

MAURITIUS TIMES

• We must learn, we have to live with technology. We have to use it for good purposes and go further in this time of crisis, - Rosh Ravindran

Interview: Jocelyn Chan Low

**"Il n'y a pas eu
de révolution
citoyenne à
Maurice, et il n'y
en aura pas"**

See Page 7-8-9

Matters of Ongoing Concern



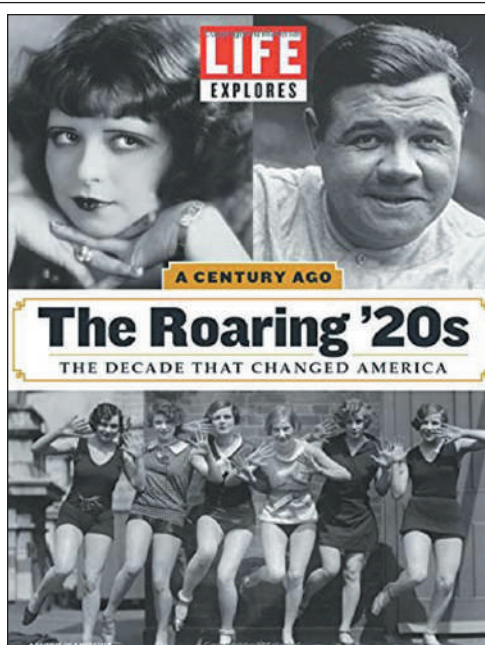
“Even as the second wave in India is now spreading eastwards, with a peak expected around May 15, a top government expert has said that a third wave is inevitable, what with the even deadlier new variants cropping up. And that the country must absolutely be prepared for that, especially with respect to the supply of medical grade oxygen...” Pic - Forbes India

Dr R Neerunjun Gopee See Page 3

Will the end of the Covid-19 pandemic usher in a second Roaring '20s?

By Agnes Arnold-Forster,
Researcher, History of Medicine and
Healthcare, McGill University

See Page 2



Editorial

The Ghost of BAI

See Page 2



The Ghost of BAI

The BAI affair has been back in the news, this week, during the debates on the Supplementary Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill. In reply to the Opposition, the Minister of Financial Services informed the House that Rs 17.9 billion have been injected by the government into the National Property Fund for the repayment of its debts and for the reimbursement of the BAI's policyholders and investors. Those billions of taxpayers' money go up to more than Rs 20 billion if we add up the Rs 3.5 billion advanced by the Bank of Mauritius and Rs 5.2 billion invested into the Maubank, which took over the assets of the former BAI's Bramer Bank. That's a far cry from the earlier guarantee of the Anerood Jugnauth-led government at the time the BAI Group was being dismantled - that not a single rupee belonging to the taxpayer would go towards reimbursing policy-holders and investors in the company's business.

At its 2019 Labour Day meeting, the Labour Party announced its intention to set up a commission of inquiry with a view to establishing the responsibility of all those who took the decision of or participated in the dismantling of the BAI Group. That is not likely to happen any time soon, judging from the pitiable position the opposition parties find themselves in currently, unable to form and sustain a common front to counter the ruling alliance. More revelations and disturbing facts might have come out other than what is to be found in the nTan Report, commissioned by the Bank of Mauritius to look into the factors that led to the BAI's failure. A number of allegations were levelled soon after the BAI was dismantled to the effect that the insurance company would have been involved in a Ponzi scheme: the company would have used funds collected from premiums received from the issuing of new policies to redeem sums due to holders of policies which had reached maturity. It was also alleged that significant amounts of funds belonging to the financial institutions of the group would have been siphoned off outside the country.

The government which dismantled the BAI is still in power, and the truth will remain unknown as to how and why one of the biggest conglomerates in Mauritius was dismantled within a few days and whether the proper legal procedures were followed. What is known is that there was an already bad situation within the BAI. This was pointed out by the IMF which had, a few years before its dismantling, drawn the attention of the authorities to the precarious financial situation of the BAI. It was aggravated by rash political decisions to precipitate its downfall. The result of this inept, bull-in-a-China shop approach is that several billions worth of taxpayers' money have been spent by the government to compensate BAI's policyholders and investors. It has been a big price to pay for the country, adding to an already mounting public debt burden.

The people's feelings about the local financial market have since many years been seriously ruffled by the uncovering of scandals, with several irregularities unearthed in this sector. With the resurfacing of the BAI affair this week, allegations of corruption have again made the headlines as political adversaries fought against each other about contributions received from the BAI.

Politicians have preferred to fight among themselves than to own up about the donations that have been mentioned. However, since they have not denied either, the public will surely draw their own conclusion from that silence. The public is no fool, and has always held the view that support of political parties across the board by financial and non-financial institutions of the country, has existed since long, maybe even before the Air Mauritius list of donations was revealed by the discovery of the 'caisse noire'. It may have taken new forms now, and despite the announcement at the approach of every election of an in-depth review of political financing, nothing has materialised to date. Leaving one to wonder whether this will ever happen. One can only conclude to a persisting lack of political will on this issue, which therefore leaves us at *status quo*.

Mauritius Times

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

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

This paper has been produced with the assistance of

Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy

**Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street,
Port Louis -- Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313**



mtimes@intnet.mu



www.mauritiustimes.com

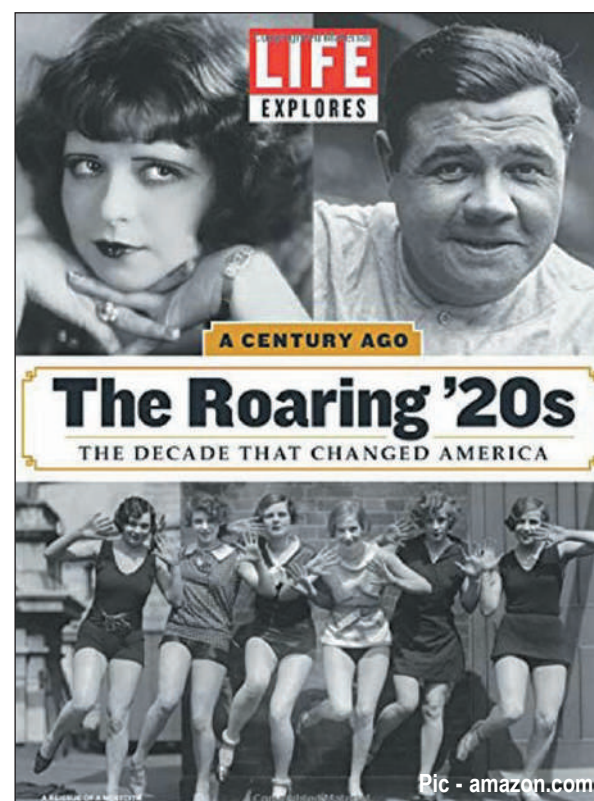


facebook.com/mauritius.times

The Conversation

Will the end of the Covid-19 pandemic usher in a second Roaring '20s?

A century ago, the end of the 1918 flu pandemic was followed by a period of prosperity, cultural flourishing and social change known as the Roaring '20s. Will the end of Covid-19 launch a similar era?



social and economic change.

The Roaring '20s — or “années folles” (“crazy years”) in France — was a period of economic prosperity, cultural flourishing and social change in North America and Europe. The decade witnessed a rapid acceleration in the development and use of cars, planes, telephones and films. In many democratic nations, some women won the right to vote and their ability to participate in the public sphere and labour market expanded.

Parallels and differences

As a historian of health care, I see some striking similarities between then and now, and as we enter our very own '20s it is tempting to use this history as a way of predicting the future.

Vaccine rollouts have raised hope for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. But they've also raised questions about how the world might bounce back, and whether

this tragic period could be the start of something new and exciting. Much like in the 1920s, this disease could prompt us to reconsider how we work, run governments and have fun.

However, there are some crucial differences between the two pandemics that could alter the trajectory of the upcoming decade. For one, the age-profile of the victims of the influenza pandemic was unlike that of Covid-19.

The 1918 flu — also called the Spanish flu — predominantly affected the young, whereas Covid-19 has mostly killed older people. As a result, fear probably refracted through the two societies in different ways.

Agnes Arnold-Forster,
*Researcher, History of Medicine and
Healthcare, McGill University*

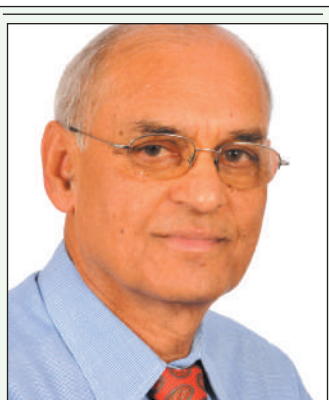
☛ Cont. on page 10

While some places remain mired in the third wave of the pandemic, others are taking their first tentative steps towards normality. Since April 21, Denmark has allowed indoor service at restaurants and cafes, and football fans are returning to the stands. In countries that have forged ahead with the rollout of vaccines, there is a palpable sense of optimism.

And yet, with all this looking forward, there is plenty of uncertainty over what the future holds. Articles on what the world will look like post-pandemic have proliferated and nations worldwide are considering how to recover financially from this year-long economic disaster.

Almost exactly a hundred years ago, similar conversations and preparations were taking place. In 1918, an influenza pandemic swept the globe. It infected an estimated 500 million people — around a third of the world's population at the time — in four successive waves. While the end of that pandemic was protracted and uneven, it was eventually followed by a period of dramatic

Matters of Ongoing Concern



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

The more I see the havoc that Covid-19 is creating around the world, the more I am beginning to align myself with those who have at some point doubted whether the virus is a natural one, and have thought aloud about the possibility that it could be man-made! No virus known to man to date has shown the kind of wild behaviour that Covid-19 is displaying. Viruses usually affect one specific organ or one type of tissue in the body, but Covid-19 is affecting all organs and all tissues, unlike what other known viruses do. Unfortunately, the mystery may never be solved conclusively, but meanwhile the monster continues on its massive murderous spree across the world, and currently the country that is suffering the most and with relentless rapidity is India.

Every day for several days now the news coming out of India is about record daily numbers. According to an update (Covid-19 Week 71), 'Even in Nepal, which shares a long porous border with India, record numbers are being reported (daily new cases 8,605 and daily deaths 58 on Wednesday). According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Nepal is recording 57 times more cases than this time last month, with the towns bordering India "unable to cope with the growing number of people needing medical treatment". The Himalayan country was forced to suspend its vaccination programme last month in the absence of supplies from India and China.'

Even as the second wave in India is now spreading eastwards, with a peak expected around May 15, a top government expert has said that a third wave is inevitable, what with the even deadlier new variants cropping up. And that the country must absolutely be prepared for that, especially with respect to the supply of medical grade oxygen.

A real glimmer of hope: Global waiver on IP rights

If there is a piece of good news on the vaccination front, it is that the US has finally decided to back the demand for a

It is merely the reality that we must keep in mind as we go about, and not be under the illusion that we can now be totally free to do as we please



“Locally, it is the report of the Fact Finding Committee set up to enquire into the Covid-related deaths of patients at the Souillac Hospital Dialysis Centre that will be awaited with impatience. The hope is that besides shedding light on the chain of events that led from Covid-19 infection to the deaths, the findings will also help us to be better prepared to handle similar situations that are most likely to arise again in future...” Pic - renalandurologynews.com

global waiver on intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines. India, South Africa and other countries had been lobbying at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the waiver. World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus described the US move as a 'monumental moment in the fight against Covid-19.' But in reality it 'would take months before this move translates into action on the ground, as WTO decision-making is based on consensus between its 164 members. Besides, the pharmaceutical industry has expressed its unhappiness over the US decision, saying it would affect its response to the pandemic.'

So all is not won yet, and it remains to be seen whether this is a real glimmer of hope for mankind, or the precursor to another protracted sparring tussle at the WTO while the number of dead keeps increasing.

A major issue in India is the supply of oxygen to hospitals, one where the Centre-State relationship has been strained, with health being a State responsibility that may not have been fully assumed. Be that as it may, the Indian government swung into action and very soon help began to pour in from several countries both as regards oxygen and other needed supplies. Steel companies from both the public and private sectors joined in to support the government efforts

to meet the nation's requirement of liquid medical oxygen (LMO). Further, several NGOs and volunteer organisations are engaged in helping patients and their relatives as well as attendants, providing food and other items, and helping with cremations.

Unfortunately, and very sadly, there are unscrupulous people who are exploiting the situation by raising the prices of items and services such as carrying oxygen cylinders and so on, or charging exorbitantly for medications such as Remdesivir.

But equally, there are others who are trying their best to boost morale and to proffer the proper advice about treatment, and they are the ones who should be listened to as in such a situation when panic is inevitable, in desperation people tend to be susceptible to sundry, unreliable advice.

We can only keep doing what is required, and hope for the sake of everyone that this beast is brought under control as soon as possible.

Deaths of dialysis patients, floods and drug haul

Locally, it is the report of the Fact Finding Committee set up to enquire into the Covid-related deaths of patients at the Souillac Hospital Dialysis Centre that will be awaited with impatience. The hope is

that besides shedding light on the chain of events that led from Covid-19 infection to the deaths, the findings will also help us to be better prepared to handle similar situations that are most likely to arise again in future.

As if this were not enough on our plate, comes the haul of the massive amounts of heroin worth billions of rupees. Questions raised by the common man are common-sense ones: who can afford to pay for this large haul of drug? Who are the real importers, and to whom/where was the drug destined? Troubling questions, answers ever elusive.

Among other problems in the people's mind: that of the proper infrastructure for water drainage of the territory after the scenes that have been witnessed during the recent torrential rains. But also water supply. One cannot prevent the feeling of cynicism that invariably comes up: the reservoirs are full, but wait and see - soon enough, even before summer has fully set in, they will begin to announce water cuts! As the poet lamented: water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink... An update from the authorities on how far they have reached in the replacement of the leaky distribution pipes will definitely be most welcome.

But the list about issues of perennial concern doesn't stop here...

The polity: Who can be trusted?

TP Saran

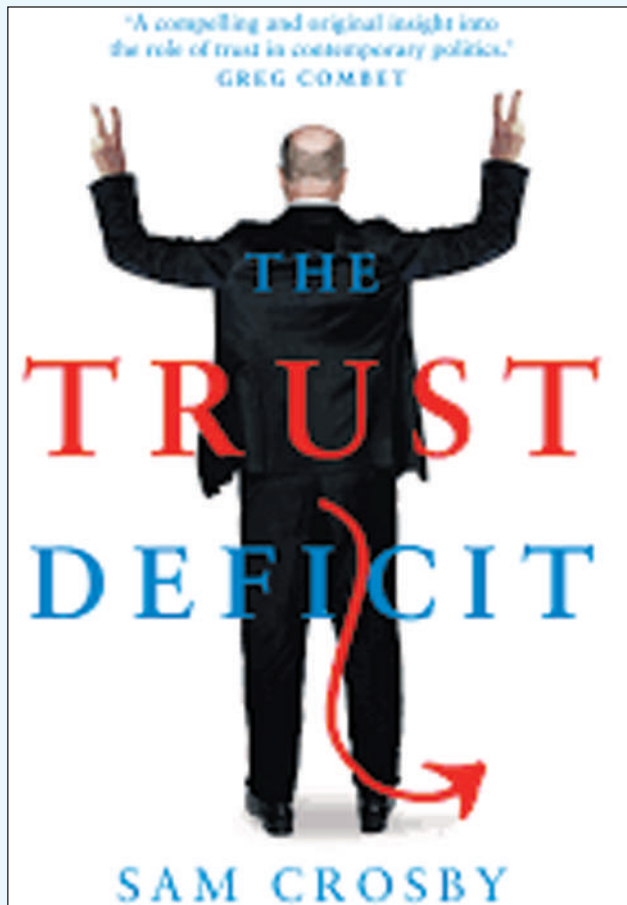
The level of mistrust in leaders in almost all countries is not a secret. It starts with politics and politicians, perhaps because they are the direct wielders of State power that can be used and misused (often seems to be more of the latter). In fact, as John Keane, Professor of Politics at the University of Sydney, points out in 'notes on the future of democratic representation,' inspired by Simon Tormey's *'The end of representative politics'* (2015), launched by the Sydney Democracy Network, we face a major 'democratic challenge: the challenge of breathing life back into **political parties as trusted representatives** of the wishes and needs of citizens considered as equals.' (bold and italics added)

In fact, he makes an observation which reflects what we have been witnessing in established parties on the local scene: 'Parties today are ghostly silhouettes of their former selves.' And goes on to note that this 'raises the question: since for the foreseeable future political parties will remain indispensable conduits of access to such state resources as taxation revenues, law-making powers and policing and military force, *which kind of political party* has the greatest chances of success in getting out the vote, attracting the support of citizens?'

In Mauritius we have kept changing from one political alliance to another, on the assumption that it was a change to another kind of politics, implying another, better way of doing things, of running the affairs of State for the benefit of its citizens. But what we have seen repeatedly is that after a brief sweep of the new broom, the old ways openly make a comeback.

Although we talk about the trust deficit across government, institutions and organisations of all kinds including civil society structures and corporates, at the end of the day trust is a matter that has to do more with people than with any system that is put in place by any of these entities. The latter are abstractions, maybe with legal 'personhoods' for the purpose of conducting transactions and assigning responsibility and accountability, but it is the people within them in their different roles and capacities who eventually 'press the button' as it were. That is, they take or influence decisions, and thus, when it comes to citizens trusting that such decisions are fair and meant for the common good, i.e. are equitable, it is clear that they think not of the abstraction but of the people associated with them. And, starting with the government and politicians - because, as has been pointed out above, they represent the apex of power in any country

“As common citizens we put the question of whether we can trust: the government, that is the politicians who comprise it, to ensure the setting up of systems and structures that will govern the running of institutions in all transparency, objectivity and with accountability? that awards of contracts will be made on the basis of objective criteria that will be strictly adhered to, and that there will be no arm-twisting to suit lobbies or cronies?...”



Pic - Eureka Street

“In Mauritius we have kept changing from one political alliance to another, on the assumption that it was a change to another kind of politics, implying another, better way of doing things, of running the affairs of State for the benefit of its citizens. But what we have seen repeatedly is that after a brief sweep of the new broom, the old ways openly make a comeback...”

—, the issue of trust cuts across all aspects and levels of the functioning of society.

Going down from the top, as it were, as common citizens we put the question of whether we can trust:

- the government, that is the politicians who comprise it, to ensure the setting up of systems and structures that will govern the running of institutions in all transparency, objectivity and with accountability?
- that there will be absolutely no political interference in the running of these institutions, including threats that may silence officers into submission?
- that awards of contracts will be made on the basis of objective criteria that will be strictly adhered to, and that there will be no arm-twisting to suit lobbies or cronies?
- that the politician will not fool us with unfulfilled electoral promises, or promise more that can be delivered?
- that the banker will safeguard our money, and not siphon it elsewhere locally or abroad?

- that the insurance company will honour the terms and conditions of schemes that they propose, that they will not put the onus on us for not having been properly informed of the fine print clauses?
- that the lawyer or attorney will not take us on a spin and truly and honestly fight our case and obtain justice, rather than compromise in tacit collusion with the counterparts?
- that the civil servant that we face across the table or the window will not sabotage us through rigid procedures that could do with a modicum of flexibility so as to lighten our burden?
- that the media will not dabble in sensationalism but instead provide us with the real news, will verify facts before presenting them as information written in stone, will not conduct trials and make judgements but instead leave that to the law courts, will not falsely accuse and tarnish a person's good name and relegate any rectification to the smallest print in the most remote corner of a newspaper?
- that the health professionals will look at us as human beings in distress who need support and due treatment, and not burden us with unnecessary and costly investigations? That they will not prescribe treatment that will be worse than the disease, and that they will inject compassion in the care which is our due?
- that patients will not pressurize doctors to do unnecessary X Rays, scans, blood tests because their friends or relatives have had these done too?
- that patients will await their turn and not jump the queue when they come to hospital or health center, in the same manner as they follow the rules in other places, such as the bank or the post office?
- that teachers will teach with passion and interest, that students will be respectful of their teachers and accept the need for discipline and order in the schools and colleges? That the 'ministry' will not tolerate indiscipline and side with pupils who have political connections?
- that parents will fully assume their role and responsibility as regards the behaviour of their wards, and that they will not bully the teachers or principals - and that too in front of the unruly student - who are doing their level best to inculcate values and impart education that will prepare their wards for life?
- that priests will not exploit the vulnerabilities and weaknesses of people who are seeking solace, and that they will refrain from paedophilia?
- that the policeman who books us will be doing so genuinely and not seek a bribe?
- that we will neither bribe nor be bribable?

We can go on, but this list is representative enough of all types of situations in which the common citizen may get involved.

We have flagged the issue of trust and the idea, and the rest is up to **all** of us: to ponder seriously and to act accordingly, so as to reduce and if possible, to eliminate the trust deficit that prevails, and to enhance the moral atmosphere in society. And make it a society worth living in, and which we can be proud to leave to our children. If not for us, at least we can do that for them?

Election day: What are Scotland, England, Wales voting for?

Voters in England, Scotland and Wales headed to the polls yesterday in a series of different elections, with a vote for the Scottish parliament and one for a seat in Westminster in focus for clues to Britain's future political landscape.

Following is a rundown by Reuters of all the elections and what they might tell us:

Scottish Elections

All 129 members of the Scottish parliament will be elected on Thursday under a mixed system which allows voters to first vote for an area or constituency member of the Scottish parliament and then another vote for a political party.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has said if the Scottish National Party wins a majority it will give her a mandate to demand a second referendum on independence, after one in 2014 when Scots voted by 55% to 45% to stay in the United Kingdom.

Sturgeon could still call for another referendum if there is a majority of pro-independence parties in the Scottish parliament. The Greens, which back a new referendum, have supported the SNP in government and could provide Sturgeon will the fire-power to argue for another poll.

Opinion polls are predicting very different results, from the SNP failing to win a majority to other showing the party winning a narrow or larger majority.

Hartlepool By-Election

Voters in the northern English town of Hartlepool will elect a new member of the Westminster parliament after the mem-



Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Pic - AP

ber of parliament, Mike Hill, resigned over facing an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment.

Hartlepool has voted for the main opposition Labour Party since 1974, a pattern the governing Conservative Party is hoping to break by trying to capitalise on the government's Covid-19 vaccination programme and promises of more jobs.

A Conservative victory would also suggest that the public are not overly concerned by a series of scandals buffeting Prime Minister Boris Johnson, including one over the financing of the renovation of his flat at No. 11 Downing Street.

Labour leader Keir Starmer will also want to hold onto the

parliamentary seat after he was elected to take the helm of the party after leftist former leader Jeremy Corbyn failed to win victory in a 2019 national election.

It is Starmer's first test as Labour leader and if the seat is won by the Conservatives, he could face questions from leftist members of his party.

Mayors

London will vote in elections for the mayor of London, a post which has outsized influence over government even though it does not run the City of London financial district.

Incumbent Sadiq Khan of Labour, London's first Muslim mayor, is expected to win again. Londoners will also elect 25 members of the London Assembly.

There are also elections for mayors in different regions and cities across England, with the Conservatives hoping to hold onto the West Midlands post among others.

Wales

Welsh voters will elect the 60 members of the Welsh parliament, called Senedd Cymru, under a mixed system when they are offered two ballots - one for the constituency and another for a party for the region.

Labour has won the biggest share of the vote in every parliamentary election since 1999 and faces its biggest challenge from the Conservatives, which are still behind in the opinion polls.

England's Local Elections

Elections will be held for 143 English local councils, or more than 5,000 seats. The Conservatives want to increase their numbers of local councils, especially in areas in northern and central England, which voted, often for the first time, for Johnson's party in 2019.

There will also be elections for Police and Crime Commissioners.

Germany, WHO to set up global data hub to fight pandemics

German Health Minister Jens Spahn called on Wednesday for a "global reset" in the fight against pandemics as Germany and the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the creation of a new global hub in Berlin for gathering data on pandemics.



WHO office in Geneva, Switzerland. Pic - Reuters

Speaking at a virtual news conference attended also by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the head of the WHO, Spahn said the world was still insufficiently prepared for pandemics.

"We need to identify pandemic and epidemic risks as quickly as possible, wherever they occur in the world," Spahn said.

"For that aim, we need to strengthen the global early warning surveillance system with improved collection of health-related data and inter-disciplinary risk analysis."

The new hub in Berlin, bringing together governmental, academic

and private sector institutions, aims to harness global data to predict, prevent and respond to pandemic and epidemic risks worldwide.

"There will be more viruses that will emerge with the potential of sparking pandemics," WHO chief TedrosAdhanom Ghebreyesus told the news conference.

The WHO has been criticised for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, sparked by a new coronavirus that emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

France threatens to turn lights off in Jersey over Brexit fish row

France has suggested it could cut power supplies to the British Channel Island of Jersey if its fishermen are not granted full access to UK fishing waters under the post-Brexit trading terms, reports Reuters.

Seas Minister Annick Girardin said she was "disgusted" to learn that Jersey had issued 41 licenses with unilaterally-imposed conditions, including the time French fishing vessels could spend in its waters.

"In the (Brexit) deal there are retaliatory measures. Well, we're ready to use them," Girardin told France's National Assembly on Tuesday.

"Regarding Jersey, I remind you of the delivery of electricity along underwater cables ... Even if it would be regrettable if we had to do it, we'll do it if we have to."

With a population of 108,000, Jersey imports 95% of its electricity from France, with diesel



Jean-Philippe Ledamoisel, 46, owner of the fishing boat Gros Minet, looks after a spider crab on the deck near Le Havre, France, 7 May 2020. Pic - EPA

generators and gas turbines providing backup, according to energy news agency S&P Global Platts.

Jersey's government said that France and the European Union had expressed their unhappiness with the conditions placed on the issuance of fishing licenses.

The rocky island sits just 14 miles (23 km) off the northern French coast and 85 miles (137 km) south of Britain's shores.

The French threat is the latest flare up over fishing rights between the two countries.

Last month, French trawlermen angered by delays to licences to fish inside British waters blocked lorries carrying UK-landed fish with burning barricades as they arrived in Boulogne-sur-Mer, Europe's largest seafood processing centre.

More on page 6

New Zealand calls out Uyghur rights abuse in China



Atrocities against Uighurs. Pic - Reuters

New Zealand's parliament on Wednesday unanimously declared that severe human rights abuses were taking place against Uyghur people in China's Xinjiang region, but did not label the situation a genocide because of a government objection.

All parties discussed and supported a motion by the smaller ACT Party but only after it was watered down to drop the word "genocide" from the text.

In parliament, ACT's deputy leader, Brooke van Velden, said she had to insert the phrase "severe human rights abuses" instead, in order to secure the approval of the ruling Labour Party, led by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

"Our conscience demands that if we believe there is a genocide, we should say so," Van Velden added.

The Chinese embassy in Wellington did not immediately

respond to telephone calls to seek comment.

Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta defended the government's decision not to use the term, saying it had raised concerns several times with China but had not formally designated the situation as constituting a genocide.

"This is not due to a lack of concern," added Mahuta. "Genocide is the gravest of international crimes and a formal legal determination should only be reached following a rigorous assessment on the basis of international law."

She added that New Zealand in concert with other governments would keep up its calls for China to provide meaningful and unfettered access to the United Nations and other independent observers to ascertain the situation.

In a speech in Auckland this week, Chinese ambassador Wu Xi said accusations of forced labour or genocide in Xinjiang were lies and rumours fabricated by anti-China forces without any evidence.

Seychelles, world's most vaccinated nation, reinforces curbs as Covid cases rise

Seychelles, which has fully vaccinated more of its population against Covid-19 than any other country, has closed schools and canceled sporting activities for two weeks as infections surge.

The measures, which include bans on the intermingling of households and the early closure of bars, come even as the country has fully vaccinated more than 60% of its adult population with two doses of coronavirus vaccines. The curbs are similar to those last imposed at the end of 2020, reports Bloomberg.



A medical personnel injects the first dose of the Chinese Covid-19 vaccine produced by Sinopharm at the Seychelles Hospital in Victoria. Pic - AFP

"Despite of all the exceptional efforts we are making, the Covid-19 situation in our country is critical right now with many daily cases reported last week," Peggy Vidot, the nation's health minister, said at a press conference Tuesday.

The Indian Ocean archipelago, which has a population of about 98,000, is dependent on tourism for much of its foreign exchange and acted quickly to begin vaccinations in January using a donation of Chinese vaccines from the United Arab Emirates. It has procured other vaccines since.

By April 12, 59% of the doses administered were Sinopharm vaccines and the rest were Covishield, a version of AstraZeneca Plc's shot made under license in India.

To date 62.2% of its eligible population is fully vaccinated, according to the Bloomberg Vaccine Tracker. That compares with 55.9% for Israel, the next most vaccinated nation.

Officials at the press conference gave little detail on what could be behind the infection surge other than to say people were taking fewer precautions against the virus than before and the surge may be due to celebrations after Easter.

The number of active cases in the nation rose to 1,068 on May 3 from 612 on April 28, according to health ministry announcements.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Concerned at Chinese firms being kept out of India's 5G trials: China



Against the backdrop of the year-long military standoff with China along the Line of Actual Control, Chinese companies such as Huawei and ZTE didn't find a place in India's 5G technology and spectrum trials. Pic - Reuters

China on Wednesday expressed concern and regret at Chinese telecommunications companies being kept out of India's 5G technology and spectrum trials and called on India to "do more to enhance mutual trust" between the two sides.

The department of telecommunications on Tuesday gave permission to mobile service operators Bharti Airtel, Reliance JioInfocomm, Vodafone Idea and MTNL and network providers such as state-run C-DOT, Sweden's Ericsson, Finland's Nokia and South Korea's Samsung to conduct trials across the country for six months.

Against the backdrop of the year-long military standoff

with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Chinese companies such as Huawei and ZTE didn't find a place in the trials. The Indian side has repeatedly said complete disengagement and de-escalation at friction points along the LAC will be the basis for taking forward relations in other spheres, including business.

Responding to the department of telecommunications' decision not to include Chinese firms in the trials, Chinese embassy spokesperson Wang Xiaojian expressed "concern and regret that Chinese telecommunications companies have not been permitted to conduct 5G trials with Indian telecom service providers", reports Hindustan Times.

Since the start of the border standoff in May last year, India banned more than 260 Chinese-origin mobile phone apps and curbed foreign direct investments from China.

There have been long-standing security concerns regarding the participation of Chinese firms such as Huawei and ZTE in India's 5G trials. Former US president Donald Trump had also pressured India not to allow these firms to participate in the trials.

India and China agreed to withdraw their forces from the north and south banks of Pangong Lake in February, but the process of disengagement and de-escalation at other friction points on the LAC has been stalled. The Chinese side's suggestion that the border issue be delinked from other aspects of bilateral ties such as trade and investment has been rebuffed by New Delhi.

Jocelyn Chan Low

“Il n’y a pas eu de révolution citoyenne à Maurice, et il n’y en aura pas”

Plusieurs gouvernements font face à des critiques acerbes à cause des décisions prises pour confiner, voire reconfiner, la population et implémenter des mesures drastiques. La République de Maurice ne fait pas figure d’exception tandis que la situation économique et sociale ne montre aucun signe d’amélioration. Serait-il possible d’assurer la relève avec une opposition crédible ou le PM actuel est-il inamovible? Nous avons invité Jocelyn Chan Low, historien, à exprimer le fond de sa pensée.



Mauritius Times: Les choses vont probablement s’accélérer sur le plan politique après ces dernières semaines de confinement. Comment se présentent les choses à la fois pour le Gouvernement qui aura à gérer une situation économique et sociale difficile, et pour l’opposition qui cherche toujours à s’imposer comme une alternative sérieuse et crédible?

Jocelyn Chan Low: Tout d’abord, pour le Gouvernement, la priorité des priorités reste le budget : il faudra bien relancer la machine économique durement secouée par la crise sanitaire. Il ne faut pas oublier qu’un grand nombre de secteurs et de citoyens doivent leur survie aux dotations gouvernementales, elles-mêmes tributaires des milliards de roupies empruntées de la Banque de Maurice. C’est une situation qui ne peut perdurer. Et la menace de stagflation est réelle.

Mais sortir de cette situation n’est pas aisée car il n’y a guère de visibilité quant à l’évolution de la pandémie dans le monde avec l’apparition de nouveaux variants du virus et à la reprise de la croissance au niveau de l’économie mondiale, desquelles nous sommes extrêmement dépendants.

“La rue ne pourrait renverser un gouvernement élu à Maurice. Elle pourrait tout au plus le contraindre à changer certaines pratiques. Quant au judiciaire, on ne pourrait commenter un cas en Cour. Le seul commentaire qu’on pourrait se hasarder à faire, c’est que le temps de la justice est un temps long...”

Il est vrai que certains analystes misent sur la vaccination de masse et la ‘herd immunity’ qui pourrait, par exemple, amener la relance de notre industrie touristique. Mais attention: Seychelles qui a vacciné plus de 62% de sa population et a rouvert son secteur touristique, est en ce moment même en train de faire marche arrière. La flambée des cas de Covid-19 dans le pays a contraint les autorités à introduire de nouveau des mesures drastiques: fermeture des écoles, restrictions de mouvement des personnes, etc.

De même, il est vrai que certains prédisent un boom économique post- Covid à l’instar du ‘Roaring 20s’, ayant eu lieu après la pandémie de la Grippe espagnole de 1918-19, surtout avec la promesse de Joe Biden d’injecter des milliards de dollars dans l’économie américaine et le record de croissance de l’économie chinoise au premier trimestre. Mais il demeure que la situation est incertaine car les problèmes structurels de l’économie mondiale qui existaient avant la pandémie, notamment le surendettement des Etats et des intérêts du secteur privé (*private corporate interests*), ont été démultipliés par la crise sanitaire alors que la nouvelle guerre froide entre la Chine et les Etats-Unis risque de déstabiliser davantage l’économie mondiale. Ainsi le risque d’une crise sociale et économique de grande ampleur est toujours là.

Quant à l’opposition, malgré la conjoncture qui lui est favorable et un certain ras-le-bol de beaucoup de Mauriciens face à certains aspects de l’action gouvernementale, comme le témoigne la grosse affluence aux diverses marches citoyennes, elle n’arrive pas à acculer le Gouvernement. Elle est désespérément divisée et n’arrive toujours pas à proposer une alternative crédible. Par exemple, quelles sont ses propositions pour sortir

de la crise actuelle ?

En fait, il se pourrait qu’on se retrouve dans une lutte à quatre aux prochaines échéances électorales, avec comme conséquence la victoire de l’alliance au pouvoir dirigée par Pravind Jugnauth.

“Si l’opposition arrive tant bien que mal à se fédérer de nouveau autour d’un programme et d’une équipe crédibles, les carottes seront cuites pour le Gouvernement. Mais cela exigera beaucoup de sacrifices parmi les diverses composantes de l’opposition. Est-ce que les différents leaders seront prêts à le faire? *That’s the question!*”

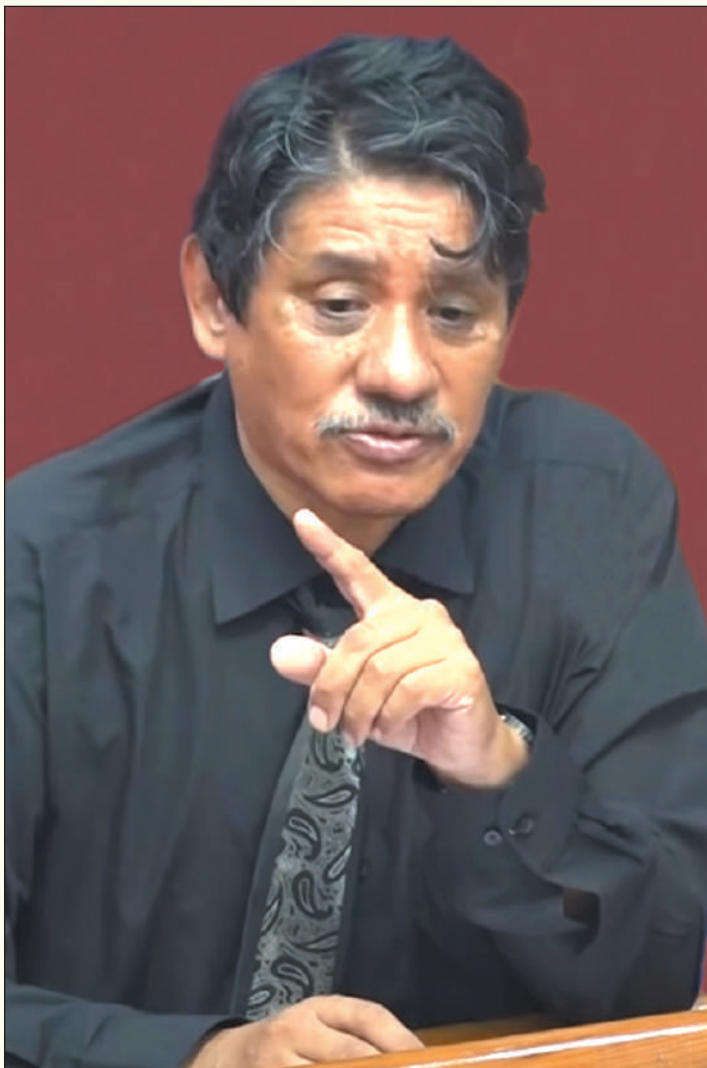
* On parlait de situation économique et sociale difficile et les défis qui guettent le pays en raison des effets de la pandémie de Covid-19, mais il semble toutefois que le Gouvernement arrive à maintenir la barre, cela malgré les maladroites de l’ICTA ou de ses ambassadeurs itinérants, parmi d’autres... Pourquoi en est-il ainsi?

L’erreur de certains, c’était de croire qu’avec des marches citoyennes et des campagnes sur les réseaux sociaux, il y aurait eu un “Printemps mauricien” qui obligerait le Gouvernement à partir alors que la culture politique mauricienne est imprégnée du ‘constitutionnalisme’, c’est-à-dire le respect du cadre légal prévu pour le bon déroulement de la vie politique. Il n’y a pas eu de révolution citoyenne à Maurice, et il n’y en aura pas.

☛ Suite en page 8

“On risque de se retrouver devant une lutte à quatre

où le grand gagnant ne pourrait être que Pravind Jugnauth”



☛ Suite de la page 7

Et ceux qui font croire le contraire risquent de se décrédibiliser à la longue.

Le seul moyen de faire partir le Gouvernement, c'est à travers des élections libres et démocratiques et en présentant une alternative démocratique crédible. Mais l'opposition n'arrive toujours pas à trouver une formule d'entente qui pourrait fédérer les forces disparates derrière une équipe compétente, dynamique avec un bon

“La diabolisation de Navin Ramgoolam a porté ses fruits même après les élections de 2019. Pour preuve, l'éclatement du front uni de l'opposition récemment. Cependant, rien n'est encore joué. Tout dépendra de la capacité de Navin Ramgoolam de rebondir au sein de l'électorat. Tout dépendra aussi de sa capacité à tirer les leçons qui s'imposent s'il n'arrive pas à rebondir...”

“Les forces de l'opposition ne semblent pas avoir compris les leçons des élections de novembre 2019 : Pravind Jugnauth a été grandement favorisé par la dispersion des forces de l'opposition. Notre système électoral de *First Past The Post* aurait dû les inviter à ménager leur égo afin de trouver un terrain d'entente pour une plus large fédération possible en vue de relever le défi. Or, il semble que chacun poursuit son agenda...”

dosage d'expérience et de renouveau, et un programme très détaillé qui amènerait un vrai changement dans la gouvernance du pays, et qui ne serait pas une collection de slogans creux balancés sur les réseaux sociaux.

Il est aussi vrai que le Gouvernement aussi - ou certains de ses sbires par excès de zèle? - ont tendance à défaire davantage l'image du régime en place. Les propositions d'amendements à la loi de l'ICTA qui risquent de nous mettre à dos les défenseurs des droits humains au niveau international, au moment même où nous cherchons à sortir de la liste noire européenne des places financières, en est une preuve flagrante...

* Pensez-vous que l'absence des Travailleurs et de leur leader au sein de la nouvelle 'L'Alliance de l'Espoir' y est pour quelque chose dans ses difficultés à se faire un chemin sur l'échiquier politique?

Bien sûr. On ne peut prétendre gagner des élections nationales sans l'apport de la première force d'opposition en termes électoraux dans le pays.

Certes, l'actuel leader du Parti travailliste n'est pas accepté auprès d'une partie de l'électorat des partis de l'Alliance de l'Espoir, surtout en raison de la campagne en vue de ternir sa réputation (*character assassination*) dont il a fait l'objet durant ces dernières années. Mais force est de reconnaître que la cassure de l'opposition l'a revigoré au sein de son électorat.

* Il paraît que le PMSD, qui a connu deux démissions récemment, fait actuellement l'objet d'une opération de déstabilisation, sans doute dirigée par l'alliance au pouvoir. Au train où vont les choses avec un PMSD de plus en plus affaibli et l'alliance MMM-PMSD-Bodha-Reform Party n'arrivant pas à s'imposer, certains diront qu'avec une telle opposition, Pravind Jugnauth n'aura même pas besoin de faire campagne pour 2024. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Le PMSD semble effectivement être la victime d'une opération semblable à celle qui a été menée contre le MMM entre 2014 et 2019. Mais il faut attendre pour con-

naître les retombées de ces démissions qui, effectivement, semblent avoir pour but de semer plus de zizanie au sein de l'opposition dans son ensemble, certains partisans travaillistes se réjouissant, par exemple, des déboires de leur ancien allié.

Comme je le disais auparavant, les forces de l'opposition ne semblent pas avoir compris les leçons des élections de novembre 2019 : Pravind Jugnauth a été grandement favorisé par la dispersion des forces de l'opposition. Notre système électoral de *First Past The Post* aurait dû les inviter à ménager leur égo afin de trouver un terrain d'entente pour une plus large fédération possible en vue de relever le défi. Or, il semble que chacun poursuit son agenda en se tirant chacun une balle dans les pieds. A ce rythme, on risque de se retrouver devant une lutte à quatre où le grand gagnant ne pourrait être que l'actuel Premier ministre.

* Il y aura aussi la tenue des élections municipales dans les prochains mois. L'alliance gouvernementale pourrait choisir de ne pas, contre toute attente, renvoyer la tenue de ces élections dans un but précis: déstabiliser davantage une opposition dispersée, non?

“L'erreur de certains, c'était de croire qu'avec des marches citoyennes et des campagnes sur les réseaux sociaux, il y aurait eu un 'Printemps mauricien' qui obligerait le Gouvernement à partir alors que la culture politique mauricienne est imprégnée du 'constitutionnalisme', c'est-à-dire le respect du cadre légal prévu pour le bon déroulement de la vie politique. Il n'y a pas eu de révolution citoyenne à Maurice, et il n'y en aura pas...”

Évidemment, la situation actuelle lui est favorable. Les effets de la crise sociale et économique ont été, en partie, contenus par la manne gouvernementale, les travailleurs indépendants (*self-employed*) ont reçu une aide de l'Etat. Malgré les ratés, la deuxième vague de la Covid-19 a été contenue ou tout au moins, nous ne sommes plus en confinement total (*total lockdown*). Et surtout l'opposition est irrémédiablement divisée (*hopelessly divided*), après avoir été hors jeu sur le terrain pendant le confinement, ses députés n'ayant pas reçu de WAPs, à la différence des PPS, etc. En outre, avec la Covid-19, la participation aux municipales sera très faible - elle est en général en-dessous de 50%. Et, avec les restrictions imposées par la Covid Act, mener une campagne serait très ardue, surtout si l'on se trouve du côté de l'opposition...

☛ Suite en page 9

'Les forces de l'opposition ne semblent pas avoir compris les leçons des élections de novembre 2019'



“On ne peut prétendre gagner des élections nationales sans l'apport de la première force d'opposition en termes électorales dans le pays. Certes, l'actuel leader du PTr n'est pas accepté auprès d'une partie de l'électorat des partis de l'Alliance de l'Espoir, surtout en raison de la campagne en vue de ternir sa réputation dont il a fait l'objet durant ces dernières années. Mais force est de reconnaître que la cassure de l'opposition l'a revigoré...”

➔ Suite de la page 8

* Par ailleurs, on sait que Navin Ramgoolam ne s'intéressera à une alliance avec les autres forces de l'opposition que s'il la dirige. Mais il faut aussi noter l'intérêt que porte le MSM, pour des raisons évidentes, pour que Ramgoolam soit à tout prix le leader d'une telle alliance. Difficile donc dans ces conditions de construire une opposition capable de tenir tête à l'alliance gouvernementale, non?

La diabolisation de Navin Ramgoolam a porté ses fruits même après les élections de 2019. Pour preuve, l'éclatement du front uni de l'opposition récemment.

Cependant, rien n'est encore joué. Tout dépendra de la capacité de Navin Ramgoolam de rebondir au sein de l'électorat. Tout dépendra aussi de sa capacité à tirer les leçons qui s'imposent s'il n'arrive pas à rebondir et à nommer un successeur qui pourrait fédérer toute l'opposition.

Il faudra donner du temps au temps pour savoir ce qui adviendra.

* Qu'est-ce qui pourrait gâcher, selon vous, les plans politiques de l'alliance gouvernementale dans les prochains mois?

Tout d'abord, il y a la possibilité de l'aggravation de la crise économique qui a été jusqu'ici cachée par les milliards de la Banque de Maurice et autres emprunts. Il ne faut pas oublier que presque tous les secteurs économiques sont au rouge et que l'industrie touristique, très importante pour les emplois et les entrées de devises étrangères, ne retrouvera sa vitesse de croisière qu'en 2024. Si les pertes d'emploi et le chômage explosent en même temps que le coût de la vie augmente, la situation deviendra très chaude pour le Gouvernement.

Ensuite, si l'opposition arrive tant bien que mal à se fédérer de nouveau autour d'un programme et d'une équipe crédibles, les carottes seront cuites pour le Gouvernement. Mais cela exigera beaucoup de sacrifices parmi les diverses composantes de l'opposition. Est-ce que les différents leaders seront prêts à le faire? *That's the question!*

* On soutient qu'une proportion marginale des sommes allouées à la Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd pour la relance de l'économie a été décaissée et que le Gouvernement serait en train de se construire un trésor de guerre financier qu'il entend utiliser lorsque le moment politique sera propice - c'est-à-dire à la veille des prochaines élections générales...

Beaucoup d'observateurs le disaient déjà à l'époque du budget : Il est impossible de dépenser des sommes faramineuses en l'espace d'une année budgétaire eu égard aux procédures bureaucratiques relatives au 'Capital Budget'. Et ce n'est pas la première fois que ce budget n'est pas entamé dans sa totalité.

Une simple analyse des dépenses des divers budgets au fil des années confirmera cela. Maintenant que ce qui reste soit utilisé à un moment propice pour gagner les élections de 2024 dépendra de l'évolution économique du pays et d'autres contraintes budgétaires d'ici là. Il est trop tôt pour spéculer.

* Il faut aussi s'attendre à ce que le Gouvernement revienne avec sa "winning formula" pour remporter les élections: une nouvelle augmentation de la pension de vieillesse, et les maladresses des uns et des autres seront vite oubliées...

Les élections se gagnent soit à travers le jeu des alliances ou encore dépendant de la campagne qui y est menée. Mais il y a un phénomène qu'on décèle de plus en plus dans certaines démocraties, notamment en Europe : l'écart grandissant entre les vieux - ici on parle de 'baby boomers' - et la génération d'aujourd'hui qui

leur reproche d'avoir gâché leur monde et leur avenir.

A Maurice, on a vu, au fil des marches citoyennes, une socialisation politique nouvelle d'une partie de la jeunesse mauricienne, qui en outre aura à payer les largesses du Gouvernement envers les aînés en sus des dettes énormes qui ont été accumulées à travers les déficits budgétaires.

* La contestation de la rue en vue de chasser l'alliance MSM-ML du pouvoir semble avoir perdu de sa vigueur, et certains pensent que c'est le judiciaire seul qui, en fin de compte, sera en mesure de décanter la situation - avec les décisions qu'il sera éventuellement appelé à prendre par rapport aux pétitions électorales et d'autres affaires qui pourraient être logées dans les mois à venir. Votre opinion?

La rue ne pourrait renverser un gouvernement élu à Maurice. Elle pourrait tout au plus le contraindre à changer certaines pratiques. Quant au judiciaire, on ne pourrait commenter un cas en Cour. Le seul commentaire qu'on pourrait se hasarder à faire, c'est que le temps de la justice est un temps long.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of

Vijaykumar Ramchurn

"Chaque homme dans sa nuit s'en va vers sa lumière"

— Victor Hugo,
Les Contemplations



Mr Vijaykumar Ramchurn passed away on the 1st of May 2021 at the age of 73. In his last years, he showed tremendous courage and dignity in his fight against serious medical issues.

Notwithstanding the pain, he was the keystone for his family until the end.

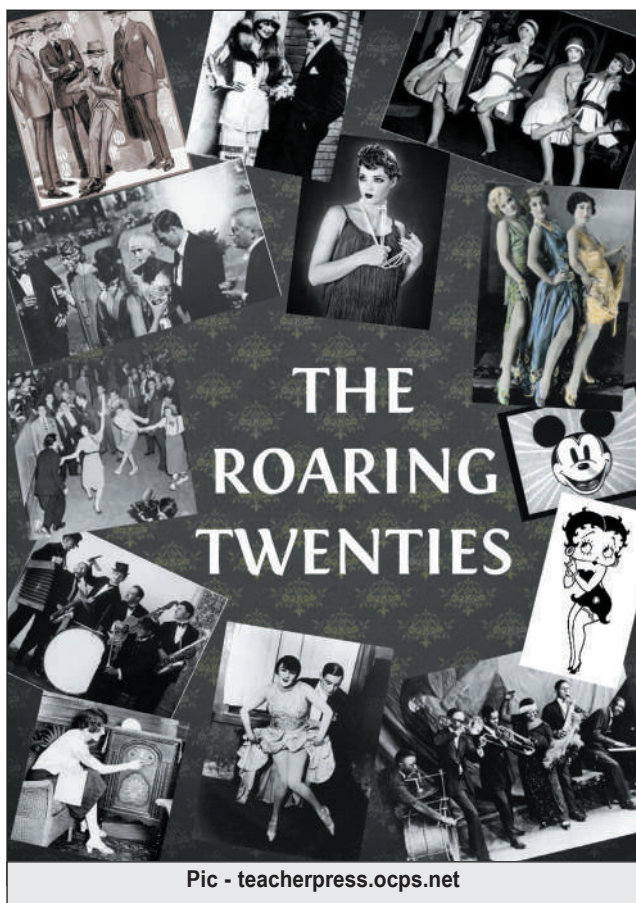
The child of Mr Charitur Ramchurn and Mrs Tarah Prithipaul, Mr Ramchurn spent his childhood in Ward IV, Port Louis and attended the Royal College of Curepipe.

Following his undergraduate studies, he joined the teaching profession. He was the Head of Department of English at St Andrew's School and the Rector at N. Saddul College.

An avid reader and a prolific writer, Mr Ramchurn authored 'Let us Dare: a work on national unity', as well as a widely used General Paper textbook and articles on a myriad of subjects. He was a great teacher cherished by his students, a wonderful father, a loving husband and more importantly a good man.

He is survived by his wife, Kesswaree and their four children, Harsha, Chetan, Keshini and Jaya.

Will the end of the Covid-19 pandemic usher in a second Roaring '20s?



nightclubs, jazz performers and flappers — people having fun. But fun costs money. No doubt, there will be plenty of celebration and relief when things return to a version of normality, but hedonism will probably be out of reach for most.

Young people in particular have been hard hit by the financial pressures of Covid-19. Workers aged 16-24 face high unemployment and an uncertain future. While some have managed to weather the economic storm of this past year, the gap between rich and poor has widened.

Inequality and isolationism

Of course, the 1920s was not a period of unadulterated joy for everyone. Economic inequality was a problem then just as it is now. And while society became more liberal in some ways, governments also enacted harsher and more punitive policies, particularly when it came to immigration — specifically from Asian countries.

The Immigration Act of 1924 limited immigration to the

US and targeted Asians. Australia and New Zealand also restricted or ended Asian immigration and in Canada, the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923 imposed similar limitations.

There are troubling signs that this might be the main point of similarity between then and now. Anti-Asian sentiment has increased and many countries are using Covid-19 as a way of justifying harsh border restrictions and isolationist policies.

In our optimism for the future, we must remain alert to all the different kinds of damage the pandemic could cause. Just as disease can be a mechanism for positive social change, it can also entrench inequalities and further divide nations and communities.

Agnes Arnold-Forster,

*Researcher, History of Medicine and Healthcare,
McGill University*

Cont. from page 2

Young people have certainly been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic: the virus has posed a threat to those with underlying health conditions or disabilities of all ages, and some of the variants have been more likely to affect younger people. A year of lockdowns and shelter-in-place orders has had a damaging effect on mental and emotional health, and young people have experienced increased anxiety.

However, the relief of surviving the Covid-19 pandemic might not feel quite the same as that experienced by those who made it through the 1918 influenza pandemic, which posed an immediate risk of death to those in their 20s and 30s.

1918 vs. 2020

Crucially, the 1918 flu came immediately after the First World War, which produced its own radical reconstitution of the social order. Despite the drama and tragedy of 2020, the changes we are living through now might be insufficient to produce the kind of social transformation witnessed in the 1920s. One of the key features of the Roaring '20s was an upending of traditional values, a shift in gender dynamics and the flourishing of gay culture.

While the prospect of similar things happening in the 2020s might seem promising, the pandemic has reinforced, rather than challenged, traditional gender roles. There is evidence for this all over the world, but in the United States research suggests that the risk of mothers leaving the labour force to take up caring responsibilities at home amounts to around US\$64.5 billion per year in lost wages and economic activity.

When most people think of the Roaring '20s they probably call to mind images of



VACANCY NOTICE

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), established by the MRA Act 2004, is a body corporate and acts as an agent of the State for revenue collection, management of the Revenue Laws and the provision of an enhanced service to the business community and taxpayers. As an equal opportunity employer, the MRA endeavours to attract and retain the services of high calibre employees to attain its objectives.

The MRA is looking for qualified and experienced candidates, with proven integrity, for the following posts:

- i. TECHNICAL OFFICER, INTERNAL AUDIT
- ii. OFFICER, INTERNAL AUDIT
- iii. ASSISTANT DATA SCIENTIST

Mode of Application:

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications, online, together with all relevant scanned documents, through the MRA Website www.mra.mu under the "Careers" tab, where all information is available. Candidates are also advised to read the **Instructions to Candidates** posted on the same platform.

Closing Date: 24 May 2021

MRA reserves the right:

- i. to call only the **best qualified and experienced** candidates for the selection exercise; and
- ii. not to make any appointment as a result of this advertisement.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

06 May 2021

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius

T: +230 202 0500 | F: +230 216 4317 | E: humanresourcesandtraining@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu

C-Change

Did you notice that the alphabet "C" has shot to prominence in this Covid-19 era? See the sea of change that the alphabet "C" has brought!

No one expected that the alphabet "C" would play a completely overwhelming role compared with any of the other alphabets...

Cough (C)
Cold (C)
Coronavirus (C)
Covid-19 (C)
Case (C)
Confirmed (C)
Confinement (C)
Contamination (C)
Containment (C)
Curfew (C)

Two most serious "C"s are:

Cemetery (C)
Cremation (C)



The possible remedial drug is
Covaxin, Covishield, Chloroquine (C)
The beauty is, it started from China (C).

But at the same time God smiled,
and said:

Cleanliness is the remedy.
Courage is the need of the hour.
Compliance to expert advice.
Contention to overcome the crisis.
Clarity of thought.
Cooperation with the fellow beings...
Caring for the needy...

and finally...

"Clearance" is awaited and in a short while..

"Cure" is definitely going to
"come".....

Till then take vitamin C...

Impact of Digitalization and automation... Lol!!!



C'est la crise, mais joliment dit !

Les problèmes des boulangers sont croissants...

Alors que les bouchers veulent défendre leur beefsteak,

Les éleveurs de volailles se font plumer,

Les éleveurs de chiens sont aux abois,

Les pêcheurs haussent le ton !

Et bien sûr, les éleveurs de porcs sont dans la merde,

Tandis que les céréaliers sont sur la paille.

Par ailleurs, alors que les brasseurs sont sous pression,

Les viticulteurs trinquent.

Heureusement les électriciens résistent.

Mais pour les couvreurs, c'est la tuile

Et certains plombiers prennent carrément la fuite.

Dans l'industrie automobile, les salariés débrayent,

Dans l'espoir que la direction fasse marche arrière.

Chez CEB les syndicats sont sous tension,

Mais la direction ne semble pas au courant.

Les cheminots voudraient garder leur train de vie,

Mais la crise est arrivée sans crier gare,

Alors... les veilleurs de nuits, eux, vivent

au jour le jour.

Pendant que les pédicures travaillent d'arrache-pied.

Les croupiers jouent le tout pour le tout,

Les dessinateurs font grise mine,

Les militaires partent en retraite,

Les imprimeurs dépriment

Et les météorologistes sont en dépression.

Les prostituées se retrouvent à la rue.

Amis, c'est vraiment une mauvaise passe.

Mais rarement les banquiers perdent au change.

True lies

Maximum lies have been told in court with the Holy Book in hand.

Maximum truth have been told in bar with a glass of whiskey in hand.

World's biggest lie men say: No need to ask my wife. My decision is final.

World's biggest lie women say: I will ask my husband and tell you...

When a woman says that she loves her children more than her husband, she is clearly lying".

That's because she can leave her chil-

dren with her neighbours, but she will never leave her husband with a neighbour!

Golden Words....

1. If you want to change the world, do it when you are a bachelor. After marriage, you can't even change a TV channel.

2. Listening to your wife is like reading the terms and conditions of a website. You understand nothing, still you agree.

3. Chess is the only game in the world, which reflects the status of the husband.

The poor King can take only one step at a time... while the mighty Queen can do whatever she likes.

4. All men are brave. Horror movies don't scare them... But five missed calls from wife surely does.

My wife sent me a text, "Your great."

So, naturally, I wrote back, "No, you're great."

She's been walking around all happy and smiling.

Should I tell her I was just correcting her grammar or leave it?



MAURITIUS
REVENUE
AUTHORITY

COMMUNIQUE

SUBMISSION OF RETURNS & PAYMENT OF TAXES

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) informs taxpayers and employers who have been unable to submit any return or pay tax that were due during the lockdown period, 10 March 2021 to 30 April 2021, that no penalty or interest would be applied provided the return is submitted and the tax, if any, is paid by 31 May 2021.

Additionally, for returns that are due in the month of May 2021, no penalty or interest would be applied provided the return is submitted and the tax, if any, is paid by 28 June 2021.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), with turnover not exceeding Rs 50 million, will have up to 15 July 2021 for the submission of VAT return and payment of VAT, if any, that were due on 31 March 2021.

The MRA also wishes to inform taxpayers and employers that it is a legal obligation to submit returns, with respect to Income Tax/ VAT/ PAYE/ TDS/ APS/Gaming and Betting and Social Contributions (CSG/NSF/T.Levy/RCF) and effect payment of tax, if any, electronically.

For further details, kindly visit the MRA website: www.mra.mu or phone the MRA Helpdesk on 207 6000 during working hours or send an email at headoffice@mra.mu

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

03 May 2021

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius
T: +230 207 6000 | F: +230 207 6048 | M: headoffice@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu





Kimberley Brownlee

I am a 78-year-old woman with a loving husband, three sons, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren. However, I was recently diagnosed with cancer. The initial surgery was successful, but I was left wondering whether I should opt for further treatment, and all the suffering it might cause, or take my chances without it. I have, after all, lived a long and happy life. While I have now thankfully been cured, I am still left wondering: do we have a moral obligation to live for as long as possible? -- Ann, Tarbert, Scotland

There are many answers to this question - especially during a pandemic - and probably no clear solution. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't think about it. Indeed, by considering such questions we can discover some of the most enlightening perspectives on life.

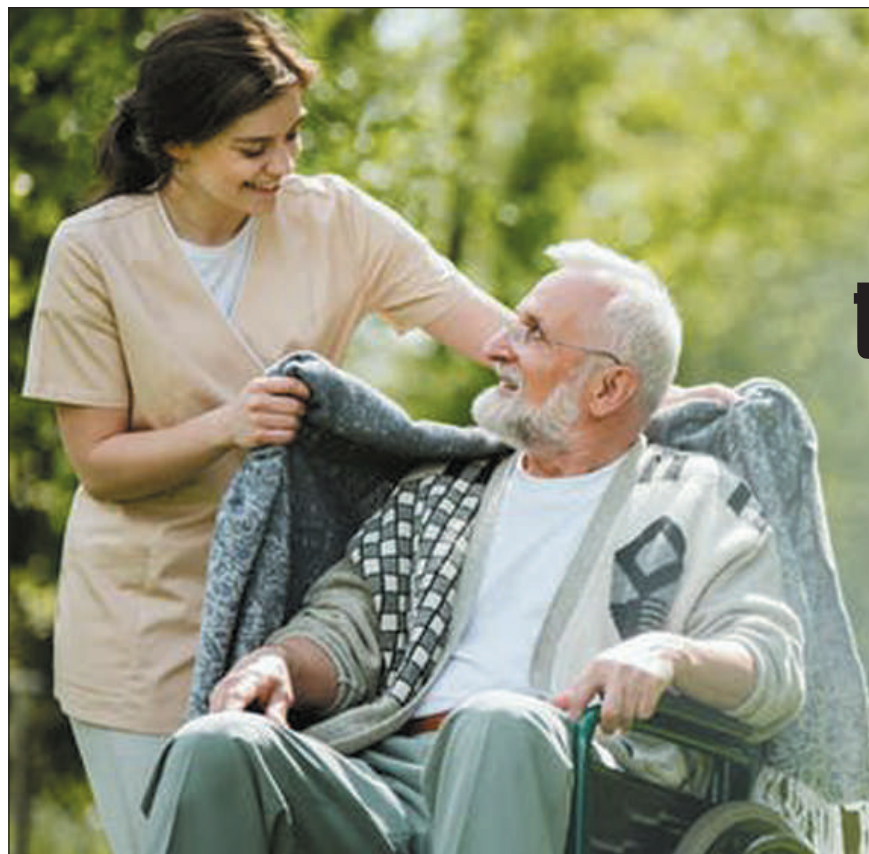
So let me approach this issue as a philosopher - and define first exactly what we mean by a "moral obligation". A moral obligation or a moral duty is a morally required form of conduct. Obligations can be perfect, leaving us no wriggle room - for instance, the duty not to kill unjustly. Obligations can also be imperfect, giving us some flexibility in when and how we honour them, such as the duty to be beneficent. Obligations can be context-specific, such as the duty to meet someone at 3pm as promised. And, they can be general, including the duty not to steal without necessity or the duty to try to save someone's life when we can do so at little cost to ourselves.

Blanket moral obligation

In my view, we cannot have a blanket moral obligation to live for as long as possible regardless of our circumstances. Each life is unique and, for some people, continuing to live is a horrific experience. But, we can have an obligation to prolong our lives when certain conditions are met.

To add some clarity, here are some thoughts on two different sets of circumstances: living in isolation and living with others. These cases rely on some imagination, but then imagination is the tool that allows us to see dilemmas from alternative perspectives.

Imagine I am a solitary person, strand-



Everybody has the right to a decent life. Photographeeu/Shutterstock

ed on a distant and deserted island surrounded by a vast expanse of ocean. I have no one to love, no one who misses me, and my only hope of escaping the island and meeting another person again lies wrecked in the waves: the ship that brought me here. Now, I will likely want to survive, but that is a different thing. What we need to consider is whether, given my plight, I have an obligation to live for as long as possible.

I might, if my duties to respect myself include me prolonging my life. The German philosopher Immanuel Kant's categorical imperative states that we have a duty to treat all people including ourselves as ends to be respected and not merely as means. But respecting myself need not entail striving to live an impressively long life. I have a duty to care for my mind and my body and, as a result, I may live healthily for a long time. But that doesn't mean that living for as long as possible must be my aim or responsibility.

Even so, I might still have an obligation to prolong my life for a different reason. The people who raised me and were sufficiently invested in my fortunes to ensure I survived into adulthood might have a claim on me. This would suggest that this Robinson Crusoe version of me should care for myself now, to honour their investment.

In his book 'Happiness', the Buddhist monk Matthieu Ricard quotes the words spoken by a mother to her son shortly before her death:

Don't think you're paying me some kind of great tribute if you let my death become the great event of your life. The best tribute you can pay to me as a mother is to go on and have a good and fulfilling life.

But living a "good and fulfilling life" is

not the same as living for as long as possible. Indeed, living a good life, not a long life, may be the best way to honour our guardians' investment in us.

And what if those who raised me have passed away - do they still have a claim? Similarly, what if they are living, but will never know how I fared? Will their lives be worse if I don't prolong my life indefinitely? Probably not. They likely think I am already lost forever.

When we have dependants, particularly young children in our care, we arguably do have a duty to try to keep ourselves safe and healthy for as long as they need us. But that doesn't mean we have an obligation to live for as long as possible when they no longer depend on us. S Matthew Liao, a bioethicist at New York University, has argued that children have a human right during childhood to be loved, and that we all have a duty to ensure that children are loved because this is crucial to their lives and development. Once they have grown, our love-giving duties subside, but do not entirely disappear.

There's a flip side to this, too. When we become dependent on our loved ones as we age, do we have an obligation to prolong our life or, alternatively, to end it - so that we're not a financial or emotional anchor or an additional burden on our overcrowded, exhausted planet?

This question is an easy one to answer. People should never think of themselves as a "burden" or a "problem to be solved". Every human being has a right to life and to lead a life that is at least minimally decent, free from degradation, cruelty, undue harm and unfairness. No one person has any more entitlement than any other to live in this world. We are all worthy of a place here, and older people should be treasured by their families, friends and societies.

Do we have a moral obligation to live for as long as possible?

If you are shipwrecked on a desert island with no hope of being rescued, you may not be morally obligated to stay alive

Yet not everyone accepts this. The pandemic has held up a moral mirror to our treatment of older people and found it to be abysmal. Even though many countries have taken an age-attentive approach to vaccinations, older people have nonetheless borne much of the brunt of Covid-19.

Doing versus allowing

One final thorny question concerns doing versus allowing. Sometimes it's unclear whether I am actively doing something, such as prolonging my life or seeking to end it, or simply allowing things to happen to me, such as letting doctors pursue a course of treatment (or not) with the result that my life extends or comes to a close.

The availability of various medical options can make the people who love me feel that they have failed me: "I should have convinced her to have surgery. I shouldn't have let the medical staff opt for comfort-care only. I should have been her advocate. I should have pushed for her to stay in the hospital longer." But, there is a natural arc to a life well lived, and well-being is not the same thing as biological self interest or longevity.

I have written all of this in the language of obligation since that was the language in which you posed your question. But the language of obligation is a strong one.

We might do better to ask whether we have good reasons to prolong our lives or whether we act virtuously if we seek to prolong our lives. Courage is a virtue that figures centrally at the end of life. To quote the poet Dylan Thomas, it takes courage to "rage against the dying of the light". But it also takes courage to bear our mild yoke and, contradicting Thomas, opt to "go gentle into that good night".



Women don't tell lies!

While getting married, most of the guys say to girl's parents, "I will keep your daughter happy for the rest of her life."

Have you ever heard a girl saying something like this to the boy's parents: "I will keep your son happy for the rest of his life..."?

No... because women don't tell lies!



A small argument between a couple turns violent.

Husband says: Don't let the animal in me come out!

Wife replies: Who's afraid of a mouse?

If wife wants husband's attention, she

just has to look sad and uncomfortable.

If husband wants wife's attention, he just has to look comfortable and happy.

A philosopher husband said: Every wife is a 'mistress' of her husband.

"Miss" for first year and "Stress" for rest of his life.

Do you remember the tingling feeling when you took the decision to get married?

That was common sense leaving your body.

Son: Dad, I got selected for a role in a play for the Annual Day celebration!

Dad: What role are you playing?

Son: A husband!

Dad: Stupid, ask for a role with dialogues!

Man, outside phone booth: "Excuse me, you are holding the phone since 29 minutes and you haven't spoken a word."

Man inside: "I am talking to my wife!"

A very intelligent girl was asked the meaning of marriage.

She said: "Sacrificing the admiration of a hundred guys... to face the criticism of one idiot."

The position of a husband is just like a Split AC: no matter how loud he is outdoor, he is designed to remain silent indoor!

Husband to wife: You should learn to embrace your mistakes...

She hugged him immediately.

A man was leaving a cafe when he noticed an unusual funeral.

A funeral coffin was followed by a second one. Behind the second coffin was a solitary man walking with a black dog. Behind him was a queue of 200 men walking in single line.

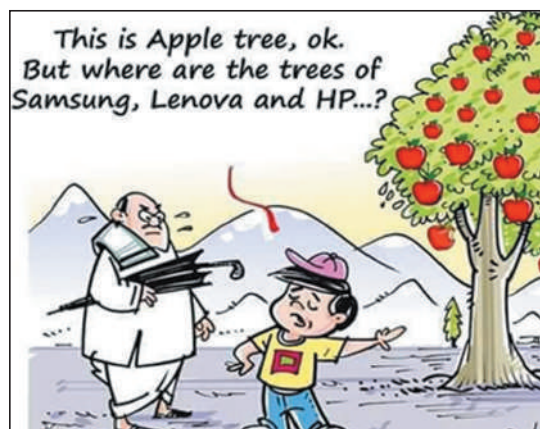
The man couldn't stand his curiosity. He approached the man walking with the dog, "I am so sorry to disturb you, but I've never seen a funeral like this with so many of you walking in single line. Whose funeral is it?"

"The first coffin is for my wife."

"What happened to her?"

"My dog attacked and killed her."

"Well, who is in the second coffin?"



"My mother-in-law. She was trying to help my wife when the dog attacked and killed her also."

A thoughtful moment of silence passes between the two men.

Then the man asks in excitement, "Can I borrow the dog?"

The man replied, "Join the queue."

Stories behind various brand names

Every brand has a story and most are very interesting. Here are how these 30 famous brands were named

1. Nike: Name for the Greek Goddess of Victory. The swoosh signifies her flight.
2. Coca-Cola: The two main ingredients were Coca leaves and Cola berries.
3. Pepsi: From the digestive enzyme 'pepsin'. Although pepsin is not an ingredient in the drink.
4. Google: Derived from 'googol' which means 1 followed by 100 zeros. Signifies owners Larry Page and Sergey Brin's mission to provide innumerable info to all users.
5. Adidas: Named after owner Adolf Dassler whose nickname was Adi. Adi Dassler became Adidas.
6. Intel: Short for integrated electronics
7. Canon: Adapted from Kwanon (Japanese name of Buddhist Bodhisattva of Mercy). It was changed to Canon for easier acceptance worldwide.
8. Lego: Derived from Danish words 'Leg Godt', which means to 'play well'. Lego also means 'put together' in Latin, which they claim is actually a coincidence.
9. Nintendo: Transliterated from Nintendou. Nin in Japanese means 'entrusted' and Ten-dou means 'heaven'.
10. Amazon: CEO Jeff Bazos wanted a name starting with 'A'. He chose Amazon because it is the biggest river in the world, just what he wanted his company to be.
11. Skype: Originally the idea was 'Sky peer to peer', which later became Skyper and finally Skype.
12. Adobe: Named after a creek that ran behind the co-founder, John Warnock's house, called Adobe Creek.
13. Nokia: Started as wood-pulp mill, it expanded its business to producing rubber products in a city in Finland called Nokia.
14. Sony: Derived from the Latin word, 'Sonus' (meaning sound) and an American slang word, 'Sonny' (meaning bright youngster).
15. Vodafone: Voice, Data and Telephone. Source: blogzama
16. Volkswagen: Means 'People's car' in German. There was a time when only very expensive cars used to ply on German roads. Volkswagen was a revolution.
17. Ebay: Originally called Echo Bay.

The domain echobay.com was already taken. So it was shortened to ebay.

18. IBM: Founder TJ Watson Sr wanted to be a step ahead of his former employers 'National Cash Register', so he decided to call his company 'International Business Machines'.
19. Nikon: Short for Nippon Kogaku, which means 'Japanese Optical'.
20. Reebok: Derived from the Afrikaans spelling of an African Antelope, 'Rhebok'.
21. Starbucks: Named after a character in Moby Dick, Starbuck. Originally the name 'Pequod' was suggested, the name of the ship from the novel. When it got rejected, they settled for 'Starbuck', the chief mate of that very ship.
22. Virgin: Because the business was new and the team members were virgins at business. This was suggested by a girl in Richard Branson's team.



23. Durex: Durable, Reliable and Excellence.
24. Fanta: The head of the German Coca-Cola team asked them to use their 'Fantasie' to come up with the name. That did not take long though.
25. Nivea: Derived from the Latin word 'Niveus', which means snow white.
26. HP (Hewlett Packard): William Hewlett and David Packard flipped a coin to decide whose name would come first.
27. Toyota: Named after founder Kiichiro Toyoda. The name was changed to Toyota because Toyoda literally means, 'fertile rice paddies'.
28. Microsoft: A combination of the words Microcomputer and Software.
29. Cisco: Not actually an acronym. They just removed San Fran from San Francisco.
30. Budweiser: Beer has been brewed in Budweis, Bohemia, since 1245. Budweiser means 'of Budweis' and was developed as a 'Bohemian-style' beer. Founder Adolphus Busch was inspired to create the beverage after a trip to the region.

Courtesy - Richard Rekhy



He & She

Reasons why a relationship can end even when you both love each other

When it comes to relationships, there are too many variables that you need to take note of if you want yours to last. Apart from just loving each other, you must both be willing to put in the effort for your relationship. On top of it, you're going to need a whole lot of luck so that your relationship doesn't have to go through difficult challenges. Even compatibility is essential in a relationship. That's why it's totally possible for two people to still break up even if they love each other a lot. Here are some reasons that can break your relationship:

There are trust issues between you two

Trust is something that is going to be just as important as love is. You should be able to trust that your partner is going to be there for you. If you find yourself incapable of doing so, then just your love isn't going to be enough for your relationship to last long.

Your future plans don't align

Your relationship isn't going to have a future unless you two can agree on a shared future together. You

might love each other a lot, but if you can't see yourselves in each other's futures, it's the end right there. So be very clear with each other about your future, individually and together.

Your partner's family members don't like you

Family is very important, just your partner's acceptance towards you isn't enough. You must make an effort to win your partner's family too. If you're failing on that front, it's unlikely that your relationship will last. So, if your partner's family doesn't like you, you should get a hint.

You both aren't physically attracted to each other

One thing that separates lovers from friends is physical intimacy. It's important that the two of you have a really deep emotional bond. But physical intimacy is also going to be crucial. And when that is nonexistent, you're better off as friends.

There's too much drama in the relationship

Drama can get toxic after a point in a relationship. That's why it's possible for your relationship to end even when you both love each other to bits. You might have gone through so much drama to the point that your love is incapable of keeping you two together.

Healthy Aging

Over 50? These problems can sneak up on you

Many if not most older adults have some type of chronic disease. Chances are you'll have one sooner or later. But there are things you can do to live a healthier life.

High blood pressure

As you age, your blood vessels get less flexible, and that puts pressure on the system that carries blood through your body. That might explain why so many adults over 60 have high blood pressure. But there are other causes you can control. To do so, watch your weight, exercise, stop smoking, find ways to deal with stress, and eat healthy.

Diabetes

Your chances of getting the disease go up as you get older. Diabetes can lead to heart disease, kidney disease, blindness, and other problems. Talk with your doctor about having your blood sugar checked.

Heart disease

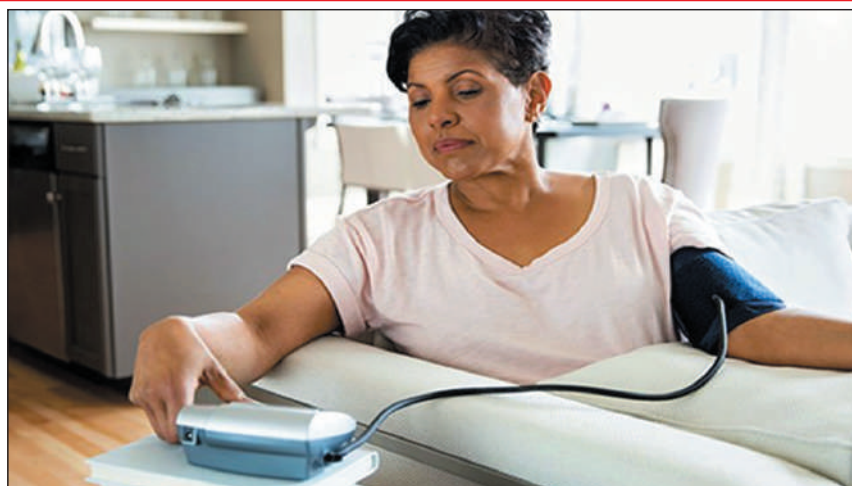
Plaque buildup in your arteries is a major cause of heart disease. It starts in childhood and gets worse as you age. In the 40-to-59 age group in the U.S., 6.3% of men and 5.6% of women have heart disease. Between ages 60 and 79, heart disease cases go up to nearly 20% of men and 9.7% of women.

Obesity

If you weigh a lot more than is healthy for your height, you could be considered obese -- it's not having just a few extra pounds. It's linked to at least 20 chronic diseases, including heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, and arthritis.

Osteoarthritis

At one time, doctors chalked up this disease of the joints to the wear and tear of age, and that is a factor. But



genetics and lifestyle probably have something to do with it as well. And previous joint injuries, a lack of physical activity, diabetes, and being overweight can all play a part, too.

Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis causes your bones to become weak and could lead to fractures. A couple of things that can help: a healthy diet rich in calcium and vitamin D (you need both for strong bones) and regular weight-bearing exercise, like dancing, jogging, or climbing stairs.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

This causes inflammation and blocks air from your lungs. It's a slow-moving disease that you could have for years without knowing it -- symptoms usually show up in your 40s or 50s. It can make you have trouble breathing, and you may cough, wheeze, and spit up mucus. Exercise, a healthy diet, and avoiding smoke and pollution can help.

Hearing loss

Maybe nothing says "You're getting older" more than having to ask, "What did you say?" Hearing loss that is "disabling" is common amongst older adults. Loud noise, disease, and your genes all play a part. Some medications can cause hearing problems, too. See your doctor if you're not able to hear as well as you used to.

Vision problems

That annoying blurriness when you try to read the small type on labels or menus isn't the only threat to your

vision as you age. Cataracts (which cloud the lens of your eye) and glaucoma (a group of eye conditions that damage your optic nerve) can harm your eyesight. See your eye doctor for regular exams.

Bladder problems

Whether you can't go when you need to or you have to go too often, problems with bladder control tend to happen as we get older. They can be caused by nerve problems, muscle weakness, thickening tissue, or an enlarged prostate. Exercises and lifestyle changes -- drinking less caffeine or not lifting heavy things, for example -- often

help.

Cancer

Age is the biggest risk factor for cancer. The disease affects young people, too, but your odds of having it more than double between ages 45 and 54. You can't control your age or your genes, but you do have a say in things like smoking or spending too much time in the sun.

Depression

Depression is one of the most common mental disorders among people 18 and over. Some people get down as they age, when health problems crop up, loved ones are lost or move away, and other life changes happen.

Back Pain

The older you get, the more common this is. Lots of things can make you more likely to have it: being overweight, smoking, not getting enough exercise, or diseases like arthritis and cancer. Watch your weight, exercise, and get plenty of vitamin D and calcium to keep your bones strong. And strengthen those back muscles -- you'll need them.

Dementia

Alzheimer's, a form of dementia, usually doesn't pop up until 65 or so. Some risk factors (like age and heredity) are things you can't control. But evidence suggests that a heart-healthy diet and watching your blood pressure and blood sugar might help.



How does Bollywood's Shilpa Shetty spend her US\$18 million net worth?

The Hungama 2 star splurges on luxury homes in Dubai and Mumbai, and high fashion

While Shilpa Shetty took a break from the big screen in 2008, the hiatus didn't stop her remaining popular. The 45-year-old actress - who is finally, thankfully, returning to films this year - always continued to work outside acting. She launched popular yoga DVDs, a YouTube cooking channel that clocks 2.2 million subscribers, appeared as a reality show judge and turned into what few Bollywood actresses have sets their sights on after stepping back from the screen: an entrepreneur.

After tying the knot with British millionaire Raj Kundra in 2009, Shetty expanded her portfolio with a myriad of businesses: a successful fitness app, high-end restaurants and even a clothing line. Not only that, the mother-of-two cements her social media presence with an impressive 20 million Instagram followers (and counting). There she often shares family times, fitness regimes, diet

menus and, of course, her luxurious lifestyle. From jet-setting to the Maldives to sharing sneak peeks of her multi-million-dollar home, Shetty embodies work-life balance like few others.

With an estimated net worth of US\$18 million, how does Mrs Shetty-Kundra spend her hard-earned cash? Umesh Bhagchandani of South China Morning Post reports:

Her lavish house

Shilpa Shetty and Raj Kundra live in one of the most expensive houses in Juhu, Mumbai, named Kinara. Her sea-facing home is estimated to be worth US\$3.2 million, according to IBTimes India, with its blend of traditional design and modern architecture. From a spacious bar area to cosy balconies, her home also boasts a massive

home gym adorned with art and gold chandeliers. And let's not forget her expansive Zen garden where she often performs her morning yoga poses.

Her properties and travel

The Kunderas also own a countryside home in Surrey, Britain, cheekily named "Raj Mahal" (translated as King's Palace) by the media. The property's prime location in St George's Hill is close to homes of other celebrities like Elton John and Cliff Richard. And back in India, they also own a luxury duplex in the Supernova development in Noida, Mumbai, the tallest residential towers in northern India.

Although she has several lovely residences, Shetty is a travel bug at heart. On Instagram, we see her marvelling at Kyoto's Kinkaku-ji temple, passing by Mount Vesuvius in Italy and spending quality time in the breathtaking Maldives.

However, her favourite destination is Dubai, from where she has often shared family holiday pictures and was once owner of an apartment in the opulent Burj Khalifa, according to Architectural Digest India. Since then, she has exchanged her condo for a lavish beach villa in the Palm Jumeirah and an underwater suite at the Atlantis Dubai.

Her high-end fashion

Fashion is another extravagant item on her list. Shetty is often spotted in heels by Louis Vuitton or Saint Laurent's Opyum. For handbags, the fashionista goes with the classics, like the Hermès Birkin, the Balenciaga Motorcycle bag and Alexander McQueen's mini bag. She even has a customised Dior Book Tote bag with her initials "S.S.K."

Her private jet use

With her busy schedule, the Dhadkan star also uses a private jet for film shoots, events and family meetups. During her interview with *Mumbai Mirror*, the diva said that she flew private to meet her daughter Samisha, born via surrogacy, for the first time. Shetty has often taken to Instagram to share pictures of her posed in front of her private jet.

Her investments

Last but not least, Shilpa Shetty is also a smart investor. It was recently revealed that she invested US\$250,000 in Mamaearth, a start-up for baby care products. According to *Business Insider*, the start-up saw investors get back up to 20 times what they put in and raked in US\$18.2 million from Sequoia India.



Sanlam

Central Agency Ltd

Accredited Agency

Contact: Mrs V. Gopal

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



Home



Motor car



car



Lorries

Revenue generated from Salman Khan's 'Radhe' to be used for Covid relief work

India is in the middle of a major pandemic. The number of deaths and people testing positive for the coronavirus is increasing day by day. In all this, many people from the film fraternity have come ahead in support of the needy. Salman Khan's upcoming film *Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai* will play a role in helping people affected by the pandemic, reports koimoi.com.

Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEE), a leading Global Content Company, along with Salman Khan Films (SKF), have pledged to provide support towards Covid relief work by donating essential medical equipment ranging from oxygen cylinders, concentrators and ventilators.

According to reports in Bollywood Hungama, this support is planned from the revenues garnered from the multi-platform release of the film on 13th May 2021. ZEE and SKF have partnered with India's donation platform - GivelIndia, to activate the much-required relief efforts.



Besides assisting GivelIndia in procuring essential medical supplies to support the healthcare system. ZEE and SKF will also work towards providing support to the families of daily wage earners who are an integral part of the overall media and entertainment ecosystem.



TV celebs share uplifting messages for fans to tide over Covid-19 crisis

While India is suffering from a raging pandemic, it's hard to keep oneself spirited in such times. However, there are a few television celebs who are trying their best to keep their followers and everyone else around them hopeful and optimistic. Take a look at some of the uplifting messages they have shared on their social media handles as reported by Times of India.

Kamya Panjabi

Kamya Panjabi, whose husband is a healthcare professional himself, wrote, "We will win this too... we will come out of #covid_19 strong... just hang in there! Be Responsible n Stay Strong! #prayers-forhealing. Together we can and we will #break-thechain."

Mandira Bedi

Shanti fame Mandira Bedi has shared a series of posts on her social media account and one of them is in which she wrote, "For all that is and all that isn't. For the chaos to subside. For the calm after this storm. Prayers." She has also dropped some really uplifting notes, wherein she has recommended focusing on spiritual immunity and being grateful.

Rohit Bose Roy

The actor tweeted recently, "I feel like screaming out my lungs and crying at the same time ... sending good wishes for everyone who's suffering ... never thought I'll live through times like these..Words cannot describe how I feel and I know many of you out there feel the same prayers for all."

Aamna Sharif

Kasautii Zindagii Kay fame Aamna Sharif captioned her photo as, "In times of tryst with upheaval as prevalent in these uncertain times of the pandemic...It's time to convert the "I" into "WE"..the Singular has to impact the Collective. And this is only possible with the Antidote of Kindness and Compassion that can weave an endearing story of Humanity that reads... Love is strong let's Give it... Our Work is now let's do it... If Faith is asleep lets Wake it..B'coz Today is Ours. Lets Do It..."

Arjun Bijlani

The actor sent out a positive message for his fans in which he wrote, "Once this is all over we will be stronger and wiser than ever before ... our country is going through a rough phase for whatever reasons but we are fighting and fighting hard... the way we come together to help each other is also something we Indians have to be proud of..."

right now that's the only way forward... never give up and never lose hope."

Shehnaaz Gill

Shehnaaz did her bit by sharing an entertaining video but with an important message. She wrote, "Stay home be safe. Pick up a new hobby or get better at an old one. Many ways to stay entertained indoors. We are responsible for our own safety."

Mohit Raina

After the actor recovered from Covid-19 himself, he shared with his followers, "Having personally witnessed a Genocide. Bhuj earthquake 2001, few natural disasters, 26/11 and Now COVID I have come to a realisation which I want to share with all those people who are looking at the roof or window of their room and wondering why us? "In order to rise from its own ashes, a Phoenix first must burn." All of us have 86 billion Neurons to fill the power within n RISE . RISE UP MY FRIEND. There will be a tomorrow which will be your TODAY and at that moment you will be PROUD of yourself. Just HANG ON. Love MR."



Appartement à louer - long terme



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

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

If you fall in love this week, it will very probably be for the rest of your life. You'll need to lead a very well-balanced life so as to feel well; abstain from nightly outings and food excesses, which would destabilize your daily rhythms.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 12, 18, 20, 30

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your snail-mail or e-mail will bring some pleasant news to you. At work, be wary of the traps that your adversaries will set up for you. Very fine relationships with your family entourage. You'll have ideas genius to improve the quality of your life.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 4, 7, 12, 19, 20

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

The spectacle of life could make you sick; but be reassured, it will only be a bad moment to go through. Excellent perspectives for your work: the road towards success will be free. Answer a friend's letter.

Lucky Numbers: 19, 20, 24, 26, 30, 36

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You'll have the opportunity to multiply your exchanges, but they won't lead to stable love relationships. You'll have great chances to make benefits and money will try to get into your pocket. Don't be too severe with your close relatives, it's dangerous!

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 19, 32, 36, 38

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Difficult social relationships: you should be more open, more tolerant and not to play at the misunderstood. It won't be the right moment to tackle a serious discussion in your home: the atmosphere will be too electrical.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 13, 14, 19, 21, 30

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

A very favourable week for all professional appointments, contracts, and negotiations. Your emotional exchanges will be facilitated. But beware of certain people who turn around you: they'll try to exploit you.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, 30

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

This week will highlight your mental faculties; you'll understand many things that seemed very obscure to you before. At your work, things will be at the same time more difficult and more motivating; you'll make considerable progress.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 14, 16, 20, 26, 32

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You'll be in excellent health, of excellent humour and high spirits. Your personality will have an opportunity to bloom. Your material aspirations and your desire for expansion will allow you to achieve some beautiful successes.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 11, 27, 31, 36, 40

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Your intellectual curiosity will increase tenfold; however, it will be necessary not to scatter yourself too much. This time stability will reign in your love life. An old friend will support you. A very complicated family matter will need all of your attention.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 16, 14, 17, 20

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You'll have much ambition and enthusiasm, which will allow you to achieve good things. Your mental and intellectual faculties will be increased. Beware of misunderstandings and confusion in your relationships.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 16, 17, 20, 23, 30

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Things will be moving a lot in your life, but it will be necessary be on your guard against your clear tendency to dispersion and instability. Patience and tolerance will be necessary if you want to avoid problems with your close ones.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 12, 13, 20, 33, 36

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

A little diplomacy will help you to harmonize your relationships with others; don't impose your ideas. But avoid lending money to friends: it would be a source of quarrels, even of a breaking off; know how to say no.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 17, 19, 21, 23

CINE 12

Vendredi 7 Mai - 21.15

Venom

mbc 1

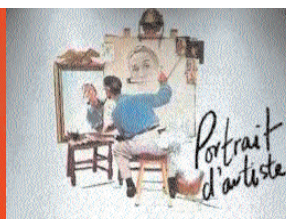
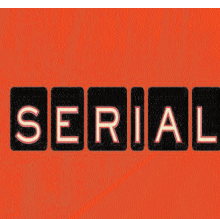
Samedi 8 Mai - 21.20

Tornado Valley

Starring: Meredith Monroe, Cameron Bancroft, Pascale Hutton


mbc 1

Dimanche 9 Mai - 21.15



vendredi 7 mai

MBC 1

07.00 Dessin Anime
10.35 Serial: Radio Free Roscoe
11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.50 MBC Talent Show
14.10 D.Anime: The Hive
14.39 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
14.50 D.Anime: Kid Lucky
15.14 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...
15.40 Film: Les Rebelles De La Fo..
17.00 Serial: Backstage
17.30 Live - Covid-19
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.20 Prod: Lottery Vert Draw
20.30 Local: Henessy Park Award
22.01 Serial: Seal Team
23.00 Le Journal
23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC

MBC 2

10.00 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun
11.05 Serial: Zun Mureed
12.04 Film: Sakka Podu Podu
Starring : Santhanam, Vaibhavi Shandilya, Vivek, Sanjana Singh
13.57 DDI Magazine
15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha
15.34 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.34 Serial: Bava Maradallu
16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.36 Serial: Suno Chanda
16.56 Serial: Imtihaan
17.01 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.35 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone
18.30 DDI Magazine
19.05 Journal Kreol
19.30 DDI Magazine
20.00 Serial: Band Khirkiyan
20.43 Local: Anjuman
21.08 Local: Urdu Programe

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.26 Mag: Shift
06.38 Mag: Sur Measure
07.46 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
08.12 Doc: 360 GEO
09.53 Doc: One Way Ticket
10.35 Doc: Deadly Bacteria
11.56 Mag: Border Crossing
12.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
12.56 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
13.22 Doc: 360 GEO
15.40 Doc: Deadly Bacteria
16.09 Mag: Eco India
16.35 Mag: Shift
16.48 Mag: Border Crossing
17.22 Mag: Tomorrow Today
17.48 Doc: Goods To Paradise
18.30 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
20.05 Mag: Vue D'en Haut
20.30 Local: News (English)
21.32 Doc: Jumbo- The Life Of An..

Cine 12

02.09 Film: The Quiet Hour
03.34 Serial: Hawaii 5-0
04.16 Film: Finding Forrester
06.26 Tele: Muneca Brava
07.09 Film: Ladies In Black
09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire
09.45 Tele: Daniela
10.28 Tele: Tanto Amor
11.00 Serial: Chicago Med
11.34 Film: Finding Forrester
13.45 Tele: Muneca Brava
14.53 Film: Ladies In Black
16.40 Serial: Chicago Fire
17.20 Serial: 19-2
18.05 Tele: Daneilla
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Serial: Reckoning
21.15 Film: Venom
22.58 Tele: Muneca Brava

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Sauda
12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani
12.30 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna
12.51 / 20.32 - Agniphera
13.07 / 21.09 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
13.29 / 21.24 -
Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.49 / 21.46 - Naagin S3
14.35 / 21.59 - Ikyawann
14.51 / 22.25 -
Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur Saburi
15.21 Film: Mr White Mr Black
Starring: Sunil Shetty, Arshad Warsi and Sadashiv Amrapurkar
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.52 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka
19.17 Serial: Bhakharwadi

samedi 8 mai

06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man
06.24 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...
06.46 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe...
07.13 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little..
07.35 D.Anime: Wishfart
07.57 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
08.22 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies
08.24 D.Anime: Martin Morning
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Daniella
14.50 D.Anime: The Hive
15.17 D.Anime: The Twisted Whisk
15.30 Film: Barbie: Agents Secrets
16.46 Serial: Project MC
17.15 Local: Info En Langue
17.30 Live - Covid-19
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Entertainment: Dance
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.25 Local: Le Rendez Vous
21.20 Film: Tornado Valley
23.00 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Bandini
09.13 Serial: Vir: The Robot Boy
10.00 Bade Accchelagte Hai
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare
12.26 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.49 Serial: High School
13.11 Annakodiyum Ainthus Pengalum
13.37 Serial: Anu Pallavi
15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha
15.21 Film: Kochadaiyaan
Starring: Rajinikanth, Deepika Padukone
17.20 Mag: DDI Magazine
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
20.29 Serial: Bitti Business
21.00 Film: Action Jackson
Starring: Ajay Devgn, Shahid Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha
23.14 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Goods To Paradise
06.55 Mag: Global 3000
07.29 Mag: Euromaxx
07.55 Doc: Wildlife Heroes
08.47 Doc: Jumbo: The Life Of An
09.39 Doc: The Nefertiti Pheno...
11.07 Doc: Goods To Paradise
11.50 Mag: Global 3000
12.24 Doc: Wildlife Heroes
13.16 Doc: Jumbo: The Life Of An
14.08 Doc: The Nefertiti Pheno...
14.50 Doc: Albania's Last Trains
15.36 Student Support Prog...
19.31 Mag: Check In
20.05 Doc: Garden Party
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.40 Doc: 360 GEO
21.32 Doc: Destinations
21.45 Doc: SOS Animaux En...
22.37 Doc: Tsunamis
23.19 Doc: Fine-Tuning The Cli...
00.02 Doc: Amazing Gardens

01.26 Film: Venom
03.10 Serial: Dynasty 2
03.50 Film: Hollows Grove
05.10 Tele: Esmeraldas
05.51 Serial: Reckoning
06.33 Serial: Sherlock
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.20 Serial: The Enemy Within
09.55 Serial: 12 Monkeys
10.40 Film: Sox: A Family's Best...
12.15 Serial: Dynasty 2
13.00 Serial: Chicago Med
15.05 Tele: Amanda
15.48 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.30 Mag: Hollywood On Set
17.00 Serial: Reckoning
17.45 Film: From The Rough
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Series: Reckoning
21.15 Film: Ingrid Goes West
22.48 Tele: Dulce Amor

04.05 Sanjivani
04.26 Radha Krishna
04.48 Agniphera
05.09 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
05.31 Zindagi Ki Mehek
05.55 Ikyawann
06.13 Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur...
06.36 Bin Kuch Kahe
07.23 Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka
08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek
09.47 Motu Patlu
10.01 Siddhi Vinayak
11.55 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.00 Sanjivani
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.30 Film: Baaghi 3
Star: Tiger Shroff, Ritesh Deshmukh, Shraddha Kapoor
20.51 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
21.37 Serial: Naagin

dimanche 9 mai

06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man: Fully...
06.24 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis A..
07.56 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
09.30 Mag: Future Mag
10.00 Local: Zanafan Nou Zil
10.30 Serial: Mustangs FC
12.00 Le Journal
12.40 Tele: Daniella
15.05 D.Anime: The Hive
15.35 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
15.47 D.Anime: Kid Lucky
16.00 Film: Alpha And Omega 7
17.00 Serial: Project MC
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Dance With Alisha
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Local: Virtual Concert
21.15 Film: Alpha
Stars: Kodi Smit-McPhee, Jóhannes Haukur Jóhannesson, M. Kowalczyk

07.00 Film: Bazaar
Starring: Farooq Shaikh, Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah
09.00 Serial: Bapu
09.23 Mag: DDI Magazine
10.00 Local Prod: MBC Prod
11.09 Serial: Oru Kai Osai
11.22 Serial: Santoshi Maa
12.00 Film: Saand Ki Aankh
Starring : Taapsee Pannu, Bhumi Pednekar, Prakash Jha, Vileet Kumar
15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha
15.20 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
15.45 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht
16.06 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
17.00 Serial: Mahakali
17.42 Serial: Kisna
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
19.30 DDI Magazine
20.00 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas..

06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens
06.26 Doc: An Adventure In Tran...
06.50 Doc: The World From Above
07.46 Doc: 360 GEO
08.42 Doc: Destination
10.29 Doc: Fine-Tuning The Clim...
11.18 Doc: Amazing Gardens
11.38 Doc: An Adventure In Tran...
12.30 Mag: Check In
13.51 Doc: Destinations
17.42 Mag: Sur Measure
18.00 Mag: Tendance XXI
18.35 Local: Talk On Ramadan
20.05 Mag: Future Mag
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.40 Doc: Comme Une Envie...
21.32 Doc: Destination
21.45 Doc: La Turdulence Rodin
23.20 Doc: Boeing - Deadly...
00.02 Mag: Tendance XXI
00.52 Doc: Garden Party

00.20 Serial: The Magicians
01.25 Film: Ingrid Goes West
03.38 Film: Avenging The Throne
05.15 Tele: Esmeraldas
05.56 Serial: Reckoning
06.32 Film: Clarity
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.19 Film: Tornado Valley
10.44 Film: From The Rough
12.22 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
13.03 Serial: Chicago Med
15.05 Telenovela: Amanda
15.45 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.29 Mag: Close Up
17.00 Serial: Reckoning
17.45 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
18.30 Serial: Supercopier
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor
21.15 Film: Leave No Trace
22.45 Tele: Dulce Amor

00.40 Serial: Bhakharwadi
02.04 Sanjivani
04.06 Pavitra Rishta
05.33 Film: Baaghi 3
Starring: Tiger Shroff, Ritesh Deshmukh, Shraddha Kapoor
08.01 Motu Patlu
08.16 Karn Sangini
10.17 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
12.02 Piya Albela
13.50 Agniphera
15.20 Bin Kuch Kahe
17.35 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Film: Yeh Lamhe Judaai Ke
Starring: Shah Rukh Khan, Raveena Tandon, Mohnish Behl, Navneet Nishan
20.55 Entertainment: Dance

MBC 2

Samedi 8 Mai - 21.00

Stars: Ajay Devgn, Shahid Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha

BTV

Dimanche 9 Mai - 18.30

Stars: Shah Rukh Khan, Raveena Tandon, Mohnish Behl, Navneet Nishan



Do people become more religious in times of crisis?

Traumatic events can make people question assumptions about their lives, including their spiritual beliefs



Danielle Tumminio Hansen
Assistant Professor of Pastoral
Theology, Seminary of the
Southwest

Organized religion has been on the decline for decades in the United States. However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, researchers found that online searches for the word "prayer" soared to their highest level ever in over 90 countries. And a 2020 Pew Research study showed that 24% of U.S. adults stated their faith had become stronger during the pandemic.

I am a theologian who studies trauma and this shift makes sense to me. I often teach that traumatic events are, at their heart, crises of meaning that cause people to question assumptions about their lives, including their spiritual beliefs. The years 2020 and 2021 certainly fit that bill: The global Covid-19 pandemic has indeed led to traumatic experiences for many people, due to the isolation, illness, fear and death that it created.

Questioning beliefs

People who experience traumas tend to question some of the assumptions they might have had about their faith - what pastoral theologian Carrie Doehring calls "embedded beliefs." These beliefs may include ideas about who God is, the purpose of life or why evil events happen to good people.

So, for instance, many Christians may inherit an embedded belief from the tradition that God is all good and that evil emerges when God "rightly" punishes people for their sins. In other words, an all-good God would not punish someone without a reason.

Christians raised with that assumption might ask what made them incur God's wrath if they contracted Covid-19. In such an event, the embedded belief in a punishing God may become something called a negative coping strategy - a coping strategy that has negative effects on a person's life.

Here's what this might look like practically: If a person believes they're being punished by God, they may feel shame or despair. If they feel God is punishing them for no reason, they may feel confusion or try to identify something that is problematic or sinful about their identity. As a result,

their faith becomes something that is a source of stress or cognitive dissonance rather than a source of comfort. If that happens, then the belief is functioning as a negative coping strategy that the person needs to address.

Trauma and religiosity

Mental health experts like Judith Herman have known for several decades that healing from trauma involves making meaning of the traumatic event. Traumatic events are often confusing for people because they don't make much sense. In other words, traumas differ from the expectations of everyday life, and as a result, they seem to defy meaning or purpose.

Spiritually, individuals may begin to recognize that some of their beliefs got challenged by the trauma. This is the time when spiritual meaning-making occurs because people start to discern which embedded beliefs still make sense and which need to be revised.

During this stage of recovery, theologian and trauma expert Shelly Rambo explains that traumatized individuals may draw on prayers, personal reflections, rituals and conversations with spiritual experts such as chaplains, ministers and spiritual directors. These have been shown to function as positive coping mechanisms that help individuals feel more grounded in the aftermath of a trauma.

Over time, these resources help individuals develop more intentional beliefs, meaning consciously chosen beliefs that take their suffering into account. These might include reasons why the suffering occurred and what its significance is for the overall meaning of the person's life. Doehring refers to these as deliberative, or consciously chosen, beliefs. Individuals have a sense of commitment to these beliefs because they make sense in light of the trauma.

So in the hypothetical case of someone who believes God is punishing them for contracting Covid-19, that feeling of shame and despair may result from a failure to understand why God would treat them that way. These negative feelings would then function as negative coping mechanisms that prevent healing, as psychologist Kenneth Pargament and his colleagues have observed about similar situations where people felt God was punishing them.

The person might then try to alleviate their distress by questioning the assumption that God punishes people with illness, thereby starting a kind of spiritual quest or reassessment of beliefs. They may even start to think differently about God being a punishing deity. The shift between what the person assumed about God and this new, consciously chosen belief, is an example of the shift between embedded and deliberative beliefs.



Trauma and atheism

Some people may argue that suffering logically ought to turn people into atheists. After all, the horror of something like the Covid-19 pandemic could easily make someone question how it would be possible for any deity to allow such horrors.

It would make far more sense to reason that creation is random, chaotic and determined only by some combination of the forces of nature and human decisions. The agnostic philosopher Bertrand Russell crafted such a proposal when he argued that Christians should accompany him to a children's hospital unit because they would inevitably stop believing in God once they saw such profound suffering.

The way humans experience suffering spiritually, however, may not necessarily lead to atheism or agnosticism. Indeed, research from experts who study the intersection of psychology and religion - including psychologists of religion and pastoral theologians - has found that events that could be labeled as traumatic

do not necessarily destroy faith.

Indeed, they can also strengthen it because faith-based beliefs and practices can help individuals make sense of their life's story. In other words, trauma challenges so many assumptions about who we are, what our purpose is and how to make sense of a traumatic event. Faith-based beliefs and practices offer meaningful resources to help navigate those questions.

This is why spiritual beliefs and practices across various religions can often lead to faith strengthening rather than weakening, following a trauma.

So even though people may have had limited access to buildings like churches or synagogues during the pandemic, they still had access to spiritual resources that can help them navigate traumatic events. This may explain data showing that some individuals are stating their faith is stronger than it was prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.





Protecting lives, ensuring happiness

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

marketing@licmauritius.intnet.mu

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

1956-2020