

MAURITIUS **TIMES**

• "Better budgets can boost your department and your career to higher levels of performance and success". -- Jae K. Shim

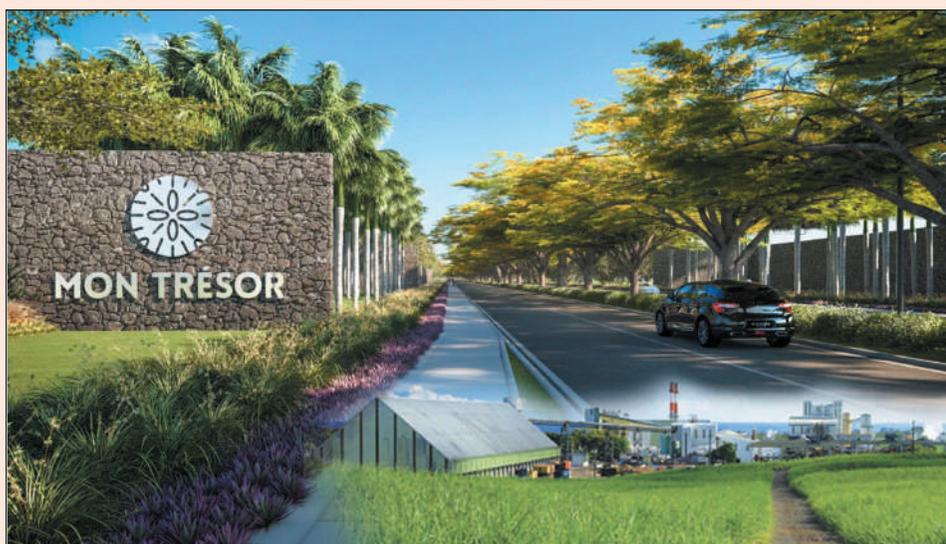
Interview - Rama Sithanen



‘Minister Padayachy has relied too much on ‘Old Normal’ remedies to cure the ailment of the ‘New Normal’ world’

☞ See Page 8-9-10

Imperative of a Paradigm Shift in the Mode of Governance



For too long, transparency and accountability of government decisions has been one of costly casualties of the stifling hegemony of successive governments...

By Mrinal Roy ☞ See Page 3



Takeaways from the Biden-Putin Summit

By Anil Madan ☞ See Page 4

‘Would it not be appropriate that those who collectively agreed to rescind the contract should foot the bill of nearly Rs 6 bn out of their own pockets?’

By LEX ☞ See Page 5

The Conversation

Covid-19 has shone a light on how globalization can tackle inequality

The outbreak of Covid-19 could be used as a building block in the future to reinforce international co-operation and strengthen the pillars of globalization

Globalization is a multifaceted concept that describes the process of creating networks of connections around the world. It involves the interdependence of national economies and the integration of information, goods, labour and capital, to name a few.



Pic - nationalheraldindia.com

In recent years, globalization has been the subject of growing discontent and criticism, particularly after the election of former US president Donald Trump, Brexit and the American refusal to appoint members to the World Trade Organization's Appellate Body.

The backlash represents a major setback to the pace of globalization and sets the stage for growing protectionism and nationalism around the world. Many criticisms have been political, but the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has introduced new health threats to globalization.

In a sense, the pandemic has illuminated both globalization (a virus went global in a few weeks thanks to globalization and interconnectedness) and deglobalization (the breakdown of international co-operation and the re-emergence of nationalism when it came to personal protective gear, medical devices and vaccines).

Covid-19 and globalization

In our recent research, we detail the pandemic's impact on the world economy via three components of globalization: economic, social and political. The pandemic and the economic policy response to the crisis have had an impact on these three aspects to varying degrees.

1) Economic globalization involves the flow of goods, services, capital and information through long-distance mar-

ket transactions. Although the pandemic is global, regions and countries have experienced it differently based on various economic indicators.

Merchandise trade contracted for the global economy, but the rate of decline was more pronounced in advanced economies than in developing and emerging economies. Not only were trade flows affected, but the impact of Covid-19 on foreign direct investment (FDI) was immediate as global FDI flows declined by nearly half in 2020.

2) Social globalization was also significantly impacted by Covid-19. It pertains to interactions with people abroad including via migration, international phone calls and international remittances paid or received by citizens.

Social globalization has been heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic because many countries have imposed travel restrictions on both residents and foreign travellers. Border closures hinder migration, especially the movement of tourists and international students. Migrant remittances were also affected, not because of any formal restrictions on remittances, but mainly because of the impact the pandemic had on immigrant employment.

3) Political globalization involves the ability of countries to engage in international political co-operation and diplomacy, as well as implementing government policy.

Sylvanus Kwaku Afesorgbor, Assistant Prof, University of Guelph; Binyam Afewerk Demena, Postdoctoral research fellow & Peter A.G. van Bergeijk, Prof of International Economics and Macroeconomics, International Institute of Social Studies

Responsibility Without Accountability

In January 2015, the Alliance Lepep-led government issuing from the general election of December 2014 rashly and unilaterally decided to rescind the Betamax contract despite having been advised by the State Law Office (SLO) previously that it would be out of order to do so. This breach of contract found its way to the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), which gave its decision on 5 June 2017 in favour of Betamax. This was subsequently set aside by the Supreme Court. On Monday last, the Privy Council allowed Betamax's appeal and enforced the Award. Accordingly, the STC will have to pay damages amounting to between \$115-125 million (Rs 4.5 - Rs 5 billion) plus interest to Betamax for unjustified breach of contract. The total sum due will likely exceed Rs 6 Billion.

This verdict by the Privy Council raises two fundamental questions: 1. Whether the STC has sufficient funds to pay that sum to Betamax; 2. Can those who took the decision to rescind the contract with Betamax be held accountable for their act and, as a corollary, be made to assume liability for the consequences?

As regards the first question, whether or not STC has the means to pay the award, what is evident is that the money will eventually come from the public exchequer, that is, money belonging to the people. The impact of this on a debt-ridden economy can only be disastrous.

When it comes to accountability, the rule in local politics is to hide behind the screen of 'collective responsibility,' whereby decisions taken by Cabinet members are considered to be official acts taken in the line of duty towards the State, with the implication that those who are responsible for the decision are therefore immune from prosecution in case of a negative fallout.

In other words, collective responsibility seems to mean 'responsibility without accountability' – everybody is responsible, but nobody is accountable.

And since 'everybody' is acting on behalf of the State, it is the country that must bear the consequences and pay the price however heavy when things go wrong.

Perhaps it is time for the country to revisit this system of functioning, or rather malfunctioning? Although collective responsibility is invoked, clearly there must be an originator of such a major decision who then pushes it through to acceptance by the Cabinet. Here the

origin is definitely vendetta politics, and some way must be found to buffer the country against this perversion.

Since it is well nigh impossible to identify the main perpetrator, there has to be a possibility built into the system to make the leader of the government be accountable.

One model of interest is that of the state of California in the US, which is one of 19 states that allow recall elections. According to Wikipedia, under state law, any elected official may be subjected to a recall. To trigger a recall election of a statewide elected official, proponents must gather a certain amount of signatures from registered voters within a certain time period. The amount must equal 12 percent of the votes cast in the previous election for that office.

For example, based on the previous election for governor, a 2021 recall petition requires 1,495,709 signatures.

When the secretary of state confirms that a recall petition meets the required amount of signatures, a recall election must be scheduled within 60 to 80 days. In the case of a recall against the governor, the responsibility for scheduling the recall election falls on the lieutenant governor.

Then all registered voters will be mailed a ballot with two questions: whether the incumbent should be recalled, and if recalled, which challenger should replace them. If a majority of voters favour removing the incumbent, then the challenger who receives the most votes finishes out the incumbent's term in office.

Given the reality of local vendetta politics, it is perhaps high time for legal minds among concerned citizens to frame and canvass a serious proposal along the lines of California's 'recall election' for the country. Since the opposition is also clamouring about this clear-cut case of vendetta politics, it may well be the better placed to make such a move and hold up hope for the country's future. Should this materialize, that is, framed and eventually legislated – when it regains power someday – it will be the one concrete and game-changing achievement to protect the citizens from the whims and super-egos of future vengeance-driven politicians.

Responsibility would then be coupled to accountability at the apex level of the country's governance, something which is at present totally lacking and is urgently needed.

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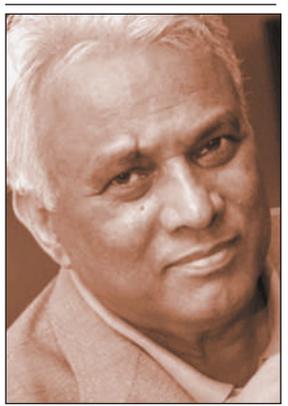
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Mrinal Roy

Imperative of a Paradigm Shift in the Mode of Governance

For too long, transparency and accountability of government decisions has been one of costly casualties of the stifling hegemony of successive governments...

Mauritius is at a key crossroads. It faces daunting socio-economic and health challenges resulting from the disastrous fallouts of Covid-19. The coronavirus crisis has exposed the vulnerability of an economy highly dependent on the tourism industry and real estate activities whose viability depends on the sale of high-end properties to foreigners. The country therefore needs to pick up the pieces of an economy in disarray and recast it so that it is grounded on higher value-added poles of activity capable of significantly boosting growth, employment and standards of living and have a positive multiplier effect on the economy at large.

This key exercise is an opportunity for innovative strategic thinking to re-invent Mauritius and reshape our economy on a more robust, inclusive and viable basis going forward. Globalization and a highly competitive marketplace have exposed the limitations of the private sector whose ventures and investments in the country are heavily skewed towards the lucrative real estate development projects on their prime land assets.

We need instead to recast our economic model towards high value-added activities and an upmarket services and product offer in sectors such as the financial services sector, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Business Process Outsourcing, health-care, tertiary education, high tech delivery platforms, green energy, the ocean economy and the new biotechnology and pharmaceutical Industry, etc., so that these become robust new engines of growth of the economy.

New approach

This necessarily means the induction of new econo-



“This Omnicane bailout deal begs so many germane questions. Are the lands ceded all the cane and other lands of the Britannia and Mon Trésor sugar estates, acquired through the controversial Illovo deal? What is the area involved? Who is going to manage these large sugar estates, the more so as the sugar refining, energy production and other activities of the Omnicane cluster are dependent on sugar cane supplies sent for milling? Why was land from Highlands sugar estate (also part of the Illovo deal) not considered instead of that of Britannia?”

mic actors and foreign investors having the business acumen, expertise and skills to urgently transform and move these services sectors of the economy up the value chain so as to offer more remunerative higher value-added services and products to the market. This also means that the education sector need to be transformed and geared to assure a more synergic skills match with the requirements of these high value-added sectors. It is such a recast economy which can improve and sustain higher standards of living in the country.

However, this necessary transformation cannot happen so long as the current rooted culture of nepotism, cronyism and the appointment of the coterie at the head of key government institutions and state companies prevails in the country. The country will not be able to turn things around so long as the management and strategic thinking acumen of the top brass of the government Establishment are undermined and blunted by government interference and appointments which are not merit based. For too long, transparency and accountability of government decisions has been one of costly casualties of the stifling hegemony of successive governments over the machinery of government.

Costly blunders

This decreed culture of governance has been so

detrimental to the interests of the country. This week's Privy Council verdict in the case opposing Betamax Ltd and the State Trading Corporation enforcing the award of damages amounting to US\$115.3 million (about Rs 4.7 billion) with interest and costs to Betamax in accordance with the arbitration clause of the contract agreed between the two parties is the costly price of the rash decision taken by the government in January 2015 to terminate the contract between the two parties despite legal advice provided by state legal services not to do so.

It is disconcerting that on a matter of such importance, expert legal advice was not sought on such a key element of a commercial contract as the arbitration clause, before taking a foolhardy decision. Those savvy with the commercial world know that an arbitration clause is an essential element of a commercial contract which both parties agree to abide by. Shouldn't those responsible be held accountable for blindly taking such a costly decision in the teeth of the legal advice obtained from the state legal services? Politicians must learn that they should seek independent expert advice on matters that they do not fathom.

The lack of commercial savviness of government services was again exposed when 50 ventilators purchased under emergency procurement procedures since 31 July 2020 at a cost of Rs 80 million lie distressed and uncommissioned by the suppliers.

Despite being repeatedly rapped on the fingers by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) or the European Commission (EC), it is only in May 2020 when the EC included Mauritius in the revised list of high-risk countries with strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing frameworks that the government woke up to the urgency of taking the required corrective steps to meet EC and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) norms.

● Cont. on page 12



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Takeaways from the Biden-Putin Summit



Anil Madan

Following his meeting with President Putin, US President Biden declared: "I did what I came to do." That begs the question, what exactly did Joe Biden come to do in Geneva at his meeting with Putin?

In the course of his post-summit remarks, Biden said: "There wasn't any strident action taken. It was not done in a hyperbolic atmosphere — that is too much of what is going on."

That all sounds very good. Clearly, there is little traction for Biden to gain by proclaiming that he threatened Putin whose reaction to such a boast would be predictable dismissal and a possibly provocative move to show that he was unbowed by such threats. But it is not accurate either. In what must have been a deliberate disclosure, Biden revealed a not-so-subtle threat that he made to Putin.

First, some background. Biden had already stated repeatedly, both before he left for, and while he was in, England and Brussels, that he intended to raise the issue of cybersecurity with Putin. Biden warned that if Russia's behaviour in this regard did not change, the US would respond.

Second, in a major policy shift the Biden administration has now made it a national security level matter to protect and defend the national assets subject to cyber attacks. No longer is a cyber attack going to be treated as solely a local criminal offense to be handled at the state level. The federal government has planted its stake.

In fact, Biden stated that he stressed to Putin that nations have to agree that certain infrastructure assets are off limits. He said that he gave Putin a list of sixteen categories of assets that are off limits. This was Biden's red line. Note that Biden did not ask for agreement on this subject. One might argue that Biden mistakenly gave Putin a list of potential targets. That would be a mistake. The list of areas considered critical is public knowledge. More importantly, Biden is on the record as having personally given Putin notice that certain cyberattacks will invite retaliation.

And Biden seems to have made it clear that the "response" from the US will be a crippling counterstrike on Russia's major source of revenue, its oil supply business. "I pointed out to him we have significant cyber capability. He doesn't know exactly what it is, but it's significant, and if in fact they violate these basic norms, we will respond in a cyber way."

In speaking with reporters, Biden mused: "What happens if that ransomware outfit were sitting in Florida or Maine, and took action against their single most important commodity, oil?" To underscore that Putin had received his message, Biden also said: "I looked at him and I said, 'How would you feel if ransomware took on the pipelines from your oil fields?'" Biden added: "He said it would matter."

Biden's declaration that the US has "significant cyber capability" is, of course, meant to underscore that the resources of the federal government, particularly the Pentagon, as well as various intelligence agencies, and indeed, the entire National Security superstructure will be directed at safeguarding American assets, both governmental as well as private, from cyberattacks.



Pic - thestatesman.com

“As might be expected, Putin sent mixed signals. On the one hand, he seemed to dismiss the idea that Russians were behind the cyberattacks on American infrastructure. Indeed, he seemed to want to shift the blame to Americans and others—anyone but Russians—for the attacks. On the other hand, the sudden shift in showing a new level of respect for Biden seemed clearly to be a mask covering a message well received..”

Did Putin get the message? One has to think so. Aside from Biden's recounting of Putin's acknowledgment, in his own post-summit remarks, Putin went out of his way to compliment Biden and to stress how positive the meeting was. This was somewhat in contrast to his pre-meeting dismissal of Biden as a career politician.

As might be expected, Putin sent mixed signals. On the one hand, he seemed to dismiss the idea that Russians were behind the cyberattacks on American infrastructure. Indeed, he seemed to want to shift the blame to Americans and others—anyone but Russians—for the attacks. On the other hand, the sudden shift in showing a new level of respect for Biden seemed clearly to be a mask covering a message well received. After all, since the Cuban Missile Crisis, no American President has made such a direct threat. Biden underscored that he knows exactly what he is doing when he mentioned disruption of the flow of Russia's oil which is its primary source of revenue.

It must be kept in mind that Russia's deal to supply gas to Germany, another major source of revenue for Putin, is included in this threat. Biden had seemingly secured at least the implicit blessing of the German government to escalate his threat to this level. Biden was careful to append to his trip to England for the G-7 meeting, visits to the NATO summit and to the European Council for the E.U. Summit. He sought to emphasize that he was speaking not only for the US but for Europe, indeed, for all democracies as well.

One has to contrast this forceful threat of a direct cyber response from the US with Biden's more generic description of adverse consequences to standing and prestige that Putin and Russia would face if they were perceived as unwilling to comply with international norms of conduct and decency.

So, that is the major takeaway from this Biden-Putin summit. Biden went to Geneva to tell Putin that he will be held accountable for cyberattacks and ransomware attacks on American businesses and that certain kinds of conduct are off limits. The message seems to have been received.

Certainly, let us hope that it has been received. Time will tell.

The rest of the Biden-Putin summit seems to have been fluff. In the final analysis, Putin reverted to his whataboutisms when it came to the jailing of Russian opposition figure and anti-corruption activist Alexei Navalny. He sought to compare that to the arrest of the insurrectionist rioters at the US Capitol on January 6. As well, Putin dismissed questions about being called a killer by referencing the killing of George Floyd, and of innocent civilians in Afghanistan by drone attacks. Putin dispatches questions about Navalny by reducing the matter to one of simple law enforcement. Just as the US had the right to arrest law-breakers, so did Russia have the right to bring Navalny to justice.

“In a major policy shift the Biden administration has now made it a national security level matter to protect and defend the national assets subject to cyber attacks. No longer is a cyber attack going to be treated as solely a local criminal offense to be handled at the state level. The federal government has planted its stake...”

In the final analysis, Biden's statement to Putin that the US will continue to protest his conduct on human rights "because that's who we are" seems an unnecessary explanation. It would have been far better to say: "We protest because what you are doing is wrong."

Biden's appeals to Putin's self-interest and to Russia's self-interest also seem a waste of time. If Putin has not been able to discern those truths that seem so self-evident to Americans for the past 20 years, a three-hour meeting in Geneva is hardly the answer.

Cheer...
Bwana

Betamax Ltd v STC

'Would it not be appropriate that those who collectively agreed to rescind the contract should foot the bill of nearly Rs 6 bn out of their own pockets?'

In today's contribution, LEX sheds light on the legal procedures and rationale that led to the Privy Council's decision about the Betamax case, and how that impacts the ambition of the country to become an international arbitration centre. A case is also made for investigating further the Cabinet decision to rescind Betamax's contract from the standpoint of a conspiracy offence.

By LEX

*** The Privy Council has just issued a judgment in the Betamax case that has sent ripples amongst politicians and lawyers. Betamax had earlier won its case before the Arbitration Tribunal. Why did it lose before the Supreme Court?**

Betamax lost because the Supreme Court after an analysis of the legal provisions relating to procurement procedures concluded that the contract was awarded without the concurrence of the Central Tender Board. The normal rule is that when a parastatal or the government awards a contract it is done through a bidding, and the Central Board considers the list of bidders and awards the contract.

In the procurement legislation, there is a provision for exempt bodies, and the criteria for them are spelt out in the legislation and regulations. Betamax was considered an exempt body both by the then government and the arbitrator. The Supreme Court came to an opposite conclusion.

*** The Privy Council came to an opposite conclusion to that of the Supreme Court. What was the distinction?**

The Privy Council held that once an arbitrator has made a finding in law or on facts, this finding should not lightly be set aside in the absence of what the Privy Council calls vicissitudes. In other words, if the factual findings are perverse or the legal analysis is patently wrong, then the court can intervene.

*** Briefly when can a party resort to arbitration?**

In most contracts nowadays, there is an arbitration clause that would state that in case of a dispute the parties would resort to arbitration. Care must be taken as to how the clause is drafted and what law would govern the contract.

*** Once an arbitration tribunal gives an award, on what grounds can the losing party challenge the award?**

An award may be challenged under Section 39 of the International Arbitration Act for a number of reasons, namely -

- If a party to the arbitration agreement was under some incapacity or the agreement is not valid under the law to

which the parties have subjected it.

- If a party was not given proper notice of the appointment of an arbitrator or of the arbitral proceedings or was otherwise unable to present its case.
- If the award deals with a dispute not contemplated by, or not falling within the terms of, the submission to arbitration, or contains a decision on a matter beyond the scope of the submission to arbitration.
- If the composition of the arbitral tribunal or the arbitral procedure was not in accordance with the agreement.
- If the Court finds that - (i) the subject matter of the dispute is not capable of settlement by arbitration under Mauritius Law; (ii) the award is in conflict with the public policy of Mauritius; (iii) the making of the award was induced or affected by fraud or corruption; or (iv) a breach of the rules of natural justice occurred during the arbitral proceedings or in connection with the making of the award by which the rights of any party have been or will be substantially prejudiced.

*** In 2015, the government argued forcefully that the contract between the State Trading Corporation and Betamax was illegal. What was the basis of that argument?**

The main reason for the rescission of the contract was purely political. The 2014 government pursued a vindictive agenda against Labour Party members and those close to the Labour Party. Betamax and the British American Insurance are the well-known casualties.

In order not to give the impression that it was a political decision, the government led by the late Sir Anerood Jugnauth and surrounded in the main by Ministers Bhadain, Lutchmeenaraidoo, Yerrigadoo and Gungah launched a vitriolic attack against Navin Ramgoolam, the former Prime Minister and Anil Baichoo, former Minister of Commerce. They deemed that the contract was tainted with corruption and was against public interest.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court aligned itself with this view and held that the contract was against the public policy of Mauritius.

*** The government rescinded the contract. Could the government have had recourse to any other procedure to**



end the contract, for instance by offering to pay a reasonable compensation to Betamax?

Of course. If only the then Lepep government was not blinded and motivated solely by political considerations, a better way of putting an end to the contract could have been found through negotiations with a reasonable compensation being paid. But they became a law unto themselves and they bulldozed their way ahead.

*** When an award is challenged, what are the powers of the court in reviewing the award?**

The court should intervene sparingly as the Privy Council has pointed out. This what it said: It is therefore the policy of modern international arbitration law to uphold the finality of the arbitral tribunal's decision on the contract made within the arbitral tribunal's jurisdiction, whether right or wrong in fact or in law, absent the specified vitiating factors.'

*** Could the Supreme Court's judgment have had a negative impact on Mauritius' ambition to become an international arbitration centre?**

It is appropriate to borrow what former Judge Vinod Boolell wrote in *l'express* on 17 June to answer this question:

'The decision of the Supreme Court in the matter of Betamax could have had a negative impact on international arbitration taking place in Mauritius. It would have given an impression that the court in Mauritius would be at liberty to interfere in any awards. The Privy Council hinted on this point and pointed out the risks of undue interference in an arbitrator's findings on interpretation of the law or facts.

'As Mauritius is positioning itself to be an international centre for arbitration, the Privy Council judgment is a breath of fresh air in international arbitration in Mauritius. As rightly pointed out by Mr Rishi Pursem, a lawyer for Betamax, the Privy Council judgment will have an international impact on arbitration. The court in Mauritius will

have to tread carefully from now on when an arbitral award is being challenged.'

*** It was the Government of Mauritius itself which was toying with the idea of positioning Mauritius as an international arbitration centre. And the next day, it goes on to contest an award determined by an Arbitrator in accordance with the Singapore International Arbitration Centre Rules. What message will this send to international investors?**

During the discussions on the International Arbitration Act, it was stated: 'First and foremost, the success of Mauritius as a jurisdiction of choice for international arbitration will be largely dependent on the uniform and consistent application by the Mauritian courts of modern international arbitration law, and (in particular) on their strong adherence to the principles of non-interventionism which is at the heart thereof.'

The pro-enforcement policy was emphasized, and this is the international trend in international arbitration.

*** At the end of the day, it's taxpayers who will have to foot the bill for the rash decision to rescind the Betamax-STC contract. A private company will generally not be able to escape punishment for any wrongdoing. Will the political class be held liable for what they've done in this matter?**

The late Sir Anerood Jugnauth in a statement made in Parliament, following the decision to rescind the contract, said it was a collective decision of the then Cabinet. Since that was the case, would it not be appropriate that those who collectively agreed to rescind the contract should foot the bill of nearly six billion rupees out of their own pockets.

On the other hand, it could be considered whether there might be a case to investigate this matter further so as to throw light on what led to this catastrophic decision, the idea being to situate responsibilities and preempt any future similar recurrence in the national interest.

Attorney General Merrick Garland issued new instructions to immigration judges to stop following the Trump-era rules that made it tough for immigrants who faced domestic or gang violence to win asylum in the United States. He also undid a policy that made it difficult for immigrants to obtain asylum based on threats to a family member.

The moves could make it easier for immigrants to win their cases for humanitarian protection and were widely celebrated by immigrant advocates, reports AP.

"The significance of this cannot be overstated," said Kate MelloyGoettel, legal director of litigation at the American Immigration Council. "This was one of the worst anti-asylum decisions under the Trump era, and this is a really important first step in undoing that."

Garland said he was making the changes after President Joe Biden ordered his office and the Department of Homeland Security to draft rules addressing

US ends strict Trump-era asylum rules for violence victims



Migrants being deported from the United States along a bridge that connects El Paso and Mexico, on March 18. Pic - NYT

complex issues in immigration law about groups of people who should qualify for asylum.

Gene Hamilton, a key architect of many of former President Donald Trump's immigration poli-

cies who served in the Justice Department, said in a statement that he believed the change would lead to more immigrants filing asylum claims based on crime and that should not be a reason for protections.

The Biden administration changes come as US immigration authorities have reported unusually high numbers of encounters with migrants on the southern border. In April, border officials reported the highest number of encounters in more than 20 years, though many migrants were repeat crossers who previously had been expelled from the country under pandemic-related powers. The number of children crossing the border alone also has hovered at all-time highs.

Many Central Americans arrive on the border fleeing gang violence in their countries. But it

isn't easy to qualify for asylum under US immigration laws, and the Trump-era policies made it that much harder.

Jason Dzubow, an immigration attorney in Washington who focuses on asylum, said he recently represented a Salvadoran family in which the husband was killed and gang members started coming after his children. While Dzubow argued they were in danger because of their family ties, he said the immigration judge denied the case, citing the Trump-era decision among the reasons.

Dzubow welcomed Garland's changes but said he doesn't expect to suddenly see large numbers of Central Americans winning their asylum cases, which remain difficult under US law.

"I don't expect it is going to open the floodgates, and all of a sudden everyone from Central America can win their cases. Those cases are very burdensome and difficult," he said. "We need to make a decision: Do we want to protect these people?"

China launches crewed spacecraft Shenzhou-12 in historic mission

China, on Thursday morning, launched a manned spacecraft carrying three astronauts to reach and stay at an under-construction space station for three months, the longest stay in low-earth orbit by any Chinese national.

It was China's seventh crewed mission to space, the first during the construction of China's space station, and also the first in nearly five years after the country's last manned mission in 2016, reports SutirthoPatranobis of Hindustan Times.

A Long March 2F rocket transporting the Shenzhou-12, or "Divine Vessel", bound for the space station module Tianhe blasted off at 9.22am from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwestern Gansu province.

Shenzhou-12 is the third of 11 missions - four of which will be crewed - needed to complete China's first full-fledged space station. Construction of the space station began in April with the launch of Tianhe, the first and largest of three modules. The station is expected to be completed by 2022.

The astronauts NieHaisheng, 56, Liu Boming, 54, and Tang Hongbo, 45, are to work and stay on Tianhe, the living quarters of the future space station, for three months.

The Tianzhou-3 cargo craft and the



The Long March-2F Y12 rocket, carrying the Shenzhou-12 spacecraft and three astronauts, takes off from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center for China's first manned mission to build its space station, near Jiuquan, Gansu province, China, on Thursday. Pic - Reuters

Shenzhou-13 manned spaceship will also be launched later this year to dock with Tianhe, and three other astronauts will then begin their six-month stay in orbit, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

Since 2003, China has launched six crewed missions and sent 11 astronauts into space, including ZhaiZhigang, who carried out China's first spacewalk ever on the 2008 Shenzhou mission.

The Tianhe, which was sent to orbit by a rocket, can provide electricity and accommodate three astronauts for up to six months.

Nasa, ESA astronauts start spacewalk to install new solar arrays at ISS

Expedition 65 astronauts from Nasa and European Space Agency (ESA) on Wednesday started their first of the two spacewalks scheduled to install new solar arrays to help power the International Space Station (ISS). Nasa flight engineer Shane Kimbrough and European Space Agency astronaut Thomas Pesquet exited the space station and set their spacesuits to battery power at 8:11am, marking the start of a six and a half hour spacewalk to install the first two of six ISS Roll-Out Solar Arrays (iROSAs).

The new solar arrays had arrived at the station in the SpaceX Dragon cargo spacecraft as part of the company's commercial resupply services mission to the station. Nasa said that though the current solar arrays are functioning well, they have begun to show signs of degradation since they were designed for 15-year service life, reports Kunal Gaurav of Hindustan Times.

The US space agency live-streamed the spacewalk as the astronauts from Nasa and ESA worked to replace the solar arrays. In a 40-second clip shared by Nasa, ESA astronaut Pesquet can be seen using a Pistol Grip Tool (PGT) to break bolts on the carrier housing the new solar arrays, with a breathtaking view of



Nasa and ESA astronauts out for a spacewalk to install new solar arrays to power International Space Station. Pic - NASA

Earth in the background.

The original solar arrays were deployed in December 2000 and have been powering the space station for more than 20 years. The new set of solar arrays will be positioned in front of six of the current arrays to increase the space station's total available power from 160 kilowatts to a maximum of 215 kilowatts, as per NASA. The International Space Station completed 20 years of continuous human presence in November 2020.

The next spacewalk is scheduled for Sunday, June 20. It will be the 240th spacewalk in support of station assembly, maintenance, and upgrades.

☞ Cont. on page 7



People enjoy the sun by the lake in Regent's Park in London on Monday. Pic -The Guardian

Scientists warn of 40,000 summer wave deaths as Johnson confirms four-week delay to lifting restrictions

More than 40,000 people could die this summer as the Delta variant of coronavirus sweeps through the UK, even after Boris Johnson's decision to delay the lifting of lockdown restrictions by four weeks to 19 July, scientists have warned.

A paper submitted to the British government's Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies (Sage) said that a summer

wave of infections, hospitalisations and deaths is "likely" whether or not restrictions are lifted because of the highly virulent nature of the variant but the potential peak death rate could be reduced from 700 to 500 a day just by delaying Step Four of Mr Johnson's roadmap out of lockdown.

The Prime minister said on Monday he was "confident" that the so-called Freedom Day - when most remaining social distancing rules will be lifted and crowds return to sports fixtures and arts events - will not have to be deferred again beyond 19 July and that it will not be necessary to reimpose any of the curbs on shops and hospitality that have been removed over the past few months, reports The Independent.

* * *

Priti Patel says fans have right to boo England team for 'gesture politics' of taking the knee

Football fans have a right to boo the England team for "taking the knee" in protest at racism, the UK home secretary has said. Priti Patel said the anti-racism protest associated with the Black Lives Matter movement amounted to "gesture politics" and dodged a question about whether she would boo herself. She claims Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests had had a "devastating" impact and criticised the pulling down of the "famous" Bristol statue of slave trader Edward Colston.

"I just don't support people participating in that type of gesture politics," she told broadcaster GB News. Ms Patel said it was "all well to support a cause and make your voices heard" but with regards to the BLM protests that have taken place in the UK, "the impact on policing... it was devastating".



Theresa May blasts Johnson's 'incomprehensible' travel policy. Pic -Evening Standard

Theresa May hits out at Johnson over 'incomprehensible' Covid travel rules

Theresa May has lashed out at the British government's Covid travel policy, saying the UK is "no further forward" one year after the pandemic hit - despite more than half of UK adults receiving two doses of a vaccine. The former prime minister suggested Britain is beginning to fall behind Europe in reopening its borders to travellers. She said the UK is sending a message to the rest of the world that "global Britain is shut for business".

Ms May's comments in a debate on the aviation industry in the House of Commons on Thursday came as an expert warned quarantine-free travel to the UK from mainland Europe or the US will not be permitted before late July. Paul Charles, chief executive of travel consultancy The PC Agency, said the reopening of travel had been "sacrificed by ministers watching their backs".

'A major milestone': First Alzheimer's drug approved for 20 years

Hopes have been raised that thousands of people in Britain could soon have access to the first new drug for Alzheimer's disease in nearly 20 years after US health officials gave it approval in what has been hailed as a "major milestone". Scientists remain divided over the full impact of aducanumab, with many experts calling for more trials to confirm its effectiveness - but approval of the drug is still seen as

a crucial step forward in treating people with early Alzheimer's.

Leading charities in the UK have called on the government to prioritise and accelerate research into aducanumab, which could be used by at least 100,000 people who suffer from a mild form of the disease if Britain's regulator were to authorise the therapy. Hilary Evans, chief executive at Alzheimer's Research UK, said the US

Food and Drug Administration's approval "marks a pivotal moment in the search for life-changing new treatments" but said "renewed focus and investment" into researching the condition is needed across the world. According to the World Health Organisation, an estimated 30 million people globally suffer from Alzheimer's. In the UK, some 500,000 people are thought to be living with the disease.

France starts returning to normal after Covid-19 outbreak, ends night curfew

France is bringing forward by 10 days the lifting of a nationwide curfew that has been in place since late 2020 as daily coronavirus infections are falling faster than anticipated, Prime Minister Jean Castex said on Wednesday.

Speaking after a cabinet meeting, he told a news conference that the night-time curfew would now end from June 20, and that face masks would soon no longer be required outdoors.

After restaurants, bars and cafes were allowed last week to reopen indoors for the first time in seven months, Castex said life in France was at last starting to return to normal, reports Reuters.

"We're on the right track - let's keep up our efforts," Castex said. "The health situation is improving faster than we had anticipated, everywhere in mainland France."

Across the Channel in Britain, whose vaccination programme is far ahead of France's, a plan to lift most



People wearing face masks walk on the Champs Elysees Avenue in Paris in this file photo from August 2020. Pic - AFP

remaining restrictions has been put back a month to July 19 because of the rapid spread of the Delta variant of the virus, which is more infectious, can render vaccines less effective against mild disease, and may put more unvaccinated people in hospital.

The variant accounts for the bulk of new infections in Britain, but French Health Minister Olivier Veran said on Tuesday it only represented 2-4% of confirmed cases in France.

France's seven-day moving average of new cases, which was above 40,000 two months ago, stood at 3,500 on Tuesday. French health experts say the pandemic can be considered under control if the rate is below 5,000.

'Minister Padayachy has relied too much on 'Old Normal' remedies to cure the ailment of the 'New Normal' world'



Former Minister of Finance Rama Sithanen, noting that all the key macroeconomic fundamentals are in the red, is unsparing in his dissection of the budget presented by Minister Padayachy. In his opinion, there are more 'unachievable' (targets) than deliverables, based on the record post last year's budget. He would have liked to see more disruptive and innovative policies so as to stimulate private sector investment, restore the export of goods and services amongst suggestions he makes to turn around our parlous financial situation and revamp the economy.

Mauritius Times: In your various media statements with regard to Minister Renganaden Padayachy's second Budget, you have drawn attention to his projected growth rate of 9% for the year 2021-2022 which many say is unattainable. Are you suggesting that the Minister would have misled the people?

Rama Sithanen: However, you call it, there will not be a 9% growth even with a technical rebound. And the Minister should surely know it. Two things strike an alert observer about this budget. First, what he has omitted is much more important than what he has disclosed. There's nothing on the crucial indicator of the export of goods and services and a lot on the names of towns, villages and even a few streets. Second, what he has hidden is more pertinent than what he has revealed. Again, nothing on the staggering level of unemployment at over 100,000 persons and yet he spoke about the construction of 5 petanque courts.

Let us look at the facts and figures objectively. In his budget last year, the Minister stated in his three-year macroeconomic framework that growth would be 4.5% in 2021/22. Now he raises the same growth forecast for 2021/22 from his earlier estimate of 4.5% to a staggering 9%. Where will this massive growth come from? Surely not from drains

In its latest forecast, the IMF predicts a global growth rate of 6% in 2021, and 4.4% in 2022. It foresees growth of 3.4% and 4% for sub-Saharan Africa, 6.6% for

Mauritius in 2021 and 5.2% in 2022, giving an average of around 5.9% in fiscal year 2021/22. The MCB is forecasting a 4.8% growth in 2021 which includes six months of 2021/22.

that used to carry around 55% of tourists prior to the lockdown and going into administration.

Two main drivers of economic growth, which are export of goods and services

“Two things strike an alert observer about this budget. First, what he has omitted is much more important than what he has disclosed. There's nothing on the crucial indicator of the export of goods and services and a lot on the names of towns, villages and even a few streets. Second, what he has hidden is more pertinent than what he has revealed. Again, nothing on the staggering level of unemployment and yet he spoke about the construction of 5 petanque courts...”

The Minister is relying on investment in public infrastructure, including drains, and 650,000 tourists to underpin his growth of 9%. Investment in public infrastructure takes time to deliver. Last year he stated that he would spend Rs 12 bn over four years to build some 12,000 social houses. He earmarked to spend Rs 6 bn in 2020/21 to construct 6000 such houses. There has not been a single house built under that programme until now.

I announced the Riviere des Anguilles dam in my last budget in 2010. Eleven years on, its construction is still being lauded at a cost of Rs 9.4 bn, compared to Rs 2 bn in 2010. His forecast of 650,000 tourists looks overblown in essentially 9 months as we can forget the quarter July to September 2021. Especially as he has said nothing on air access policy and on what Government will do with Air Mauritius

and private sector investment, have not been addressed by the Minister. Last year, he stated that he would spend Rs 100 bn in public infrastructure over a period of 5 years, around Rs 20 bn per year. He has hardly used any money this year. In the budget estimates, he pretended that Rs 43 bn have been spent on capital expenditure during this current financial year. The single largest item of that sum is a substantial transfer of Rs 31.7 bn to Special Funds, a code for saying that not much has been spent and the money is being warehoused to be used in subsequent years outside of the Consolidated Fund.

*** The Minister has also been criticised for "concealing the true size of the budget deficit" on the premise of a very high increase in tax revenue. Is that indeed the case?**

I simply do not know why he does these easily detectable tricks. It affects his credibility and leads to a lack of trust and confidence in the process. Let us consider the figures dispassionately.

Last year he proudly stated that he was presenting a balanced budget. However, he used the colourable device of the massive transfer of Rs 60 bn from the Bank of Mauritius and characterized it as revenue when it is in fact a mere financing item for a huge deficit of 14% of GDP. On paper, the deficit for 2020/21 is at Rs 25 bn or 5.6% of GDP. However, if he adopts best international practices and what the IMF recommends, the deficit is much higher at around 20% of GDP. And if the excess of payments over receipts in the various Special Funds is included, the fiscal deficit rises. So, will public debt.

For next year, he forecasts a budget deficit of Rs 24.9 bn representing 5% of GDP. He has done two subterfuges to reach that relatively moderate deficit given his very high expenditures. He has transferred Rs 31.7 bn to Special Funds that are outside the Consolidated Fund, which will be used to finance many of the projects announced in the budget, including drains. It amounts to 6.3% of GDP. He reckons he will spend Rs 26 bn from these Special Funds and will transfer Rs 10 bn into them. The excess of payments over receipts at around Rs 16 bn represents an additional budget deficit of 3.2% of GDP.

He has also largely overestimated government revenue. Last year, he forecast Rs 91 bn of tax revenue and the revised estimates are at Rs 83 bn only, an 8.8% decrease. Now he is predicting an increase in 2021/2022 to Rs 110 bn from a base of Rs 83 bn - representing a very significant 33% rise. That tax revenue is higher than that of 2018/2019 at Rs 98 bn which was a normal year with many more tourists than 650,000. VAT will rise by 41% from Rs 28 bn to Rs 39.5 bn while corporate tax will expand by 44% from Rs 10.4 bn to Rs 15 bn. Even personal taxes are on the high side, at a time when companies have either made losses or posted much lower profit and many employees have seen a drop in their income compared to preceding year.

Last year he financed his large deficit by digging into the reserves of the BOM. Now he is taking the reserves of four state-owned enterprises. A huge transfer of around Rs 9 bn from CEB, STC, FSC and MPA making 1.8% of GDP.

● Cont. on page 9

'All the key macroeconomic fundamentals are in the red. This is why the Minister chose not to speak about them'

● Cont. from page 8

He has also included Rs 7.8 bn of CSG contribution as revenue of Government. Strictly, these are not revenue as they represent built up reserves to pay pension as from July 2023 for those above 65 years. He should have created a separate account for such contributions. As it stands, the CSG is plainly unsustainable and there will be a very huge deficit in its funding. There are only two solutions. Either he will slash the promised benefit of Rs 4500 per month by at least 50% or he will raise the contribution significantly over the years.

So, the real budget deficit is much higher than 5% of GDP. It will be at least more than double that amount.

And now with the outcome of the Privy Council judgement in the Betamax case, Government will have to disburse around Rs 5.8 bn or 1.6% of GDP as a result of sheer political vendetta where the thirst for revenge trumped economic rationale and financial logic. This will have dire implications on public sector debt which has exceeded 100% of GDP and will rise again next year if his forecasts of growth and revenue do not materialize.

*** If the budget does not seem to address the challenges created by the Covid-19 crisis, you are best placed, for having presented a number of budgets over the years, to read into what exactly lies behind the motivations – economic and/or political -- of Hon Padayachy. What could have been at the back of his mind?**

“The Minister tried his strategy of public infrastructure last year and it has not paid dividends. There are few challenges with such an unbalanced strategy. It takes time to plan, design, execute and deliver such projects. They do not add much to domestic growth with high leakages as most inputs are imported. Also, many of the jobs go to foreign workers and not to Mauritians...”

I can only speculate like many other people. It looks like a combination of political reasons and denialism. It would have been tough for any Minister of Finance to address the challenges resulting from the unprecedented health pandemic and the severe economic contraction. So, you can feel some sympathy and even empathy for him. However, he seems to have the knack of turning a challenging situation into an extremely difficult one by not being frank and transparent, and thinking he is smarter and can get away with concealing vital facts and figures with rhetorical, verbal and linguistic acrobatics.

The country is in a big hole. Instead of looking for many ladders to come out of it, he is using spades to dig deeper and furiously. He also unnecessarily cuts off his nose to spite his face. He is not responsible for the economic mess we are in. It was already difficult before, and Covid-19 has worsened the predicament.



“The country needs a balanced approach to create wealth and economic growth and generate sustainable jobs. The Minister's strategy is too lopsided”

It is very silly to believe that he will not be exposed for omitting so many things and for concealing the true size of the deficit and debt when there are people out there who know the ins and outs of the budget very well. I have no idea whether he is not listening to sound advice, or that's his own reading of the current crisis. But his proposals on how to emerge from it are flawed. Or whether it is a lack of understanding of practical as opposed to theoretical economics in a disruptive world, of what it is that makes the real-world tick or a deficit of experience in the job, especially at a critical juncture for our country. Or being too ideological on some key economic and societal issues and refusing to admit that mistakes have been made and should be rectified as for the CSG.

The Minister was very political in his speech by naming all the towns and villages in the country and what they will receive in terms of goodies in the hope that people in these locations will be thankful for the pork-barrel policy. Almost 10 pages on these towns and villages and nothing on the gravity of the three deficits on the external balance, on high job destruction and on rising inflation. Many are concerned after listening to his reply on the treatment of Rs 60 bn. How could he look at us in the eyes and say that at least the Rs 28 bn is not akin to debt? The communique of the BOM stated emphatically that the 'Rs 28 bn is reckoned as advance against future profits of the Bank distributable to Government'. So, Government will refund the advance through forfeiting whatever profit would have been distributed to the Consolidated Fund. I prefer to believe that he is in an advanced state of denial rather than support the very nasty comments on social media about his grasp of public finance.

*** Do you find worrying trends emerging?**

Yes, and very much so. I am worried about employ-

ment and inflation - two key economic and social indicators. No less than the Prime Minister has recently stated that we are in a dire economic straits. And he knows very well for having been Minister of Finance. However, when you listen to the Minister, you do not seem to believe that the predicament is bad as he refuses to tell the truth.

If we look at the official statistics on employment and unemployment at end December 2020, five very worrying trends emerge.

First, there has been a destruction of 33,400 jobs in 2020 which have likely increased since Jan 2021. Second, unemployment is high at 52,200. There were 42,000 persons (as opposed to only 2,400 in 2019) who were unemployed but were not counted as such because of a technical definition. They were jobless but because they could not ACTIVELY look for a job during Covid, they were not classified as unemployed but as 'potential labour force'. If you add the two as both are unemployed, it makes a total of 94,200 jobless persons at December 2020 or a 16.5% unemployment rate. If we now include jobs destroyed between January and June 2021 and there are many, unemployment rises above 100,000.

Third, the employment to population ratio, which is a key indicator of the buoyancy of the labour market, is down markedly from 55% to

51%. Fourth, youth unemployment has soared to 26% and will be likely higher by June 2021. Fifth, there are over 150,000 time-related unemployed persons who have been omitted in the report. These are underemployed people who would like to work for more hours and cannot do so because of poor economic conditions.

“It would have been tough for any Minister of Finance to address the challenges resulting from the unprecedented health pandemic and the severe economic contraction. So you can feel some sympathy and even empathy for him. However, he seems to have the knack of turning a challenging situation into an extremely difficult one by not being frank and transparent...”

As Government withdraws the Wage Assistance Scheme (WAS) and the Self-Employed Assistance Scheme (SEAS) for all non-tourism related sectors in June 2021, many firms will go under with thousands of workers who will be laid off, not only in the formal sector but more importantly in the self-employed and informal clusters. Worse, if tourism does not pick up very quickly, the same will happen in the hotel and related industry after September when wage assistance ceases. So, unemployment is already over 100,000 if we include the 42,000 persons who are jobless but not counted as such and if we update the statistics to June 2021.

Besides taxes on mogas, diesel, alcohol and cigarettes, the population will be hit by inflation, which is a stealth tax.

● Cont. on page 10

'There are no 25 solutions to the problem of Air Mauritius. Its main shareholder must inject funds to revive the company'

• Cont. from page 9

Many families are facing both job losses and/or lower monthly income. Inflation is eroding their purchasing power. Prices have been rising significantly lately as a result of the accelerated depreciation of the rupee, higher freight charges and increased commodity/food and energy prices. One has to go to supermarkets to experience these rising prices on basic necessities.

The rate of inflation will grow and will act as a punitive hidden tax especially on the poor and the middle-income groups which spend a high share of their income

them.

*** You had also hinted earlier that the government would be chasing the wrong objective especially through the minister's bet on reviving the economy through massive public sector infrastructure. What else were you expecting?**

The country needs a balanced approach to create wealth and economic growth and generate sustainable jobs. The Minister's strategy is too lopsided on public sector infrastructure to revive the economy. He should have focused on revamping private sector investment in produc-



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on basic necessities. The CPI Index is an average benchmark that does not reflect the basket of foods and services bought by those at the lower and middle rungs of the ladder. Such groups spend much more than the published 23% on foods and related goods as there has been a change in the consumption pattern of many people with higher expenditure on basic necessities during Covid. This explains the disconnect between the official CPI and what is actually happening to consumers in terms of rising prices.

*** What about the other key economic indicators? Are we slightly better off than last year?**

The country has suffered two consecutive financial years of high economic contraction. Consumption also has shrunk considerably. Besides unemployment and inflation, the budget deficit and public sector debt have risen sharply to become unsustainable. Investment as a share of GDP is low while private sector investment, which is key for productive growth, has declined. FDI has contracted while its composition continues to be dominated by unproductive investment in real estate development. Savings are also dangerously low at lower than 10% of GDP.

The export of goods and services has been declining for a long time. The trade deficit is at 25% of GDP while the current account deficit has soared to 14% of GDP. The overall balance of payments, which has posted a surplus for a long time, has turned negative. So, all the key macroeconomic fundamentals are in the red. This is why the Minister chose not to speak about

tive sectors, encouraging the export of goods and services, diversifying, strengthening and reengineering existing and emerging sectors and promoting new economic pillars that can deliver on growth and jobs.

The Minister tried his strategy of public infrastructure last year and it has not paid dividends. There are few challenges with such an unbalanced strategy. It takes time to plan, design, execute and deliver such projects. They do not add much to domestic growth with high leakages as most inputs are imported. Also, many of the jobs go to foreign workers and not to Mauritians. We see it with the Metro Express. He should have adopted policies to reverse the collapse in our external competitiveness as well articulated by the World Bank recently.

*** As regards the government's focus on the tourism sector's revival, one would have expected it would have also done something about Air Mauritius instead of allowing it to remain in voluntary administration -- that is, unless we can do without a national airline. What are your views on that?**

Indeed. I am stunned how the Minister expects to reach a target of 650,000 tourists in 9 months without spelling out clearly how these visitors will travel. Air Mauritius is a major pillar in the industry, and it used to carry around 55% of tourists. We need a strong and resilient national airline not only as an insurance for nation building but also to strongly support our tourism and EPZ sectors.

There has been no decision made

about MK for more than a year and now it is postponed to Jan 2022. What will two accountants tell us that we do not know? We need specialist airline experts to propose viable solutions. Why have we not followed in the footsteps of Air France, BA, Emirates and Singapore Airlines where their governments have stepped in to shore up their airlines. There are no 25 solutions to the problem of MK. Its main shareholder must inject funds to revive the company.

*** At the end of the day, there are two questions that arise: first, how will the Government finance this budget? Second, what will we be left with after all resources have been tapped?**

The Minister will finance the massive deficit by kicking the can down the road. He is using a combination of conventional debt financing to the tune of 5%, the broadening of the size, scope, scale of the Special Funds for Rs 35.4 bn, the over-estimation of tax revenues by around Rs 13 bn to Rs 14 bn, the transfer of the reserves of Rs 9 bn from four SOEs and the computation of CSG contribution as recurrent revenue. He is relying solely on the dividends of higher growth to work his way out of the crisis. It is unlikely to work, and we will need painful economic adjustments and structural reforms to turn the tide.

expenditures by 25% to contain both the deficit and the debt. He has failed to do so and has instead increased spendings by 4%.

There should be a better priority on how to use the scarce resources available for recovery and reengineering. He has embraced a very conventional approach of high expenditures financed by high deficit and high debt. He should have adopted a balanced approach to economic recovery instead of putting most of his eggs in the public infrastructure basket. Introduce major reforms to deal with the many structural weaknesses that are inhibiting growth and job creation.

It is almost impossible to protect jobs. We should instead protect people and allow the economy to adapt and adjust. Stimulate private sector investment in the productive sectors of the economy, reverse the declining trend in the export of goods and services, do more with less for efficiency and effectiveness purposes, choose a better mix between stimulus package and reimagining and creating the new development agenda to build back better, fairer and greener.

Invest strategically in the blue, circular and green economy, in food security and agro-industrial transformation. A better blueprint for Africa and encourage some

“It is almost impossible to protect jobs. We should instead protect people and allow the economy to adapt and adjust. Stimulate private sector investment in the productive sectors of the economy, reverse the declining trend in the export of goods and services, do more with less for efficiency and effectiveness purposes, choose a better mix between stimulus package and reimagining and creating the new development agenda...”



The rupee will continue to depreciate while inflation will rise. Let us hope that the higher budget deficit, the rising and unsustainable debt and the high external balance deficit do not lead Moody's to further downgrade Mauritius. Finally, we may have no choice than to enter into a tough adjustment programme with the IMF.

*** If you were Finance minister in these uncertain and difficult times, what would you have done differently from what the current government is doing in order to speed up post-Covid economic recovery?**

It would have been difficult for any Minister. He should have been strategic and told the population how bad the economic predicament is. He should have reined in excessive expenditures and wastages. He boastfully promised to lower

SMEs to penetrate the African market. Transform the financial services sector to add more value and substance. Fasten the pace of technology, innovation and digital transformation and adoption. Support enterprises and start-ups that have the potential to sell their services to the world. Greater focus on technical and vocational training. Undertake institutional reforms to ensure efficiency, deliverables, governance and accountability. Encourage rationalization, consolidation, integration and restructuring, both in the public and private sectors, to become more agile to respond to new and emerging challenges. To use all expertise and skills to help in reversing the declining trend.

We need some disruptive and innovative policies. He has relied too much on 'Old Normal' remedies to cure the ailment of the 'New Normal' world.

Covid-19 has shone a light on how globalization can tackle inequality

• Cont. from page 2

The initial outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic affected international co-operation negatively, in part because of the blame game between the two largest economies in the world, the United States and China.

Later, many nations worked together to fight the pandemic. China, for example, supported countries like Italy, which became the epicentre of the Covid-19 pandemic in Europe.

Politically, the outbreak of Covid-19 could be used as a building block in the future to reinforce international co-operation and strengthen the pillars of political globalization.

Covid-19 and previous economic crises

Because of well-established and interdependent global production and supply chains, economic forecasts were pessimistic in the early months of the pandemic due to international border closures and business shutdowns.

The prospect of the world plunging into another major and long-term economic recession similar to the Great Depression in the 1930s and the 2008 recession was top of mind for economists, governments and citizens.

But predictions about the death of globalization were, in hindsight, grossly exaggerated. Recovery efforts took hold early compared to those two major economic crises, suggesting global trade is much more resilient than anticipated.

In fact, there's reason to be optimistic about the Covid-19 economic recovery as well as the future of globalization.

Multinational enterprises already had their stress test during the 2008-2009 collapse of world trade. That collapse kickstarted a process of deglobalization, but global merchandise trade and industrial production recovered to previous highs quickly — and they've done so even more swiftly during the Covid-19 crisis. The shock was sharp and immediate, but so was the recovery.

The so-called invisible flows (FDI, remittances, tourism, official development co-operation) have been hit harder, and full recovery is not to be expected until vaccination rollouts are sufficiently global in scope. Nonetheless, it's not unrealistic to expect a speedy economic recovery once the pandemic has passed.

The disease of inequality

Ironically, the attacks on globalization were a symptom of an underlying disease — inequality — that have been illuminated by the pandemic.

Globalization lacked a trickling down of benefits to those who most needed them. The pandemic taught us that inequalities are the breeding ground for the spreading of literal diseases and the suffering that follows. Reducing vulnerabilities to future epidemics requires tackling those inequalities.

But the fight against future crises cannot be limited to domestic developments only, because inequality is global. Adhering to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is therefore a high-return investment project.

The push towards deglobalization certainly still exists. But economies are now digitally connected in ways they've never before.

That's a positive development, because ending the Covid-19 pandemic and preventing future crises requires international co-operation and a global effort to ensure no single country is left behind. Vaccines must be made available and affordable to all countries, as just reiterated by the leaders of G7 nations in their promise to supply one billion doses of the Covid-19 vaccine to poorer nations.

Just as globalization has ramifications for all countries, the health of one nation affects the health of all nations. It requires a global approach to ensure equality for all the world's citizens.

Sylvanus Kwaku Afesorgbor, Assistant Prof, University of Guelph; Binyam Afewerk Demena, Postdoctoral research fellow & Peter A.G. van Bergeijk, Prof of International Economics & Macroeconomics, International Institute of Social Studies



COMMUNIQUE

GOVERNMENT WAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME (GWAS) and SELF-EMPLOYED ASSISTANCE SCHEME (SEAS)

Extension for the month of June 2021

Following the decision of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius to extend the **Government Wage Assistance Scheme (GWAS)** and the **Self-Employed Assistance Scheme (SEAS)** for the month of **June 2021**, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) informs employers and self-employed individuals of the following measures for the payment of the financial assistance:

A. Tourism Sector

A **full month** of financial assistance under **GWAS** and **SEAS** will continue to be provided to employers and self-employed individuals in the tourism sector in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

B. Sectors other than the Tourism Sector

Financial assistance for a full month will be provided under GWAS and SEAS to those carrying out the following activities and who were not allowed to operate during the month of June 2021.

1. Fitness centres and Professional Sports;
2. Horse racing bookmakers (outlets), casinos and gaming houses;
3. Leisure parks, amusement centres, including aquariums;
4. Multi-purpose halls, including wedding halls, theatres and cinema halls;
5. Nightclubs licensed by the Tourism Authority, and bars;
6. Religious body;
7. Canteen of a private international school (excluding public and private grant-aided secondary school).
8. Training institutions registered under the Mauritius Qualifications Authority Act;
9. Auctioneers appointed under the Sales by Auction Act;
10. Restaurants, fast food, café, caterers and other prepared food selling businesses whose annual do not exceed Rs. 50 million.
11. Fee charging crèches, pre-primary schools, primary schools, secondary schools and registered universities;
12. Self-employed individuals who are –
 - (i) Stallholders in markets that remained closed;
 - (ii) Haberdashers operating in a market;
 - (iii) Hawkers not allowed to operate;
 - (iv) Artists.

C. Operators in the Red Zones and who are not allowed to operate

Operators mentioned below will be entitled to a full month of financial assistance under GWAS and SEAS:

1. Employers having their principal place of business in a red zone;
2. Self-employed individuals residing in red zones or having their business activity within a red zone.

Note:

- A. *Red zones: An area of Vallée-Pitot, Port Louis and La Valette Housing Estate, Bambous.*
- B. *Markets/shopping malls/ hypermarkets/ supermarkets/ superettes/ meat/ poultry/ fish shops/ food retail shops/ retail shops (magasins) / hardware shops (quincailleries) were allowed to operate in red zones.*

Applications for GWAS and SEAS for the month of June 2021

GWAS: Employers who are eligible for GWAS are required to submit a fresh application.

SEAS: Self-employed individuals who are eligible for SEAS as operators in the red zones are required to submit a fresh application through the MRA website www.mra.mu. Other eligible self-employed individuals are not required to submit fresh applications.

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

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

17 June 2021

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Imperative of a Paradigm Shift in the Mode of Governance.

• Cont. from page 3

In spite of various actions taken, we are yet to satisfy and fully align our international financial services sector to the FATF norms. This botched situation obviously adversely affects the prospects of a key sector of the economy.

Similarly, the press reports about the recent bailout deal between Omnicane and the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC) despite Omnicane already reported to be facing financial difficulties before the Covid-19 pandemic has jolted the country. As per the bailout deal, Omnicane has ceded all its shares in Mon Trésor Smart City Ltd together with its lands situated at Britannia and Mon Trésor against the receipt of Rs 4.5 billion from the MIC. It is unacceptable that this MIC deal as well as the billion of Rupees advanced to bail out some of the biggest conglomerates of the country from public funds continue to be shrouded in opacity.

Illovo revisited

This Omnicane bailout deal begs so many germane questions. Are the lands ceded all the cane and other lands of the Britannia and Mon Trésor sugar estates, acquired through the controversial Illovo deal? What is the area involved? Who is going to manage these large sugar estates, the more so as the sugar refining, energy production and other activities of the Omnicane cluster are dependent on sugar cane supplies sent for milling? Why was land from Highlands sugar estate (also part of the Illovo deal) not considered instead of that of Britannia? This is a key development of prime public interest which requires complete transparency.

Too often in the past, public interest has been short-changed. The ill-advised purchase of Rose Belle Sugar Estate and the unchecked spoilage of its lands, the Sugar Investment Trust (SIT) and its paltry dividends and the decried Illovo deal are stark reminders of this. Nothing less than full transparency of this deal and other MIC bailout agreements will do.

Poor governance has taken a heavy toll on the country.

Essential conditions

If we are as a nation to surmount the daunting challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we first and foremost need a paradigm shift in the mode of governance in the country. We also need a competent government Establishment freed from overbearing government interference and state institutions and companies ably manned by seasoned professionals in the field. We also have to mobilize the best talent and professional expertise of the country and harness the best entrepreneurial brains to brainstorm innovative pathways to recast our economic model. These are essential conditions to break the unending cycle of stunted growth and under par performance.

It is the combined synergies of all these key actors of the economy united around a common purpose which can steer the country towards higher levels of prosperity and improved standards of living for the benefit of the multitude.

Mrinal Roy

Programme des Courses -- 6è Journée samedi 19 juin 2021

1 THE TOMMY BOY CUP 1400 m - Valeur [0-25] - 12h15						
1	Tyrandeus	SN	7-2-1-7/3	60	G.D.Aucharuz	7 550
2	Zodiac Jack	JMH	N-6-6-7/8	59.5	R.Joorawon	2 1200
3	The Right Stuff	CD	7-3-7-3/7	59(-4)	M.Sonaram	6 650
4	After The Order	CR	2-4-4-8/4	58.5	D.Bheekary	8 1400
5	Double Winner	P	8-7-9-R/8	58.5	O.Sola	5 3000
6	Bleu Royale	P	0-0-0-N/4	58	S.Bussunt	4 430
7	Red Force One	RG	0-0-0-0-2	58	J.Allyhosain	1 200
8	Time Is Gold	SH	0-0-10-7/4	57.5	I.Santana	3 450

2 THE MTCSPORTSANDLEISURE.COM CUP 990 m - Valeur [0-26] - 12h50						
1	Fairbanks	VA	4-4-1-2/7	61.5(-3)	A.Roy	8 1500
2	Cloud Seeder	AS	nouveau	61	R.Joorawon	7 1200
3	Courtroom Magic	P	nouveau	61	O.Sola	1 650
4	Follow Suit	CD	nouveau	61(-4)	M.Sonaram	6 450
5	Marula	JMH	5-6-3-3/3	61	J.Allyhosain	3 220
6	Zeno	VA	0-0-N-8/5	61	B.Fayd'herbe	2 900
7	Zenzero	SH	2-2-7/4-5	61	I.Santana	4 300
8	Artax	AS	4-9-3/6-7	58.5	S.Rama	5 2000

3 THE WORLD VETERINARY DAY CUP 1600 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 13h25						
1	Affranchi	VA	6-6-7-6/9	61(-3)	A.Roy	6 2500
2	African Rock	SN	0-0-0-0-4	61	G.D.Aucharuz	4 270
3	Imperial Rage	SJ	0-6-7-1/7	61	D.Bheekary	1 800
4	Senor's Guest	GR	2-3-1-6/7	61	J.Allyhosain	3 800
5	Camp David	GR	9-7-8-3/2	60.5	R.Joorawon	5 300
6	Dreamforest	CD	3-5-5/3-1	60.5(-4)	M.Sonaram	9 900
7	Italian Way	VA	3-1-1-2/3	60.5	B.Fayd'herbe	8 500
8	Lit	G	0-3-3-1-7/	60.5	S.Donohoe	7 1200
9	The Grey Crusader	RG	3-4-3-5-8/	60.5	B.Bhaugerothee	11 2000
10	Overdose	AS	4-5-4-2/6	59	S.Rama	10 3300
11	Star Of Zeus [EA]	PM	4-3-1-6/3	61.5	-----	2 -----

4 THE DR. V. PIERRE GOUPILLE CUP 1365 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 - 14h00						
1	Bold Phoenix	SJ	2-1-3-1-1/	61	J.Allyhosain	2 300
2	Clouded Hill	JMH	0-0-9-9/8	61(-3)	A.Roy	1 1400
3	King Of Tara	VA	4-3-6/8-5	60	B.Fayd'herbe	4 500
4	High Voltage	AS	nouveau	59	R.Joorawon	6 500
5	Savvy	SJ	0-0-6-7/9	59	D.Bheekary	8 2000
6	Varside	SH	5-4-2-3/2	59	I.Santana	3 315
7	Yankeedoodledandy	G	6-4-9-11-8/	58	S.Donohoe	7 800
8	Why Wouldn't Yew	RM	4-3-7/7-5	56	S.Rama	5 550

SELECTIONS

1. Red Force One, Bleu Royale, Time Is Gold
2. Marula, Follow Suit, Zenzero
3. African Rock, Camp David, Lit
4. Varside, Bold Phoenix, King Of Tara
5. Drop Kick, Trip To The Sky, Giggin
6. Dynamite Jack, Marauding, Tower Of Wisdom
7. G I Joe, Do Or Dar, Sand Path
8. Canary Island, West Coast Warrior, High Key

5 THE WORLD FOCUS CUP 1500 m - Valeur Benchmark 46 - 14h35						
1	Carbon Fibre	SPN	nouveau	61	K.Kalychurun	4 2200
2	John Hancock	G	3-6-9-6-3/	60.5	S.Donohoe	8 2200
3	Cyber Special	GR	1-5-2-3-1/	60(-3)	A.Roy	2 470
4	Drop Kick	VA	0-5-7-8/2	59.5	B.Fayd'herbe	1 230
5	Syds Liason	RG	0-0-0-0-3	59.5	J.Allyhosain	11 700
6	Trip To The Sky	SJ	3-3-3-1/2	59.5	D.Bheekary	7 430
7	Jet Stream	AS	4-5-7-7/1	59	R.Joorawon	10 500
8	Bonnie Prince	SH	4-1-5-2-4/	58.5	I.Santana	9 2000
9	The Byzantine	JMH	8-5-6/R-4	57	O.Sola	6 3000
10	Giggin	PM	0-0-0-0-5	56	R.Oliver	5 1400
11	Sockeroo [EA]	G	nouveau	60.5	-----	3 -----

6 THE GUNNESS GUJADHUR CUP 1450 m - Valeur Benchmark 66 - 15h10						
1	Marauding	G	1-2-1-1-6/	60	S.Donohoe	8 350
2	Stoppaltheclocks	CD	0-0-0-0-7	60(-4)	M.Sonaram	5 1000
3	Ideal Secret	RM	2-2-4-1/3	59	P.C.Orffer	10 550
4	Special Blend	SPN	nouveau	59	K.Kalychurun	7 4000
5	Tower Of Wisdom	GR	1-3-3-N-6/	57	R.Joorawon	1 500
6	Var And Away	SN	nouveau	57	G.D.Aucharuz	2 2500
7	Red Mars	SJ	3-1-2-2-2/	56.5	D.Bheekary	11 1700
8	Triple Fate Line	SH	0-4-5-4-R/	56.5	I.Santana	4 2000
9	Backpacker	VA	nouveau	56(-3)	A.Roy	9 4000
10	Dynamite Jack	RG	1-5-1-1/1	55.5	J.Allyhosain	3 200
11	Stream Ahead [EA]	CD	5-3-1-N/6	56.5	-----	6 -----

7 THE LALDHEER CUP 1500 m - Valeur Benchmark 36 - 15h45						
1	Apollo Star	AS	1-2-2/2-5	60	R.Joorawon	4 1000
2	Bound By Duty	RM	2-5-1-1/6	60	P.C.Orffer	5 1000
3	Do Or Dare	JMH	2-8-1-1/7	60	J.Allyhosain	10 550
4	It dawned on me	SH	10-2-8-5/2	60	I.Santana	6 500
5	Sand Path	CD	3-6-2/1-1	59.5(-4)	M.Sonaram	9 350
6	Alameery	SJ	0-0-0-0-8	59	S.Bussunt	2 2500
7	Bollinger	P	8-2-1-8/10	59	O.Sola	8 1600
8	Borya	G	6-4-7-6/6	59	S.Donohoe	7 800
9	G I Joe	PM	0-0-0-0-1	58.5	R.Oliver	3 300
10	Well Connected	VA	5-3-10-9/6	57(-3)	A.Roy	11 2000
11	Nao Faz Mal [EA]	RG	6-2-3-1/3	58.5	-----	1 -----

8 THE RAYMOND ANTELME PLATE 1600 m - Valeur [0-26] - 16h20						
1	High Key	SN	2-4-5-4/3	61.5	D.Bheekary	9 300
2	Supreme Orator	CR	4-8-9-6/C	61.5	J.Allyhosain	2 800
3	Canary Island	VA	0-0-0-0-2	61	B.Fayd'herbe	8 270
4	Ruby Spirit	AS	5-6-5-4/4	61	R.Joorawon	1 450
5	Ticket Holder	SJ	6-7-7-10/9	61	S.Bussunt	7 1500
6	West Coast Warrior	RG	6-3-3-3/5	61	B.Bhaugerothee	3 470
7	Jet Path	VA	8-9-8/10-7	58.5(-3)	A.Roy	4 1800
8	Daredevil Aviator	SPN	7-9-11/7-8	56.5	K.Kalychurun	5 2500
9	Greatfiveeight	CD	8-6-7-4/9	52(-4)	M.Sonaram	6 2500



COMMUNIQUE

CORPORATE INCOME TAX

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) reminds all companies whose accounting period ended in the month of December 2020 that the deadline for the submission of their annual income tax return and payment of tax, if any, is **28 June 2021**.

Companies are informed that, where **no tax is payable or a loss is declared** and the company is unable to submit the return by the due date, no penalty for late submission of return will be charged by the Director-General, provided the return is submitted on or before **30 July 2021**.

For additional information, kindly phone the MRA Helpdesk on **207 6000** during working hours or send an email at headoffice@mra.mu

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15 June 2021

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Dorab comes back from Jerusalem

After his holy trip to Jerusalem, Dorab Bawa was caught by customs for carrying liquor.

Customs Officer: "Sir, what is in the bag?"

Dorab Bawa: "Holy water from Jerusalem."

Customs (after smelling & tasting): "Don't lie sir. Its whisky.."

Dorab Bawa: "O Jesus, One more miracle."

Today is Dorab Bawa's wife's birthday.

Dorab Bawa asked her, "Can I get you a diamond necklace, for your birthday?"

She said: "Nothing would please me more."

So he got her Nothing.

Dorab Bawa will always be grateful to his English teacher

Last night Dorab Bawa was driving back home from a party.

He was high and saw there was police checking. Was

scared at that very moment but then immediately got down from the driver seat and sat in the back seat.

After a few minutes, the police officer came and asked him to move his car ahead for an alcohol test.

Dorab Bawa said: "My driver ran away seeing you."

The police officer replied: "Then you move your car ahead for the checking."

I said: "No sir, as a true Indian citizen I should not drive drunk."

Officer looked at Dorab Bawa, got emotional and applauded him for his responsible behaviour.

He sent one constable to drive Dorab's car home.

Doctor asked Dorab Bawa to cut down his drinking by three fourths...

Smart Dorab Bawa stopped adding soda.

Dorab Bawa phones his doctor: Doctor, I have not gone out since the first lockdown started. Now I have important work in the market. What should I do?

Doctor: Don't worry. Just wear mask and hand gloves. It's sufficient. It will protect you from the coronavirus.

Dorab follows the doctor's advice and goes out.

To his horror, others were wearing pant and shirt as well!

"If you want to be happy with your husband, love him less & understand him more!

If you want to be happy with your wife, love her more



& never try to understand her!"

A mother casually calls up her son one afternoon.

Mother: "Hi son, how are you?"

Son: "I'm fine, Mom".

Mother: "What did you have for lunch today?"

Son: Don't you have anything else to ask, Mom? You only ask silly questions like, 'What did you eat?' ...'What dress are you wearing?'...'Whom did you meet?'...'What song did you listen to?'...etc, etc!

Mother: "Oh!!! Ok, Ok, then tell me, how should the World Bank fight these inflationary trends with minimum intervention in the money markets? And what should be the role of the international finance institutions to control inflationary trends across the globe and the slowing down of the world economy?"

Son (after a few seconds silence): "Mom, I had curd rice with pickle and salad."

Dedicated to all kids who underestimate their mothers.

Short Stories

The warrior's destiny

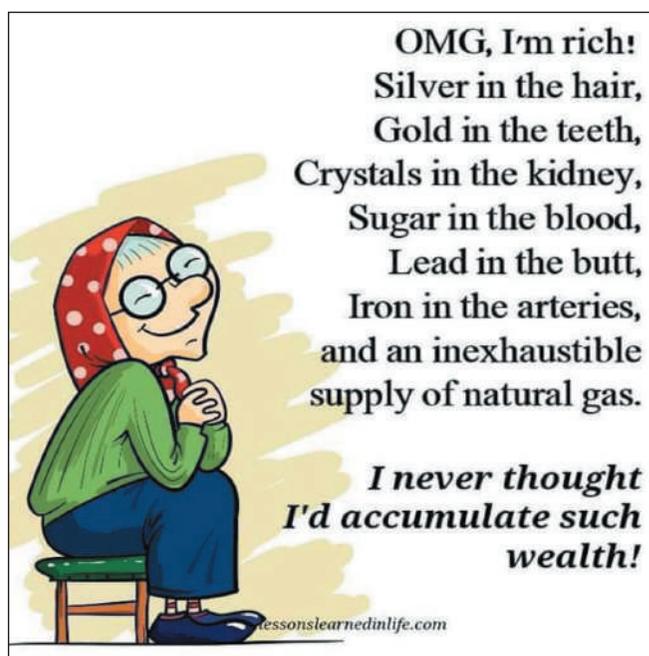
A great Japanese warrior named Nobunaga was going to war with a fierce enemy with only one-tenth the number of men the opposition commanded. He knew that he could win the fight with a well-planned strategy, but his soldiers were in doubt.

On the way the leader stopped at a Shinto shrine and told his men: "After my visit to the shrine I will toss a coin. If the head comes, we will win; if tails, we will lose. Destiny holds us in her hand."

Nobunaga entered the shrine and offered his prayers. Then he came forth and tossed a coin in front of his men. Heads appeared. The soldiers were filled with confident and were eager to win the battle.

"No one can change the hand of destiny," one of his attendants told him after the battle.

"Indeed not," said Nobunaga and showed the coin which was doubled with heads on the both sides.



Life's Lessons

The philosopher & the dog

A king was travelling in a boat with his dog. There was also a philosopher with other passengers in that boat. The dog had never travelled in a boat before, so it was not feeling comfortable. It was

jumping up and down, not letting anyone sit in peace.

The boatman was troubled by this jumping and was concerned that the boat would sink due to the panic of the passengers. If the dog doesn't calm down, it will drown and drown others too, but the dog was jumpy due to his nature.

The king was upset, but could not find a way to calm the dog. The philosopher watched all this and decided to help.

He went to the king and said: "Sarkar. If you allow, I can make this dog as quiet as a housecat."

The king immediately gave his permission.

The philosopher, with the help of two passengers, picked up the dog and threw it into the river. The dog started to swim desperately to stay afloat. It was now dying and struggled for its life.

After some time, the philosopher dragged the dog back into the boat.

The dog went and sat quietly in a corner.

The king and all passengers were surprised at the changed behaviour of the dog.

The king asked the philosopher: "At first it was jumping up and down. Now it is sitting like a pet goat. Why?"

The philosopher said: "No one realises the misfortune of another without tasting trouble. When I threw this dog into the water, it understood the power of the water and the usefulness of the boat."

Dogs that are jumping up and down should be thrown in Syria, Iraq or Pakistan for 6 months, then on coming back to their home country, they will automatically become calm as a pet cat and will lie in a corner.





Relationships

How to confront someone when you hate confrontation

Tackle your fear of tough conversations and learn how to start speaking up

For many, the thought of having to confront another person fills us with fear, anxiety and a whole lot of dread - whether it's talking to a roommate about their less-than-hygienic cleaning standards, approaching a co-worker who keeps taking credit for your ideas or telling a relative their off-color "jokes" are actually offensive. Rather than deal with these issues head-on, we'd much rather put off the conversations to some later date or - better yet - avoid them altogether.

"We often picture a confrontation to include many factors that are distasteful to a lot of us: anger or hostility, thinking on our feet, the possibility of getting railroaded, potential rejection, or the worry we won't be able to control our emotions - that we'll burst into tears or make a fool of ourselves," said Boston University clinical psychologist Ellen Hendriksen, author of 'How to Be Yourself: Quiet Your Inner Critic and Rise Above Social Anxiety'.

When we avoid tough conversations, we get some temporary relief from our anxiety. But in the long run, we're only hurting ourselves. Our needs won't be met, the problem won't be solved and we erode our self-esteem in the process.

"You're endorsing the idea that you don't have what it takes to go toe-to-toe with another person," said Ryan Howes, a clinical psychologist in Pasadena, California, and author of the 'Mental Health Journal for Men'.

"You're saying their ideas are more important than yours and acting accordingly. Every time you continue this pattern, you are reinforcing this belief, confirming that you shouldn't stand up for yourself."

"Avoidance builds a wall between us and others - if

we can't speak with respectful honesty, we can't build a close relationship."

This avoidant approach can do damage to our relationships, too. By not speaking up, we think we're keeping the peace. But eventually, our negative feelings are bound to seep out, no matter how hard we try to ignore them.

Below is some helpful advice for anyone who struggles with confrontation, as reported by Kelsey Borresen of Huffpost.

Confrontation isn't a bad thing - so stop treating it like it is.

"Whether you learned to walk on eggshells because you once had a difficult boss, or your fear of confrontation goes all the way back to childhood, check your assumptions," psychotherapist Amy Morin wrote for 'Psychology Today'.

You may associate confrontation with heated arguments and doomed relationships. But know that confrontation can actually be quite healthy when approached in a kind but assertive way.

"Confrontation can be a win-win negotiation, a radically honest conversation that brings you closer, or an expression of deep concern," Hendriksen said.

Focus on what you have to say, rather than how it will be received.

When you're so worried about how the other person might react, it's easy to get stuck in your head and lose sight of the real purpose of the conversation.

It may help to spend some time clarifying your feelings before you initiate the conversation. Make some bullet points about what's bothering you - and be specific. Instead of writing something vague like, "I wish my roommate was more considerate," you might say, "I wish my roommate would give me a heads-up before inviting people over to the apartment."

"Just start listing everything you can think of when it comes to what's upsetting you," clinical psychologist Nick Wignall wrote in a blog post. "Could be people involved, different emotions you were feeling, fantasies that run through your mind, whatever. By forcing yourself to think on paper, you will get a lot more clarity on the real issue."

Once you've narrowed down your main points, you

can jot them down on a post-it or save them as a note in your phone. That way you have something to refer back to during the conversation if you're worried you might lose your train of thought.

Use "I" statements to keep defensiveness at bay

Instead of telling a friend, "You're so self-absorbed - you always talk about yourself and don't care how I'm doing," you might say, "I feel hurt when our conversations are one-sided. It would mean a lot if you'd check in with me more and ask how I'm doing."

You want to keep the focus on your feelings. Attacking the other person's character will only make them defensive. Once their guard is up, it'll be harder to get through to them.

"Avoid being overly accusatory; express what you think and how you feel," Morin wrote. "Most important, take a few deep breaths and don't let your anger get the best of you - even if the other person lashes out. The goal is to be assertive, not aggressive."

Another way to reduce defensiveness: Take responsibility for anything you may have done wrong or could have done better in the situation - even if it's something small.

"Of course, you don't want to take this too far and start apologizing for things you haven't done or simply making things up just to make the other person feel better," Wignall wrote.

But assuming responsibility is a "powerful way of signaling that this isn't personal and you're not attacking or criticizing the other person. It's just about making things better for everyone going forward," he added.

Approach confrontations like a collaboration rather than a competition.

Instead of adopting a you-against-them mentality, think about it as the two of you united against the problem, Hendriksen said.

"For example, in approaching a potential confrontation with your partner on overspending, open not with, 'You need to get your Amazon spending under control,' but with, 'I know we're trying to save for a down payment on a house; how can we keep our eye on the prize?'" she said.

If the conversation gets derailed, steer it back to your common goal. "You'll feel less like adversaries and more like a team," she added.

Treat confrontation more like a collaboration toward a common goal and less like a competition with winners and losers.

Appartement à louer - long terme



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Abhishek Bachchan has pains for a long road trip with Aishwarya & Aaradhya



Abhishek Bachchan is eagerly waiting for the coronavirus pandemic to be over. Speaking in a chat organised with Chennaiyin FC, Abhishek Bachchan interacted with his fans and revealed his post-pandemic plans with wife Aishwarya Rai and daughter Aaradhya, reports Hindustan Times.

"We always love going on long drives and I hope to be able to do it once things improve. I would love to

take my daughter and wife on a nice long road trip," he said during an interaction titled Pit Stop with Bad Road Buddies. Fans also talked to Abhishek about his favourite bikes and the impact his film *Dhoom* had on bikers.

Last year, Abhishek, Aishwarya, Aaradhya and his father Amitabh Bachchan were all diagnosed with Covid-19. While Aishwarya and Aaradhya were discharged from the

hospital in a week, Abhishek and Amitabh spent close to a month admitted at the Nanavati Hospital.

In an Instagram live chat with motivational speaker Anand Chulani, Abhishek talked the time he spent with Amitabh. "Initially, my father and I were in the hospital together. A week later my wife and daughter were hospitalised. Thankfully, they only had to be there for about a week then they came out, and my dad and I stayed on for a bit longer because we hadn't tested negative," he said.

He added that he had a good time with his father in the hospital. "I mean he is also a great friend of mine, so it was good to shoot the breeze with him and you know when you are a Covid patient although you can interact with other patients, there is nothing else to do, you just have to wait around. So, there was some good banter that went on, I mean he is a good roomie in that sense," he said.

Abhishek was last seen in *The Big Bull*. The film released on Disney+ Hotstar to mixed reviews.



Jacqueline Fernandez in love?

J.F. has allegedly found love in a south based entrepreneur and they are soon moving in together at a Rs 1.75 billion bungalow

Jacqueline Fernandez has rarely talked about her personal life but today her love life news is all over the internet.

According to TOI's report, Jacqueline has been in love for some time now with a south based entrepreneur and looks like things are so serious between them.

It is said that Jacqueline has been secretly house-hunting between Juhu and Bandra for the last two months during the lockdown. The actress was looking for a standalone, beach-facing property worth Rs 1.75 billion, as per the TOI report, to make a perfect love-nest for herself and her beau.

Sources close to the actress said they have paid the initial amount for the purchase and even finalised an interior designer from France to do up the interiors of their love-nest. One source was quoted by TOI saying, "They seem extremely serious about their relationship."

Not just her personal life Jacqueline's professional life is also going great with several projects in the pipeline - *Ram Setu* and *Bachchan Pandey* alongside Akshay Kumar, *Kick 2* with Salman Khan, *Bhoot Police* with Saif Ali Khan, Yami Gautam and Arjun Kapoor, and *Cirkus* with Ranveer Singh and Pooja Hegde.



Divya Dutta on Sheer Qorma winning an international award

'We were sure the film would work'

Divya Dutta talks about her film 'Sheer Qorma' bagging an award abroad, and the portrayal of LGBTQI theme in mainstream Hindi films

Divya Dutta is happy with the recognition her film *Sheer Qorma* is getting not just in India but also, internationally. It won the Grand Jury award at Asparilla International Film Festival, Florida and it was director Faraz Ansari, who broke the news to her.

highly coveted awards for sure, it changed for me after I got a National Award. But it's not like that would be the end of the world if I don't get it. If I get one, it's good," explains the 43-year-old, who won the National Film award for Best Supporting Actress in a Supporting Role for *Irada* (2018).

Dutta, who is yet to see *Sheer Qorma* herself, feels that in India, we're still learning about LGBTQI+ issues.

"Abhi toj jaake sundar films banni shuru hui hain. Earlier, there only used to be one or two, like *Fire* (1996), which had to face resistance. Now, we have *Aligarh* (2015), *Kapoor & Sons* (2016), which hit home so beautifully. There's the web show *Made in Heaven* as well. Appreciation comes from the West, where it's no big deal. We're more conservative in our thinking," she admits.

A change, however, has been in the offing here, notes the actor. "We're celebrating Pride Month, in a way that has never been as beautifully celebrated before," she signs off.

"The feeling is, of course, of elation. We were sure the film would work. Also, it's Pride Month, what could be better than our film getting a great launch," Dutta beams with excitement.

Ask her if such accolades matter to her a lot, and she says she'd be lying if she said otherwise.

"In a way, they're like a tonic for any actor, a booster. You feel acknowledged, appreciated by your clan, and that counts. It also changes things for us, the perception about us. Especially, the

Supriya Pilgaonkar: 'The negativity out there really affects me.'

It takes a lot of effort to stay positive in these times'

Of late, Supriya Pilgaonkar has been busy working in the Covid-era. The senior actor shot for the promo of a new TV show and even appeared on a reality TV show recently. The 53-year-old admits that before shooting, she asks many questions about safety regulations and protocols, "but the moment I land on the sets, I forget that there is a thing called Covid. I lower my guard when I shoot and I need to work on that," she shares, reports Hindustan Times.

Like many others, since last year, life has been a roller coaster ride for Pilgaonkar who believes that even if keeping your chin up is tough, moving on with a smile on your face is the only way forward. She adds, "Coping with Covid is all about survival instinct. *Jaan hai toh jahan hai*. I agree that there is a massive financial crisis in the industry and outside too, and we all have to cope with it. You might have to hold on, stay at home and not work for a while, but then the industry is there to help. I know of so many people who are helping others, with sensitivity."

Pilgaonkar has also been doing her bit to help says, and is glad to see industry folks helping out. She explains, "These times call for sensitivity. One must lend a hand in any manner possible and helping people with their basic needs. If the intention is good, then any effort is worth it. So many people and celebs are helping others in need."

The actor feels while blaming is easy, everyone has to be responsible for their actions. "I



take responsibility for my own life as should be the case with everyone because we make our own choices. In my family, we have a bunch of positive people and we uplift each other. If we get any bad or sad news from anywhere, we help each other. I don't think there is any household that hasn't been affected by Covid, directly or indirectly. In these troubled times, the negativity out there really affects me. It takes a lot of effort to stay positive in these times. I don't visit any source of negativity - be it a person or news or anything else. I avoid it."



Anita Hassanandani takes a break from acting after son's birth

Anita Hassanandani said that she has quit acting, calling it a decision taken long ago. She also said that 'it's not about the pandemic', adding that she wants to be at home with her newborn son and work is the last thing on her mind right now, reports Hindustan Times.

Speaking with a leading daily, Anita Hassanandani said, "I had decided that whenever I would have a child, I would leave the industry and let go of my work. I always wanted to focus on being a mother. So it's not about the pandemic, I would have either way left the industry, pandemic

or no pandemic. I want to be at home with my kid. Honestly work is the last thing on my mind right now. I really don't know when I will get back."

"Although I am doing some work here and there because of the contracts that I had signed with different brands. I am doing all this for social media where I am shooting at home and it is totally stress free. I am being extremely careful too. Maybe one person will come to shoot and the person too has to have a proper test done before coming inside the house. But getting back on a full-fledged set of a TV show, I don't know when that will happen. But I am sure when I decide to get back, people will get to know," she added.

Anita and Rohit Reddy tied the knot in 2013 in Goa. In February this year, the couple welcomed their son Aaravv. They often share pictures and videos of the little one, who already has an Instagram page of his own.

In an Instagram post last year, Anita had said, "It just felt like the perfect timing. We have been together for 10 years, out of which we have been married for seven years. We were absolutely ready. We wanted to settle with a baby this year and it happened perfectly."

Anita is best known for her television shows *Kkavyanjali*, *Naagin*, and *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein*. The actor has also starred in Hindi movies such as *Krishna Cottage*, *Ragini MMS 2* and *Kucch Toh Hai*. In 2019, Anita and Rohit participated in the dance reality show *Nach Baliye 9* and were runners-up.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You'll be strongly tempted to go in double quick time so as to reach your aims and achieve your dearest plans. You'll easily drive away your gloomy ideas and envisage the future with confidence and assurance.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 12, 17, 20, 23, 26

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

You'll have this time to cope with obstacles of all sorts, and the laurels will be for later on. Anyhow, try to see the brighter side of things. You'll make use of much eloquence so as to reach your aims.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 20, 21, 34, 39, 40

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Single folks, you could well claim victory this time; you'll finally find the ideal partner! You'll undergo a rather sensible decrease of vitality which will compel you to have more sleep or to slow down your activities.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 4, 14, 16, 20, 21

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Digestion and assimilation will be bad; don't eat in any way and at any moment; it will be important to observe a good dietary balance. You'll tend to behave as if your vacation were never ended.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 12, 18, 20, 30, 40

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

A serious person, clearly older than you, will show you how to get out of your personal problems; follow his/her counsels. Ideas of vengeance will torment your mind; drive them away if you want to recover your serenity.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, 12, 14, 16, 30

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Unforeseeable events will take place in your private life and will take you off guard; it will be general panic; your spouse will be as much disoriented as you, and your children much more. Keep contact with your old friends. Excellent professional perspectives; you can widen the field of your activities.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

The planetary turbulences will sow disorder in your family life. You'll labour under the diffuse fear of an unfortunate event which might take place; you'll be anguished at the least threat of a danger.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 14, 16, 20, 31

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Don't persist in manifestly unrealizable plans; rather satisfy yourself with more modest but reasonably accessible projects. Be vigilant and avoid having important business appointments. In your private life, a lack of lucidity will be harmful to you.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 12, 13, 20, 33

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Beware of avidity which may completely cloud your judgment, notably in financial matters. Your amorous conquests will be flattering. But you'll tend to demand too much from those whom you love.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 6, 20, 31, 36, 38

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

If you deem that something goes wrong in your couple, make the effort to talk about it frankly and serenely, in a dialog in which each one would express his deep aspirations and suggestions designed to improve your conjugal life in the future.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 14, 15, 20, 22, 30

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Closely watch over your accounts and make sure that you've paid your taxes and other fiscal charges. Your enemies will occupy too much place in your mind; but life is too short for you to concern yourself with those whom you detest!

Lucky Numbers: 3, 12, 20, 30, 32, 36

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

As far as possible, avoid stress under all forms. You'll know how to make yourself appreciated in your career; you'll give out your full measure, and you'll quickly harvest the expected results.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 12, 15, 18, 20, 33



Vendredi 18 Juin - 21.15

Happy Housewives



UN QUOTIDIEN EXTRAORDINAIRE!

HAPPY HOUSEWIVES



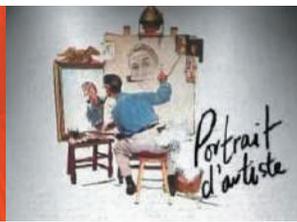
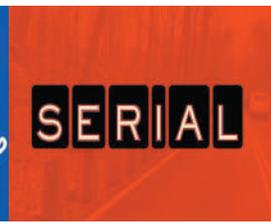
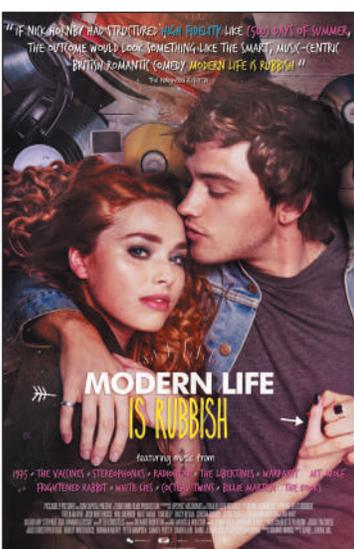
Samedi 19 Juin - 21.20

Resident Evil: The Final Chapter

Starring: Milla Jovovich, Iain Glen, Ali Larter



Dimanche 20 Juin - 21.15



vendredi 18 juin

MBC 1

- 07.00 Dessin Anime
- 10.35 Serial: Oh Yuck!
- 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
- 12.53 Doc: L'art Et La Matière
- 13.08 Local: MBC Talent Show
- 14.30 D.Anime: Teenie Tots
- 14.55 D.Anime: Au Galop En Toute..
- 15.17 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
- 15.29 D.Anime: Little Spirou
- 15.36 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...
- 16.13 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz And..
- 16.38 D.Anime: Sabrina: Secrets...
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Promo: Saying 2021
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.00 Local: Resonances
- 21.55 Serial: Seal Team
- 23.16 Le Journal
- 23.51 Mag: Eye On Sadc

MBC 2

- 10.00 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun
- 11.03 Serial: Tawaan
- 12.04 Film: Spandan
- Starring Aniket Vishwasrao, Arun Nalawade
- 14.17 DDI Magazine
- 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 15.25 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
- 15.46 Serial: Bava Maradallu
- 16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
- 16.36 Serial: Sila
- 16.52 Serial: Imtihaan
- 17.09 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
- 17.27 Serial: Chhanchhan
- 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone
- 18.30 DDI Magazine
- 19.05 Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 DDI Magazine
- 20.00 Serial: Band Khirkiyan
- 20.43 Local: Anjuman
- 21.08 Local: Urdu Programme

MBC 3

- 06.00 Mag: Eco India
- 06.26 Mag: Shift
- 06.38 Mag: Sur Mesure
- 07.52 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
- 08.38 Doc: 360 GEO
- 10.13 Doc: China's Gateway To...
- 11.07 Mag: Eco India
- 11.38 Mag: Sur Mesure
- 12.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 12.47 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
- 13.39 Doc: 360 GEO
- 16.00 Mag: Eco India
- 16.26 Mag: Shift
- 16.51 Mag: Border Crossing
- 17.18 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 17.46 Doc: Craft Chocolate
- 18.30 Mag: The World From Above
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 20.05 Doc: Innovation On Board
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.40 La Vie Revee De Gaspard

Cine 12

- 00.46 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 01.27 Film: The Living And The...
- 02.50 Serial: Shades Of Blue
- 03.31 Film: Clarity
- 05.16 Tele: Muneca Brava
- 06.40 Film: Sense And Sensibility
- 09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible
- 09.45 Tele: Daniella
- 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
- 11.00 Serial: Shades Of Blue
- 11.46 Film: Clarity
- 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
- 14.45 Film: Sense And Sensibility
- 16.41 Serial: Mission: Impossible
- 17.29 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 18.11 Tele: Daneilla
- 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
- 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
- 20.30 Serial: Night Shift
- 21.15 Film: Happy Housewives
- 22.54 Tele: Muneca Brava

Bollywood TV

- 08.00 Film: Sitamgar
- 12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani
- 12.16 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna
- 12.37 / 20.32 - Agniphera
- 12.58 / 21.09 -
- Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 13.21 / 21.24 -
- Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 13.43 / 21.46 - Naagin S3
- 14.25 / 21.59 - Sethji
- 14.56 / 22.25 -
- Mere Sai - Shradha Aur Saburi
- 15.17 Film: Mausam
- Starring: Shahid Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor, Anupam Kher, Aditi Sharma, Supriya Pathak
- 18.00 Live: Samacher
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 18.51 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein

samedi 19 juin

- 06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man
- 06.24 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz And..
- 06.46 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe...
- 07.13 D.Anime: Kid Lucky
- 07.35 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis...
- 08.02 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...
- 08.24 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies
- 08.27 D.Anime: Martin Morning
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.30 Tele: Daniella
- 14.50 D.Anime: Teenie Tots
- 15.34 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
- 16.04 D.Anime: Astrology
- 16.28 D.Anime: Garfield Originals
- 16.30 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana
- 17.38 Doc: A Question Of Science
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Entertainment: Dance
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.25 Local: Le Rendez Vous
- 21.58 Film: Saint-Valentin Pour...
- 23.22 Le Journal

- 07.00 Film: Usne Kaha Tha
- 09.30 Serial: Vir: The Robot Boy
- 09.41 Serial: Chacha Bhatija
- 10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 11.36 Serial: Bloody Romance
- 12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare
- 12.24 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
- 12.47 Serial: High School
- 13.03 Annakodiyum Ainthu Pengalum
- 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 15.30 Film: A Gentleman
- 17.35 DDI Magazine
- 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 DDI Magazine
- 20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
- 20.28 Serial: Bitti Business Wali
- 21.01 Film: Gabbar Is Back
- Starring Akshay Kumar, Shruti Haasan, Sunil Grover

- 06.00 Doc: Craft Chocolate
- 06.42 Mag: Arts And Culture
- 07.21 Mag: Euromaxx
- 07.50 Doc: Innovation On Board
- 08.16 La Vie Revee De Gaspard
- 09.56 Doc: Rotta And Roll
- 11.07 Doc: Craft Chocolate
- 12.03 Mag: Global 3000
- 12.21 Doc: Innovation On Board
- 12.50 Doc: La Vie Revee De...
- 13.29 La Vie Revee De Gaspard
- 13.42 Doc: Global Conflagration
- 15.34 Student Support Prog...
- 19.31 Mag: Check In
- 20.05 Doc: Volcano Stories
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.40 Doc: Destinations
- 20.53 Doc: Wedding The French...
- 21.45 Doc: Soyalism
- 22.27 Doc: Lead In The Blood
- 23.09 Doc: Amazing Gardens
- 23.35 Doc: Superfoods

- 01.30 Film: Happy Housewives
- 03.09 Serial: Dynasty 2
- 03.50 Film: The Evil Within
- 05.28 Tele: Esmeraldas
- 06.09 Serial: Night Shift
- 07.00 Film: Clarity
- 08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
- 09.18 Serial: The Enemy Within
- 09.59 Serial: Incorporated
- 10.52 Film: A Doggone Hollywood
- 12.19 Serial: Dynasty 2
- 13.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue
- 15.05 Tele: Amanda
- 15.45 Tele: Muneca Brava
- 16.30 Mag: Hollywood On Set
- 17.00 Serial: Night Shift
- 17.45 Film: La Grande Muraille
- 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
- 20.30 Series: Night Shift
- 21.15 Film: Resident Evil: The Final Chapter
- 23.08 Tele: Dulce Amor

- 04.05 Sanjivani
- 04.26 Radha Krishna
- 04.48 Agniphera
- 05.09 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 05.34 Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 05.54 Sethji
- 06.16 Mere Sai - Shradha Aur...
- 06.48 Kundali Bhagya
- 07.10 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron...
- 08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 09.47 Motu Patlu
- 10.01 Siddhi Vinayak
- 12.00 Serial: Bhakharwadi
- 14.00 Sanjivani
- 16.00 Pavitra Rishta
- 18.30 Film: Heyy Baby
- Star: Akshay Kumar, Vidya Balan, Fardeen Khan, Ritesh Deshmukh
- 20.48 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
- 21.31 Serial: Naagin

dimanche 20 juin

- 06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man: Fully...
- 06.25 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz and...
- 06.46 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe...
- 07.56 D.Anime: Astrology
- 09.30 Mag: Future Mag
- 09.55 Local: Zanafan Nou Zil
- 10.39 Serial: Mustangs FC
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.40 Tele: Daniella
- 14.15 Local: Elle
- 15.05 D.Anime: Teenie Tots
- 15.33 D.Anime: Spirit: Au Galop En..
- 16.07 D.Anime: Little Spirou
- 17.03 Serial: Project MC
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Local Production
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.10 Local: Resonances
- 21.40 Film: A Cowgirl?S Story
- Stars: Bailee Madison, Chloe Lukasiak, Pat Boone

- 07.00 Film: Chhalia
- 09.30 Serial: Babu
- 10.11 Local: Love & Unity Concert
- 12.00 Film: Champion
- Stars: Sunny Deol, Manisha Koirala, Rahul Dev
- 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 15.19 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
- 15.42 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht
- 16.05 Apoorva Raagangal
- 17.00 Mahakali
- 17.43 Kisna
- 18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
- 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
- 20.06 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas Hai
- 20.47 Serial: CID
- 21.32 Serial: Naagin Season 2
- 22.17 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
- 22.59 DDI Live

- 06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens
- 06.26 Doc: Superfoods
- 06.52 Doc: The World From Above
- 08.13 Doc: Destinations
- 08.26 Doc: Wedding The French...
- 10.43 Doc: Sur Mesure
- 11.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens
- 11.52 Doc: The World From Above
- 12.18 Mag: Check In
- 13.27 Doc: Wedding The French...
- 17.42 Mag: Sur Mesure
- 18.00 Mag: Tendance XXI
- 19.00 Doc: Garden Party
- 20.05 Mag: Happiness Is On The...
- 20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
- 20.40 Doc: Destinations
- 20.53 Doc: Comme Une Envie De...
- 21.45 Doc: Can The Citarum Still...
- 22.27 Doc: The Mennonites
- 23.09 Mag: Tendance XXI
- 23.36 Doc: Ville En Fête

- 00.33 Serial: Night Shift
- 01.41 Film: Resident Evil: The Final Chapter
- 03.28 Serial: Emerald City
- 04.09 Film: Xenophobia
- 05.31 Tele: Esmeraldas
- 06.14 Serial: Night Shift
- 06.56 Film: A Doggone Hollywood
- 08.31 Serial: Mike Hammer
- 09.19 Film: Saint-Valentin Pour...
- 10.47 Film: La Grande Muraille
- 12.23 Serial: Shades Of Blue
- 15.05 Telenovela: Amanda
- 15.49 Tele: Muneca Brava
- 17.00 Serial: Night Shift
- 17.45 Serial: Emerald City
- 18.30 Serial: Supercopier
- 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
- 20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor
- 21.15 Film: Modern Life Is Rubbish
- 22.57 Tele: Dulce Amor

- 00.40 Serial: Bhakharwadi
- 02.15 Sanjivani
- 03.50 Pavitra Rishta
- 05.41 Film: Heyy Baby
- Starring: Akshay Kumar, Vidya Balan, Fardeen Khan, Ritesh Deshmukh
- 08.00 Motu Patlu
- 10.10 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
- 12.00 Piya Albela
- 13.33 Agniphera
- 15.29 Bin Kuch Kahe
- 17.30 Punar Vivaah
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Film: Rockstar
- Starring: Ranbir Kapoor, Nargis Fakhri, Shammi Kapoor
- 21.02 Entertainment: Dance
- 21.47 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 23.48 Serial: Piya Albela

MBC 2

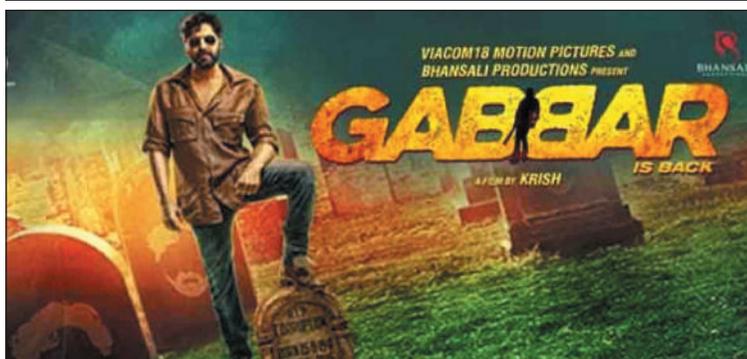
Samedi 19 Juin - 21.00

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Shruti Haasan, Sunil Grover



Dimanche 20 Juin - 18.30

Stars: Ranbir Kapoor, Nargis Fakhri, Shammi Kapoor



Which COVID vaccine is best? Here's why that's really hard to answer

If Google searches and social media posts are any indicators, lots of people are asking which COVID vaccine is best. But vaccines aren't like laptops or washing machines...



Even if we tried to answer this question, defining which vaccine is "best" is not simple. Does that mean the vaccine better at protecting you from serious disease? The one that protects you from whichever variant is circulating near you? The one that needs fewer booster shots? The one for your age group? Or is it another measure entirely?

Even if we could define what's "best", it's not as if you get a choice of vaccine. Until a suite of vaccines become available, the vast majority of people around the world will be vaccinated with whichever vaccine is available. That's based on available clinical data and health authorities' recommendations, or by what your doctor advises if you have an underlying medical condition. So the candid answer to which COVID vaccine is "best" is simply the one available to you right now.

Still not convinced? Here's why it's so difficult to compare COVID vaccines.

Clinical trial results only go so far

You might think clinical trials might provide some answers about which vaccine is "best", particularly the large phase 3 trials used as the basis of approval by regulatory authorities around the world.

These trials, usually in tens of thousands of people, compare the number of COVID-19 cases in people who get the vaccine, versus those who get a placebo. This gives a measure of efficacy, or how well the vaccine works under the tightly controlled conditions of a clinical trial.

And we know the efficacy of different COVID vaccines differ. For instance, we learned from clinical trials that the Pfizer vaccine reported an efficacy of 95% in preventing symptoms, whereas AstraZeneca had an efficacy of 62-90%, depending on the dosing regime.

But direct comparison of phase 3 trials is complex as they take place at different locations and times. This means rates of infection in the community, public health measures and the mix of distinct viral variants can vary. Trial participants can also differ in age, ethnicity and potential underlying medical conditions.

We might compare vaccines head to head

One way we can compare vaccine efficacy directly is to run head-to-head studies. These compare outcomes of people receiving one vaccine with those who receive another, in the same trial.

In these trials, how we measure efficacy, the study population and every other factor is the same. So we know any differences in outcomes must be down to differences between the vaccines.

For instance, a head-to-head trial is under way in the UK to compare the AstraZeneca and Valneva vaccines. The phase 3 trial is expected to be completed later this year.

How about out in the real world?

Until we wait for the results of head-to-head studies, there's much we can learn from how vaccines work in the general community, outside clinical trials. Real-world data tells us about vaccine effectiveness (not efficacy).

And the effectiveness of COVID vaccines can be compared in countries that have rolled out different vaccines to the same populations.

For instance, the latest data from the UK show both Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines have similar effectiveness. They both reliably prevent COVID-19 symptoms, hospitalisation and death, even after a single dose.

So what at first glance looks "best" according to efficacy results from clinical trials doesn't always translate to the real world.

What about the future?

The COVID vaccine you get today is not likely to be your last. As immunity naturally wanes after immunisation, periodic boosters will become necessary to maintain effective protection.

There is now promising data from Spain that mix-and-matching vaccines is safe and can trigger very potent immune responses. So this may be a viable strategy to maintain high vaccine effectiveness over time.

In other words, the "best" vaccine might in fact be a number of different vaccines.

Variant viruses have started to circulate, and while current vaccines show reduced protection against these variants, they still protect.

Companies, including Moderna, are rapidly updating their vaccines to be administered as variant-specific boosters to combat this.

So, while one vaccine might have a greater efficacy in a phase 3 trial, that vaccine might not necessarily be "best" at protecting against future variants of concern circulating near you.

The best vaccine is the one you can get now

It is entirely rational to want the "best" vaccine available. But the best vaccine is the one available to you right now because it stops you from catching COVID-19, reduces transmission to vulnerable members of our community and substantially reduces your risk of severe disease.

All available vaccines do this job and do it well. From a collective perspective, these benefits are compounded. The more people get vaccinated, the more the community becomes immune (also known as herd immunity), further curtailing the spread of COVID-19.

The global pandemic is a highly dynamic situation, with emerging viral variants of concern, uncertain global vaccine supply, patchy governmental action and potential for explosive outbreaks in many regions.

So waiting for the perfect vaccine is an unattainable ambition. Every vaccine delivered is a small but significant step towards global normality.

Wen Shi Lee, & Hyon Xhi Tan,
The Peter Doherty Institute for
Infection and Immunity



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Considering Others



Every thought we think and every action we take has an impact on the world around us. To be aware of this is to be conscious of our impact on the people in our lives. Sometimes we just want to do what we want to do, but considering the full ramifications of our actions can be an important part of our spiritual growth and awareness. At first, being more conscious requires effort, but once we have made it a habit, it becomes second nature. The more we practice this awareness of others, the more we find ourselves in easy alignment with our integrity.

Our thoughts are an important place to begin this practice because our thoughts are the seeds of our actions. It is not necessary or beneficial to obsessively monitor all our thoughts, but we can perhaps choose one thought or action per day and simply notice if we are in alignment with this experience of integrity. For example, we may find ourselves replaying a negative encounter with someone in our minds. We may think that this doesn't affect the person about whom we are thinking, but the laws of energy tell us that it does. When we hold someone negatively in our minds, we risk trapping them in negativity. If we were this person, we might wish for forgiveness and release. We can offer this by simply letting go of the negative thought and replacing it with a wish for healing on that person's behalf.

With regard to our actions, we may have something difficult to express to someone. Taking the time to consider how we would feel if we were in his or her shoes will enable us to communicate more sensitively than we would if we just expressed ourselves from our own perspective. When we modify our approach by taking someone else's feelings into account, we bring benefit to that person and ourselves equally. The more we do this, the more we reaffirm our integrity and the integrity of our relationship to the world.