

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• "The safety of the people shall be the highest law." - Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman philosopher born in 106 BC

Analyse



By Shiva Patten See 3

## Le Terrible Gâchis



## 3 ways to vaccinate the world and make sure everyone benefits, rich and poor

*Fair global agreements, home-grown vaccines and sharing extra doses with poorer nations are all needed if we're to ever emerge from this pandemic*

By Michael Toole, Professor of International Health, Burnet Institute See Page 2

Interview - Dr Vinaye Ancharaz, International Economic Consultant

## "Risks of further economic decline are real in the next two to three years"



See Pages 7-8-9

## The Erosion of Democracy



*To be sure, the fact that a U.S. President has acted in such an unethical and unsavoury manner is despicable. But there are plenty of unethical, unsavoury and despicable people around the world who are all too ready to abuse their people in a bid to retain power*

By Anil Madan See Page 4

# Covid-19 strikes back

Given the pattern that the Covid-19 pandemic has been seen to follow around the world since the disease first became a matter of global public health emergency one year ago, it was to be expected that sooner or later we would face a similar scenario in our country.

After the shock caused by the rapid spread of the virus leading to the increasing numbers of people getting infected and of deaths being reported on a daily basis, came the punishment of the lockdowns that unsettled the global economy with major local impacts on the economy and social life of individual countries, in addition to the physical health burden that was soon compounded by mental health problems. Despite the guidelines issued by the World Health Organisation, it was practically *chacun pour soi* as far as each country's response was concerned. Within-country restrictions, closing of frontiers, banning of international travel that left many citizens stranded outside their own countries, imposition of sanitary measures – each country implemented these to a different degree.

With developments in treatments and more or less widespread compliance with the WHO guidelines and sanitary measures, except in the US, numbers started to show a plateau then a decline in a number of countries. This led to a relaxation of the restrictions and lifting of lockdowns, but at the same time people also began to become restive and compliance with sanitary measures showed a decline all over.

Meanwhile the virus was settling down in countries and developing tricks to survive: the variants that are now known to be responsible for the second waves that have been observed elsewhere. Since the world is global village, and the virus needs no passport or human's means of transport, it has continued to go round. It is no surprise therefore that we should have got what appears to be now a local case, that has gone on to create a cluster of about 10 infected cases to which at the latest two children have been added. Although the response of the authorities has been according to the protocol of contact tracing,

testing, isolation, the work is not yet over – in fact, we are in for a long haul, and we have to be even more vigilant as we are on course to follow the global pattern – of a possible surge – if we are not careful.

This is where the responsibility of citizens is paramount, because the authorities on their own cannot control the spread of the virus. We must salute therefore the exemplary patriotic calls made by Cardinal Piat and the Hindu Associations for their faithfuls to abide by the advice of authorities to cancel all the activities in connection with Mahashivratri involving crowds that had already begun. These were the 40-hours prayers associated with the Catholic fasting period that leads to Easter, the pilgrimage to Ganga Talao, and the preparations for Cavadee and walk-on-fire ceremony.

The response of those concerned has been positive, as shown by the emptiness at Ganga Talao and the churches, save for devotees who were already on the way. The rest, those who hadn't yet started from home and who have been advised not to undertake the journey to church or to Ganga Talao have listened and complied.

We have not been informed whether we have a variant in the country, and although there has been a severe restriction on air travels, still they are happening. That is why we are not, and cannot entirely be safe from the entry of the virus. Following the global pattern, the virus has struck back.

What we must do is to stop it from being transmitted in the population, with the risk of a second surge taking place. We have no doubt been luckier than most and Covid-safe for a good while. But we no longer are – that is what this rather sudden development of a new cluster is indicating. More than ever, therefore, we need to be very rigorous as regards the sanitary measures if we do not want this cluster to expand into a surge.

Like the devotees and faithfuls, let us therefore assume our patriotism by strict observance of rules and guidelines to protect ourselves and our fellow citizens.

## The Conversation

### 3 ways to vaccinate the world and make sure everyone benefits, rich and poor

*Fair global agreements, home-grown vaccines and sharing extra doses with poorer nations are all needed if we're to ever emerge from this pandemic*

As of February 25, a total of 221.7 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine had been administered around the world. Well over one-third of these doses were in just two countries – the United States and the United Kingdom.



Photo: live-production.wcms.abc-cdn.net.au

A study in mid-November analysed commitments to buy 7.48 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines. Just over half will go to the 14% of the world's population who live in high-income countries.

It's estimated most high-income countries will achieve widespread vaccination coverage by the end of 2021. Most middle-income countries will not achieve this until mid- to late 2022, while the world's poorest countries, including almost every country in Africa and some in our own Asia-Pacific region, will have to wait until 2023.

This inequality is clearly a moral outrage. But it is also a surefire way to perpetuate the pandemic's devastating health, social and economic impacts on the whole world.

#### Why everyone benefits from vaccine equity

There are many reasons why rich countries should do all they can to ensure global vaccine equity – in which Covid-19 vaccines are distributed fairly to different populations, including people of different means and backgrounds.

First, there is the moral argument. Given the vaccines already exist, every day that goes on results in deaths we could have prevented.

Second, the longer it takes to eradicate the virus globally, the more it will mutate, possibly reducing the effectiveness of the vaccines. That would affect us all.

Third, as long as the virus is here, trade flows and global supply chains will be severely disrupted. Avoiding this is also in our own interests if we want to see foreign tourists and students return to our shores.

A recent study found high-income countries may bear 13-49% of global losses – which could be up to US\$9 trillion – arising from an inequitable distribution of vaccines in 2021.

Finally, a prolonged pandemic might result in even more poverty, destabilising the already fragile livelihoods of millions of poor people in low- and middle-income countries. This, in turn, could result in conflict, undermining global political stability, which would affect us all.

Here are three ways to ensure global vaccine equity.

#### 1. The COVAX facility – but there are issues

A number of large middle-income countries have begun to roll out their vaccination programs, including India, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Egypt, South Africa and Indonesia.

**Michael Toole**

Professor of International Health, Burnet Institute

## Mauritius Times

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

Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah / Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee

*This epaper has been produced with the assistance of*

**Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy**

Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis

Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313



# Le Terrible Gâchis

et de conviction, s'accrocher au leadership de l'opposition après le retrait du PTR de l'Entente, avec ou sans les propos maladroits de Bérenger. Il faut dire que ce dernier et Duval ont fait preuve d'un certain amateurisme en n'anticipant pas cette éventualité. Du coup, cela a généré une certaine confusion quant à la désignation du nouveau leader de l'opposition.

Cela dit, Duval leader de l'opposition est un moindre mal car il a encore la sympathie des Travailleurs pour avoir «sauvé la démocratie» en 2016, lorsqu'il avait fait capoter la 'Prosecution Commission Bill', visant l'indépendance du DPP. Une démarche qui visait au fond le déroulement des affaires concernant Navin Ramgoolam.

Disons que Xavier Duval demeure «acceptable» pour les Travailleurs dont certains espèrent le retour dans «son camp naturel». Cela étant dit, au niveau de l'opposition parlementaire, renforcée par l'arrivée de l'ex-ministre Nando Bodha, la situation ne devrait pas

**Q**uelques semaines après son installation, le deuxième gouvernement Jugnauth allait provoquer une vague de colère dans le pays. Nourrie par des allégations sérieuses de corruption impliquant des milliards et entraînant la démission du VPM Ivan Collendavelloo, et d'incompétence entourant le désastre *Wakashio*. Un scandale qui a fait descendre dans la rue des dizaines de milliers de citoyens. Et c'est loin d'être fini car il y a eu l'assassinat d'un agent MSM qui pourrait impliquer d'autres proches du MSM, une affaire en cour de justice qui défraie la chronique et qui a entraîné la démission d'un ministre d'autant plus que ce scandale et bien d'autres ont comme toile de fond la Covid-19. Tout ceci donc laissait présager un commencement de la fin pour l'actuel régime. Mais c'était sans compter sur la soudaine désunion des forces de l'opposition.

Shiva Patten

En effet lorsque Paul Bérenger et Xavier Duval faisaient éclater la bombe liée au poste de Premier ministre dans un éventuel gouvernement PTR-MMM-PMSD etc., sans doute ils ne mesuraient pas les dommages collatéraux et autres déflagrations que cela allait produire.

## 1. L'éclatement de l'Entente initiée par le Leader du PTR

A mon avis, le lancement même d'une «Entente» que tout le monde comprend comme Alliance est une mauvaise idée.

L'argument principal de ce regroupement reposait sur une quasi-certitude que le Gouvernement allait tomber dans les jours qui suivent et qu'il fallait donc s'y préparer. Or une chute éventuelle d'un gouvernement passe nécessairement, dans notre démocratie westminsterienne par la dissolution du Parlement avant terme, dans la pratique sur initiative du PM. Une dissolution à quatre ans de la fin de mandat s'est produite une seule fois, en 1983 dans un contexte exceptionnel sans autre issue. Ce qui n'est pas le cas aujourd'hui et la probabilité d'un tel scénario me semble très mince.

L'autre cas de dissolution avant terme, c'était suite à une perte de la majorité parlementaire du PM, confirmée par le biais d'un vote d'une motion de censure ou par l'anticipation d'une censure (le cas de 1983 selon toute évidence). Dans le contexte actuel, je ne vois pas une demi-douzaine d'élus de la majorité changer de camp pour voter une motion de censure.

Par conséquent, miser sur une dissolution du Parlement à quatre ans de la fin du mandat me semble osé. Au fond, les partis d'opposition auraient dû opter pour le *worst-case scenario*, c'est-à-dire la non-tenue d'élections anticipées. Et en profiter pour faire leur «autocritique», se réorganiser, se «régénérer», travailler le terrain *at grassroots level* séparément afin de consolider leur base électorale et surtout récupérer les **indécis**

“Le MSM, qui considère Navin Chandra Ramgoolam (NCR) comme un allié objectif aussi longtemps qu'il reste premier ministrable, a mis de côté la hache de guerre... pour l'instant. C'est ainsi que le servile Showkutally Soodhun a été envoyé au front pour louer NCR et lui verser quelques larmes de crocodile. D'autres «haters» de tous bords ont emboîté le pas. Faut pas se faire d'illusion : l'artillerie lourde sera pour après...”



“Un front commun des partis d'opposition et des mouvements citoyens aurait, sans doute, remporté haut la main les municipales et fragilisé davantage le Gouvernement, ce qui aurait ouvert une voie royale à leur succès lors des prochaines élections générales. Avec la division de l'opposition, une défaite totale de l'alliance au pouvoir n'est plus évidente. Cette dernière peut donc espérer remporter une ou deux villes. La sortie virulente de Pravind Jugnauth contre Bérenger et ses mots doux envers Obeegadoo, Ganoo et Ramano en disent long sur sa stratégie électorale...”

**décus** de leur choix de 2019. Ratisser large, fidéliser autour des thèmes les plus porteurs : la corruption, l'incompétence, l'économie au plus mal, et «laisser le temps au temps» pour d'autres sujets.

J'ajoute, par ailleurs, que dès lors que la question du *prime ministership* est apparue comme fondamentale aux yeux du MMM et du PMSD, ces derniers auraient dû la soulever avant leur adhésion à l'Entente.

## 2. L'éclatement de l'unité des forces d'opposition en vue des municipales

Un front commun des partis d'opposition et des mouvements citoyens aurait, sans doute, remporté haut la main les municipales et fragilisé davantage le Gouvernement, ce qui aurait ouvert une voie royale à leur succès lors des prochaines élections générales. Avec la division de l'opposition, une défaite totale de l'alliance au pouvoir n'est plus évidente. Cette dernière peut donc espérer remporter une ou deux villes. La sortie virulente de Pravind Jugnauth contre Bérenger et ses mots doux envers Obeegadoo, Ganoo et Ramano en disent long sur sa stratégie électorale qui consiste à attirer davantage d'électeurs mauves dans son camp.

## 3. L'éclatement de l'opposition parlementaire

Difficile à imaginer Arvin Boolell, lui homme de parti

changer. La collaboration parlementaire entre les partis d'opposition va continuer à fonctionner comme avant.

## 4. La confusion chez les organisations citoyennes

L'éclatement de l'Entente a eu pour conséquence l'émergence des ambitions politiques de certains leaders citoyens apolitiques. Mais puisqu'ils ne sont pas entre eux sur la même longueur d'onde quant à leur affinité partisane, on assiste à une divergence entre les mouvements citoyens d'où une baisse de leur crédibilité d'autant que certaines positions sont tolérées lorsqu'elles émanent de leaders apolitiques mais pas lorsqu'elles sont politiques.

Il y aussi ce qui n'est pas négligeable : tous ceux, ici et là, qui aspirent à un «ticket», rêvant d'être les élus du peuple mais surtout de toucher le «pitaye» mirobo-lant et les berlines grand luxe serties d'immatriculation perso, qui vont avec. De quoi faire pâlir d'envie les haut-dignitaires de la 5ème puissance économique mondiale qui continuent, malgré tout, à nous verser des milliards, pour payer, entre autres, les frais d'entretien de la nomenclature de notre île.

➤ Suite en page 11



Anil Madan

# The Erosion of Democracy

*To be sure, the fact that a US President has acted in such an unethical and unsavoury manner is despicable. But there are plenty of unethical, unsavoury and despicable people around the world who are all too ready to abuse their people in a bid to retain power*

In the run-up to the 2020 US presidential election then President Trump was asked if he lost the election, would he accept the result and effect a peaceful transition of power? He gave an equivocal answer. The TV and Cable channels, the op-ed pages of newspapers and magazines, and the online commentariat went nuts, perhaps justifiably so. After all, this was America where it would be unthinkable for anything but a peaceful transition of power.

Strangely, no one stopped to ask if Trump wasn't going to accept the result of the election, why bother to have an election at all? Why not just declare himself President for life as Xi Jinping has done? Or Kim Jong Nuke for that matter?

There seems to be a certain fascination among elected leaders around the world with holding elections and declaring themselves the winner even if they really didn't win. Sometimes they use the armed forces and the police to retain control. So, what deterred Trump? Perhaps it was the statement by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley that the military plays no role in politics, and that he has complete trust in America's institutions to manage election disputes, which made it clear to Trump that he was on his own. To underscore the point, Milley said: "We have established a very long 240-year tradition of an apolitical military that does not get involved in domestic politics."

But Donald Trump did not accept the result of the election. All the way up to January 6, the day on which the Joint Session of Congress was to meet to certify the results of the Electoral College -- long since known -- he insisted that he had "won" the election. And, worse yet, he invited his supporters to come to Washington, D.C., to get Vice President Mike Pence to reject the certified votes of the electors. Pence had no constitutional authority to do this, and Trump's acts were in derogation of US election laws and the Constitution.

It is tempting to say that Trump's derogation of democracy is responsible for the worldwide erosion of democracy, but that would give him too much credit. To be sure, the fact that a US President has acted in such an unethical and unsavoury manner is despicable. But there are plenty of unethical, unsavoury and despicable people around the world who are all too ready to abuse their people in a bid to retain power.



Supporters of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's civilian leader who was ousted by the military in a coup, expressed their opposition in Bangkok last Wednesday. Photo NY Times

means nothing, virtually every other instance involves putting an existing potential democracy on the funeral pyre.

Let us not let China and Russia off too easily. The wholesale slaughter of democracy in Hong Kong is a travesty. Only candidates approved by Beijing may run. In Russia, an opposition leader is poisoned and then charged with the crime of violating the conditions of release from a prior charge although he had been flown from Russia to Germany for treatment for poisoning and, being unconscious, couldn't be in Russia. This did not impress the "judge" who was but a puppet.

Whether we look at Myanmar, Belarus, Uganda, Brazil, Iran, or Egypt for examples of the erosion of

**“It is tempting to say that Trump's derogation of democracy is responsible for the worldwide erosion of democracy, but that would give him too much credit. To be sure, the fact that a US President has acted in such an unethical and unsavoury manner is despicable. But there are plenty of unethical, unsavoury and despicable people around the world who are all too ready to abuse their people in a bid to retain power...”**

I do not try to declare which of these is the most egregious because any attack on democracy is despicable. What strikes me, however, is that with the exception of China and Russia where the very concept of democracy

democracy, one is left with the sad conviction that rulers find it altogether far too easy to use the military or security forces to retain power and oppress dissent.

H.L. Mencken wrote in the early part of the 20th century the pithy observations that: "Democracy is the art and science of running the circus from the monkey cage," and "Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want, and deserve to get it good and hard."

Indeed, democracy today is a Planet of the Apes scenario in far too many countries. It is time for people to get into the monkey cage and take control.

Cheer...  
Bwana





**भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम**  
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

**Protecting lives, ensuring happiness**

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

marketing@licmauritiustnet.mu

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



1956-2020

# In Oprah interview, Meghan says life as Royal made her suicidal



Ms Markle told interviewer Oprah Winfrey that she suffered "methodical" thoughts about taking her own life. Photo - NY Times

**M**eghan Markle has revealed that she was left suicidal by her experiences as part of the British royal family and that palace staff ignored pleas for help after seizing her keys and passport, reports The Independent. Ms Markle told interviewer Oprah Winfrey that she suffered "methodical" thoughts about taking her own life but when she approached senior officials to get help she was told it would not be good optics. She then explained that the

royal family had taken her passport, her keys and her driving licence when she married Prince Harry, leaving her feeling she could not get help on her own.

Ms Markle says she then reached out to a friend of Princess Diana's to talk to. "This was very clear and very scary," she said. "I did not know who to turn to. One of the people I reached out to, who has been a friend and a confidante, was one of Diana's best friends. Who else could understand what it is actually like on the inside?" She also revealed that the family had expressed "concerns" about the colour of her son Archie's skin.

\*\*\*

## Mental health problems among pupils to be monitored

Britain's schools have been warned to look out for serious mental health problems among their pupils as they open their doors for the first time since January. Amanda Spielman, the chief inspector of Ofsted, said remote learning had been a slog for many and that issues like self-harm and eating disorders were on the rise. Those fears appeared to be echoed by Boris Johnson as

he tried to ease the concerns of parents worried about sending their children back to the classroom.

The British PM said that the risk lay "actually in not going back to school tomorrow, given all the suffering, all the loss of learning we have seen". Mr Johnson shut schools in England at the start of the year as cases of Covid-19 soared. The decision to reopen them marks the first step in the British government's roadmap to return the country to normality. But experts have warned the move could lead to a new spike in cases.

\*\*\*

## 1% for doctors, nurses and other NHS staff

A proposed pay rise of just 1 per cent for doctors, nurses and more than a million other NHS staff has been branded "pitiful" and "the worst kind of insult" by health unions. The Department of Health and Social Care has revealed its plans for increasing the pay of 1.4 million NHS staff last Thursday, arguing paying more could lead to trade-offs in other areas of NHS spending - including efforts to recruit more staff to fill shortages, reports The Independent.

The announcement comes in a year when hundreds of thousands of nurses and doctors have been pushed to the limits caring for coronavirus patients. Staff have been redeployed and asked to work extra shifts, with more than 900 frontline staff dying as a result of Covid.

## China exports soar to highest level in decades after Covid-19 hit



Electronics and textile exports such as masks contributed to the spike in outbound shipments. Photo - vnn-imgs-f.vgcloud.vn

**C**hina's export growth jumped to the highest in over two decades, official data showed Sunday, with imports also surging in a sharp bounceback from the coronavirus outbreak that had brought activity to a near halt.

Electronics and textile exports such as masks contributed to the spike in outbound shipments, as demand for work-from-home supplies and protective gear against the virus outbreak soared during the pandemic, reports AFP.

Exports spiked 60.6 percent on-year in the January-February period, above analysts' expectations and boosted by electronics and mask shipments, while imports

rose 22.2 percent, official data showed Sunday.

The latest customs figures stand in stark contrast to last year's fall of around 17 percent in exports and 4 percent drop in imports.

The country struggled to contain the spread of Covid-19 early on, with consumers staying home and businesses seeing a slow return to operations.

The comparison to last year is also likely to have bolstered the latest figures.

China's overall trade surplus came in at \$103.3 billion, its customs administration said.

Chinese authorities started combining January and February trade data last year, while it battled the coronavirus outbreak.

This is in line with how some other indicators are released, to smooth over distortions from the Lunar New Year holiday, which can fall in either month.

On Sunday, official data showed that electronics exports rose 54.1 percent, while textiles including masks rose 50.2 percent.

## Singapore builds floating solar farms in climate fight

**T**housands of panels glinting in the sun stretch into the sea off Singapore, part of the land-scarce city-state's push to build floating solar farms to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

It may be one of the world's smallest countries, but the prosperous financial hub is among the biggest per capita carbon dioxide emitters in Asia.

And while authorities have been pushing to change that, renewable energy is a challenge in a country with no rivers for hydro-electricity and where the wind is not strong enough to power turbines.

So the tropical country turned to solar power - however, with little land space in a place half the size of Los Angeles, it has resorted to setting up energy plants off its coasts and on reservoirs.

"After exhausting the rooftops and the available land, which is very scarce, the next big potential is actually our water area," said Jen Tan, senior vice president and head of solar in Southeast Asia at conglomerate Sembcorp Industries, which is building a project.

An island-state threatened by rising sea levels because of climate change, Singapore is aware of the urgency of cutting emissions, although critics say authorities' environmental commitments have thus far fallen short.

The government last month unveiled a wide-ranging "green plan" that included steps such as planting more trees, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills and building more charging points to encourage the use of electric cars.

Among the measures is increasing solar energy use four-fold to around two percent of the nation's power needs by 2025, and to three percent by 2030 -- enough for 350,000 households



The 13,000 panels are anchored to the seabed and can power 1,400 flats for an year. Photo - cdn-japantimes.com

per year.

As well as on water, solar power plants have already been built on rooftops and on the ground.

### 'New frontier'

One newly built solar farm spreads out from the coast into the Johor Strait, which separates Singapore from Malaysia.

The 13,000 panels are anchored to the seabed and can produce five megawatts of electricity, enough to power 1,400 flats for an entire year.

"The sea is a new frontier for solar to be installed," said Shawn Tan, vice president for engineering at Singaporean firm Sunseap Group, which completed the project in January.

"We hope that this will set a precedent to have more floating projects in the sea in Singapore and neighbouring countries."

\* Contd on page 6

# Switzerland on course to ban to ban people from covering their face completely in public places

Switzerland is on course to follow France, Belgium and Austria after narrowly voting in a referendum to ban women from wearing the burqa or niqab in public spaces.

With 99% of the vote counted, 51.5% of Swiss voters had cast their votes in favour of the initiative to ban people from covering their face completely on the street, in shops and restaurants. Full facial veils will still be allowed to be worn inside places of prayer and for "native customs", such as carnival.

Face coverings worn for health and safety reasons are also exempt from the ban, meaning face masks worn because of the Covid-19 pandemic will not be affected by the new law.

Switzerland's parliament and the seven-member executive council that constitutes the country's federal government opposed the referendum proposal. They argued that full facial veils represented a "fringe phenomenon", and instead proposed an initiative that would force people to lift their facial coverings when asked to confirm their identity to officials.

Muslim groups have criticised the ban. "This is clearly an attack against the Muslim community in Switzerland. What is aimed here is to stigmatise and marginalise Muslims even more," said Ines Al Shikh, a member of Les Foulards Violets, a Muslim feminist collective.

An alliance of hoteliers and tourism professionals from the Bern and Geneva regions also opposed the ban on



People protest against Switzerland's ban on wearing a full face veil in public places. Photo - South China Morning Post

the basis that it would reduce the number of visitors from Arab countries.

"A burqa ban would damage our reputation as an open and tolerant tourism destination", said Nicole Brändle Schlegel of the Hotellerie Suisse umbrella organisation.

Supporters of the ban argue that it also intended to stop violent street protesters and football hooligans wearing masks.

Muslims make up around 5% of the Swiss population of 8.6 million, or about 390,000 people, most of whom have their roots in Turkey, Bosnia and Kosovo.

The referendum outcome means Switzerland will follow France, which banned wearing a full face veil in public in 2011. Full or partial bans on wearing face coverings in public are also in place in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark and the Netherlands.

## Sikh fighter pilot memorial in UK to honour



Hardit Singh Malik was best known as a fighter pilot during 1917-19.

Photo - images.indianexpress.com

The design for a sculpture of an early 20th century Sikh fighter pilot, cricketer and golfer from Oxford University has been approved for a new memorial to be erected in the England port city of Southampton in memory of all Indians who fought in the World Wars.

Hardit Singh Malik first arrived in the UK in 1908 as a 14-year-old to Balliol College at the University of Oxford and went on to become a member of the Royal Flying Corps during World War I.

As the first Indian and turbaned pilot with a specialised helmet, he became famous as the "Flying Sikh".

"As such the statue to the legendary World War I hero, Hardit Singh Malik, the world's first Royal Flying Corps (now the Royal Air Force) Sikh, turbaned fighter pilot will be emblematic for the broader Sikh contributions in the British armed forces of World War I and II, with Malik's extraordinary accomplishments as a 'touchstone' for the whole Sikh communi-

ty and other of its lesser-known heroes," notes the One Community Hampshire & Dorset (OCHD) organisation behind the campaign for the memorial, which was approved by the Southampton City Council last year.

Hardit Singh Malik also played cricket for Sussex and was also the Indian Ambassador to France after a long and distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service. But it is as a fighter pilot during 1917-19 that he is best known.

"This project certainly speaks for itself; strongly furthering community cohesion and integration, and testifying to the major contribution our Sikh and broader ethnic minority communities make to our country, as we live in such a vibrant multicultural society here in Southampton," said Prithhepal Singh, OCHD CEO and Director.

"The public statue of Hardit Singh Malik embodies the spirit of inclusivity - representing the will to 'breaking the glass ceiling' at the intersection of two World Wars and minority enrolment in the RAF: a significant feat for an Indian at the time," added Dr Sanjukta Ghosh, Artistic Director at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) South Asia Institute and OCHD Advisor.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

### Appartement à louer - long terme



Appartement meublé de 3 c.a.c, climatisé, cuisine équipée, piscine et parking, sécurité (24/24) à Trou aux Biches - Complexe Fleury sur Mer  
Tel: 57809413 - 57530881

#### To Rent

Fully furnished and air conditioned 3-bedroom apartment at Fleury sur Mer Complex, Trou aux Biches for long-term. Parking and 24 hour security, swimming pool  
Tel: 57809413 - 57530881

### SOCIETE R. CHUNDUNGING & FILS RADHAYSING LTD



Accredited Agent of:  
Swan Life: Life, Pension and Loan  
Swan General: Motor, Fire, Household, Liability  
Office: 24 Bourbon St, Fook House, Port Louis  
Tel: 212 3265 / 213 1049  
Fax: 213 1048  
Mobile: 525 83661, 525 61866, 57561388

societe.rchundung@intnet.mu

Dr Vinaye Ancharaz, International Economic Consultant

# “Risks of further economic decline are real in the next two to three years”

**E**conomist Vinaye Ancharaz comments on Moody's latest downgrading of Mauritius yet finds a paradox in its view of governance, whereas we have been witnessing continuous institutional decay. He cautions about expecting a rapid bounce back of the economy, and is dismayed that people have no alternative political options to the undesirable existing ones, and hopes for the emergence of a newer and perhaps younger generation of patriotic politicians to take the



**Mauritius Times:** On March 4th, Moody's downgraded Mauritius' rating one notch to Baa2, with negative outlook. In its report Moody's states: "The issuer's economic fundamentals, including its economic strength, have materially decreased. The issuer's fiscal or financial strength, including its debt profile, has materially decreased (...) The issuer's institutions and governance strength, have materially decreased. The issuer's susceptibility to event risks has not materially changed." In plain language, what does all this mean?

**Dr Vinaye Ancharaz:** Let me begin by placing in perspective Moody's latest review. The last time Moody's changed Mauritius' credit rating was in June 2012 when the rating was upgraded by a notch to Baa1, with stable outlook. This changed to negative outlook in April 2020 and, less than a year later, on 4th March 2021, the rating was reviewed downward to Baa2 and the outlook switched to negative.

In its report, Moody's cites the 'weakening in fiscal and economic strength' due to the Covid-19 pandemic as the key reasons for the downgrade. On the other hand, the third point – that institutional strength and governance have materially decreased – was raised in earlier discussions but it appears that it was not retained in the final analysis. To the contrary, Moody's credits governance for its positive influence on the country's credit rating. To be honest, I am surprised by this statement. It

“The MSM has found a rare winning formula, and they will apply it – to greater effect – in the 2024 elections. This formula is no secret. They will raise the Basic Retirement Pension to Rs13,500 before the end of their term, and promise to double it again during their next term! They will offer lollies to public officers, police officers and taxi drivers, and they will brag about the major infrastructure projects that they realized during their current term. Who cares where the money is coming from...”

seems that Moody's is underrating the significance of a series of recent events that have revealed the true scale of institutional decay across the country. Perhaps they are cautious so as not to inflict a harsher punishment on the government.

To come back to the main reasons for the downgrade, these are attributed to the ongoing pandemic. In truth, the seeds of the current economic decline have been sowed much earlier. Even before the pandemic hit in March 2020, there were clear signs of the economy running out of steam. Economic growth in 2019 had slumped to 3% compared to a steady 3.8% the previous three years, with tourism contracting by 1% and growth in the manufacturing sector slowing down to 0.5% in 2019. And despite some progress in curbing unemployment, one out of every four youth was unemployed at the end of 2019. The fiscal situation had also seriously deteriorated, with persistent budget deficits and an ever-mounting national debt. In particular, Moody's cites the mode of financing the 2021 fiscal deficit – that is by drawing down the central bank's reserves, which is tantamount to 'helicopter money' – as a major factor in their decision to downgrade the country's credit rating.

The pandemic has only made these metrics incrementally worse: GDP contracted by over 15% in 2020, and the official government debt ratio shot up to nearly 75% of GDP at the end of fiscal year 2020. If Special Purpose Vehicles and the debt obligations of state-owned enterprises were factored in, then notwithstanding the colourful devices adopted with the Covid-19 Act, the debt ratio would probably cross the 100% threshold.

\* Two other things that are highlighted by Moody's are: first, Mauritius' debt burden which increased to 73.4% of GDP at the end of fiscal year 2020, above the Baa-rated median of 63.8%, and likely to peak “at just over 80% of GDP in 2021, before gradually declining”, and second is the risk of a slower recovery of the tourism sector – it says that “a return to pre-pandemic tourist arrivals is likely several years away”. Does this mean that the risks of economic deterioration are very real for the next two to three years or even further down the line “with a potential increase in social risk” before the

economy reverts back to the pre-Covid situation?

The negative outlook means that things are unlikely to improve in the near term. As I have said in previous interviews, things are bound to get worse before they get better. Let us recall that the world started this year on an upbeat note as vaccines against Covid-19 were approved and mass vaccination campaigns started... only to be tempered by the discovery of new variants of the virus in South Africa and the UK later in January 2021. These variants raised doubt about the effectiveness of the vaccines developed so far. And now, as the vaccines have been shown to work against existing variants of coronavirus, and an ambitious vaccination programme rolled out in Mauritius, new cases have emerged, raising fears of another lockdown! The point is that we are living in extremely uncertain times, and risks of further economic decline are real in the next two to three years.

“One MP dared say that the LP's leadership must be contestable, and then his absence at the recent post-L'Entente meeting of the party became glaringly conspicuous. Just like in the past, Dr Boolell learned at his expense that a shrinking fan base is not enough to evict the leader. If the Labour Party had democratic structures whereby the leader was elected by majority vote, Navin Ramgoolam would not be leader – not anymore...”

Government debt – both in absolute terms and as a percentage of GDP – has kept growing since this government came to power in 2014. In the space of six years, the public debt has more-than-doubled and, with the repealing of the statutory ceiling of 65% under the Covid-19 Act of May 2020 – a rather convenient excuse –, the sky is now the limit for government debt. For this reason, I am very sceptical of Moody's claim that the public debt will decline after peaking at 80% of GDP in 2021.

➡ Cont. on page 8

# 'We cannot speak of an economic recovery so long as tourism remains in tatters.

## And tourism is unlikely to rebound anytime soon'

☛ Cont. from page 7

Already, there are rumours of the government contracting some Rs25 billion of loans from Japan and India. At this rate, Mauritius will end the year with a debt overhang of over Rs500 billion, or some Rs500,000 per capita. To me, it is clear that we are living beyond our means and we are jeopardising our children's future.

The current situation is also detrimental to the hospitality sector, which contributes some 10% to GDP and employs 13% of the workforce directly. However, given the deep linkages of the tourism industry with the rest of the economy, the significance of this sector to GDP and employment could be three times higher than suggested by official estimates. Consequently, as Moody's notes, we cannot speak of an economic recovery so long as tourism remains in tatters. And tourism is unlikely to rebound anytime soon. Even if international borders open in June 2021, tourist arrivals will take months to reach their pre-Covid-19 levels – for several reasons. The industry will take time to adjust to a new normal; travel restrictions in our main markets will keep the tourists away from our shores, especially if there is a change in preferences in favour of short-haul destinations; and, finally, the tourism industry is highly sensitive to income, and the global economic decline would likely have changed people's priorities.

**“While the vast majority of the people have rejected the MSM government, they are yet to embrace an alternative. They are thirsty for new blood, but they are equally confused about who they want to see as the future Prime Minister. My view is that the political culture of the country does not favour new parties. At the end of the day, therefore, the people may be faced with an unpalatable option: to choose the least bad among the undesirables...”**

Once again, Moody's plays down the social risks that the worsening economic situation may engender, citing the protection offered by the welfare state and the generally low level of inequality in the country. However, this analysis ignores recent street protests against the government; it also ignores the growing frustration among those left to survive on the Rs5100 doled out to them. And while Mauritius boasts a fair distribution of income, unemployment among certain segments of the population could have increased inequality. Time will tell.

**\* The private sector has been saying that economic recovery hinges on the reopening of our borders, whilst the Government is taking a bet on the Covid vaccine, which it believes will help speed up the pace of economic recovery. Is it as simple as that?**

It is never that simple. Reopening our borders is not a panacea to all the economic woes that the pandemic



has inflicted on us. Tourism will take time to recover, and there's a danger that it may not recover to pre-Covid-19 levels ever! Vaccination will provide a shield of safety to the population, but it will be months before we could achieve herd immunity – more so since there is resistance on the part of some people to get vaccinated.

Obviously, we need to pursue both avenues, but we need to do more. Tourism will need rebranding and the product will also need to be tailored to the local people who provided a lifeline to many hotels in hardship. It is time that we gave serious thought to sustainable tourism rather than obsessively promoting the current model of mass tourism at great economic and environmental costs.

The pandemic has also highlighted the need for food security, and I'm convinced that, with appropriate reforms, the country can feed itself and become an exporter of agro-processed products. More than ever before, now is the time to rethink our economic model to make the country more resilient and sustainable.

**\* Another comment made by Moody's relates to the government's fiscal policy response to the coronavirus shock – “one of the largest among Moody's-rated sovereigns”, which entailed an expansion of social protection schemes aimed at supporting household income and minimizing job losses,**

**together with support to large corporations and other businesses”. In other words the government did what was possible in the circumstances, but are there other options available to the government to turn around an already bad economic situation?**

Indeed, the government responded to the pandemic with a panoply of economic and social measures, including wage and income support, enhanced credit support to SMEs, equity investments in troubled firms, moratorium on loan repayment, tax and utility payment deferrals, etc.

**“We cannot speak of an economic recovery so long as tourism remains in tatters. And tourism is unlikely to rebound anytime soon. Even if international borders open in June 2021, tourist arrivals will take months to reach their pre-Covid-19 levels – for several reasons. The industry will take time to adjust to a new normal; travel restrictions in our main markets will keep the tourists away from our shores, especially if there is a change in preferences in favour of short-haul destinations...”**

Altogether, the fiscal stimulus package amounts to an estimated 7% of GDP. This is paltry when compared to what some governments are doing to support their economies. Germany, for example, has injected 33% of its GDP in economic stimulus; South Africa 9%. It is clear that, in our case, the government's response to the pandemic was limited by the available fiscal space, which has been systematically depleted in recent years through reckless spending and unsustainable borrowing. This situation forced the government to dig into the central bank's reserves, with severe economic consequences: soaring inflation, continued depreciation of the rupee and, not least, the Moody's downgrade, which in turn will impact our future borrowing capability as well as our attractiveness as an investment host.

Moreover, we are now discovering the systemic looting that some government agencies resorted to under the cover of confinement, costing taxpayers billions and eroding confidence in a number of institutions. Elsewhere, millions have been spent on projects of dubious economic value. The most startling of these in my view is the Rs400 million publicity stint at Liverpool in empty stadiums! Whoever got that idea was probably thinking that anyone who saw the ad would rush to take the next available flight to Mauritius, who cares if the pandemic was still raging on!

So, the government's response to the pandemic has not only been weak; it has also been substantially wasted. There are always options to change things around. The government, it seems, has fallen prey to incompetent people in decision-making positions. These people must go, for a start!

☛ Cont. on page 9

# 'The vast majority of the people are yet to embrace an alternative. They are thirsty for new blood'

☛ Cont. from page 8

**\* With a second Covid alert announced last Saturday and general apprehension about yet another lockdown possibly in the pipeline, things might get complicated if the propagation of the virus is not rapidly contained. What will be the cost of another lockdown to the Mauritian economy?**

The economic costs of another lockdown will of course be significant but not as large as the first. This is because the country is still in 'quasi-lockdown' as some sectors are only partially operational. However, there are various other costs that cannot be ignored.

Small businesses in the retail and food sector will be severely impacted; schools will be closed again and children will waste additional months of their life; and recovery will be delayed. The government may not have the means to deal with another lockdown...unless it keeps digging into the Bank of Mauritius coffers.

**\* On the political front, a lot of people were saying 'Vaut mieux Navin' in the wake of the unravelling of the different plots pertaining to the murder and alleged suicide cases as well as to the procurement exercises during last year's lockdown. In the wake of the implosion of the 'L'Entente PTr-MMM-PMSD', it would seem that that feeling has moved on with the people again saying like in December 2019: 'Vaut mieux Pravind'. A week is indeed a long time in politics, isn't it?**

Indeed, a week is like eternity in politics where things can change in minutes! However, I don't think that the recent events have made Pravind more popular – on the contrary! It's important that we don't mix and confuse two things.

On the one hand is the cascade of corrupt and criminal practices that is unfolding every day. People are sick and tired of the government. There is a feeling that the country has reached a level of rot from which there is no return unless the current government is booted out. Public funds are being appropriated by crooks and cronies; institutions are being manipulated; and no means is being spared to cover up. The people are crying out for change, and the sooner it comes, the better for the country.

On the other hand is the opposition with its own issues. While the vast majority of the people have rejected the MSM government, they are yet to embrace an alternative. They are thirsty for new blood, but they are equally confused about who they want to see as the future Prime Minister. My view is that the political culture of the country does not favour new parties. At the end of the day, therefore, the people may be faced with an unpalatable option: to choose the least bad among the undesirables.

**\* However, the MMM-PMSD leaders' clumsiness as seen in the manner in which they went about to chuck Navin Ramgoolam out of the 'L'Entente' and from the prime ministerial race has ended up making him stronger within the LP, but not necessarily at the national level yet because it would appear a large crowd from the LP-MSM common vote bank would be still supporting the present MSM-led government. What's your take on that?**



**“Even before the pandemic hit in March 2020, there were clear signs of the economy running out of steam. Economic growth in 2019 had slumped to 3% compared to a steady 3.8% the previous three years, with tourism contracting by 1% and growth in the manufacturing sector slowing down to 0.5% in 2019. And despite some progress in curbing unemployment, one out of every four youth was unemployed at the end of 2019...”**

**“In the space of six years, the public debt has more-than-doubled and, with the repealing of the statutory ceiling of 65% under the Covid-19 Act of May 2020 – a rather convenient excuse –, the sky is now the limit for government debt. For this reason, I am very sceptical of Moody's claim that the public debt will decline after peaking at 80% of GDP in 2021. Already, there are rumours of the government contracting some Rs25 billion of loans from Japan and India...”**

Again, it's important that we differentiate the reality from the façade. True, we saw an apparently united Labour party after the break-up of the L'Entente. However, anyone with some brain knows that many people in Labour are just tagging along – because they have no choice. That does not mean they support their leader.

They may just be too afraid to voice out – lest they are power-ejected.

One MP dared say that the LP's leadership must be contestable, and then his absence at the recent post-L'Entente meeting of the party became glaringly conspicuous. Just like in the past, Dr Boolell learned at his expense that a shrinking fan base is not enough to evict the leader. If the Labour Party had democratic structures whereby the leader was elected by majority vote, Navin Ramgoolam would not be leader – not anymore.

**\* When you talk to different people, the feeling that comes across is that they are fed up with the way politics is being conducted locally; and their frustration appears to be growing with no change taking place at that level or with regard to the faces leading the political parties. What about people operating within the structures of the mainstream parties? What do you think would be their feelings?**

I think some people in political parties are equally frustrated. They are frustrated with the fact that the common people cannot make out the good politician from the bad.

Politicians as a class never commanded much respect from the people in any case, but this has become worse in light of recent cases of corruption, nepotism and outright embezzlement of taxpayers' money. But it's important for the public to know that there are well-meaning politicians out there who are genuinely concerned about the country and put the national interest before their self-interest.

The country needs young, dynamic and competent people. Quite a few of them are in mainstream political parties. The public should single them out and vote with discernment. We should have learned our lesson from a tradition of 'votiez bloc': we end up electing incompetent and unscrupulous politicians who become a scourge for the entire political class!

**\* The government should be happy with all that's happening within the opposition ranks, and it should be able to keep going until the end of its mandate – except if things get really bad on the economic and social fronts. Should this happen, do you think it would be able to withstand the heat?**

Indeed, the MSM must be celebrating the collapse of the L'Entente, which had become a threat to their rule. Now, unless the flurry of ongoing court cases results in some dramatic outcomes, the government may last unchallenged until 2024. However, my worry is that, if they stay until the next elections, they may come back again!

It seems that the MSM has found a rare winning formula, and they will apply it – to greater effect – in the 2024 elections. This formula is no secret. They will raise the Basic Retirement Pension to Rs13,500 before the end of their term, and promise to double it again during their next term! They will offer lollies to public officers, police officers and taxi drivers, and they will brag about the major infrastructure projects that they realized during their current term. Who cares where the money is coming from so long as it gives them a *semblant* of a feel-good factor?

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4<sup>th</sup> Year No 158

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 16 August 1957

● *Life is a campaign, not a battle, and it has its defeats as well as its victories. -- Donn Piatt*

Somduth Bhuckory

**M**auritius Times was born three years ago on a Saturday morning on the 14th August 1954. It was then a single sheet.

For some five months it appeared on Saturdays and after that it started appearing every Friday. And now Friday has become *Mauritius Times Day*.

When our paper was ten months old, a great even took place in its life: another sheet was added to it. The day *Mauritius Times* appeared in four pages we called 'Our Red-Letter Day'.

And today we are inaugurating another change. For its third anniversary we are dressing our paper up in eight pages but its normal attire after this will consist of six pages. This change has inevitably brought a change in its price. From five cents the price will go up to ten cents. We are confident that our readers will not grudge us this rise.

Three years in the world of journalism is not a long time. *Le Cernéen* celebrated its 125th anniversary and *Le Mauricien* its 50th this year. Although our paper is just a junior among the journals of this place, it is fully conscious of its responsibilities. But it is proud to retain the stubborn nature of a child. When it sticks to something it sticks to it like a limpet sticks to rock.

It is an acknowledged fact today that *Mauritius Times* has a place of its own in local journalism. It is the only weekly of its kind. It was a hazardous venture to start such a paper here. But as the paper answered the call of the moment its success is quite understandable.

Our modest beginning has been the cause of much contempt in some quarters. We have had to contend against heavy odds to make our position secure. It is a matter of deep satisfaction, however, that if some pelted us with bricks others were ready with their bouquets. And so, amidst cheers and jeers, we jogged along.

Our physical appearance was not the cause of much concern to us in the beginning. What engaged our attention was the formulation of our policy. It is one thing to know political and other theories in the abstract, but it is quite a different thing to relate them to our day-to-day life and contribute thereby to the solution of topical problems.

People may agree with us or they may not, but at least

# Our Third Year



Princess Margaret's visit in September 1956 gave us the opportunity to see how low a section of the British press could stoop and it also gave us the opportunity to say what we thought of that sort of press. Photo - Vintage Mauritius

we expect they will credit us with following a progressive course. Difference of opinion there will be. Young minds will have fresh points of view. Young people may not like the beaten track. Let, therefore, nobody doubt our sincerity of purpose.

\* \* \*

Our third year has witnessed momentous happenings in this island. It would perhaps be more exact to say that we have not only witnessed those happenings but have also taken part in them. Let us consider one aspect of our struggle – the political aspect.

The municipal elections which were held on the 2nd of September saw us very active in supporting Labour. When Labour carried the day, we joined in the rejoicing as any other Labourite. We were proud of the victory and of the Labour Party.

Then came the election of ministers to introduce the ministerial system. We were against the system and the Labour deputies boycotted it. We were once more proud of the Labour Party.

Then came the election of ministers to introduce the ministerial system. We were against the system and the Labour deputies boycotted it. We were once more proud of the Labour Party.

Princess Margaret came to visit us while a constitutional crisis was brewing in the air. We published a special number to welcome her. The royal visit gave us the opportunity to see how low a section of the British press could stoop and it also gave us the opportunity to say what we thought of that sort of press.

The by-election of Moka-Flacq came, and we openly supported Mr Balgobin. The Labour Party was still commanding our respect and admiration.

Another parliamentary delegation left for London for constitutional talks. We wished that delegation 'Bon Voyage' once more and we were at Plaisance to garland the Labour delegates.

When in March of this year we received the London Agreement, we could not do otherwise than denounce it. Needless to emphasize the violent controversy in which we got involved with our own friends.

On the eve of the institution of the new ministerial system, Mr Profumo came to pay us a short visit. We again expressed our doubts and fears. And even after, we never hid our distrust of the ministry.

We have completed our three years at a time when our political future looks uncertain. We have proved how futile the work of the Boundary Commission will be and what the dangers of communal representation are.

Is not the foregoing enough to show how keenly we are interested in shaping the destiny of our island home? And, by the way, does it not also reveal our independence of thought and action?

\* \* \*

So much about the past to show how we have evolved so far. Our past must be an index to our future.

If ever any constructive criticism was needed, it is now. If ever any watchdog was necessary, it is now. Our Constitution is in the making, and we have to be careful not to accept anything that will retard our reaching the ultimate goal of self-government. There are also other problems in other fields which will deserve our undivided attention. Ministers are at work now. We shall have to assess their achievements one day.

We want *Mauritius Times* to be a vehicle of public opinion on topical matters of interest. Letters from readers will be as welcome as ever provided they are short and the writers reveal their identity. Our Readers' Forum must become the barometer to gauge public opinion. We invite our readers to help us achieve this end.

Much will naturally depend on our regular contributors to make the paper as interesting as possible. We have every reason to believe that our contributors take as much delight as us in raising the standard of our paper. They have rendered a magnificent service in the past. How can they fail us in days to come?

Our advertisers and readers, our supporters and friends need a special mention also. One and all have co-operated to make of *Mauritius Times* what it is today. There is no reason why anyone will let it down in future.

And so we are visualising our future with confidence. We are entering on our fourth year fortified in the thought that we can rely on the co-operation of all concerned to keep us going on the rough road which we have chosen to make ours.

*Mauritius Times* is not a paper to be satisfied with retailing news. It is a paper which, above all, aims at making people think. The value of such a paper to the rising generation cannot be stressed too much. The wider its circulation the greater its impact. We appeal to our supporters and friends to see to it that we get as wide an audience as possible. A well-informed public is the best check on the acts of public men.

Before we end, may we express our gratitude and thanks to all those who, one way or another, are contributing to the success of *Mauritius Times*.

## Big Kaanwar vs Small Kaanwar

## Creative Aspect of Mahashivratri

Savita Tiwari

Albert Einstein said creativity is contagious. Mahashivratri is the only occasion when the world witnesses the creative side of our Mauritian youth, all out on the streets of our small but beautiful island. The island turns into a big art fair. The foundation of this occasion is spiritual, and the grand structure that stands on this foundation is an artistic masterpiece.

Most of you remember the grand beautiful kaanwar from L'Avenir last year. It may have created a temporary traffic jam, but nobody can counter the fact that it was beautiful with a lot of hard work and creativity poured into it by the youth for many months before the grand festival of Mahashivratri. It is the contagiousness of creativity that brings all the Hindu youth of the island together to create a work of art for the world to witness.

Every year people indulge in the debate of *Big Kaanwar* versus *Small Kaanwar*. The argument given against big kaanwar is that they create a traffic jam. Controlling traffic jams is the job of the government. It is their responsibility to create enough infrastructure to support these beautiful magnificent kaanwars. The argument here is like: if you cannot digest the food, then stop eating food. No, we have to address the digestion problem instead of stopping to eat the food altogether.

You cannot put water on the creative fire of youth by giving a reason that is not even their responsibility. There are more than two thousand kilometers of roads all over the island. Every month a new road is constructed in some corner of our paradise to make travel more convenient. So why not construct the 4-5 kilometers of separate road for kaanwars from La Marie from where the traffic jam starts? I know creating a new road is a complicated matter. But as parents, we do complicated things to make our children creative. We buy so many colours and colouring books, games, crafts, etc., just to spark creative thinking in them children. Then why don't we overcome some small complications for the creativity of the children of our island?

I have seen young people of every village gathering daily after work at the village temple or somebody's house to discuss the idea of kaanwar as early as December every year. Cutting bamboo stems and letting them dry for a month is the first step. Then comes the design. Every single night they gather to create the kaanwar inch by inch, then wrapping colorful ribbons to cover every centimeter of the bamboo sticks.

Away from social media and completely submerged into the creative journey with the Mahadev bhajans playing in the background from some mobile, channeling the energy into the young minds. And then 10-15 days before Mahashivratri, everything speeds up. The energy reaches a new level. Everything is ordered up to the point



of perfection. Then the grand beautiful kaanwar is brought in front of the whole village to view and appreciate the hard work.

On the day when the kaanwar leaves from a village towards Ganga Talao, the whole village comes together to send off the kaanwartis.

Then the magnificent kaanwars come on the roads in a myriad of colours.

Imagine a road all for itself with the beautiful kaanwars - a road of creativity, *une route de la créativité*, or name it on the most creative kaanwar of the year, inspiring and fuelling the spiritual creativity of the young generation. The extra road or whatever solution the administration comes up with is not only going to make the traffic smooth but will also offload the pressure on the youth of making small kaanwars. Even psychologists believe that creative thinking serves children far beyond their childhood years.

Our small island doesn't have much

opportunity to showcase the talent of the people, especially those of the younger generation. Mahashivratri is the biggest canvas they can have; let them fill this canvas without limiting their flight of creativity with some logic of convenience. Provide a proper infrastructure so we all can enjoy the spiritual and beautiful kaanwar made with the sweat and devotion of our youth.

I will end my opinion again with the line of Einstein because today the world talks about reasoning so I am giving you reasons given by the greatest scientist himself, a scientist in favour of creativity and imagination. Einstein says: "I am enough of the artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

Let Mauritian youths encircle the world.  
*Happy and Creative Mahashivratri to you all.*

## 3 ways to vaccinate the world and make sure everyone benefits, rich and poor

☛ Cont. from page 2

Only a few African countries have begun their vaccination programs, of which just one, Zimbabwe, is a low-income country. Some middle-income countries and most low-income countries will be relying on the World Health Organization (WHO)-led COVAX facility, to which Australia contributes funding. This aims to administer two billion doses of vaccine, starting with health-care workers, in poorer countries by the end of 2021.

However, COVAX doses will cover only up to 20% of the population of each country. And COVAX supplies may be slow to arrive, especially if delays in the production and delivery to richer countries push back delivery dates for poorer ones.

For instance, Ghana, the first of 92 countries to receive vaccines through this initiative, only received its 600,000 doses last week.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, direc-

tor-general of the WHO, has said that rich countries' approaches to manufacturers to secure more vaccine doses are undermining COVAX's effort to achieve its goal of purchasing two billion doses of vaccines to administer during 2021.

## 2. Countries can produce their own vaccines

Low- and middle-income countries can also produce COVID-19 vaccines themselves, an option taken by nations including India, Thailand, Vietnam and Cuba.

The Serum Institute of India is one of the world's largest manufacturers of vaccines and has a licence to produce the AstraZeneca vaccine, which the WHO has approved for emergency use.

The company recently announced it would manufacture vaccines for India before doses earmarked for the rest of the world, a move that may delay vaccine shipments to dozens of countries and hamper the firm's plans to share its vaccine supply.

India is also developing its own vaccine, from Bharat Biotech, which has been approved in India.

Cuba has four vaccines under development. The most promising in early trials is Soberana 2, which will start phase three clinical trials shortly. If successful, Cuba's Finlay Institute plans to produce up to 100 million doses by the end of 2021.

In Thailand, two vaccines are under development by Chulalongkorn and Mahidol universities. Both are about to start human trials.

In Vietnam, Nanogen Pharmaceutical has received government go-ahead to start clinical trials of its vaccine Nanocovax. The company can produce two million doses a year but plans to increase that to 30 million doses in the next six months.

## 3. Rich countries can donate spare vaccines

Rich countries can donate vaccines to

poorer countries. France's President Emmanuel Macron said richer countries should send up to 5% of their current vaccine supplies to poorer nations. There is little evidence other countries have followed France's lead.

However, Russia and China have provided their own vaccines - Sputnik V and Sinopharm, respectively - to a number of low-income countries in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

### In a nutshell

This is no time for short-sighted vaccine nationalism.

But the projected two-year delay between vaccinating the world's rich and the poor is both morally unacceptable and the biggest impediment to the world's health and economic recovery.

Michael Toole - Professor of International Health, Burnet Institute

# Le Terrible Gâchis



«Duval, leader de l'opposition, est un moindre mal car il a encore la sympathie des Travailleurs pour avoir "sauvé la démocratie" en 2016, lorsqu'il avait fait capoter la 'Prosecution Commission Bill', visant l'indépendance du DPP. Une démarche qui visait au fond le déroulement des affaires concernant Navin Ramgoolam. Disons que Xavier Duval demeure "acceptable" pour les Travailleurs dont certains espèrent le retour dans "son camp naturel" ...»

## • Suite de la page 3

Aussi, il va sans dire qu'une 'Mahagathbandhan' – ou 'Grande Alliance' des partis dans l'Etat de Bihar, Inde, en prélude des élections de 2020 -- à la mauricienne avec un nombre important de postulants n'arrange pas les affaires des «roder tickets». Le temps des premiers tribuns travaillistes où la politique était un sacerdoce est bien révolu. On a voulu imiter Singapour, mais on a conservé et développé la corruption, l'incompétence, etc., comme «valeurs» immuables.

### 5. Toute velléité de changement au niveau du leadership au PTr écrasée dans l'œuf

La manière brutale, maladroite et inopportune de Bérenger d'exclure le leader du PTr, au demeurant l'initiateur de l'Entente, des premiers ministres a eu pour effet, en blessant la base travailliste, de renforcer le leadership de Navin Ramgoolam au PTr. Certes, ce n'est un secret pour personne qu'outre les observateurs indépendants, un certain nombre de Travailleurs -- certains imbus de valeurs travaillistes de longue date -- voient en Navin Ramgoolam un handicap certain. Néanmoins, cela demeure et doit demeurer un problème interne au PTr, et il incombe à ses membres de s'en occuper.

A noter que du coup le MSM, qui considère Navin Chandra Ramgoolam (NCR) comme un allié objectif aussi longtemps qu'il reste premier ministre, a mis de côté la hache de guerre... pour l'instant. C'est ainsi que le servile Showkutally Soodhun a été envoyé au front pour louer NCR et lui verser quelques larmes de

crocodile. D'autres «haters» de tous bords ont emboîté le pas. Faut pas se faire d'illusion : l'artillerie lourde sera pour après.

Cela étant, il faut bien préciser que NCR n'a pas encore déclaré qu'il sollicitait un quelconque futur *prime ministership*. Il sait donner «le temps au temps», lui. Ce que j'ai retenu également, c'est qu'il dit avoir la ferme intention de s'atteler à la rénovation du PTr et, par ailleurs, qu'il ne souhaite pas rester «inerte» dans la conduite des affaires du pays, à une position qui reste à définir.

### 6. L'espoir populaire d'un changement profond brisé

Face à la corruption (dont népotisme, clientélisme, «dynastisme», assassinat, etc.) qui dévore le pays et l'incompétence paroxystique dont on commence à subir les effets désastreux sur l'économie, le peuple a «marché» pour dire stop et demander un changement profond. Ce changement dans notre pays démocratique passe, entre autres, par une amélioration de notre Constitution. Or, cette amélioration nécessite une majorité parlementaire renforcée, impossible à décrocher ; et pire, le risque d'une répétition de 2019 est bien là, si la fragmentation de l'opposition dans son ensemble perdure jusqu'aux prochaines élections générales.

En attendant, vivement qu'elle ne se trompe pas d'adversaire et respecte la demande populaire.

Shiva Patten

## AMCHAM (Mauritius) gets new Executive Committee

The American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) in Mauritius has a new Managing Committee for 2021-2023, following the elections and Annual General Meeting on 5 March 2021

Ravin Lama, Managing Director of Mind Initiatives was re-elected President of the organisation. The Executive Committee includes Vice-President Fred Sisson - CEO, Synnove Energy, Secretary Sien Sien Yip Tong and Treasurer Spalding Jugganaikloo - President of The American Campus.

Other executive members include Anousha Mohon of VIKASA Capital, Ashley Ittoo, Managing Director - Diizz Interactive, Ved Luchmun, MD - Foods Worth Co. Ltd, Harish K Patel, Director - KRG and Jacques Harel, CEO -BIRGER.

Set up in 2018, the objectives of AMCHAM is to encourage and facilitate trade and investment between the United States of America and Mauritius and to promote the role of Mauritius as a regional hub for business.



Ravin Lama

## Congratulations, Marie Gaëlle!

The Desvaux de Marigny family and the Camangue family proudly announce the graduation of Dr Marie Gaëlle Desvaux de Marigny with a PhD in Law (Doctorat en droit privé) from the University of La Réunion (France 974).



Marie Gaëlle achieved her Doctor of Law (Docteur en droit) thesis defense on December 18, 2020. The PhD thesis - «Le volume immobilier» (also known as «Air Rights») - deals with the Real Property Mechanism called « Division en volumes» (KEYWORDS: Smart Cities, Vertical Cities, Real Estate, Property Law, Air Rights, 3D Cadastral System |

MOTS-CLÉS: ensembles immobiliers complexes, copropriété, lotissement, droit de superficie, division en volumes, la propriété de l'espace). Contact via LinkedIn.

## Sanlam Central Agency Ltd

Accredited Agency

Contact: Mrs V. Gopal

1st floor, ARC Building, c/r SSR & Sir William Newton Streets, Port Louis Tel: 208 0289 / 5782 5678 - Fax: 213 0961

Email: centralagency@intnet.mu

Home

Motor car car Lorries



## Un jeune curé angoissé

Un jeune curé très angoissé est incapable de prononcer un seul mot le jour de son premier sermon. Le lendemain, il va voir l'archevêque et lui demande quelques conseils pour qu'il puisse être à la hauteur au sermon du dimanche suivant.

L'archevêque lui conseille alors de se verser quelques gouttes de vodka dans un grand verre pour se sentir plus détendu.

Le dimanche suivant, le jeune prêtre suit le conseil et réussit à parler sans être paralysé, et sans avoir le trac.

De retour à la sacristie, il trouve une lettre laissée par l'archevêque ainsi rédigée :

Mon fils, la prochaine fois, mettez quelques gouttes de vodka dans un grand verre d'eau et non quelques gouttes d'eau dans la bouteille de vodka. D'autre part, je tiens à vous faire part des quelques observations suivantes, afin que vous amélioriez encore un peu vos prochaines prêches.

1. Il n'est nul besoin de mettre une rondelle de citron sur le bord du calice
2. Évitez de vous appuyer sur la statue de la Sainte vierge et surtout évitez de l'embrasser en la serrant étroitement dans vos bras.
3. Il y a 10 commandements et non pas 12.
4. Les apôtres étaient 12, non pas 7 et aucun n'était nain.
5. On ne parle pas de Jésus-Christ et ses apôtres comme de "JC & Co".
6. Nous ne nous référons pas à Judas comme à "ce fils de pute".
7. Vous ne devez pas parler du pape en disant "le parrain".
8. Ben Laden n'a rien à voir avec la mort de Jésus.



9. Les murailles qui se sont effondrés au septième jour ne se trouvaient pas à Mexico mais à Jéricho !
10. L'eau bénite est faite pour bénir et non pour se rafraîchir la nuque
11. Ne célébrez jamais la messe assis sur les marches de l'hôtel.
12. Ponce Pilate a dit: vos histoires je m'en lave les mains", et non "vos conneries, je m'en bas les couilles".
13. Les hosties ne sont pas des gâteaux apéritifs à consommer avec le vin de messe.
14. Les pêcheurs iront en enfer et non "se faire enculer chez les Papous".
15. L'initiative d'appeler les fidèles à danser était bonne, mais pas celle de faire la chenille dans l'église.
16. L'homme assis près de l'hôtel et que vous avez qualifié de "vieux pédé et de travelo en jupe", c'était moi...

Sincèrement, L'archevêque.

PS: Jésus n'a pas été fusillé mais crucifié.

## You can't win with women!

### Wife vs Husband

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word.

An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?"

"Yep," the wife replied, "in-laws."

### Words

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day: 30,000 to a man's 15,000.

The wife replied, "The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men."

The husband then turned to his wife and asked, "What?"

### Creation

A man said to his wife one day, "I don't know how you can be so

stupid and so beautiful all at the same time."

The wife responded, "Allow me to explain. God made me beautiful so you would be attracted to me. And God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you!"

### Who does what?

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."

Wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

Husband replies, "I can't believe that, show me."

So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says... 'HEBREWS'.

### The Silent Treatment

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment. Suddenly, the man realized that he would need his wife to wake him at 5.00 am the next day for an early morning business flight.

Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5. 00 am." He left it where he knew she would find it.

The next morning, the man woke up, only to discover it was 9.00 am, and he had missed his flight. Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't wakened him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. The paper said, "It is 5.00 am. Wake up."

Men are not equipped for these kinds of contests.

## Wisdom

### Die Empty

The most beautiful book to read is 'Die Empty' by Todd Henry. The author was inspired and got this idea of writing this book while attending a business meeting.

When the director asked those in attendance: "Where is the richest land in the world?", one of those present said: "Oil-rich Gulf states."

Another added: "Diamond mines in Africa."

Then the director said: "No it is the cemetery. Yes, it is the richest land in the world, because millions of people have departed/died and they carried many valuable ideas that did not come to light nor benefit others. It is all in the cemetery where they are buried."

Inspired by this answer, Todd Henry wrote his book, 'Die Empty'.

The most beautiful of what he said in his book is:

"Do not go to your grave and carry inside you the best that you have. Always choose to die empty.

The true meaning of this expression is to die empty of all the goodness that is within you.

Deliver it to the world, before you leave.

If you have an idea, perform it.

If you have knowledge, give it out.

If you have a goal, achieve it.

Love, share and distribute, do not keep it inside.

Let's begin to give. Remove and spread every atom of goodness inside us."

### Facts about staying healthy:

1. If walking/cycling is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.
2. A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water and is fat.
3. A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years.
4. A tortoise doesn't run, does nothing ..yet lives for 450 years

AND YOU TELL ME TO EXERCISE!

I don't think so ..

Incredible.



### Union of Employees of Ministry of Agriculture And Other Ministries Annual General Meeting

You are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the said association which has been scheduled for 02nd April 2021 at 12.00 hours at the seat of Government Teachers Centre, Quatre Bornes.

### Agenda

1. Welcome address by the President
2. Reading and approval of the last minutes of proceeding
3. Matters arising
4. President Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Executive Members and Auditors
7. A.O.B

Secretary

# The 8-word mantra that will transform your relationship's struggles



**F**ights. Arguments. Chaos. All these words resonate in your mind when you and your partner start picking little spats with each other. To be honest, we all know, little differences turn into loud disputes that turn ugly over time. And love no longer acts as a saviour.

Couples often find it hard to navigate through such times because relationships are expected to be all love and flowers, not spats and squabbles. Tempers soar and the need to yell opinions increases leaving couples dismayed; unable to apprehend whether their relationship is all fights and misunderstanding or is love even in the game.

When people suggest that fights are indeed very healthy for a relationship, couples going through a rough patch are left pondering whether their relationship is also healthy. Going a stage higher by defeating all odds can do wonders for your relationship, especially if you and your partner have vowed to stay together despite all odds, writes the Times of India. The rough trenches in your relationship are mostly defined by past mistakes and fights that have already occurred.

### The past becomes sacrosanct.

You'll notice this frequent habit while fighting, "You did this the last time as well! I'm so fed up!" The habit of referring to the past doesn't only happen with you, but with millions of other couples who dwell in past differences. Bringing up the past is a common thing we all do and include in our current arguments, unaware of the deep-rooted harm it is causing both your mindsets.

However, one will want to argue that referring to the past is automatic, as the brain tends to grasp matters that have once occurred or are familiar.

However, have you considered letting go of your past completely? I know it sounds difficult, but it can be just the elixir you need for your relationship. Past grudges threaten a relationship; moreover, you can't really do anything about it. Accept it, you can't solve the problems of the past. Once it is over and, in the past, that time doesn't come back. You can't drag the problems you have faced in the past.

### 'You can't change the problems in the past'

This mantra is exceptionally true. No matter how much you focus on the future and drive your mindset towards futuristic opinions on relationships, you can't help but get dragged back to the past. If you've hurt your partner or vice versa, let go of the grudges and take full responsibility for what you have done or said. What you fight about in the present should be your only matter of concern. Acknowledging the past mistakes in the past should be necessary to avoid repeating similar mistakes in the present and future.

Once, you accept this mantra, your relationships will take a positive turn, and both of you will be able to respect and understand each other more. Fights will remain, but rest assured, it will never grow into chaos. Write it on stone: Past doesn't matter, it won't change ever. You can only change the present.

## Health & Beauty

# Best anti-aging skin care ingredients

**A** number of ingredients in over-the-counter treatments may help your skin appear more youthful, but it'll take time. You may see improvement within a few months. But you shouldn't expect to look like you've stepped out of a time machine.

What will work best for you will depend on your skin, and the results you're trying to get.

### For Wrinkles: Retinol, Vitamin C

If you have fine lines, retinoids (which come from vitamin A) like retinol may make your skin smoother because they help your skin make more collagen. It's easier on your skin than the prescription-strength version, tretinoin (Retin-A), which can dry your skin. Products with vitamin C may help take away fine lines, as well as help lessen the damage the sun does to your skin. That could help keep wrinkles away.

### For Sagging Skin: Peptides, Ceramides

Treatments with topical growth factors or peptides could help firm sagging skin. Peptides are groups of amino acids that help make proteins, including collagen. That's the main protein found in your skin.

Daily moisturizer with ceramides -- fats found in the layers of your skin that you lose as you age -- are an option, too -- and they're usually cheaper...

### For Age Spots: Hydroquinone, Retinoids, Vitamin C, Kojic Acid

Hydroquinone, an over-the-counter

drug that can bleach your skin, may fade dark spots. Retinoids may make your skin tone more even. One study says vitamin C helps fade age spots when you use it for 12 weeks. Kojic acid -- a chemical that's often used as a skin-whitening ingredient in products -- can do it, too.

When you use any of these, make sure to wear sunscreen. Your dark spots may come back if your skin gets too much sunlight.

### For Uneven Skin Tone: AHAs, Retinoids

Alpha hydroxy acids (AHAs) remove dead skin cells. This could help to reveal new ones with a more even tone. Retinoids can do the same thing. Both can irritate your skin, so use them with caution if yours is dry or sensitive.

### For Dull Skin: AHAs, Retinoids

If you smoke or if your skin is dry, you're more likely to have dull skin. A moisturizer may make it look fuller and firmer. Alpha hydroxy acids and retinoids (like retinol) could brighten your skin when they remove dead skin cells.

### Which strength do I need?

Some over-the-counter products only come in one strength. Others have different levels of the active ingredient. If you choose something that might dry or irritate your skin -- like retinol -- start with the lowest strength and get used to it before you try something stronger.



### When should I put these on?

There are products, including vitamin C, should be applied in the morning. Others, like retinol, should go on at night, because sunlight might stop it from working. Put moisturizer on every day if you have dry skin or if you want it to look more youthful. A good moisturizer will help to plump your skin.

### How should I apply them?

If you use more than one anti-aging skin product, put the one with an active ingredient on first so that your skin absorbs

it better. For example, in the morning, put a vitamin C product on first, sunscreen next, and makeup last. At bedtime, apply retinol first and moisturizer after that.

### Need help with your decision?

If your skin care products irritate your skin, there are other options you can try. Having trouble finding the right combination? Talk with a dermatologist. They can help you find a safe choice that will make your skin look and feel better.

# Infamous cat-fights between Bollywood actresses

From Madhuri Dixit-Sridevi's cold war to Deepika Padukone and Katrina Kaif's differences due to their common ex, here's checking out cat fights between famous Bollywood actresses as reported by Pooja Nayak of Times Now.

There's always been this common belief that two actresses can never be friends. Although most of the actresses try to maintain a healthy environment by keeping their differences aside, some cold wars get so evident that one can't help but read in-between the lines.

Whether it's by refraining from working together in a film or taunting each other through interviews, there have been several instances in the past when two Bollywood actresses have made their disliking towards one another highly evident.

Here's looking at some of the ugliest catfights between two actresses of Bollywood. The list includes Kareena Kapoor-Bipasha Basu, Karisma Kapoor-Raveena Tandon, Madhuri Dixit-Sridevi, Aishwarya Rai-Sonam Kapoor, Jaya Bachchan-Rekha, Kangana Ranaut-Alia Bhatt, Kareena-Priyanka Chopra among others.



## Kareena Kapoor and Bipasha Basu

The two actresses hated each other from the core of their heart, and gave public interviews expressing that. "No, I will not work with Kareena again. Because you either get along with people or you don't," Bipasha said in an interview with Filmfare.

Kareena retorted with, "She just doesn't seem to have any confidence in her own talent. In a four-page interview, she spoke about me for three pages." In another statement, Kareena had also referred to Bipasha as "Kaali Billi" and later had fired shots at Bipasha's then boyfriend John Abraham by calling him "expressionless". On the professional front, Kareena and Bipasha have worked together in *Ajnabee*.

## Aishwarya Rai and Sonam Kapoor



Sonam became the face of the brand that Aishwarya used to endorse and not only this, the former also called

Aishwarya "aunty". This didn't go down well with Aishwarya and she denied walking the red carpet with Sonam at the Cannes film Festival.

## Deepika Padukone and Katrina Kaif



The 'ex' factor is what created a rift between Deepika and Katrina. Ranbir Kapoor broke up with Deepika and later got into a relationship with Katrina. This didn't go down well with DP who was madly in love with Ranbir. It was believed that Ranbir was already dating Katrina while he was in a relationship with Deepika.

A few years later, Ranbir and Deepika decided to move on and mend ways for a healthy friendship and professional relationship. However, Deepika refused to mend ways with Katrina. They would barely cross paths and have also never worked together in a film. It was in 2018 when finally the cold war came to an end with Deepika inviting Katrina to her wedding and the latter attending the do wholeheartedly.

## Kareena Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra



Another example of 'ex' factor rivalry is that of Priyanka and Kareena's equation. Their cold war was rife ever since they collaborated for *Aitraaz*. The fact Priyanka received more praises than Kareena for her performance in the film didn't go down well with the latter and she would keep taking digs at PeeCee through all her interviews. By making fun of her accent to taking a jibe at her acting, Bebo ensured to make her differences evident.

Later, when Priyanka dated Shahid Kapoor after he broke up with Kareena, their differences only got worse. However, over the years, they moved over their silly fights and now wish the best for each other. The same was evident on the 'Koffee With Karan' couch when Bebo and PeeCee reunited for a fun-filled episode and laughed off their catfight rumours.



## Hema Malini says her father tried to stop her and Dharmendra from spending time alone

Hema Malini said that back in the day, her father tried his best to stop her from spending time alone with Dharmendra during shoots. She made this revelation during a yet-to-be-aired episode of singing reality show Indian Idol 12.

Eventually, Hema tied the knot with Dharmendra, and they have been happily married for more than four decades now. They have two daughters - Esha Deol and Ahana Deol.

On Indian Idol 12, Hema revealed that her father made every effort to keep her away from Dharmendra, but he was no less. "Usually my mother or my aunt used to accompany me on shoots but during the shoot of one of the songs, my father accompanied me. He was worried that I and Dharam ji shouldn't spend some time alone as he knew we were friends. I remember this when we used to travel in a car, my father used to immediately sit next to me. But even Dharam ji was no less. He used to sit in the next seat," she said, according to The Indian Express.

When Dharmendra fell in love with Hema, he was already married to Prakash Kaur. He has four children with her - sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol, and daughters Ajeeta and Vijeta.

According to Hema's authorised biography 'Hema Malini: Beyond The Dream Girl', her parents were unhappy with her budding romance with the much-married Dharmendra. Her mother Jaya Chakravathy felt that the only solution was to get her married to someone else and thought of Jeetendra.

Jeetendra and Hema were supposed to get married in Chennai but a 'slightly inebriated' Dharmendra crashed the wedding, after reading about it in the news, with Jeetendra's then-girlfriend and now wife, Shobha.

Dharmendra refused to budge until he was allowed to speak to Hema alone and managed to persuade her to call off the wedding with Jeetendra.

Krishna Mukherjee on doing *Naagin's* spin-off *Kuch Toh Hai*:

## It was my dream to play a Naagin one day



**K**rishna Mukherjee, who was last seen in *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein*, returned to television with hit franchise *Naagin's* spin-off *Kuch Toh Hai*. In an exclusive interaction with ETimes TV, the actress reveals that it was her dream to be a *Naagin* on the small screen one day and she's happy being a part of the show.

### Is there any pressure of carrying forward the successful franchise of *Naagin, Kuch Toh Hai*?

Of course, we are a little nervous. But there is no pressure, we understand that the previous seasons have been successful and now it is our turn to give our best. There's no pressure on us because we are starting as fresh and we don't want to compare ourselves to anyone. We are just going to give our best. The love I got from *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein* and the love Harsh Rajput got from *Nazar* because we worked hard on our projects, we are expecting the same. We are going to work equally hard for this.

### It was my dream too to be seen in the *Naagin* franchise

It was my dream to be seen in the *Naagin* franchise or play a *Naagin* and I am very excited and happy to be part of it. I am really thankful to Ekta Kapoor ma'am, Mukta ma'am and the channel that they gave me such a big opportunity and they showed the trust in me that I can do this and take it ahead. I am really happy by

God's grace, I hope this show does well. Till now everything is going smooth, I just hope it does well and people like it. We are very positive about the show.

### I did not audition for *Kuch Toh Hai*

No, it was not a conscious decision to stay away from the small screen. Initially, it was lockdown and the pandemic. I was not in Mumbai, I was in my hometown with my parents and they were not ready to make me travel to Mumbai during the pandemic. I did give auditions from there, but to be honest with you I did not give too many auditions. I only tried for projects which I thought would interest me. I did not audition for this, they saw my previous work and they finalised me. They called me for the mock shoot and when I got a call from the production

### I have realised that you can survive with minimum and basic things

By God's grace I was with my family and I felt really bad for people who were away from their family. They had to deal with problems and difficulties and when you don't have anyone's support things become worse. When you have someone to give you a hug or just to tell you that things will be alright you get strength to fight back. For me I had a great time, I know there was panic everyone and people were going through bad times, but I really enjoyed my time with my family.

As I always stayed away from my family, I hardly got time to spend with them as I was mostly busy shooting but because of the lockdown I got to connect with them again. I learnt a lot of things while staying with them again and I felt blessed to be with my family. I learnt to be patient and stay positive during the lockdown. I have realised that you can survive with minimum and basic things.

### There was no insecurity, but I was missing my work

There was no insecurity of not getting work but when you open your social media account and you see other people working, you start missing your work as you also want to work. Because you are so used to working that you miss your sets, work. Who doesn't want to work? In my head I knew that if not today, I will get work tomorrow.

### Mouni Roy is my favourite *Naagin*

It is a very difficult question. Honestly, if you look at the word *Naagin* I feel Mouni Roy fits the bill perfectly. I like both Surbhi Jyoti and Surbhi Chandna, they are dear friends. They were really good. But when in my mind I think about *Naagin* two people who immediately come to my mind are either Sridevi or Mouni Roy. And both Mouni's seasons were successful.

## Nia Sharma: My car was a gift I deserved at this point



I am glad to have upgraded to such a beautiful black car and I will feel proud about driving it. I have earned it with my hard work over the years. It also feels great when your mother and brother are all smiles. Life suddenly seems brighter! At the end of the day, it is about making your family and yourself happy."

Nia was seen dressed in a monochrome outfit, and her brother and mother, too, were dressed in similar outfits. Nia clarified that many people had wrongly quoted the price of the vehicle. She said, "After I posted the video, many people quoted the wrong price of the vehicle. They should check facts before they quote a price. Anyway, I am happy that I bought myself a new car. I can't wait to drive it!"

Nia was last seen in '*Naagin 4*' in which she played the role of a *naagin*. The feisty actress is known to share her opinions in an honest and outspoken way, both in interviews and in her social media posts.

**N**ia Sharma is super excited! The '*Naagin*' and '*Jamai Raja*' actress gifted herself a new black luxury car. She even posted a video of unveiling the swanky vehicle along with her brother and mother on her Instagram account.

In an exclusive chat, Nia told Tanvi Trivedi of TNN, "I unveiled the video of the car, but didn't feel the need to explain why I gifted myself a car in the New Year. I feel it is a thing I deserved at this point in time.

Mukesh Khanna on not stepping out for a year:

## I had to let go of a project with a Bollywood star



11 months, I have been practised social distancing and stayed at home. I believe when the country and pandemic is alerting us on social distancing, why should we flout norms and step out to meet people? Can't we wait for a few more months till we get vaccinated and then start meeting people?"

Khanna who has been part of many TV shows and films, also gave up a project with a Bollywood star because he would have to shoot outdoors. He said, "There was an ad film offer with a Bollywood star and I had to let it go because I didn't feel it was safe to go out and shoot when the entire nation is undergoing a pandemic. I feel that if you meet people and interact then there is a chance to get infected by the virus, but if you stay at home and if there is no urgent reason, I don't feel people should step out. I have seen that people can't keep away from socialising with others and the need to party is very strong. I am not against people partying but when you are going through a pandemic, all these parties and unnecessary socialising can be avoided."

Khanna spends the day reading, exercising and posting videos on his social media. He said, "It is not so difficult to spend time at home. People should love their own self. I exercise, read, post videos, watch my show *Shaktimaan* and talk to friends and my in-house staff."

**T**V's Bhismapitamah, actor Mukesh Khanna has followed the rules of pandemic to perfection. The actor has not stepped out of his Kandivali home for almost a year now. The actor shared with Times of India, how important social distancing is; and now that the vaccine is here, people should not get impatient and step out before they get a jab.

Khanna said, "Since last March, when the lockdown was imposed on us, I have not stepped out of my Kandivali flat. I have only gone to the terrace of my building or stepped out in the compound. For the last



Mardi 9 Mars - 21.10

### Virtual Revolution

Avec: Mike Dopud, Jane Badler, Jochen Hägele



Mercredi 10 Mars - 21.10

### Maison à Vendre, Coeur à Prendre



Jeudi 11 Mars - 21.15

avec: Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno, Maria Pitillo



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
07.30 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 10.16 Local: Fam Model 10.30 Mag: Euromaxx 11.10 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 13.00 Local: Elle 14.30 D.Animes: Sissi 14.54 D.Anime: Teenie Weenie 14.57 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 15.24 D.Anime: La Ligue Des Super 15.48 D.Anime: HTDT 16.37 D.Anime: Baby Boss 17.05 Mag: Mimetismes 17.20 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida a... 17.50 Mag: Origami 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 21.10 Film: What Doesn't Kill You 23.10 Le Journal	10.00 Serial: CID 10.44 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha 12.04 Film: Do Bhai Starring: Ashok Kumar, Mala Sinha 14.24 DDI Magazine 15.21 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 16.03 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal 16.29 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai 16.50 Serial: Achra Ke Moti 17.11 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 DDI Magazine 19.00 Journal Kreol 20.00 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Chhalia Starring: Raj Kapoor, Nutan 22.47 DDI Live	06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.39 Mag: World Stories 07.00 Mag: Voa Connect 07.25 Mag: In Good Shape 07.51 Doc: Amazing Gardens 09.44 Mag: Global 3000 10.34 Doc: Helping Rape Survivors 11.21 Mag: Eco@Africa 11.45 Mag: Arts And Culture 12.11 Mag: Voa Connected 12.49 Mag: In Good Shape 13.11 Doc: Amazing Gardens 14.14 Doc: Vraie Jeanne, Fausse... 15.32 Mag: Washington Forum 15.58 Doc: Helping Rape Survivors 16.43 Mag: Eco@Africa 17.09 Mag: Arts And Culture 18.02 Mag: REV: The Global Auto... 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.26 Mag: Le Saviez Vous? 19.34 Mag: Made In Germany	01.28 Film: Clarity 03.12 Serial: S.W.A.T 03.52 Film: War Room 05.52 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.34 Serial: Shades Of Blue 09.00 Serial: The Magicians 09.48 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T 11.44 Film: War Room 13.44 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.26 Mag: Hollywood On Set 14.52 Film: Zombie Shark 16.43 Serial: The Magicians 17.24 Serial: Shades Of Blue 18.05 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 20.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue 21.15 Film: Virtual Revolution 22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava	08.00 Film: Thappad 12.04 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.26 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.50 / 20.32 Agniphera 13.09 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.28 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.48 / 21.59 - Naagin Season 3 14.30 / 22.25 - Ikyawann 14.52 / 22.56 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.20 Film: Tathastu Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Ameesha Patel, Jaya Prada 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.52 Serial: Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka 19.15 Mere Angne Mein 19.32 Siddhi Vinayak
08.10 Local: Palette 09.00 Doc: Coding Art 09.45 Local: Entractes 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Prod Indepen: Met Seryer 14.30 D.Anime: Sissi 14.56 D.Anime: Teenie Weenie 14.59 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 15.23 D.Anime: La Ligue Des... 15.47 D.Anime: HTDT 16.15 D.Anime: Trolls 16.38 D.Anime: Baby Boss 17.05 Mag: Mimetismes 17.20 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida... 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.00 Prod: Lottotech 20.20 Local Production 21.25 Film: Cassidy Red 23.10 Local: Le Journal	10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha... 11.17 Suhani Ek Ladhi 12.00 Film: Dus Numbari Stars: Manoj Kumar, Hema, Prem Nath  15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.22 Aamhi Doghi 15.44 Mooga Manasulu 16.10 Apoorva Raagangal 16.30 Serial: Suno Chanda 16.53 Serial: Achra Ke Moti 17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.33 Serial: Kulvadh 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Programme In Marathi 21.00 Film: Born A Ninja Chinese Film 22.24 Live: DDI Live	06.00 Rev: The Global Auto... 06.26 Doc: Superfoods 06.52 Mag: Check In 07.29 Mag: Made In Germany 07.55 Doc: From Vogtland To... 08.43 Doc: Le Rwanda Aux Fem... 10.10 Local: Klip Seleksion 12.26 Mag: Guilt-Free Brew 12.29 Mag: Check In 13.06 Mag: Made In Germany 13.32 Doc: From Vogtland To... 13.58 Doc: Olivia's Garden 15.20 Local: Close Up 15.48 Local: Klip Seleksion 17.15 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 17.49 Doc: Japan 2019 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.26 Mag: Le Saviez Vous? 20.05 Mag: Tendance XXI 20.31 Mag: Vue D'en Haut	00.20 Serial: Shades Of Blue 01.26 Film: Virtual Revolution 02.59 Serial: S.W.A.T 03.40 Film: Marrying Mr. Darcy 05.03 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.52 Film: A Time For Killing 09.00 Serial: The Magicians 09.44 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T 11.55 Film: Marrying Mr. Darcy 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: A Date With Miss... 16.39 Serial: The Magicians 17.20 Serial: Shades Of Blue 18.12 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 20.30 Serial: 19-2 21.15 Film: Maison A Vendre, Coeur 22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.27 Serial: The Magicians	08.00 Film: Tathastu 12.04 / 20.06 - Sanjivani 12.24 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna 12.46 / 20.02 - Agniphera 13.10 / 20.46 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.30 / 21.09 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.53 / 21.31 - Naagin Season 3 14.35 / 21.46 - Ikyawann 14.36 / 21.59 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.20 Film: Pyaasa Starring: Aftab Shivdasani, Yukta Mookhey 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kumkum Bhagya 18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka 19.13 Mere Angne Mein 19.35 Siddhi Vinayak
06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.45 Local: Sur Prise 09.00 Mag: Made In Germany 09.50 Serial: Oh Yuck 10.30 Palette: Special Shivratri 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 13.00 Local: RDV Muzikal 14.30 D.Anime: Sissi 14.55 D.Anime: The Minimighty... 14.57 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 15.24 D.Anime: HTDT 15.36 D.Anime: Robot Trains 17.45 Mag: Origami 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Jamai Raja 18.55 Local: Tirth Yatra 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Rishton Ki Saanjh 23.00 Le Journal	10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 12.05 Film: Gopal Krishna Starring: Sachin, Zarina Wahab 14.10 Mag: DDI Magazine 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.21 Aamhi Doghi 15.41 Mooga Manasulu 16.05 Apoorva Raagangal 16.32 Serial: Suno Chanda 16.51 Serial: Achra Ke Moti 17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da Devi Maiya 19.00 Journal Kreol 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.31 Local: Evasion 21.14 Film: Crooked Arrows Starring: Brandon Routh, Gil Birmingham, Crystal Allen 22.54 DDI Live	06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.25 Mag: Vous Et Nous 07.28 Doc: Garden Party 08.22 Mag: Vue D'en Haut 09.15 Local: Rishi Bodh 2021 09.45 Live From Foolbassea Babooram Ashram 12.55 Doc: Garden Party 14.43 Mag: Initiative Africa 16.17 Doc: Set One 16.22 Mag: Vous Et Nous 16.52 Student Support Program... 17.18 Mag: Le Saviez Vous? 17.30 Local: Anbe Sivam - God Is Love - Program... 21.00 Live From Shri Shambhoonath Shivalaye, Camp Fouquereaux 23.00 MBC Prod 00.00 Live From Camp Diable Kailashnath Mandir	01.28 Film: The Pirate 03.09 Serial: S.W.A.T 03.51 Film: Nessie & Me 05.20 Tele: Muneca Brava 05.58 Serial: 19-2 06.40 Film: Maison A Vendre... 09.00 Serial: The Magicians 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T 12.00 Film: A Cowgirl?Story 13.34 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: Maison A Vendre... 16.49 Serial: The Magicians 17.21 Serial: 19-2 18.05 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.08 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 20.30 Serial: 19-2 21.15 Film: Godzilla 23.35 Tele: Muneca Brava 00.14 Serial: The Magicians	08.00 Film: Pyaasa 12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.14 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.37 / 20.32 Agniphera 13.59 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.21 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.43 / 21.46 - Naagin 14.26 / 21.59 - Ikyawann 14.47 / 22.52 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.20 Film: Haathi Mere Saathi Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Tanuja 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka 19.11 Mere Angne Mein 19.32 Siddhi Vinayak



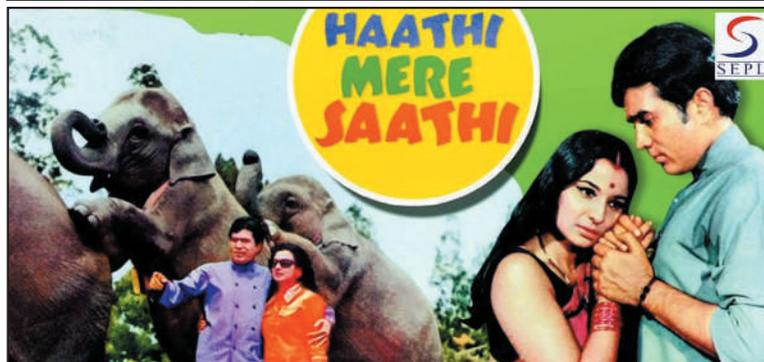
Jeudi 11 Mars - 15.30

Star: Rajesh Khanna, Tanuja



Jeudi 11 Mars - 20.30

Stars: Asif Basra, Tanu Bhardwaj, Aditi Charak



# Will the Covid vaccine make me test positive for the coronavirus?

5 questions about vaccines and Covid testing answered



It's important people still get tested if they have symptoms, even after having the vaccine

**D**o the vaccines give you Covid, or make you test positive for Covid? Does the vaccine affect other tests? Do we still need to get Covid tested if we have symptoms, even after getting the shot? And will we still need Covid testing once more of the population gets vaccinated?

We look at the evidence to answer five common questions about the impact of COVID vaccines on testing.

## 1. Will the vaccine give me Covid?

The short answer is "no". That's because the vaccines approved for use so far in Australia and elsewhere don't contain live Covid virus.

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine contains an artificially generated portion of viral mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid). This carries the specific genetic instructions for your body to make the coronavirus's "spike protein", against which your body mounts a protective immune response.

The AstraZeneca vaccine uses a different technology. It packages viral DNA into a viral vector "carrier" based on a chimpanzee adenovirus. When this is delivered into your arm, the DNA prompts your body to produce the spike protein, again stimulating an immune response.

Any vaccine side-effects, such as fever or feeling fatigued, are usually mild and temporary. These are signs the vaccines are working to boost your immune system, rather than signs of Covid itself. These symptoms are also common after routine vaccines.

## 2. Will the Covid vaccine make me test positive?

No, a Covid vaccine will not affect the results of a diagnostic Covid test.

The current gold-standard diagnostic test is known as nucleic acid PCR testing. This looks for the mRNA (genetic material) of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. This is a marker of current infection.

This is the test the vast majority of people have when they line up at a drive-through testing clinic, or attend a Covid clinic at their local hospital.

Yes, the Pfizer vaccine contains mRNA. But the mRNA it uses is only a small part of the entire viral RNA. It also cannot make copies of itself, which would be needed for it to be in sufficient quantity to be detected. So it cannot be detected by a PCR test.

The AstraZeneca vaccine also only contains part of the DNA but is inserted in an adenovirus carrier that cannot replicate so cannot give you infection or a positive PCR test.

## 3. How about antibody testing?

While PCR testing is used to look for current infection, antibody testing - also known as serology testing - picks up past infections.

Laboratories look to see if your immune system has raised antibodies against the coronavirus, a sign your body has been exposed to it. As it takes time for antibodies to develop, testing positive with an antibody test may indicate you were infected weeks or months ago.

But your body also produces antibodies as a response to vaccination. That's the way it can recognise SARS-CoV-2, the next time it meets it, to protect you from severe Covid.

So as Covid vaccines are rolled out, and people develop a vaccine-induced antibody response, it may become difficult to differentiate between someone who has had Covid in the past and someone who was vaccinated a month ago. But this will depend on the serology test used.

The good news is that antibody testing is not nearly as common as PCR testing. And it's only ordered under limited and rare circumstances.

For instance, when someone tests positive with PCR, but they are a false positive due to the characteristics of the test, or have fragments of virus lingering in the respiratory tract from an old infection, public health experts might request an antibody test to see whether that person was infected in the past. They might also order an antibody test during contact tracing of cases with an unknown source

of infection.

## 4. If I get vaccinated, do I still need a COVID test if I have symptoms?

Yes, we will continue to test for Covid as long as the virus is circulating anywhere in the world.

Even though the Covid vaccines are looking promising in preventing people from getting seriously sick or dying, they won't provide 100% protection.

Real-world data suggests some vaccinated people can still catch the virus, but they usually only get mild disease. We are unsure whether vaccinated people will be able to potentially pass it to others, even if they don't have any symptoms. So it's important people continue to get tested.

Furthermore, not everyone will be eligible to receive a Covid-19 vaccine. For instance, in Australia, current guidelines exclude people under 16 years of age, and those who are allergic to ingredients in the vaccine. And although pregnant women are not ruled out from receiving the vaccine, it is not routinely recommended. This means a proportion of the population will remain susceptible to catching the virus.

We also are unsure about how effective vaccines will be against emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants. So we will continue to test to ensure people are not infected with these strains.

We know testing, detecting new cases early and contact tracing are the core components of the public health response to Covid, and will continue to be a priority from a public health perspective.

Minimum numbers of daily Covid tests are also needed so we can be confident the virus is not circulating in the community.

Continued vigilance and high rates of testing for Covid will also be important as we enter the flu season. That's because the only way to differentiate between Covid and influenza (or any other respiratory infection) is via testing.

## 5. Will testing for Covid stop as time goes on?

It is unlikely our approach to Covid testing will change in the immediate future. However, as Covid vaccines are rolled out and since Covid is likely to become endemic and stay with us for a long time, the acute response phase to the pandemic will end.

So Covid testing may become part of managing other infectious diseases and part of how we respond to other ongoing health priorities.

Meru Sheel & Charlee J Law -  
Epidemiologists; Cyra Patel - PhD  
candidate, Australian National University



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

## Knowing When to Let Someone Go



**K**nowing when to end a relationship and acknowledging that the pain will pass can often prevent greater pain in the long run.

Just as a good relationship can have a positive impact on your life, stressful, draining, or imbalanced relationships can have negative effects on your health and well-being. It's common to maintain a relationship because we feel the other person needs us or we believe that they will eventually change. We may also be afraid of hurting the other person or feel insecure in our ability to find new relationships. But knowing when to end a relationship and acknowledging that the pain will pass can often prevent greater pain and feelings of loss in the long run.

If you're in a relationship that isn't satisfying or one that has become unhealthy for you, rather than spending energy attempting to fix the problem or complaining, ask yourself what you really want from the relationship. Consider whether the other person truly considers your feelings or if they are willing to change their behavior. Ask yourself if you've often thought about ending the relationship or if you feel your bonds have atrophied. While every relationship has ups and downs, when there are more downs than ups or the two of you are bringing out the worst in each other, it may be time to sever the connection. Be honest with yourself and your answers, even if the truth is painful.

Relationships thrive on honesty, communication, mutual caring, and time spent together. When one or more of these elements are missing, it may be that the relationship, no matter how passionate, simply isn't worth it. It's far better to end a relationship that doesn't feel right than to hold on to it and languish in feelings of anger or resentment. Moving on without struggle, on the other hand, can be the door that leads you to a more nurturing relationship in the future.