

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results. -- Willie Nelson

Qs & As

## Diaspora & Right to Vote



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## Freedom with responsibility

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## Drugs and Money-Laundering



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By Jan Arden See Page 4



## The forgotten psychological cost of corruption in developing countries

Smriti Sharma - Lecturer in Economics, Newcastle University, Finn Tarp - Professor of Economics, University of Copenhagen, Saurabh Singhal - Lecturer in Economics, Lancaster University

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# Diaspora and Voting

At the time of our independence there was already a sizeable number of Mauritians living abroad, especially in the UK – where they had gone to do nursing amongst other occupations – and Australia, where they had migrated driven by the false fear of a so-called Hindu hegemony which never came to be.

Yet, the framers of our Constitution did not include in it the right to vote of those Mauritian emigrants. From time to time this issue is flagged, and currently there is a post going around on social media showing a poll among the diaspora which puts the Labour Party in the top position with over 50% of votes.

Our first point on this matter is that granting or not the right of voting to the diaspora should be something that is not done only for the sake of political correctness. Whatever decision to be taken in its regard must be after a deeply thought-through process that is part of an electoral reform exercise that is forever receding on the horizon. As it is, the present system is fraught with certain asymmetries that themselves need to be addressed. One of the most decried one is about representativity, so that there is genuinely a one-man one-vote principle.

It is well-known that the population size of different constituencies do not reflect this principle. A constituency with a smaller population e.g. 20,000 elects the same number of candidates, namely 3, as one that has 50,000. This is an anomaly to which attention has been drawn repeatedly, but no definitive solution to this conundrum has come about to date. This relates to the question of electoral boundaries, and there has to be serious reflection and analysis that involves multiple stakeholders – political parties, civil society entities, etc – in order to come to a sensible formula.

On the other hand, while there is no doubt that the diaspora keeps itself updated on local events, their source of information is the media's version which may only reflect one slice or one aspect of the total picture. Thus, if the diaspora is to vote based on this kind of information, its vote is bound to be skewed. There are many ground realities that will be out of bounds to the diaspora, realities which may not be flagged in the media. And thus again lead to bias in voting pattern of the diaspora.

Further, there is constitutional provision for any voter to have resided in the country for a certain number of years in order to be able to vote, a requirement which is to be found with practically all countries. Allowing the diaspora to vote will also require changes to be brought about in the Constitution, itself a complicated exercise. Overall, therefore, this is not as simple an issue as the sample and limited 'poll' that is circulating suggests.

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## The Conversation

# The forgotten psychological cost of corruption in developing countries

*Paying out for vital services has a serious impact on mental health*



Corruption is a crime which slows economic growth, undermines development, and causes inequality. With a cost to the global economy estimated at around US\$2.6 trillion (£1.8 trillion) a year, it is often linked to politics and profiteering by large corporations. The Panama Papers, for example, exposed the vast and powerful reach of the financial secrecy industry.

But a large volume of the corruption in developing countries operates through "grease money" – informal cash payments to local government officials. This involves people regularly handing over payments for access to everyday public goods and services such as electricity, driving licenses and medical care.

Aside from the financial implications, the often-hidden cost of this kind of corruption is its damaging psychological impact. Our research aims to shine a light on how everyday corruption harms mental health in developing countries.

The damage can come in several forms. For example, the size and frequency of bribes imposes financial costs and creates anxiety, especially for poorer households, who are disproportionately affected and more vulnerable.

Corruption also leads to the distorted allocation of key public services, such as health care and education infrastructure. These are vital for physical and mental health, but are often only easily available to those willing and able to pay. Furthermore, paying bribes for essential goods and services (to which one is legally entitled) results in feelings of helplessness and disenfranchisement.

It is estimated that around 10% of the world's population suffers from mental health

disorders – with the poorest particularly exposed. Studies also show that those with lower incomes are at greater risk of suffering from depression and anxiety than those in the higher income brackets.

### A state of depression

Vietnam, the focus of our research, is ranked a lowly 104 out of 180 countries for public sector transparency. Surveys confirm that corruption remains an all too common cost of doing business in Vietnam.

For our research, we conducted two large surveys in rural Vietnam, in which mental health was assessed using the Center for the Epidemiological Studies of Depression scale. This widely recognised screening tool to measure depressive symptoms asks respondents how often they experience sadness, hopelessness, a lack of concentration and poor sleep. We then compared these results to measures of corruption.

In the first survey, measures of corruption were based on people's exposure to day to day corruption in the public sector (bribery to acquire construction permits, get a government job, or even to receive medical treatment). In the second, households were asked how large an effect corruption had on their domestic enterprises.

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Freedom with responsibility

*A greater, shared sense of individual and collective responsibility would definitely allow us to better enjoy our freedoms. If anything, this pandemic has revealed how weak we are when it comes to exercising such responsibility*

As Britain took its 'biggest step yet out of lockdown' yesterday, with 'pubs and restaurants reopening indoors in England and Wales and further relaxations in most of Scotland, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, urged Britons to enjoy their new freedoms with "a heavy dose of caution".'

I rather liked that phrase when I read it, an idea which I have re-framed as 'freedom with responsibility.' The admonition of the British Prime Minister was surely premised on the fact that the Covid pandemic is far from over as, in their turn, 'ministers warned they could not rule out regionalised restrictions or the reversal of moves towards normal life,' given the presence of more infectious variants that are surfacing.

'You give an inch, and people will take a mile' could be taken as another way of putting across this leap to liberty after a period of limiting it severely, when as a reaction people really tend to go to the other extreme of giving vent fully to their pent-up desires and feelings. In this euphoria they may well be forgiven – briefly – for gay abandon in the enjoyment of the routine activities that had been temporarily denied to them, as this denial began to become a heavy weight, they were raring to get rid of.

But as we know, the circumstance is at present different, and for our own sake and for the common good we cannot yet throw to the wind all the precautions advised to prevent spread of Covid, and hence the justified, reasonable call of the UK Prime Minister for the heavy dose of caution. A similar approach has been adopted in the US following the new advisory of the Centres for Disease Control to the effect that people who have had their two doses of vaccine can henceforth not wear their mask in public.

However, in an interview on CNN Dr Fauci the infectious disease specialist advising the American President, qualified this advisory. He pointed out that although the federal government has not made it mandatory to be vaccinated or imposed vaccination passports, probably the states and individual institutions (e.g. universities) and organizations (e.g. airlines) would take the call on that as well as the wearing of masks and apply their own rules. Hence, as a general rule, he advised people to still be careful, since everybody is not yet vaccinated. In



“Visitors crowd together on Bournemouth beach in June 2020. Police and crime commissioners had previously branded it 'madness' to alter lockdown rules. Photograph: Finnbar Webster/Getty Images...”

other words, enjoy their freedoms, but with responsibility – by implication towards themselves and others.

At a broader level, the right to several freedoms (of speech, religion, association, etc.) forms part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document was supplemented in 1998 by the proclamation of The Declaration of Human Duties and Responsibilities (DHDR), which was written for reinforcing the implementation of human rights under the auspices of the UNESCO and the interest of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights.

Its Article 2, reads as follows: 'As the holders of

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human rights and fundamental freedoms, *all individuals, peoples, and communities in the exercise of their rights and freedoms, have the duty and responsibility to respect those of others, and a duty to strive for the promotion and observance thereof.*' (italics added)

The italicized part is normally less emphasized, and in fact often forgotten, in this world of liberalism where individualism rules – that means, as an individual I have the right and freedom to do anything I like. We can clearly see the danger that this attitude represents, especially when it is those in or with power who make this claim.

Perhaps that is why sages and philosophers in ancient times who had examined in depth their societies and offered guidance for ethical living to their fellow human beings had at the same time defined the contours of what an ideal society should be like. Among other things, they said that the common people tend to mimic the behaviour of their leaders. And that for this reason it is a paramount responsibility of leaders to give the good example in all that they undertake. Today we say simply: leaders must lead by example, implied of course is good example.

We can appreciate these wise words better when we lament the paucity of the role models that we can recommend to the youth and future generation. On the local scene, as we have often had the occasion to witness, they are to be found neither in the highest forum, the National Assembly, where examples of gutter language and cheap jibes are regularly reported by the media, and which prevent debate at a level which would do Mauritian citizens proud. Nor are they to be found amongst those whose underhand and criminal dealings are concealed by the veneer of their educational and professional backgrounds, an element that would lead the youth to expect from them a standard of behaviour that they would wish to emulate.

The tragedy is that such people are found, as elsewhere in both the developing and developed world, in the key sectors of our society, from the liberal professions, the banks and companies to providers of the multitude of public and private services on which the foundations of a smooth-running and just society depend. They are people who have allowed themselves to be ruled by greedy calculations and superegos in the power games at national and international level to exploit, dominate and control others at whatever cost including territorial expansion, violence and ultimately war.

A greater, shared sense of individual and collective responsibility would definitely allow us to better enjoy our freedoms. If anything, this pandemic has revealed how weak we are when it comes to exercising such responsibility in a sustained manner, preferring our freedoms to predominate without caring for the risks that this attitude brings. The implication is that with great freedom comes great responsibility – just like with great power comes great responsibility.

In speech and in action – but in thought too! Because thoughts begin in the mind, which can be a devil's workshop to make thoughts catch fire. And since words and actions follow thoughts, the latter also need to be guided by the light of responsibility.

Jan Arden

Without prejudice to any suspect party in the recent highly mediatised catch in the North of the biggest consignment of heroin and cannabis, to the tune of about 300 kgs and a reported market value of some Rs 3.5 billion, we have read with some amazement in the press and through the ICAC attachment order, how a relative newcomer to high-sea fishing with annual operating losses for the past few years, has risen from rags to riches which are yet to be fully valued : some 8 fishing vessels, several fast boats, a fleet of luxury cars, pieces of prime real estate and houses, not to mention entry into the horse-racing business, part of these assets having been acquired through a semi-extensive network of 'prête-noms'. If the question is flagged here, it is because it raises several questions about which we may expect to know more as the enquiry progresses.

First, about the identities of the " financial barons " who had the reserves, which must have been consequential, for such a massive deadly order through this sea-borne channel. Will the question elude the combined investigative powers of our three agencies and their associates, such as the National Security Services, the Gambling Regulatory Authority or the Financial Intelligence Unit at a time when the country is under the radar of the IMF/FATF for its investigative capacities in complex money-laundering and drug-related scams?

# Drugs and Money-Laundering

*While experience sadly shows high-profile drug-related cases to despairingly drag or dwindle out, can we hope the investigative agencies are able and encouraged to probe fully the latest affair?*



Second, it would not be beyond common sense of movie-goers to suss out that no drug overlord(s) would be naive enough to gamble some Rs 300-500 million in the biggest drug cargo so far, as a first-time operation. Which suggests at least some testing of this relatively new channel must have taken place, corroborating perhaps with the progressive acquisition of illicitly acquired wealth. This would weaken the case of our agencies being diligent and relentless trackers of big drug trafficking and the associated money-laundering at such visible scales

through various means, ranging from property through casinos, gambling and gaming.

In any case, it is a disturbing thought that what is caught, through our own diligence or tip-offs, may be but the tip of an iceberg and that Mauritius is getting better known as a " plaque tournante " for drug and other illicit activities including money-laundering. The layman can only note that major recent high-profile drug catches, from the " tractopelle " affair, through the fast-boat beaching on reefs in the North, to the Dewdane-Kistnah affair, are worryingly, either the result of tip-offs or accidental and that there were strong whiffs of political patronage in some cases at least.

In effect then, this case takes us back to the report known as the Lam Shan Leen Report, which had already identified the drug entry points as being air or sea-borne, with vulnerable spots being the airport, the port and the threats posed by fishing vessels offloading drug packages several miles off our coastlines, to be picked up at convenient times by conniving speed-boat skippers and/or

owners. The report had also highlighted the common money-laundering mechanisms we see evidenced today at the gambling and horse-racing levels, recommending a profound restructuring of the ADSU into a new structure.

“We have read with some amazement in the press and through the ICAC attachment order, how a relative newcomer to high-sea fishing with annual operating losses for the past few years, has risen from rags to riches which are yet to be fully valued : some 8 fishing vessels, several fast boats, a fleet of luxury cars, pieces of prime real estate and houses, not to mention entry into the horse-racing business, part of these assets having been acquired through a semi-extensive network of 'prête-noms'...”

Government for reasons of its own has preferred soldiering on with existing structures, including the ADSU and the GRA, and studiously avoided questions or investigations about political patronage from its own close ranks and circle of advisors. While experience sadly shows high-profile drug-related cases to despairingly drag or dwindle out, can we hope the investigative agencies are able and encouraged to probe fully the latest affair?

## Slippery Pitch for Finance

Every Minister of Finance uses his best skills to prepare public opinion for difficult decisions that his upcoming national budget may include and occasionally mask or keep under wraps any pleasant surprises targeting some parts or the whole population. Last year, the fears and uncertainties around our collective first experience with the Covid-19 pandemic gave the Minister's top-team (including the Bank of Mauritius Governor) leeway to freely dip their hands in our Central Bank reserves for an Rs 80 billion contribution towards an artificially balanced budget. Now that the IMF has rather imperiously slammed the door on any further use (or abuse) of this controversial device, pregnant with dangerous side-effects, the Ministry's manoeuvring room has considerably narrowed.

This comes at a time when we may have dried up a variety of generous foreign assistance from traditional friendly sources, most notably India, China, the Middle East and EU countries, some used to promote high-profile or prestige projects with limited evidence of socio-economic usefulness. The atmosphere of buoyancy in public spending has not been helped by the massive levels of intolerable excesses revealed this year, as in previous years, by the Director of Audit, even if his checks into some major public purse expenditures were controversially but effectively curtailed through various means.

The atmosphere has been further vitiated by revelations of bamboozling contracts during the worst episodes of the pandemic, where more than one billion rupees were dished out without any records of decision-



making being kept. High-profile judicial enquiries around suspicious deaths revealed other caches of highly questionable contracts to political agents and cronies. Were it not for the difficult circumstances for thousands of distressed families and the economic burden imposed on a tottering country, the reported stories would verge on a farce.

On the question of the pandemic, there were legitimate grounds for government to feel satisfied that by end 2020 the collective efforts of policies, health personnel and the population had met with reasonable success although there were dire warnings of a more infectious second wave elsewhere. They went unheeded as were calls for vaccine pre-ordering, leaving us largely unprepared when that second wave gate-crashed the island's entry points.

It stands to reason that a physically isolated island with only two limited access points at the port and airport, with limited flights, strict entry point testing and

effective quarantine procedures should have kept us out of harm's way in 2021 or rapidly circumscribed any unwanted viral penetration. Whether imprévoyance of the authorities or the prospects of early vaccination made for a collective lowering of guards, transmitted from authorities to the wider public, remains a moot point.

Unfortunately, today we face the worst predictions of vaccine scarcity, the contagious cases are nearly double last year's levels and Health authorities remain tight-lipped about incoming flights or passengers and the existing variants inside the country. Without going into recent allegations of tragic public health negligence and renal dialysis failures, the business operators, the SMEs, the population at large and our public finances have taken the public Health curved ball smack on, each month of delayed opening costing country finances some Rs 10 billion.

Not the sort of news the Minister of Finance would have wished for during 2021, even less at budget time. The pitch was slippery enough with negative perceptions around our financial, banking and offshore sectors as a whole and the continued negative listings by international agencies like the FATF/IMF and the EU and UK. After the IMF wry scolding, we wonder if a news item that technical defence of our case will be stewarded by the Governor of the BoM is designed to elicit confidence. Budget goodies may therefore be perfunctory and difficult fiscal and monetary policy decisions could be unavoidable.

It is in this tricky context that the Minister of Finance has to bat out, sketching necessary fundamental reforms and future paths for injecting hope into our avenues of economic development.

# Diaspora & Right to Vote

*“Voting depends on residence. Even in some countries where the diaspora has the right to vote the electors must be physically present in the country to cast their vote. This is the case of Singapore”*

**M**uch has been made recently about the Mauritian diaspora's “right to vote” in local elections. The inclusion of a country's diaspora in its political processes represents an important tool to maintain connections with its citizens abroad. For the diaspora, voting is also a means of preserving national belonging and identity. The issue however has constitutional, philosophical, political as well as practical implications. It is a particularly complex question in so far as Mauritius is concerned given the country's political history, its plurality, etc. LEX sheds light on the issues involved.

LEX



Pic - ALEX AUDIBERT

**“Voting depends on residence. Even in some countries where the diaspora has the right to vote the electors must be physically present in the country to cast their vote. This is the case of Singapore...”**

\* In November 2019, 838 foreign nationals residing in Mauritius - 523 Indians, 68 South Africans, 36 Pakistanis, 67 Britons and 45 Bangladeshis - registered on our electoral lists might have cast their votes in the then general elections, and possibly helped produce an electoral outcome that would not affect them directly. Is that acceptable?

The question is not whether this is acceptable. The Constitution provides that any Commonwealth citizen of not less than the age of 18 years, and who has resided in Mauritius for a period of not less than 2 years immediately before the date for the registration of electors may be registered as an elector. Equally, a person who is domiciled or resident in Mauritius at the date of registration may be registered.

\* Our Constitution also provides in Section 33 ('Qualifications for membership') that a person who is a member of the Commonwealth shall be qualified under some conditions to be elected as a member of the Assembly - and therefore eligible for the post of the Prime Minister. What could have been the inspi-

ration behind these provisions when our Constitution was being drafted?

This is in line with the philosophy behind allowing any Commonwealth citizen to be registered as an elector. Any elector can be a candidate at an election if he/she is a Commonwealth citizen of not less than 18 years old; provided he/she has resided in Mauritius for a period of, or periods amounting in the aggregate to, not less than 2 years before the date of his/her nomination for election; and has resided in Mauritius for a period of not less than 6 months immediately before that date. One important qualification is that the person must be sufficiently proficient in English.

But realistically can we imagine a Bangladeshi or a South African standing as a candidate and as a leader of a party and get elected? Already a Mauritian who satisfies all the constitutional conditions cannot aspire to become Prime Minister for reasons that we all know.

\* The fact that a number of Bangladeshis - only 45, if we go by the 2019 electoral lists - were seen parti-

cipating in the elections has provided new fodder to those have been claiming for the Mauritian diaspora's "right" to vote. On the face of it, that makes for a convincing argument, isn't it?

It appears to be ironical that a foreigner who is a Commonwealth citizen and who satisfies the constitutional requirements has the right to vote whereas a Mauritian citizen living abroad has no such right.

\* The issue of making it possible for the Mauritian diaspora settled in different parts of the world to participate in the electoral process back home has constitutional, philosophical, political as well as practical implications. Which is by far the most important consideration we should at?

**“At present the registration of electors takes place when registration officers visit households and gather all the data. In addition, there are registration offices in different localities to enable people to register. Objections can be taken against registration. How will the list of electors of the diaspora be compiled? Will it be online? How do we check the eligibility criteria? How will objections to registration be done?”**

The philosophical consideration is when you give the right of vote to a Mauritian living abroad, he has a better sense of appurtenance to the country. He/she would take a keener interest in the affairs of the country.

The political consideration is to what extent the votes of the diaspora will influence the outcome of the election locally. Do not forget that electors in Mauritius can be influenced till the last minute and votes, whether we accept it or not, are bought. Will the diaspora also succumb to such nefarious and illegal influence?

The Constitution and the Representation of the People Act will have to be reviewed and amended if the right to vote is extended to the diaspora.

\* Besides the practical and financial implications with regard to the registration of diaspora voters (apparently in the range of 200,000 to 500,000), the easing of the voting process at our embassies/consulates, etc., there is the issue of eligibility. How do we define who becomes eligible to participate in local elections?

Eligibility for those in Mauritius is already provided in the Constitution. The same age eligibility will have to apply to the diaspora. Then thought must be given to other factors as they would not be resident or domiciled in Mauritius.

\* What about the second and third generations, that is the children and grandchildren of the first generation who left to settle down abroad for economic or political reasons?

Up to what generation will that right be extended remains to be seen. Are the children of the first emigrants or their grandchildren or great-grandchildren concerned with what happens in Mauritius? Most probably many of them have never set foot in Mauritius.

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# 'This isn't over yet': UK readies for major reopening as variant sparks worry

Travellers in England were packing their bags, bartenders were polishing their glasses and performers were warming up as Britain prepared Sunday for a major step out of lockdown — but with clouds of worry on the horizon, reports AP.

Excitement at the reopening of travel and hospitality vied with anxiety that a more contagious virus variant first found in India is spreading fast and could delay further plans to reopen.

Cases of the variant have more than doubled in a week in the UK, defying a sharp nationwide downward trend in infections and deaths won by hard-earned months of restrictions and a rapid vaccination campaign. A surge testing and stepped-up vaccination effort was being conducted in the northern England areas hardest hit by that variant.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the variant, formally known as B.1.617.2, is more transmissible than the UK's main strain and "it is likely it will become the dominant variant."

"This isn't over yet," Hancock told the



People in England will soon be able to eat a restaurant meal indoors and drink inside a pub again. Pic - [www.westernadvocate.com.au](http://www.westernadvocate.com.au)

BBC on Sunday. "The virus has just cautious."

gained a bit of pace and we've therefore able to eat a restaurant meal indoors,

On Monday, people in England will be able to eat a restaurant meal indoors,

drink inside a pub, go to a museum, hug friends and visit one another's homes for the first time in months. A ban on overseas holidays is also being lifted, with travel now possible to a short list of countries with low infection rates. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are following similar but slightly different reopening paths.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said if the new variant causes a big surge in cases, it could scupper that plan.

Britain has recorded almost 128,000 coronavirus deaths, the highest reported toll in Europe. But new infections have plummeted to an average of around 2,000 a day, compared with nearly 70,000 a day during the winter peak, and deaths have fallen to single figures a day.

Almost 70% of British adults have received a first dose of a coronavirus vaccine, and more than 37% have had both doses.

Health officials, backed by the army, are carrying out surge testing in Bolton and Blackburn in northwest England, where cases of the new variant are clustered, and pop-up vaccination sites have been set up to speed the inoculation drive. Across the country, the government is shortening the gap between doses for people over 50 from 12 to eight weeks in a bid to give them more protection.

## China suggests 'two-state solution' to stop Israel-Palestine conflict



A ball of fire and a plume of smoke rise above building in Gaza city as Israeli forces shell the Palestinian enclave, early on Monday. Pic - AFP

China has suggested a "two-state solution" and urged the US to shoulder its responsibilities in stopping the escalating Israel-Palestine tension at the UN Security Council meeting (UNSC) held on Sunday.

Putting forward a four-point proposal in context of the ongoing tension, Chinese state councillor and foreign minister, Wang Yi said a "two-state" solution was the "...fundamental way out".

China, he said, would again push the council to try and agree to a statement.

The UN meet was held in the backdrop of violence in the region in which nearly 200 people, majority of them Palestinians including dozens of children, have been killed so far.

"China supports the two sides resuming peace talks based on a "two-state solution" as soon as possible, to

establish an independent State of Palestine that enjoys full sovereignty with East Jerusalem as its capital and based on the 1967 border, and fundamentally realise the peaceful coexistence of Palestine and Israel, realise the harmonious coexistence of the Arab and Jewish nations, and realise lasting peace in the Middle East," Wang was quoted as saying by Chinese official media at the virtual UNSC debate on Palestine.

Wang said because of the obstruction of the US, the UNSC has not been able to speak with one voice on Palestine.

Besides the two-state solution, Wang's four-point proposition included the immediate ceasefire and cessation of violence, humanitarian assistance including lifting the blockade and siege of Gaza at the earliest and ensuring international support in reducing the tension.

"...international support is an obligation. The UNSC must take vigorous action on the Palestine-Israel conflict, reiterate its firm support for a "two-state solution", and push the situation to cool down at an early date," Wang said.

In a separate phone call with Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi during the weekend, Wang said China, as the president of the Security Council for May, has pushed the council to hold two emergency consultations on the Palestine-Israel conflict, and has drafted a press statement, in a bid to guide the council to take actions, he added.

"But regrettably, the council has so far failed to reach an agreement, with the United States standing on the opposite side of international justice, Wang said, urging all members of the council to shoulder their due responsibilities and make effective efforts to maintain regional peace and security."

### 'Perfectly legitimate target': Netanyahu on Gaza tower housing media outlets

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday renewed his claim that a Gaza building levelled by an Israeli airstrike housed a Hamas office as well as American and Middle East news organizations, but gave no evidence, reports AP.

Netanyahu spoke to CBS's Face the Nation about ongoing violence between Israeli forces and the armed Palestinian group Hamas, and about Saturday's airstrike that levelled the building housing Gaza offices of the Associated Press and Al Jazeera news organizations. "It's a perfectly legitimate target," he said.

Asked if he had provided any evidence of Hamas presence in the building in a call later Saturday with President Joe Biden, Netanyahu said, "We pass it through our intelligence people."

Netanyahu gave no time frame for when Israel would be ready to halt its side of the fighting after nearly a week of Israeli airstrikes and Hamas rocket barrages. "We hope that it doesn't continue very long, but we were attacked by Hamas," he said.

Asked about reports that Hamas had agreed to an Egypt-brokered cease-fire but Israel had not, he said, "That's not what I know."

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## Two main contenders sign up for Iran's presidential election



Hardline judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi (left) and former parliament speaker Ali Larijani. Pic - AP

**T**wo of the main contenders to become Iran's president, hardline judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi and former parliament speaker Ali Larijani, registered on Saturday to run in next month's election.

The June 18 election to succeed President Hassan Rouhani is seen as a test of the legitimacy of the country's clerical rulers who are hoping for a high turnout. Rouhani is barred by term limits from running again.

But voter interest may be hit by rising discontent over an economy that has been crippled by U.S. sanctions reimposed after Washington exited a nuclear deal between Iran and major powers three years ago, reports Reuters.

Raisi is a 60-year-old mid-ranking cleric in Iran's Shi'ite Muslim establishment. Appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as head of the judiciary in March 2019, he has emerged as one of the country's most powerful figures and a contender to succeed Khamenei.

Larijani, a former nuclear negotiator and an adviser to Khamenei, is hoping to secure backing from both moderates and hardliners and bridge the gap between them.

"I have come as an independent to the stage to make changes in the executive management of the country and to fight poverty, corruption, humiliation and discrimination," Raisi was quoted as saying in a statement by local media before registering.

"I have come to form a strong people's government for a strong Iran" with the help of "the brave youth," Raisi said, apparently alluding to recent comments by Khamenei who said he expected a "capable and energetic government" to come to power.

The judiciary chief lost to Rouhani in the 2017 presidential election.

Reformists and rights activists say they are alarmed by Raisi's background as a hardline judge, especially during the 1980s when he was one of four judges who imposed death penalties on thousands of political prisoners.

Raisi said his government "will not lose one moment to lift the oppressive sanctions".

First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri, a moderate ally of Rouhani, also registered to run.

Registration of candidates ended on Saturday, after which entrants will be screened for their political and Islamic qualifications by the 12-member Guardian Council vetting body, which has in the past disqualified many moderates and reformers. Six of the members of the hardline body are named by Khamenei.

**D**isney World and other US amusement parks updated their mask policy following the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this week.

Masks have been made optional in outdoor areas and pool decks at Walt Disney Inc's Disney World in Orlando, Florida, effective May 15, but are still needed for entering rides and at indoor locations, according to the guidelines posted in its website.

Universal Orlando has also relaxed its mask policy for guests at outdoor locations. "Face coverings will remain required at all indoor locations, including restaurants, shops, and indoor hotel public areas," the company said in a statement on Friday.

SeaWorld Entertainment Inc said on Saturday masks will no longer be required for guests at SeaWorld Orlando, SeaWorld San Antonio, Busch Gardens



A family walks past Cinderella Castle in the Magic Kingdom, at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Pic - AP

## Disney World and other US theme parks update mask rules

Tampa Bay, Discovery Cove, Aquatica Orlando and Aquatica San Antonio for customers who are fully vaccinated.

"All park employees will be required to continue to wear face coverings," a SeaWorld spokes-

woman said on Saturday.

The CDC on Thursday advised that fully vaccinated people do not need to wear masks outdoors and can avoid wearing them indoors in most places.

## Chinese spacecraft lands on Mars



The life size model of the Chinese Mars rover Zhurong, named after the Chinese god of fire, at the National Museum in Beijing. Pic - AP

**A**n unmanned Chinese spacecraft landed on Mars on Saturday, making China only the second country after the US to successfully land on the red planet.

China's Tianwen-1 spacecraft, currently in orbit around Mars, dropped its lander and rover - named Zhurong after a Chinese mythological god of fire - on the surface of the planet early on Saturday, completing a critical stage of the ongoing mission, described by Chinese state media as "extremely complicated with no ground control", reports Hindustan Times.

The probe landed on a site on a vast lava plain known as Utopia Planitia, "leaving a Chinese footprint on Mars for the first time", official news agency Xinhua reported.

The entry, descent and landing (EDL) took around nine minutes, during which the speed of the craft was reduced from 20,000km per hour to

zero, the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST), the developer of the lander-rover combo of Tianwen-1, told Chinese state media.

The China National Space Administration (CNSA) said in a statement that its rover Zhurong had successfully landed on Mars after "nine minutes of terror", which is how Nasa describes the time interval when scientists on Earth have no control over the rover because of communication delays.

Tianwen-1, consisting of an orbiter, a lander and a rover, was launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of southern China's Hainan island on July 23, 2020.

Tianwen-1 was one of three that reached Mars in February, with US rover Perseverance touching down on February 18; Hope - the third spacecraft that arrived on Mars in February this year - is not designed to make a landing. Launched by the United Arab Emirates, it is currently orbiting above Mars gathering data on its weather and atmosphere.

"The first successful landing ever was made by Nasa's Viking 1 in July 1976 and then by Viking 2 in September that year. A Mars probe launched by the former Soviet Union landed in December 1971, but communication was lost seconds after landing," Reuters said in a report.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

# Why has Mauritius left Fiji so far behind?

*Catching up with Mauritius - the country Fiji was once richer than, but is now twice as poor as - will not be easy. But Fiji would do well to aim to become more like Mauritius: economically more diversified, politically more free, and socially less polarised*

Mauritius was recently declared by the World Bank to be a high-income country. On the other side of the globe, but with many similar characteristics, Fiji, which used to be richer than Mauritius, now has less than half the latter's income per capita.

Both countries were dominated by sugar cane farming in the past, and are reliant on tourism today. While Mauritius generates slightly more tourism dollars per capita than Fiji, its economy as a whole is less dependent on tourism. Since 1995, Fiji's international tourism receipts as a proportion of total exports have consistently been higher than Mauritius'. Since 2010, the annual gap has been about 15 to 20 percentage points.

Mauritius' lower reliance on tourism reflects the fact that its economy is more diversified than Fiji's. Mauritius' top exports in 2018 were: travel; textiles; and business, professional and technical services. These constituted 39%, 11% and 10% of total exports, respectively. On the other hand, Fiji's top exports in the same year were heavily skewed towards travel, at 54% of total exports, with its next two biggest exports, bottled water and fish products, only representing 6% each.

Mauritius' exports are not only more diversified; they have grown faster as well. Fiji's and Mauritius' inflation-adjusted exports were virtually the same in the first half of the 1980s. Since then, however, Mauritius' exports have grown much faster - at least till around 2012. Its exports have been struggling since though: no doubt this is one reason why its growth has slowed.

Fiji and Mauritius had a very similar economic structure in the 1970s, the decade following independence. In 1976, both had a service sector that made up 47% of GDP, manufacturing at 11-13%, and agriculture at 20-24%. Now the two economies are very different. Agriculture is still 12% of GDP in Fiji, but only 3% in Mauritius. The share of manufacturing has changed little in either country. Mauritius has become a service-based economy, with the service sector now accounting for 67% of GDP, compared to just 54% in Fiji.

Mauritius has been particularly successful in developing competitive niches in the service sector. In 2019, the information and communications technology/business process outsourcing sector contributed 5.8% to its GDP.

Facilitating trade between Asia and Africa has also proven to be a successful strategy. According to Auty (p.271), Mauritius channelled about 40% of India's inbound foreign direct investment during the 2000s through a slew of accommoda-

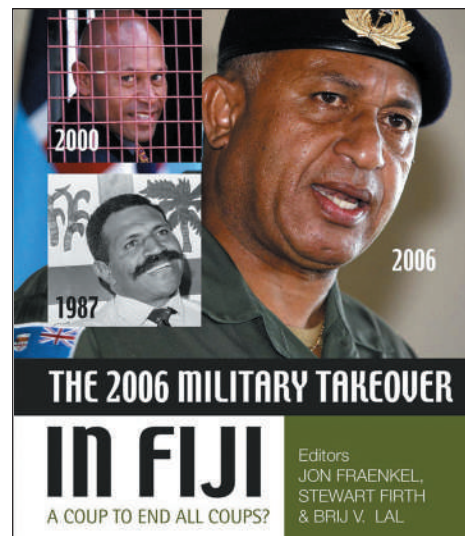


*“Both Fiji and Mauritius are multi-ethnic societies. Economists Arvind Subramanian and Devesh Roy have argued that Mauritius' ethnic diversity has been a strength, since it has forced the country into a moderate settlement, bound by the rule of law. That argument doesn't stack up well in the comparison with Fiji. From that perspective, Mauritius has benefited rather by the clear numerical dominance in that country of one ethnic group, the Indo-Mauritians, who make up some two-thirds of the country's population. Fiji by contrast has been wracked by tensions between its two main ethnic groups, and by the process of one group asserting itself over the other...”*

tive policies such as a double taxation treaty and favourable tax rates.

Underlying Mauritius' superior economic performance is no doubt a better quality of governance. In a 2019 ranking of countries by ease of doing business produced by the World Bank, Mauritius ranked 13th while Fiji languished in 102nd spot. In the World Bank governance indicators (which cover about 210 countries), Fiji ranks slightly higher for control of corruption, but Mauritius ranks much higher for government effectiveness, regulatory quality, and rule of law.

A deeper account would explain not only Mauritius' economic success but also its better governance and its greater political stability and freedom. Both Fiji and Mauritius are multi-ethnic societies. Economists Arvind Subramanian and Devesh Roy have argued that Mauritius'



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Fiji by contrast has been wracked by tensions between its two main ethnic

groups, and by the process of one group asserting itself over the other.

Ethnic conflict has also been more intense in Fiji because one group is indigenous, the iTaukei, and the other group, the Indo-Fijians, started arriving in the late 1800s. Mauritius was uninhabited until 1638 when it was first colonised.

There were about the same number of iTaukei and Indo-Fijians in the 1940s, and slightly more Indo-Fijians by the 1980s. The subsequent backlash against the latter group (the first three coups were directed against governments popular with Indo-Fijians) changed the country's ethnic make-up as Indo-Fijians decided to leave. Indigenous Fijians are now once again safely in the majority. The last census in which ethnicity was recorded was in 2007, and it showed one-and-a-half times as many iTaukei as Indo-Fijians.

Is Fiji then becoming more like Mauritius? Certainly, there is now one dominant ethnic group in Fiji, but there is probably also greater ongoing polarisation. One interesting contrast is the very different marriage rates between ethnic groups in the two countries. We don't have recent data on this, but it was estimated to be 0.9% in Fiji in the 1990s; and ten times higher at 8.8% in Mauritius in the late 1980s.

And then there is the damage done to institutions - the rule of law, democracy - in Fiji by the country's four coups. This seems permanent or at least long term. Catching up with Mauritius - the country Fiji was once richer than, but is now twice as poor as - will not be easy. But Fiji would do well to aim to become more like Mauritius: economically more diversified, politically more free, and socially less polarised.

**Stephen Howes & Sherman  
Surandiran  
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# WhatsApp's controversial privacy update may be banned in the EU - but the app's sights are fixed on India

*Accessing India's digital consumers is seen as the key to future growth for big tech companies like Facebook*



India's soaring smartphone connectivity means it's a tempting market for big tech firms. Pic - images.theconversation.com

The roll out of WhatsApp's new privacy policy, which critics warn will lead to more data sharing with its parent company Facebook, received a blow on May 13 after German regulators temporarily banned the update. The regulators are now said to be seeking an EU-wide ban by presenting their case to the European Data Protection Board.

WhatsApp users will have noticed a recent intensification of pop-ups nudging them to agree to the app's new terms of service. The cliff-edge deadline for users to accept these new terms - with WhatsApp announcing that those who failed to do so would lose functionality on the app - had been set for Saturday, May 15. That deadline was recently moved forward by "several weeks".

This extension comes after WhatsApp was forced to scrap its initial February deadline in response to a global backlash against the Facebook subsidiary's take-it-or-leave-it policy change. Since then, WhatsApp has sought to reassure users that its commitment to end-to-end encryp-

tion and user privacy is as strong as ever.

But while the German ban will be a blow to WhatsApp's ambitions to monetise the app, the messaging platform may ultimately have its sights fixed elsewhere. WhatsApp's largest market is India, with over 400 million users. That's more than three times as many users as the app's second-largest market, Brazil, which has 120 million users.

That means the messaging app's privacy changes - built around the introduction of WhatsApp Business - are expected to be particularly lucrative in India, where WhatsApp recently took out front-page adverts in all the country's daily newspapers in an attempt to placate disgruntled users. WhatsApp's continuing resolve to pursue changes to its terms, despite widespread opposition, is best understood by looking at the opportunity for growth big tech firms see in India's blossoming, less-regulated digital economy.

## Explaining WhatsApp's changes

Since acquiring WhatsApp for US\$19

billion (£13.5 billion) in 2014, Facebook has been exploring how to monetise the app. Determined not to introduce third-party banner ads, the company launched WhatsApp Business and Business API in 2018 to facilitate instant chat and payments between users and businesses, with the latter paying WhatsApp for access to the platform's users.

The new terms and conditions are a crucial step in this move to make money from WhatsApp, because users who agree to them will consent to their information being shared between WhatsApp Business and other Facebook products. According to WhatsApp, only those who use WhatsApp Business will be affected by its new terms.

Still, when WhatsApp's privacy update was first announced, the Competition Commission of India called for an investigation, condemning the update's compulsory nature. The commission also criticised WhatsApp and Facebook's abuse of their network effect within the Indian market, which in practice means users have limited choice to change platforms.

A complaint was also filed with the Delhi High Court confronting the "clear attack on users' personal data" which "has put a Damocles sword upon its users", ultimately for Facebook's gain. The next date for the court hearing is May 21 2021.

Like users in the UK and Europe, Indian citizens also protested the changes by downloading alternative messaging platforms, such as Signal and Telegram, in record-breaking numbers.

But unlike Europeans, who enjoy the protection of EU privacy laws and assertive regulators prepared to ban the update altogether, Indian users are protected by fewer privacy laws. India's Personal Data Protection Bill has not yet been implemented, leaving WhatsApp with a diminishing window of opportunity to monetise the data of its Indian users.

## Privacy in India

For India's citizens, protests against WhatsApp's privacy policy are informed by distrust in big tech and the Indian government. Their discontent is wrapped up in ongoing concerns about the limits of privacy on WhatsApp, and a wider understanding that the government is willing to sacrifice access and privacy for control and security.

Despite the messaging platform's "#ItsBetweenYou" campaign in India, which emphasised WhatsApp's commitment to privacy, the platform feels less than private when the government targets its critics for surveillance on the app, when private health data is shared on neighbourhood WhatsApp groups during the

pandemic and when police routinely seize smartphones to access their WhatsApp chat histories.

This sense of encroachment on privacy has been further heightened by the Indian government's expediting of its new internet regulations, which will force platforms to hand over user information to law enforcement upon request.

Critics argue that such moves are tantamount to "digital authoritarianism" and that, while India's forthcoming data protection laws may offer greater digital privacy, they may also enable further government misuse of citizens' data - as we have seen in China.

## WhatsApp's resolve

Against this backdrop of weak privacy protections, Facebook bought a 9.99% stake in Jio Platforms for US\$5.7 billion in April 2020. The telecommunications company, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, runs the JioMart and JioMoney platforms - strategically important for Facebook's expansion into India.

Then, in November 2020, WhatsApp Payments received government approval after two years of regulatory pushback and protectionism - opening the door for WhatsApp to compete in India's payments market.

This carefully orchestrated double move not only integrates WhatsApp and WhatsApp Payments with India's increasingly dominant e-commerce platform JioMart - it also provides Facebook with a valuable ally in India's wealthiest businessman, Mukesh Ambani.

Ambani previously warned Modi about the threat of "data colonialisation" as foreign tech companies turn to India's huge market as their next source of growth. Now he appears to have paved the way for US-based Facebook to enjoy the spoils, via WhatsApp Business and its new terms and conditions.

Since WhatsApp is regarded as a "bare necessity" in everyday life, most of its users will eventually accept the new privacy policy in the absence of regulations to ban it. But as WhatsApp pivots its product from protecting democratic life through free speech to generating profit from its new business platform, the data of Indian citizens is likely the primary target.

By Philippa Williams,  
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From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4<sup>th</sup> Year No 164

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 27 September 1957

● *Opposition always inflames the enthusiast, never converts him. -- Friedrich Schiller*

# Anquetil's Political Testament

Doojendranath  
Napal

**O**ur Constitution is in the making. What it will be the Boundary Commission alone can tell. But one thing is clear, the conservatives have again come forward to raise barriers to progress. They did it in 1884-1885 when the question of representative government was envisaged. Again in 1945-1947 in the Consultative Committee they were there at their old posts. But since their ranks have thinned. There remains only a few of the old conservative guards and their hirelings who are still fighting their lone, hopeless battle.

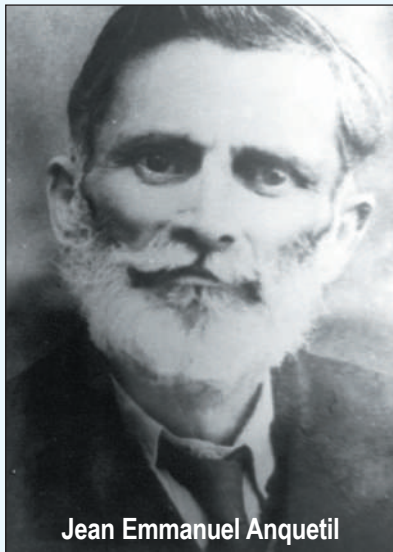
Our top Labour leaders of today also sat in the Consultative Committee. Hon Seeneevassen, Dr Ramgoolam, Mr Beejadhur, only to mention these, fought with their utmost vigour for Universal Suffrage. But the man who stood out prominently as the champion of the labouring classes was Jean Emmanuel Anquetil.

When Dr Curé, founder of the Labour Party, for reasons better known to himself, cut himself off from the Labour movement, Anquetil had come to the rescue.

He instilled new vigour into the Labour Party and made of it a political organisation with a programme and followers. Anquetil knew that many of our political battles are fought in the House of Commons and our destiny is often shaped in the Colonial Office. He therefore brought his party within the recognition of the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Labour Party of England and the Fabian Society.

It was above all his character which helped him in his trials and tribulations. Fearless, outspoken, no easy prey to worldly temptations, he was the leader of the down-trodden classes. As Remy Ollier before him, nothing could curb his will. No sacrifice was too much for him. He had been apprentice, mechanic, sailor; he had travelled in many parts of the world, and had been a Hyde Park orator. Since his arrival in the island in 1936 he had worked tirelessly for the labouring classes. He was above all an active trade unionist, one who knew what trade unions were capable of, for he had seen them at work in the UK.

He had from the very beginning marked himself as a selfless and tireless organiser. He conceived, planned and set on foot the trade union movement in the island.



Jean Emmanuel Anquetil

We can say of Anquetil's contribution in the Consultative Committee to be his **political testament**. He spoke vehemently against suffrage for women because it was a system which should give votes to the "ladies" and not to women in general. He could not understand how women could be granted such a right **"before men had the full right to vote"**.

How could a woman because she had property and could fill her electoral form in English consider herself more important to society than the labourer? Anquetil said:

"It is most unfair to say that the woman who earns Rs 50 is of more useful service to this community than the poor labourer who bends his back to dig holes to plant canes which is the living arteria of the community."

He believed in government by the people, for the people. He could imagine the gains of the worker under a democratic system of government. He outlined his political career since 1936. He had known **"all the creeks and the corners of this island for ten years"**. He had fought for male adult suffrage for the past ten years and could not be a **"coward to all those who flocked to his meetings"** to hear about it. He could say with conviction:

**"Therefore, we consider that the experience he (the worker) gains by being crushed under the worries of the weight that he is carrying all the time in the economic structure of this country is sure to convince him that nothing can save him but a good, sound government."**

He ably refuted the oft-repeated argument of the conservative that the majority would swamp the other communities. He said: **"If we were to believe in this swamping, then I would say that the possessing class has swamped us for 60 years and it is just fair that we should swamp them now."**

It is sad but too true that the founder of the Labour Party, Dr Maurice Curé, did not stand for the ideal which his Party proclaimed. What prompted him to adopt this attitude? The truth is there to condemn him. He said in the Consultative Committee:

**"The condition for anybody to be an elector must be that he should fill his form in English instead of Chinese, Urdu, Hindi, Gujrat, Afghan, Arab and so on."**

While supporting the case for the "ladies", Dr Curé was not kind towards Muslim women. He said: **"It is true that the right of women to vote if introduced in Mauritius would not allow every woman in this country to vote, especially if on restricted basis. But, Sir, are we going to wait for the grant of female suffrage in this island till our Muslim sisters have ceased to be cloistered to live in separate compartments?..."**

Here then are the historical facts, Dr Cure and his comrade-in-arms Anquetil had parted the ways. One was for progress, for the toiling masses though it meant for him following the rough and thorny road. The other refused to march with time. What is strange is that he was fighting his own doughty lieutenant, Anquetil, whose only fault was that he was true to himself and to the cause he had espoused.

\* \* \*

## Swami Hari Hara Sastri

Ramoo Sooriamorthy

**B**orn at Palghat in India and educated at the Vedashastram College, Swami Hari Hara Sastri left India in March, 1925, to serve in the Kali Temple of Geylon. In November 1925, upon the invitation of the Congregation des Hindous de Maurice, he set foot on our shores and put up for a week at the Young Men's Hindu Association (then at Little Mountain Street) before taking charge of the Sockalingum Meenatchee Ammen Temple as head-priest. Hardly then was the Swami aware of the tremendous amount of work that was in store for him during the last 32 years. While, throughout, his erudite culture and sober yet soul-thrilling piety had won for him an abiding place in our love.

All kindness of heart, solicited from all sides, officiating, preaching, Swami Hari Hara Sastri was that persistent reflect of Bhakti.

What had been the sum total of his mission would be difficult to state: The Kumba Abishegham of the Temple which he performed on the 28th May, 1931, amidst scenes of unprecedented fervour and dignity: the Tiru-Kalyamum which he celebrated in

March, 1934, and the Maha-Magham which took place sometime after in the same year stand out pre-eminent. The many Kumba-Abishegham ceremonies throughout the length and breadth of the island, the Sarasvathy Poojah at the Young Men's Hindu Association's School, the Doorgah Poojah, the Yeghadeshi Viradhum, and countless other Tirushahs are eloquent testimonies to his ideals of devotion. For very many years, Swami Hari Hara Sastri had been the Honorary President of the Hindu Hymn Society. Of all the evidence bearing on his proficiency in Sanskrit and on the high esteem in which he was held, the most characteristic is that it was the Swami that was requested to officiate at the never-to-be forgotten Maha-Yagna organized by Pandit Bissoondoyal in 1942 and at the ceremony symbolizing the immersion of Gaudhiji's ashes at Fort William in 1948. The foundation of the Hindu Maha Jana Sangham itself is the result of his initiative.

Last year Swami Hari Hara Sastri extended his mission to our sister-island of Reunion where he performed the Kumba-Abishegham ceremonies of the newly built Kali Temple of Saint Denis (9th December, 1956) and of the restored temple of Saint Andre and Saint Benoit, and laid the foundation stone of a temple at Saint Louis. To the Kali temple of Saint Denis, the Swami had also made the gift of his life-long Sakkrum.

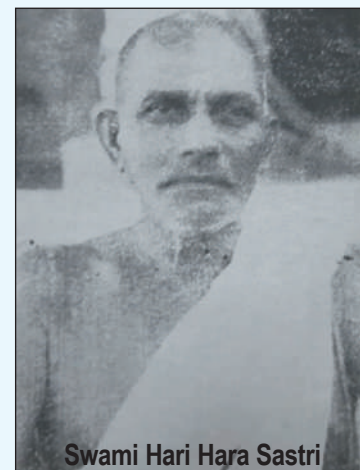
His untimely death has removed a no-table figure from ourselves and created a gap that will never be filled.

We should pay this humble tribute to his strenuous devotion to our cult in our island-home. His irresistible sacrifice for the Sockalingum Meenatchee Ammen Temple has denied him the ultimate fate of breathing his last among his kin in the motherland as he

had always wished.

The greatest preoccupation of his last days had been the erection within the temple precinct of the Vivagha Mandapam which he was glad at heart to see completed. Only on the eve of his passing, the Swami was planning its inaugural ceremony with the Soobramaniar-Vallee Kalyanum. It is hard to believe that never anymore will this gracious and smiling countenance of the Swami greet us at the Temple.

The large demonstration of respect, so obviously sincere and so deeply impressive, at his cremation will endure for long in our memories. Let us pray for his soul to attain Moksham! May his reward be as great as his sacrifice!



Swami Hari Hara Sastri



## Diaspora & Right to Vote

### what comes out of elections?

This a possibility as the tendency to vote on communal or caste lines is very much ingrained in our electoral philosophy.

**\* To make it possible for the diaspora to vote, it would be necessary to amend to reform our electoral system as well as redefine our electoral boundaries in case a separate constituency is required for the diaspora. That sounds easier said than done?**

The qualifications of electors as defined in our Constitution will have to be amended. The registration clauses contained in the Representation of the People Act will also have to be over-

hauled. At present the registration of electors takes place when registration officers visit households and gather all the data. In addition, there are registration offices in different localities to enable people to register. Objections can be taken against registration. How will the list of electors of the diaspora be compiled? Will it be online? How do we check the eligibility criteria? How will objections to registration be done?

**\* The European Court of Human Rights had earlier ruled against an Englishman who had sued the State to claim his right to vote after spending 15 years outside the country. The Court had stated that the right to vote is conditioned by residence in the country. Wouldn't it therefore be much simpler to grant the right to vote to those of the diaspora who decide to come back to the country and settle down for good?**

This seems logical. Voting depends on residence. Even in some countries where the diaspora has the right to vote the electors must be physically present in the country to cast their vote. This is the case of Singapore.

LEX

☛ Cont. from page 5

**\* In an earlier opinion expressed on this subject, Rama Sithanen had argued that the Mauritian diaspora (unlike the Americans who regardless of their adopted country, pay taxes in the United States) pays its taxes elsewhere, so how can it vote in Mauritius? What's your take on that?**

The non-payment of taxes in Mauritius

is a solid argument against granting the right of vote to the diaspora. After all how will the country benefit if the vote is extended to the diaspora?

**\* There is also the issue of the electoral outcome which might be overturned in the case of marginal constituencies and even nationally. Would that be fair to the local population whose lives are directly affected by**

**“Can we imagine a Bangladeshi or a South African standing as a candidate and as a leader of a party and get elected? Already a Mauritian who satisfies all the constitutional conditions cannot aspire to become Prime Minister for reasons that we all know...”**

## The forgotten psychological cost of corruption in developing countries

☛ Cont. from page 2

We found clear and convincing evidence that exposure to day to day petty corruption has a significant negative effect on mental health. As women tend to be the primary caregivers, they are often the ones seeking essential services for their families. Our findings suggest that women's dependence on public services in areas where corruption is rife had a greater impact on their mental health compared to that of men.

We also found that that exposure to corruption reduces trust in local communities and institutions, and leads to a reduction in incomes, which in turn affects mental health.

### Corruption clampdown

In 2016, Nguyen Phu Trong, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, launched a major anti-corruption campaign. Between January 2016 and August 2018, around 56 government officials were reportedly disciplined over corruption, and several others prosecuted.

Some observers have since suggested that the campaign has reduced corruption

levels. Our research also found the anti-corruption drive improved levels of mental health in the areas where it was success-

fully tackled.

More recently though, the pandemic has no doubt provided ample conditions

for corruption to flourish, with demand for essential services and goods likely far exceeding supply. There are already reports of Covid-19 related corruption related to health care and humanitarian aid. The disease has already affected long term equality and social mobility, further disempowering poor and marginalised groups.

For any post-pandemic recovery process to be inclusive, there needs to be a commitment to combating corruption and enhancing transparency in governance structures. To the world's poorest, each day is an urgent crisis of securing money, food and safety. It is an all-consuming and continuing struggle affecting both their physical and mental health – and made worse by long standing corruption.



**Vietnam Communist Party Secretary General Nguyen Phu Trong's clampdown was known locally as the 'blazing furnace'. Pic - EPA/LUONG THAI LINH**

**Smriti Sharma** - Lecturer in Economics, Newcastle University,

**Finn Tarp** - Professor of Economics, University of Copenhagen,

**Saurabh Singhal** - Lecturer in Economics, Lancaster University

# IQ tests: are humans getting smarter?

*Or have we reached peak human intelligence?*

Roger Staff & Lawrence Whalley  
University of Aberdeen

From the algorithms that make our social media accounts function to the sleep-tracking technology in our smartwatches, the world has never seemed so technologically advanced and developed. Which is why it would be easy to assume that with each generation, humans are getting smarter. But is this the case?

It's a question many scientists have pondered, particularly so given that throughout the 20th century the average score on IQ tests around the world increased significantly - especially in the west. This increase was around three IQ points per decade - meaning we are technically living with more geniuses on the planet than ever before.

This increase in IQ scores and the seeming tendency for intelligence levels to increase over time is known as the Flynn effect (named after the late US-born educator, James Flynn). And improvements in health and nutrition, better education and working conditions, along with recent access to technology have all contributed.

Indeed, in the 19th century, for example, industrialisation created large overcrowded cities with poor health outcomes and premature death. But improved housing, health and parenting, along with greater access to free education and gradual progression from manual to more intellectually demanding jobs, led many to live longer and healthier lives. Research even suggests there's what's known as an "IQ-mortality gradient" whereby smarter people often live longer.

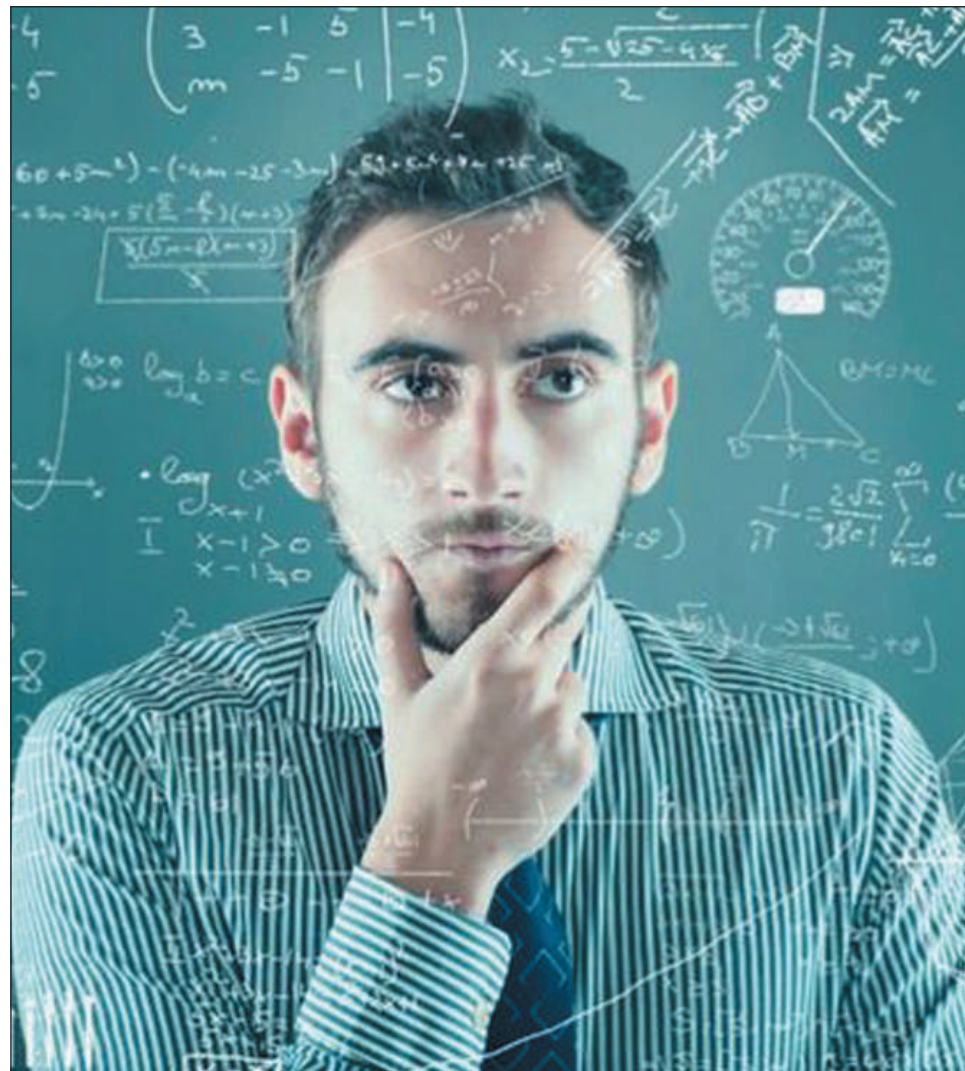
Research in countries that have not undergone postindustrial development also supports the idea that improved access to education, housing and nutrition are the main factors that have led to IQ increases. A study of sub-Saharan African countries, for example, found that the Flynn effect has not yet taken hold there. Or in other words, IQ test results have not massively increased because life circumstances haven't significantly improved for a large number of people.

But that's not the whole story, because over the past 30 years there have been some reports of decreased performance on IQ tests in some countries. So is it fair to assume that humans in the west have reached peak intelligence?

## Peak intelligence?

Intelligence quotient, or IQ tests, are a measure of reasoning and the ability to use information and logic quickly. The tests assess short and long-term memory through puzzles and test a person's ability to recall information.

While IQ test results have been



Does everyone have the potential to be a genius?  
Pic - i2-prod.birminghammail.co.uk

increasing for some time, research suggesting a "reverse Flynn effect", indicates this upward trend may now be slowing. A Norwegian study, for example, found that men born before 1975 showed the expected positive "Flynn effect" of a three point gain for each successive decade. But for those born after 1975, there was a steady decline in IQ. This amounts to a seven point difference between generations - with average IQs having dropped by around 0.2 points a year. Other studies carried out between 2005 to 2013 in the UK, Sweden and France have also shown similar results.

These results are hard to explain, but it has been suggested that it may be linked to changes in the way that children are taught in schools. This has been a time that has seen major shifts away from reading serious literature and rote learning - a memorisation technique based on repetition - to a more collective scientific problem-solving approach, which is now taught to most children in the west.

These "student-centred" teaching methods are now combined with interpersonal skills and teamwork along with encouragement for students to understand the emotional insights of others. The over-

all impact of this approach might encourage smarter and more effective working but places less emphasis on individual skills required in IQ tests. So maybe in that sense, we're just not as good at carrying out IQ tests any more.

It has been suggested that a decrease in nutritional standards could also play a role. In the UK, for example, many people struggle to meet adequate nutritional guidelines. Immigration of people who grew up in conditions of greater poverty along with the tendency for the more intelligent to have fewer children have also been put forward as possible theories.

## "Biased and unfair"

Another consideration is that over the past 50 years, questions about the suitability of IQ tests have been raised - described in some quarters as biased, unfair and inappropriate. Indeed, the use of IQ tests for job and school selection has diminished. It's likely then that this decline in use, coupled with a reduction in coaching for such tests, has led to poorer performance when IQ tests are used.

So, in answer to the question are humans getting smarter - it's hard to say. But what is certain is that the lower IQ scores are not necessarily a sign that

humans are now less intelligent, more just that people are scoring lower on IQ tests. And, in this sense, potential reasons for a declining IQ should be seen in context - one where the prevailing view of IQ tests has changed.

It's also important to think about what IQ tests actually measure - and what they don't - along with what we mean when we talk about intelligence. IQ tests, for example, are no good at measuring things like personality, creativity, or emotional and social intelligence - or even wisdom. These are attributes that many of us may well prize over and above a high scoring IQ test result.

**Sanlam**

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**Laughter**  
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## What's Up?

One word in the English language that could be a noun, verb, adj, adv, prep is "UP".

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word. That word is, 'UP'. It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak 'UP', and why are the officers UP for election, if there is a tie, it is a toss UP, and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?



We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP can be confusing. A drain must be opened UP because it is blocked UP!!!

We open UP a store in the morning, but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!!!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions!!!

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with, UP to, a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun

comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it soaks UP the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now... my time is UP!

So, did this whole thing crack you UP?

\*\*\*

On a windy day, an old lady is standing on a street corner, holding on to her hat with both hands, even though her dress is flying up over her face. An old man across the street sees her and runs over.

As he approaches her, he says, "Sister, you ought to be ashamed of yourself, standing over here in all this wind with your dress flying over your head, exposing your paraphernalia, and you're holding that damn hat with both hands. You ought to be ashamed."

She looked at him and said, "Look here, fool, everything down there is 80 years old, but this hat is brand new."

\*\*\*

A man was involved in an auto accident.

A policeman ran up to the car and asked, "Are you seriously injured?"

The man said, "How should I know? I'm a doctor not a lawyer."

\*\*\*

**FUN FACT: a majority of archeologists are women due to their natural ability to dig up the past**



Boyfriend: "ILY."

Girlfriend: "Can you please say the words? It makes it better."

Boyfriend: "I'm leaving you."

\*\*\*

Two women friends had gone out for a girl's night out, and had been overenthusiastic on the cocktails. Incredibly drunk and walking

home, they suddenly realized they both needed to pee. They were very close to a graveyard, and one of them suggested they do their business behind a headstone or something.

The first woman had nothing to wipe with, so she took off her panties, used them, and threw them away. Her friend however, was wearing an expensive underwear set and didn't want to ruin hers, but was lucky enough to salvage a large ribbon from a wreath that was on a grave and proceeded to wipe herself with it. After finishing, they made their way home.

The next day, the first woman's husband phones the other husband and says, "These girls' nights out have got to stop. My wife came home last night without her panties."

"That's nothing," said the other. "Mine came back with a sympathy card stuck between the cheeks of her butt that said, "From all of us at the fire station, we'll never forget you!"

\*\*\*

A new patient was quite upset when the doctor's nurse led him to a small, curtained cubicle and told him to undress.

"But I only want the doctor to look at an ingrown toenail!" he protested.

"Our rule is that everyone must undress," replied the blond nurse.

"That's a stupid rule," grumbled the patient, "making me undress just to look at my toe."

"That's nothing," growled a voice from the next cubicle. "I just came to fix the phones!"

\*\*\*

A drunk appears in front of a judge.

The judge says, "You've been brought here for drinking."

The drunk says, "Okay, let's get started!"

\*\*\*

A woman answered the doorbell with a man standing on her porch.

The man said, "I'm terribly sorry. I just ran over your cat and I would like to replace it for you."

The woman replied, "Well that's alright with me, but how are you at catching mice?"



## Les Bons Mots de Pierre Desproges !

- Je ne bois jamais à outrance, je ne sais même pas où c'est.
- L'ouverture d'esprit n'est pas

une fracture du crâne.

- Je n'ai jamais abusé de l'alcool, il a toujours été consentant.
- Si vous parlez à Dieu, vous êtes croyant... S'il vous répond, vous êtes schizophrène.
- 5 fruits et légumes par jour, ils me font marrer... Moi, à la troisième pastèque, je cale.
- L'alcool tue, mais combien sont nés grâce à lui ?
- Un jour j'irai vivre en Théorie, car en Théorie tout se passe bien.
- La médecine du travail est la preuve que le travail est bien une maladie !
- Le lundi, je suis comme Robinson Crusoé, j'attends Vendredi.
- IKEA est le meilleur prénom pour une femme: suédoise, bon marché, à emmener aussitôt chez soi et facile à monter.
- Dieu a donné un cerveau et un sexe à l'homme mais pas assez de sang pour irriguer les deux à la fois.
- La lampe torche : le PQ aussi !
- La pression, il vaut mieux la boire que la subir.
- Jésus changeait l'eau en vin et tu t'étonnes que 12 mecs le suivaient partout !
- Si la violence ne résout pas ton problème, c'est que tu ne frappes pas assez fort.
- Travailler n'a jamais tué personne mais pourquoi prendre le risque ?

*Pierre Desproges, né le 9 mai 1939 à Pantin et mort le 18 avril 1988 à Paris, est un humoriste français réputé pour son humour noir, son anticonformisme et son sens de l'absurde.*

### Life's Stories

## The Secret to Success



Once a young man asked the wise man, Socrates, the secret to success. Socrates patiently listened to the man's question and told him to meet him near the river the next morning for the answer. The next morning Socrates

asked the young man to walk with him towards the river. As they went in the river the water got up to their neck. But to the young man's surprise Socrates ducked him into the water.

The young man struggled to get out of the water, but Socrates was strong and kept him there until the boy started turning blue. Socrates pulled the man's head out of the water. The young man gasped and took a deep breath of air. Socrates asked, "What did you want the most when your head was in the water?" The young man replied, "Air." Socrates said, "That is the secret to success. When you want success as badly as you wanted the air while you were in the water, then you will get it. There is no other secret."

**Moral of the short story:** A burning desire is the starting point of all accomplishment. Just like a small fire cannot give much heat, a weak desire cannot produce great results.

Alltimeshortstories.com

## Being Mum & dad

# 5 main types of discipline every parent must know about

Whether you are a parent of one or four, raising kids is never an easy task. No set guidelines or handbook can tell you how to raise your kids in a better way. Every child is different and they need to be dealt with differently. Along with love, care and protection they also need to be disciplined when required. Most parents might not enjoy this part of parenting, but discipline plays a crucial role in shaping your kid's personality, helping them to do better in future. Not every child has the same thought process and nature; similarly, not every child can be disciplined in the same way. Here are 5 common types of discipline, as reported by Times of India, that parents mostly try with their pros and cons.

### Positive discipline

This type of discipline is based on the praise and encouragement method. In positive discipline, parents often help the child find a sense of belonging in the world around them and try to teach them problem-solving skills to help them tackle the situation when they do not behave properly rather. Positive discipline is based on the concept of mutual respect where parents sit and talk to their little ones whenever they make any mistakes.



### Gentle discipline

Gentle discipline is more about redirecting the problem for the time being to prevent kids from behaving badly. In this, parents, rather than yelling or punishing, use humour and distraction to deal with the situation when their kids demand something they do not like. It is a supportive teaching process. Like if kids refuse to finish their homework, parents would tell them the consequences gently and humorously and later help their kids figure out how to finish the work.

### Boundary-based discipline

The boundary-based discipline is all about setting limits and clear rules. In this way of discipline, kids are

apprised about the consequences of flouting the rule or misbehaving. According to the Child Mind Institute, setting boundaries is important to children not just to instill discipline, but also in other aspects. It is crucial that kids know that they need to respect the boundaries of others.

### Behaviour modification

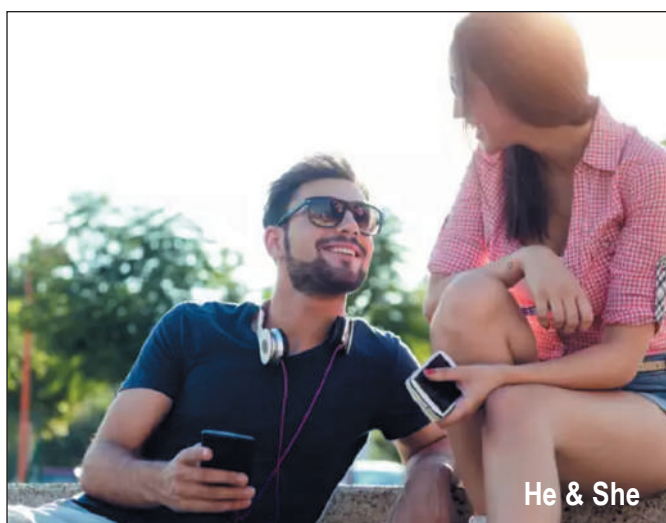
Behaviour modification discipline is a combination of both positive and negative consequences. Parents praise and reward the good behaviour of kids and misbehaviour is discouraged or ignored. Studies suggest that this strategy helps conditioning kids and unlearning bad behaviour. Some parents see this as bribes, while as per others it is an excellent way to raise kids.

### Emotion coaching

Emotion coaching is showing empathy and being supportive to kids of their needs and feelings. Along with this, parents also set clear limits in this type of disciplinary method. Parents believe that children's behaviours are based on their feelings and needs and it is important to teach them how to express these feelings and needs appropriately.

### The bottom line

All five types of discipline have their pros and cons. But it is hard to say which one is the best and would benefit your child. What you should do depends on you, your kid's behaviour and family. No single strategy can work on all the kids.



He & She

## How to be the girlfriend your husband needs

Once you're married, the romance slowly fades away. With day to day responsibilities burdening a couple's mind every day, it's very difficult to take time out for some much-needed romance that becomes a long forlorn tale after few years into your marriage. Hence, if your husband has been lately feeling the blues, it's time to be someone he needs - as his girlfriend. Here are some tips on how you can be the girlfriend you were in the relationship before.

### Focus on the attractive traits of your husband

Remember the things you liked about your husband when you both started

dating. Was it his smile or the cologne on his wrist? Focusing on the qualities and things you loved about him can make you feel drifted towards him and you will end up making him feel good about himself. After all, it was these qualities that got you both hitched!

### Praise him

Before all the complexities of marriage, you both probably focused on each other's positive points. A little praise here and there about his cooking skills or how good he has been looking in his polo shirt will definitely make him blush and appreciate your compliments whole heartedly!

### Appreciate his efforts

If he has been working very hard to support his and your family then you should applaud his efforts once in a while. Everyone loves to hear a little appreciation and words of gratitude sometimes to know that their efforts don't go unnoticed.

### Surprise him!

It's understandable when there's very little excitement left in a marriage. But you can always give your husband little surprises just like you both used to when you were in a relationship. Dress up attractively for him, bake him his favourite cake or surprise him with a dinner date at a plush restaurant. All of this would rekindle the passion!

## 7 signs you should stay single, even if you want a relationship

Most of us want to be in a steady relationship full of love, excitement, trust, and satisfaction. After all, sharing a life with someone we love is fulfilling and charming in its own way. However, sometimes, we tend to look for a relationship to get over the bad experiences and trauma of a previous one. This should not be done at all since it could harm you even more. For more clarity about this, here are 7 signs you should stay single, even if you want a relationship.

### You are still thinking about your last relationship

If you compare every guy to the last one or still stalk him on social media and you fume all over when you see him with another girl, you need to get over it before you start dating a new guy.

### You are not comfortable being alone

For some people, loneliness is one of the hardest emotions to manage. They start looking for a relationship in such a case. But the more relevant need is learning how not to be lonely when alone. Get comfortable with being alone and your future relationships will reap the benefits.

### You have lost yourself

Some people define themselves by

who they are with. They adopt their lover's interests and always think of themselves as a couple. If you have lost who you are in the world of relationships, it's time to find yourself again by staying single for some time.

### Your baggage feels heavy

If you notice that your baggage from your last relationship is still affecting you, it may be time to be alone for a bit. For example, if you were cheated on and now you can't get over the idea that everyone will cheat on you, it's time to take a break and work on those issues.

### You don't put yourself first

If you settle for less in all aspects of your life and you don't put yourself first, stay single to take time to get to know yourself better. Don't jump into a relationship because you think it's what you need to do or it's what everyone else wants for you.

### You isolate yourself more than you make plans

If you are spending way too much time with your lonesome self, start hanging out with friends and family. You don't need a boyfriend or girlfriend to have fun and to form close connections with someone. Stop spending so much time by yourself and call up old friends.

### You feel like you need a significant other to complete you

You do not need someone else to validate you or make you feel whole. Love yourself and take care of yourself, by yourself. Learn how to be independent and love your life while staying single.



## 6 Bollywood celebs who hold Guinness World Records for curious reasons

Here is the list of Bollywood celebrities who hold Guinness World Records for various reasons. Have a look...

### Amitabh Bachchan

Amitabh Bachchan holds a name in the Guinness Book of world records for becoming the only star to sing the devotional 'Shri Hanuman Chalisa'. The song was composed by Shekhar Ravjiani from the Vishal-Shekhar duo.

### Katrina Kaif

Katrina Kaif has made it to the Guinness Book of world records for becoming the highest-paid actress in 2013. According to reports, the actress earned Rs 637.5 M.

### Asha Bhosle

The biggest playback singer Asha Bhosle also holds a Guinness world record for recording more than 110,000 solo, duets, and chorus-backed songs in over 20 Indian languages.

She has sung several amazing lists of songs including *Jaaiye Aap Kahan*, *Dum Maro Dum*, *Piya Tu Ab To Aaja*, *Chura Liya Hai Tumne Jo Dil Ko*, *Ho Jaa Rangeela Re*, etc.

### Kumar Sanu

Bollywood's popular singer Kumar Sanu also holds a Guinness world record for single more than 28 songs in a single day in 1993.

### Shah Rukh Khan

Shah Rukh Khan is one of the highest-paid actors in B-town with earnings of Rs 2205 M in 2013 according to the reports.

## I'm intimidated by him: Neena Gupta on playing Amitabh's wife in 'Goodbye'

Neena Gupta, known for her roles in the film *Badhaai Ho* and the TV show *Saans*, will appear in the upcoming film *Goodbye* playing Amitabh Bachchan's wife. This is the first time the two actors will appear together in a film. While the shoot for the film has been stalled due to the pandemic, Neena said in a recent interview that while she's excited to work with Amitabh, she finds him intimidating.

"I am very excited to work with Mr Bachchan. I have shot for only five-six days in Bombay, but then the lockdown happened so I had to return home. I haven't started my scenes with him yet, but I am very intimidated by him," she told SpotBoyE.

"It's like when we are waiting for the short, he would be sitting in a corner and I would wonder should I go close to him, talk to him or no. Should I ask him something or not? It's actually quite a thing and I think slowly things will be fine for all of us," she added.

Despite having shot for only a few days, Neena had an amusing incident to share from the *Goodbye* sets involving an interaction with Amitabh. "One day I thought why couldn't I sit with Mr Bachchan? The other actors are sitting with him and talking. So, then I gathered some courage and went and sat next to him but then he got busy on his phone, so I silently sat there. We're the ones who expect Bachchan to be a certain way, but he is a normal person and I am very happy that I will be working



with him," she shared.

The appreciation isn't one-sided. Earlier in 2018, Neena Gupta had shared a handwritten note from Amitabh Bachchan appreciating her film *Badhaai Ho*. He praised the entire cast's acting which includes Gajraj Rao, Ayushmann Khurrana, and Sanya Malhotra.



## Yami Gautam opens up about her incredible 9-year Bollywood journey

Bollywood actress Yami Gautam is all set to essay the role of a school teacher named Naina Jaiswal in the

upcoming thriller film *A Thursday*. The actress, who debuted in Hindi films with the 2012 hit *Vicky Donor*, looks back proudly at her nine years in film industry, calling the time surreal. She revealed that she had the best of opportunities to work with some phenomenal directors, actors and being a part of some amazing projects, reports India TV.

"The feeling is surreal and it can't really be articulated in words. It was an incredible journey. I have had the best of opportunities to work with some phenomenal directors, actors and of being a part of some amazing projects. It was a dream to tell stories that I believe, to entertain people, and I just wish to continue doing that," says the actress, who recently finished the shoot of her upcoming film *Dasvi*.

Yami, who made a mark with film roles such as *Uri*, *Bala*, *Badlapur* and *Kaabil*, has a long line-up of films over the next months.

Talking about her *A Thursday* -- Yami will be seen essaying the role of a playschool teacher named Naina, who takes 16 toddlers as hostages. Along with Yami, this interesting thriller also stars Neha Dhupia, Dimple Kapadia, Atul Kulkarni and Maya Sarao in pivotal roles.

Produced by RSVP and Blue Monkey Films, *A Thursday*, which commenced its shoot earlier in March, will get a digital release in 2021.

Meanwhile, Yami has a number of films to look forward. She has been roped in Abhishek Bachchan and Nimrat Kaur starrer social comedy, *Dasvi* and the shoot of the same has begun in full swing.

Yami will be playing a Haryanvi IPS officer in the film and the actress had to learn the language and diction for her role. She took workshops for her language and body language. The film is produced by Dinesh Vijan, Sandeep Leyzell and Shobhana Yadav.

## Krystle D'souza on rejections and struggles

After playing some memorable and popular characters on TV, actress Krystle D'souza moved to OTT and then films. However, her journey has not been so easy. In an exclusive chat with ETimes TV, Krystle spoke about the trials and tribulations she faced in the entertainment field...

### On her journey from a TV star to bagging a Bollywood film

I still remember my first day of shooting, a 16-and-a-half-year-old girl on the set of a studio in Killick Nixon in Mumbai. After that first day of shooting, I went back to my house and sat with my mom and told her that I don't think I can do this. It was my parents who gave me that confidence to hang in there.

I don't know anything else other than acting in my life. Yes, I have struggled very hard and worked my way into finding projects, going for auditions, being there, picking up on opportunities that I can, never taking favours. Everything that I have done today, I can happily and gladly say that I have worked hard towards it. It may look like a fairy-tale but it is more like a butterfly tale.

### My biggest struggle

When I did TV, my biggest struggle was Hindi. Because coming from a Catholic background, born and brought up in Mumbai, convent educated, I did not know how to speak in proper Hindi. My parents, friends never spoke to me in Hindi. So just tutoring myself in Hindi, get-



ting stronger there was a struggle in itself.

### I was typecast

When I tried to move into films it was again a very big struggle, because I was typecast. You are typecast for being over exposed because of TV. To get the right film

and for somebody to believe that a TV actor could make it in films, it is very difficult. Thanks to my director Rumi sir and producer Anand Pandit who believed that they needed a strong actor who comes from TV. Television actors are very strong, they are very good at what they do. I mean the value of a TV actor is only known when you give them a monologue and you ask them to enact in 5 minutes; they will do it with full emotions.

### Imagine if my parents were actors...

I never needed a godfather, to be very honest. I had faith in myself. I believe I am my own godfather. My talent, hard work and dedication will take me to places. Sometimes you have to have faith in yourself than bank on somebody else to be doing it for you. I mean hats off to people who have godfathers because even they have a lot to live up to. Imagine if my parents were actors, I would have had a whole legacy to live up to and maybe I would not be able to. People would always compare me to my parents.

Even star kids have their own struggles, where they are always living up to something. Here I have started from scratch and doing my own thing. People like it, they blame me, they hate it, they still blame me. It's not going to my family.

### There have been many projects when I've been told we can't take you because you are a TV actor

This is a very normal line that we get to hear that you are too exposed because you come on TV so we can't cast you. There have been many projects when I've been told because you are a TV actor, we can't take you. I learnt to live with it thinking it is their loss. That's it and when I saw what happened to those films, I told myself that something bigger is in store for me. I am doing my debut with Amitabh Bachchan.



## Here's why Mohnish Bahl, Rohit Roy are leaving 'Sanjivani'

Mohnish Bahl and Rohit Roy will not be continuing with the show *Sanjivani* that has crossed the 100-episode milestone. The medical drama got a fresh look last year with new actors and some from the original show too.

In the show, one of its main characters Shashank Gupta (Mohnish) recently died in an accident.

Asked why Mohnish quit *Sanjivani*, its creator Siddharth Malhotra told IANS: "I believe in doing

justice to every character in the show and having Dr Shashank any longer would not be fair to him. We felt as a team that his character was being stretched now and that never adds to the big picture."

"Mohnish is a friend of the family and we have always been transparent with each other. He understood what we were saying and took it very well. It never makes sense to have such a senior actor for just a few scenes here and there, without giving him an active part."

Along with Mohnish, Rohit will not be continuing with the show. "We are still planning the story-line so we may have some additions later on," said Siddharth Malhotra, who also revealed that they have planned a three-year leap.

### Who is the new protagonist?

"There are a couple of top contenders from the TV industry who we are in talks and we should be able to give you a name soon. He will have an amiable personality and we feel he will be very well received, especially by the women," said Siddharth Malhotra.

Are these changes, which will take place towards the end of the month, due to a drop in TRPs?

"Actually, as per our contract, our show was to wrap by January 25, 2020 but we've got an extension because of how well it has been received by the channel's audiences. TRPs have been growing and the channel felt that we should continue the show for more episodes. That is also one of the reasons behind the leap we have planned, we want to continue to provide fresh matter to our viewers," he shared.

## 'Bahut meethi zubaan hai Lucknow walon ki': Simaran Kaur

Simaran Kaur of the serial *'Agniphara'* fame was in the city recently to promote her serial *'Aghori'*. "The first thing I did after we finished our promotions then was to head out to have some kebabs and lots of *chaat*. I love coming back to Lucknow, it is a beautiful city. I just love the way Lucknowites speak. *Bahut meethi zubaan hai Lucknow waalon ki*, I mean there is so much of love when they talk to you, especially with the word *'aap'*," said Simaran.

Not known to many but Simaran has been the voice behind the famous cartoon character Nobita. "Dubbing for the cartoon character Nobita has been a wonderful experience. In fact, Nobita is very close to my heart. I loved giving my voice to the cartoon character. No matter how much I get busy in my work, I'll always take out my time for his voice over. It's been more than a decade now since I have been dubbing for Nobita and the character has given me so much of love, especially from kids. Of late I

haven't dubbed for it. I watch *'Doraemon'* on TV and I hear my voice only so I think new episodes are not coming out. The channel will call me when new episodes are there and I'm definitely going to take out time because I miss it too much," shared Simaran.

From a voice over artiste to an actor, ask her about the journey and she says, "Well, I haven't changed my profession if you see, voice over and acting are part of the same profession only and are linked to each other. *Jab aap voice over karte ho toh saath mein aap acting bhi karte ho*. So, it is like acting in TV serials has just added another feather to my cap. The only one difference between the two medium is that *ke jab aap voice over karte ho toh aap microphone ke peeche hote ho* and when you're acting you are in front of the camera, rest of the things are the same," shares she

She adds: "It's been 10 years since I started dubbing for Nobita. I was too young at that time but despite being young, I had my goals clear. I knew as a kid that *mujhe acting line mein hi jaana hai and mujhe serials karne hain*. Doing voice-overs always motivated me for acting because I used to act every time, I used to do a voiceover. For example, *agar koi rone wala scene hai toh* I literally used to cry."



**CINE 12**

Mardi 18 mai - 21.10

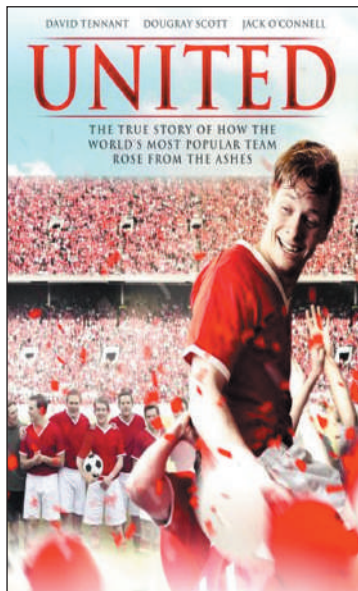
**Astronaut**



**mbc-1**

Mercredi 19 Mai - 21.00

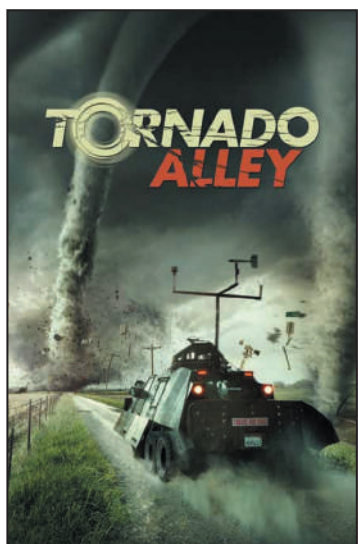
**United**



**mbc-2**

Jeudi 20 Mai - 21.15

Avec: Meredith Monroe, Cameron Bancroft, P. Hutton



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
07.00 Dessin Anime 10.35 Serial: Radio Free Roscoe 11.00 Mag: Le Saviez Vous? 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.50 Local: Around The World... 14.18 D.Anime: The Hive 14.25 D.Animes: Dragons 14.47 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 14.59 D.Anime: Kid Lucky 15.11 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis... 15.45 Film: Les Rois De La Glisse 2 17.05 Serial: Backstage 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jamai Raja 18.56 Local Prod: Charcha 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.35 Local Prod: An Eta Dalert 21.10 Film: Astronaut 23.00 Le Journal	10.00 Serial: CID 10.48 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha 12.04 Film: Amar Shakti Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Shatrughan Sinha, S. Pandit 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.23 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.45 Serial: Bava Maradullu 16.08 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal 16.29 Serial: Suno Chanda 16.53 Serial: Imtihaan 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.26 Telugu - Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Mili Star: Ashok Kumar, Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan	06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.52 Mag: Voa Connect 07.27 Mag: In Good Shape 07.53 Doc: Amazing Gardens 08.19 Mag: Future Mag 09.43 Mag: Global 3000 10.38 Doc: Objectors In Israel 11.23 Mag: Eco@Africa 11.49 Mag: Arts And Culture 12.15 Mag: Voa Connect 12.44 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous 13.18 Mag: Amazing Gardens 13.42 Mag: Future Mag 15.06 Mag: Global 3000 15.32 Mag: Washington Forum 16.01 Doc: Objectors In Israel 17.12 Mag: Arts And Culture 18.02 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 19.00 Open Univ: Student Support 19.31 Mag: Made In Germany 20.04 Doc: Ville En Fête	01.26 Film: Ratter 02.42 Serial: L.A.'s Finest 03.28 Film: Bolshoi: Le Grand Saut 05.01 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.58 Film: Riding Tornado 09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire 09.45 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: L.A.'s Finest 12.00 Film: Le Grand Saut 13.34 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.15 Mag: Hollywood On Set 14.45 Film: Riding Tornado 16.41 Serial: Chicago Fire 17.23 Serial: Absentia 18.05 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: Absentia 21.15 Film: Alpha 23.46 Tele: Muneca Brava	08.00 Film: Gang 12.04 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.26 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.48 / 20.32 Agnipthera 13.09 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.51 / 21.59 - Naagin Season 3 14.33 / 22.25 - Ikyawann 14.55 / 22.56 - Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur Saburi 15.23 Film: Toonpur Ka Superhero Starring: Ajay Devgn, Kajol 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.52 Serial: Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka 19.15 Serial: Bhakharwadi
07.15 Dessin Anime 10.40 Serial: Radio Free Roscoe 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Local Prod: Groov'in 13.55 D.Anime: The Hive 14.05 D.Anime: Dragons 14.30 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 14.37 D.Anime: Kid Lucky 14.49 D.Anime: The Twisted Whisk... 15.00 D.Anime: Comsic Quantum... 15.25 Film: Du Mauvais Cote De... 17.05 Serial: Backstage 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.25 Prod Indepden: Lottotech 21.20 Film: United 23.05 Local: Le Journal	07.00 DDI Live 09.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 09.24 Serial: Chota Bheem 10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha Meeth 12.00 Film: Khatta Meetha 14.06 DDI Magazine 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.21 Aamhi Doghi 15.44 Bava Maradallu 16.10 Apoorva Raagangal 16.30 Serial: Suno Chanda 16.53 Serial: Imtihaan 17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.33 Serial: Kulvadhu 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Programme In Marathi 21.00 Film: Justice Bao 22.34 Live: DDI Live	06.00 Rev: The Global Auto... 06.26 Doc: A Poisoned Legacy 06.52 Mag: Check In 07.26 Mag: Made In Germany 07.53 Doc: Ville En Fête 10.11 Local: Klip Seleksion 10.53 Doc: Extreme Tourism 11.35 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 12.29 Mag: Check In 13.02 Mag: Made In Germany 13.28 Doc: Ville En Fête 13.55 Doc: Olivia's Garden 15.24 Mag: Close Up 16.32 Doc: Extreme Tourism 17.17 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 17.43 Mag: Shift - Living In The... 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Vous Et Nous 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.04 Mag: Tendance XXI 20.40 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 21.34 Mag: Focus On Europe	00.20 Serial: The Magicians 01.26 Film: Alpha 03.44 Film: United 05.18 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.00 Serial: Absentia 06.42 Film: The Watch 09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire 09.45 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: L.A.'s Finest 12.00 Film: United 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: The Watch 16.40 Serial: Chicago Fire 17.20 Serial: Absentia 18.05 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: 19-2 21.15 Film: Le Secret Du Grand... 22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.30 Serial: Chicago Fire	08.00 Film: Toonpur Ka Superhero Starring: Ajay Devgn, Kajol 12.04 / 20.06 - Sanjivani 12.24 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna 12.56 / 20.02 - Agnipthera 13.14 / 20.46 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.36 / 21.09 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.56 / 21.31 - Naagin Season 3 14.35 / 21.46 - Ikyawann 14.52 / 21.59 - Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur Saburi 15.27 Film: UTT Pataang Starring: Vinay Pathak, Mahie Gill, Saurabh Shukla, Mona Singh, Sanjay Mishra 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka 19.16 Bhakharwadi
06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.45 Local: Sur Prise 08.40 D. Anime: Kung Fu Panda 10.11 D. Anime: Astrology 10.38 Serial: Radio Free Roscoe 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 13.05 Local: Le Rendez Vous Avec... 14.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 14.30 D.Anime: The Hive 15.00 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 15.29 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis... 16.00 Film: Bob The Builder 17.30 Live - Covid-19 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 Local: Tirth Yatra 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Film: Student Of The Year 2 Stars: Tiger Shroff, Tara Sutaria, Ananya Panday	10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 12.05 Film: Angrezi Mein Kehte... Starring: Sanjay Mishra, Pankaj Tripathi, Brijendra Kala 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.21 Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Bava Maradallu 16.05 Apoorva Raagangal 16.33 Serial: Suno Chanda 16.53 Serial: Imtihaan 17.09 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da... 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.10 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.36 Local: Les Moments Forts... 20.51 Local Prod: Profil 21.06 Film: Tornado Valley Starring: Meredith Monroe, Cameron Bancroft, P. Hutton	06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.25 Mag: Vous Et Nous 07.28 Doc: Garden Party 08.25 Doc: The World From Above 09.47 Mag: Focus On Europe 10.10 Doc: "Reading You Loud... 10.54 Mag: Motorweek 11.20 Mag: Vous Et Nous 13.44 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 14.38 Mag: Focus On Europe 15.04 Doc: "Reading You Loud... 16.43 Mag: Arts.21 18.03 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.41 Mag: Sur Mesure 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.05 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 20.30 Local: News (English) 21.32 Doc: Coding Art 22.14 Doc: Northern Lights	01.27 Film: The Pirate 03.11 Serial: L.A.'s Finest 03.55 Film: Le Secret Du Grand... 05.13 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.40 Film: Tornado Valley 09.00 Serial: Chicago Fire 09.45 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: L.A.'s Finest 12.00 Film: Le Secret Du Grand... 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.16 Mag: Hollywood On Set 14.48 Film: Tornado Valley 16.41 Serial: Chicago Fire 17.20 Serial: 19-2 18.05 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: 19-2 22.04 Film: Breakdown 23.37 Tele: Muneca Brava	08.00 Film: Utt Pataang 12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.22 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.48 / 20.32 Agnipthera 13.07 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.29 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.48 / 21.46 - Naagin 14.29 / 21.59 - Ikyawann 14.55 / 22.52 - Mere Sai 15.20 Film: Parineeta Starring: Vidya Balan, Saif Ali Khan, Sanjay Dutt 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka 19.16 Serial: Bhakharwadi 19.38 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak



Jeudi 20 Mai - 15.20

Star: Vidya Balan, Saif Ali Khan, Sanjay Dutt



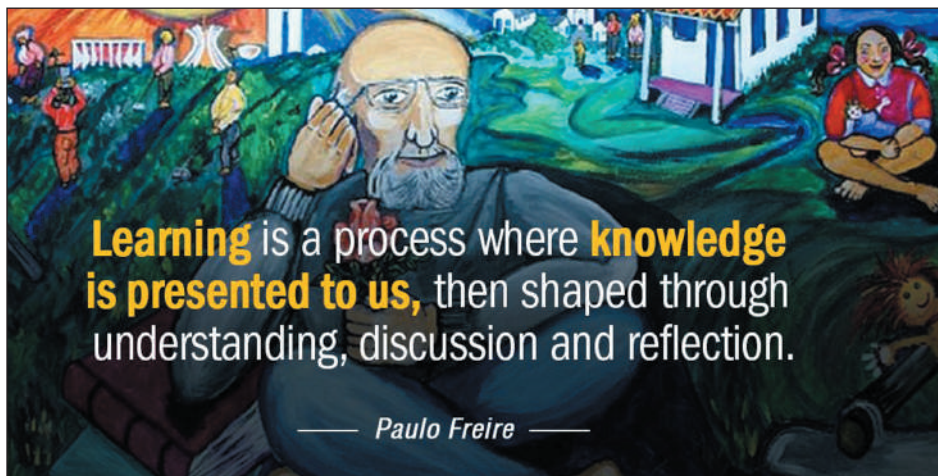
Jeudi 20 Mai - 20.15

Stars: Tiger Shroff, Tara Sutaria, Ananya Panday



# Commemorating the Centenary of Paulo Freire

*For Freire, literacy was not a means to create workers which the capitalist system wanted. It was a means to create critical thinkers who would question oppression and the power relationships in society*



Dr Pavi Ramhota

The onset of the Covid pandemic last year caught all of us off guard. The lockdown that ensued profoundly affected my comprehension of my routinised and socially constructed 'everyday'. The precision clockwork (like that of the factory system mirrored on the capitalist mode of production) on which is premised the education system in most countries was thrown out of gear. I no longer had any routine to follow and more problematically no audience to impress! The classrooms and offices at the Rabindranath Tagore Institute wore a deserted look.

With the second wave of covid appearing in most countries, it seems that we have to deal with the situation with the help of technology. Much has been said about how the world shrunk both spatially and temporally with the new technological advancement. One of these technological marvels was the invention of internet and its paraphernalia.

For more than a year now much of the classroom teaching and learning is done through virtual platforms. Despite their limitations the 'traditional' modes of pedagogy which were used in the usual physical classroom teaching encouraged 'dialogue' and sometimes even 'dissent'. The plurality of ideas, narratives, methodologies and experiments allowed for development of the 'lefebrian space' that harnessed critical pedagogy. Unfortunately online teaching has occupied the 'sacrosanct democratic space' that defined and in turn was shaped by collective consciousness and wisdom. Jean Baudrillard argued that the new age media technology has constructed simulacra and simulations that mask critical thought. These media platforms have hegemonised the way in which we understand our world. As Joe Moran aptly argues the new technology entails a robotic manner of absorption of information and not knowledge, through spoon-fed capsules of information (e-modules).

At the receiving end of this system are individuated and atomized learners who without much deliberation uncritically accept these information capsules as realities.

The world over scholars are celebrating the centenary of Paulo Freire (1921-2021). Paulo Freire, one of the most acclaimed critical scholars from Latin America had challenged the traditional pedagogical methodologies and systems as he believed that capitalism always ensured that the education system is mirrored in its ideology and structure. According to him formal classrooms were not the sole repositories of knowledge. Rather the collective exchanges of ideas of diverse individuals with varying social locations culminated in critical learning. Sharing of individual experiences from disparate social locations allowed for various perspectives to dialogue with one another allowing for the growth of collective wisdom. It was only through this 'interactionist' method that a learner could transform into an informed and critical citizen thereby giving a new lease of life to democracy. Education through these 'spaces of emancipation and dissent' encouraged heterogeneity and plurality. He was highly skeptical of the lubricated and hierarchised and disciplined monolithic modern education system.

In his famous work '*Pedagogy of the Oppressed*' (1970), Freire argues how social class relationships and knowledge formation are interconnected. He also delved into the binary of the 'colonizer and the colonised'. According to Freire, the modern education spaces called schools automatically create a binary: the all-knowing teacher and the ignorant student. In this 'banking system' of pedagogy, the all-knowing teacher is supposed to pour knowledge into the students who then uncritically accept it as the 'truth'. Moreover a highly homogenized group of learners accepting the customized and vetted knowledge only leads to subtle forms of hegemonisation of the general public. They don't question the structures and people in power as

they naturalize the idea of rule.

Thus, for Freire, literacy was not a means to create workers which the capitalist system wanted. It was a means to create critical thinkers who would question oppression and the power relationships in society. True literacy is about comprehending the invisible social forces that shape one's personality and life-world. According to Habermas who further extended the arguments of Freire, it is only through communicative action that we can create dialogues that can lead to better functioning of democracy and emancipatory politics. Most feminist scholars have also furthered his ideas of liberation. Post colonial scholars such as Chinua Achebe, Homi Bhabha, Edward Said, Buchi Emecheta, Frantz Fanon, Jamaica Kincaid, Pierre Bourdieu, Syed Hussein Alatas among others have also in some way or the other addressed similar positions regarding pedagogy and emancipation.

For Freire critical and reflexive engagements were the tools through which the one could deconstruct one's 'self' and comprehend other meta-social processes that construct one's lifeworld and worldviews. It is only through an engagement with the subaltern, non-consonance, disruption, dissent, heterogeneity and plurality that we can create a just society. According to Freire, these discontinuities and non-teleological narratives are ignored in the traditional spaces of learning. Thus according to him deconstruction and deschooling actually enables one to become critical and reflexive thinker.

Paulo Freire remained one of the most important critical educators of the twentieth century. Not only is he considered one of the founders of critical pedagogy, he also played a crucial role in developing a highly successful literacy campaign in Brazil before the onslaught of the junta in 1964.

As in Mauritius, similarly a large section of the Brazilian population are former bonded labourers who were brought in from various continents for plantation work. These workers were marginalized over the years and it was amongst them that Freire experimented with his ideas of critical and reflexive pedagogy. In the early 1960s, when he was appointed as the Director of the Department of Cultural Extension at the University of Recife, he had the first opportunity for large-scale application of his theories, when, in an experiment, 300 sugarcane harvesters were taught to read and write in just 45 days. They were able to do so using their collective experiences.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

## Fear of the Future

Fear of the future can paralyze us, but we can allow it to unfold easily when we keep to the present moment.

Though much human fear is based on uncertainty, foreknowledge does not always ease the mind. It is often when our futures look brightest that our resolve crumbles and we veer off course. We can recognize that success is on the horizon, but we cannot discern how it will impact our lives. Because success can affect us in complex and unpredictable ways, taking us out of the status quo and pushing us into new circumstances that test our limits, the mere idea of attaining the life of our dreams can shake us to the core.

Fear of the future is often closely intermingled with the fear that growing into your own potential will both change you irrevocably and force you to face situations for which you aren't ready. It is normal to unconsciously project ahead into the future and see success as a great weight bearing down on you. It is important to remember, however, that all the life changes the future will bring will be implemented into your life slowly and gradually.

When we visualize the future, we tend to focus on outcomes rather than the steps we will take to reach those conclusions. Thus, we may forget that growth is progressive. Your soul longs to fulfill its purpose -- a purpose you agreed to in the timelessness in which you existed before your birth. Because of this, neither you nor the universe will set any circumstance before you that you are not capable of handling.

Fear of the future can paralyze you, preventing you from living in the moment and from working toward your goals in a mindful manner. The key to conquering this fear lies in awareness. When you can identify the irrational thoughts that frighten you, you can replace them with logical, self-affirming ideas. If you are afraid that you won't be satisfied when you accomplish a certain goal, remember that no one achievement represents an end in and of itself. And if you fear recognition or feel unworthy, consider that even now you are deserving of praise.

Should fear of the future strike you as you strive to create, to excel, to grow, and to evolve, assert your courage. Assume that your fear is based on a false assumption and quell it with facts. Try to disregard past patterns and focus on the present by stilling the inner voice that comments critically on all you do. Tell yourself that the inevitability of your success is based not on luck or a universal mistake but on your already established talents, drive, imagination, and inner strength.

Each time you overcome your fear of the future, you chip away at its very foundations. Eventually, you will clear a gap through which you can gaze upon the future with unhindered optimism.