nine of their children at secondary schools.

Why is this? I suggest it is because of the unequal facilities for education available for the children of the different communities. By and large, the General Population are urban dwellers; the Indo-Mauritians are, also by and large, village dwellers. Educational facilities are better in the towns than in the villages. When it comes to the secondary schools, entrance scholarship examination, the big schools in the towns organise special scholarship classes; urban children have an immediate advantage over their less fortunate rural brethren who cannot go to a scholarship class which does not exist in their village school.

The standard of the French paper in the primary schools scholarship examination is too high for a 12-year-old who has had to learn French as a foreign language (as the Indo-Mauritian children have). Its standard is very little below that of the GCE ordinary level, in fact. The French paper should be abolished as a compulsory subject, and the candidate should be examined in his or her mother tongue. That way, the Indo-Mauritians and the General Population would be on an equal footing as regards their language examination: each would be examined in a mother tongue and a foreign language (for English is a foreign language to Indo-Mauritians, Franco-Mauritians and Coloureds). Mr Profumo, in denying that there is any educational disadvantage for the Indo-Mauritian children, is talking out of the back of his neck.

And why is the information that Mrs Butler asked for not available? The Education Department knows, and publishes annually the number of children according to race in the various types of school; it can, when collecting from head teachers the figures on which the statistics are based, also collect the number of children in each form or standard according to race. And it would be no great matter to collect the racial distribution of candidates and successes by race; just as it would be no great difficulty to collect (and publish in the annual report) figures showing the numbers entering the Government, Aided and Unaided secondary schools each year, divided according to race. By the way, does not the Attendance Register show the religion of each child? Another batch of figures that the Department should publish relates to the number of scholarship winners (also divided according to race) entering each secondary school each year. Or, if it would be too much trouble to give each secondary school separately, then an overall figure showing the total number of scholarship winners divided according to race should be included in the annual report.

In 1955, the primary school enrolment of the children of primary school age was 67 per cent. That is, for every 67 children enrolled at primary school, there were 33 not enrolled. Out of the 33 per cent not enrolled, how many were from the Indo-Mauritian section of the population? And how many were from the other groups? An answer to these questions would show the disparity in the educational facilities available to the Indo-Mauritians and others. So would details of secondary school scholarship winners divided according to race. In education, as in almost everything else in Mauritius, a small minority takes the plums and the Coloured and Indo-Mauritian proletariat is left with the droppings.

Much more light needs to be shed on the activities of the Education Department; much more detail ought to be available about the facilities actually provided for the children of the various ethnic groups. I hope the Minister of Education will see that his Department is more forthcoming than it has been under Crown Colony regime. The apologists for the Department will probably say that there is so much work to do that additional work would throw the Department even more in arrears. To that I point out that the Deputy Director of Education ought to give his full-time attention to his Department; if he were not every now and then being diverted to be a PRO to some or other VIP, or to act as liaison officer to a visiting commission of experts, the Department might function more efficiently. There is nothing against Mr Ardill personally; it is merely that he should devote all his time to the job to which he was appointed.

There is another aspect of education to which the Education Minister should give his attention. Since the number of pupils eager to have secondary education is always higher than the number of places available in Government, Aided and Unaided schools, many go to private secondary schools and colleges. Some of these are of good standing and standard; but others are shams, mere pretences. Parents make great sacrifices to pay the fees for their children to attend these schools, with the hope that the child will get a School Certificate, or GCE, with the five passes necessary to get a Government job. But what happens? Too often, all the pupil has to show at the end of his private secondary school career is a GCE in French only.

Look at last year's GCE results.

At Curepipe, 123 candidates passed the GCE, getting 221 passes between them. 61, nearly half, passed in French only; 103 altogether passed in French. Only 4 had five or more passes, and only three of these had the necessary five for Government employment.

At Port Louis, 139 candidates totalled 228 passes. 116 of the 139 had passes in French, and of these 70 passed in French only. Only one candidate had five passes or more; the five necessary for a Government job.

At Rose Hill, 91 successful candidates totalled 138 passes; 70 of the 91 passed in French, and 45 of these 70 passed in French only. One candidate at Rose Hill had five or more passes, but they were not the five needed to qualify him for a Government post.

Thus out of 353 candidates who passed the GCE in any subject, 176 (or half) passed in French only. A further 113 passed in French and at least one other subject. And between them, the 353 candidates totalled only 587 passes.

These figures of success in the GCE do not inspire confidence in the private secondary schools, for it is their students who sat for the GCE under analysis. Yet many of these students would, given proper education in a proper school, have achieved better results than this. Something must be done, and done quickly, to extend the availability of secondary education in Government and Aided schools, and to enquire into the standards of the private secondary schools.

WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal: Where do you go for secure messaging?

Signal and Telegram have emerged as leading alternatives

-- Karan Kamble - Swaraj

The world's go-to messaging app for years, WhatsApp, has landed in the soup on its own accord after a recent privacy policy update suggested more sharing of app data with parent company Facebook in the future. The implication of Facebook acquiring and using private message content to pursue targeted advertising has stoked concerns among the app's users, who number in two billion as of October 2020, and has led them in search of a more secure, trustworthy alternative.

On 12 January, WhatsApp did come back with a clarification. The company said that the policy update did not affect the privacy of messages shared with friends or family and that "end-to-end encryption" still applied to private messages.

End-to-end encryption means that the messages passed between sender and receiver are coded so as to be unreadable for everyone except the two parties in question. The encryption is there to ensure no one is able to eavesdrop on conversations occurring over texts.

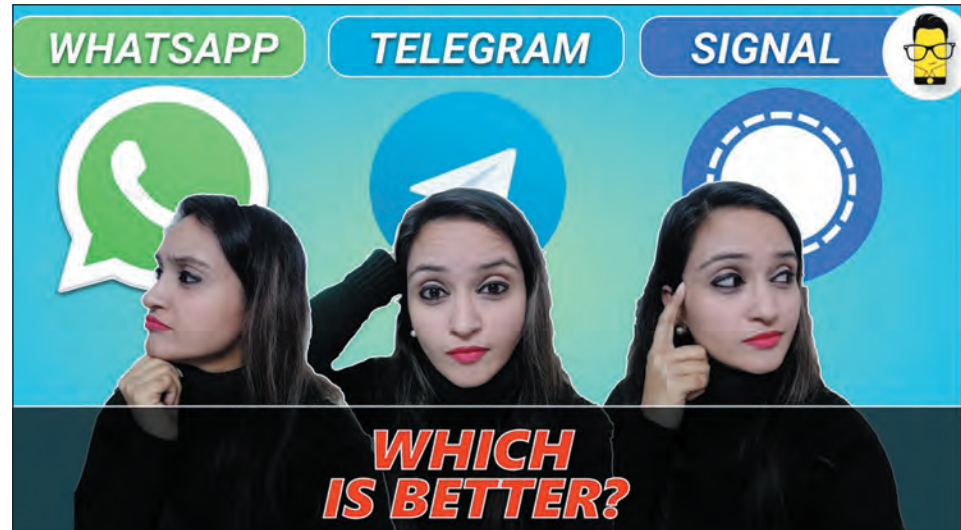
Stating the case, WhatsApp head Will Cathcart took to Twitter to say: "With end-to-end encryption, we cannot see your private chats or calls, and neither can Facebook. We're committed to this technology and committed to defending it globally."

The update, though, is set to affect WhatsApp communications occurring between individuals and businesses. Considering the direction that WhatsApp is taking, sending messages to businesses is expected to increase in the future anyway. In that case, the clarification may not be enough to calm people's nerves.

WhatsApp explains: "Messaging with businesses is different than messaging with your family or friends. Some large businesses need to use hosting services to manage their communication. Which is why we're giving businesses the option to use secure hosting services from Facebook to manage WhatsApp chats with their customers, answer questions, and send helpful information like purchase receipts."

"But whether you communicate with a business by phone, email, or WhatsApp, it can see what you're saying and may use that information for its own marketing purposes, which may include advertising on Facebook," the clarification says, adding that "conversations with businesses that are choosing to use hosting services from Facebook" will be clearly labelled.

The challenge for users now is that, besides having to contend with a change in the terms of service, they have to either agree with the policy or disagree. If they aren't on board with the new policy update, the only option available to them is deleting the app.



Zoe Kleinman of BBC reports that WhatsApp has extended the deadline by which its two billion users must either accept its updated terms and conditions or stop using the service.

The original cut-off date was 8 February, but users now have until 15 May to take action.

Naturally, WhatsApp users are struggling with doubts about how secure WhatsApp messenger really is. It doesn't help that Facebook's data-collection hunger is already well known to the public. This is quite a sticky situation.

But concerned folks aren't hanging back. Many have already embarked on a search, nay pursuit, of WhatsApp alternatives. And so far, two apps have made incredible gains in attention, traffic, and downloads - Telegram and Signal.

On Google Play, Signal sits at the top with "Telegram" at eighth in the list of "Top free" apps, while in the "Trending" category, they are one and two respectively (as of 13 January).

On 7 January, Signal reported a delay in delivery of verification codes "across several providers because so many new people are trying to join Signal right now...". They resolved the problem within a day and were ready for the surge.

For its part, Telegram kept taking digs openly at WhatsApp. The cheeky social media work has kept Twitterati entertained.

WhatsApp Alternatives Signal and Telegram

Like WhatsApp, Signal and Telegram can be used to send text messages and make voice or video calls - either between two persons or in a group. Instant messaging staples like emojis and stickers are available and quite a few features are shared. But the significant difference comes from the extent of privacy accorded with each app.

Signal has been carrying the reputation of being a secure messaging platform for years. This recognition has stood on the shoulders of high-profile backers such as

American whistle-blower and privacy advocate Edward Snowden, who tweeted in 2015 that he used Signal every day.

He returned recently with a similar message about Signal on Twitter after a user asked, "Do we really trust signal?"

Endorsements have also come from Twitter chief executive Jack Dorsey. Technology entrepreneur Elon Musk (Tesla, SpaceX) too put his weight behind Signal. And a host of Indian technology entrepreneurs have done the same.

Signal is supported by the United States-based non-profit organisation Signal Technology Foundation. It is a privacy-focused, open-source project that runs on grants and donations. There aren't any advertisements on the app and it is available to use free of charge. New users only need to provide a contact number.

The open-source nature of Signal means that the software can be copied or downloaded by others, especially experts, inviting scrutiny in the interest of security.

Security researcher Moxie Marlinspike and roboticist Stuart Anderson kick-started the early versions of Signal (WhatsApp co-founder Brian Acton got involved later, in 2018). After years of development as separate technology services, "RedPhone" encrypted voice calling app and "TextSecure" encrypted texting programme, Signal was unified and released in November 2015.

Soon, technology giants Facebook, Google, and Microsoft were using the "Signal Protocol", the term for Signal technology enabling end-to-end encryption and made available for use by other businesses.

Telegram is a popular alternative to WhatsApp and Signal. It was launched for iOS and Android two months apart in 2013. The platform has been supported all these years by the Durov brothers, Pavel and Nikolai, entrepreneur and programmer respectively.

Pavel has taken care of the company expenses since the beginning by digging into his personal savings. But as Telegram has grown, and will likely grow more

steeply now, the company is looking at different ways to generate revenue starting this year. Either way, says Pavel Durov, "Most users will hardly notice any change".

One of the ideas is to add additional features to Telegram that will be paid for by premium users.

Telegram states that among its top priorities are "protecting... private conversations from snooping third parties, such as officials, employers, etc." and "protecting... personal data from third parties, such as marketers, advertisers, etc." These two areas invite worry in case of the continued use of WhatsApp.

However, there is a difference between Telegram and Signal, and probably significantly so. Unlike Signal, not all Telegram chats have end-to-end encryption. Only the secret chats have **end-to-end** encryption while the regular chats have **end-to-server** encryption.

'Telegram is an idea'

Can Telegram be compelled to part ways with user data for whatever reason, say, by governments?

The detailed company FAQ explains: "...Telegram uses a distributed infrastructure. Cloud chat data is stored in multiple data centres around the globe that are controlled by different legal entities spread across different jurisdictions. The relevant decryption keys are split into parts and are never kept in the same place as the data they protect. As a result, several court orders from different jurisdictions are required to force us to give up any data."

Because of this feature, it would be a really hard ask to get Telegram to disclose data. And even then, secret chats using end-to-end encryption would not be disclosed in any case since they will leave no trace on the company servers.

Telegram also challenges anyone who claims that messages on the app can be deciphered to enter a competition and prove it - they stand to win \$300,000.

Telegram is now a leading candidate along with Signal for the messaging app switch after the WhatsApp exodus.

On 12 January, Pavel Durov reported on his Telegram channel that the app had surpassed 500 million monthly active users in the first week of January and as many as 25 million new users had joined in the last 72 hours alone.

He also reiterated his message from a 2018 post: "Unlike other popular apps, Telegram doesn't have shareholders or advertisers to report to. We don't do deals with marketers, data miners or government agencies."

"For us, Telegram is an idea; it is the idea that everyone on this planet has a right to be free."

What if the world was one country?

* Cont. from page 2

The psychological theory of "terror management" offers one clue. This theory, which has been validated by many studies, shows that when people are made to feel insecure and anxious, they tend to become more concerned with nationalism, status and success. We seem to have an impulse to cling to labels of identity to defend ourselves against insecurity. There has, however, been criticism of the theory by some psychologists who believe it overlooks wider factors that contribute to human behaviour.

That said, the theory could go some way to help explain why nationalism grows in times of crisis and uncertainty. Poverty and economic instability often lead to increased nationalism and to ethnic conflict. An increased sense of insecurity brings a stronger need for

ment or a diagnosis of cancer. I sometimes refer to these people as "shifters", since they appear to shift up to a higher level of human development. They undergo a dramatic form of "post-traumatic growth". Their lives become richer, more fulfilling and meaningful. They have a new sense of appreciation, a heightened awareness of their surroundings, a wider sense of perspective and more intimate and authentic relationships.

As I report in my book, 'The Leap', one of the common traits of "shifters" is that they no longer define themselves in terms of nationality, religion or ideology. They no longer feel they are American or British, or a Muslim or a Jew. They feel the same kinship with all human beings. If they have any sense of identity at all, it's as global citizens, members of the human race and inhabitants of the planet Earth – beyond nationality or border. Shifters lose the need for group identity because they no longer feel separate and so have no sense of fragility and insecurity.

Why we need trans-nationalism

In my view, then, all nationalistic enterprises – such as "America First" or Brexit – are highly problematic, as they are based on anxiety and insecurity, so inevitably create discord and division. And

since nationalism contravenes the essential reality of human nature and human origins, such enterprises always turn out to be temporary. It's impossible to override the fundamental interconnectedness of the human race. At some point, it always reasserts itself.

Like the world itself, our most serious problems have no borders. Problems like the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change affect us collectively and so can only be solved collectively – from a trans-nationalist approach. Such issues can only be properly solved by viewing humans as one species, without borders or boundaries.

Ultimately, nationalism is a psychological aberration. We owe it our ancestors and to our descendants – and to the Earth itself – to move beyond it.

Steve Taylor,
Leeds Beckett University



Shifters report feeling more connected to the world and less focussed on their individual identity.
Pixabay/Pexels

conceptual labels to strengthen our sense of identity. We also feel the impulse to gain security through the feeling of belonging to a group with shared beliefs and conventions.

On this basis then it's likely that people who feel the strongest sense of separation and the highest levels of insecurity and anxiety, are the most prone to nationalism, racism and to fundamentalist religion.

Beyond nationalism

One pertinent finding from my own research as a psychologist is that people who experience high levels of well-being (together with a strong sense of connection to others, or to the world in general) don't tend to have a sense of group identity.

I have studied many people who have undergone profound personal transformation following intense psychological turmoil, such as bereave-

Tree of Knowledge

10 Steps to Making Change Easier



Madisyn Taylor

1. Begin by making small changes or break up large-scale changes into more manageable increments. This can make you feel better about handling the changes you are about to make while making you more comfortable with change in general.

2. Mentally link changes to established daily rituals. This can make changes like taking on a new habit, starting a new job, or adapting to a new home happen much more smoothly. For example, if you want to begin meditating at home, try weaving it into your morning routine.

3. Going with the flow can help you accept change instead of resisting it. If you stay flexible, you will be able to ride out change without too much turbulence.

4. When a change feels most stressful, relief can often be found in finding the good that it brings. An illness, a financial loss, or a broken relationship can seem like the end of the world, yet they also can be blessings in disguise.

5. Remember that all change involves a degree of learning. If you find change particularly stressful, try to keep in mind that after this period of transformation has passed, you will be a wiser person for it.

6. Remember that upheaval and confusion are often natural parts of change. While we can anticipate certain elements that a change might bring, it is impossible to know everything that will happen in advance. Be prepared for unexpected surprises, and the winds of change won't easily knock you over.

7. Don't feel like you have to cope with changing circumstances or the stress of making a change on your own. Talk about what's going on for you with a friend or write about it in a journal. Sharing your feelings can give you a sense of relief while helping you find the strength to carry on.

8. Give yourself time to accept any changes that you face. And as change happens, recognize that you may need time to adjust to your new situation. Allow

yourself a period of time to reconcile your feelings. This can make big changes feel less extreme.

9. No matter how large or difficult a change is, you will eventually adapt to these new circumstances. Remember that regardless of how great the change, all the new that it brings will eventually weave itself into the right places in your life.

10. If you're trying to change a pattern of behavior or navigate your way through a life change, don't assume that it has to be easy. Wanting to cry or being moody during a period of change is natural. Then again, don't assume that making a change needs to be hard. Sometimes, changes are meant to be that easy.



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Ordering a Pizza in 2022

Caller: Is this Pizza Hut?
 Google: No sir, it's Google Pizza.
 Caller: I must have dialled a wrong number, sorry.
 Google: No sir, Google bought Pizza Hut last month.
 Caller: OK. I would like to order a pizza.
 Google: Do you want your usual, sir?
 Caller: My usual? You know me?
 Google: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meat balls on a thick crust.
 Caller: Super! That's what I'll have.
 Google: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten-free thin crust?
 Caller: What? I don't want a vegetarian pizza!
 Google: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.
 Caller: How the hell do you know that?
 Google: Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.
 Caller: Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetarian pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.
 Google: Excuse me sir, but you have not

taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you purchased only a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once at Lloyds Pharmacy, 4 months ago.

Caller: I bought more from another pharmacy.
 Google: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.
 Caller: I paid in cash.
 Google: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.
 Caller: I have other sources of cash.
 Google: That doesn't show on your latest tax returns, unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law!
 Caller: What the hell!
 Google: I'm sorry sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.
 Caller: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without the internet, TV, where there is no phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.
 Google: I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago...

Welcome to the future.

A man gets on a bus and sits next to a young mother with a child. The mother is trying to get her fussy son to breastfeed, but in vain. She tries for a few more minutes, but the baby is still very fussy. Finally she gets frustrated and tells her baby, "You need to start soon or I'll give your milk to this man sitting here."

She continues to try to get her baby to start feeding and finally in a stern tone she says, "It's the last warning, you need to stop being fussy, or I'll give your milk to this man sitting here."

The man finally gets exasperated and he says, "Lady, you need to make up your mind... I was supposed to get off the bus three stops back."

Maybe dark brown now. I can't remember.

Officer: What was she wearing?
 Husband: Could have been pants, or maybe a skirt or shorts. I don't know exactly.
 Officer: What kind of car did she go in?
 Husband: She went on my motorcycle.
 Officer: What kind of motorcycle was it?
 Husband: A 2018 Harley Davidson Roadglide, Twisted Cherry with 14" apes, stage 2 kit, Vance and Hines fishtail pipes, Klock Werks windshield, JPCycles foot boards, highway pegs and crash bars...At this point the husband started choking up.
 Officer: Take it easy sir, we'll find your motorcycle.

Wife Missing!

Husband: My wife is missing. She went shopping yesterday and has not come home!
 Officer: Age?
 Husband: I'm not sure. Around 40. We don't do birthdays.
 Officer: Height?
 Husband: I'm not sure. A little over five feet tall.
 Officer: Weight?
 Husband: Don't know. Not slim, not really fat.
 Officer: Colour of eyes?
 Husband: Sort of brown I think.
 Officer: Colour of hair?
 Husband: Changes a couple times a year.

Life's LESSONS

A story from the Upanishads

The Fakir & the King

Once upon a time, there was a great fakir (an ascetic) who lived a simple life. He ate whatever he found, drank water from the nearby river and meditated under the tree in the forest on the outskirts of a town. Word spread and the king of the province came to know about the fakir.

He decided to meet the fakir. The king was so impressed with the fakir's unpretentious demeanour that he invited the fakir to live with him in the palace.

The fakir agreed readily, which surprised the king; he was expecting that the fakir will have to be persuaded a lot to accept the invitation. Nevertheless, the king took him along and made lavish arrangements for his stay.

The ascetic settled down quickly and started enjoying all the luxuries of the palace - imperial clothes, royal food and a life of absolute comfort. There was not a trace of self-denial. Soon, the king started suspecting that perhaps he was being hoodwinked by the fakir.

But he kept his thoughts to himself and continued to observe the man. Six months on, the fakir was still enjoying his stay and didn't seem to mind this majestic life one bit.

By now the king had become convinced that the fakir had only been pretending in the forest. He decided to confront him. On meeting the fakir, the king said, "When I first met you, I was

impressed by your austere lifestyle and minimum needs. Your life was an example of renunciation. But what I now see is totally the opposite. You seem to be enjoying every material pleasure there is. So what is the difference between you and me?"

The fakir smiled and said, "I was waiting for you to ask me this question but I will answer you tomorrow morning." The next morning the fakir appeared before the king wearing his old tattered clothes.

The fakir said, "I am leaving for an unknown destination. If you really want the answer, you will have to leave your palace, your family, your kingdom and accompany me."

The king was stunned. He said, "You know, I can't do that!"

The fakir smiled and replied, "Yes, I know. And that is the difference between you and me. I can leave all pleasures and comforts whenever I want because I am not attached to them. You are. I hope you have your answer now."

It dawned on the king that the fakir was indeed great. He pleaded him to stay on but the fakir had made up his mind. As he was leaving, he said to the king, "Remember, what you hold on to, holds you. And since I hold on to nothing, I have nothing to renounce. I am forever free."

Detachment is the opposite of attachment, not the opposite of enjoyment.



Bust the blues



Simple steps you can take to build a "happiness habit"

Sometimes you need a mental lift. There are some simple steps you can take to build a "happiness habit" that may help get you through a tough spell.

These pick-me-ups aren't meant to replace treatment for serious depression, acute anxiety, or other clinical issues. If you need help, tell your doctor or a trusted friend or family member.

Curb clutter

It just sits there doing nothing. And that's the problem. Studies have found that when you're surrounded by stuff, the visual chaos goes straight to your brain. It distracts you and gets in the way of your ability to process info. Other research has shown a cluttered home amp up the stress hormone cortisol, especially in women. Make a plan right now to banish or sort your clutter. Then call a charity to set a date for pickup.

Buy yourself something nice

It doesn't have to be a spree for fancy electronics or a new designer wardrobe. Sure, the something nice can perk you up for the moment. But research shows the real magic of so-called retail therapy is the sense of control you have over your environment when you make your own choices. So, try a little smart shopping to help snap you out of short-term sadness. Just make sure your picks fit your budget, too.

Ticket to read

The fastest ticket out of a bad mood is still the simplest: a riveting read. Studies have linked reading to improvements in depression symptoms, as well as mental flexibility and brain function. Make sure it's a pleasure read -- not the news, your computer manual, or even your latest book club pick. Find a book you've wanted to check out or a juicy magazine. Sock away at least 30 minutes every day to read in peace.

Pet a furry friend

In one study, college students who chilled for just 10 minutes with a good-natured dog or cat had sharply lowered cortisol, a major stress hormone. Many college campuses have started "pet-to-de-stress" programs. You don't need to be in school to get these warm fuzzies, though. Spend extra quality time with your own pet, or volunteer at a shelter or adoption event to make some new furry friends to cuddle and play with.

Catch a groovy beat

Yes, classical music can relax you and ease tension. But what if your listening tastes are more high-energy? An Italian study found quick tempos can help calm you, too. It just happens when the music stops. After listening to fast-paced songs, the subjects' blood pressures and heart rate mellowed. So, whether your jam is Mozart or classic rock, crank it up.

Pile a power plate

A healthy dish can banish the blues,

with fast and lasting results. One study looked at young adults with diets rich in fruits, veggies, and lean meats over just a few weeks. They reported less depression than a group that didn't eat as well. Studies have shown that the Mediterranean diet, which counts grains and olive oil as staples, can ease depression in older adults. (Exercise and sharing meals are key parts of this diet, too.)

Try acupressure

To practice this ancient Chinese healing art, you press certain spots on your body to release tension. It can lessen anxiety and improve your blood flow. Try this simple move called yin tang, which refers to the middle point between your eyebrows. Sit back and relax. Place your thumb or forefinger between your brows. Press in small, gentle circles for 5 to 10 minutes. Repeat several times during the day.

Find your flow

"Flow" is your state of mind when you do something that challenges and fulfills you, without too much pressure on your performance. Note the highlights of your day or week. When did you feel "in the zone"? Hint: Passive entertainment like bingeing a TV show or playing computer games aren't flow. Think dancing, cooking, painting, even housecleaning -- pursuits that absorb you and put your worries aside. Make plenty of time for them.

Walk in nature

Ecotherapy explores how quality nature time eases stress, anxiety, and depression. A 2015 study found people who take nature walks have lower activity in the parts of the brain where negative thoughts can spool. Start with a stroll close to home or an easy trail for about a half-hour several times a week. If you're game, build up to longer-term "forest bathing" (the Japanese take on nature immersion). It works if you take a friend, too.

Find nature stand-ins

Even if you're stuck inside or the weather's crummy, natural stimuli can have a similar calming effect. A study found that it can lift your spirits to listen to nature sounds and even just look at pictures of pretty outdoor settings or dream destinations. Researchers think it's the literal "outside" focus that can bust a mental funk by taking your mind off negative things.

There's an app for it

In the ever-evolving world of electronic mental health tools, you never need an appointment. An app on your smartphone can't diagnose or treat a condition like depression or anxiety. But it may make you aware of your emotions, which can help you manage them. You can download uplifting podcasts, audiobooks, and apps for pick-me-ups while you drive, wait in line, or take a walk.

Keep up your support system

When you feel down, it's easy to think others should know how you feel. But you need to be the one to keep the lines open. Make time for friends and family. Offer to help them out when you can -- some research suggests it can be more uplifting to give support than to get it. And while some experts say it's best to meet up in person, don't hesitate to draw on electronic tools like Skype, online chat, and texts to stay close if needed.

Find something funny

Whether you get tickled by silly videos of people falling down, witty British comedy, or a friend who tells hilarious stories, find the things that make you laugh. Humor essay books, funny podcasts, or jokes from magazines are great sources, too. Studies show laughter -- and the distraction it brings -- is one of the best mood lifters around.

Keep your legs strong with regular exercise like walking

When we are old, our feet must always remain strong.

Among the signs of longevity, as summarized by the US Magazine 'Prevention', strong leg muscles are listed on the top, as the most important and essential one.

If you do not move your legs for two weeks, your leg strength will weaken.

As our leg muscles weaken, it will take a long time to recover, even if we do rehabilitation and exercises later.

Therefore, regular exercise like

walking, is very important*

The whole body weight/load remains and rest on the legs.

The foot is a kind of pillar, bearing the weight of the human body. Interestingly, 50% of a person's bones and 50% of the muscles are in the two legs. The largest and strongest joints and bones of the human body are also in the legs.

Strong bones, strong muscles, and flexible joints form the "Iron Triangle" that carries the most important load on the human body.

70% of human activity and burning of energy in one's life is done by the two feet.

Both legs together have 50% of the nerves of the human body, 50% of the blood vessels and 50% of the blood flowing through them. It is the large circulatory network that connects the body.

Aging starts from the feet upwards.

As a person gets older, the accuracy and speed of transmission of instructions between the brain and the legs decreases, unlike when a person is

young.

In addition, the so-called Bone Fertilizer Calcium will sooner or later be lost with the passage of time, making the elderly more prone to bone fractures, which can easily trigger a series of complications.

Exercising the legs is never too late, even after the age of 60 years.

Only by strengthening the legs, one can prevent further aging.

Please walk for at least 30-40 minutes daily to ensure that your legs receive sufficient exercise and your leg muscles remain healthy.

Salman Khan exempted from appearing in court regarding the blackbuck poaching case



Salman Khan had been accused of hunting for blackbucks during the shoot of *Hum Saath Saath Hain*, back in 1998. While the other actors have been acquitted, there has been a petition challenging Salman Khan's trial court order of imprisonment of 5 years. The actor had

received acquittal from the case, but it looks like things have not ended entirely.

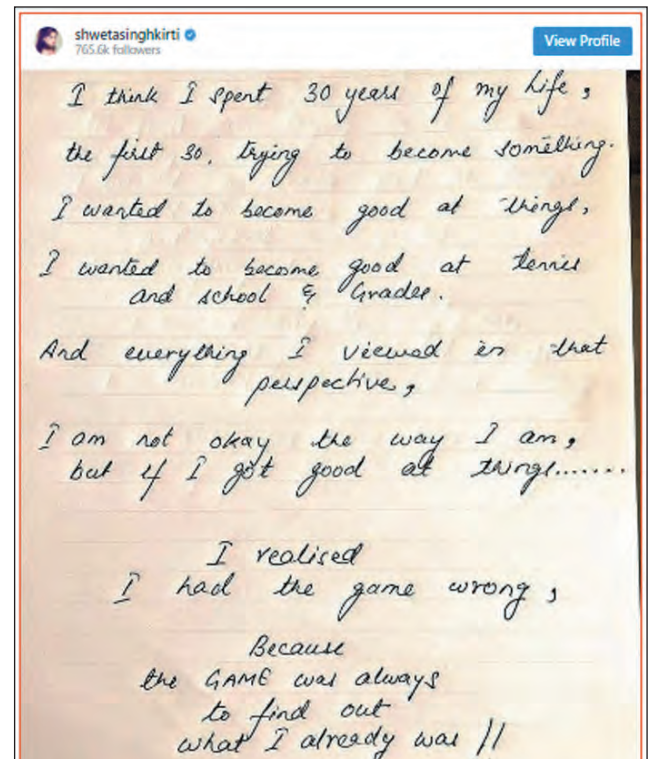
Salman Khan was asked to appear before the court on Saturday, January 16 for a hearing, but his lawyer has sought exemption from the hearing knowing full-well the current condition of the pandemic. While the court has exempted him again, Salman Khan is expected to appear before the court on February 6 with regards to the matter.

The Sessions Judge Devendra Kachhwaha has given him an exemption for the second time. He was also expected to be present at the hearing on December 1, 2020. Citing the pandemic as the reason for his absence, this will mark the 17th hearing that he has missed out on since the case was transferred to the sessions court back in April 2018.

Along with Salman Khan, Saif Ali Khan, Tabu, Neelam, and Sonali Bendre were accused of the same charges but had been acquitted while the former had to spend 3 days in jail before getting bail. Salman Khan has now applied against the petition in the sessions court.

Sushant Singh Rajput's sister shares handwritten note by late actor

'I think I spent 30 years of my life, trying to become something,' late star wrote



Late Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput was known for being an introspective individual and this is reflected in a handwritten note his sister has shared on Instagram.



The 'Kai Po Che!' star died on June 14 at the age of 34 from suspected suicide and Shweta Singh Kirti often makes posts remembering her brother, reports Gulf News. The note that Kirti posted was captioned, "Written by bhai [brother]...The thought so profound #foreversushant", and saw the actor contemplating his life and achievements.

"I think I spent 30 years of my life, trying to become something. I wanted to become good at things," he wrote. "I wanted to become good at tennis and school and grades. And everything, I viewed in that perspective. I am not ok the way I am but if I got good at things... I realised I had the game wrong."

"Because the game was always to find out what I already was," he concluded.

Rajput's sudden death in Mumbai came as a shock to fans and led to a major upheaval in the Hindi film industry.

Rajput was known for starring in films such as 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' and 'Detective Byomkesh Bakshy!'. His final film, released posthumously, was the romantic drama 'Dil Bechara'.

5 strong women-oriented films of 2021

In a year that is destined to be dominated by the dudes, some strong women-oriented films will also make their way into theatres and the OTT platform, reports Subhash K. Jha of Bollywood Hungama. Read on:



1. Kajol in 'Tribhanga'

Kajol has done the maximum number of author-backed roles in recent times, from *Dushman* in 1998 to *Helicopter Eela* in 2015. In *Tribhanga*, Kajol has the luxury of being the produce. She also has a very talented woman Renuka Shahane to direct her. The last time Kajol was directed by a woman -it was Tanuja Chandra in *Dushman*-was also the first time. In *Tribhanga*, she will be joined by two other very talented actresses. But make no mistake. This is Kajol's film all the way. To be released on 15 January on Netflix.



2. Richa Chadha in 'Madam Prime Minister'

Playing the woman from a weaker section of society who rises to the ranks of the state Chief Minister Richa

Chadha has given her all, and then some more, to *Madam Prime Minister*. One of her co-stars from the film told me, "It's a showcase for her. We men are mere props." About time! Women have played props in Hindi cinema for decades. To be released on January 22.

3. Deepika Padukone in Shakun Batra's untitled film:

Although Batra's film has Siddharth Chaturvedi and Ananya Pandey in the cast, this is Deepika Padukone's show all the way. In fact, it has been learnt that the film was written specially for her since producer Karan Johar wanted to work with her for the longest time. Deepika rejected everything Karan offered her until this came along. She is one female actor who commands as much footage and moolah as the male superstars.



4. Alia Bhatt in 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'

From the first frame to last, Alia lords over the proceedings of this Sanjay Leela Bhansali film like a queen. Bhansali has earlier done magic with heroine-oriented subjects in *Khamoshi* (Manisha Koirala), *Black* (Rani Mukerji) and *Padmaavat* (Deepika Padukone). Even *Devdas* was more the ladies Madhuri Dixit and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's film. The film is touted to be released around Diwali.

5. Taapsee Pannu in 'Rashmi Rocket'

Taapsee returns to the forefront playing a sprinter from Gujarat who rises from running around the gullies of Kutch to national and international racetracks. Akarsh Khurana directs this sports film to be released in the second-half of 2021.

Cinema Sirsa - Castel

New Tamil Movie: 'MASTER'

Featuring Vijay and Vijay Sethupathi

Thursday 21 Jan to Wednesday 27 January

13:00 & 19:30

Mouni Roy to tie the knot with Dubai based banker Suraj Nambiar?

2021 has started on a good note for many celebrities and one of them is Varun Dhawan who is all set to walk down the aisle this month. The *Student of the Year* star will be tying the knot with his childhood sweetheart Natasha Dalal on 24th January at Alibaug. And it seems like popular television actress Mouni Roy too has joined this bandwagon. As per the latest report, the *Devon Ke Dev...Mahadev* actress, who had spent the lockdown in Dubai with her sister, is head over heels in love with Dubai-based banker Suraj Nambiar. Not just this, the duo might soon get married.

According to The Times of India, Mouni is very close to Suraj's parents and is thinking to take her relationship to the next level. The leading daily quoted a source close to the development as saying, "Her comfort level with his parents will be one of the major factors in precipitating her decision." For the unversed, the *Naagin* star has sparked off her dating rumours with the Dubai-based banker multiple times. Despite being often spotted with him, Mouni has been very tight-lipped about her relationship.

Back in 2019, the *Gold* actress rubbished the rumours of dating Suraj Nambiar and said she needs to meet the right person and wants to focus on her career. She told Mumbai Mirror, "People who matter know I'm single. But I need to meet the right person, I can't just pick someone and start dating. At the moment I'm grateful for this window (movies) that has opened in my life. I don't think I should throw it away by not giving my 100 percent to it."

On the work front, Mouni Roy will next be seen in *Brahmastra* that also stars Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt.



Mohit talks about his Covid experience and urges people to be vigilant

He is relieved that his pregnant wife tested negative. "It is all about us taking care as Covid is still contagious"

Last week, Mohit Malik tested positive for Covid-19 after he returned from his birthday celebration in Alibaug. The actor announced on Instagram about being positive and that he was relieved that his pregnant wife, Addite Malik, is not, reports Hindustan Times.

He shares, "Since the past three days, the fever is frequent as is body ache. Though I am getting better every day but it's still a long way to go. During the day, sometimes, I feel okay and sometimes, I feel horribly unwell. It is a relief that Addite tested negative. I think people are taking it lightly. *Logon ko lag raha hai ke vaccine aa gaya* and Covid *chala gaya*. But that is not true. We should not get lax and maintain the same level of precautions, hygiene and sanitisation that we did earlier."

The *Kulfi Kumar Bajewala* actor began experiencing symptoms two days after his return from Alibaug and got tested. All his friends, who accompanied the Maliks, tested negative, except the actor. He has isolated himself in one room while his wife is in another room.

"I was not lenient at all and took all the precautions but I don't know where it came from. I want to tell people not to take Covid lightly. Please wear a mask, maintain social distance and sanitise. It is important for the next few months. In fact, a few days ago, I lost someone I knew closely and personally and we all have to take care as Covid is still contagious. The government is doing a good job with handling the pandemic but it also comes down to every individual and our responsibility to be alert. There are so many people who don't believe Corona is real and feel it is a scam or they won't get it," he says.



Replacements may be common on television, but there are some actors who were never replaced. Here's a look at them...

Actors being replaced (sometimes overnight) in TV shows is not a new phenomenon. At times, actors quit the show themselves or have creative differences with makers and are replaced with another actor. Because, after all, the show must go on... However, in the past few years, certain actors, who are so synonymous with their characters, have not been replaced despite quitting the shows. The makers have either decided to change the storyline, opt for a time leap or simply shift the focus from the actor who quit to something else entirely.

While there are several examples of actors quitting TV shows and not being replaced for a variety of reasons, Tanvi Trivedi of TNN bring you some of small screen's most iconic characters, who were never replaced. Instead, the makers decided to change the story line or wait indefinitely for them to return. Read on...

Hina Khan - Character: Akshara
TV show: *'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai'*

Hina Khan, who became synonymous with the character of Akshara in the TV



show for eight long years, shocked people with her decision to quit in 2016 after saying that she wanted to pursue other projects. At that time, the actress in an interview to BT had said, "I have done everything that a bahu could do in the show. It is time now to explore newer avenues." Hina's character Akshara was not replaced in the show and the makers decided to take a time leap and move the spotlight to a fresh new cast.

Mohnish Bahl - Character: Dr Shashank Gupta
TV show: *'Sanjivani'*

Mohnish Bahl's character Dr Shashank Gupta from the original series *'Sanjivani'* (2002-2005) was much-loved by audiences. The actor reprised the role in 2019, but quit after creative differences with the makers. Mohnish said, "When this show started in August 2019, my track was going well, but things changed later. I discussed it with the makers and we tried exploring new angles, but they didn't materialise. An actor can creatively enhance his character if there is clarity in the track or if he is given the script much in advance, which unfortunately was not the case." Mohnish's

character was shown to die in an air crash and the makers did not replace him.

Vivian Dsena - Character: Harman
TV show: *'Shakti - Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki'*

Vivian gained huge popularity for playing the feisty Harman, who falls in love with a transgender in the TV show. However, when the show went for a time leap in August 2019, the actor decided to quit. He did not want to play a father on screen, and the makers decided to not replace him and moved the focus on the younger cast.

Meghna Malik - Character: Ammaji
TV show: *'Laado 2'*

Meghna's powerful portrayal of Ammaji in the first season of *'Laado'* won her huge appreciation and fame, but the actress, who was part of the second season decided to quit the show citing unprofessional behaviour and ruining the brand of the show. Her character was killed in the show and the makers did not replace the character.

CINE 12

Mardi 19 Janvier - 21.10

Nightmare Best Friend

Stars: Rosslyn Luke, Jackie Moore,
Brandon Howell

MBC 1

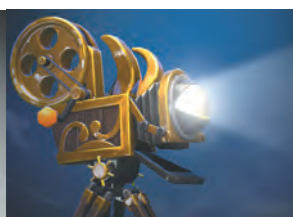
Mercredi 20 Janvier - 21.10

Auggie



CINE 12

Jeudi 21 Janvier - 21.15

Star: Charlotte Vega, Alex Maruny,
Ivana Baquero

mardi 19 janvier

MBC 1

07.30 Local: Sekirite La Route
10.15 Local: Fam Model
10.30 Mag: Euromaxx
11.00 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.50 Local: People
14.30 D.Animes: Twirlywoos
14.41 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
14.53 D.Anime: Petit Creux
15.21 D.Anime: La Ligue Des
Super Vilains
16.01 D.Anime: Les Triples
16.34 D.Anime: Urban Spirou
16.52 D.Aimes: Volttron, Le Defen...
17.20 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida a...
17.45 Mag: Origami
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
21.25 Film: 30 Days Of Night

MBC 2

10.00 Serial: CID
10.44 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha
12.04 Film: Rakhi
Starring: Ashok Kumar, Waheeda
Rehman, Pradeep Kumar and
Mehmood
14.14 DDI Magazine
15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha
15.23 Serial: Honaar Soon Mee...
15.43 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
16.09 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.32 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
16.50 Serial: Achra Ke Moti
17.16 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance
18.30 DDI Magazine
20.00 Local: Tamil Programme
20.30 Film: Saz Aur Awaaz
Starring: Saira Banu,
Kanhaiyalal and Joy
Mukherjee

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
06.39 Mag: World Stories
07.00 Local: Cavadee
07.55 Doc: Amazing Gardens
08.21 Mag: Future Mag
08.53 Doc: 360 GEO
10.37 Doc: Solar Storms
11.22 Mag: Eco@Africa
11.48 Mag: Arts And Culture
12.14 Mag: Voa Connected
12.42 Mag: Urban Gardens
13.16 Doc: Amazing Gardens
15.06 Mag: Global 3000
15.27 Mag: Voa Connected
15.53 Doc: Solar Storms
17.09 Mag: Arts And Culture
17.26 Mag: Voa Connected
18.24 Doc: From Vogtland To...
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.26 Mag: Urban Gardens
19.34 Mag: Made In Germany

Cine 12

01.27 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delive...
03.39 Film: Mackenna's Gold
05.44 Tele: Muneca Brava
06.26 Serial: L.A.'s Finest
09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible
09.49 Tele: Soleil Levant
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T.
11.41 Film: Mackenna's Gold
13.46 Tele: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: Signed, Sealed, Belive...
16.32 Serial: Mission: Impossible
17.20 Serial: L.A.'s Finest
18.11 Tele: Daniella
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: L.A.'s Finest
21.15 Film: Nightmare Best Friend
22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava
23.29 Serial: Mission: Impossible

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Gang
12.04 / 19.54 -
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.26 / 20.11 -
Radha Krishna
12.50 / 20.32 Sanjivani
13.09 / 21.09 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.28 / 21.01 - Bade Acche
Lagte Hai
13.50 / 21.46 -
Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
14.10 / 21.59 -
Ikyawann
14.28 / 22.25 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.22 Film: Nanhe Jaisalmer
Starring: Bobby Deol, Dwij Yadav
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka

mercredi 20 janvier

08.00 Local: Palette
08.30 Local: Rodrig Prog
09.00 Doc: Soul Ladies
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.50 Mag: Urban Gardens
14.00 Local: Priorite Sante
14.30 D.Anime: Twirlywoos
14.41 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
14.53 D.Anime: Petit Creux
15.21 D.Anime: La Ligue Des Super
16.08 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
16.20 D.Anime: Wishfart
16.31 D.Anime: Little Spirou
17.20 D.Anime: Heidi, Bienvenida...
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Prod: Lottotech
20.20 Local Production
21.10 Film: Auggie
23.00 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha...
11.17 Suhani Ek Ladhi
12.00 Film: Achanak
Stars: Vinod Khanna, Lily
Chakravarty, Asrani
13.33 Mag: DDI Magazine
15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha
15.22 Honaar Soon Mee Hya...
15.44 Mooga Manasulu
16.10 Apoorva Raagangal
16.30 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
16.53 Serial: Achra Ke Moti
17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.33 Serial: Kulvadhu
18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance
18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine
19.30 DDI Magazine
20.00 Programme In Marathi
20.30 Film: Happy Journey
Starring: Atul Kulkarni, Priya Bapat
22.33 Live: DDI Live

06.00 Rev: The Global Auto...
06.26 Doc: From Vogtland To...
06.52 Mag: Urban Gardens
07.00 Local: Cavadee 2021
07.55 Doc: Builders Of The Future
08.46 Doc: Le Funeste Destin Du...
10.53 Doc: Can Green Investment
11.21 Rev: The Global Auto...
11.47 Doc: From Vogtland To...
12.13 Mag: Check In
12.39 Mag: Urban Gardens
13.40 Doc: Olivias Garden
14.06 Doc: Le Funeste Destin Du...
15.09 Mag: Close Up
16.12 Doc: Can Green Investment
17.54 Mag: Motorweek
18.18 Mag: Vous Et Nous
18.50 Local: Talk On Thaipoonsam
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.26 Doc: Urban Gardens
20.05 Mag: Tendence XXI
20.31 Mag: Vue D'en Haut

00.20 Serial: L.A.'s Finest
01.31 Film: Dangerous Bestie
02.58 Serial: S.W.A.T.
03.50 Film: Patsy & Loreta
05.10 Tele: Muneca Brava
06.38 Film: Dangerous Bestie
09.00 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
09.48 Tele: Soleil Levant
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T.
12.00 Film: Patsy & Loreta
13.33 Tele: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: Dangerous Bestie
16.40 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
17.20 Serial: L.A.'s Finest
18.12 Tele: Daniella
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Beauty And The Beast
21.15 Film: Mike Hammer
22.51 Tele: Muneca Brava
23.33 Serial: Hawaii 5-0

08.00 Film: Nanhe Jaisalmer
12.04 / 20.06 -
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.26 / 20.26 -
Radha Krishna
12.48 / 20.46 Sanjivani
13.10 / 21.08 Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.30 / 21.09 -
Bade Acche Lagte
13.52 / 21.31 - Jai Kanhaiya Lal...
14.14 / 21.46 - Ikyawann
14.36 / 21.59 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
14.59 / 22.25 - Bin Kuck Kahe
15.25 Film: Kanoon
Starring: Aay Devgn, Urmila
Matondkar, Kiran Kumar
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya
18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka
19.13 Mere Angne Mein
19.34 Yeh Pyaar Nahi Toh Kya...

jeudi 21 janvier

06.00 Local: Rodrig
07.00 Local: Fam Rakonte
09.00 Mag: Made In Germany
09.45 Local: Encounter
10.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
13.00 Local: RDV Muzikal
14.30 D.Anime: Twirlywoos
14.41 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
14.54 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little...
15.21 D.Anime: La Ligue Des Super
15.42 D.Anime: Uma And Devan...
16.08 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
16.17 D.Anime: Wishfart
16.31 D.Anime: Little Spirou
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Jamai Raja
18.55 Local: Chaar Dham Tirth...
19.30 Le Journal
20.25 Film: Sanju

10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani
12.05 Ghar Bazaar
14.50 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha
15.16 Honaar Soon Mee Hya
Gharchi
15.39 Mooga Manasulu
16.06 Apoorva Raagangal
16.29 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
16.51 Serial: Achra Ke Moti
17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance
18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da
Devi Maiya
19.00 Journal Kreol
20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
21.00 Film: Anaconda 3
Starring Holt McCallany, Zulay
Henao
22.39 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Motorweek
06.25 Mag: Vous Et Nous
07.00 Local: Cavadee
08.28 Mag: Vue D'en Haut
10.14 Doc: Shattered Dream
10.56 Doc: Japan 2020
11.04 Mag: Motorweek
12.00 Mag: Arts.21
13.58 Doc: Zenith
16.01 Mag: Motorweek
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.44 Mag: Urban Gardens
19.05 Open Univ: Student Support
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.05 Doc: Empires Of Silver
21.10 Doc: 360 Geo
22.02 Doc: Colonia Dignidad
22.44 Doc: Mega Yachts: The
Latest
23.26 Mag: Eco India
23.52 Mag: Shift

00.20 Serial: Beauty And The Beast
01.26 Film: Mike Hammer
03.44 Film: Auggie
05.18 Tele: Muneca Brava
05.51 Serial: Beauty And The Beast
06.31 Film: Mike Hammer
09.00 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T.
12.00 Film: Auggie
13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: Mike Hammer
16.46 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
17.27 Serial: Beauty And The Beast
18.05 Tele: Daniella
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.08 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
20.30 Serial: Beauty And The Beast
21.15 Film: The Misfits Club
23.00 Tele: Muneca Brava
23.32 Serial: Hawaii 5-0

08.00 Film: Kanoon
12.05 / 19.54 -
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam
12.26 / 20.11 -
Radha Krishna
12.47 / 20.32 Sanjivani
13.09 / 21.09 -
Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.31 / 21.24 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
13.56 / 21.46 -
Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
14.14 / 21.59 - Ikyawann
14.36 / 22.25 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.20 Film: Rajdhani Express
Starring: Leander Paes,
Sudhanshu Pandey, Priyanshu
Chatterjee
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.52 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka



Jeudi 21 Jan - 15.20

Star: Leander Paes, Sudhanshu
Pandey, Priyanshu ChatterjeeJeudi 21 Jan -
20.25Stars: Ranbir Kapoor, Paresh Rawal,
Manisha Koirala

Trump: A Counterview



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Are media accountable to any institution? Are they free to distort information, peddle false news and indulge in partisan politics in all impunity? A relentless witch-hunt targeting President Trump before the 2016 election and throughout his term of office has been carried out by mainstream leftist American newspapers and television channels. Their views are translated in several languages and broadcast by media across the world. In a highly connected and wired world overflooded with round-the-clock news, everyone has an opinion on any topic hitting the headlines. Opinion on the election of the new president widely rested on hearsay and views peddled by media. Why not wait and see what achievements he can be credited with before prophesying doom?

Anti-Trump protesters went on rampage on his swearing-in ceremony day in a well-orchestrated mass protest in the streets of Washington hardly meeting with disapproval in the media. He was portrayed as an irresponsible unstable man who could recklessly push the button and trigger a nuclear war, amid other sins that he was said to embody. Personal attacks included mockery of his facial features, which was a total lack of elegance and respect.

What followed at all levels was far from being the work of an amateur or a mentally deranged leader. China was probably used as a scapegoat for internal failures for years, but whereas spineless EU leaders had been complaining about China's unfair trade practices, Trump took on China without any more ado, changed rules and gave a boost to the economy which resulted in the highest level of job creation in the past 50 years. This is what mattered to citizens, and he even won over the hearts of Democrat voters. 3 million migrants were sent back home at the Mexican border during Obama's term of office, 1 million by Trump administration. The ban on visas to asylum seekers and visitors from countries hostile to US political, economic and geopolitical interests led leftist media to denounce 'a Muslim ban', and portrayed Trump as a racist just as Indian PM was demonized for CAA law in western media. The three Furies, female Congresswomen of the Democratic Party raised an outcry.



“Are media accountable to any institution? Are they free to distort information, peddle false news and indulge in partisan politics in all impunity? A relentless witch-hunt targeting President Trump before the 2016 election and throughout his term of office has been carried out by mainstream leftist American newspapers and television channels. Their views are translated in several languages and broadcast by media across the world...”

President Trump did not start any war, but avoided to embark on what could have been devastating for Iran. Hillary Clinton overtly declared her intention to declare war on Iran if she was elected in 2016. Amid conflicts in the war zone of Syria, Trump ordered a fighter jet to head towards Teheran and destroy its military infrastructure, but changed his mind ten minutes before the plane was due to reach its target for the simple reason that he was informed that 150 people would lose their lives in Iran. News of chemical attack by the Syrian president led to an immediate destruction of airport infrastructure at Damas. Last year, Iranian army chief was drone attacked for sporadically targeting Saudi oil tanks. President Trump restored US presence and prestige in hot spots like Syria after the Obama presidency pulled away from it, tarnished the image of the U.S as a superpower, leaving Russia and Iran free to intervene. Blame for unscrupulously letting down the Kurds can be equal-

ly put at the door of the allies and the Trump administration, the latter going a step further by branding the AKP as a terrorist organisation in a bid to spare Turkey of any reprisals. Cynicism and realpolitik was at its peak with Turkey fighting both against and with Islamic State soldiers.

Trump's straightforward style embarrassed political and media opponents, entertained and rejoiced his supporters. In an interview during 2016 electoral campaign he moved away from the language of diplomacy, spoke out his mind frankly by stating that 'We are not innocent.' Unlike EU allies, he did not treat Russia as a pariah state, engaged like no other US president with the North Korean leader, offering an amusing picture of the towering figure of Trump patting young Kim Jung Un on the shoulder in a typical American patronizing style. In 2017 he addressed a clearly worded warning to Pakistan on the fight against terrorism. His envoy to the UN, Nicky Haley put on a bright performance at UN sessions, and called the bluff of a number of nations that systematically opposed US moves to confront state-sponsored terrorism. 'I saved his a...', he concluded, on sparing Saudi Crown Prince MBS of US anger and a CIA probe after the sordid assassination at Saudi embassy in Turkey. He bristled at 'CNN bas...' on television. Without beating about the bush, he directly took on Nigerain president some time back by asking: 'Why are you persecuting Christians in Nigeria?'

Far from being a 'populist' clown, he dealt squarely and seriously with anyone trying to thwart US interests and mess with his policies in any way. His decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move US embassy there was in

tune with his plan for geopolitics and peace in the Middle East. It was nothing of a sudden impulsive erratic decision coming from the hat of an irresponsible president, as portrayed in the media. It had been a carefully prepared strategy which his son-in-law and top advisor Jared Kushner put in place for six months with Saudi Crown Prince at Riyadh, with the two protagonists in their early thirties becoming buddies, sipping tea together and discussing late into the night - something which no seasoned experienced American politician could have achieved. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, Trump carried out his geopolitical strategy in the Middle-East, which he deemed would bring peace in the region. After the UAE, Sudan, Bahrain and Morocco mended ties with Israel. Sophisticated high-tech planes were sold to Qatar together with the technology, surprisingly. Lately, Saudi Arabia resumed ties with Qatar. How the Gulf state will conduct itself in the near future remains to be seen. If anything, the whole strategy is to bring peace in the Middle-East and promote trade in the region in a long-term win-win situation. Joe Biden is likely to follow the same policy.

Witch-hunt and permanent mudslinging by every means went on and on in the media, and Trump's achievements were belittled and ignored. The initial 'populist' label stuck on Trump bars mainstream media from being rational and fair in its assessment of the president's achievements. It is quite worrying in a country where a cancel culture is gaining ground. Media outlets drifted away from what their prime duty was supposed to be. Print media and private-owned television channels like CNN fed the public trend of 'likes' and 'dislikes' devoid of deep thinking, a populist strategy in itself, misleading and ill-informing the world public in the process. Trump is not a paragon of refined language and diplomatic niceties, he is the odd man in American politics who delivers the goods nevertheless, something which embarrasses rivals and media. An abuse of power currently taken to higher level by a social network communication boss in silencing the President of the US amounts to an unelected authoritarian entity within a state and on the world stage. It is the extreme end-product of biased print media editorialist lines 'regulating' and 'moderating' public comments at will, a self-proclaimed judge on freedom of speech, a caricature of print media bosses, imposing big tech rules with a monstrous grin on the world stage.

However much social networks contribute to promote free expression of ideas and opinions worldwide, the current display of authoritarian rule on free speech targeting the US president is likely to be counter-productive, promote the Trump brand, push for a privately-owned Trump media platform, drive supporters to yearn for continuity in the Trump dynasty with daughter Ivanka in the lead role. Right now, demonizing Trump may fuel increasing violence in supporters who opine that the president has been unfairly treated by media follies.