

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• "COVID-19 represents the single greatest inflection point that global society has experienced. How we manage through this pandemic and its aftermath will impact the course of humanity for decades to come." -- Tom Golway

## Lessons From The Past



Today we are more educated; there is no shortage of ideas, expertise in many fields is available in the country and abroad, yet we are unable to create the conditions for robust economic growth and tackle the many social problems

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## Battle for Bengal



At stake is not only the Bengal Assembly but rather a fiercely fought battle with the 2024 general elections firmly in sight

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Although not in the UK government's plans, mandatory vaccines have become a focus for some protesters

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### Encounter

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**"Saying that Mauritius is part of the African continent is not enough: nothing in Mauritius proves it"**



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## Many challenges facing us

**T**he second lockdown does not seem to be as effective as the first one that was imposed last year. The one major incident last year was caused by the superspreader who came from the UK, camouflaging his symptoms and moving around after attending the funeral of his relative which was his main reason for travel. However, after 10 deaths had taken place – including that of that person who became Patient Zero – by the end of the lockdown that was subsequently put in place, the country had recorded only two more deaths, bringing the total to 12 – and that was maintained until the toll started to rise at the beginning of March this year. Predominantly the deaths have been those of patients under dialysis, who are younger and therefore even more tragic for their families.

Besides deaths, however the number of cases continues to rise steadily. While the attitude of the public and their responsibility in the matter of applying the sanitary measures may definitely be a contributory factor, the authorities must also do their mea culpa and assume their larger responsibility for the surge of cases in red zone after red zone. That a school-going child should have been infected because an invigilator coming from a red zone was forced to go to work is surely a damning testimony of what went wrong because of a misguided official decision.

Given the experience of the previous lockdown and that of lockdowns elsewhere, Mauritians were in principle not against the current lockdown being imposed. What they found hard to accept, however, was the manner in which this happened – exactly the same as last time, that is, announced at night to start from the very next day. Not enough time was given for the people to prepare themselves so that they would not be under compulsion to move about. That this method of proceeding has not had the desired effect is only too clear now.

Across the board, in all aspects – whether it is about the tests to be undertaken, the deployment of staff in the Civil Service, work-from-home arrangements, the distribution and assignment of medical and health personnel in the hospitals, the arrangements for quarantine and/or self-isolation, the issuance of WAPs, etc. – as

events unfolded they kept confirming that there was more of crisis management than forward planning that should have been done prior to the announcement of the lockdown.

In the education sector this has been nothing short of catastrophic, and the future of thousands of children forced to take examinations under great stress to themselves and to their parents has been put in jeopardy: because their results will definitely not reflect their true potential.

The call to rally everybody to face the challenges posed by the second ‘wave’ was not followed by involving the representative stakeholders and competencies in the different sectors concerned, with too much reliance on a group of individuals to take decisions that had national impacts.

The other major conundrum is vaccination: it needs to be rapidly scaled up to reach at least 60-70% of the population, which means that another one million doses at the minimum must now be sourced. Over and above those received from India (400,000), and China (100,000), as well as WHO 26,000 – a shortfall from the expected initial 100,000 from the Covax platform, the problem is that countries are themselves facing a shortage for their own needs. There is no clear indication of where the required amounts are going to come from. But importantly, there is no clear-cut and communication strategy with the proper professionals on board to counter vaccine hesitancy or uneasiness, especially among those who are being influenced by all the confusing and misleading mass of social media disinformation.

There is no alternative to handling the complex challenges that we are facing than to bring together the best brains in their respective domains in the country, and the stakeholders who know the ground realities and constraints, such as union leaders, to lift the country out of the hugely difficult future that is looming. It is still not too late to do a thorough review of the strategies adopted so far and effect radical changes of direction where these are mandated.

The ball is in the court of the authorities, otherwise the price that the country will have to pay – in terms of more infections, more deaths, more impoverishment and distress – is going to be unbearable.

## The Conversation

# Post-pandemic travel: the trends we'll see when the world opens up again

*The tourism industry has a unique opportunity to reflect on its future. If it wants to make an impact, it needs to prioritise providing quality, affordable experiences and putting customers first*



Photo - foreignpolicy.com

**I**t's been a while since the question “where should I travel to next?” has felt within reach.

Covid-19 continues to affect travel by forcing governments to impose country-specific bans and restrictions. However, as vaccination programmes roll out, many of us hope to travel again at some point in the near future, even if not immediately. With that in mind, what are the factors that will shape our travel decisions in a post-pandemic era?

### Post-Covid tourism

Although significant restrictions are still in place, travel agency adverts have become more frequent recently. According to reports, holiday bookings have once again begun to soar as people look beyond lockdowns.

Covid-19-related travel conditions will complicate holidays for the foreseeable future – including potential measures like requiring people to be vaccinated. The fear is that this will limit foreign travel options for those who haven't received the vaccine. It may even affect people's ability to travel domestically. Economic issues will also affect travel globally, since so many people have lost income during the pandemic.

These challenges will shape our decisions when it comes to choosing a holiday. By the time the pandemic ends, the days of choosing holidays based on desti-

nation or attractions will be over. Instead, the industry and travellers alike will be much more concerned with personal needs.

Faced with the desire to travel and practical obstacles against it, people are expected to make more considered travel choices. Tourists in the post-Covid era will be less willing to compromise on their next trip. They will have much higher expectations of hospitality service providers and be much more demanding. In order to keep up, the industry should prioritise offering services, facilities and experiences that cater to wellness, health, and overall wellbeing. They will need to focus on high hygiene standards, which tourists are expected to covet.

It won't be surprising to see trends like health tourism, wellness tourism, spiritual and potentially religious tourism rising in popularity too. Thanks to the pandemic, tourists are paying more attention than ever to these needs whether they're urgent health concerns, luxury treatments, or the pursuit of physical, intellectual and spiritual wellness after over a year of living with restrictions.

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# Lessons From The Past



Sada Reddi

*Today we are more educated; there is no shortage of ideas, expertise in many fields is available in the country and abroad, yet we are unable to create the conditions for robust economic growth and tackle the many social problems*

**H**ardly anybody doubts that many of the difficulties in our contemporary society, reflected in the economic, social and political problems, have their origin in an ailing economy and the failure to create sufficient resources to meet the needs of the population. Some may argue that such criticisms are mere grumblings about the political order, but feelings of grievance and anxiety are deeply felt in the population at all levels to be ignored. To understand why there is presently a diminishing capacity to identify issues which are vital, to devise and implement appropriate policies and to sustain consent, we will look into how the country was able to meet the great challenges of the past and perhaps identify a few of the factors which explained our success.

Today we are more educated; there is no shortage of ideas, expertise in many fields is available in the country and abroad, yet we are unable to create the conditions for robust economic growth and tackle the many social problems. This is not to deny that there have not been successes in the recent past when the economy was made resilient on being confronted with the worst global economic crisis, or in the field of tourism development and in other areas as well. But we have decided to look briefly at three major successes, which incontrovertibly are turning points in our history -- the eradication of malaria at the end of the Second World War, curbing population growth in the 1960s and embarking on the path of industrialization in the 1970s, hoping that these cases may yield some insights on which the nation can reflect.

## Malaria control

In the years 1867-68 we were faced with the worst epidemic in the country's history and more than 40,000 people perished as a result of malaria, mostly from the poorer ex-slave population and the indentured labourers. Yet the colonial government and the colonial elite did practically very little to tackle the problem except introducing a sewage system in Port-Louis in the 1890s. The indifference of the colonial elite can be explained by the fact that they had moved to the cooler regions of Plaines-Wilhelms and felt relatively secure from malaria. However, towards the closing decades of the nineteenth century, malaria began to pose a threat even in Plaines Wilhelms, and self-interest led members of the elite to take the initiative to invite Dr Ronald

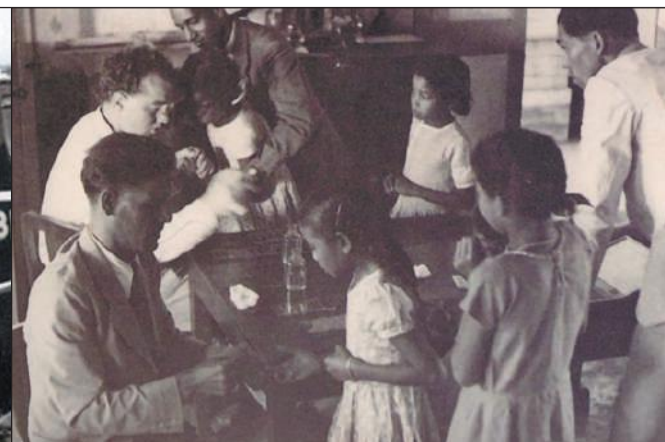
Ross, a British medical doctor who received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1902 for his work on the transmission of malaria, to visit Mauritius to inquire into the problem and to make recommendations.

Ross accepted the invitation on the condition that he is paid 1000 pounds or nothing. The Mauritian elite accepted and the Governor, through the Colonial Office, was able to get Ross to visit the island. He visited Mauritius in 1908, accompanied by Major Fowler, studied the problem and wrote his report. At a farewell reception in honour of Ross by the Mauritius Medical Association, after various speeches, Governor Cavendish Boyle told the audience that he would do everything possible to implement Ross's recommendations, but 'money was wanted'. Nevertheless he assured Ross that he would do his best.

Anti-malarial schemes were implemented successfully in Plaines Wilhelms but not extended to other districts, which would have been beneficial to the whole population. After some time, the anti-malarial schemes were abandoned for shortage of funds. Malaria continued to decimate the population and was the main cause of mortality and morbidity in the country. The situation worsened during the Depression of 1929, and it was not until the labour unrest of 1937 that the new Governor Bede Clifford decided, among his many measures, to consider improving the health situation in the country. He commissioned Dr Rankine to inquire into the health situation but the recommendations of the Rankine Report could not be implemented due to shortage of materials and manpower during the War.

It was only because the army and the RAF were stationed in the island during the War that anti-malarial schemes were renewed with vigour at Plaisance Airfield, Port-Louis and Tombeau Bay. Not only did the military and service personnel benefit from works carried out by the Admiralty, people in the neighbouring regions also improved their health as these regions became malaria free.

By that time the imperial government had realized that the health of the labouring population was crucial in increasing production and productivity during the War but thereafter to contribute to Britain's post-War economy. Anti-malarial schemes were slowly extended to the rest of the island; in 1944 DDT was introduced as a pilot scheme. The success of DDT encouraged the Colonial government to sustain the anti-malaria campaign. Funds were obtained from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, thereby ensuring that Mauritius was on the road towards eradication of malaria. Self-interest, exigencies of the war, the need to protect the British troops and the concern for labour productivity, the collaboration of the medical profession and the



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local people -- all contributed to end the scourge of malaria after the War. In fact one can argue that the convergence of interests, proper planning, organization, innovation and effectiveness together with the cooperation of the people were crucial for success.

## Overpopulation and family planning

In the 1960s the problem of overpopulation came into the spotlight as it was a major factor in the declining standard of living after the post-War economic prosperity. Professor De Smith was invited by the government to study the problem and he recommended the introduction of family planning and birth control in the country. These were controversial issues, which evoked a passionate debate, with opposition on both moral and religious grounds. To clinch his argument against birth control, one politician even pointed out that Tagore was the youngest of 13 surviving children. It required a lot of courage, conviction and persuasion to negotiate with different sections of the population.

But the government of the day was committed to the welfare of the people; the Minister of Health at that time, Guy Forget was convinced that that was a measure to help the poorer classes, and against all odds was able to reach consensus with different stakeholders to implement family planning in Mauritius. Here too, voluntary organizations such as the Mauritius Family Planning Association and Action Familiale, staffed with proper personnel played an important role in a national campaign to reduce the number of births. They were able to supplement advice on birth control by highlighting the advantages of smaller families. The vision of the government, a dedicated and courageous Minister, competent personnel in both public and private organisations and consensus among all stakeholders contributed to solve a problem which many had thought impossible to address.

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# Battle for Bengal

*At stake is not only the Bengal Assembly but rather a fiercely fought battle with the 2024 general elections firmly in sight*

Jan Arden

**T**his could be the title of a swash-buckling British colonial-era movie with tigers, elephants and “natives” thrown in for good exotic measure. In today's tetchy geopolitics, it could even be the unwanted fictional title for a naval confrontation between the Indian Navy and Air Force against an attempted blockade by a foreign fleet of submarines and aircraft carriers!

**“For the BJP, an Assembly win would be a huge success and provide a formidable plank for the future in a state where it has been to-date a political and cultural outsider with little organizational presence. As for Home Minister Amit Shah, it would vindicate the ‘Look East and South’ strategic gamble and beef up his predictable claim to the immense Modi mantle as the latter plans to end his second and final term in 2024...”**

The Bay is admittedly somewhat removed from our shores yet the political battle for Bengal under way in eight stages, should be an interesting one for India's political direction, if only because the BJP juggernaut is striving hard to drive East and South for an undisputed pan-India presence. In the vast South, with strong regional culture, traditions and political lore, this battle is being waged through proxies or allies.

West Bengal, with its 90+ million inhabitants, is equally drenched in its own culture of “exceptionalism”, perhaps fully deserved as a former colonial capital with a remarkable tapestry of language, tradi-

tions, culture, freedom fighters, intellectual life, literature icons and spiritual masters. It had a prolonged 34-year uninterrupted left-front reign, which only fell apart when astute and charismatic Mamata Banerjee, splintering from the Indian Congress in 1998 to form the TMC, riding the waves of discontent and disaffection, stormed the impregnable red citadel.

A redoubtable street-fighter, a charismatic Bengali, a self-professed “daughter of the soil”, an adulated leader (nicknamed Didi) with a simple lifestyle and promising welfare schemes, jobs and development, she has consistently brushed the leftists and all flavours of crypto-communists to the sidelines over her own 23-year rule. An undoubted political mind with firebrand oratory, she had coined the catchy slogan “*Ma, Mati o Manush*” (Mother, Land and People) in those intense days. But we may as well remember that as a high-profile theatrical “survivalist” in India's complex and dynamic political scene, she had been Union Minister both under the 1991 Congress Cabinet of PM Narasimha Rao and later, that of BJP Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for a few years.

Since 2014, CM Banerjee has provided strong regional opposition to the Centre, making vociferous critiques of some of the most crucial policies of the BJP-led Union government. From anti-CAA rhetoric, through a National Register for Citizens, to more recent anti-farm reform laws, her regional government has been a consistent thorn in Central government policies and their local administration. But anti-incumbency, allegations



Photo - telegraphindia.com

**“A redoubtable street-fighter, a charismatic Bengali, a self-professed “daughter of the soil”, an adulated leader (nicknamed Didi) with a simple lifestyle and promising welfare schemes, jobs and development, Mamata Banerjee has consistently brushed the leftists and all flavours of crypto-communists to the sidelines over her own 23-year rule. An undoubted political mind with firebrand oratory, she had coined the catchy slogan “*Ma, Mati o Manush*” (Mother, Land and People) in those intense days...”**

of mismanagement, mis-governance and corruption, defection of key former TMC figures to BJP, accusations of “appeasement” politics and a permeable frontier, have wounded the tiger.

Her own brand of grassroots populism is intriguingly being taken head-on by the BJP clarion motto “*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas*” (‘Together, for everyone's growth, with everyone's trust’). The Bengal election exit poll averages as reportedly estimated by Mamata Banerjee's own election strategist, Prashant Kishore, signals the shift (below) that may translate in State Assembly seats.

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>BJP</b>            | <b>: 40%</b>        |
| <b>Left-INC</b>       | <b>: 10-15%</b>     |
| <b>Others</b>         | <b>: 12%</b>        |
| <b>Therefore, TMC</b> | <b>: 33% to 38%</b> |

In a prolonged electoral process spread over 8 stages, neither Bengalis, nor Indians generally, will know the seat outcome and State governance until beginning of May. With a vacillating and

somewhat leaderless Congress, a win for Mamata would give her undoubted figure-head credentials to lead the national Opposition to the BJP. No doubt why Congress and its strange concoction of allies did not give her more leeway by abstaining from the trench fights. Even a hung state parliament, through the annoying bite of lefties, Congress and others, would still leave the TMC with a taste of failure.

For the BJP, an Assembly win would be a huge success and provide a formidable plank for the future in a state where it has been to-date a political and cultural outsider with little organizational presence. As for Home Minister Amit Shah, it would vindicate the ‘Look East and South’ strategic gamble and beef up his predictable claim to the immense Modi mantle as the latter plans to end his second and final term in 2024.

At stake therefore is not only the Bengal Assembly but rather a fiercely fought battle with the 2024 general elections firmly in sight.

## Open Learning initiatives & COL

**O**ver the recent past there have been several Distance and Open Learning initiatives across the world to help, in particular, developing countries in large parts of Africa, Latin America and Asia to upgrade the skills and employability of both their youngsters and adults. The Canada based Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is one such multi-country initiative, a laudable one which has garnered support from Google and a couple of private course

providers. As with most distance and e-learning skill upgrade platforms and initiatives, it is relatively easy to reach a broad range of interested parties across the globe and even attract some of them by offering a waiver of course fees over a certain time period.

However, the distance learning mode without tutor support and practical hands-on supervised work does tend to limit the scope, variety and depth of subject matter of courses on offer, these being often general in

nature or mostly IT-specific skill development courses. Nevertheless, with the advent of the pandemic and lockdowns or stay at home policies across the planet, these opportunities for distance-education towards technical skill upgrades got a boost and the Commonwealth of Learning provides a platform where many youngsters and adults can register for such skill-oriented self-learning and self-paced development courses. The whole registration process, the courses and certificates are free and applications can be done online in two batches, the next to start on 15 September 2021.

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# Should Covid-19 vaccines be made compulsory?

*It is not only a question of personal liberty. It has also to do with the fundamental right a person has over his bodily integrity*

**A**s mass vaccination programmes are being rolled out, national authorities are confronted with resistance on the part of people who refuse to be vaccinated on several grounds. This goes against the common good, as everybody is at risk and without mutual responsibility this may be compromised. Whether vaccines can be made mandatory or not is an issue that has legal implications. LEX examines the implications involved.

## LEX

\* The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg ruled on Thursday 8th April that compulsory vaccinations would not contravene human rights law. Here, thousands of our frontliners in the health sector – those who can also act as vectors for the spread of the disease -- have refused to get vaccinated, thereby potentially prolonging the pandemic and contributing to spikes in cases. Shouldn't vaccination be made compulsory for frontliners to begin with?

By Czech law, children must be vaccinated against nine diseases including diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B and measles. The European Court of Human Rights ruled that compulsory vaccinations would not contravene human rights law — and may be necessary in democratic societies. "The measures could be regarded as being 'necessary in a democratic society,'" the court judgment said.

It must be noted that the ruling did not deal directly with Covid-19 vaccines. According to experts the ruling may have implications for the vaccination drive against the Covid-19 virus, especially for those who have so far expressed a refusal to accept the jab.

\* If not the government itself, it's possible that private schools (from pre-primary to post-secondary), private firms and business houses, trade and industries in Mauritius would eventually impose upon their students/staff compulsory vaccination. Would that go against the constitutional rights of students, parents and personnel?

The ECHR ruling came following the evaluation of a complaint brought to the court by Czech families who had been fined, or whose children had been refused access to a nursery for failing to comply with their legal vaccination duty. The ruling stated that compulsory childhood vaccination in the Czech Republic doesn't violate the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court added the Czech policy "pursued the legitimate aims of protecting health as well as the rights of others" and that in all decisions concerning children "their best interests must be of paramount importance." The court found that the Czech immunization policy was "consistent with the best interests of the children who were its focus."

Can that principle be adopted in Mauritius for frontliners and for those who have to be in contact with persons given the nature of their work? To the extent that the vaccine affords some measure of protection or immunity against the virus, it would be advisable for all those who

are in regular contact with people, especially, doctors and nurses; police officers and others to consider being vaccinated. Can they be forced? Certainly not, but they are putting themselves and others at risk.

The other side of the coin is that some employers do not want their employees to attend the place of work if they are not vaccinated. And currently only those in possession of a Work Access Permit (WAP) are getting the vaccine. If you do not have a WAP, you are left at risk or left to die. Isn't that ironical when we hear the authorities shouting on the rooftop that everyone should get vaccinated.

\* For vaccination to effectively prevent disease, there must be available sufficient vaccines, but it also might be necessary to make vaccination mandatory with a view to reaching herd immunity. Should government however provide exemptions based on religious or philosophical beliefs, besides reasons in relation to "compromised immune systems, allergies to vaccination components, etc"?

When a pandemic hits the world and a vaccine is available, saving lives and protecting the health of the people are of paramount importance. Bigotry based on any philosophy has no place in the fight against the pandemic. At any rate, when people go to get vaccinated, they are asked about any allergies they have. But how would a layperson know what allergies he suffers from? If he is allergic to some chemical components in the vaccine, he does not get the jab. What does he do? What is the solution? Only medical experts can give an answer to that question.

\* The argument against the anti-vaxxers for whatever reasons, including lack of trust in vaccines, disinformation, etc., is that "lockdown is mandatory, and it is inconsistent to accept mandatory lockdown but reject mandatory vaccination" which protects vulnerable people from Covid-19... and achieves a much greater good at a much smaller cost". That makes sense, isn't it?

Yes and no. The lockdown is not a cure. It a measure to prevent the spread of the virus.

We cannot compare the mandatory lockdown with a policy of mandatory vaccination. A vaccination is an invasion of the bodily integrity which may have far-reaching consequences. This is why there is a consent form that should be signed.

\* On the other hand, "mandatory vaccination ensures that the risks and burdens of reaching herd immunity are distributed evenly across the population. Because herd immunity benefits society collectively, it's only fair that the responsibility of reaching it is shared evenly among society's individual mem-



Can employers make the vaccine mandatory? Photo - i.cbc.ca

“We cannot compare the mandatory lockdown with a policy of mandatory vaccination. A vaccination is an invasion of the bodily integrity which may have far-reaching consequences. This is why there is a consent form that should signed...”

bers...”

In the absence of any law or a ruling by the Supreme Court, as at present advised the Covid-19 vaccine cannot be imposed on people. People may be advised to get the vaccines but they cannot be compelled to take the jab.

The integrity of the human body is a fundamental right. In 1990 a Judge of the Supreme Court ruled that “one cannot think of a case where the protections of fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual can be more sacrosanct than where the protection relates to the body of the individual.”

\* If mandatory vaccination should be seriously envisaged, what are the penalties that could be applied for failure to vaccinate? Fines or limitations on freedom of movement?

It is most unlikely that a law that would make vaccination mandatory will be enacted in the present context. The penalty should be limited to a fine, if ever such a law is envisaged.

\* The view has been expressed in some quarters that limitations on freedom of movement as prescribed for the implementation of lockdowns might go against the constitutional rights of individuals in a democratic society. Is that correct?

The lockdown is mandatory and is not unconstitutional as the State is taking measures to protect life and health. People who are complaining about restriction on their freedom of movement and freedom of assembly and association (which are protected under the Constitution), should be reminded that these rights may be derogated in the interest, amongst other reasons, of public health.

\* At the end of the day, one should reckon that compulsory vaccination is a difficult policy issue, requiring the authorities to balance public health with individual liberty...

It is not only a question of personal liberty. It has also to do with the fundamental right a person has over his bodily integrity. An invasion of the bodily integrity is an exceptional measure.





## Norway PM fined (\$2,352) by police over Covid-19 rules violation

Norwegian police said on Friday they have fined Prime Minister Erna Solberg for breaking Covid-19 social distancing rules when organising a family gathering to celebrate her birthday.

The fine is for 20,000 Norwegian crowns (\$2,352) police chief Ole Saeverud told a news conference, reports Reuters.

The two-term Prime Minister apologised last month for organising an event to celebrate her 60th birthday with 13 family members at a mountain resort in late February, despite a government ban on events attended by more than 10 people.

While the police would not have issued a fine in most such cases, the Prime Minister has been at the forefront of the government's work to impose restrictions, the police said.

"Though the law is the same for all, all are not equal in front of the law," said Saeverud, justifying the fine.

## UAE selects first Arab woman for space programme



The United Arab Emirates has selected the first Arab woman to train as an astronaut, as the Gulf country rapidly expands into the space sector to diversify its economy, reports Reuters.

Emirati national Nora al-Matrooshi, a 27-year-old mechanical engineering graduate currently working at Abu Dhabi's National Petroleum Construction Company, will join NASA's 2021 Astronaut Candidate Class in the United States.

The UAE is using its space programme to develop its scientific and technological capabilities and reduce its reliance on oil.

In February a UAE probe reached the

orbit of the planet Mars, the Arab world's first interplanetary expedition. The UAE has plans to launch a moon rover by 2024 and even a vision for a Mars settlement by 2117.

Matrooshi will be joined by another Emirati, Mohammed al-Mulla, making a total of four people under the UAE Astronaut Programme.

Nora was one of 4,300 applicants assessed on scientific abilities, education and practical experience, and then on physical, psychological and medical assessments, Dubai's Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) said.

## Police leaders expect a rise in violence post-lockdown

British police will not be able to respond to all breaches of coronavirus restrictions as crime rises towards pre-pandemic levels, a senior officer has warned. Police leaders expect a rise in violence, including stabbings, and all types of offences as Covid-19 restrictions are gradually eased in England, reports The Independent.

The national lockdown that ended on 29 March caused a dramatic reduction in crime, similar to that seen at the beginning of the pandemic last year. But with looser restrictions now allowing more people to leave home and gather in public spaces, figures are already rising. Pubs and restaurants will be allowed to start serving customers outside and shops, gyms, hairdressers and other businesses can reopen.

The Queen has described the death of her husband, Prince Philip, as having "left a huge void in her life", according to the Duke of York. Speaking on Sunday after attending a church service, Prince Andrew likened the death of his father to losing a "grandfather of the nation".

The Duke said: "The Queen as you would expect is an incredibly stoic person. She described his passing as a miracle and she's contemplating, I think is the way that I would put it. She described it as having left a huge void in her life but we,

the family, the ones that are close, are rallying round to make sure that we're there to support her."

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Protesters have taken to the streets to demand justice after a 20-year-old black man was shot dead by police in a Minneapolis suburb - ratcheting up tensions in a city already on a knife-edge amid the trial of an officer charged with the killing of George Floyd.

The mother of Daunte Wright told reporters her son was shot by officers from the Brooklyn Center Police Department after he was pulled over in a traffic stop on Sunday afternoon. She said the young man had called her when he was pulled over, apparently after police objected to the air fresheners in his vehicle, and got out of his car, which the family had given him just two weeks ago.

Local media said Katie Wright told them she had heard someone on the phone saying: "Daunte, don't run." Police claimed the young man at that point got back in his car, when one officer fired at him. The 20-year-old was struck but his vehicle travelled for several more blocks before finally hitting another car. The young man was pronounced dead at the scene, despite efforts by emergency crews to save him.

## US dials down tension over warship passage through India's exclusive zone

The United States has sought to dial down differences with India on the passage of a US warship through India's Exclusive Economic Zone in the Arabian Sea, which had taken place without New Delhi's permission on April 7.

John F Kirby, the Pentagon Press Secretary, has said that the Destroyer USS John Paul Jones conducted "innocent passage" through waters off the Maldives, indicating that military manoeuvres had not been carried out.

Earlier, in a statement, the Indian government had said the United Nation's Convention on the Law of the Sea does not authorise other states to carry out military exercises of manoeuvres on the continental shelf or "Exclusive Economic Zone".

"The USS John Paul Jones was continuously monitored transiting from the Persian Gulf towards the Malacca Straits. We have conveyed our concerns regarding this passage through our EEZ to the Government of USA through diplomatic channels," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The statement was unusual since New Delhi and Washington, both members of the Quad grouping, are both committed to protecting freedom of navigation in international waterways with a specific concern on China's maritime expansionism.



A statement by the US 7th Fleet Public Affairs had earlier said, "On April 7, 2021 (local time), the USS John Paul Jones asserted navigational rights and freedoms approximately 130 nautical miles west of the Lakshadweep Islands, inside India's exclusive economic zone, without requesting India's prior consent, consistent with international law. India requires prior consent for military exercises or manoeuvres in its exclusive economic zone or continental shelf, a claim inconsistent with international law.

\* Contd on page 7



## Brazil building new giant Christ statue, taller than Rio's



A head and arms have been added to the Christ the Protector statue being built in the southern Brazilian city of Encantado; it stands taller than Rio's iconic statue of Christ the Redeemer. Photo - s.france24.com

A giant new statue of Christ being constructed in southern Brazil will rise even higher than the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue that overlooks Rio de Janeiro.

A head and outstretched arms were added this week to the statue, which has been under construction since 2019 in the city of Encantado, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

Completion of the monument is scheduled for late this year, according to the Association of the Friends of Christ, which is coordinating the work.

"It is a day for celebration, for devotion," said Gilson Conzatti, a local councillor and son of Adroaldo Conzatti, the politician who conceived the idea.

The elder Conzatti, who was the city's mayor, died in March from complications of Covid-19.

The statue, to be named Christ the Protector, will stand 43 meters (140 feet) tall, including its pedestal, making it one of the world's tallest statues of Christ with outstretched arms.

It will measure 36 meters from hand to hand, and will have an interior elevator and an observation deck near the top.

Christ the Redeemer, in comparison, measures 38 meters high, pedestal included, and spans 28 meters hand to hand. It will mark its 90th birthday this October.

Encantado, a city of 22,000, lies 145 kilometers (90 miles) northwest of the state capital Porto Alegre.

The project is intended both to inspire faith and encourage tourism to the area, its promoters say.

## IMF, World Bank begin push to swap debt relief for green projects



Environmental disasters like the flooding seen here in Dili, East Timor, on April 9, 2021, have hammered low-income countries already struggling with the costs of the Covid-19 pandemic. Photo - s.france24.com

The idea of forgiving debt held by poor countries in exchange for "green" investments gained ground this week during the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank, with concrete proposals expected in time for a global climate summit this fall, reports AFP.

Low-income countries face a double crisis -- they are under pressure to pay down their debt while also confronting environmental problems.

That makes them "highly, highly vulnerable," Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said this week, adding that it thus "makes sense" for the world to pursue so-called "green debt swaps."

A World Bank spokeswoman under-

scored that point.

"The Covid-19 crisis has made it significantly harder for developing countries to tackle the rising risks posed by climate change" and environmental disasters, said the spokeswoman.

With already tight budgets, these countries have had to use emergency financial assistance to address the severe impact of the pandemic and the resulting economic crisis.

"By enlarging the debt burdens of governments -- which were already at record levels on the eve of the crisis -- it has left them with fewer resources to invest in a recovery that will also put the planet on a more sustainable footing," the spokeswoman told AFP.

## Rescheduled Dubai Expo hopes to attract 25 million visits

Dubai is gearing up to host the World Expo - a year after it was originally supposed to be held.

Held every five years, expos see hundreds of countries using pavilions to show off the latest in architecture and technology.

Before the pandemic forced the event to be postponed, organisers had expected 25 million visits during the course of the six-month international fair. It will now run from 1 October to 31 March 2022.

However, despite restrictions on travel, and the recent lockdowns in some parts of Europe, Reem Al Hashimy, managing director of the Dubai Expo 2020, says they are holding on to the pre-pandemic target.

"The world has gone through these galactical shifts over the last year but now with vaccines rollout, we believe that situation will settle by October. We believe the

situation will be far more positive by then."

It is an optimistic forecast for an event that relies on tourism, when most of the world has cutdown on international travel. But the various in-person conferences and trade shows held in the city over the last few months has made organisers more hopeful.

Organisers are also expecting the vaccination rates to gather pace globally during the summer - which would give people the confidence to start making international trips again.

Dubai Expo is being billed as the biggest event to be held in the Arab world. For the UAE, the showpiece event comes at a time when it is trying to recover from



Dubai's delayed expo is now due to open in October. Photo - s.yimg.com

one of its worst recessions in five decades.

Last year, the economy contracted by 6.6% even as the government announced a series of reforms to attract investment and help businesses. Some of those steps have started to show results with the International Monetary Fund upgrading the growth outlook for the UAE to 3.1% for 2021.

The authorities are pinning their hopes on the World Expo to attract tourists in large numbers that would help accelerate economic recovery. Billions of dollars have been poured into the project since the UAE won the bid to organize the international fair in 2013.

The spectacle is particularly crucial for the Middle East's financial hub - Dubai - as its economic model relies heavily on sectors that are driven by consumer spending, like hospitality, luxury retail and travel.

While most experts think it might challenging to achieve 25 million visits, there is a broad consensus that millions will attend the event, which could have a significant impact on the economy.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah



Vidur Ramdin - Director of Communications and Marketing, ASF

# “Saying that Mauritius is part of the African continent is not enough: nothing in Mauritius proves it”



**T**he African Solidarity Fund (ASF), a multilateral financial guarantee institution based in Niamey, Niger, plays a key role in the financial systems of its 14 African member states by facilitating the access of public and private enterprises to credit for investments through ASF-supported credit facilities for investment projects, which span a broad range of sectors, including mining, infrastructure, telecommunications, energy, healthcare, and agriculture.

Vidur Ramdin joined Fonds de Solidarité Africain (African Solidarity Fund) in 2017 as Director of Communications and Marketing. He has earlier worked on a World Bank project designed to support over 600 SMEs locally and in the region. In this Qs & As he tells us more about the African Solidarity Fund and makes a case for greater interest on the part of Mauritian public bodies and private enterprises to take advantage of ASF-supported credit facilities.

has been recently certified ISO 9001:2015 by the bureau of Veritas Certification, UK.

We are here to guarantee projects and help raise funds. I think start-ups or SMEs need further hand-holding or need to be more professional in preparing

instances backlash from the Africans to what was perceived as another form of colonialism, especially in the case of the former. Are there lessons there for Mauritian businessmen and investors?

Mauritian entrepreneurs or future investors in Africa do not have many success stories to their credit. We need to accept the fact that we have mostly failed in Africa; be it the Mauritius-Africa air corridor, the creation of Smart City projects in African leading cities, SBM's miserable failure in Kenya, our inability to draw maximum benefits for SMEs or local enterprises from AGOA, or being the driving force in the implementation of the AFCTA- African Continental Free Trade Area.

There are various reasons for these and many lessons for Mauritian businessmen and future investors to learn. Africa is not a country, it's a continent and I don't believe in managing a project from long distance; if you want your project to be a success, you have to be present there, understand the business culture, traditions and values of the Africans.

No one, in my opinion, can claim to know Africa as a whole as this continent is not monolithic. From the Maghreb to South Africa to sub-Saharan Africa, it is so vast, and we need to understand the ground realities and each country's specificities.

As far as Mauritians are concerned, we are stuck with clichés or possess very superficial information on Africa. Saying that Mauritius is part of the African continent is not enough: nothing in Mauritius proves it; on the other hand, we have our eyes constantly focused on Europe. In fact, we look at Africa with colonized eyes.

\* As a member-state of the ASF, Mauritius has benefited from support from the ASF for its Bulk Sugar Terminal and NHDC projects in 2002, but that was more than 20 years back. It would also seem that few of our private enterprises and SMEs have gone to the Fund for assistance. Is the climate and conditions for better and deeper collaboration better now than they were two decades back?

We did intervene in these projects and I agree it has been a long time! ASF has recently enabled a local entrepreneur in the health sector raise more than MUR 1.2 billion. The project was well documented and is now in the implementation phase. We are also processing a few more requests in sectors such as Real Estate, Health, Food Processing and Hospitality respectively. But compared to other countries, it's really timid.

In the wake of the pandemic and uncertain times, to guarantee a project for up to 80% is what is needed for both the banks and the economy. This is the primary role of ASF, which is a strong multilateral financial player in Africa, its credit rating is AA+ with stable perspective and

“Our strategies to position Mauritius as the ‘gateway to Africa’ has been a myth. We have been good at talking the talk without really walking the walk. At the heart of this criticism is the perceived ‘identity crisis’. Simply put, there is still huge skepticism about whether Mauritius really wants to be part of Africa...”

their documentation/project plans before submitting same. They may seek assistance through their banks or directly to the ASF, provided they have a complete set of statutory documents and proper business plans for evaluation purposes.

\* The narrative about Africa generally has improved, the climate and conditions for doing business and investments are said to be much better than they were earlier, so much so that it's now said that ‘the place to be is in Africa’. The Chinese and the Indians seem to have understood that, but that has not been without its pains and in some



# 'Our strategies to position Mauritius as the 'gateway to Africa' has been a myth.

## We have been good at talking the talk without really walking the walk'

\* Cont. from page 8

We are wrong, because the Indians and the Chinese have long understood that the future is in Africa and are doing extremely well in different sectors - ICT, infrastructural development, logistics and transport, Fintech just to name a few.

**“Saying that Mauritius is part of the African continent is not enough: nothing in Mauritius proves it; on the other hand, we have our eyes constantly focused on Europe. In fact, we look at Africa with colonized eyes. We are wrong, because the Indians and the Chinese have long understood that the future is in Africa and are doing extremely well...”**

\* There are a number of factors which are said to explain why the potential of trade and business between the continent and Mauritius has not been fully exploited – like trust deficit, liquidity issues, etc. Are things improving now?

Having worked in numerous important projects since 2017 in different parts of Africa and interacted with several heads of states, one common factor is that most of the Africans have high regard for Mauritius and often cite it an example to follow in several areas such as quality education, ease of doing business, free media, etc.

Concerning the trade potential, we have to start with two initiatives: first, we need to set up an African information and investment agency in Mauritius, similar to the Economic Development Board. Second, we also have to open consulates in some African capitals like Dakar, Accra, Abuja, Nairobi, Addis Ababa and a few others. The agency I am referring to should be people/run by a team of consultants, business people, but also seasoned diplomats – not political nominees -- familiar with African realities, its political systems, local traditions, language of business, common barriers amongst others.

The agency and consulates would be the main poles to work out Mauritian investment strategies in Africa and will provide all essential information to the local entrepreneurs, start-ups and future investors. I see no other way to achieve long-term ambitions in Africa.

\* What do you think is coming in the way of Mauritius' Africa Strategy? Poor understanding of Africa, its traditions and cultural and business mores? Or is it plainly and simply due to a lack of conviction amongst Mauritian businessmen and government politicians and officials in the African potential?

The potential is there and we must take the audacious African bet now! We do not have any other choice, in view of our current situation with the country on the black list of the EU and the UK, and with the termination of tax treaties with India and Senegal amongst others. If the superpowers of the world are in Africa right now, it is



because they have understood the potential it represents in view of its young population, ever growing demand for technology and economic and political stability.

There have been several budgetary measures in favour of Africa in the recent past. However, there is no real impetus to drive the African Strategy - probably because of a poor understanding of the African continent, particularly its business culture and tradition.

In my view, besides the measures stated earlier, we need to have a strong 'Mister Africa' who understands the markets and is conversant with the cultural, language and political barriers and can put up a realistic and realisable African strategy in place.

**\* Mauritius had been regarded as a leader on the African continent in diverse sectors for many years. That does not seem to be the case anymore; we are being overtaken by a few Africa countries in different fields, which by the way explains the improved narrative about Africa. What are they**

**“We need to accept the fact that we have mostly failed in Africa; be it the Mauritius-Africa air corridor, the creation of Smart City projects in African leading cities, SBM's miserable failure in Kenya, our inability to draw maximum benefits for SMEs or local enterprises from AGOA, or being the driving force in the implementation of the AFCTA- African Continental Free Trade Area...”**

doing right?

Mauritius is a country adept at reinventing itself. Not blessed with abundant resources, we have successfully transformed from an agrarian to a manufacturing to a services-based economy through a series of smart decisions and pragmatic policies. Yet, despite

**“Africa is not a country, it's a continent and I don't believe in managing a project from long distance; if you want your project to be a success you have to live there, understand their business culture, traditions and values. No one, in my opinion, can claim to know Africa as a whole as this continent is not monolithic...”**

this progress, our strategies to position Mauritius as the 'gateway to Africa' has been a myth. We have been good at talking the talk without really walking the walk.

At the heart of this criticism is the perceived 'identity crisis'. Simply put, there is still huge skepticism about whether Mauritius really wants to be part of Africa. We still view Europe or Asia as preferred partners and this is reflected in trade and investment numbers, which indicate that both contribute the lion's share of trade with Mauritius.

On the other side Rwanda's major banks have experience and a major footprint on the rest of the continent, while Morocco, with a traditional focus on Francophone Africa, is extending its trade and commercial interests and trying to lure stock exchange listings from south of the Sahara.

Togo, Ghana, Malawi, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Rwanda: these countries have also implemented measures to strengthen transparency, improve governance and attract business. We have, for example, the newly established Casa Finance City (CFC) in Morocco which is trying to replicate a bit of what Mauritius has done in the past by becoming an economic and financial hub aspiring to become a bridging platform between the north and the south. CFC seeks to attract and encourage international institutions and investors to invest and operate in North, West and Central Africa and to choose Casablanca as a gateway to access this region.

Africa as a whole, being the world's No.1 resource-rich continent has experienced rapid growth over the last couple of years. Growth has been present throughout the continent, with over one-third of African countries posting 6% or higher growth rates, and another 40% growing between 4% to 6% per year.



From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

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● *He who is destitute of principles, is governed, theoretically and practically, by whims. -- Jacobi*Overpopulation & Family Planning

# Why Government Hesitates?

By D. Napal

**I**t is admitted that family planning is the only solution to over-population. Better cut at the roots of unemployment, poverty, sickness and premature deaths by stemming the tide of overpopulation than to allow these social evils to become rampant and then to find a cure for them. The fine results obtained in countries which have adopted this method to make their economy keep pace with the number of mouths to feed ought to serve as an eye-opener to those at the helm of public affairs in our own colony. Such, however, is not the case.

The picture of Mauritian life, especially among the common people is dark indeed. The increase in unemployment, the rise in the number of criminals and juvenile delinquents, only to speak of these, show that unless something is done to control the rise of population, we will be heading towards disaster. Yet Mauritius sticks to time-worn and exploded ideas on birth control as was evidenced by the late opposition from some quarters when the question was raised. It is for government to take the matter in hand with less indifference than is actually done.

In April 1953, the Governor appointed a committee of twelve members with the following terms of reference:

**"To consider the problem presented by the present trend of increase of population of the Colony in relation to its economic resources and potential productivity; and to investigate and report on the practicability of any methods of resolving the problem."**

The Committee made a detailed analysis of the growth of population, of the causes leading to it and the possible means of averting the ruin bound to come if the population went on increasing without check. It considered the advisability of resorting to immigration and the increase of productivity by the encouragement of subsidiary industries. But it did not feel very enthusiastic about these means of checking the growth of population.

Let figures support our contention. In 1952 the population of Mauritius was 501,224. It was estimated in 1953 by the Committee in question that in 1957 the population of the island would be 582,890. But overpopulation has gone beyond the fears of the Committee's Report as it is estimated that the actual population is no



**"The Committee recommended the adopted of a policy of planned parenthood which would enable parents to have *'the planned family'* according to their resources and particular circumstances. Such a family would not be a burden on the parents and the children would be allowed to lead a decent life and have adequate education..."**

less than 585,000. Every thinking man is perplexed: **something must be done.**

In the light of the detailed study of the question which it conducted, the Committee drew the following conclusion:

**"The population of Mauritius will therefore be inexorably faced in the near future with a gradual lowering of its present standard of living because of its too great numbers. The more rapidly will the population growth take place, the quicker will the fall in living standards. And it is generally accepted that low standards of living are not conducive to a restraint in fertility."**

The Committee had taken note of the progress achieved in countries which had adopted the system of planned parenthood for the Report contains extracts from publications favouring planned parenthood. It could, therefore, write with conviction:

**"The Committee is well aware that, in any country which, because of the high fertility of its inhabitants was threatened with overpopulation and its attendant afflictions of unemployment, poverty, squalor and famine, the authorities have sought alleviation to the overwhelming pressure of rapid growth in a policy of family limitation."**

Finally the Committee recommended the adopted of a policy of planned parenthood which would enable parents to have **"the planned family"** according to their resources and particular circumstances.

Such a family would not be a burden on the parents and the children would be allowed to lead a decent life and have adequate education. It considered it desirable that information and help on family planning should be made available in government hospitals and health centres.

It also recommended the establishment of family planning clinics in Mauritius conducted by government. It also intimated that that Unesco "would be prepared at the invitation of government, to give assistance at the start by the loan of a working party of specialists and that the International Planned Parenthood Federation would also be prepared to help." Here are opportunities lost for those who most need

family planning.

It should be borne in mind that the bourgeoisie is daily resorting to family planning as it can afford to pay for it. But the irony of it all is that from their ranks come reactionaries who shout loudest against family planning. If Unesco and the International Planned Parenthood Federation are ready to help, why is government indifferent to the immense benefits which would accrue to the poorer people and make their life less dull, drab and miserable.

The Report was published in May 1955. More than two years have elapsed since. Here is one more supreme example of the inertia of our government. Motions are passed in the Council, Committees are appointed, reports are published and there's no end to many of our problems.

Fortunately few members of the Committee opposed planned parenthood. Among those few was Dr Millien, who came forward as a moralist condemning birth control as an unnatural expedient. He said that "it could be resorted to if we have irrevocable proof that without it Society must go to its ruin."

What remains to convince Dr Millien? Are not the number of people dying of semi-starvation, the innumerable victims of TB, anaemia and other diseases caused by lack of proper care, enough to appal his sight and benumb his senses? What right have the people with particular religious or moral scruples to force their way of thinking on people who can better their conditions without such ideas? May those in whose hands the destiny of this colony lies come down to earth from their high pedestals and see what appalling horrors reign around them.





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# Post-pandemic travel: the trends we'll see when the world opens up again



Photo - theconversation.com

☛ Cont. from page 2

## Human-oriented tourism

According to tourism academic Fabio Carbone, post-Covid tourism is also expected to focus more on people than destinations. Those eager to get away from measures like social distancing will likely use travel to embrace existing relationships with loved ones living abroad or seek new encounters. Carbone suggests that because of this, post-Covid tourism will pivot towards prioritising human development, dialogue, and peace.

Popular types of tourism are therefore likely to include: travel for visiting friends and relatives, volunteer tourism, and peace tourism.

Volunteer tourism – or voluntourism – is a niche tourist activity which essentially means volunteering in a foreign destination. Although some question whether it positively contributes to developing countries and underprivileged commu-

nities, voluntourism has generated valuable humanitarian work. With economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic having hit developing countries more severely, effective voluntourism isn't only desired, it's necessary.

Peace tourism, on the other hand, refers to an interest in visiting specific destinations in order to either examine how peace is developed and celebrated there through research or studies, or contribute to a destination's efforts to establish peace after conflict. Peace tourism typically involves visiting peace memorials or conflict zones with the aim of learning from the mistakes of past wars and helping to resolve or prevent existing conflict.

Examples of peace tourism activities include educational field trips to sites such as the Berlin Wall Memorial and the Hiroshima Peace Park. It might also take the form of attending workshops and conferences among conflict resolution professionals or going on guided peace walks that delve into histories of achieving or searching for peace. Visiting famous peace artworks and peace-themed exhibitions, as well as festivals and performances are also considered peace tourism activities.

The tourism industry has a unique opportunity to reflect on its future. If it wants to make an impact, it needs to prioritise providing quality, affordable experiences and putting customers first. Whenever travel resumes in the post-pandemic world, promoting specific destinations and landmarks will no longer make sense. It may be difficult in the face of restrictive and ever-changing travel corridors, but the travel industry has little choice but to remodel holidays around catering to our wants and desires.

**Katerina Antoniou**

*Lecturer in Tourism, University of Central Lancashire*

# Open Learning initiatives & COL

Cont. from page 4

It is certainly a very worthwhile adjunct to the broad palette of technical and trade or IT-related courses being already offered by several of our private and public vocational and training institutions to varied levels from certificate to tertiary (MITD, Ecole Hoteliere SGD, Fashion and Design Institute, Polytechnics, among others) in the traditional class or tutored mode that is reckoned to generally provide better student guidance, learning, supervision and support.

The COL question cropped up through the Cabinet Decisions communiqué of 9th April, where it was duly recorded that the Higher Education Commission (HEC) jointly with the Ministry of Education would "implement the COL initiative" and its already in place system of waivers for fees. It is certainly most welcome if these two institutions were to promote those self-paced free technical technical courses as useful opportunities for youngsters and adults.

But what is exactly the "implementation" to be carried out is somewhat unclear and neither the role of the rather

more august Higher Education Commission in matters that could have been more appropriately and effectively handled by either the MITD, the Mauritius Qualifications Authority or even the freshly minted Skills Development Authority, which, we gather, has yet to start operations.

If we consider that the Ministry is in the legislative process of setting up yet another Agency in the technical and vocational field, the case might be made that there is a definite air of administrative clutter and overlap of institutions, personnel and resources. As for the HEC, one would be sorely tempted to think that its considerable resources and authority could be put to better use.

\* \* \*

## A question of spin

Early in October 2020, Donald Trump caught the coronavirus and an opinion piece in the 'Washington Post' was titled: "Trump thought he could beat the virus with spin". We might have thought Trump's spin-based handling of the pandemic in the USA was the worst example of spin over science, leading to a catastrophic level of deaths and infections that

the incoming Biden administration has an uphill battle to contain.

By December 2020, we had been exposed to a prolonged narrative Mauritius as a Covid-safe destination, collectively relieved or rejoicing at the prospect of slow but necessary economic reopening without endangering public health. Events that have unfolded since have considerably delayed that horizon. That is not in any way to diminish the diligence of the obviously harried Minister or the selfless dedication of overstretched medical and para-medical staff but it has become more than apparent that we have been playing catch-up in a deadly game to the point where we have even run out of vaccines when barely 16% of the population has received a first dose.

Later analysis might weigh whether politically-correct spin might have seriously limited our state of sanitary preparedness for a second wave that was taking place or threatened around the globe.

**Jan Arden**

# Lessons From The Past

Cont. from page 3

## Economic development

While the country was actively engaged in reducing population growth, rising unemployment in the 1960s emerged as a formidable challenge. Professor Meade, a Nobel Prize winner, was brought in to advise on the economic problems facing the country. After wide consultations in the country, he wrote his report 'The Economic and Social Structure of Mauritius', making 129 recommendations which represented a blueprint for our economic development. Among its array of measures were the creation of an export sector, an industrial development board, an industrial estate, tax holidays for five to eight years of a company's operation, a development bank, a water authority, an agricultural marketing board and many others. What he recommended amounted in his own words 'to a revolution in economic affairs in Mauritius'. He also added that with freedom of entry of raw materials, government support to new industries, a greater spirit of enterprise and cooperation among all classes, and stable labour costs and access to preferential markets, Mauritius would be well placed to develop export industries.

With these recommendations in mind, the government set its priorities and explored the concept of processing zone from Ireland to Taiwan. It was in Ireland, near Shannon airport, that the first free zone was created in the world in the late 1950s. After the feasibility study had been completed, the export processing zone was announced in the Budget in 1968 and the Plaines Lausun industrial estate was set up. In 1970 the EPZ Act was voted. With the formation of a coalition government, the EPZ development received a fresh stimulus and, by 1974, a large number of jobs in the EPZ had been created and the country launched on the path of diversification and industrialization.

This creation of the EPZ and industrialization became priority number one of the then government to solve unemployment and to give a new direction to the economy. Import substitution industries had proved grossly inadequate to solve the unemployment problem. It was finally the outcome of a number of processes – a creative appropriation of the free zone concept, a lot of reflection and debates in which the contribution of public-spirited public officers and private entrepreneurs was significant. The political will to industrialize the island, effective planning, provision of adequate human and physical resources and economic diplomacy did the rest.

There are many lessons we can take on how Mauritius began to industrialize.

If we have been so successful in the past to rise up to the challenges of the time, why then are we today unable to deliver the same successes? We have the ideas, the institutions, better human resources and infrastructure, but the nagging question remains: why we are failing? Every citizen will have to reflect and find his answer but also propose a solution.

**Sada Reddi**



# Forever ... 36 years old?

At what age are people usually happiest? New research offers surprising clues



Clare Mehta  
Associate Professor of  
Psychology, Emmanuel College

A recent poll asked people to pick which age they would like to be for the rest of their lives. Even though we live in a culture that idealizes youth, the most popular answer wasn't 21. It was 36. But development psychologist Clare Mehta wasn't surprised. She's spent the past few years studying established adults - people between 30 and 45 years old. And while this period tends to put people squarely in the throes of what Mehta calls the "career and care crunch," it's also when people finally start to feel comfortable in their own skin, with a more fully formed sense of who they are. Read on:

If you could be one age for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Would you choose to be nine years old, absolved of life's most tedious responsibilities, and instead able to spend your days playing with friends and practicing your times tables?

Or would you choose your early 20s, when time feels endless and the world is your oyster - with friends, travel, pubs and clubs beckoning?

Western culture idealizes youth, so it may come as a surprise to learn that in a recent poll asking this question, the most popular answer wasn't 9 or 23, but 36.

Yet as a developmental psychologist, I thought that response made a lot of sense.

For the last four years, I've been studying people's experiences of their 30s and early 40s, and my research has led me to believe that this stage of life - while full of challenges - is much more rewarding than most might think.

## The career and care crunch

When I was a researcher in my late 30s, I wanted to read more about the age period I was in. That was when I realized that no one was doing research on people in their 30s and early 40s, which puzzled me. So much often happens during this time: Buying homes, getting married or getting divorced; building careers, changing careers, having children or choosing not to have children.

To study something, it helps to name it. So my colleagues and I named the period from ages 30 to 45 "established adulthood," and then set out to try to understand it better. While we are still collecting data, we have currently interviewed over 100 people in this age cohort, and have collected survey data from more than 600 additional people.

We went into this large-scale project expecting to find that established adults were happy but struggling. We thought there would be rewards during this period of life - perhaps being settled in career, family and friendships, or peaking physically and cognitively - but also some significant challenges.



The main challenge we anticipated was what we called "the career and care crunch."

This refers to the collision of workplace demands and demands of caring for others that takes place in your 30s and early 40s. Trying to climb a ladder in a chosen career while also being increasingly expected to care for kids, tend to the needs of partners and perhaps care for aging parents can create a lot of stress and work.

Yet when we started to look at our data, what we found surprised us.

Yes, people were feeling overwhelmed and talked about having too much to do in too little time. But they also talked about feeling profoundly satisfied. All of these things that were bringing them stress were also bringing them joy.

For example, Yuying, 44, said "even though there are complicated points of this time period, I feel very solidly happy in this space right now." Nina, 39, simply described herself as being "wildly happy."

(The names used in this piece are pseudonyms, as required by research protocol.)

When we took an even closer look at our data, it started to become clear why people might wish to remain age 36 over any other age. People talked about being in the prime of their lives and feeling at their peak. After years of working to develop careers and relationships, people reported feeling as though they had finally arrived.

Mark, 36, shared that, at least for him, "things feel more in place." "I've put together a machine that's finally got all the parts it needs," he said.

## A sigh of relief after the tumultuous 20s

As well as feeling as though they had accumulated the careers, relationships and general life skills they had been working toward since their 20s, people also said they had greater self-confidence and understood themselves better.

Jodie, 36, appreciated the wisdom she

had gained as she reflected on life beyond her 20s:

"Now you've got a solid decade of life experience. And what you discover about yourself in your 20s isn't necessarily that what you wanted was wrong. It's just you have the opportunity to figure out what you don't want and what's not going to work for you. ... So you go into your 30s, and you don't waste a bunch of time going on half dozen dates with somebody that's probably not really going to work out, because you've dated before and you have that confidence and that self-assuredness to be like, 'hey, thanks but no thanks.' Your friend circle becomes a lot closer because you weed out the people that you just don't need in your life that bring drama."

Most established adults we interviewed seemed to recognize that they were happier in their 30s than they were in their 20s, and this impacted how they thought about some of the signs of physical aging that they were starting to encounter. For example, Lisa, 37, said, "If I could go back physically but I had to also go back emotionally and mentally ... no way. I would take flabby skin lines every day."

## Not ideal for everyone

Our research should be viewed with some caveats.

The interviews were primarily conducted with middle-class North Americans, and many of the participants are white. For those who are working class, or for those who have had to reckon with decades of systemic racism, established adulthood may not be so rosy.

It is also worth noting that the career and care crunch has been exacerbated, especially for women, by the Covid-19 pandemic. For this reason, the pandemic may be leading to a decrease in life satisfaction, especially for established adults who are parents trying to navigate full-time careers and full-time child care.

At the same time, that people think of their 30s - and not their 20s or their teens - as the sweet spot in their lives to which they'd like to return suggests that this is a period of life that we should pay more attention to.

And this is slowly happening. Along with my own work is an excellent book recently written by Kayleen Shaefer, "But You're Still So Young," that explores people navigating their 30s. In her book she tells stories of changing career paths, navigating relationships and dealing with fertility.

My colleagues and I hope that our work and Shaefer's book are just the beginning. Having a better understanding of the challenges and rewards of established adulthood will give society more tools to support people during that period, ensuring that this golden age provides not only memories that we will fondly look back upon, but also a solid foundation for the rest of our lives.





## Hospital Bill

A man suffered a serious heart attack while shopping in a store. The store clerk called 911 when they saw him collapse to the floor.

The paramedics rushed the man to the nearest hospital where he had emergency open heart bypass surgery. He awakened from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at the Catholic Hospital.

A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clipboard loaded with several forms, and a pen. She asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment.

"Do you have health insurance?"

He replied in a raspy voice, "No health insurance."

The nun asked, "Do you have money in the bank?"

He replied, "No money in the bank."

"Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" asked the irritated nun.

He said, "I only have a spinster sister, and she is a nun."

The nun became agitated and announced loudly, "Nuns are not spinsters! Nuns are married to God."

The patient replied, "Perfect... Send the bill to my brother-in-law."

\*\*\*

## Who is she?

If a woman listens to you for less than 5 minutes, then she is your daughter

If a woman listens to you for about 15 minutes, then she is your sister.

If a woman listens to you for over 30 minutes, then she is your mother.

And ultimately...

If a woman pretends to listen to you all the time but does not remember a word of what you said no matter how important, then she is...

Yes, yes, you are correct!

She is deaf...

Why unnecessarily bring wife into every joke?

\*\*\*



## Covid wisdom

New proverbs likely to be included in the English language...

1. Divided we live, united we die!
2. A sneeze, in time... infects nine!
3. All that sniffles has caught a cold!
4. Home stay is the best policy!
5. One man's mask is another man's poison!
6. An unmasked guy is the Covid's workshop!
6. As you spray, so shall you reap!
7. Better to be poor & healthy than being rich & sick!
8. Curiosity killed the doc!
9. Don't count your chickens before next June!
10. Every cough has its spray!
11. Rome was not infected in a day!

Q: What happens once in a minute and twice in a moment but never in a decade?

A: The letter "m."

\*\*\*

Contest in a girl's college: Write a short story which contains religion, sex and mystery.

Winner's story: "Oh god, I am pregnant, I wonder who did it."

\*\*\*

There's a blond and a brunette in a car. The brunette is driving while the blonde is in the passenger seat. They're going down a steep hill when the brunette realizes that the brakes don't work.

The brunette tells the blonde that the brakes don't work and

they will drive off the side of the cliff because they failed to stop.

The blonde then replies, "Don't worry! There's a stop sign ahead."

\*\*\*

Q. What is the colour of the wind?

A. Blew.

\*\*\*

A child goes to his father and asks, "Father, how do parents think of names for their children?"

The father answers, "Well, son, the night before the mother gives birth; the father goes into the woods and camps for the night. When he wakes the following morning, the first thing he sees is what he names his child, which is why your sister is named Soaring Eagle. Why do you ask, Bear Poop?"

## Life's LESSONS

## Cows don't give milk

One day when the oldest turned 12, he anxiously asked his father what was the secret of life.

"The secret of life is this: The cow does not give milk."

"What are you saying?" asked the boy incredulously.

"As you hear it, son: The cow does not give milk, you have to milk it. You have to get up at 4 in the morning, go to the field, walk through the corral full of manure, tie the tail, hobble the legs of the cow, sit on the stool, place the bucket and do the work yourself. That is the secret of life, the cow does not give milk. You milk her or you don't get milk."

There is this generation that thinks that cows GIVE milk.

That things are automatic and free! Their mentality is that if "I wish, I ask..... I obtain."

They have been accustomed to get whatever they want the easy way...

But no, life is not a matter of wishing, asking and obtaining.

The things that one receives are the effort of what one does.

Happiness is the result of effort.

Lack of effort creates frustration.

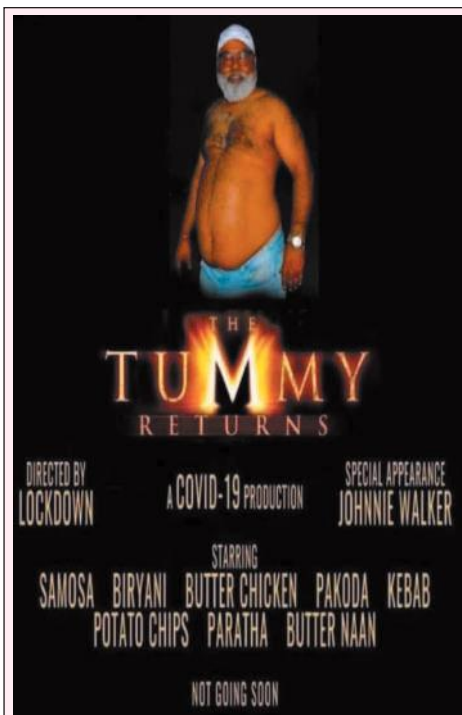
So, remember to share with your children, from a young age, the secret of life.

So they don't grow up with the mentality that the government, their parents, or their cute little face is going to give them everything they need in life.

*Remember: Cows don't give milk. You have to work for it.*

## Rules for the senior citizens

1. Please don't lock the doors of washroom from inside when you are inside. Sit down on a stool or chair and take bath/shower. Don't stand & take a bath even under the shower
2. Keep a hand-hold attached to the wall near your WC (Western Commode) to hold while sitting on/getting up from the commode.
3. Wear your trousers/pyjamas, sitting on a chair or bed. Don't try wearing them standing.
4. When you get up from bed, get on to sitting posture and stay 30 seconds and then stand up near the bed 30 secs before walking for attending to calls, especially at night.
5. Don't walk on wet floors.
6. Avoid climbing stools/chairs/benches to repair/clean fans, photos and drying cloths, etc.
7. Avoid driving any vehicle alone. Let someone accompany you.
8. Please take medicines as per schedule/doctor's advice
9. Don't compromise with anyone regarding things which keep you happy.
10. Please go along with your spouse, when you are going to bank, market, shopping, etc.
11. When you are alone at home, please don't entertain unknown people, and always be alert.
12. Always have two main door key bunches, one with you and the other with your spouse.
13. Better to have a call-bell in bedroom to call for emergency
14. Be polite and soft-spoken with everyone you are dealing with.
15. Don't think about past or future. for you, present is real & very valuable.
16. At your age, peace of mind, maintaining good health, happiness and healthy relationships are very important.





# Matters of the Mind: Are you feeling exhausted with the way things have been?

The so-called "routine" events such as planning a daily meal, meeting a deadline, unrealistic self-expectations, and interpersonal relationships can also trigger stress

**I**t was around this time last year that things started to change for us. Post the initial inertia amid the pandemic, many gradually adjusted, resolved to persist and saw through the increasingly stressful incomings through the year. Even so, to say that we have gotten used to the restrictions, anxiety, masks, no school, virtual meetings, etc., will be far from the truth.

2020 ended with a high note of vaccinations on the horizon and a desperate hope of a truly trying year finally coming to a close. In the last year however, people got into therapy for several reasons other than disease management. Besides coping with a global threat of a potentially fatal disease, we fought multiple daily irritants pushing people to inquire about tools and strategies to cope. From "presenting problems" usually being anxiety, psychosis, depression, I began to see job loss, loss of a family member, child addicted to gaming, couple conflict, missing socialising and stress due to homeschooling as common reasons for people contacting me.

I give so many people credit for rising up to the challenge of both the seekers and providers of support and crisis management. After trudging up four hundred and something days, stressors and triggers haven't reduced. Our physical and emotional muscles ache with fatigue, giving way to doubt, fear and hopelessness. How do we get through such a time in life?

At this point, it is important for us to understand the body and mind connection and the role of stress in our acceptance of and adapting to the "new normal". Emotional health can be affected not just from "tough life events" like divorce, lay-off or death of a loved one, but even "good life events" such as a promotion, marriage or birth of a baby. The so-called "routine" events such as planning a daily meal,



meeting a deadline, unrealistic self-expectations, and interpersonal relationships can also trigger stress.

Our body responds to this stress in various ways. Inflammation, pain, high blood pressure, skin rashes, ulcers, indigestion, fatigue, headaches, shortness of breath, and sleep disturbances are some manifestations.

One way or the other, the body-mind inter-dependency proves one thing for sure. Stress doesn't help. Stress can cause disease, reduce immunity and reduce quality of life. This implies that we need to find a way to first, perceive things in way that they do not cause stress and put the brain and body in flight, fight or freeze mode. Secondly, if a situation does cause stress, how do we cope and reduce the impact of the body's reaction to stress on our mind and emotions? I have four rules for us to follow and stay on in the field.

## 1. Stay relaxed

If there was one thing I could include today in school and college curriculums, it

would be teaching children how to relax. We often hear and preach the word "relax", "chill" and "calm down" but how many of us actually know how to do it? From breathing techniques to sensory-specific stimulus, guided meditation, yoga or yoga nidra, invest in exploring and practising different relaxation techniques.

## 2. Stay focussed

*"Nothing is so fatiguing as the eternal hanging on of an uncompleted task." - William James*

Setting specific goals, breaking them down into steps and setting a comfortable pace in order to make daily small contributions towards them help staying focussed. Using multi-sensory input for reminders of our goals, such as visual posters, post-its, auditory reminders and even situational or contextual reminders such as "every time I sit in the car", or "every time I hold a cup of coffee in my hand", can help with regular goal reviews and taking note of progress and achievement.

## 3. Stay optimistic

Believing that this moment is the best

possible now, keeps me marching forward. Our motivated attention, an attitude of hope and belief systems need to sing to us that today is as good as can be and that tomorrow will be better.

A study showed that perceived stress (correlated with pessimistic perceptions) and fatigue are related constructs. There is a notable association between fatigue and stress. The highest relationship could be detected between fatigue, tension and lack of joy or pessimism.

A thought that helps optimism is forward thinking. By accepting the past that was tough, knowing that there is no going back, and the present that is challenging leading us to learn, there can only be going forward. If we are entering tomorrow wiser, there is every chance that it will be brighter.

## 4. Stay determined

Determination helps us persist in the face of challenges. Determination is the ability to get up, show up, muster up what we have and do despite difficulties-what we can do to make "today" count, to make "now" matter and inch towards our goals.

*"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal." - Henry Ford*

We have all experienced and continue to live with the obstacles and consequences of a pandemic. This is not a trivial experience. However, a determined attitude towards coping and seeing ourselves through these times will restore, nourish and rejuvenate many of our tired muscles.

The year gone by will not change. It taught us, changed us and will always be seen as a pivotal year in our lives. Accept that we may never go back to who we were, that the world has changed and that we need to stop wanting things to be the same as yesterday. Looking behind over our shoulders to cherish what was will keep us from moving forward.

**Dr Shwetambara Sabharwal. TOI**

## Life's Lessons

### When you get old...

...never teach anyone anything, unless requested, even if you are sure you are right.

Do not try to help unless asked for. Just be ready & available for it if possible.

Do not give unsolicited opinion all the time.

Do not expect everyone to follow your opinion, even though you feel your opinion was the best.

Don't impose yourself on anyone on any subject.

Don't try to protect your loved ones from all the misfortunes of the world. Just love them & pray for them.

Don't complain about your health, your neighbours, your retirement, your woes all the time.

Don't expect gratitude from children.

There are no ungrateful children, there are only stupid parents, who expect gratitude from their children.

Don't waste your last money on anti-age treatments. It's useless.

Better spend it on a trip. It's always worth it.

Take care of your spouse, even if he/she becomes a wrinkled, helpless and moody old person. Don't forget he/she was once young, good looking and cheerful, maybe he/she is the only one who really needs you right now.

Understand new technologies, obsessively follow the news, constantly study something new, a new skill, a new dish, a new indoor game; do not fall behind in time.

Don't blame yourself for whatever happened to your life or to your children's lives, you did everything you could.

Preserve your dignity and integrity in any situation, till the end.

Remember, you're still alive, someone needs you.

Do your best and leave the rest to the Almighty.





## Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty is 'keeping the faith'

*Rhea Chakraborty shared a picture of herself dressed in a yellow kurta, reading poet Rabindranath Tagore's collection of poems, 'Gitanjali'*

**B**ollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty took to Instagram to share a hope-filled message with her fans. She shared a picture of herself dressed in a yellow kurta, reading poet Rabindranath Tagore's collection of poems, "Gitanjali".

Rhea has not been very regular on social media after the death of her alleged boyfriend and Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

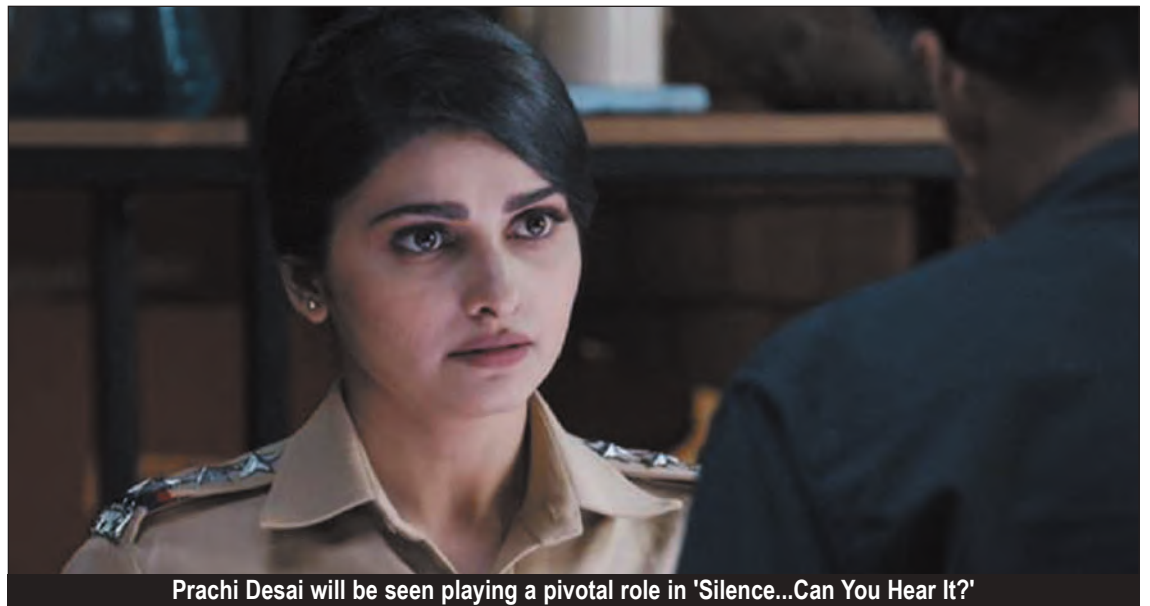
She was accused by Sushant's family for abetment to suicide and also siphoning off funds from the late actor. She was also named in the first Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) chargesheet along with her brother Showik in a drug-related probe into Sushant's death case.

She was arrested last year and spent a month in Mumbai's Byculla jail in September last year in a drug-related charge. Meanwhile, the actress is part of the film "Chehre" starring actors Amitabh Bachchan and Emraan Hashmi. This is her first film release after Sushant's death.

The actress was missing from the first poster and teaser of the film, which sparked off rumours of her being ousted from the project. However, she is part of the trailer.

Directed by Romy Jafry, "Chehre" also features Annu Kapoor, Raghubir Yadav, Krystle D'Souza and Raghubir Yadav.

## Prachi Desai on forced her to take a break from Bollywood: 'Important for me to reinvent'



Prachi Desai will be seen playing a pivotal role in 'Silence...Can You Hear It?'

**P**rachi Desai has taken considerable breaks from her on-screen appearances. The actor, who became one of the first women actors to have a successful career on television as well as in Bollywood, rose to fame with films like *Rock On* (2008) and *Once Upon A Time In Mumbai* (2010), among others, has now spoken about what made her go on these mini-sabbaticals, reports A. Kameshwari of Indian Express.

Prachi said, "As I started working so young, it was important at some point for me to realise that there is a kind of reinvention required, because getting repetitive is something I would not enjoy."

The *Kasam Se* actor said that she "started on a quest to look out for new roles and new scripts" when she was finally offered *Silence... Can You Hear It?* - a murder mystery, which sees her playing a cop.

"There was a phase in my career when I felt I need to reinvent. Also, it came from a belief that I can do something else and not just stick to what I

have been doing year after and year. I started on a quest to look out for new roles but it took time for something like *Silence... to come my way*," the 32-year-old said.

She said if one needs to reignite their career, they don't need a magnum-opus. In her words, "It doesn't have to be a magnum-opus to realise that you need a change in your career but even simple characters can bring that shift."

The *Azhar* actor was kicked to be on-board *Silence... Can You Hear It?*, which stars Manoj Bajpayee in the lead role.

The actor, who calls herself sucker for thrillers, quipped, "This is the kind of role I have been waiting for. When this film came to me, Aban Deohans (director) told me that she wanted me to play a cop. When I started reading the script, I knew I had to do this. I always wanted to work with a woman director and how could I miss out on the opportunity to work with Manoj Bajpayee? So, for me, this is a perfect OTT debut."

## Meet the Bollywood Divas breaking the rules of 'age-appropriate' fashion in style

Some Bollywood actors truly define what 'aging like fine wine' is. Tanya Kundu of idiva.com

decided to look at some of the stylish outings of these ladies, be it Neena Gupta's short dresses, Neelam Kothari's chic suits or Poonam Dhillon's on-point looks.



### 1. Tabu

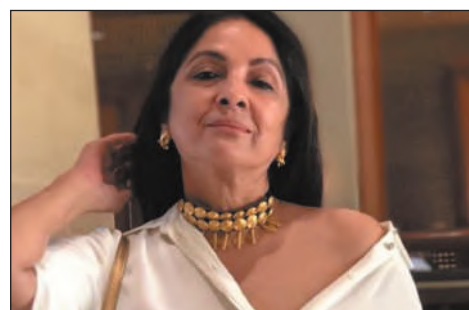
The critically-acclaimed actor is often asked the secrets of her youthful appearance. As much as we love and appreciate

her thought-provoking performances (be it in *Andhadhun* or *A Suitable Boy*), we can't stop obsessing over how gracefully Tabu carries herself at 50. Elegant is how we'd sum up her fashion sense.

### 2. Poonam Dhillon



Noorie actress Poonam Dhillon is gorgeous at 58 and her impeccable style is the cherry on top. Her Instagram is proof of just how gracefully she's aging. Her unabashed style and cheery personality is a breath of fresh air and a reminder that y'all need not limit yourself no matter what.



### 3. Neena Gupta

Neenaji sends hearts aflutter every now and then by posting stunning pictures of herself on social media. Her bold fashion blends very well with her personality. She's 61 and can effortlessly ace every style of dress, gown, saree. She's often seen in some of the trendiest clothes and models for her daughter Masaba Gupta's creations as well.

### 4. Madhuri Dixit Nene

At 53, Madhuri Dixit is a showstopper, owing to her presence and her outfit picks.

Her love for floral appliques and bright hues is on display as one scrolls through her Instagram profile. Madhuri Dixit's repertoire of magnificent sarees will make your heart go *Dhak Dhak*.



### 5. Neelam Kothari

Neelam Kothari Soni is an undisputed fashionista at 51. Thanks to the Netflix series 'Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives', we know her flawless looks deserve our attention. Her Instagram is a window to some dreamy ethnic outfits.



# RadhaKrishn actors Sumedh Mudgalkar and Mallika Singh on their on-screen chemistry, bonding and more

Sumedh Mudgalkar and Mallika Singh, who play titular roles on-screen in the mythological *RadhaKrishn* are loved by fans for their crackling chemistry. Recently, in an exclusive chat with Vijaya Tiwari of ETimes TV, Mallika and Sumedh opened up about breaking the ice on the sets, meeting each other for the first time and also revealed some secrets about each other.

## About their first meeting

**Sumedh Mudgalkar:** When I saw Mallika, the first reaction was she's a sweet, quiet girl. Then when we became friends I used to try and tease her by calling her boring, arrogant. If I recall she was very quiet and would look around, observe how things work in the television industry as at that point she was pretty new to all these things. She would talk less and try to see around what was happening. Those were the rare days (laughs).

**Mallika Singh:** My initial days were full of nervousness. When I met Sumedh for the first time during the mock shoot, I was very nervous. There were so many things going in my mind at that point of time. I was scared also. But he helped me a lot.

## One best quality about each other

**Sumedh on Mallika:** She is very co-operative as a co-star. She has never been adamant about anything and does what the director tells her. She follows the director, and as a co-star also if I tell something to her, she will think about her character wisely and do accordingly. I really

like this about her.

**Mallika on Sumedh:** I think all the characters he has played in the show so far, he has been totally dedicated towards it and forgets about everything. His entire focus is on the character.

## One best quality as a co-star

**Sumedh:** Mallika co-operates a lot as a co-star, but is always late on the sets. She is the last one to arrive on the sets (laughs). She would deny it now but other than that she co-operates with everyone and never throws any tantrum. I just love the way she scolds people on the sets as it doesn't sound as a scolding, it becomes the most entertaining part for us. We look at her and enjoy it a lot when she's scolding someone.

**Mallika:** Sumedh really works hard and as I said earlier whatever he does, he's really dedicated towards it. Sometimes, we get tired physically, mentally and emotionally, but the way he pushes himself is a great thing and is not a cup of tea for everybody.

## One thing you would want to change about each other



**Sumedh:** I would want her to take care of her health. She gets very tired during the shoot but we have a fixed schedule and so we have to complete the shoot. So, if she eats well, her health will be better and she will be able to do her job well.

**Mallika:** There are many things about him that annoys me but it is hard to pick one (laughs).

## On best scenes

**Sumedh:** I think more than her scenes, the way she carries herself, her personali-

ty is something which everyone appreciates. She is very natural on-screen and that is what I like the most about Mallika. She puts in a lot of hard work in her scenes and that shows. In between, she played different characters and that was a refreshing change for me. I really liked her role of Vallabh. She would roam on the sets wearing a moustache.

**Mallika:** I can't pick any one particular scene of Sumedh as all the scenes he has done so far have been brilliant and have worked because of his hard work.

# I have broken too many hearts when I was in school: Donal Bisht

Barely a few years old in the television industry and this media professional turned actress is now going to do a film down South as lead. Donal Bisht, of *Ek Deewana Tha* serial fame, is quite excited about the new feather in her cap.

"*Kalash - Ek Vishwaas* was my first show in 2015. Eventually every actor or a human being has a dream to evolve and work better and better. And that is what happened with me too. I always love to act, medium no bar. I like to do different kind of work. As an actor I got an opportunity to work on TV that too in four consecutive shows as lead. After exploring the small screen medium, and working back to back for four consecutive years and having no life of my own, I decided to take a break after my last show *Dil Toh Happy Hai Ji* ended," says Donal.

She adds, "Every now and then I get offers for TV. The medium is always there and the offers will be there whenever I want to get back to the medium again. But I don't want no regret in life



by not taking risks. I would not like to regret not doing things which I could have done in my life on the professional front."

However, the *Roop - Mard Ka Naya Swaroop* actress says she is ready to compromise on the money front while switching mediums. "Money wise, I left getting good amount of money as a journalist to become a TV actress, where initially I was paid very less. And now I am leaving lucrative offers on the small screen for films. *Dil pe patthak toh rakhna hi padta hai* as far as the money is concerned but that is the risk that as I said I am ready to take. I know I can make a lot of money from TV but I just don't want to think about the money part," she said.

So is she able to dub her dialogues in Telugu we wonder? "I am able to speak my dialogues in Telugu quite fluently. In fact, a lot of people on the sets tease me that I knew the language already. But as an actor I have now learnt to mug up dialogues in any language. I hear people talking in

Telugu and I copy them," she said.

On the personal front, Donal says she is happily single. "Right now, I am not dating anyone. I have broken too many hearts when I was in school. Apart from boys proposing to me, I have had one or two relationships. As of now I am just committed to making my career," she says as she signs off.

## Appartement à louer - long terme



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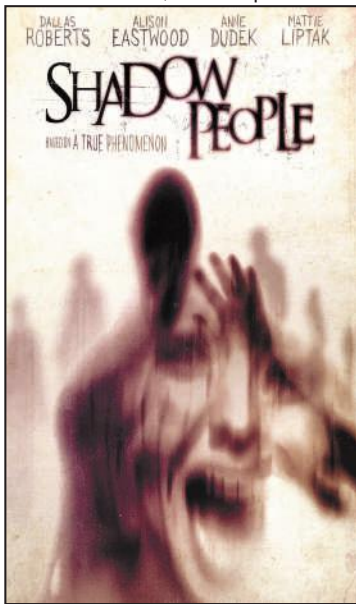




Mardi 13 Avril - 21.15

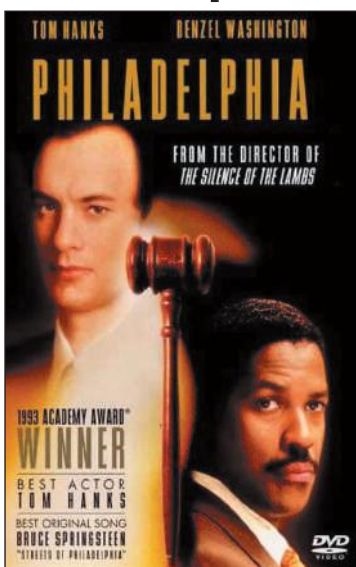
## Shadow People

Avec: Dallas Roberts, Alison Eastwood, Mattie Liptak



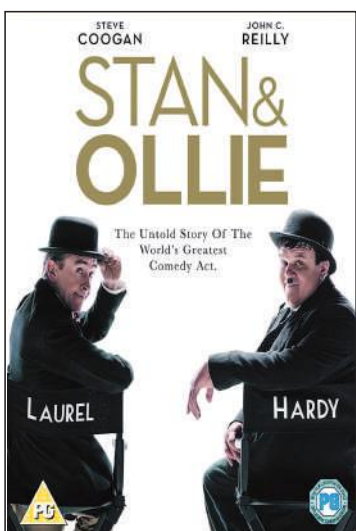
Mercredi 14 avril - 21.15

## Philadelphia



Jeudi 15 Avril - 21.15

Avec: Steve Coogan, John C.Reilly, Shirley Henderson



mardi 13 avril

### MBC 1

07.00 Dessin Anime  
10.35 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A...  
11.00 Mag: Le Saviez Vous?  
11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
12.50 Mag: Urban Gardens  
14.20 D.Animes: The Hive  
14.38 D.Anime: Spirit: Au Galop du...  
15.05 D.Anime: Sindbad And The 7  
15.12 D.Anime: Kid Lucky  
16.00 Film: SMURFS: The Lost...  
17.05 Serial: Mustangs Fc/ Mighty...  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja  
18.55 Mag: MBC Production  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.35 Local Prod: Generations J  
21.10 Film: Shadow People  
23.00 Le Journal

### MBC 2

10.00 Serial: CID  
10.48 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha  
12.04 Film: Vighnaharta Shree Siddhivinayak  
Starring: Ramesh Deo, Parmeet Sethi, Divya Dutta, Ashalata  
15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha  
15.23 Serial: Aamhi Doghi  
15.45 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
16.08 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal  
16.32 Serial: Suno Chanda  
16.53 Serial: Achra Ke Moti  
17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.32 Telugu - Premabhishekam  
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone  
18.30 DDI Magazine  
18.59 Mag: Sur Mesure  
19.30 DDI Magazine  
20.00 Local: Tamil Programme  
20.30 Film: Hum Dono  
Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malinee

### MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
06.52 Mag: Voa Connect  
07.25 Mag: In Good Shape  
07.51 Doc: Amazing Gardens  
08.16 Mag: Future Mag  
09.42 Mag: Global 3000  
10.38 Doc: Looted Art In The Third  
11.23 Mag: Eco@Africa  
11.49 Mag: Arts And Culture  
12.15 Mag: Voa Connect  
12.44 Mag: In Good Shape  
13.36 Mag: Future Mag  
14.08 Doc: 360 GEO  
15.00 Mag: Global 3000  
15.32 Mag: Washington Forum  
16.42 Mag: Eco@Africa  
17.08 Mag: Arts And Culture  
18.02 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...  
19.00 Mag: Check In  
19.26 Mag: Le Saviez Vous?  
20.04 Doc: Ville En Fête

### Cine 12

01.26 Film: Cassidy Red  
02.58 Serial: Hawaii 5-0  
03.38 Film: Coup De Foudre A La...  
05.06 Tele: Muneca Brava  
06.30 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delive..  
09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire  
09.45 Tele: Daniella  
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor  
11.01 Serial: The Good Doctor  
12.00 Film: Coup De Foudre A La...  
13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava  
14.20 Mag: Hollywood On Set  
14.45 Film: Signed, Sealed, Deliver..  
16.41 Serial: Chicago Fire  
17.23 Serial: Absentia  
18.05 Tele: Daniella  
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Serial: Absentia  
21.15 Film: The Stolen  
22.48 Tele: Muneca Brava

### Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Chatur Singh Two Star  
12.04 / 19.54 - Sanjivani  
12.26 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna  
12.50 / 20.32 Agniphara  
13.09 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
13.28 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.51 / 21.59 - Naagin Season 3  
14.33 / 22.25 - Ikyawann  
14.52 / 22.56 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.23 Film: Pagalpanti  
Starring: Anil Kapoor, John Abraham, Ileana D'Cruz  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.52 Serial: Ek Rishta  
Saajhedari Ka  
19.15 Mere Angne Mein

mercredi 14 avril

07.00 Dessin Anime  
10.35 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A...  
11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
12.55 Prod Indepen: Met Seryer  
14.00 Local: Priorite Santa  
14.30 D.Anime: The Hive  
14.37 D.Anime: Spirit: Au Galop...  
14.53 D.Anime: The Twisted Whisk..  
15.04 D.Anime: Sindbad And The 7  
15.22 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis..  
15.34 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda  
16.00 Film: Archie Chien Robot 2  
17.30 Serial: Mustangs FC  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja  
18.55 MBC Production  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local: MBC Production  
21.05 Film: Beyond White Space  
23.10 Local: Le Journal

10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha...  
11.17 Suhani Ek Ladhi  
12.00 Film: Main Tulsi Tere Aangan Ki  
Stars: Nutan, Vinod Khanna, Asha Parekh  
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: Kulvadhu  
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone  
18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Mag: Sur Mesure  
19.30 DDI Magazine  
20.00 Programme In Marathi  
22.04 Film: Zombie Rivals  
Stars: Elton Chong, Wong Lung, Pierre Kirby...

06.00 Rev: The Global Auto...  
06.26 Doc: The Faroes  
06.52 Mag: Check In  
07.26 Mag: Made In Germany  
07.53 Doc: Ville En Fête  
10.05 Local: Klip Seleksion  
10.47 Doc: Can Electric Cars Save  
11.58 Doc: The Faroes  
12.24 Mag: Check In  
12.59 Mag: Made In Germany  
13.25 Doc: Ville En Fête  
13.51 Doc: Olivia's Garden  
15.09 Mag: Close Up  
16.19 Doc: Can Electric Cars Save  
17.04 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto..  
17.30 Doc: The Faroes  
18.00 Mag: Motorweek  
18.30 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.26 Mag: Le Saviez Vous?  
19.29 Doc: Garden Party  
20.02 Mag: Tendance XXI

00.20 Serial: Absentia  
01.28 Film: Hollows Grove  
02.55 Serial: Hawaii 5-0  
03.29 Film: Alvarez Kelly  
05.26 Tele: Muneca Brava  
06.45 Film: Easter Under Wraps  
09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire  
09.44 Tele: Daniella  
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor  
11.01 Serial: French Series  
12.00 Film: Alvarez Kelly  
13.41 Tele: Muneca Brava  
14.45 Film: Easter Under Wraps  
16.46 Serial: Chicago Fire  
17.26 Serial: Absentia  
18.05 Tele: Daniella  
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor  
20.05 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
20.30 Serial: 19-2  
21.15 Film: Philadelphia  
23.11 Tele: Muneca Brava  
23.53 Serial: Chicago Fire

08.00 Film: Pagalpanti  
12.04 / 20.06 - Sanjivani  
12.24 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna  
12.46 / 20.02 - Agniphara  
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  
15.23 Film: Why Cheat India  
Starring: Emraan Hashmi, Shreya Dhanwanthary, Snigdha Deep Chatterji  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya  
18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka  
19.13 Bhakharwadi  
19.35 Siddhi Vinayak

jeudi 15 avril

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion  
06.45 Local: Sur Prise  
08.53 D. Anime: Investion Story  
10.05 D. Anime: Astrology  
10.35 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A...  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
12.50 Mag: Urban Gardens  
13.00 Local: RDV Muzikal  
14.30 D.Anime: The Hive  
15.00 D.Anime: Sindbad and The 7..  
15.11 D.Anime: Kid Lucky  
15.24 D.Anime: The Twisted Whisk..  
16.00 Film: Sam Le Pompier  
17.05 Serial: Mustangs FC  
17.30 Live - Covid-19  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Jamai Raja  
18.55 Local: Sita Haran  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.15 Film: Prince

10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani  
12.05 Film: Gudddi  
Starring: Dharmendra, Jaya Bhaduri, Utpal Dutt, Samit Bhargava  
14.08 Mag: DDI Magazine  
15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha  
15.21 Aamhi Doghi  
15.47 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...  
19.00 Mag: Sur Mesure  
20.05 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
21.12 Local Prod: Profil  
21.25 Film: Stan & Ollie  
Starring: Steve Coogan, John C. Reilly, Shirley Henderson

06.00 Mag: Motorweek  
06.25 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
07.29 Doc: Garden Party  
08.22 Doc: The World From Above  
09.47 Mag: Business Africa  
10.12 Mag: Focus On Europe  
10.34 Doc: Scent Of Freedom  
11.50 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
15.02 Mag: Business Africa  
15.36 Mag: Focus On Europe  
16.40 Mag: Motorweek  
17.06 Mag: Vous Et Vous  
17.42 Mag: Red Carpet  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
18.30 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
20.05 Mag: Science Ou Fiction  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
21.32 Doc: Congo - Millionaires...  
22.14 Doc: Istanbul Quake

01.42 Film: The Stolen  
03.16 Serial: Hawaii 5-0  
03.58 Film: Philadelphia  
05.58 Tele: Muneca Brava  
06.40 Serial: 19-2  
07.22 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delive..  
09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire  
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor  
11.01 Serial: Chicago Med  
11.38 Film: Philadelphia  
13.39 Tele: Muneca Brava  
14.45 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delive..  
16.41 Serial: Chicago Fire  
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: Runaway  
22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava  
23.30 Serial: French Series

08.00 Film: Why Cheat India  
12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani  
12.22 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna  
12.44 / 20.32 Agniphara  
13.07 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
13.29 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.48 / 21.46 - Naagin  
14.35 / 21.59 - Ikyawann  
14.47 / 22.52 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.20 Film: R...Rajkumar  
Starring: Shahid Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha, Sonu Sood  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka  
19.12 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
19.35 Siddhi Vinayak

Jeudi 15  
avril - 15.20

Star: Emraan Hashmi, Shreya Dhanwanthary, Snigdha Deep Chatterji



Jeudi 15 avril - 20.15

Stars: Vivek Oberoi, Isaiah, Aruna Shields





# Prince Philip, the Queen and their part in 1,000 years of European royal dynastic history

*The marriage of the future British queen and her consort was part of an ancient tapestry of royal intermarriage in Europe*



In November 1947, a dynastic union was forged between the royal houses of Greece and Great Britain. It would be one of the last of this kind of royal marriages in history - a type of union that had knitted together the continent for 1,000 years. When Philip, prince of Greece and Denmark married Elizabeth, princess of Great Britain, they reconnected two bloodlines descended from Queen Victoria. But they also renewed a kinship tie between Britain and Denmark that had been joined together numerous times, from Canute and Aelfifu in 1015 to Edward VII and Alexandra in 1863.

For centuries, almost every European monarchy maintained diplomatic relationships with its neighbours through dynastic marriages, in a system that persisted all the way up to the 1930s, then rapidly faded away in the post-war era.

In stark contrast, before the Second World War this practice was the absolute norm - particularly seen in the dense web of intermarriages between the royal families of Sweden, Denmark and Norway in the earlier decades of the 20th century.

One of the great dreams of Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert - themselves the product of close dynastic union, as first cousins - was to unite the continent of Europe through kinship relations, hoping that close cousins would be less likely to go to war with one another. This proved to be politically naive - disastrously so. The Great War that followed not long after Victoria's death pitted the forces of "Cousin Nicky" (Tsar Nicholas of Russia) and "Cousin Georgie" (King George V of Great Britain) against those of "Cousin Willy" (Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany), close kinship notwithstanding. By 1914, Britain, Russia and Germany had evolved as nation states, with modern governments, beyond the control of princely dynasticism as a political or diplomatic force.

Prince Philip's marriage to Princess Elizabeth in 1947 thus represented one of the last iterations of this Queen Victoria's dream. It reunited two of her descendants: Elizabeth through her father's line, and Philip through the line of his mother,

Princess Alice of Battenberg, a great-granddaughter of Victoria. Indeed, in the previous decade, three of Philip's four sisters had married other descendants of Victoria.

But in 1947, times had changed, and post-war Britain was not so keen to see the heir to the throne married to a foreign royal. Particularly not one whose sisters had married prominent German officers and whose family had an extremely fragile position on its throne in Greece, with a dynastic history full of abdications, military coups and plebiscites. Prince Philip was therefore "rebranded" before his marriage as Philip Mountbatten, lieutenant in the Royal Navy, naturalised British subject. But where did the name Mountbatten come from? And why before he changed his name was he called "Prince of Greece and Denmark"?

## Community of nations

It is an important question for understanding the identity of the Duke of Edinburgh - and by extension, the identity of the British royal family and even Britain's position within the wider European community of nations. It is all very intertwined. Philip himself said in an interview in 2014:

*If anything, I've thought of myself as Scandinavian. Particularly, Danish. We spoke English at home ... The others learned Greek. I could understand a certain amount of it. But then the (conversation) would go into French. Then it went into German, on occasion, because we had German cousins. If you couldn't think of a word in one language, you tended to go off in another.*

His experience is a perfect expression of the extraordinary cosmopolitan environment of the royal courts of Europe a century ago, when royal princes in Prussia and Russia almost always had English nannies, and adults conversed in polished French. Queen Elizabeth II is the product of this same nursery environment and also has very good French.

But why would a Greek prince consider himself Scandinavian? In the mid-19th century, when the crumbling Ottoman Empire was giving birth to newly independent states

such as Bulgaria and Greece, the Great Powers of Europe determined that it was in the best interests of stability in the region to select junior members of the major royal dynasties to found new monarchies.

Greece, independent since 1832, had first been governed by a Bavarian prince, Otto, but in 1863, he was deposed, and the 17-year-old Prince William of Denmark chosen instead. Denmark's ruling family, the House of Oldenburg, one of the oldest in Europe, was known for its liberal views, and it was hoped that a young prince from such a family would help the Greeks establish a democratic monarchy along the lines of Denmark, or its closely related ally, England.

The reign of Prince William, as King George I of Greece, was long and fairly calm. His son, Constantine I, was another matter, and after a disastrous war with Turkey (1919-1922) he was forced to abdicate. His younger brother, Prince Andrew, had fought in the war, and was sent into exile, along with his infant son, Prince Philip.

Philip was thus raised as an exile, first in Paris, then in England, where he boarded at Cheam School in Hampshire. He began a career in the British navy in 1939, served with distinction during WWII, then retired from active service once his wife became the Queen in 1952. He had been naturalised as a British subject in the summer of 1947, a few months before his wedding, and assumed a version of his mother's name, Battenberg - itself anglicised to Mountbatten at the height of anti-German sentiment in England in 1917.

The Battenbergs were also from an ancient ruling family, the House of Hesse, territorial princes in the heart of Germany since the 13th century. Philip wasn't alone in representing the Greek royal family in Britain: a decade before, his cousin Princess Marina had married the youngest son of George V, the Duke of Kent, and had charmed the nation with her elegance and cosmopolitan style.

Philip was firmly tied to the UK through his uncle, Earl Mountbatten, a British naval hero during the war - but, at the same time, he remained closely linked to the old continental system. One of his aunts, Mountbatten's sister, was Queen Louise of Sweden.

Louise Mountbatten died in 1965, and Marina of Greece in 1968 and, by the 1970s, royal marriages were seen as affairs of the heart, not affairs of state - or indeed as points of reunion and reconnection for these ancient royal dynasties.

With the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh, one of the last representatives of a system that had endured for a millennium passes into history.

**Jonathan Spangler,**

Senior Lecturer in History, Manchester Metropolitan University



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

## Freeing Our Inner Desires

Our best chance of getting what we need is to communicate by converting our inner voice to our outside voice.

Each of us has developed an internal filtering process that helps us choose which parts of our constant inner monologues get voiced outside of our heads. Sometimes the choice is based on what we consider to be polite or appropriate, using subtlety instead of directness to try to get our point across. Other times the choice is made based on our expectations of the other person and what we feel they should know about us, our feelings, and our needs. But our best chance of getting what we need is to communicate specifically by converting our inner voice to our outside voice.

This may seem unnecessary sometimes, especially when we think the other person has the same information we ourselves are working with, but we have to remember they also have their own inner voice, evaluating what they hear in light of their own issues and needs. With so much to consider and sift through, we are truly better off if we communicate precisely. Not only does doing this minimize the chance for misinterpretation, but voicing our thoughts it is an act of creation. We convert thought and imagination to sound, releasing it from the chamber of our minds into the outside world. This carries energy and intention with it, making our thoughts, wishes, and even dreams come true.

When we have the courage to speak our minds and use our voice to send the desires of our hearts from our inner world to the world outside, we take a bold step in making them happen. By removing fear of what others may think and expectation of what others should understand, we free ourselves and our thoughts from the bondage of the mental chamber and let loose our desires onto the canvas of the world. Next time we become aware that we have a choice about how to communicate, we can choose to use our outside voice and watch its creative power at work.