

# MAURITIUS TIMES

● "We have to take care of the cure that will make the problem worse no matter what." -- Joe Biden

## Covid Pandemic : Thank you India



## Of Imagined Disasters in India & Vaccine Diplomacy

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## Voters are starting to act like hard-core sports fans - with dangerous repercussions for democracy

By Michael Devlin & Natalie Brown Devlin

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## Interview : Dr Avinaash Munohur, Politologue

**“Nous sommes dans un moment compliqué pour la démocratie, et nous devons nous armer d'une grande vigilance”**

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## Understanding Mauritian Society, Our Political Traditions and Elites



Photo: Nick Lowndes - The Economist

*The new elite relies solely on the state for its survival, for jobs, resources, security, honour and status. However both the new and the old elites one are organically linked for they are interdependent and rely on the state to survive*

By Sada Reddi \* See Page 4



## For the good of the country

**T**he stability and progress of Mauritius rest on a few key pillars of governance. The police force has been one of these. Our law enforcement agency has generally been a force for good, having contributed as much as possible, within the means at its disposal, towards ensuring the peace and stability of the country.

Public services are bound to be criticised at the micro level. Overall, however, the work of the Police Department of Mauritius has been highly beneficial towards keeping the country safe. However, the police has often been criticised for errors and omissions to which it has been subject from time to time. It has also not been immune at times from unwarranted undue outside interferences. But this is also the fate of quite a number of other public institutions. Some of our latter-day politicians in particular don't seem to know where to draw the line. Many of them don't appreciate how markedly improved and efficient the public service would be if such pressures were not exerted upon the normal working of public institutions.

The core philosophy behind the setting up of a police force is that it is primarily meant for the protection of the citizen rather than being a coercive instrument at the beck and call of the State, for which reason the Commissioner of Police's post is a constitutionally guaranteed one so that he can perform his duties in full autonomy. Any political pressure to tamper with this autonomy can have a boomerang effect on the initiator of such a departure from the norm when the tables are turned at the next election, and cause havoc in the polity. This real risk must always be taken into consideration.

What has been perceived as the instrumentalisation of the police to track down and harass political opponents or for settling political scores, as seen during the last few years, has blemished the image of the police in a large measure. Fortunately abuses whenever they occurred were checked by the judiciary.

There have always been cases of certain police officers who have taken advantage of their position in the force for private gains. Others have worked below the expected standard and frustrated the pursuits of the entire police force by so doing. The aim should be to give exemplary signals that such departures from discipline and respect for established rules will not be tolerated. Good credentials and a solid track record of impartiality and trustworthiness will prove essential for the police for doing its work efficiently and for fulfilling its responsibility towards society as a respected force. This is the direction which must ever guide its officers in the exercise of their duties vis-a-vis the population.

There are countries in which the law and order situation has become untenable because the police force and the army there pursued their own interests at public expense. We have managed to steer clear of such chaotic situations in which quite a few countries in Africa and Asia have been plunged due to the complicity of the police and the army which became willing instruments for advancing the private interests of unscrupulous politicians in power and their own.

If Mauritius has not failed like those states, we owe it in a large measure to the political leadership and culture which have prevailed in this country since Independence and to those of our independent public institutions which have refused to give in to unlawful entreaties to pervert the state apparatus. If we have not strayed in this dangerous direction for so long, we have not the least reason to embark on such a course now - for our own good.

A number of disturbing cases of murder, aggression and alleged suicides have hogged the headlines for the past few weeks. The police is looking into these cases. The self-proclaimed 'Avengers' group of lawyers, who have taken the defence of the wife of Soopramanien Kistnen, have taken the credit for prodding the police into expediting their inquiries into that particular and other cases. They may have a point there. But we would nevertheless like to think that its sense of self-dignity would inspire the police to want to live up to and always fulfil its lofty mission - without fear or favour - for the good of the country.

## The Conversation

## Voters are starting to act like hard-core sports fans - with dangerous repercussions for democracy

*Researchers find that the most devoted fans take their team's defeats personally and often blame losses on the refs or cheating. Sound familiar?*

**D**uring Donald Trump's presidency, the American electorate became more divided and partisan, with research suggesting that the ongoing division is less about policy and more about labels like "conservative" and "liberal."

Essentially, voters increasingly see themselves in one of two camps - a "red team" and "blue team," each with a faction of hard-core members.

The dangerous extent of this devotion was on display when a mob of Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol, convinced that the election had been stolen despite no credible evidence of widespread voter fraud.

### How did American politics get to this point?

As sports communication researchers who have written extensively on the vast and powerful influence of identity on attitudes and behaviour, we believe our work can offer some ways to understand recent events.

We've noted parallels between political identity and sports fandom that, when unpacked, point to some of the dangers associated with what we call "political fandom."

### Fandom can be central to identity

In sports, the spectrum of fandom is easily observable. Some fans might casually enjoy games simply while wearing their team's shirt, whereas others ardently support and uproariously react to every play while cloaked in elaborate, outlandish outfits.

But fandom can go beyond outfits. It can become a core component of your identity - your sense of who you are.

Sports communication researchers refer to this connection as "team identification," a concept that transcends simply



The lines between political fandom and sports fandom have blurred. Wesley Hitt/Getty Images

supporting a team and is, instead, characterized by a deeper, emotional attachment in which fans feel psychologically connected to their favourite team.

These fans - called "highly identified fans" - are more likely to express their love of their team on social media, attend events and consume more team-related media. They'll even buy team-related products when they don't particularly like the product itself. For the fan, it's all about demonstrating allegiance.

Research shows that being a fan and belonging to a group can be beneficial to someone's well-being. But there can be a darker side to this kind of devoted fandom - particularly when a favorite team loses.

### Wins and losses become personal

In sports, the final whistle signals a game's end.

But the level to which fans identify with their team can actually influence how they feel and act after the game has been decided. For highly identified fans, a win feels like a personal victory; a loss, on the other hand, feels like a personal defeat.

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## Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah - Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah / Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee  
This paper has been produced with the assistance of

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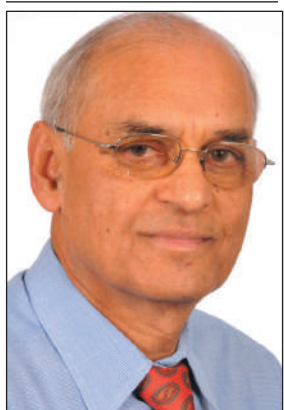


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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Covid Pandemic: Thank you India

# Of Imagined Disasters & Vaccine Diplomacy

*We have to be humble enough to be ready to learn from each other's experience and to put our heads together to fight the common enemies that threaten our health, the planet's health and its economy*

**T**hank you Prof Indira Chakravarty of Kolkata for sending me the video of the WION (World Is One) channel wherein the anchor presents a factual and insightful update (as of Jan. 23, 2021) about India's handling of the pandemic, which we'll see in a moment.

Prof Indira Chakravarty is a former Director of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health in Kolkata (established 1932), where several Mauritian doctors have trained in Public Health. About ten years ago she was de-legated to Mauritius as WHO Consultant to assist the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life in preparing its new National Nutrition Plan.

And thank you also for the clip showing Usha Uthup singing 'Ekla Chalo Re' at Victoria Memorial Kolkata on the occasion of Parakram Diwas (in honour of Subhash Chandra Bose) in presence of PM Narendra Modi and CM of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee, which sent me down memory lane – Usha was singing as Usha Iyer during my student days in what was then Calcutta.

Commenting on the pandemic situation the WION anchor starts with a flashback to its beginnings when, 10 months earlier, the *New York Times* predicted a catastrophe for India, followed up four months later by the *Boston Globe* calling India's response 'a humanitarian disaster'. Shortly after, for *Scientific American* India was in denial about the Covid crisis, and BBC declared that New Delhi was staring at a disaster.

What does the BBC say now? The UK is facing a record of 1564 daily deaths; a further 1564 people have died within 28 days of testing positive for Covid-19, the biggest figure in a single day since the pandemic began. CNN reports that UK hospitals look like a war zone. In the US the hospital situation is no better; more than 24 million people have been infected, representing about 25% of the world's total of around 100 million. In several states there is an upshot in the number of hospital admissions, and California is a new hotspot. The West in general is facing surges.

In contrast, says the anchor, India seems to have got a grip on the pandemic; cases have fallen to their lowest since June 2020: so much for the doomsday predictions, she adds. Besides, India is driving the world's largest vaccination programme,



aiming to attain 300 M (almost entire population of US) of its 1.3 billion population by July 2021. As of 22 Jan 1.04 million people had been vaccinated (N.B. this number has now crossed 1.6 M).

**“The interest in Indian vaccines is because they are both cost effective and safe. For example, Covishield is priced at 6 USD compared to Moderna's 30 dollars and Sputnik 10 dollars. India has the largest number of FDA approved vaccine manufacturing plants outside the US, with a reputation for topnotch standards, India being known as the world's pharmacy. Vaccine developers from around the world have been tying up with India's vaccine plants from the beginning of the pandemic...”**

She lets out some mind-boggling figures: India has trained 200,000 vaccinators and 370,000 team members; readied 29,000 cold storages.

But India is not stopping at vaccinating its own people: it is also nursing the neighbourhood back to health through 'vaccine diplomacy'. That is, gifting several countries its locally manufactured vaccine to several countries: Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar, Seychelles, Mauritius (100,000 doses of Covishield vaccine), Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. Morocco and Brazil have received 2 million doses each through commercial arrangements.

Countries such as Belgium and UK are interested to source Indian vaccines, as are some countries in West Asia and Africa too.

The interest in Indian vaccines is because they are both cost effective and safe. For example, Covi-shield is priced at 6 USD compared to Moderna's 30 dollars and Sputnik 10 dollars. India has the largest number of FDA approved vaccine manufacturing plants outside the US, with a reputation for topnotch standards, India being known as the world's pharmacy. Vaccine developers from around the world have been tying up with India's vaccine plants from the beginning of the pandemic. The Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune is the largest vaccine producer in the world, at 1.5 billion doses a year, currently manufacturing the Covishield vaccine; other big firms in the West all fall far short of this figure. SII will also supply 200 million doses to the WHO Covax platform for distribution to the poorer countries.

India is thus engaged in the equitable distribution of vaccines to the world. In the words of PM Narendra Modi: 'India is ready to save humanity with two "Made in India" Covid-19 vaccines.' WHO's DG Dr Tedros wrote as follows: 'India continues to take decisive action and demonstrate its resolve to end the Covid-19 pandemic. As the world's largest vaccine producer it's well-placed to do so. If we ACTogether, we can ensure effective and safe vaccines are used to protect the most vulnerable everywhere.'

India is thus extending support to multi-

ple nations to heal from the Covid shock in a spirit of compassion. As early as July 2020, Dr Peter Piot, Director of the London School Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said that without India there won't be enough vaccines to save the world. While the world blocked the export of essential medicines, India instead supplied drugs such as HCQ (Hydroxychloroquine), Remdesivir, paracetamol as well as masks, ventilators, diagnostic kits, etc. It also provided training to the neighbourhood. All these actions are being driven by the core Indian premise of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*: the world is one family, concluded the anchor.

On the other hand, while in India (where the recovery rate is approaching 97%) the number of new cases and deaths continues to fall (respectively 13303 & 131 as of yesterday), in the US and UK the news outlets which at the beginning displayed a pathological obsession with imagined disasters in India have not deemed it fit to own up their prejudice, contrast the Indian stats and response with their own self-acknowledged 'out of control situation' and admit that they are lagging behind, let alone to report that India has managed a turnaround and is firmly on the way to vaccinate its 1.3 billion despite facing so many constraints.

Besides, in Europe, as the *New York Times* reports, there is resistance to prolongation of lockdowns, for example in the Netherlands, 'Demonstrators in the Netherlands clashed with the police in two cities on Sunday, and a coronavirus testing facility was burned on Saturday, as anger at a nationwide lockdown grew more violent'. And there are other major issues too: 'The European Union said that it would take legal action if necessary to ensure pharmaceutical companies fulfilled contracts to supply vaccines to the bloc, after manufacturers announced possible delays.'

One lesson that I have learnt during my now nearly half a century of medical practice is that in medical and health matters your Waterloo awaits you at every bend. The last thing that you should practise as a doctor is the art of *grand-noir* (arrogance). And its equivalent – not posturing on the moral high ground – applies to nations and their leaders and communicators as well when it comes to dealing with the reality of biological variability and unpredictability that Covid-19, for example, has so dramatically demonstrated, and that continues to challenge humanity's capacity to cope. How long more it will take to achieve a reasonable degree of control we cannot confidently say: it will also depend on whether we behave rationally or impulsively. And we would be naïve to assume that Covid-19 is the last in line to have a predilection not to say a liking for our vulnerable human issues!

That is part of the reason that we have to be humble enough to be ready to learn from each other's experience and to put our heads together to fight the common enemies that threaten our health, the planet's health and its economy. If there is another way out, I'd be happy to learn about it.





Sada Reddi

# Understanding Mauritian Society, Our Political Traditions and Elites

*The new elite relies solely on the state for its survival, for jobs, resources, security, honour and status. However both the new and the old elites one are organically linked for they are interdependent and rely on the state to survive*

**D**uring her visit to Mauritius in 1956 Princess Margaret travelled in an open vehicle with a number of risks as the crowd tried to get a closer view of the princess. Malcolm de Chazal then wrote an open letter to the Governor suggesting that better security measures be taken to protect important visitors. The governor was furious that a civil servant had dared write to him an open letter and consequently it fell to the Colonial Secretary to write to Malcolm de Chazal asking him to retire from the Civil Service six years before his normal retirement age.

There is no better example of the authoritarian nature of the colonial state. After independence the successor state was meant at least to be liberal, let alone democratic. But today the liberal regime suffers from a number of anomalies and one major explanation of these anomalies is the elitist control of our society and its pernicious influence thereon. Since it is the lower classes that bear the brunt of the various malpractices, they should seek and negotiate a new social contract with the elite to safeguard their interests and work together for a better society.

In seeking to explain why our democratization process has been so slow, the blame is more often laid at the door of the political class. This explanation is too simplistic for it overlooks the fact that while the political class has its share of blame in the way our society evolves, it must be recognized that it forms part of an elitist system which controls most of the levers of power in our society. At the Lancaster Conference, 1965, our political representatives did their best to craft a democratic state adapted to a plural society. But all they could achieve by consensus was simply a liberal state. A number of proposals were put forward; some were rejected but on the whole consensus was reached for the establishment of a liberal state for Mauritius. After independence it has been extremely difficult to even implement a liberal regime successfully.



**“The elitist domination of our society is not a post-independent phenomenon and can be traced to the type of colonial society prevalent in Mauritius. The business interests were represented in the Council of Government from 1831 onwards, and from that time they dominated colonial politics and they were represented in all our institutions...”**

In trying to understand our political traditions, we should remember that our political system was not founded in 1968 after we had been given a new Constitution. The political system formalized by the Constitution in 1968 is an organic one, evolved from our own past. The discussions at Lancaster made a number of references to our past political experience -- laws, institutions, and other conventions and values. For example, some of our fundamental rights already existed during colonial times, and a few of them were suspended with the outbreak of war in 1939. It is well known that our judicial system has evolved from the time of the French rule and has been adapted during British rule. When all this is said the colonial system remained authoritarian with powers vested in the hands of one person -- the governor --, apart from the fact that in the British colonial system the colonies were administered by ordinances and orders in Council.

In 1968 we inherited all the major features of a liberal state -- representative government, cabinet rule, a civil service, the judiciary, the rule of law and an elec-

toral system, a mixed economy and even an independent Commissioner of Police. At the same time, what we inherited was a centralized system of government where the powers were distributed among various centralized institutions under the control of not one person but of an elite. By elite we mean the politicians, the civil servants, the professionals who staff all our institutions or parastatal bodies, as well as the entrepreneurs, businessmen and managers in the corporate sector -- both public and private. This elitist domination of our society is not a post-independent phenomenon and can be traced to the type of colonial society prevalent in Mauritius. The business interests were represented in the Council of Government from 1831 onwards, and from that time they dominated colonial politics and they were represented in all our institutions.

What is therefore new after independence? All the institutions inherited from the past have been retained and consolidated. The old elite prevails in the private sector where they have increased its control over the economy and worked closely with the new elite, which has expanded

since independence. For example the only difference between the old elite and the new elite is that the new elite is not based on the productive resources of the country; it relies solely on the state for its survival, for jobs, resources, security, honour and status. However both the new and the old elites one are organically linked for they are interdependent and rely on the state to survive.

One section of the new elite relies on political control of the state for resources, jobs, promotion and security. The business entrepreneurs of the new elite share with the old elite government contracts for they are the ones to procure goods and services to the state. Contractors, big and small, often arrange among themselves to bid for contracts at the highest prices in order to make excessive profits to the detriment of the state.

**“The old elite are powerful enough to wring concessions from the government and these concessions are made available annually in the budgets or in various projects that require government support. In the 1950s, a dry cleaning and steam plant would not have been set up without the guarantee of a contract for the washing of hospital linen. Similarly in the 1960s a pharmaceutical venture would not have been successful as an import-substitution industry without a contract to supply medicines to state hospitals...”**

The old elite despite being invisible in politics prefers to pull the strings from behind the curtain. They are powerful enough to wring concessions from the government and these concessions are made available annually in the budgets or in various projects that require government support. In the 1950s, a dry cleaning and steam plant would not have been set up without the guarantee of a contract for the washing of hospital linen. Similarly in the 1960s a pharmaceutical venture would not have been successful as an import-substitution industry without a contract to supply medicines to state hospitals.



**E**ngland could remain in lockdown through the spring and into the summer, Downing Street has suggested, as leading scientists warned that the early lifting of restrictions may result in a "disastrous" resurgence of Covid-19. Boris Johnson said it was "too early to say" when measures would be relaxed, with No 10 later refusing to rule out the possibility of lockdown continuing beyond Easter, reports The Independent.

Although the UK is making strong progress in its vaccine rollout - just under 5 million first doses have been administered so far - experts have insisted that the vaccine should not be seen as a "magic bullet". New scientific modelling suggests that even with an uptake rate of 90 per cent among the UK's top priority groups, as outlined by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, up to 1 million at-risk people would remain vulnerable to the disease.

On the other hand, Conservative MPs have heaped pressure on the government to

# England could remain in lockdown into the summer



Test and Trace is reaching more people each week, the problem is that the number of cases keep rising. Photo - news.sky.com

get children in England back to school as quickly as possible after the health secretary warned any return may be pushed back beyond the Easter break, reports The Independent. Schools have been off limits to most since the beginning of the year, with only

vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers allowed to attend to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

While the British government never set a formal end to the restriction, Boris Johnson said at the start of January he hoped to

see schools begin to reopen "after the February half term". However, Tory politicians have urged the government to make the resumption of face-to-face teaching a priority after Matt Hancock warned that pupils may have to continue to learn remotely until April - with this year's Easter half term due to end on the 16th of the month.

## Biden vows to move "heaven and earth"...

New US President Joe Biden has vowed to move "heaven and earth" to administer 100 million vaccines to Americans in 100 days when unveiling his national Covid-19 plan last Thursday - all while calling the Trump administration's vaccine strategy a "dismal failure".

On the first day of his admi-

nistration, Mr Biden unveiled his national strategy for Covid-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness, which involved 10 executive orders. Americans make up 4 per cent of the world's population, Mr Biden said, yet the country accounted for 25 per cent of global Covid-19 cases and 20 per cent of global deaths, reports The Independent.

\* \* \*

Less than half of the British public want to see a reduction in immigration to the UK, according to new polling - marking a considerable drop on previous years. The government has been accused of being "out of step" with public opinion on immigration after it emerged the proportion of Britons wanting fewer immigrants to arrive has dropped from more than two thirds (67 per cent) in February 2015 to 49 per cent in November 2020.

Polling by Ipsos Mori of more than 2,500 people, seen exclusively by The Independent, shows that 12 per cent would like to see an increase in immigration to the UK, compared with 7 per cent in February 2015.

## US to reverse Trump's 'draconian' immigration policies, Biden tells Mexican president



US President Joe Biden. Photo - Gettyimages

Mexico has a major role to play in Biden's plans for immigration reform. Earlier this month, Mexico helped coordinate efforts in Central America to contain a large caravan of migrants heading for the United States.

Mexico's Foreign Ministry also said it had begun talks with Washington about a Covid-19-related order signed by Biden to establish firmer health protocols for people entering U.S. territory.

The call was "pleasant and respectful," López Obrador said in a brief Twitter post.

"Everything indicates relations will be good and for the benefit of our people and nations," López Obrador said.

Nevertheless, Biden's inauguration comes at a time of simmering tension over a now-dropped US investigation into former Mexican defense minister Salvador Cienfuegos.

Cracking down on both legal and illegal immigration was a core focus of Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump.

Biden, meanwhile, has made an early push for a bill that would open a path for citizenship for the roughly 11 million people living in the United States illegally, though even his allies in Congress acknowledge that may be "a Herculean task."

**T**he United States plans to reverse the Trump administration's "draconian" immigration approach while working on policies addressing the causes of migration, President Joe Biden told his Mexican counterpart, the White House said on Saturday.

In a Friday call with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Biden outlined his plan to create new legal pathways for immigration and improve the process for people requesting asylum, according to an account of the call released by the White House.

## India, China hold round 9 of military talks amid border standoff

**M**ilitary commanders of India and China Sunday met for a ninth time for talks to defuse tension along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh and find a solution to end the standoff. In the last round of talks, the Indian Army strongly insisted on an early disengagement of troops by China from all points of friction in eastern Ladakh.

The military negotiations began at around 10 am at Moldo border point on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, PTI reported, citing sources.

The nearly nine-month-long military standoff has seen tension rise along the LAC. Some 50,000 Indian Army troops are currently deployed in a high state of combat readiness in mountainous locations in eastern Ladakh in sub-zero conditions, as multiple rounds of talks between the two sides have failed to resolve the standoff.

China has deployed an equal number of troops, officials said.

India will not reduce its troop strength unless China initiates the process, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday in an interview to Times Now. Expressing confidence that a solution to the row could be found through talks, he said India is developing its border infrastructure, some of which China has objected to, at a "very fast rate".

According to a transcript of the interview issued by the channel, when asked about the dialogue process with China on the row, Mr Singh said, "There is no deadline when it comes to matter like the ongoing standoff. You can't fix a date."

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# Kremlin accuses U.S. of meddling in affairs, but says ready to talk

President Vladimir Putin would respond in kind if the new U.S. administration showed willingness to talk, a Kremlin spokesman said on Sunday, while also accusing Washington of meddling in mass protests in support of detained opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

The Kremlin also downplayed the scale of Saturday's demonstrations, which saw police detain more than 3000 people and use force to break up rallies across Russia.

Prior to the protests, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow had issued a "Demonstration Alert", warning U.S. citizens to avoid the protests and naming the venues in Russian cities where protesters planned to gather.

"Of course, those publications are inappropriate," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Rossiya 1 TV on Sunday, according to Interfax news agency.

"And of course, indirectly, they are absolute interference in our internal affairs. So, this is a direct support of the breach in the Russian Federation's law."

The United States on Saturday called on Russian authorities to release protesters and journalists detained at the demonstrations, and condemned what it called "harsh tactics" used by the police against them.

In central Moscow, where Reuters reporters estimated



Navalny supporters protest his arrest, in Moscow. Photo - Reuters

up to 40,000 people had gathered in one of the biggest unauthorised rallies for years, police were seen roughly detaining people and bundling them into nearby vans.

The authorities said just around 4000 people had shown up, while the foreign ministry questioned Reuters' crowd estimate.

## Relations lowest in years

Navalny had called on his supporters to protest after being arrested last weekend as he returned to Russia

from Germany for the first time since being poisoned with a nerve agent he says was slipped to him by state security agents in August.

Even before the friction over Navalny, relations between Moscow and Washington have been at their lowest since the end of the Cold War, with the two sides also at odds over Russia's role in Ukraine and allegations of its meddling in U.S. elections, which it denies, among other issues.

But Peskov had, nonetheless, struck a more conciliatory tone earlier on Sunday, when he said Russia was ready to set up a dialogue with the new administration of President Joe Biden.

Putin was one of the last global leaders to congratulate Biden on his victory in the U.S. presidential election after the Nov. 3 vote.

One of the burning issues to be resolved by the two nuclear powers is the arms control treaty, known as New START, which is due to expire on Feb. 5.

The White House said last week that Biden would seek a five-year extension to the deal, while the Kremlin requested concrete proposals from Washington.

# WHO chief thanks India, PM Modi for 'continued support' to global Covid response

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Saturday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his continued support to the global Covid-19 response, saying acting together, including sharing of knowledge, will help in combating the novel coronavirus that has claimed over 2 million lives and infected more than 96 million people across the world.

India this week announced that it will send Covid-19 vaccines under grant assistance to Sri Lanka and seven other countries - Bhutan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Seychelles, Afghanistan and Mauritius.

Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Maldives have already received India's Covid-19 vaccines under grant assistance in sync with its "Neighbourhood First" policy.

"Thank you, India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for your continued support to global Covid-19 response. Only if we act together, including sharing of knowledge, can we stop this virus and save lives and livelihoods," tweeted Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of World Health Organization.

Prime Minister Modi has said India's vaccine production and



WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

delivery capacity will be used for the benefit of all humanity to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said last week India was ready to do everything possible for a healthy planet.

India, one of the world's biggest drugmakers, has already rolled out a massive coronavirus vaccination drive using two vaccines, Covishield and Covaxin.

Covishield has been developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and is being manufactured by Serum Institute of India. Covaxin is an indigenous vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research.

India on Friday began commercial exports and sent two million doses of domestically manufactured Covishield vaccine to Brazil.

India has undertaken contractual supplies of coronavirus vaccines to Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Brazil, Morocco, Bangladesh and Myanmar, the Ministry of External Affairs said in New Delhi on Friday.

Several countries have already approached India for procuring the coronavirus vaccines.

According to Johns Hopkins University, the current global Covid-19 caseload and death toll stood at 98,129,394 and 2,105,056, respectively.

# Czech trainers teach dogs to sniff out Covid

In a dog training centre built inside a shipping container located in a Czech mountain village, Renda, Cap and Laky are being put to the test.

They sniff at six vessels, each containing a piece of cloth with scent from patients with Covid-19, negative donors, or fake samples.

"Good boy!" exclaims Lenka Vlachova, a trainer working at Prague's fire brigade, as jagdterrier Renda sits down by one sample, wagging his tail.

The team of dog trainers are working in their own time and report a 95-percent success rate in Covid-19 detection in samples of human scent.

"The study is designed to verify dogs' ability to detect Covid-19 and generate a method enabling the use of trained dogs in combatting the pandemic," project head Gustav Hotovy told AFP.

"The method should also work with other diseases, even more lethal than Covid-19," Hotovy said.

"In the end, we should be able to detect a huge number of people in a very short time with a trained dog," he said, speaking in the snowy village of Klny near the German border.

Vlachova told AFP the first study confirming dogs are able to detect tissue attacked by a virus was conducted in the United States about a decade ago.

"The virus changes the human tissue, affecting the scent signature of the person," she said.

Hotovy, a retired cynologist whose team started training the dogs last August, said that the signature changes "so much that it is immediately discernible for the dogs".

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah



Interview : Dr Avinaash Munohur, Politologue

# «Nous sommes dans un moment compliqué pour la démocratie, et nous devons nous armer d'une grande vigilance»



**L**a Covid-19 a bousculé les habitudes économiques, sociales et politiques, tout en déclenchant une prise de conscience accrue des limites des systèmes de gouvernance dans le monde contemporain. Tel est le cas à Maurice aussi. Dr Avinaash Munohar, politologue et partenaire d'un cabinet spécialisé en conseil en affaires publiques, nous en dit plus...

**Mauritius Times:** Après l'affaire MedPoint et les procès contre Navin Ramgoolam durant le dernier mandat du gouvernement, nous voilà suspendus aux différentes affaires devant les tribunaux – l'affaire de 'Constituency Clerk' et l'enquête judiciaire dans le meurtre de Soopramanien Kistnen ; et il y a d'autres probablement par rapport à l'affaire St Louis ou les 'Kistnen Papers'... Ce qui fait que le débat politique, la vie politique en général, se déroule à l'ombre des procès en cours. Est-ce une tendance préoccupante ou est-ce normal dans une démocratie ?

**Dr Avinaash Munohur:** Qu'il y ait enquêtes et poursuites, cela témoigne du bon fonctionnement du judiciaire, et donc d'un aspect important du fonctionnement de la démocratie.

Le problème, c'est que, comme vous le suggérez, nous avons l'impression que le débat politique est réduit aux séances des différents procès en cours. Il y a fondamentalement trois problèmes à cela :

1. Les Mauriciens perdent de plus en plus confiance en leurs politiciens, ce qui accentue un sentiment de défiance palpable.
2. La capacité d'action de nos élus est réduite, justement à cause de cette défiance.
3. Et enfin, nous ne parlons plus des choses qui comptent vraiment dans l'espace politique. Les enjeux sociaux, économiques, sécuritaires et environnementaux sont entièrement passés sous silence.

« Toute la rhétorique autour des tribuns nous ayant conduits vers l'indépendance ou encore la lutte des classes à travers l'engagement syndical ne sont absolument plus d'actualité. Ces moments se sont longtemps évanouis et ne représentent plus rien politiquement au regard d'un nombre de plus en plus important de Mauriciens... »

Et, pour moi, le plus grand danger pour la démocratie est là. Les affaires ont tendance à réduire les enjeux de l'espace politique à des questions de droits – qui sont souvent obscures pour les non-initiés –, ce qui ne permet pas de faire émerger les vrais problèmes que vivent les Mauriciens et face auxquels la politique se doit de trouver des solutions. En quelque sorte, la dimension de la délibération – qui est essentielle au bon fonctionnement de la démocratie – ne fonctionne plus.

« Le MSM est au pouvoir dans un contexte où les partis de l'opposition n'ont plus rien à offrir pour enchanter les masses »

\* Cette situation découle d'un certain blocage au niveau de certaines institutions – c'est du moins la perception. Comment réagissez-vous à cela ?

Peut-être que cette situation découle d'un blocage initial de certaines institutions, mais elle produit elle-même encore plus de blocage. Du moment que les institutions ne fonctionnent plus de la manière dont elles devraient fonctionner – c'est-à-dire qu'elles doivent réguler la vie sociale et politique, tout en produisant des solutions aux problèmes des citoyens à travers le processus de délibération politique –, alors la défiance va encore plus s'accroître, ce qui provoquera encore plus de blocage. C'est un cercle vicieux qui peut devenir dangereux.

\* L'impression qui se dégage présentement, c'est que l'espace politique paraît être aussi dans une situation de blocage, et ceci n'est pas sans rappeler certains moments clés de l'Histoire de notre pays. Quel est votre diagnostic de cette situation ?

Nous sortons d'une année 2020 qui était bien évidemment difficile à bien des égards et nous entrons dans une année 2021 où nous allons voir et vivre les conséquences économiques et sociales de la Covid-19.

Comme de nombreux autres pays, nous faisons face à des défis immenses. Ils sont économiques, sociaux, sécuritaires, institutionnels et environnementaux.

Il serait un peu innocent de venir dire que c'est uniquement la crise de la Covid-19 qui a exposé ces défis. Ils étaient en réalité déjà présents, mais peut-être de manière latente. De ce fait, la pandémie de Covid-19 a produit un phénomène d'accélération de l'exposition, de la mise en

lumière même, des fissures dans la structure de notre système de gouvernementalité.

Une première question qui peut être posée est la suivante : est-ce que notre système de gouvernement a, dans sa forme et dans son état actuel, les capacités et les capacités politiques et institutionnelles de répondre à ces défis ?

Tout système politique – qui est incarné dans une Constitution mais également à travers les institutions et les pratiques produites par ces dernières – produit une certaine capacité d'action de la puissance publique dont l'objectif est de répondre à un moment historico-politique donné. De ce fait, notre système politique vient clairement du « oment 1968 » dont les impératifs étaient une émancipation des rapports de pouvoir du colonialisme et l'impératif de la construction de l'État moderne – construction qui s'est ancrée dans le cadre opératif de la social-démocratie et de l'État-providence.

Est-ce que nous sommes toujours dans ce moment aujourd'hui en 2021 ? C'est-à-dire, est-ce que les objectifs de la puissance publique sont toujours les mêmes qu'il y a quelques décennies ? Je pense personnellement que non. Je pense bien plutôt que nous sommes dans un moment qui appelle à une autre manière de penser, à une autre manière de percevoir, de comprendre et d'analyser le politique.

« Tactiquement, le MSM est en position de force puisqu'il restera au pouvoir tant qu'il n'en sera pas délogé par une proposition politique qui saura rallier la majorité des Mauriciens. Et nous sommes forcés de constater que cette proposition a du mal à émerger, et c'est le moins qu'on puisse dire... »

Nous avons besoin de faire évoluer la logique qui anime la construction de l'espace politique dans notre système de gouvernement, ce qui – à son tour – produira une évolution dans la manière dont nous construisons et mettons en place nos politiques publiques.

Le chantier est immense, mais c'est à travers ce questionnement que nous pourrions trouver les clés qui débloquent certaines situations politiques. Ces dernières peuvent aujourd'hui nous sembler amorphes.

➤ Suite en page 8



☛ Suite de la page 7

Mais je suis optimiste de ce point de vue, je pense qu'un 'shift' est déjà en train de se produire dans la construction de l'espace politique à Maurice. Il s'agit d'un processus long et lent, mais il est déjà présent.

**\* Ce blocage sur le plan politique est-il lié à la question de leadership au sein des principaux partis du pays, en particulier le PTr et le MMM?**

Ce blocage est systémique et concerne toute la structure du pouvoir et de la gouvernabilité à Maurice – ce qui englobe aussi bien l'État, ses institutions, le gouvernement, les partis politiques, les acteurs économiques, sociaux, etc.

C'est tout un monde qui est en train de se métamorphoser, qui est en train d'entamer un processus de destruction créatrice qui nous mènera vers un autre cycle politique et un autre cycle de développement.

De ce point de vue, les partis politiques sont un maillon – parmi bien d'autres – d'une chaîne qui ne fonctionne plus très bien. Et je ne pense pas qu'un simple renouvellement des leaders politiques pourrait suffire à mettre en place un processus de renouvellement sérieux. Le problème fondamental est que nous n'avons pas grand-chose à proposer comme alternative à notre situation actuelle.

Je ne vois actuellement aucune proposition politique capable de se positionner comme une alternative crédible, sérieuse et solide face aux défis et aux challenges qui nous guettent, et ceci que ce soit au niveau des partis traditionnels ou des nouveaux mouvements politiques qui apparaissent.

La volonté de changement est réelle, mais nous ne savons pas à quoi ressemble ce changement. D'ailleurs, les termes « vision pour Maurice » et « politique autrement » apparaissent souvent, mais ils ne signifient rien. Ce sont des slogans qui restent creux malheureusement.

« Nous sommes actuellement dans un moment de recherche à Maurice. Nous nous cherchons. Nous cherchons déjà une issue pour une situation politique qui est vécue comme compliquée et bloquée par beaucoup de citoyens mauriciens. Mais je pense que nous cherchons également quelque chose de plus profond, de plus porteur aussi politiquement... »

**\* Vous pensez donc que l'espace politique est en train de subir un shift? «Shift» générationnel, de leadership ou dans la conception de la chose politique et des méthodes?**

Je sais que cela peut sembler contradictoire contradictoire en raison des blocages évoqués plus tôt, mais je pense que oui. Nous sommes actuellement dans une situation qui produit – pour utiliser une image chère aux marins – une situation où les lames de fond sont en train de bouger même si nous ne voyons pas grand-chose à la surface.

Les grands idéologues américains nous ont vendu cette fameuse fable de la fin de l'histoire et de l'avènement d'un monde unifié sous l'hégémonie du système néolibéral à partir du milieu des années 1980. L'idée était que les contradictions idéologiques entre capitalisme et socialisme – qui ont animé les luttes et la construction politique de la majeure partie des 19ème et 20ème siècles – avaient laissé place à un système unique qui aurait la capacité de résoudre tous les antagonismes et toutes les problématiques politiques, sociales et économiques qui se présenteraient à lui.

Nous savons que cette vision des choses souffre d'un échec flagrant depuis au moins le début du 21ème siècle. Mais nous savons également que les tendances

**‘Le problème fondamental est que nous n'avons pas grand-chose à proposer comme alternative à notre situation actuelle’**



idéologiques qui ont animé les mouvements politiques au siècle dernier n'ont plus aucun sens aujourd'hui. Ceci ne signifie pas que nous ne sommes pas dans un moment politique bouillonnant, bien au contraire. Ceci signifie plutôt que d'autres tendances, d'autres pôles idéologiques émergent et se renforcent.

Nous pouvons facilement constater une polarisation de plus en plus accentuée entre deux tendances : d'un côté le projet néolibéral qui se confronte de plus en plus à des barrières, à des résistances et à des situations où il ne fonctionne plus tout à fait ; et de l'autre, à l'approfondissement des tendances identitaires extrêmes et réactionnaires.

Pour dire les choses autrement, nous voyons d'un côté la tendance à la dérégulation et à la privatisation des biens communs de plus en plus accentués – le néolibéralisme –, et de l'autre, une réaction violente à cette dérégulation qui s'appuie sur un conservatisme fondé sur des notions historiques de l'identité, du religieux et de la culture.

Nous ne sommes pas épargnés par ces tendances à Maurice, et celles-ci prennent une forme précise chez nous. Nous savons que la construction de l'espace politique passe par la matrice de l'identité à Maurice, ce qui signifie que notre multiculturalisme n'est pas uniquement un trait anthropologique de la société mauricienne, mais bel est bien un instrument de gouvernement qui se trouve au cœur de la construction des espaces politiques. Ceci a pour conséquence que nous nous devons être d'une vigilance extrême quant à la tendance identitaire et réactionnaire qui peut prendre comme une trainée de poudre.

Nous voyons, également, de manière de plus en plus visible, les conséquences d'un néolibéralisme devenu punitif pour beaucoup de Mauriciens. Un réel exemple de cela est la transformation urbaine qu'ont produites les IRS/RES/PDS/Smart Cities...

L'apparition de ces ghettos pour riches a fait exploser le prix de l'immobilier, avec pour conséquence le fait que des jeunes ont de plus en plus de mal à se loger et à devenir propriétaires d'un logement, ce qui produit de facto des situations de précarité.

Alors que nos parents avaient accès à la propriété privée et devenaient propriétaires de leur logement, notre génération ne cesse de s'endetter afin de conserver un niveau de vie convenable dans un pays où la distance entre les gagnants et les perdants de l'économie devient de plus en

plus visible.

Et c'est face à ces situations, à ces problèmes, à ces blocages que nous devons pouvoir proposer des politiques et des réformes qui permettront à la puissance publique de redevenir efficace dans la production de la justice sociale et de l'inclusion afin que chaque Mauricien puisse avoir les armes et les outils nécessaires pour construire sa vie dans la dignité.

Et, de ce point de vue, oui, l'introduction d'autres modes d'analyses et d'autres méthodologies dans l'élaboration des politiques publiques pourrait être salvateur.

**\* Comment voyez-vous les partis politiques évoluer dans ce 'shift' de l'espace politique?**

Je pense que les idéologies qui ont porté des partis comme le Parti travailliste et le MMM ne fonctionnent plus. Ou du moins, ces idéologies ne fonctionnent plus avec la même efficacité et avec les mêmes potentialités. Nous parlons ici d'un challenge qui est propre à toutes les gauches à travers le monde.

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D'une certaine manière, la gauche a toujours représenté le rêve et l'enchantement – pour ne pas dire l'utopie – alors que la droite se cantonne à une pragmatique s'appuyant sur des valeurs conservatrices et dans la volonté de résister à un changement qui n'a, selon elle, pas encore fait ses preuves.

Au sortir d'un ensemble d'expériences socialistes et postcoloniales, il est inconcevable de penser la gauche selon les modalités historiques propres au 20ème siècle. Mais ceci ne signifie pas qu'un espace de proposition n'existe plus pour les partis politiques qui s'inscrivent dans cette tendance – comme le sont le PTr et le MMM.

☛ Suite en page 9



# 'Les idéologies qui ont porté le PTr et le MMM ne fonctionnent plus... avec la même efficacité'



« Du moment que les institutions ne fonctionnent plus de la manière dont elles devraient fonctionner – c'est-à-dire qu'elles doivent réguler la vie sociale et politique, tout en produisant des solutions aux problèmes des citoyens à travers le processus de délibération politique –, alors la défiance va encore plus s'accroître... »

« Je ne pense pas qu'un simple renouvellement des leaders politiques pourrait suffire à mettre en place un processus de renouvellement sérieux. Le problème fondamental est que nous n'avons... aucune proposition politique capable de se positionner comme une alternative crédible, sérieuse et solide... »

☛ Suite de page 8

Mais ce qui est certain, c'est que toute la rhétorique autour des tribuns nous ayant conduits vers l'indépendance ou encore la lutte des classes à travers l'engagement syndical ne sont absolument plus d'actualité. Ces moments se sont longtemps évanouis et ne représentent plus rien politiquement au regard d'un nombre de plus en plus important de Mauriciens.

Le MSM, lui, est dans une autre situation : celle d'être au pouvoir dans un contexte où les partis de l'opposition n'ont plus rien à offrir pour enchanter les masses. À un moment où ils participent tout autant que la majorité gouvernementale au désenchantement des masses même. Ceci revient à dire que, tactiquement, le MSM est en position de force puisqu'il restera au pouvoir tant qu'il n'en sera pas délogé par une proposition politique qui saura rallier la majorité des Mauriciens. Et nous sommes forcés de constater que cette proposition a du mal à émerger, et c'est le moins qu'on puisse dire.

**\* Vous semblez donc confirmer que nous sommes dans une situation de blocage politique. Mais est-ce que ce moment n'est pas porteur de potentiels aussi ?**

Je crois que nous sommes actuellement dans un moment de recherche à Maurice. Nous nous cherchons. Nous cherchons déjà une issue pour une situation politique qui est vécue comme compliquée et bloquée par beaucoup de citoyens mauriciens. Mais je pense que nous cherchons également quelque chose de plus profond, de plus porteur aussi politiquement : nous cherchons à quoi ressemblera notre avenir.

Je parle ici bien de l'avenir et non du futur. Le futur est un concept de physique quantique lié au temps qui passe de manière inexorable. Le futur est ce qui nous arrivera quoi que l'on fasse. L'avenir relève, pour moi, beaucoup plus du rêve et de l'imaginaire puisque l'avenir signifie,

désigne, définit même, à quoi pourrait ressembler ce qui nous arrivera dans le futur. De ce fait, l'avenir est un concept politique puisqu'il questionne le devenir du peuple, de l'État, des institutions, de nos patrimoines historiques et écologiques, etc.

Et je pense sincèrement qu'il y a, actuellement, un désir réel – profond peut-être – de questionner notre avenir alors même qu'un futur désenchanté semble nous être promis. Et là où les choses deviennent vraiment intéressantes, c'est que cette réflexion sur notre avenir trouve des points d'articulations concrets.

Les rassemblements qui ont suivi l'échouage du Wakashio s'inscrivent clairement dans la volonté d'une part grandissante des Mauriciens de vouloir voir se mettre en place une politique efficace pour la protection de nos côtes et de nos littoraux.

Nous voyons un nombre grandissant de nos compatriotes se mobiliser pour des enjeux sociaux aussi, par exemple, quid de la multiplication des ONGs qui se mobilisent pour lutter contre la prolifération des drogues, contre les violences domestiques ou encore pour l'égalité des genres.

Il y a une conscience nouvelle qui émerge au travers de ces luttes. Et ce réveil des consciences ne peut qu'être porteur d'importants potentiels politiques pour l'avenir.

**\* Pensez-vous que ces potentialités pourront se transformer en des pôles de développement et de croissance pour Maurice ?**

D'une certaine manière, toute la question est là puisque les potentiels et les questionnements politiques doivent trouver des articulations et des incarnations concrètes dans le domaine de l'économie.

Par exemple, cela ne sert strictement à rien de parler d'écologie si on ne démontre pas que la conversion écologique ne sera pas porteuse de croissance, d'emplois et de bénéfices divers pour le pays et pour la population.

Et cela ne sert à rien de proposer des politiques liées à la conversion écologique sans qu'il n'y ait un plan d'action et une stratégie de financement qui répondent aux impératifs de transparence et de bonne gestion de la gouvernance moderne.

Nous pouvons dire exactement la même chose de la modernisation de l'industrie touristique, de la réindustrialisation, du développement océanique durable, de la conversion énergétique, de l'économie digitale, etc.

Ce qui compte, c'est de réconcilier les revendications actuelles avec les impératifs du développement économique. C'est un immense challenge que de réussir cette rencontre dans la multiplicité des domaines concernés. Mais à travers cela, nous pourrions convertir les potentialités actuelles en pôles de développement. Ceux-ci auront le potentiel de produire une transformation de notre pays.

Nous devons pour cela explorer les différentes avenues qui s'offrent actuellement à nous : évolutions technologiques, les transformations de la géopolitique régionale, les nouvelles formes du travail, etc.

**\* Vous parlez de la géopolitique régionale. Est-ce que la position géostratégique de Maurice dans l'océan Indien peut constituer une force afin de permettre à notre pays de passer à l'étape supérieure de son développement ?**

Il est indéniable que les grandes puissances régionales sont en train de profiter de la Covid-19 pour repositionner leurs intérêts et pour façonner d'autres alliances.

« Alors que nos parents avaient accès à la propriété privée et devenaient propriétaires de leur logement, notre génération ne cesse de s'endetter afin de conserver un niveau de vie convenable dans un pays où la distance entre les gagnants et les perdants de l'économie devient de plus en plus visible... »

« Nous devons être extrêmement vigilants. Nous entrons de plus en plus dans une phase de la construction globale où l'insécurité va s'approfondir – insécurité civile, insécurité alimentaire, insécurité sanitaire, etc., – et ceux-ci ont un potentiel de disruption... »



Tout ceci est en train de redessiner la cartographie géopolitique et diplomatique pour Maurice. Il ne s'agit pas ici de renier les liens d'amitiés, qui sont forts et parfois vibrants, avec nos partenaires historiques comme la France ou la Royaume-Uni. Mais un autre monde se dessine dans l'océan Indien, et Maurice – État océanique de près de 2 millions de km<sup>2</sup> – aura tout à gagner en jouant la carte du multilatéralisme et de la multipolarité des jeux d'intérêts géopolitiques.

Donc oui, notre position géostratégique est d'une importance capitale pour nous. A nous maintenant de savoir utiliser cette arme pour avancer nos intérêts nationaux sans compromettre la souveraineté de nos territoires et de nos patrimoines.

**\* Sommes-nous donc dans une situation où nous pouvons rester optimistes quant à l'avenir de la démocratie à Maurice ?**

Je pense que nous devons être extrêmement vigilants. Nous entrons de plus en plus dans une phase de la construction globale où l'insécurité va s'approfondir – insécurité civile, insécurité alimentaire, insécurité sanitaire, etc., – et ceux-ci ont un potentiel de disruption.

Nous voyons également que la concurrence pour le contrôle des ressources, des matières premières et des espaces économiques d'avenir produit des potentiels belliqueux entre les puissances économiques – la guerre commerciale que Trump a menée contre la Chine en est un exemple.

Le traité commercial que nous venons de signer avec la Chine est un excellent exemple de cela.

Nous savons que le gouvernement mauricien est également en train de négocier un accord commercial avec l'Inde. Nous savons également qu'une part de plus en plus importante des FDI transitant par l'économie mauricienne est issue de pays émergents, notamment la Russie, l'Arabie saoudite et un nombre important de pays africains.

Nous savons aussi que les outils de contrôle policier ont atteint un tel degré de sophistication que le rêve de Jeremy Bentham d'une surveillance généralisée d'une population est aujourd'hui une réalité – avec tout le potentiel d'abus de pouvoir qui sont liés à ces technologies.

Donc oui, nous sommes dans un moment compliqué pour la démocratie, et nous devons nous armer d'une grande vigilance.



From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4<sup>th</sup> Year No 156

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*

# The Ministers and The Public



Jay Narain Roy

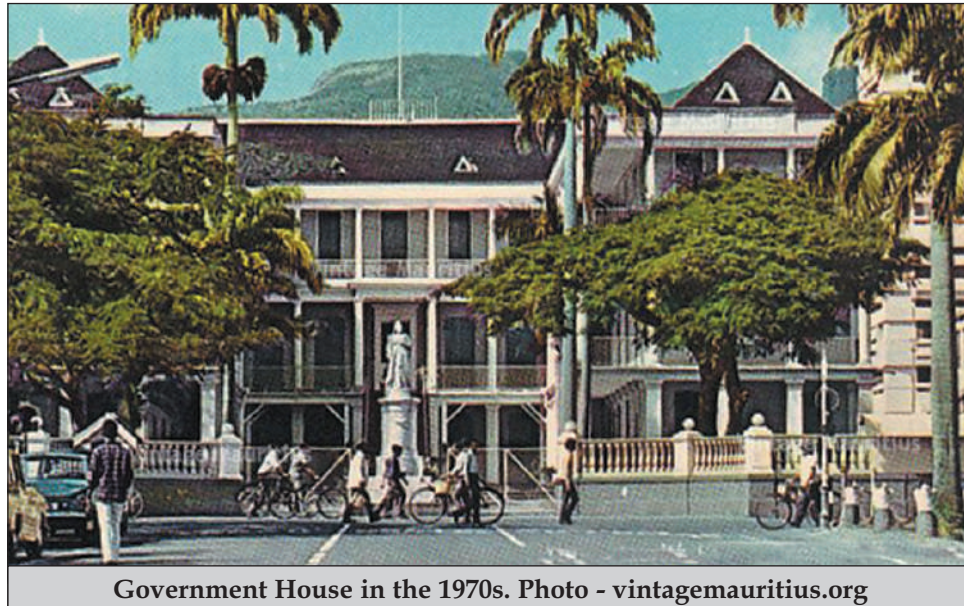
**I**t is really gratifying to think that Dr Millien's bold gesture to inaugurate the work of his Ministry by contacting responsible employers and employees was given wide publicity. All the newspapers, without exception, have taken the right approach to the Ministry as a whole. I was pleased to read that a paper which is generally not too friendly to Dr Millien has put in a nice word.

That is indeed the spirit in which the public approaches the work of the Ministers. Expectations are pretty high. If something happens, the whole country will applaud. I believe the whole country is eager to have occasional publicity about ministerial work and even to see pictures of multifarious activities. But nobody would like unreasonable and futile publicity. If this part is overdone, there might even be protest and this will be none too flattering.

It must be realised that apart from the *Parti Mauricien*, all important sections are represented. There is generally a cooperation of the Tories, the Labourites and the Independents. If the *Times* of London is to be believed, the *Parti Mauricien* is not included not because it has been elbowed out but because of some internal dissension in the *Parti*. Although the details of the quota and personality were thrashed out between representatives of the Parties and the Governor, the country has unanimously accepted the ministerial position with good grace. It also happens that one of the Ministers who was elected by the Tory backing is a Muslim.

There is no reason to oppose the formation of the Ministry. Why then this cheap hypocrisy about boycott and all that? The stunts of some people are highly inscrutable and cannot be explained. They turn their crimes into martyrdom and thus try and introduce into public life a standard of morality that cannot be conducive to our welfare. Mountebanks and ribaldry have often found their way into politics but it should be the task of all honest people to raise the standard of public conduct. We cannot build anything worthwhile on mere lies and hypocrisy nor can we serve the people by exciting their emotion all the time only to serve our inglorious end.

In view of some quackery in our midst, we look up to the Ministers to set up a high standard of public decorum through facts, civility and poise. They are capable of doing it because their educational background is sound. The only



Government House in the 1970s. Photo - vintagemauritius.org

way to deal with people who believe in stunts, lies and abuses is with facts, courtesy and moderation. Things are happening in the public life here which should be a blot on any civilised nation. Through histrionics and display of foul words the moral standard goes putrefying into the gutter. Of the many welfares we are seeking, we cannot place too low our desire to raise public life to that standard which is a delight of the democracies. All horseplay has a limit, and we cannot always blink things by condemning them as pathological cases. They are capable of doing real harm in what we are anxious to build.

One of the worst things in parliamentary practice is that some people, when they speak in Council, are not anxious to give any effective contribution to the subject under discussion but they are eager to show off some histrionics to their electorate. All speeches are conceived in the spirit of personal propaganda. Probably Mauritius is among the few countries in the world where parliamentary speeches are published in the dailies *in extenso*. If only brilliant and sober speeches were reported as in other countries, I have no doubt that there would be less speeches and more factious speeches.

The newspapers should help to build a sound parliamentary system and the Ministers should set the pace. At any rate no Minister can decently think in terms of his own electors. He is bound by his oath and position to think in terms of the entire country. He is bound by his high responsibilities to marshal facts and show grasp and vision. If a Minister butts in on every occasion for the purposes of self-aggrandisement or if he makes statements that can be challenged on facts or if he shows immoderation in language or emotion, he is severely throttling democracy. If nothing else, this experience in itself is a great parliamentary landmark.

It should not be presumed that a Minister can live on his previous-acquired prestige. Political memory is proverbially short. The least error can blot out the work of a lifetime. Such is the lesson of history. As people have applauded the courageous stand of the Minister of Labour, the public will react quite seriously if any Ministry shows lethargy, incompetence or levity. It will take some time before the idea of collective responsibility is engendered. In the meantime, Ministers will continue to be judged by their per-

sonal ability and hard work as by the result of their work.

It is the first time that some of our senior politicians have been entrusted with executive responsibilities. Whatever may have been the platform prestige of the Minister, there is bound to be a complete new reassessment of their capability as Minister. They should be considered to be starting on a clean slate. If a Gandhi can be assassinated, a Churchill asked to retire, an Eden soon forgotten or a Stalin given a post-mortem re-evaluation, the path of politics is naturally too hazardous for ordinary mortals. A public man fortunately is not judged by the abuse he can pour or the jackanapery he can publicly demonstrate but by his practical idealism and the actual results of his work.

The formation of public opinion in Mauritius has been somewhat rapid. In 1948, public pent-up feeling was released. In 1953, parties and principles had a blind obedience. With the establishment of the ministerial system, the public is bound to be more critical and less willing to toe the line in blind obedience. More. The public will even wish to scrutinise which of the measures accomplished by the Ministry is of permanent benefit to the country and which are purely vote-catching, pre-election stunts. They can also see if what has been obtained has come through courage and fight or has been given as largesse to lubricate electioneering.

The Ministry has come as a pre-constitutional appendage and, as such, it is indissolubly bound up with the Boundary Commission which in turn is a baby of the London Conference. The Labour delegates had assured Mr Profumo that single-member constituencies under the three conditions can easily be formed. They will now have to prove it by facts and figures. The public will feel somewhat pinched if the Labour Party is not able to prove the first alternative and if the three-member constituency system with the Party List is thrust on our shoulders. Personally I feel that it will be a black day for the colony if after all this protracted show we are left with the Party List system. Then it will appear that it is the only result of the London Conference. I am not sure what the reaction of the public will be, but it will be a real calamity if the reactionaries and their hired stooges are able to create confusion in the country.

Every institution of a political nature is a kind of university for the political education of the people. The Ministry is one of these. Nothing makes the public more bitter than to see their hopes frustrated. No one is a more bitter enemy than a disgruntled friend. Moreover the position of people at the helm is more assailable than of those whose sole pastime is to shout and blaspheme.

These are naturally some of the approaches and reproaches we should be prepared to forestall by our patient work and the courageous handling of public affairs. It is felt that the spirit in which the Tories have been prepared to accept six of the nine Ministries to the Labour Party is to give them a long rope to hang themselves. All these show great responsibilities on our men. We simply cannot afford to fail. And should failure come through the lack of stature of any Minister, he simply must be benighted. The public will enthusiastically follow those who show courage and ability. They will follow those who have character and poise. If Ministers lead the way, cracks and quacks have had their day.



# Understanding Mauritian Society, Our Political Traditions and Elites

Cont. from page 4

With the control of the state and its institutions by the elite, comprising both the new elite and the old one, the working classes and other small business entrepreneurs or producers inevitably feel alienated from the state and its institutions. In the past it was expected that the new elite would be progressive enough to work for the welfare of the lower classes and incorporate the interests of the latter in public policies for the betterment of society. This is how some major successes have been achieved with progressive legislation and the establishment and maintenance of the welfare state. But it is increasingly felt that that

the interests of the lower classes are given short shrift. Their aspirations remain unfulfilled and they are the ones who swell the number of unemployed and have become the 'precariat' – those who live a precarious existence. They realize that their progress is being blocked by the elite but have found no means to articulate or redress their grievances.

The elite is initially constituted of kinship groups but has also other dimensions which are ethnic, professional or even religious, and has over the course of time evolved other types of associations. These range from masonic lodges to service groups and organisations to protect and advance their material

interests. Confronted with elite control and power, the lower classes and most of our citizens have hardly an organization to defend their interests. The trade unions play an important role to protect workers but are not sufficiently strong to advance the cause of their members against the state and its elites.

Consequently all our citizens

have to bear the consequences of all the problems, which remain unattended. In addition to their precarious living, people are plagued by all kinds of problems – traffic congestion, noise pollution, short employment contracts, voluntary retirement scheme, disciplinary committees, bureaucratic inertia, school dropouts and loss of livelihood resulting

**“In the past it was expected that the new elite would be progressive enough to work for the welfare of the lower classes and incorporate the interests of the latter in public policies for the betterment of society. This is how some major successes have been achieved with progressive legislation and the establishment and maintenance of the welfare state. But it is increasingly felt that that the interests of the lower classes are given short shrift...”**

from the sea and other pollution.

This elite is embedded in our society, and its institutions are well entrenched. It does, however, recognize the hopelessness of its task. Social distress, the rise of crime, drug addiction and violence can only result in deteriorating social cohesion. The elite itself has become vulnerable and is keen to reverse these processes of decline. Therein lies an opportunity for the working classes and the lower classes to seek and work out a new social contract that incorporates their concerns and those of the broader society and the economy.

A new social contract should include reforms and proposals which are feasible, achievable and binding for this is the only way to revitalize the economy and society and restore the dynamism of capitalism for the common good.

Sada Reddi

## Voters are starting to act like hard-core sports fans - with dangerous repercussions for democracy

Cont. from page 2

After wins, highly identified fans are more likely to bask in the glory of victory, tying themselves to the team through the use of language like “us” and “we.”

For those same highly identified fans, a loss isn't simply disappointing. Instead, it poses a threat to their identity and causes psychological discomfort that leads to stress, depression and a greater willingness to confront others. They'll often double down in support of their team. They might declare their team the best, regardless of the outcome. They'll say the loss was a fluke and that external causes were to blame – poor officiating, an injury or cheating by the other team.

As with sports, political identification and participation can occur on a spectrum. Some people simply vote every election cycle for their preferred political party. Others, however, are heavily invested in the party and its candidates. They devour media, purchase campaign-affiliated merchandise and frequently flaunt their support in public and on social media.

After the 2020 presidential election, we wanted to know to what extent the concept of team



Like baseball fans wearing the hat of their favorite team, supporters of Trump are decked out in campaign regalia. Tasos Katopodis/Getty Images

identification applied to politics. We surveyed voters between Dec. 16 and Dec. 20, 2020, just days after the Electoral College vote confirmed Joe Biden as president-elect. Administering a questionnaire that's used by sport communication researchers, we were able to show “team identification” – when applied to politics – can help explain certain beliefs and behaviours after the election.

We found that 55% of Trump

voters in our survey still falsely believed that Donald Trump had won the 2020 election. This result was significantly influenced by their level of team identification; voters who were highly identified Trump supporters were more likely to hold this false belief.

Of course, Trump, some members of Congress and conservative media outlets reinforced those false beliefs by sharing baseless information alleging

election irregularities and voter fraud.

When we asked highly identified Trump supporters if they were likely to distance themselves after the loss, we found they retained unfettered loyalty to Trump, similar to the way a sports fan would react after a big loss. When asked why Biden had been declared president-elect, overwhelmingly, they blamed everything but Trump, most often echoing Trump's false voter fraud claims.

### The ball is in the politician's court

This issue, however, is not unique to Trump and his supporters.

Many politicians have devoted fans. Our results showed – perhaps surprisingly – that both Biden and Trump voters rated similarly in terms of their levels of political team identification.

To us, this signals the extent to which our politics have become polarized, with voters existing in separate camps that are unflaggingly devoted to their “team” and its leaders.

The onus, then, increasingly lies on politicians, whose words wield even more power when their followers closely identify with

them.

In sports, after losing a close playoff game, a star player can congratulate the other team and admit to being outplayed or can blame the refs and accuse the other side of cheating without offering evidence. The former reaction might temper the emotions of die-hard fans, while the latter could easily exacerbate their negative feelings.

It's important for political leaders to consider the influence of political fandom. After an election, conceding after the “final whistle has blown” is an important norm and tradition, while divisive rhetoric that fans the flames of false hope is a dangerous tack to take. After all, in sports, highly identified fans are much more likely to become aggressive when they expect their team to win, only to witness a loss.

Politics, though, isn't a game. And on Jan. 6, the world saw what happens when political fandom is harnessed and unleashed by unfounded, inflammatory rhetoric.

By Michael Devlin,  
Texas State University &  
Natalie Brown Devlin,  
University of Texas at Austin



# They don't come as pills, but try these 6 underprescribed lifestyle medicines for a better, longer life

The majority of Americans are stressed, sleep-deprived and overweight and suffer from largely preventable lifestyle diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes. Being overweight or obese contributes to the 50% of adults who suffer high blood pressure, 10% with diabetes and additional 35% with pre-diabetes. And the costs are unaffordable and growing. About 90% of the nearly \$4 trillion Americans spend annually for health care in the U.S. is for chronic diseases and mental health conditions. But there are new lifestyle "medicines" that are free that doctors could be prescribing for all their patients.

Lifestyle medicine is the clinical application of healthy behaviors to prevent, treat and reverse disease. More than ever, research underscores that the "pills" today's physician should be prescribing for patients are the six domains of lifestyle medicine: whole food plant-based eating, regular physical activity, restorative sleep, stress management, addiction reduction or elimination, and positive psychology and social connection.

We are a primary care preventive medicine physician and a computational immunologist, both committed to applying state-of-the-art research to inform the clinical practice of lifestyle medicine. Our findings and recommendations were just published. We highlight the key take-home points for each of the areas below.

kidney and autoimmune diseases as well as 35% of all cancers.

We believe that future research should include larger trials or new research methods with emphasis on quality of diet. This would include more data on the micronutrient composition and protein sources of plant versus animal-based foods - not just proportion of fat, carbohydrates and protein. Such trials should include children, as many adult disorders are seeded as early as infancy or in utero.

## Regular physical activity

For decades, surgeon generals' guidelines have emphasized that daily moderate-to-vigorous aerobic physical activity has both immediate and long-term health benefits. For example, why we age and the rate at which we age - chronological age versus biological age - is determined by multiple molecular processes that are directly influenced by physical activity. And now scientists are gaining a better understanding of the cellular and molecular changes that exercise induces to reduce disease risk.

Research priorities for scientists and physicians include obtaining a deeper understanding of the type, intensity and frequency of activity, and better insights into the molecular and cellular alterations that occur with exercise.

## Restorative sleep

Sleep helps the cells, organs and entire



tive stress, and epigenetic modification of DNA, all of which are associated with or cause chronic disease.

Therefore, research into the biological mechanisms that underlie the restorative properties of sleep could lead to environmental or population-based and policy approaches to better align our natural sleep patterns with the demands of daily life.

## Stress management

Though some stress is beneficial, prolonged or extreme stress can overwhelm the brain and body. Chronic stress increases the risk of cardiovascular disease, irritable bowel disease, obesity, depression, asthma, arthritis, autoimmune diseases, cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, neurological disorders and obesity.

One of the most powerful mechanisms to reduce stress and enhance resilience is by eliciting a relaxation response using mind-body therapies and cognitive behavioral therapy.

More research is needed to gain a better understanding of how these therapies work.

## Addiction reduction and elimination

Many social, economic and environmental factors have fueled the national rise in substance abuse generally and, most tragically, the opioid epidemic.

Physicians and researchers are beginning to understand the underlying physiology and psychology of addiction.

Yet the continued stigma and disjointed or absent access to services remains a challenge. Clinicians and scientists need to explore how to predict who is more vulnerable to addiction and find ways of preventing it. Treatment that incorporates integrated care focused on all the patient's needs should be prioritized.

## Positive psychology and social connection

Maintaining a positive mindset through the practice of gratitude and forgiveness has a significant impact on psychological and subjective well-being, which are, in turn, associated with physical health benefits.

Social connectivity, namely the quantity and quality of our relationships, has perhaps the most powerful health benefits.

Conversely, social isolation - such as living alone, having a small social network, participating in few social activities, and feeling lonely - is associated with greater mortality, increased morbidity, lower immune system function, depression and cognitive decline.

Further study is needed to uncover how an individual's biology and chemistry change for the better through more social interactions.

## Inflammation's role in lifestyle-related diseases

Unhealthy lifestyle behaviors produce a vicious cycle of inflammation. While inflammation is a healthy, natural way the body fights infections, injury, and stress, too much inflammation actually promotes or exacerbates the diseases described above.

The inflammatory response is complex. We have been using machine learning and computer modeling to understand, predict, treat and reprogram inflammation - to retain the healing elements while minimizing the detrimental more chronic ones. Scientists are unraveling new mechanisms that explain how chronic stress can turn genes on and off.

## Overcoming challenges and barriers

We and others who study lifestyle medicine are now discussing how we can leverage all of these approaches to improve clinical studies on the impacts of lifestyle interventions.

At the same time, we and our colleagues realize that there are environmental challenges and barriers that prevent many people from embracing these lifestyle fixes.

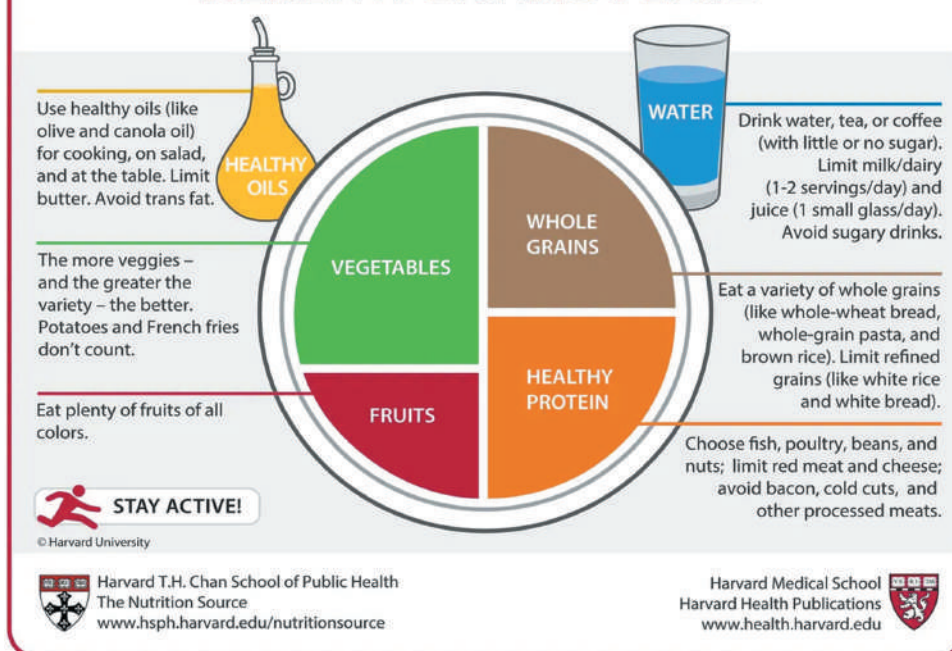
There are food deserts where healthier foods are not available or affordable. Unsafe neighborhoods, harmful chemicals and substances create constant stress. Poor education, poverty, cultural beliefs and racial and ethnic disparities and discrimination must be addressed for all people and patients to appreciate and embrace the six "pills."

The application of lifestyle medicines is particularly important now because unhealthy lifestyles have caused a pandemic of preventable chronic diseases that is now exacerbating the COVID-19 pandemic, which disproportionately afflicts those with these conditions.

Ask your doctor to "prescribe" these six "pills" for a longer and better life. After all, they're free, work better than or as well as medications and have no side effects!

**Yoram Vodovotz & Michael Parkinson**  
University of Pittsburgh

## HEALTHY EATING PLATE



## Whole-food, plant-based eating

Diets high in fruits, vegetables and whole grains and lower in animal products and highly processed foods have been associated with prevention of many diseases. These diets have also improved health and even reversed common cardiovascular, metabolic, brain, hormonal,

body to function better. Regular uninterrupted sleep of seven hours per night for adults, eight to 10 hours for teenagers and 10 or more for children is necessary for good health.

Though understudied, there is evidence that high-quality sleep can reduce inflammation, immune dysfunction, oxida-





## What Women Want in a Man!

### What women want in a man - original list

1. Handsome
2. Charming
3. Financially successful
4. A caring listener
5. Witty
6. In good shape
7. Dresses with style
8. Appreciates finer things
9. Full of thoughtful surprises



### What women want in a man - revised list (age 32)

1. Nice looking
2. Opens car doors, holds chairs
3. Has enough money for a nice inner
4. Listens more than talks
5. Laughs at my jokes
6. Carries bags of groceries with ease
7. Owns at least one tie
8. Appreciates a good home-cooked meal
9. Remembers birthdays and anniversaries

### What women want in a man - revised list (age 42)

1. Not too ugly
2. Doesn't drive off until I'm in the car
3. Works steady - splurges on dinner out occasionally
4. Nods head when I'm talking
5. Usually remembers punch lines of jokes
6. Is in good enough shape to rearrange the furniture
7. Wears a shirt that covers his stomach
8. Knows not to buy champagne with screw-top lids
9. Remembers to put the toilet seat down
10. Shaves most week ends

### What women want in a man - revised list (age 52)

1. Keeps hair in nose and ears trimmed
2. Doesn't belch or scratch in public
3. Doesn't borrow money too often
4. Doesn't nod off to sleep when I'm venting
5. Doesn't re-tell the same joke too many times
6. Is in good enough shape to get off the couch on weekends
7. Usually wears matching socks and fresh underwear
8. Appreciates a good TV dinner
9. Remembers your name on occasion
10. Shaves some weekends

### What women want in a man - revised list (age 62)

1. Doesn't scare small children
2. Remembers where bathroom is
3. Doesn't require much money for upkeep
4. Only snores lightly when asleep
5. Remembers why he's laughing
6. Is in good enough shape to stand up by himself
7. Usually wears some clothes
8. Likes soft foods
9. Remembers where he left his teeth
10. Remembers that it's the week end

### What women want in a man - revised list (age 72)

1. Breathing.
2. Doesn't miss the toilet.



### Quotable Quotes

A smart person knows how to fight a battle.  
A wise person knows which battles not to fight.

\*\*\*

This is true in our lives too. We can't get ahead of everyone.

So, let's simply enjoy the twists and turns, the slopes & elevations in our drive of life.

### Thoughts to Live by

## Parent's House

### Lucky are those who have their parent's house to go to

**I**t's the only house where you can go to dozens of times without an invitation.

The only house where you can put the key in the door and enter directly.

The house that has loving eyes that stare at the door until they see you.

The house which reminds you of your carefree days, stability and your happiness during your childhood.

The house in which your presence and look at your mother's and father's faces is for you a bliss and your conversation with them is a reward.

The house that if you do not go, the hearts of its owners will shrink, and if you hurt them, they will be angry.

The house in which two candles were burnt to light up the world and fill your life with happiness and joy.

The house where the dining table is pure for you and has no hypocrisy.

The house that if the food time arrives and you don't eat, the hearts of its owners will be broken and annoyed.

The house that offers you all the laughs and happiness.

Oh children, find out the value of these houses before it's too late.

Lucky are those who have their parent's house to go to.

## Life's LESSONS

1. Méfiez-vous de la personne nue qui vous offre des vêtements!
2. Quand une chèvre disparaît, l'arôme de la soupe d'un voisin devient suspect.
3. L'avenir appartient aux preneurs de risques, pas aux chercheurs de confort!
4. Un mari sourd et une femme aveugle sont toujours un couple heureux!
5. La première personne à laquelle vous pensez le matin ou la dernière personne à laquelle vous pensez la nuit est soit la cause de votre bonheur, ou la cause de votre douleur!

## Un vieux sage m'a dit...

6. Faites attention à qui vous avez confiance! Le sel et le sucre sont tous deux blancs!
7. Les murs n'ont pas seulement des oreilles, ils voient maintenant!
8. Parfois, vous devez jouer le rôle d'un imbécile pour tromper les imbéciles qui pensent qu'ils vous trompent!
9. Un homme dur dit à une femme d'arrêter de parler, mais un homme sage lui dit que sa bouche est belle si ses lèvres sont fermées.
10. Le meilleur parfum d'une femme est le parfum du succès de son mari.
11. Un sage sait qu'il y a quelque

chose à apprendre de tout le monde.

12. Il faut de la sagesse pour comprendre la sagesse.
13. La musique n'est rien si le public est sourd.
14. Aucun de nous n'est aussi intelligent que nous tous réunis. Travaillez ensemble pour réussir!
15. Si vous ne pouvez pas être un pont pour relier les gens, ne soyez pas un mur pour les séparer!
16. Si vous ne pouvez pas être une lumière pour illuminer les bonnes actions des gens, ne soyez pas des ténèbres couvrant leurs efforts!
17. Si vous ne pouvez pas être de l'eau pour faire germer les récoltes, ne soyez pas un vent qui les détruit!





# Things that might slow down prostate cancer

*From vitamin D to yoga to pomegranate juice, here's what has the potential to put the brakes on prostate cancer's progress, according to WebMD.*

## Diet and exercise

It's early yet, but some research shows a healthy diet and regular exercise can slow the progress of prostate cancer. More studies are under way. In the meantime, cut back on sugar. Eat leaner meats and lots of colorful fruits and veggies. Stay away from fatty dairy products. When you hit the gym, do both cardio and weights.

## Yoga

Stress can affect the nerves around a tumour. That may play a role in the spread of prostate cancer. So, stress-relieving activities -- like yoga -- might slow its progress.

## Flaxseed

The seeds from this plant have long been said to cure ills. It isn't clear whether that's true with prostate cancer. But researchers say flaxseed can help slow the growth of prostate tumors. Remember: Flaxseed is good for you. Too much flaxseed oil is not.



## Green Tea

Some say a compound in green tea, called EGCG, may decrease and kill cancerous cells. Studies are still in the works, but the results are promising.

## Vitamin D

People with prostate cancer tend to have less vitamin D. Boosting levels may not be as simple as getting more sun or drinking more milk. Vitamin D supplements can increase your levels and may slow the growth of

cancerous cells. Research is ongoing.

## Pomegranate Juice

Early research says drinking 8 ounces of this dark red potion a day may put the brakes on prostate cancer's progress. Studies are still under way, but one says pomegranate juice works best if your cancer is in an early stage.

## Lycopene

This natural pigment found in tomatoes (among other foods) has long been studied for its effect on cancers. Findings are mixed. But we are certain that tomatoes and other foods with lycopene are part of a healthy diet. And eating food that's good for you may

help slow the disease.

## Turmeric

Taken as a supplement, early research shows this Middle Eastern pantry staple might help prevent the onset of prostate cancer. It also eases inflammation. More studies are under way. In the meantime, take it along with your other therapies -- and let your doctor know you're adding it to the menu.

WebMD

**S**ome like it hot ... and some can't take the heat. Spicy food makes your blood vessels swell and even break, leading to purple marks on your face. If you have rosacea -- common in women after menopause -- the heat from spice can trigger a flare-up. It also raises your body temperature, so you sweat to cool back down. When sweat mixes with the bacteria on your skin, it can cause breakouts and blotches.

## Margarine

Your skin is the largest organ in your body, and everything you eat affects it. Most margarines, especially the solid kind, have trans fats. They raise your "bad" cholesterol, lower your "good" kind, and create inflammation throughout your body. Inflammation is linked to heart disease and stroke, two conditions that can give you an aged appearance.

## Sodas and energy drinks

The more sodas and energy drinks you consume, the quicker the cells in your tissues age. In addition to the fizz, they have more calories and added sugar -- 7 to 10 teaspoons in 12 ounces -- than any other beverage. Combined with the bacteria in your mouth, that sugar also forms acid that wears down your tooth enamel and causes decay. Other cons include weight gain and a higher risk of stroke and dementia.

## Frozen dinners

One frozen dinner can pack in half the sodium of a healthy daily diet. When you have too much salt, it causes you to drink more than normal and flood your kidneys. Any extra water will move to places in your body that have less salt, like your face and hands. That's what makes you look puffy.

## Alcohol

Those margaritas don't look as good on your skin as they did in the glass. If you've ever had cotton mouth in the morning after a night of drinks, you know alcohol

# Foods that age you



dehydrates you. This makes a big impact on your skin, which is 63% water. Even if you drink a big glass of water, it will hydrate all your other organs before your skin. When you don't get enough, your skin looks and feels dry, and can't defend itself against wrinkles.

## Processed meats

Put down the pepperoni: Processed meats, like bacon, sausage, ham, and deli cuts, are smoked, cured, or salted so they'll last longer without going bad. It's what makes them both delicious and dangerous. The sodium and chemical preservatives cause inflammation that can wear your body down inside and out. A little inflammation is good: It helps your cells heal. Too much can cause heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.

## Fried foods

The difference between dough and a doughnut is a nice long bath in boiling oil. That bath promotes free radicals, or unstable molecules that damage other molecules in your cells and add years to your skin. You

can also find free radicals in other fried foods like french fries, hush puppies, and mozzarella sticks.

## Baked goods

Just because they're not fried doesn't mean they look good on you. Baked goods like cookies and cakes are high in artery-clogging fat that put on the pounds. They also don't skimp on sugar, which can cause diabetes, high blood pressure, and tooth decay (among other things). Inflammation is another reason to skip that sundae. The more inflammation you have, the higher your chances of arthritis, depression, Alzheimer's, and some cancers.

## Charred meats

How this for an acronym? Frying or grilling meat at high temps creates advanced glycation end products, or AGEs. Low levels of AGEs are fine (your own body produces them), but high amounts from charred meats cause inflammation that "inflammages" your body and triggers heart disease and diabetes.

## High-fructose corn syrup

Table sugar's chemical cousin, high-fructose corn syrup, sweetens sodas and fruit drinks. Among many other health drawbacks, it interferes with your body's ability to use copper, which helps you form the collagen and elastin that keeps your skin healthy. It's also full of calories and puts you at risk for diabetes and heart disease.

## Caffeine

Caffeine is a diuretic: It stimulates your brain and your need to urinate. This can cause dehydration. When you don't have enough water, your skin stops releasing toxins. The backup makes you more prone to dry skin, psoriasis, and wrinkles.

WebMD





## Juhi Chawla: When anything is free, your freedom is the price

Juhi Chawla last week took a jibe at social networking platforms WhatsApp and Facebook at a time when millions of users are abandoning WhatsApp and opting for other chatting platforms to ensure their privacy is maintained, reports IANS.

Taking a dig at the above-mentioned social networking platforms, Juhi shared a note on Twitter that reads: "When anything is free, your freedom is the price."

"Desmond Tutu once said, 'When the missionaries came to Africa, they had the Bible and we had the land. They said, 'let us pray.' We close our eyes. When we opened them, we had the Bible and they had the land."

"Likewise, when social networking came, they had the WhatsApp and Facebook and we had the freedom. They said it's free. We close our eyes. When we opened them, we had WhatsApp and Facebook and they had our freedom."

"When anything is free, your freedom is the price."

"Would you agree?" the actress wrote along with the note.

The actress' jibe comes at a time when the privacy policy of WhatsApp is being questioned following incidents of chat leak and netizens are left with no other option but to switch to alternative messaging apps.

## Khushi Kapoor ready for big Bollywood debut

Film-maker Boney Kapoor and the late Sridevi's younger daughter Khushi Kapoor is all set to follow in her mother and sister Janhvi's footsteps and will soon be making her debut in the film industry.

The 'Mr India' maker, in an interview to *Bombay Times*, revealed that there would soon be an announcement regarding the debut of his 20-year-old daughter. He, however, added that he would not be launching her, rather it will be "someone I respect and someone I feel secure and safe about."

Explaining the reason behind his decision to not launch Khushi, Kapoor said, "I have the resources,



but I would rather have someone else launch her because I am her father and one tends to get indulgent. You can't afford to do that as a film-maker and nor is it good for the actor. Anil (Kapoor) was still an established actor, so it didn't affect him much, but I think I became an indulgent brother with Sanjay (Kapoor) when he made his entry into films."

The 65-year-old producer had backed the 1995-film '*Prem*' that saw his younger brother Sanjay make his foray into the film industry.

However, Kapoor's son Arjun made his debut with Yash Raj Films, and daughter Janhvi's debut film '*Dhadak*' was backed by Karan Johar.

## When Vidya Balan revealed her 'defence mechanism' against sexual harassment

*Back in 2017, Vidya Balan talked about sexual harassment in Bollywood and spoke about how it exists in every industry, reports Republic World. Read on to know what she said about it*

Back in 2017, while promoting her movie *Tumhari Sulu*, Vidya Balan talked about sexual harassment and also mentioned her way to deal with it. More so, she also talked about her way to deal with workplace harassment. Vidya told PTI that "walking away" was her "defence mechanism."

"She further added, "I could walk away because I had a home to go back to. I had family, I had food on my plate and I had nothing to worry about. A lot of people have circum-



stances that are different. As a woman, you have the sixth sense and instinct. No one has asked me for a coffee. If I went to have coffee with someone, it was because I wanted to go. I felt it was below my dignity to get work in any other way. I don't judge others who had to use any sort of means as everyone's circumstances are different."

In the same interaction, Vidya Balan also opined that women avoid talking about sexual harassment out of fear of being judged. She remarked that women never had the courage to talk about sexual harassment as invariably the finger would be pointed back at them. "Which is why I think women have always found it difficult to talk about it," she said. Not only this, but the actor also added that sexual harassment is not limited to the entertainment industry alone and that it exists in every industry.

"The film industry is a part of the society. Here it gets amplified and that is the only difference. In the West, it has happened to powerful and successful people and they did not do anything about it. But people have started talking, revealing things," said Vidya Balan.

## Bipasha Basu thanks onion juice for her lustrous hair and you have to try her hack!



We all love onion as a part of our salads, don't we? But have you ever imagined putting onion juice on your hair? Well, Bollywood divas are swearing by this magic potion as the new hack for beautiful hair. And the latest celebrity to join the onion juice bandwagon is none other than Bengali beauty, Bipasha Basu, reports Times of India

The stunner swears by onion juice as the

secret to her beautiful hair and she took to Instagram a few days ago to spill the beans on how onion juice acts like magic on hair.

Revealing the hair hack, Bipasha wrote, "Onion Juice!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I make a pulp of 2 red onions... then strain the juice out... apply on scalp... gentle massage for few minutes and leave it for an hour and wash and condition. Once a week I have started doing this. This is done to stop hair fall and increase hair growth. I put plain onion juice. If you want you can add virgin coconut oil, lavender oil or lemon to it too (sic)."a

If you are wondering how onion juice works magic on hair, here's the secret - It contains sulfur that prevents hair loss and promotes hair growth. It also increases blood supply to hair follicles.

### Sodnac Islamic Society

(Registration Number: 2598)  
Bait-UI-Mukarram Masjid  
10 Avenue Des Mouettes, Sodnac,  
Quatre Bornes

Compliant members of the Sodnac Islamic Society are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 07 February 2021 at 9.00 am at the seat of the Bait-UI-Mukarram Masjid, 10 Avenue Des Mouettes, Sodnac, Quatre Bornes.

#### Agenda:

1. Reading and approval of minutes of the last AGM.
2. Matters Arising.
3. President's report.
4. Treasurer's report.
5. Approval of final accounts for

year ended 31st December, 2020.

6. Approval of estimates of Income/Expenditure for year ending 31st December, 2021.
7. Motions if any.
8. AOB.
9. Election of New Office Bearers.
10. Nomination of two Auditors

#### NB:

Motions, if any, should reach the Secretary by Monday 01 February 2021 at latest.

In case there is no quorum, the meeting will be re-scheduled for Sunday 14 February 2021 at the same place, same time and with same agenda.

**Shaad Goonoo**  
Secretary, SIS



# Mohnish Bahl: 'At the sunset of my career, I want to do great roles'

*Mohnish Bahl on Star Plus show 'Sanjivani' and what keeps him away from doing more work*

**M**edical drama *Sanjivani* recently made a comeback on Star Plus. While fans are excited to see the new leads Surbhi Chandna and Namit Khanna, the makers also played smart by retaining the original actors - Mohnish Bahl and Gurdeep Kohli. Seeing them reprise their roles of Dr Shashank Gupta and Dr Juhi, respectively, has stirred up nostalgia among the audience.

A popular face in Bollywood, Bahl made his small screen debut with *Sanjivani* in 2002. He then went on to star in its sequel *Dill Mill Gayye* and also played the lead in *Kuch Toh Log Kahenge*. Bahl has also turned host for shows like *Star Vivaah*, *Savdhaan India* and *Hoshiyar... Sahi Waqt* and *Sahi Kadam*.

The 51-year-old recently spoke exclusively to indianexpress.com about *Sanjivani*, what keeps him away from doing more work and more.

Excerpts from the conversation:

**What was your first reaction when you got to know that *Sanjivani* is making a comeback?**

I was pleasantly surprised. It is for the first time on world television that a show is making a comeback after 17 years. It was my first television outing and was hugely successful. It certainly took me back in time, to where it all started.

**Was it also nostalgic since you got to shoot with Gurdeep Kohli?**

Not just her but the whole show, even the creative team, was the same. But yes, when Gurdeep and I shot this time around and as the title track played, we wondered where did the years go by. It was also a reminder to me that I am getting old



(laughs).

**Just like the previous time, *Sanjivani* has a bunch of young actors. Any similarities you found among the lot?**

I wouldn't like to compare the now and then cast. But I want to say that they are so much better than what we were at that stage of our career. They are confident, prepped up and know their way around, be it with the script or camera. I am really impressed with this young lot. During our times, it took many projects before we reached that kind of enlightenment. And they are already there.

**Today, the medical world has become commercialised. What message does *Sanjivani* have to offer?**

The baseline of the *Sanjivani* hospital has always been to promote the patients-first policy and not to make it a business.

But even charity needs to be commercialised and it's important to balance the two out. The show will also delve into the personal lives of the doctors, away from just their interaction with the patients.

It's interesting that while we do open up to our doctors, there is a kind of curtain in that relationship. We visit them when we are ill and don't like to be kept waiting. They give us the right medication but we hold them responsible if that doesn't work in our favour. But we tend to forget that they are humans and have their own set of problems. So, it would be interesting on a humane level.

**While all your roles on television have been loved and appreciated, what kept you away from the small screen for so long?**

My work has always been appreciated and so I am a little bit particular about what

I do. I am not someone who would come, shoot and take home the money. I want to do roles that I believe in and something that can help me get results as an actor. I am choosy and want to identify with the project. Sadly, that doesn't happen so often, and so I don't do a lot of television. Strangely, every time I do a show, people say that Mohnish Bahl is making a comeback, but that's my rhythm.

**And what about films?**

I am working on Ashutosh Gowariker's *Panipat*. That's the only film I have in my kitty at the moment. Honestly, cinema has also changed a lot from the time I started. Earlier, there were more projects. We used to do 15-20 films at a time. But with the kind of budget now, that doesn't happen. Also, back then, one producer used to bankroll three films. Now multiple producers come together to make one film.

But the good part is that content and quality have dramatically improved. Now we make worldclass cinema and the range is phenomenal. The offers that come to me are limited. And being at the sunset of my career, I want to do great roles, knowing that this is what I will be remembered for.

**As a father, will you ever recommend TV to your daughter Pranutan, or would want her to stick to films?**

Personally, I don't see any difference between the mediums. While cinema has been my foundation, I enjoy being part of television simultaneously. And now, with digital being so dominant, I might just do a web series sometime soon. Coming back to your question, cinema is what excites Pranutan and I think she would want to do more films in the coming days.

**A**ctor Ram Kapoor has seen his share of ups and downs in the entertainment industry. He says one has to be emotionally tough to survive here, and luck plays an important part to get success.

While the conversation around the dark side of Bollywood, and how mental health is affected by competition in the industry, Kapoor said that one has to find stability within.

"After the initial struggle I went through, I managed to make a name for myself in the television industry. Then it was my conscious decision to make a shift from quality to quantity. Today when I say that 'work is fun for me' and 'I look for challenging and engaging characters in the kind of web series I do', I say that with a certain amount of emotional and financial stability. I have earned it from television for more than 10 years," he said.

"In our industry, the ups, the success, the fandom is extreme but when the downfall happens, it is really dark. If you are not emotionally tough, it will be tough for you to survive the dark period before you see the light!" he shared.

During the lockdown period, several television actors committed suicide including Preksha Mehta, Manmeet Grewal, Anupama Pathak, and Sameer Sharma. The untimely death of Sushant Singh Rajput, who also started his journey from television with the show "*Pavitra Rishta*",

## Ram Kapoor: 'My heart is filled with gratitude'

was initially suspected to be a case of suicide by the Mumbai Police. However, the case is now under investigation by the CBI.

Although hard work plays an important role, Kapoor emphasises on the luck factor, too.

"I am lucky to get the right opportunity at the right time to prove my talent. Honestly speaking, there are many actors I know who are talented. They are no less talented than I am but probably they did not get the kind of opportunity they deserve, or did not get the appreciation from the audience the way I got," he said.

"I think it is pure luck and that is where my heart is filled with gratitude. Having said that, I would say whenever there is a down, it is only wise to stay hopeful and not give up. Who knows, the good time is just on the way, coming towards you to change your life for a greater good. I am eternally hopeful," Ram signed off.







Mardi 26 Janvier - 21.10

## Anaconda 3

Stars: David Hasselhoff, Crystal Allen, Ryan McCluskey



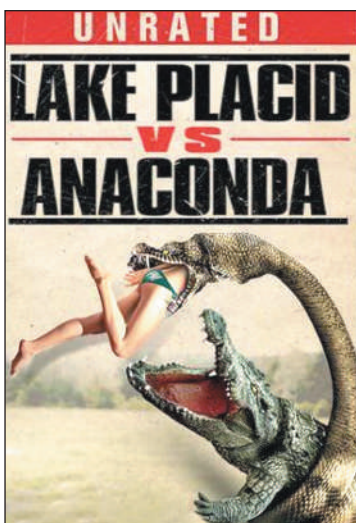

Mercredi 27 Janvier - 21.10

## Clarity




Jeudi 28 Janvier - 21.15

Star: Corin Nemec, Yancy Butler, Skye Lourie



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 26 janvier</b> 07.53 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 13.50 Local Prod: Nos Aines 14.30 D.Animes: Twirlywoos 14.41 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 14.55 D.Anime: Petit Creux 15.38 D.Anime: Uma and Devan... 16.01 D.Anime: La Famille... 16.34 D.Anime: Little 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 20.15 Local: Priorite Sante 21.25 Film: Anaconda 3	<b>mardi 26 janvier</b> 10.00 Serial: CID 10.44 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha 12.04 Film: Kanoon Ki Awaz Starring: Shatrughan Sinha, Jayapradha, Asrani, Menaka Babbar, Prem Chopra 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 16.29 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai 16.50 Serial: Achra Ke Moti 17.09 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance 18.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Mili Starring: Ashok Kumar, Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan	<b>mardi 26 janvier</b> 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.39 Mag: World Stories 07.00 Local: Cavadee 2021 07.55 Doc: Amazing Gardens 08.21 Mag: Future Mag 08.53 Doc: 360 GEO 10.37 Doc: The Volcano That... 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 15.30 Mag: Washington Forum 15.56 Doc: The Volcano That... 17.09 Mag: Arts And Culture 17.29 Mag: Voa Connected 18.24 Doc: The Feroes 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.26 Mag: Urban Gardens 19.34 Mag: Made In Germany	<b>mardi 26 janvier</b> 01.08 Film: Contract Killers 02.46 Serial: S.W.A.T 03.27 Film: Mike Hammer 05.03 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.32 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delive... 09.45 Serial: The Magicians 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T 12.00 Film: Mike Hammer 13.35 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: Signed, Sealed, Belive... 16.42 Serial: The Magicians 17.23 Serial: Midnight, Texas 18.05 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 20.30 Serial: The Bold Type 21.15 Film: Love: Space Time 22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.29 Serial: The Magicians	<b>mardi 26 janvier</b> 08.00 Film: Dharm Adhikari 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 / 21.24 - 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: Bade Dil Wala Starring: Bobby Deol, Dwij Yadav 18.00 Live: Samacher 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka
<b>mercredi 27 janvier</b> 08.00 Local: Palette 08.30 Local: Rodrig Prog 09.00 Doc: Nollywood 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.50 Prod Indepen: Met Seryer 14.00 Local: Priorite Sante 14.30 D.Anime: Twirlywoos 14.41 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 14.53 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little... 15.15 D.Anime: La Ligue Des Super 16.02 D.Anime: La Famille Blaureau 16.22 D.Anime: Yakari 16.34 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: Clarity 23.00 Local: Le Journal	<b>mercredi 27 janvier</b> 10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha... 11.17 Suhani Ek Ladhi 12.00 Film: Amar Skakti Stars: Shashi Kapoor, Shatrughan Sinha, Sulakshana Pandit 14.13 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: Kulvadh 18.00 Serial: Bloody Romance 18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Programme In Marathi 21.00 Film: The Dragon Starring: Yuen Bo Alan Chan Kwok-Kuen Sai Gwa-Pau	<b>mercredi 27 janvier</b> 06.00 Rev: The Global Auto... 06.26 Doc: The Feroes 06.52 Mag: Urban Gardens 07.00 Local: Cavadee 2021 07.55 Doc: Builders Of The Future 08.46 Doc: Brains In Danger 10.55 Doc: Tanzania Transit 11.38 Rev: The Global Auto... 12.07 Doc: The Feroes 12.33 Mag: Check In 12.59 Mag: Made In Germany 13.25 Doc: Builders Of The Future 13.53 Doc: Olivia's Garden 15.15 Mag: Close Up 16.28 Doc: Tanzania Transit 17.54 Mag: Motorweek 18.20 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	<b>mercredi 27 janvier</b> 00.20 Serial: The Bold Type 01.26 Film: Hollows Grove 02.47 Serial: S.W.A.T 03.26 Film: Ladies In Black 05.15 Tele: Muneca Brava 05.57 Serial: Midnight, Texas 09.00 Serial: The Magicians 09.48 Tele: Daniella 10.46 Serial: S.W.A.T 11.27 Telenovela: Tanto Amor 12.00 Film: Ladies In Black 13.45 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.52 Film: Love: Space Time 16.40 Serial: The Magicians 17.20 Serial: Midnight, Texas 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: 2 Years Of Love 22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.33 Serial: The Magicians	<b>mercredi 27 janvier</b> 08.00 Film: Bade Dilwala 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: Ajay Starring: Sunny Deol, Karisma Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samacher 18.30 Kumkum Bhagya 18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka 19.13 Mere Angne Mein 19.32 Yeh Pyaar Nahi Toh Kya...
<b>jeudi 28 janvier</b> 06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 07.00 Teenie Tots 08.35 Film: Albert: Les Aventures... 09.55 Serial: Oh Yuck! 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: Polly Pocket 14.55 Film: Garfield Et Cie 15.45 D.Anime: Une Aventure De... 17.20 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A... 17.45 Mag: Origami 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Jamai Raja 18.55 Local: Chaar Dham Tirth... 19.30 Le Journal 20.03 Local Prod: Cavadee 2021 20.15 Film: Angel Cast: Nilesh Sahay, Maddalsa Sharma, Aruna Irani, Manoj Joshi, Vaishal	<b>jeudi 28 janvier</b> 10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 12.05 Film: Shalimar Starring: Dharmendra, Zeenat Aman, Rex Harrison 15.00 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 Zournal Kreol 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 21.14 Film: Lake Placid Vs Anaconda Starring: Corin Nemec, Yancy Butler, Skye Lourie	<b>jeudi 28 janvier</b> 06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.25 Mag: Vous Et Nous 07.00 Local: Cavadee 2021 10.00 Live: Cavadee 2021 From Siva Soopramaniar Kovil, Mount 12.30 Live: Cavadee 2021 From Arulmigu Sockalinggum Meenatchee Ammen Thirukkivil 15.00 Live: Cavadee 201 From Bon Accueil Temple Association 18.00 Local Cavadee 2021: Tamizh Kodavulin Thiruvurul 19.41 Mag: Carnet De Sante 20.01 Doc: Empires Of Silver 21.00 Local: News (English) 21.10 Doc: 360 GEO 22.02 Doc: Deadly Greed 22.44 Doc: The Berlin Wal??s 23.25 Mag: Eco India	<b>jeudi 28 janvier</b> 00.20 Serial: Beauty And The Beast 01.26 Film: Clarity 03.53 Film: Boone 05.18 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.01 Serial: Beauty And The Beast 06.41 Film: 2 Years Of Love 09.00 Serial: The Magicians 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T 12.00 Film: Adventures Of Dally... 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: 2 Years Of Love 16.40 Serial: The Magicians 17.20 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: UFO/OVNI: Sur La Piste 22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.30 Serial: The Magicians	<b>jeudi 28 janvier</b> 08.00 Film: Ajay 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: Ishqedarriyaan Starring: Mahaakshay Chakraborty, Kavin Dave, Mohit Dutta 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.52 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka



Jeudi 28 Jan - 15.20

Star: Mahaakshay Chakraborty, Kavin Dave, Mohit Dutta



Jeudi 28 Jan - 20.25

Stars: Nilesh Sahay, Maddalsa Sharma, Aruna Irani, Manoj Joshi, Vaishal





# Democracy at stake?

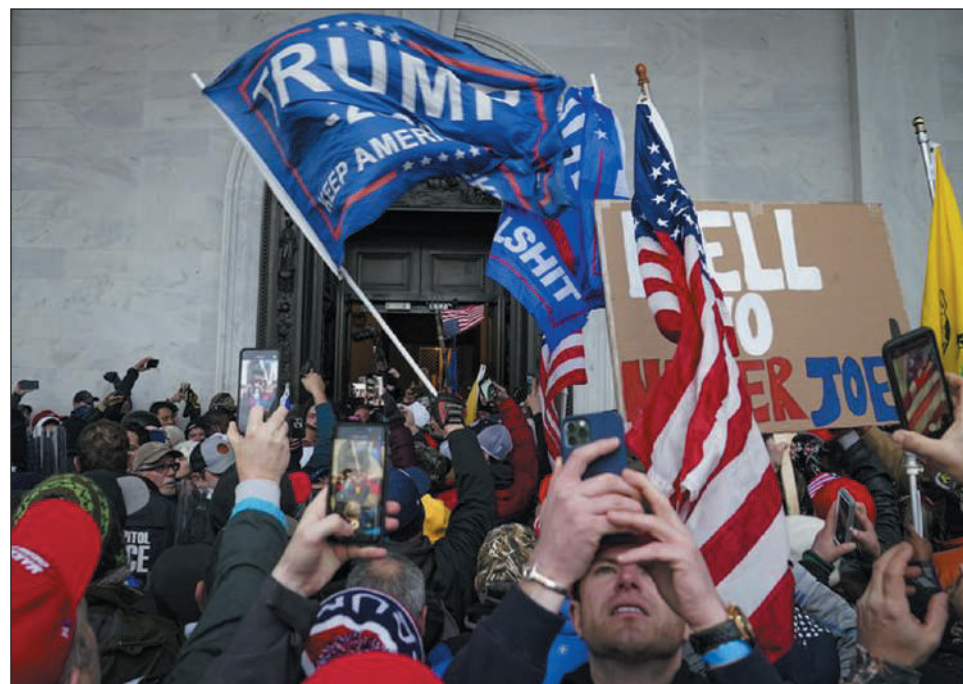


Nita Chicooree-Mercier

**D**eeply ingrained in its ethics is Mauritius's strong adherence to the rule of law and the spirit of democracy. There is therefore legitimate cause for concern after the recent rampage in an emblematic building in the world's oldest democracy, which stands as an example for countries which genuinely believe in the spirit of freedom and law. Hence a keen interest in how the law is going to handle the issue in the coming days, and the importance of an in-depth analysis of facts and the interests of different stakeholders. Emotional reaction and hasty conclusions drawn from round-the-clock repetition of brief media reporting are certainly not conducive to a serene analysis of events.

On January 6th one policeman died of his injuries, an unarmed woman demonstrator was shot and killed by the police, and three other protesters were crushed in the stampede. Capitol Police Chief Steven Sund felt concerned about the size of pro-Trump crowd expected to gather in protest. The Democrat majority in the House of Representatives and the DC police controlled by a mayor, an ardent opponent of Trump, did not respond to his request. Most of the 2200 members of Capitol Police were told to stay at home for the day. When riots broke out, Capitol Police had only 400 police officers on hand. Police Chief Steven Sund has resigned. The truth has to be established over the lack of response from the authorities, which led the situation to spin out of control.

In 2002, in the state of Gujarat in India, the erstwhile Chief Minister, who is now PM of India, asked Delhi's central government headed by the Congress Party to send troops to handle ethnic riots sparked by the death of travellers in the Godhra train burning incident that occurred on the morning of 27 February 2002. 59 pilgrims and *karsevaks* returning from Ayodhya were killed in a fire inside the Sabarmati Express train near the Godhra railway station. No troops were sent and local police lost control of the situation. The ruling party and media pinned all the blame on the Chief Minister, and constantly used the ethnic riots to thwart the political ambition of Narendra Modi to run for the post of Prime Minister.



**“The assault on the US Capitol was a mini-riot that disrupted the democratic process of formalizing Biden's victory for a few hours, and the national legislative body resumed its work in full serenity. The 2020 crowds, a majority of Democrat voters, who pillaged shops and burned neighbourhoods in the 'Black Lives Matter' upheavals and asking for Trump to resign, were not described as pro-Democrat rioters in the press...”**

A propensity for exaggeration is pervasive in mainstream leftist American media and related political circles, a habit to stick the label of fascism, Mussolini and Hitler on democratic leaders. To some commentators, it was a blip with Mussolini's 1922 'March on Rome'; others spoke of attempted coup or full-blown coup d'Etat. Only past right-wing nationalist examples of subversion are brandished randomly in the press, not Communist regimes' crimes nor the brutality of neo-fascist regimes ruled by a toxic combination of military and extremist bigots. Seeing Republican Donald Trump as a new Mussolini is as hilarious as branding Centrist Macron or Biden as Stalin.

The attack on the Capitol was not a March on Rome nor was it a popular uprising in the style of Tianamen Square which ended with the massacre of thousands of protesters. Nor was it an anti-despot insurrection like in Tehran and Caracas among other places that left thousands dead in the streets and many others in prison in the past few years. Neither was it 'unprecedented in a

democracy' as described by European Union foreign policy spokesman Joseph Borrell.

Such grand statements erase the memory of the seizure of the Spanish Parliament in Madrid in 1981 by the armed gang of Colonel Antonio Tejero, who barged in with rifles, shouting “*Que se callen, los conios!*” (Shut up, you bastards...”), and forced all MPs and ministers to leave Parliament, hands up.

A few years earlier in 1968, students' uprising and a lost referendum drove the much respected Général de Gaulle to leave Paris and go to Germany for two days - for respite or flight? In 1919 only blockades set up by armed police forces in front of the Elysée prevented Yellow Vest protesters from storming into the presidential palace in Paris.

The assault on the US Capitol was a mini-riot that disrupted the democratic process of formalizing Biden's victory for a few hours, and the national legislative body resumed its work in full serenity. The 2020 crowds, a majority of Democrat voters, who pillaged shops and burned neighbourhoods in the 'Black Lives Matter' upheavals and asking for Trump to resign, were not described as pro-Democrat rioters in the press.

The swearing-in ceremony of Joe Biden took place with a sample of showbiz glitterati celebrities in bright colours - albeit a romanticized showcase of 'diversity' and gender - which feeds the phantasm of press editorials abroad parroting US academia and media obsession with minorities, ethnicity and colour.

The leftist crowd, some of them known for peddling anti-capitalist propaganda, was dressed up in Ralph Lauren suits and other expensive brand clothes. A song in English by a white blonde singer, another in Spanish by a singer of migrant stock, and ending with an African-American young lady in a yellow Prada dress reading out a poem with obvious Martin Luther

**“American democracy is alive and well, with robust institutions capable of dealing with any political crisis within a constitutional framework. Politics is not showbiz. At the end of the day, politics is a serious matter driven by Reason and by people with lofty ideals in a democracy, not by ideological romanticism, idealists, and dreamers of utopia and diktats of religion...”**

King undertones. She has had the opportunity to develop her talents in a free society and is lucky that her forefathers did not leave America and embark on a ship to live in the new state of Liberia founded in Africa as a new home for descendants of slaves in 1822, a Land of Liberty, a utopia sucked into the maelstrom of African wilderness and passions despite U.S funds poured into it.

American democracy is alive and well, with robust institutions capable of dealing with any political crisis within a constitutional framework. Politics is not showbiz. At the end of the day, politics is a serious matter driven by Reason and by people with lofty ideals in a democracy, not by ideological romanticism, idealists, and dreamers of utopia and diktats of religion.

The recent event at the Capitol injected new vigour in the hate-America crowd across the world who are rubbing their hands in glee to write off the US as no longer a viable model of leadership in the international arena. They are looking forward to bury democracy and replace it with models of authoritarian rule and tyranny which are rejected by the younger generation from Hong Kong and Alger to Baghdad and Caracas, but which find favourable echo in some people comfortably enjoying the blessings of free societies in big countries and small islands. Popular uprisings in oppressive regimes send shivers down the spine of dictators and tyrants, who are easily overwhelmed and resort to violent crackdowns. Democracies with solid foundations have the strength to face protests and restore sanity.

Indeed, it matters a lot to Mauritians to follow the outcome of events and observe whether a spirit of justice prevails in assessing responsibility for the assault on the US Capitol. A sound conclusion which sets itself above the motivations of scheming rival political parties is expected. An awareness of various forces at work in Mauritius, invisible silent conflicts operating underground, legitimate claims for effective policies, the stakes of geopolitics and the superior interests of the country in the long term should also be of prime concern to the public.