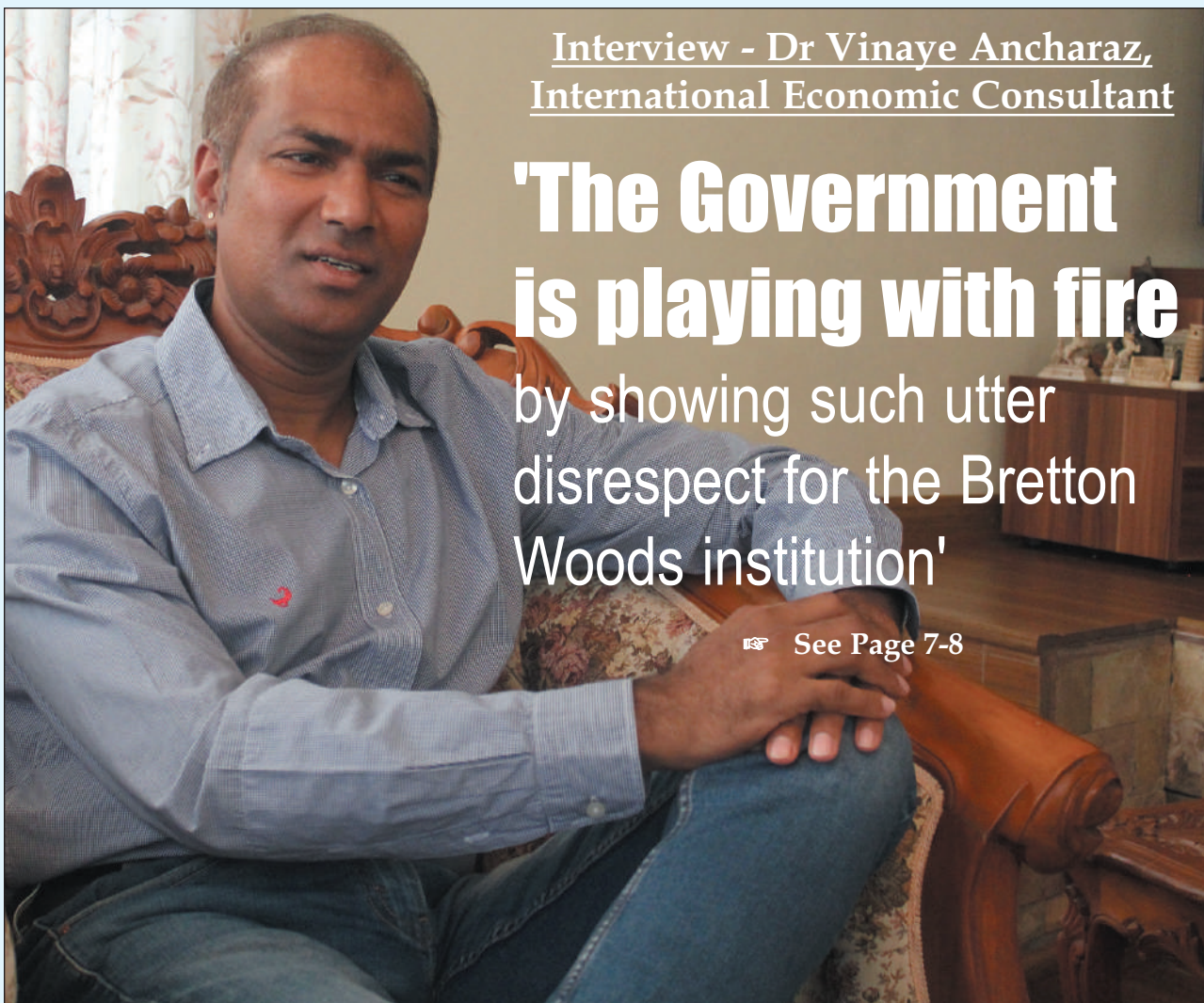


MAURITIUS **TIMES**

• *"The key to life is accepting challenges. Once someone stops doing this, he's dead." -- Bette Davis*



Interview - Dr Vinaye Ancharaz,
International Economic Consultant

'The Government is playing with fire by showing such utter disrespect for the Bretton Woods institution'

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Protecting Democratic Values

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*Let us bear in mind that when
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who get the first hit*



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A Multi Billion Rupee Disaster

The Betamax case involving a breach of contract by the government has now been finally determined. For recall, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), which was in charge of deciding the case between Betamax and the State Trading Corporation (STC), gave its decision on 5 June 2017 in favour of Betamax. This was subsequently set aside by the Supreme Court. Yesterday 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 5 - Rs 6 billion) plus interest to Betamax for unjustified breach of contract.

It is well known that one of the first dossiers the Alliance Lepep-led government issuing from the general election of December 2014 took up after assuming power was the contract given out to Betamax by the STC under the preceding government in 2009. It tried at first to negotiate Betamax out of the country's petroleum transportation contract in January 2015, on the ground that the contract had been awarded unlawfully, arguing that there had been a "colourable device" consisting of amending public procurement laws and singling Betamax out for privileged contract allocation.

To no effect, since, as advised to the government by the State Law Office previously, the contract had been made fully compliant with the changed legal dispositions and was seemingly cast in iron. Given this, Betamax which had arranged to transport our petroleum requirements in association with a Singapore company, knew that it stood on the right side of the law.

That this was actually the case was affirmed by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), later in November 2016. The ODPP decided not to prosecute several persons including the former Prime Minister; former Minister of Public Infrastructure, Transport & Shipping; the director of Betamax and certain public officials for alleged offences of bribery of public official, forgery, conspiracy and related offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Public Procurement Act, as asked for by the police in December 2015 explaining that it found no evidence that the law, as it now stood, had been breached.

While it was argued at that time that the previous government would have facilitated the deal by, for example, amending the Public Procurement Act and the Public Procurement Rules, all the tender procedures had already been amended before the petroleum transportation contract had been allocated by the STC to Betamax. It could therefore not be advanced that the contract had been allocated contrary to prevailing legal provisions.

However, the Lepep government was adamant that the law had been breached and "colourable devices" resorted to in order to allocate the contract to Betamax. Not being able to negotiate the company out of the contract, it decided by end-January 2015, rashly and unilaterally, 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.

The fact now is that the Lepep government acted in breach of law by rescinding the contract, for which the State - the 'Lepep' himself -- is now called upon to pay enormous damages. This means that those frontline ministers who insisted in early 2015 they were right to rescind the Betamax contract unilaterally, have landed the country in this bad plight - with the consequences that we see today.

What defies comprehension is the adamant attitude taken by the Lepep government in the face of what its spokespersons qualified as a "contract cast in iron" when referring to the STC-Betamax contract but nonetheless decided to unilaterally rescind it despite contrary advice from the State Law Office. That qualification - "contrat en béton" -- was also employed by the former PM and later Minister Mentor since January 2015 regarding the same contract, but also with reference to the CEB-Independent Power Producers' contracts for the supply of sugar industry-generated electricity. In the latter case, no such action was envisaged to rescind what are considered by informed parties, including the CEB and the supervising Ministry, to favour the IPPs at the expense of the CEB and consumers.

This was a disaster waiting to happen. Others of the same nature might happen in time to come for the same reason - rash political decisions taken to settle scores with political adversaries while undermining the good working of public institutions. And at what cost!

The Conversation

Covid-19 may never go away

but practical herd immunity is within reach

It is unlikely that we will reach full herd immunity for Covid-19. However, we are likely to reach a practical kind of herd immunity through vaccination



Pic - comminit.com

When people say that we won't reach "herd immunity" to COVID-19, they are usually referring to an ideal of "full" population immunity: when so many people are immune that, most of the time, there is no community transmission.

With full herd immunity, most people will never be exposed to the virus. Even those who are not vaccinated are protected, because an introduction is so unlikely to reach them: it will sputter out, because so many others are immune — as is the case now with diseases like polio and mumps.

The fraction of the population that needs to be immune in order for the population to have "full" herd immunity depends on the transmissibility of the virus in the population, and on the control measures in place.

It is unlikely we'll reach full herd immunity for COVID-19.

For one thing, it appears that immunity to COVID-19 acquired either by vaccination or infection wanes over time. In addition, SARS-CoV-2 will continue to evolve. Over time, variants that can infect people with immunity (even if this only results in mild disease) will have a selective advantage, just as until now selection has mainly favoured variants with higher transmission potential.

Also, our population is a composition of different communities, workplaces and environments. In some of these, transmission risk might be high enough and/or immunity low enough to allow larger outbreaks to occur, even if overall in the population we have high vaccination and low transmission.

Finally, SARS-CoV-2 can infect other animals. This means that other animal populations may act as a "reservoir," allowing the virus to be reintroduced to the human population.

Caroline Colijn, Professor, Department of Mathematics, & Paul Tupper, Professor of Applied Mathematics, Simon Fraser University

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Living to 150 – what for?

Let us bear in mind that when there is a crisis, it is the elderly who get the first hit



“Formerly, being old meant being regarded as elderly, that is mature and wise. Respect was practically automatic when one came across such persons, who were also self-respecting. But nowadays this is no longer necessarily the case, and having greying hair and a balding head doesn’t mean much to the impatient youngster revving his SUV when an elderly happens to inadvertently sidestep a pedestrian crossing, or is taking a bit longer than usual to go across. I have personally witnessed such a situation where a senior citizen was being copiously abused by a younger person...”

An article in the issue of this paper of Friday last (June 11), about recent studies estimating that there is a theoretical possibility that the human lifespan could extend to 150 years has prompted me to ask the question posed in the title and reflect on some realities about ageing and old age. Humans always seem to be dreaming about physical immortality, but concretely, I wonder how many people would want to live to 150, even if science made that possible?

I know some old people who are past 90, in relatively good health and surrounded by family, but there are many more others who are not as old but have some health problems and live alone. How long would they like to live on like this? Perhaps the answer is captured by the remark I heard from someone who had been widowed for about two decades, had children who were well-settled and didn’t have any lack of material comfort, and yet ‘am in God’s waiting room with my bags packed and ready to leave as soon as the call comes!’

Let us bear in mind that when there is a crisis, it is the elderly who are the first to be hit. This has happened with the Covid pandemic in England, for example, where ‘88% of Covid deaths have been people aged 65 and over,’ according to an article about ‘systemic ageing’ there (*The Conversation*, June 11). Some years back when there was a heat wave in Europe, nearly 20,000 elderly lost their lives in France, mostly those living alone in apartments who died from dehydration and lack of timely medical care.

This points to an underlying reality, which is the interconnectedness of social, medical and biological aspects of the phenomenon of ageing. The first two are the ones that are most apparent to us as they require handling with a certain immediacy for which we are not always prepared: either we postpone such preparation or are in denial until we are jolted out of our complacency by some event that impacts our individual or family life.

In the... olden days, it was taken for granted that as one grew old one would live with one’s children, one way or the other, and most probably it was in the same house where one had lived and had brought them up. It was familiar surroundings and familiar faces, so there were no seismic adjustments to be made. By the by this cosy and smooth transition has been affected by societal changes

driven by both local and global forces and attitudes. Thus, the advent of nuclear families, children living abroad for shorter or longer periods if not actually migrating, the elderly living longer and preferring a certain independence, in other cases the need for prolonged caring, homes for assisted living and for the elderly being set up and regulated by national authorities – these are some of the major factors with which all of us are now personally familiar and are called upon to cope with one or several of them.

The perception of and attitude towards older people has also changed, for which again there are complex reasons. Formerly, being old meant being regarded as elderly, that is mature and wise. Respect was practically automatic when one came across such persons, who were also self-respecting. But nowadays this is no longer necessarily the case, and having greying hair and a balding head doesn’t mean much to the impatient youngster revving his SUV when an elderly happens to inadvertently sidestep a pedestrian crossing, or is taking a bit longer than usual to go across. I have personally witnessed such a situation where a senior citizen was being copiously abused by a younger person.

But it is also a fact that public displays of confrontational and aggressive behaviours by the elderly when they are expected to show restraint in their language and gestures leads to a corresponding disappointment on the part of those who would wish to see them as role models. Instead, they are disdained and looked down upon as they are seen not to deserve the respect that they would otherwise have earned.

The most visible indications of ageing are physical and mental decline, with vulnerability to injury, disability and disease, more than one of which may be present and thus adding to the complexity of treatment. Many of the diseases of old age have been known to doctors for long,

and treatments too have been available, and they are constantly under review and updated as newer diseases are discovered or fresh understanding of the known diseases comes to light. Recently, a new, expensive drug has been cleared by regulatory authorities in the US for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. But there is controversy about the data and efficacy.

It is a fact that the range of modalities and techniques for treatment has expanded so much – and continues to do so – but there is a real danger of what is known in the medical jargon as ‘therapeutic overkill.’ To put it simply, trying to kill a mosquito with a hammer: doing more investigations or proposing more expensive or complicated treatment than may be required. For some, medicine has become business – and even some laymen have made comments to this effect about measures in the budget that was presented last Friday. This is a conundrum which society as whole must seriously reflect upon and work on a way forward collectively.

That is why caution is necessary so as not to involve either the country or the individual in a spiral of expenditure which may result in little beneficial effect. Hence the accent on healthy living through a combination of health promotion and disease prevention measures.

Overall the world has witnessed growing life expectancy because of improving socio-economic conditions and developments in health and medicine that have allowed us, essentially, to mostly overcome the infectious diseases which are the real killers in the short term. The traditional view is of man’s lifespan being three-score and ten (70 years), but there are some countries with more people living much longer, and even becoming centenarians in larger than usual numbers when one compares them to other places.

One such cluster is in the island of Okinawa in Japan, which is reputed to have the largest number of active centenarians per 100 000 population. The main reasons advanced for this happy situation is their simple way of living, close to nature, on a diet of fish and of fresh vegetables free of pesticide or fertilizer residues, regular walking and avoidance of vehicular transport, doing regular meditation and following ancient cultural practices which lead to body-mind balance and thus sane living.

Most of the world’s population do not have these ideal conditions, or the cultural mindset of the Okinawans. But if we should as a country want to, it is surely possible for us to create something approaching this environment to live in – and to leave as legacy for the next generations. In the meantime, one need not seek to hide one’s age by superficial means, for there is such a thing as ageing gracefully, whether one aspires or not to be 100 or beyond. As the Greek philosopher Seneca said, ‘As is a tale, so is life: not how long it is but how good it is.’

If we concentrate on living a good life, who knows that it might be a long life too? But 150 years? *Nyet!*

Social Media & ICTA's Consultation Paper

Protecting Democratic Values

We trust patriots within government spheres will be mindful of further downward slides on any international scale of democratic values

Jan Arden

Many things might have caught our attention during the pre-budget weeks but undoubtedly the Supreme Court judgment in the Vinod Seegum appeal, already extensively covered by LEX in a previous MT issue, was an understandable relief for the appellant, but also a cardinal piece of legal and constitutional clarity even for us non-initiates. In layman terms, the learned judges made clear their opinion that all laws, and in this case, laws which portend to criminalize such offenses as “causing annoyance” through an IT medium must abide by the principle of certainty and clarity.

In the absence of such “certainty” about the specific term “causing annoyance” from legislators, the SC justices, quoting extensively from relevant jurisprudence in UK and India, deemed that the law (replaced since) was unconstitutional, sufficient to quash the condemnation against Mr Seegum without even going into the merits of other grounds of appeal. *“In application of the principle of legality, any legislation which is hopelessly vague should be struck down as unconstitutional,”* stated the judges rather bluntly. Where some flexibility is unavoidable (e.g. drug trafficking), the offenses must still be spelt out with sufficient clarity for ordinary citizens to know when they might fall foul of the law.

It is a landmark judgment that is likely to blow out of the water the successor ICTA law of 2018, where the phrase “likely to cause annoyance”, has replaced the previous formulation “intent to cause annoyance”. In other words, with the new ICTA law (2018) stoutly defended by our learned Attorney General in Parliament, prosecution do not need to provide proof of intent to cause the “hopelessly vague” annoyance, nor how frequently or how long the annoying activity has been going on. Any complaint of “annoyance”, say by any very thin-skinned official or politician, can lead to police vans at your house in the wee hours of the morning and a period of custody. To make matters more all-embracing, albeit in a North Korean spirit, the term “humiliation” was added to the list of “hopelessly vague” grievances subject to the expeditious zeal of authorities.

We might recall here the heated controversies in France late last year when French authorities, pressed by their



“We are in many ways lucky to be preserved from a large variety of the ill usage of social networks for such things as terror recruitment networks, troll farms for raising fake debates, outside influence by countries which seem to harbour fake agencies for influencing democratic or electoral processes and those who ply sectarian hate propaganda. Nevertheless, it does require a constant and equitable vigilance, without partisanship, from credible and efficient authorities rather than the hijacking of personal liberties in the name of public safety, particularly when political motivations and calculations cannot be excluded...”

police trade unions, tried to suppress and criminalize social network posts that would show identifiable policemen in action. In a supercharged atmosphere where police are reportedly fed up of being stone-pelted, vilified and threatened, while police brutality is decried in other quarters, the French government's stated and laudable intent was to “protect those who protect us” according to the Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin. With the backing of President Macron, ignoring wide outcry from society demanding that some repressive clauses be redrafted, the Bill was subject to an expedited procedure in the twin houses of Parliament, and ultimately voted on 24th November 2020.

The left parties, MPs and Senators duly appealed the French Constitutional Court (also appealed to curiously by the PM Jean Castex, to “remove all doubts”) and the latter gave its awaited and important ruling this 20th May 2021. In a veritable *camouflet* to authorities, seven key controversial clauses felt the axe of the Constitutional Court, two being branded as unconstitutional, and five others condemned as “cavalier”.

In particular, the proposal for free and unfettered use of facial-recognition drones by police in its line of duties was deemed far too wide-ranging and an infringement of a person's right to privacy in a public space or in a peaceful manifestation. As for the offense of “provocation” for posting a policeman's images and clips in action, the Court ruled, as here, that the terminology and offense were too vaguely worded and as such

were in violation of the cardinal principle of legality and certainty.

Even if there are undoubtedly significant differences between our legal and judiciary set-ups, those remarks made by the French apex constitutional court can only be viewed as comforting for all those who feel that an appropriate balance has to be struck between conflicting demands for public safety and personal liberties. The Court's comments will be noted by our legal establishment as they are of wide import: in particular that the provisions of the proposed French law *“n'assurent pas une conciliation équilibrée entre les objectifs de...prévention des atteintes à l'ordre public et de recherche des auteurs d'infractions et le droit au respect de la vie privée...”*.

Home Minister Darmanin immediately and wisely responded that, having taken note of the Court's ruling, he would have the legislation redrafted and resubmitted to Parliament to take into account the apex court's observations. Our AG will have much to commend himself if he were to adopt some of that laudable attitude and cause a thorough revision of the 2018 ICTA law accordingly.

We are in many ways lucky to be preserved from a large variety of the ill usage of social networks for such things as terror recruitment networks, troll farms for raising fake debates, outside influence by countries which seem to harbour fake agencies for influencing democratic or electoral processes and those who ply sectarian hate propaganda. Nevertheless, it does require a constant and equitable vigilance, without partisanship, from

credible and efficient authorities rather than the hijacking of personal liberties in the name of public safety, particularly when political motivations and calculations cannot be excluded.

After the ICTA Consultation Paper episode, both the AG and highest spheres of government would have taken note of the joint statement issued this Sunday by the G-7 and guest participants including PM Modi, reaffirming and encouraging the cardinal values of “freedom of expression, both online and offline... that safeguards democracy and helps people live free from fear and oppression”. The statement goes on to single out “politically motivated internet shutdowns” as one of the threats to freedom and democracy as reported by the *Indian Express*. We trust patriots within government spheres will be mindful of further downward slides on any international scale of democratic values.

* * *

Budget: Where are the sacrifices?

We will leave the detailed examination of the 2021-2022 budget to those who have pored over its lengthy paragraphs and annexures, including the numerous laws appended for amendment in the Finance Bill. It is unfortunate in that respect that this feature for necessary consequential amendments is increasingly abused to surreptitiously introduce legislative changes that deserve a full debate and discussions in Parliament.

• Cont. on page 11

New Zealand to offer formal apology for 'racist' police raids in the 70s

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced Monday she will offer a formal apology to New Zealand's Pacific community over "demeaning" police raids that targeted them in the 1970s.

Ardern said the notorious "dawn raids" were carried out by police and immigration officials seeking to identify and deport visa overstayers. In addition, she said Pacific islanders were racially profiled, with officials subjecting them to random stop and search without justification.

"They were routinely severe with demeaning verbal and physical treatment," Ardern told reporters. "The raids and what they represented created deep wounds, while we cannot change our history, we can acknowledge it and seek to right a wrong."

Ardern said the apology would take place on June 26 at Auckland Town Hall.



Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. Pic - s.france24.com

New Zealand encouraged migration from Pacific islands such as Samoa, Tonga and Fiji after World War II to fill worker shortages as the economy expanded. But they faced a backlash when there was a downturn in the 1970s, with claims they were taking jobs from New Zealanders, reports AFP

Minister for Pacific Peoples William Sio, who has a Samoan background, said the raids were "racist and discriminatory". Sio fought back tears as he described his own family's experiences.

"The memories are etched in of my father being helpless... someone knocking at your door in the early hours of the morning with a flashlight in your face, disrespecting the owner of our home," he said.

"An Alsatian dog frothing at the mouth, wanting to come in without any respect for the people who live there. It was quite traumatising."

Naftali Bennett, Israel's new PM, unlikely to change stance on Iran nuclear deal

Naftali Bennett became the new Prime Minister of Israel on Sunday, topping his predecessor and former ally Benjamin Netanyahu's 12-year regime and ending a political crisis in the country that sparked four elections in two years. High up on Bennett's priority list as the new PM is

gripping with the original 2015 agreement, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, pointing out that it neither gave Israel sufficient security from the possibility of Iran developing a nuclear weapon nor did it cover significant issues like Iranian support to militias in neighbouring nations. Before being voted to the post of PM, Naftali Bennett had echoed similar sentiments, reports Hindustan Times. "The renewal of the nuclear agreement is a mistake," the *New York Times* quoted Bennett as saying at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, shortly before Sunday's vote.

A religious Jew by birth, Bennett had long positioned himself to the right of Netanyahu but played the kingmaker recently by partnering up with centrist and left-wing parties, an unlikely combination that defines the contradictions in the 73-year-old nation. Even so, Bennett's stance regarding the Iran nuclear deal is unlikely to be much different from his predecessor, the American daily said, adding that the new Israeli PM, however, might try to influence some terms of the new deal, something that Netanyahu had refused to do.



Israel's new prime minister Naftali Bennett. Pic - thenationalbulletin.in

coordinating with the United States on military and intelligence matters, the *New York Times* reported, adding that using Mossad, the country's spy agency, to sabotage the nuclear deal with Iran could still be on the table.

The Iranian nuclear deal had long been a bone of contention within Israel's political and military establishment. Benjamin Netanyahu, former PM, had expressed his

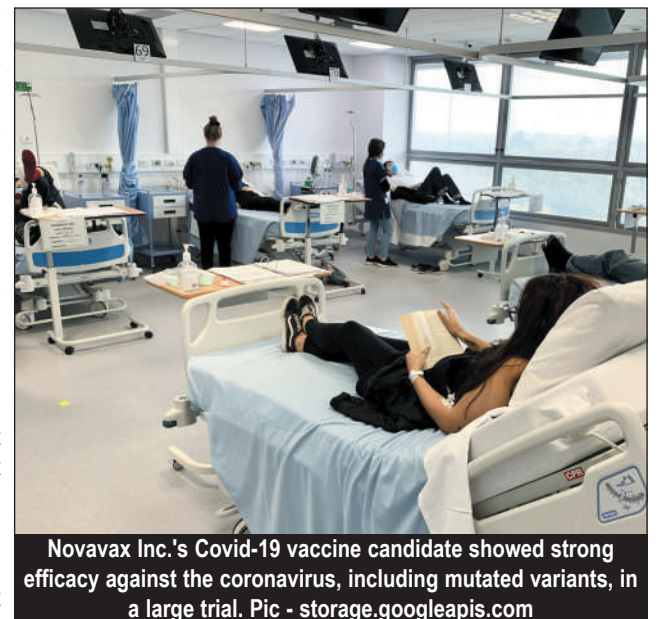
Novavax Covid-19 vaccine is 93% effective against variants in trial

Novavax Inc.'s Covid-19 vaccine candidate showed strong efficacy against the coronavirus, including mutated variants, in a large trial.

The shot was 90% effective at preventing symptomatic Covid and 100% effective at preventing moderate and severe symptoms, the U.S. biotech firm said Monday. The shot was 93% effective against variants of concern, it said.

"Novavax is one step closer to addressing the critical and persistent global public health need for additional Covid-19 vaccines," Chief Executive Officer Stanley C. Erck said in a statement. "Novavax continues to work with a sense of urgency to complete our regulatory submissions and deliver this vaccine, built on a well understood and proven platform, to a world that is still in great need of vaccines."

The company previously said it wouldn't file for vaccine authorization in



Novavax Inc.'s Covid-19 vaccine candidate showed strong efficacy against the coronavirus, including mutated variants, in a large trial. Pic - storage.googleapis.com

the U.S. and Europe until the third quarter of the year. Novavax says it's on track to reach manufacturing capacity of 100 million doses per month by the end of the third quarter and 150 million per month by the end of 2021.

The company's phase 3 trial included almost 30,000 participants in the U.S. and Mexico.

Chinese authorities launch probe over Covid-19 outbreak in Guangzhou

Chinese investigators have set up a task force to investigate possible dereliction of duty among Guangzhou officials over the ongoing outbreak of the coronavirus.

A task force of municipal and provincial Communist Party disciplinary officials have been set up, South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported, citing a report in Southern Daily.

"[The investigation] will be held in accordance with regulations, party discipline and law to hold negligent senior cadres and officials to account," the report cited Guangdong disciplinary watchdog notice as saying.



People receive nucleic acid testing at Liwan District on May 26, 2021 in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province of China. Pic - cnbc.com

Beijing has enforced a zero-tolerance approach to Covid, and punishment to local officials for small outbreaks has become common practice.

Among the city's 18 million people, 135 coronavirus cases have been reported so far in Guangzhou. The latest mini outbreak of infection in Guangdong started in May, with most cases reported in cities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Foshan.

Preventing outbreaks is a priority for CCP leaders ahead of the party's centenary in July and a key session next year that could see a leadership reshuffle.

* Contd on page 6



US District Judge Lynn Hughes ruled that making vaccinations a condition of employment was not coercion. Pic - ksat.com

Federal Judge throws out hospital workers' vaccine requirement challenge

A federal judge threw out a lawsuit filed by employees of a Houston hospital system over its requirement that all of its staff be vaccinated against Covid-19, reports AP.

The Houston Methodist Hospital system suspended 178 employees without pay last week over their refusal to get vaccinated. Of them, 117 sued seeking to overturn the requirement and over their suspension and threatened termination.

In a scathing ruling Saturday, US District Judge Lynn Hughes of Houston deemed lead plaintiff Jennifer Bridges' contention that the vaccines are "experimental and dangerous" to be false and otherwise irrelevant. He also found that her likening the vaccination requirement to the Nazis' forced medical experimentation on concentration camp captives during the Holocaust to be "reprehensible."

Hughes also ruled that making vaccinations a condition of employment was not coercion, as Bridges contended.

"Bridges can freely choose to accept or refuse a Covid-19 vaccine; however, if she refuses, she will simply need to work somewhere else. If a worker refuses an assignment, changed office, earlier start time, or other directive, he may be properly fired. Every employment includes limits on the worker's behaviour in exchange for remuneration. That is all part of the bargain," Hughes concluded.

At NATO, Biden says ready to talk China, Russia and soothe allies

The summit Monday comes as Biden tries to rally allies for greater coordination in checking China and Russia, two adversaries whose actions on economic and national security fronts have become the chief foreign policy concerns in the early going of the Biden presidency.

Biden shortly after arriving at the alliance's headquarters sat down with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and underscored the US commitment to Article 5 of the alliance charter, which spells out that an attack on one member is an attack on all and is to be met with a collective response, reports AP.

"Article 5 we take as a sacred obligation," Biden said. "I want NATO to know America is there."

The White House said the communique to be signed by alliance members at the end of the NATO summit is expected to include language about updating Article 5 to include major cyber attacks - a matter of growing concern amid a series of hacks targeting the US government and businesses around the globe by Russia-based hackers.



Biden tries to rally allies for greater coordination in checking China and Russia. Pic - cdn.mainichi.jp

Eying Russia, Pentagon to send Ukraine counter-drone, electronic warfare equipment

The Pentagon announced on Friday a new package of \$150 million in military assistance for Ukraine that will include counter-artillery radar, electronic warfare equipment and counter-drone technology, bolstering Kyiv amid elevated tensions with Moscow. The latest tranche of assistance will come in addition to the \$125 million that the Pentagon announced on March 1.

Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimea region in 2014 and backed a pro-Russian separatist uprising in eastern Ukraine which triggered a conflict that has killed more than 14,000 people.

Tensions have flared again in recent months after the two countries traded blame for a surge in fighting in Ukraine's Donbass, and Russia, in what it called a defensive exercise, massed troops on its border with Ukraine and in Crimea.

U.S. President Joe Biden told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday he will stand up for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity ahead of a meeting



A service member of the Ukrainian armed forces uses periscopes while observing the area at fighting positions on the line of separation near the rebel-controlled city of Donetsk, Ukraine April 17, 2021. Pic - Reuters

between Biden and Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Geneva on June 16, reports Reuters.

The Pentagon said the U.S. security assistance included capabilities "to enhance the lethality, command and control and situational awareness of Ukraine's forces". It would provide counter-artillery radars, counter-drone systems, secure communications gear, electronic warfare and military medical evacuation equipment.

Ukraine has received almost \$2.5 billion in defense assistance from Washington between 2014 and 2021.

During his term as U.S. president, Donald Trump was impeached by the Democratic-led House of Representatives after it accused him of using U.S. aid as leverage to try to force Kyiv into smearing Biden ahead of the 2020 presidential election. The Republican-led Senate later acquitted Trump.

'Very gracious' queen 'reminded me of my mother': Joe Biden

The Kulbhushan Jadhav case was "complicated" by the previous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government, Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said. Qureshi also claimed that India was trying to take Pakistan again to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for not implementing its verdict, reports Hindustan Times.

"Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (government) complicated the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav," Qureshi said on Sunday, according to news agency ANI,



US President Joe Biden (R) and US First Lady Jill Biden (L) speak with Britain's Queen Elizabeth II (C) watching the military march past at Windsor Castle in Windsor, west of London. Pic - AFP

without explaining his comment.

Kulbhushan Jadhav, the 51-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was arrested in March 2016 in Balochistan. Jadhav was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. India has rejected the charges levelled against Jadhav and said he was kidnapped by Pakistani operatives from the Iranian port of Chabahar, where

he was running a business. The ICJ stayed Jadhav's execution in 2018.

India approached the Hague-based ICJ against Pakistan for denial of consular access to Jadhav and challenging his death sentence. The Hague-based ICJ ruled in July 2019 that Pakistan must undertake an "effective review and reconsideration" of the conviction and sentence of Jadhav and also to grant consular access to India without further delay.

Interview - Dr Vinaye Ancharaz, International Economic Consultant

'The Government is playing with fire

by showing such utter disrespect for the Bretton Woods institution'



Economist Vinaye Ancharaz is not as optimistic as the Finance Minister about the potential of the measures he has announced in the Budget to lift the economy out of its current impasse. He is sceptical about many of the projections made, such as the number of tourist arrivals during the year, the level of debt and the other indicators. There ought to have been genuine reforms, and pay heed to the IMF's remarks about the MIC. The one positive item is about green energy - but it too requires more than just an announcement in the Budget. There are insufficient measures to take us out of the black list, and hardly any that will create jobs and employment.

Mauritius Times: What's your opinion, as an economist, of the second budget of Minister Reganaden Padayachy for the year 2021-2022? Is it a befitting answer to the serious challenges the country is facing as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic?

Vinaye Ancharaz: Honestly, I think the Minister has missed a crucial opportunity to lay the groundwork for economic recovery. Last year's budget started the process, and was bold in several ways even if its financing raised a lot of controversy. However, this budget failed to maintain continuity. It is more of a patchwork of measures, lacking coherence and vision. It will not have the much-expected impact.

*** There is broad consensus about the state of the macroeconomic situation, which was already bad, and has been made worse by the pandemic. But do you see the budget capable of reversing this trend and of lifting the economy back on a higher growth trajectory?**

Indeed, the economy was not doing very well even before the pandemic hit. Recall that the growth rate had hovered under 4% since 2012 and dipped further to 3% in 2019. The tourism sector, which has been hit the hardest by Covid-19, was already showing signs of fatigue, contracting by 1% in 2019. Merchandise exports have been on a steady downward trend since 2015, and in 2019, we imported three times more than we exported, suggesting a sharp decline in our international competitiveness. And although the unemployment rate had fallen to 7%, one out of four youth remained unemployed in 2019.

Obviously, all these indicators have taken the toll of the pandemic. The economy contracted by 15% in 2020, and although official figures put the unemployment rate for 2020 at 9.2%, few pundits actually trust the number. On

the other hand, inflation, which had been practically absent from the economic landscape in recent years, is coming back with a vengeance, and even here few people believe that the inflation rate is currently 2.4%, as reported.

Unfortunately, the Budget does not do enough to lift the economy out of the current slump. The government's idea of boosting growth relies on expectations of 650,000 tourists over the next financial year and on the construction of drains! I do not see any substantial measures aimed at reversing the decline in export competitiveness, boosting exports and promoting new growth poles.

And while the Minister reiterated the government's commitment to move out of the EU/FATF grey list, few experts are convinced that the few measures proposed in the Budget will succeed in doing so. This is especially so because Mauritius failed the test in February 2021, and there is a feeling that the EU is rather nervous about the unprecedented level of institutional decay and bad governance under the current regime.

*** The Finance minister is expecting growth to reach 9% on the strength of an improved performance of the economy: 'The measures announced in this Budget will accelerate our economic recovery and**

“The IMF advised against the BoM running a private company, the MIC, since it was in clear violation of the fundamental mandate of a central bank, whose role is limited to that of a regulator and conductor of monetary policy. Clearly, again, the BoM has chosen to overlook the IMF's recommendation as it shows no sign of letting up. The Government is playing with fire...”

boost our GDP growth, putting the level of our public debt on a downward trend,' he said. Don't you think that that could be an attainable goal if not in the short but at least in the medium term?

May be in the medium term, but very unlikely over the course of the next financial year! Let me explain.

First, the target of 650,000 tourists, which is critical to the 9% expected growth rate, does not look attainable in just one year. The pandemic has reduced real incomes across the world, including in our main tourist markets, changed people's priorities, and altered travellers' preferences to short-haul destinations. All of this has caused a sharp drop in the global demand for travel, which, unfortunately, no amount of advertising will be able to counter. These adverse factors will play against Mauritius for several years to come. To make matters worse, the fate of the tourism industry is intricately tied to that of the national airline. If a lasting solution to the Air Mauritius crisis is not found soon, tourist arrivals will remain subdued even after borders open.

Second, the government's recovery plan puts a premium on public infrastructure investment. This follows the Keynesian logic: public investment creates jobs, supports domestic demand and raises national income. However, if the big-ticket investment projects of the past few years are to serve as any guide, I remain sceptical about the multiplier effects of public spending. This is because those projects have created few jobs for locals while causing a substantial leakage of income as remittances are sent abroad.

Moreover, at a time when the pandemic has dented productive capacity, the focus of government investment should have been on rebuilding such capacity in the real sectors rather than on constructing drains and dams that improve living standards but do little to create jobs and boost productive capacity.

Third, the measures proposed to support exports and boost export competitiveness are at best palliative. For example, the four major trade agreements that came into force this year, in theory, hold good promise for Mauritius' exports. However, experience teaches us that the mere existence of new, more open markets is no guarantee that exports to these markets will increase.

In the absence of a strategic plan to exploit the opportunities presented by free trade protocols, there is a risk that they will simply cause our imports to swell and our trade deficits to widen. The Budget mentions an array of initiatives to be launched by the EDB, but their effectiveness at this stage remains in doubt for EDB as an apex institution is yet to prove its worth. Similarly, a series of measures are proposed to *maintain* export competitiveness. This choice of words is puzzling since export competitiveness has tanked and is in urgent need of a boost. I doubt that the Budget proposals will succeed in doing that.

Finally, Minister's claim that the Budget will put "public debt on a downward trend" is equally dubious. Officially, the national debt has reached 95% of GDP, but most experts agree that this figure seriously underestimates the true level of debt, which has been artificially depressed by clever, albeit reprehensible, accounting tactics.

• Cont. on page 8

'The Budget falls short of the major expectations of economic experts as well as the common man.'

This will make economic recovery protracted and harder'

• Cont. from page 7

The public debt level is dangerously approaching the half-trillion-rupee mark. Last year, there was no borrowing since the government ploughed Rs50 billion from the central bank's reserves. This year, when an ailing economy is supposed to have cut short government revenue, the budget is being financed by indirect taxes and by drawing Rs9 billion from the reserves of four state-owned enterprises. These measures are unsustainable. I suspect that next year, the government will be back to borrowing to support its spending spree.

*** In other words, you do not see the reopening of our borders to vaccinated tourists as from October 1 - if everything goes well - and the renewed focus on and investments in green energy as sufficient to kick start economic recovery?**

I think I've adequately explained why I don't believe that the projected re-opening of our borders will give the expected boost to tourist arrivals. Let me focus on the second part of your question.

The Minister spoke of a green energy industry as a new pole of economic growth. The industry will derive impetus from the government's goal to produce 60% of the country's energy needs from renewable sources and to phase out the use of coal by 2030, that is, in less than 10 years. By any account, these are overly ambitious targets that have never before been discussed and agreed upon.

In fact, I was surprised that such important goals were so casually announced in a Budget Speech. It only echoes the view that the government is riding the wave of announcement effects, of which there were plenty in the Budget. Coming from a government that has paid lip service to the environment since 2014, the proposal of a green energy industry will, I am sure, be closely monitored by environmentalists and economists alike.

As an economist, however, I am yet to be convinced about the contribution that such an industry, in its announced format, would make to GDP and jobs. Most of the measures contained in the Budget are about enabling companies and individuals to sell the excess energy they produce from renewable sources directly to the CEB. The Budget also announces the setting up of a National Biomass Framework but I doubt if electricity from bagasse qualifies as green energy although biomass may be considered a renewable energy source.

These measures are certainly welcome as they will support the country's transition to a greener economy. However, turning green energy into an industry requires much more than that. It calls for massive investments in solar and wind farms, which are known to have created remunerative employment opportunities for skilled technicians. The Budget mentions two projects in this direction: a 10 MW solar farm and a 40 MW wind farm. This is a good start. The challenge in the years to come will be to scale up these green energy initiatives to a level where they could be referred to an industry as such.

*** There is no indication as to whether the Government will heed the comments of the IMF with regard to its monetary policy, transfers from the central bank and the MIC. Questions are therefore being asked on the financing of this budget. What's your view on that?**



“The target of 650,000 tourists, which is critical to the 9% expected growth rate, does not look attainable in just one year. The pandemic has reduced real incomes across the world, including in our main tourist markets, changed people's priorities, and altered travellers' preferences to short-haul destinations. All of this has caused a sharp drop in the global demand for travel, which, unfortunately, no amount of advertising will be able to counter...”

It is clear that the Government ignored the IMF's reprimand. The fact that the Minister reported a budget deficit of 5.6% for the current financial year suggests that a major chunk of the Rs60 billion 'grant' by the Bank of Mauritius was treated as revenue rather than as a financing item. If the whole amount was correctly treated as a source of financing, the budget deficit would reach about 19% of GDP!

The effect of the central bank financing has been to increase the monetary base by some 40%. Such a massive increase in liquidity will inevitably have inflationary consequences, and we have just begun to see a hike in consumer prices that will only get more pronounced in the months to come as the rupee continues to slide.

Moreover, the IMF advised against the BoM running a private company, the MIC, since it was in clear violation of the fundamental mandate of a central bank, whose role is

limited to that of a regulator and conductor of monetary policy. Clearly, again, the BoM has chosen to overlook the IMF's recommendation as it shows no sign of letting up. The Government is playing with fire by showing such utter disrespect for the Bretton Woods institution.

*** At the end of the day, what do you see missing in this budget?**

A number of things are missing from the Budget. Before Budget Day, there was much speculation that the Budget would be an austerity-budget since the Minister of Finance had reportedly asked government ministries and departments to target a 25% cut in recurrent expenditure. While this goal was ostensibly unattainable, we nevertheless expected greater efficiency in government spending, especially in light of the National Audit Report, which drew attention to the unprecedented level of waste of public funds last year. However, the Budget shows a 4% increase in recurrent expenditure!

As an economist, I was also expecting the Budget to be one of reforms - reform of policy incentives that have gone astray, critical sectoral reforms, institutional reforms, you name it... This did not happen. Instead, the Budget has come up with a rather long list of little white elephants that will litter the institutional landscape of the country - the Industrial Financial Institution, the Financial Crime Commission, the Regulatory Impact Assessment Office, the Emerging Technologies Council, the National Environment Cleaning Authority...

*** If we are not going to be any better, as you say, despite the measures that have been set out in the Budget (the monitoring and implementation of which will take care of by an Agency which will report on progress achieved to the PMO), what will be the economic situation like two or three years down the line?**

Indeed, the one institution that I welcome is the proposed Project Implementation and Monitoring Agency (PIMA) that will oversee, coordinate and assist the implementation of the budgetary measures and projects. However, the Minister missed the opportunity to pitch PIMA as a high-standing institution with powers to sanction wastage, inefficiency and weak implementation.

Moreover, the fact that the Agency will be based at the Ministry of Finance raises doubt about its real effectiveness. It should have been a completely independent institution.

The economic situation does not look too good. The government is betting on a 9% growth rate this year. This will depend to a large extent on how the tourism sector responds to the reopening of borders on 15th July. As things stand, the target of 650,000 tourists over the next 12 months looks unrealistic. The economic recovery plan centres on public infrastructure investment - in drains, water supply and land transport. Several of these projects are simply repetitions from previous Budgets, with higher costs, and most will not have the income multiplier effect that is synonymous with job creation and growth.

The budget should have prioritized reforms and new growth poles, but other than the proposed green energy industry, which marks a positive, albeit timid, beginning, the Budget falls short of the major expectations of economic experts as well as the common man. This will make economic recovery protracted and harder.

Covid-19 recovery

Some economies will take longer to rebound - this is bad for everyone



Some of the world's economies will return to pre-pandemic levels this year, but not all. Pic - Shutterstock

It's been well documented that there's a significant level of vaccine hesitancy. This appears to be a particular issue among adults over 50 concerning the AstraZeneca vaccine, for which this group is now eligible.

Hesitancy over the AstraZeneca vaccine, likely to be stemming largely from the very small risk of blood clots, is leading some people to ask: can't I just wait and get the Pfizer vaccine later?

Thinking about the blood clot risk

Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), an unusual blood clotting disorder, has been associated with the AstraZeneca vaccine.

It's important to emphasise it's not unreasonable to have concerns about the risk of a potentially serious side effect from the AstraZeneca vaccine, or any other vaccine. The challenge is in understanding the magnitude of this risk, putting this risk into perspective, and then weighing up the risks versus the benefits before making a decision.

The difficulty is your brain plays a variety of tricks on you when you try to make sense of risks like this. For example, we have a tendency to perceive the risks of very rare adverse outcomes (such as TTS) as being greater than they are.

We also tend to be more concerned about negative consequences that may arise as a result of our actions than our inactions. That is, we're generally more worried about a potential adverse outcome from taking a vaccine than any adverse outcome that may result from not taking it. This of course isn't logical, but is another one of the errors we make in processing risks.

In terms of assessing the risk of TTS associated with the AstraZeneca vaccine for over 50s, we've always known the risk is very low.

At the time of writing this article the Therapeutic Goods Administration's COVID-19 weekly vaccine safety report reported there had been 21 confirmed cases of TTS out of about 2.1 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine administered. This is equivalent to one case per 100,000 vaccinations.

Importantly, as we've got better at detecting and treating this condition, the likelihood of severe outcomes from TTS have come down considerably. So the rare risk of serious illness from this syndrome looks to be even rarer than we first thought.

To put TTS into perspective, it's also useful to note we see around 50 blood clots unrelated to TTS every day in Australia.

Weighing the risks against the benefits

The benefits of getting the AstraZeneca vaccine are considerable for over 50s, from both an individual and a community perspective.

When opting to get a vaccine, you're protecting yourself against the future risk of infection and possible severe illness. For over 50s who contract COVID the risk of severe illness and death is very real. We're also learning many people who get COVID-19 suffer with ongoing and sometimes debilitating symptoms, a phenomenon called "long COVID".

Another factor which may be driving hesitancy around the AstraZeneca vaccine is the perception the Pfizer vaccine works

better. But the most recent data suggest any difference in the performance of these vaccines may be smaller than we originally believed.

Although phase 3 clinical trial data indicated the AstraZeneca vaccine had an efficacy of around 70%, new real-world data from the United Kingdom tells us it could be as much as 85%-90% effective in protecting against symptomatic COVID-19.

This is positive news and not far off the 95% figure for the Pfizer vaccine seen in clinical trials and in the real world.

And apart from effectively protecting against severe illness and death from the original strain, the AstraZeneca vaccine appears to work almost as well in protecting against more severe outcomes for variants of concern, such as the UK variant. Early signs also suggest the vaccine is working quite well to reduce transmission of the virus.

It's also important to understand - and this applies to all age groups - that we're getting vaccinated for the health of the community as a whole.

Although a great deal of the success or failure of the vaccination program has been framed in terms of reaching herd immunity, we don't need to reach a certain threshold for the community to reap

benefits. Every vaccine delivered makes a difference as the greater the proportion of the population vaccinated, the more difficult it is for the virus to spread.

As we've seen in Taiwan in recent weeks, being complacent about COVID is flirting with danger.

Even though we don't have community transmission of COVID in Australia now, and we may feel safe and secure in this climate, we need to remember things could change very quickly.

Get the job

There's really no logical reason for someone over 50 to wait for an alternative to the AstraZeneca vaccine, like Pfizer or Moderna. If you do choose to wait, there's no guarantee when any alternative might be available, and in the interim you risk leaving yourself vulnerable.

By stepping up to get your vaccine as soon as you can, you protect yourself against severe COVID and make a significant contribution to putting this pandemic behind us, including getting Australia closer to opening up international borders.

By Gulcin Ozkan,
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From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4th Year No 165

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 4 October 1957

• *The only liberty that is valuable is a liberty connected with order.* – Edmund Burke

Remy Ollier

By Doojendranath Napal



Remy Ollier Monument at Port-Louis Company Garden.
Pic - commons.wikimedia.org

One year more has rolled on since we wrote on Remy Ollier. We are in October, the month associated in our annals with the birthday of the relentless fighter for the oppressed, the champion of coloured men.

There is no Mauritian problem on which Remy Ollier has not written with the fiery touch common to his nature. It is in reading and re-reading the *Sentinelle* that we come to realise that Remy Ollier was not only a publicist, a patriot, one whose heart bled at the sight of his suffering brethren but above all a prophet.

Did he not believe in the glory which the future reserved for coloured men? He reminded his scoffers and detractors that they might laugh their fill at his efforts but that the day would

come when from the ranks of those whom they despised would rise people before whom their children would have to bend their heads in shame.

Let us, within the compass of this article, confine ourselves to Remy Ollier's opinions on two problems – the language problem and the Franco-Mauritian's loyalty to Britain.

Remy Ollier wrote on the 18th July 1844:

“La langue anglaise est encore pour nos enfants une langue étrangère, car nous ne la parlons pas dans nos familles : c'est cependant celle qui doit dominer un jour à Maurice, qui est colonie anglaise et dont toutes les espérances se reportent vers l'Angleterre. Aucun moyen ne doit donc être négligé pour accorder, chez nous, à la langue anglaise l'importance

qu'elle doit y avoir. Tout subordonner à l'anglais est, suivant nous, le seul moyen de résoudre ce problème.”

What a prophecy in these words!

Exactly the same thoughts were expressed by the Royal Commission of 1872 and 1909 and in the Ward Report.

Remy Ollier found that the press was hostile towards the English. He wrote on the 16th December 1844:

“Les différents organes de la coterie mauricienne déploient de jour en jour le caractère anti-anglais, anti-colonial que nous leur avons connu dans le principe : c'est l'empire français dans le gouvernement anglais qu'ils veulent perpétuer à jamais. De l'inconfiance que nous témoigne notre métropole et qui est, suivant les esprits les plus judicieux et les plus impartiaux, le prix de la désaffection que nous supposent pour notre nouvelle mère-patrie ceux qui méditent les publications de

notre Ile.”

Again, and again these thoughts recur in the *Sentinelle*. Remy Ollier believed that if only the Franco-Mauritian and their hirelings would cease to attack England and consider themselves as British subject and not as “peuple conquis”, Mauritius would have much to gain from British institutions implanted in the Island. He deplored the fact that the colonists criticised every English institution without considering the good effects for which they were destined. He often referred to the unjust and mean attacks levelled against Jeremie.

A military parade had been held at the Champ de Mars on the 3rd December 1844. On the 6th December of the same year *Le Mauricien* wrote a virulent article against the government, asking ironically if the 12th regiment would not have done better to exchange *“quelques coups de fusil avec les chasseurs ou de marcher en bon ordre sous un soleil de décembre depuis le*

Mapou jusqu'aux retranchements.”

The *Cernéen* writing on the same subject said that the government had the right to celebrate the anniversary of the conquest but it was impolitic to do so as it evoked old “souvenirs” and wounded the feelings of the colonists.

Remy Ollier wrote vehemently against both papers reminding them that it was such actions of theirs that alienated the English and made the British government suspicious of the loyalty of the colonists. We ask to ourselves, if Remy Ollier had lived, how indignant he would have been of Dr Cure and that clique which so fanatically demanded that retrocession of Mauritius to France.

But the lessons taught by Remy Ollier were lost on needless ears. What is strange is that with dogged perseverance many people in our island are still impelled by the same reactionary motives which the great patriot so often condemned.



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Protecting Democratic Values

• Cont. from page 4

The introduction of the Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG) was a case in point in last year's budget, causing such controversies that the matter is under judicial review at our highest court. Government and the MoFED may or may not have a defensible case to replace the contributive National Pensions Funds by a tax-based French-inspired CSG, notwithstanding the recurrently expanding "trou de la Sécurité Sociale" in that country. But many technical questions surrounding tax levels and pension sustainability in the future, not to mention the electoral promises made in 2019, were far too important to be dismissed by the mighty pen of even our best Argentiers in a Finance Bill annex.

Whether prodded by the pending court review case or the assessments of Business Mauritius regarding future sustainability and tax-levels, or by the disquiet expressed by the World Bank, a full debate in Parliament should have been necessary, a matter which the Minister seems to have now finally acknowledged. It must be borne in mind that the CSG Act was passed in a period of major stress in most socio-economic sectors, which could have called for reduction in government



“Most observers were surprised by the Budget's long shopping list of projects round the island assembled from Ministries and the overbearing weight of drains, roads or other infrastructure projects ranging from markets to school yards. There are some noteworthy items naturally as the expressed desire to promote “green” energies or the increased attention to the education of special needs children. While these are welcome new initiatives, we were rather overwhelmed by the resurgence of projects that have clearly been enunciated in several previous budgets...”

spending rather than further bloating government coffers with tax revenues.

As for the delivery of the budget itself, most observers were surprised by its long shopping list of projects round the island assembled from Ministries and the overbearing weight of drains, roads or other infrastructure projects ranging from markets to school yards. There are some noteworthy items naturally as the expressed desire to promote “green” energies or the increased attention to the education of special needs children. While these are welcome new initiatives, we were rather overwhelmed by the resurgence of projects that have clearly been enunciated in several previous budgets.

As for the capacity of our personnel and administrative resources in various Ministries dealing with public infrastructure, we can hope but remain skeptical about their ability to handle such massive investments in a short time span. Time will tell whether the Minister's buoyant optimism is justified and whether the level of wastes in the future Audit Report for 2021-2022 has been held in check or curbed in such difficult straits. The consumer and taxpayer might be tempted to ask where are the sacrifices coming from?

Jan Arden

Practical herd immunity

• Cont. from page 2

Nonetheless, we are likely to reach a practical kind of herd immunity through vaccination. In practical herd immunity, we can reopen to near-normal levels of activity without needing widespread distancing or lockdowns. This would be a profound change from the situation we have been in for the past 18 months.

Practical herd immunity does not mean that we never see any COVID-19. It will likely be with us, just at low enough levels that we will not need to have widespread distancing measures in place to protect the health-care system.

What level of immunity (either through vaccination or infection) we need for practical herd immunity is uncertain, but it may be quite high. The original strain of SARS-CoV-2 was highly transmissible and transmission is thought to be higher still for some variants of concern.

The amount of immunity we need will also depend on what level of controls we are willing to maintain indefinitely. Continued masking, contact tracing, symp-

Covid-19 may never go away



The level of immunity needed — either through vaccination or infection — for practical herd immunity is uncertain, but may be quite high. Pic - Shutterstock

tomatic and asymptomatic testing and outbreak control measures will mean we will require less immunity than we would without these in place.

Some estimates suggest that we may need two thirds of the population to be protected either by successful vaccination or natural infection. If 90 per cent of the

population is eligible for vaccination, and vaccines are 85 per cent effective against infection, we can obtain this two thirds with about 90 per cent of the eligible population being vaccinated or infected naturally.

The United Kingdom has already exceeded these rates in some age groups. Higher rates are even better, because there is still uncertainty about the level of transmissibility and vaccine efficacy against infection (although research shows they are very good against severe disease). We don't want to discover that we do not have enough immunity through vaccination and have another serious wave of infection.

Emerging variants

Higher vaccine uptake will mean there are fewer infections before we reach practical herd immunity. The remaining unvaccinated individuals will be safer, protected indirectly by the immunity of those around them.

Outbreaks will be smaller and rarer, and there will be fewer opportunities for vaccine escape variants to arise and spread.

That said, variants of SARS-CoV-2 will continue to emerge, and selection will favour variants that escape our immunity. Vaccine developers will continue to broaden the spectrum of the vaccines that are available, and boosters will hopefully allow us to maintain long-term practical herd immunity.

It's possible that an immune escape variant will emerge that is severe enough, and transmissible enough, that it will cause a new pandemic for which we do not have even practical herd immunity. But barring that, while we may not be free of COVID-19, we can be confident that in the not-too-distant future it will be manageable when we return to near-normal life.

Caroline Colijn,
Professor, Department of
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Paul Tupper, Professor of
Applied Mathematics, Simon
Fraser University



At the age of 16, when Tony Kofi was an apprentice builder living in Nottingham, he fell from the third storey of a building. Time seemed to slow down massively, and he saw a complex series of images flash before his eyes.

As he described it, "In my mind's eye I saw many, many things: children that I hadn't even had yet, friends that I had never seen but are now my friends. The thing that really stuck in my mind was playing an instrument". Then Tony landed on his head and lost consciousness.

When he came to at the hospital, he felt like a different person and didn't want to return to his previous life. Over the following weeks, the images kept flashing back into his mind. He felt that he was "being shown something" and that the images represented his future.

Later, Tony saw a picture of a saxophone and recognised it as the instrument he'd seen himself playing. He used his compensation money from the accident to buy one. Now, Tony Kofi is one of the UK's most successful jazz musicians, having won the BBC Jazz awards twice, in 2005 and 2008.

Though Tony's belief that he saw into his future is uncommon, it's by no means uncommon for people to report witnessing multiple scenes from their past during split-second emergency situations. After all, this is where the phrase "my life flashed before my eyes" comes from.

But what explains this phenomenon? Psychologists have proposed a number of explanations, but I'd argue the key to understanding Tony's experience lies in a different interpretation of time itself.

When life flashes before our eyes

The experience of life flashing before one's eyes has been reported for well over a century. In 1892, a Swiss geologist named Albert Heim fell from a precipice while mountain climbing. In his account of the fall, he wrote it was "as if on a distant stage, my whole past life [was] playing itself out in numerous scenes".

More recently, in July 2005, a young woman called Gill Hicks was sitting near one of the bombs that exploded on the London Underground. In the minutes after the accident, she hovered on the brink of death where, as she describes it: "my life was flashing before my eyes, flickering through every scene, every happy and sad moment, everything I have ever done, said, experienced".

In some cases, people don't see a review of their whole lives, but a series of past experiences and events that have special significance to them.

Explaining life reviews

Perhaps surprisingly, given how common it is, the "life review experience" has been studied very little. A handful of theories have been put forward, but they're understandably tentative and rather vague.

For example, a group of Israeli researchers suggested in 2017 that our life events may exist as a continuum in our minds, and may come to the forefront in extreme conditions of psychological and physiological stress.

Another theory is that, when we're close to death, our memories suddenly "unload" themselves, like the contents of a skip being dumped. This could be related to "cortical disinhibition" - a breaking down of the normal regulatory processes of the

'My life flashed before my eyes'

A different interpretation of time might explain why people see their whole lives replayed to them in a split second

brain - in highly stressful or dangerous situations, causing a "cascade" of mental impressions.

But the life review is usually reported as a serene and ordered experience, completely unlike the kind of chaotic cascade of experiences associated with cortical disinhibition. And none of these theories explain how it's possible for such a vast amount of information - in many cases, all the events of a person's life - to manifest themselves in a period of a few seconds, and often far less.

Thinking in 'spatial' time

An alternative explanation is to think of time in a "spatial" sense. Our common-sense view of time is as an arrow that moves from the past through the present towards the future, in which we only have direct access to the present. But modern physics has cast doubt on this simple linear view of time.

Indeed, since Einstein's theory of relativity, some physicists have adopted a "spatial" view of time. They argue we live in a static "block universe" in which time is spread out in a kind of panorama where the past, the present and the future co-exist simultaneously.

The modern physicist Carlo Rovelli - author of the best-selling *The Order of Time* - also holds the view that linear time doesn't exist as a universal fact. This idea reflects the view of the philosopher Immanuel Kant, who argued that time is not an objectively real phenomenon, but a construct of the human mind.

This could explain why some people are able to review the events of their whole lives in an instant. A good deal of previous research - including my own - has suggested that our normal perception of time is simply a product of our normal state of consciousness.

In many altered states of consciousness, time slows down so dramatically that seconds seem to stretch out into minutes. This is a common feature of emergency situations, as well as states of deep meditation, experiences on psychedelic drugs and when athletes are "in the zone".

The limits of understanding

But what about Tony Kofi's apparent visions of his future? Did he really glimpse scenes from his future life? Did he see

himself playing the saxophone because somehow his future as a musician was already established?

There are obviously some mundane interpretations of Tony's experience. Perhaps, for instance, he became a saxophone player simply because he saw himself playing it in his vision. But I don't think it's impossible that Tony did glimpse future events.

If time really does exist in a spatial sense - and if it's true that time is a construct of the human mind - then perhaps in some way future events may already be present, just as past events are still present.

Admittedly, this is very difficult to make sense of. But why should everything make sense to us? As I have suggested in a recent book, there must be some aspects of reality that are beyond our comprehension. After all, we're just animals, with a limited awareness of reality. And perhaps more than any other phenomenon, this is especially true of time.

Steve Taylor

Senior Lecturer in Psychology,
Leeds Beckett University

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Revenge of an ex-wife!

She spent the first day packing her belongings into boxes, crates and suitcases.

On the second day, she had the movers come and collect her things.

On the third day, she sat down for the last time at their beautiful dining room table by candlelight, put on some soft background music and feasted on a pound of shrimp, a jar of caviar and a bottle of Chardonnay.

When she had finished, she went into each and every room and deposited a few half-eaten shrimps dipped in caviar, into the hollow of the curtain rods.

She then cleaned up the kitchen and left.

When the husband returned with his

new girlfriend, all was bliss for the first few days.

Then slowly, the house began to smell. They tried everything... cleaning, mopping and airing the place out.

Vents were checked for dead rodents and carpets were steamed. Air fresheners were hung everywhere.

Exterminators were brought in to set off gas canisters, during which they had to move out for a few days, and in the end even paid to replace the expensive woolen carpeting. Nothing worked. People stopped coming over to visit.

Repairmen refused to work in the house. The maid quit. Finally, they could not take the stench any longer and decided to move.

A month later, even though they had cut their price in half, they could not find a

buyer for their stinky house.

Word got out and eventually even the local realtors refused to return their calls.

Finally, they had to borrow a huge sum of money from the bank to purchase a new place.

The ex-wife called the man and asked how things were going.

He told her the saga of the rotting house. She listened politely and said that she missed her old home terribly, and would be willing to reduce her divorce settlement in exchange for getting the house back.

Knowing his ex-wife had no idea how bad the smell was, he agreed on a price that was about 1/10th of what the house had been worth, but only if she were to sign the papers that very day.

She agreed and within the hour his

lawyers delivered the paperwork.

A week later the man and his girlfriend stood smiling as they watched the moving company pack everything to take to their new home. Including the curtain rods!

Memory lapse

An elderly man walks into a brothel and tells the madam he would like a really young girl for the night. The old lady gives him a puzzled look and asks the guy how old he is.

"Why, I'm 95 years old," the old man says

"Ninety-five," the madam exclaims, "do you realise you already had it?"

"Oh, he says, "how much do I owe you."

Q: Why did the zombie go to the music store?

A: He wanted to buy some organs.

If you think nobody cares you are alive, try missing a couple of payments.

Bob: "Have you seen the movie 'Constipation'?"

Jim: "No, it hasn't come out yet."

Q: What runs but never walks?

A: Water.

A guy is going on an ocean cruise and he tells his doctor that he's worried about getting seasick.

The doctor suggests, "Eat two

pounds of stewed tomatoes before you leave the dock."

The guy replies, "Will that keep me from getting sick, Doc?"

The doctor says, "No, but it'll look really pretty in the water."

Don't trust atoms. They make up everything.

Life's Lessons

Why do we offer food to God?

Once a person asked Jagat Guru Shankaracharya, "Why do we offer food to God? Does God eat from whatever we offer? Does any change occur to food after we offer it to God? If not, why do we do this? Isn't this hypocrisy? If this is hypocrisy, then why should we indulge in such activity?"

Everyone around got curious.

Shankaracharya smiled and said, "It is matter of understanding that when we offer food to God, what does he take from it?"

"Suppose you are going to temple with a box of ladoos (sweets) to offer it to God and on the way, someone you know meets you and asks - What is this? You tell him that this box contains ladoos. Then he asks to whom

it belongs. At then you say that it's mine.

"You reach the temple and offer that box of ladoos at God's feet and dedicate it to him. Then you take *prasad* (oblation - food offered to God) and go back home.

"Again, on your way back, you meet someone you know and he asks: 'What's this?' At that time what do you say? You say that it is *prasad*.

Then he asks to whom does it belong? You say it is for Krishna ji.

"Now, the thing to understand is that the ladoo is the

same. There is no difference in color and taste. So, what did God take from it?"

"In reality, God has taken the person's ego. This thinking of Me/ Mine, one's ego was surrendered as soon as he offered that food at the feet of God.

"By offering to God, man becomes humble, without ego. Therefore, this cannot be called hypocrisy.

"God doesn't need anything from us. It's us who needs God to keep ourselves humble and down to earth. It helps us to let go our ego and gives us peace of mind."

Why couples often don't understand each other

The man doesn't know that there is a snake underneath. The woman doesn't know that there is a stone crushing the man.

The woman thinks: "I am going to fall! And I can't climb because the snake is going to bite me! Why can't the man use a little more strength and pull me up!"

The man thinks: "I am in so much pain! Yet I'm still pulling you as much as I can! Why don't you try and climb a little harder?"

The moral: You can't see the pressure the other person is under, and the other person can't see the pain you're in. This is life, whether it's with work, family, feelings or friends, we should try to understand each other. Learn to think differently, perhaps more clearly and communicate better. A little thought and patience go a long way?

-- Author Unknown



Signs Your Body Needs to Move More

Physical activity helps your health in numerous ways, large and small. When you don't get enough, your body sends clues like these

You're constipated

When you move more, your colon moves more, and it's easier to poop on schedule. Healthy muscle tone in your abs and diaphragm is also key to moving waste through your digestive tract. Consistent exercise can help you stay regular, especially as you age.

Your joints are stiff

Achy, hard-to-move joints can sometimes be a sign of inflammatory conditions like arthritis or an autoimmune disease. But joints can also stiffen when you don't use them enough. Put them to work so they don't lock up and cause you pain.

You're always out of breath

Just like biceps get weaker when you don't use them, the muscles that help your lungs move in and out as you breathe lose strength if you don't work them out regularly. The less activity you do, the more breathless you get, even during easy daily tasks.

You're moody

A lack of movement hurts more than just your physical health. It can also increase feelings of anxiety and depression. Get your blood pumping on the regular. Cardio exercises like walking, biking, swimming, or running, will boost and steady your mood, and even improve your self-esteem.

Your tank's always low



Feel sluggish and tired most of the time? Exercise helps deliver oxygen and nutrients to your tissues. If you spend most of your time sitting, they aren't getting the same amount of fuel they need to keep you going.

Your metabolism's slower

People with "fast" metabolism may just move more -- even if that movement is fidgeting. The more active you are, the more calories you burn each time you move.

Your sleep's shot

If you're tired of counting sheep at night, get up and get moving during the day. When you keep a regular exercise routine, you fall asleep faster, and you sleep deeper once you drift off.

You're forgetting things

Regular exercise tells your body to make more chemicals called growth factors. They boost blood vessel production in your brain. The more blood that gets to your brain, the better you can think, remember, and make decisions.

Your blood pressure's up

Spending most of your time sitting raises your risk of

heart disease. That's partly because you're more likely to have high blood pressure, a big risk factor for heart issues like coronary artery disease and heart attack.

You have prediabetes

When physical activity is a regular part of your life, your body has an easier time keeping your blood glucose under control. Stable blood sugar levels keep you out of the type 2 diabetes danger zone.

Your back hurts

When your core muscles are weak from lack of use, they can't support your back the way they should. This makes it much easier to tweak your back muscles during everyday move-

ments like standing or reaching. Pilates, yoga, and other exercises that use stretching are good for building a stronger back.

You always want to nosh

Seems like you'd be hungry more often if you exercised more, but the opposite is usually true. Aerobic exercise like biking, swimming, walking, and running can actually decrease your appetite because it changes the levels of certain "hunger hormones" in your body.

You're sick a lot

Studies show the more moderate activity you get, the lower your chance of catching a cold or other germs. When you make exercise a habit, your immune system gets stronger.

Your skin has lost its shine

If your skin looks duller than usual, a lack of movement may be to blame. Some studies show that moderate exercise boosts your circulation and your immune system, which helps your skin keep that youthful glow.

Reviewed by Brunilda Nazario, MD - WebMD

Should I make my toddler wear a mask?

It's very difficult to make your toddlers wear a mask. Either they will remove it immediately or not wear it at all. But this raises a question, how safe are toddlers if they do not wear a mask? As per the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, face coverings should not be placed on young children under the age of 2, or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or is otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance, reports Times of India.

Why shouldn't infants be wearing a mask?

Baby's airways are smaller, thus breathing through a mask becomes even harder for them. Thus, using a mask on an infant can increase the risk of suffocation. A snug fit can make it harder for them to access air and a loose fit won't provide much protection. As infants won't be able to take off their mask themselves, it can even suffocate them.

Older infants or young toddlers are more likely to remove their mask or touch their face even more while wearing it, which makes it even unsafe for them. Also, there are yet no N95 masks approved for young children.

How do babies and toddlers stay safe in public settings?

Because your kids cannot wear a mask, it's best to avoid taking them anywhere crowded. But if that's not possible during any time, here are some precautions you can take to keep your baby safe.

Wear your baby

If your baby is small and can fit into a baby carrier, face him towards you and try to keep him close to your body.

Carry the baby in seat car with a cover

Though it can be heavy to carry around your baby in a car seat, a covered one can be helpful in keeping them protected.

Push the child in a stroller with a cover

We all have plastic rain covers and cotton sun covers for our baby's stroller. Use them now when you take them out.

Put your stroller awning down



If you do not have a cover or have forgotten to bring one along, putting the stroller's awning down is better than anything.

If at all, what kind of masks should kids under 2 wear?

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that children up to 2 should wear a mask (if at all) that specifically meets these guidelines.

- Fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Is secured with ties or ear loops

- Includes multiple layers of fabric
- Allows for breathing without any restriction
- Can be machine washed and dried without any damage or change to its shape

Tip

It can be difficult to get your toddler to wear a mask. You can make it easier by letting them choose one for themselves or letting them paint on one. You can also get the matching mask as yours and act like a team that puts the mask together.

BollyBites

Vidya Balan says it's a challenge to find big male stars for her films

Over the past few years, female-oriented films are not only leaving an impression but have done well at the box office. One of the pioneers of this change has been Vidya Balan, who set the ball rolling with *The Dirty Picture* and *Kahaani*, followed by *Tumhari Sulu* and recently, *Shankuntal Devi*, in the OTT space.

However, the National Award winning actress hasn't acted with any of the leading men in Hindi cinema. BollywoodLife quizzed Vidya Balan if big heroes feel challenged sharing screen space in movies where she's the focus of attention.

Vidya Balan said, "It's a challenge to find actors for my kind of films. Forget the bigger stars, even newer actors feel, 'Oh...we're doing a female-centric film, *phir humari kya ahmiyat hogi* (what will our value be after that)?' So, it's very unfortunate. This is inherent sexism even in that. And it's not just me, even my other female costars feel that way."

On the work front, Vidya Balan will soon be seen as a forest officer in *Sherni*, directed by Amit Masurkar of *Newton* fame, and co-starring Sharat Saxena and Neeraj Kabi. The film will premiere digitally on Amazon Prime on 18th June.



Trying to keep myself creatively invested: Mona Singh

In a career span of almost 18 years, talented actor-anchor Mona Singh feels luckily good work has come her way but at the same time she had to work hard to prove herself with each project, reports Hindustan Times.

"All my roles in films, serials or reality show host, have been really challenging but at the same time they were fun too and made me achieve a lot as an artiste. In all these years, I have learnt to do things my way and not to follow any set pattern to portray a certain character or anchor a reality series."

Mona says that in this tough phase she too had to face her share of lows. "It's difficult to not to feel low especially when you are witnessing such grief around. We are living in unprecedented times. One should understand that positive thinking won't make all our problems disappear, but it will surely make those problems more manageable and help you face hard times better," says the actor.

On being asked what peps her up instantly, the *Kya Huaa Tera Vaada* star, says, "My parents are my happy dose. Just talking to them and sharing my issues big or small with them makes me feel way better and all happy. They actually have



power to pep me up any time of the day."

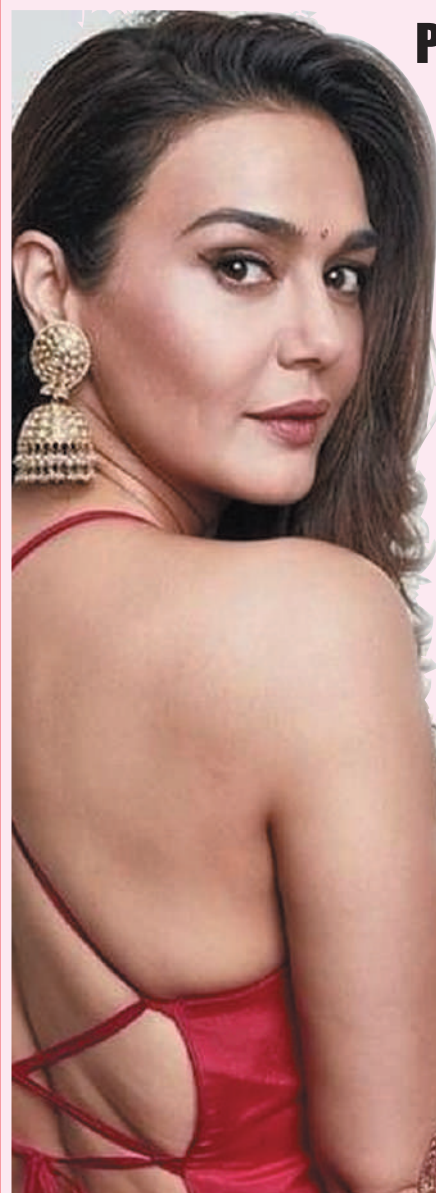
Soon Mona will be back on TV hosting a crime show. "It's not a comeback or anything! In fact, this the first time a got chance to anchor crime-based show *Mauka-E-Vardaat*. I hope that I am able add some fine nuances to my new job and also create awareness among people to stay safe and stay alert. Crime against women is on a rise and they should be made aware and vigilant too."

Preity Zinta: It's nice to see people enjoying the simple things in life

With the world having predominantly stayed indoors for over a year, stepping out seems blissful. And that is exactly what Preity Zinta felt when she stepped out in Los Angeles where she lives currently. The actress shared a video of herself walking down a promenade in the US and captioned it, "Feels awesome to see people out & about enjoying each other's company after months of being locked in their homes. Of course it helps that most of the people have been vaccinated!"

As the US slowly opens up, Preity stepped out for dinner with a friend after 18 months and shared a post on Instagram. She captioned the image, "Best way to come back after a digital detox - a throwback picture from a few days ago when we went out to dinner after 18 months. The only thing constant in life is Change & here's to embracing it while trying to social distance."

On the work front, Preity was last seen in the film *Bhaiaji Superhit* in 2018. The actress, who was busy with the IPL some time ago, had to fly back to the US after the tournament was postponed owing to rising Covid-19 cases.



Parineeti Chopra reveals PK's reaction to her new films

'She was the happiest for me'

After a disappointing few year, actor Parineeti Chopra has come back stronger than ever with three back-to-back releases which have received good reviews, reports Filmfare. The actress started the year strong with *The Girl On The Train* and followed it up with the Saina Nehwal biopic, *Saina*. However, it is the recently released Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar which has earned her some rave reviews.

Chopra has been over the moon in the past few months and has consistently mentioned that the "old days are back again", perhaps referring to the days when she was a critic's favourite. Now, Chopra has revealed what her cousin, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, thought about the movies.

"She always gives me this advice, she said, 'When we are in a film and we do not meet the audience's expectations of ours, that's our fault. Because they do expect a good performance from us. So, don't be in a film (where you) don't give it your all. Do something interesting or do something, don't be in a film just for the sake of it,'" Chopra told a leading daily.

"She said this to me a couple of years ago, I remember, and it made so much sense to me because it is such a privileged position to be in when the audience or the media or the critics-reviewers actually expect something out of you. And when you don't do it, they abuse you," she said.

It was this conversation that helped the actor look at her filmography in a different way. "Because of that conversation, now finally when I did these kinds of films and got these kinds of reviews, she was the happiest for me. She said, 'This is what I was talking about. This is what you need to do. Don't do something substandard. Always do your best and give your best,'" she said.





'Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein' based on classic film 'Koshish'?

Sony Entertainment Television is gearing up for its new show *'Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein'*, which reportedly is based on the classic Bollywood film *'Koshish'*. The story was set in the alleys of Chawri Bazar, Old Delhi. Indian Idol 10 finalist Ankush Bhardwaj also lent his voice to the title track of this show *Ek Chup Tum, Ek Chup Main*.

The series halted on 30 March 2020 due to the Covid-19 crisis, and it was later announced that the show would not be coming back post the coronavirus pandemic. The show was last aired in

India on 31 March 2020 with 187 episodes.

According to reports, the Qissago Telefilms production, will feature Simran Pareenja and Mudit Nayar. The premise of the show is said to be similar to that of the Sanjeev Kumar and Jaya Bhaduri 1972 film.

It is said that the show will be a first of its kind, relying heavily on sign-language and subtitles. The show is based on the lead couple being deaf and mute, reports BizAsia.

The daily show will celebrate the jour-

ney of Yogi, a deaf and mute young boy, who is loved and treated like an equal by his family. It will also showcase his different struggles when he comes across the girl of his dreams.

Mudit Nayar: 'Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein' is like a breath of fresh air on television

In an exclusive chat with Sana Farzeen of Indian Express, actor Mudit Nayar spoke about his new show *Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein*, challenges of his roles, his journey on television and more.

Q. Deaf and mute characters are either used as an emotional angle or comic relief. Your character Yogi, for a change, has been shown to be quite normal.

I am not saying this because it's my show or I am playing Yogi but he is the most normal character that one has ever seen. From an outsider's perspective, one would think that he is disabled but his family has never treated him differently. We are not showing him as weak or a 'bechara', there's no scope of sympathy. He is a prankster, and his father is fed up of him. Yogi is like any brat on TV, it's just that he cannot speak or hear.

Q. Do you feel the audience will connect to a show like this?

I think it is bit of a gamble. It is a very different show and we don't know how the audience will react. We have seen everything on television and it soon gets repetitive. *Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein* is like a breath of fresh air on TV. It's a light-hearted show and the treatment is also very beautiful. There's no over the top drama or characters, and everything is very relatable.

Q. In your career span, you have done good but very few roles. Are you satisfied with your journey?

Honestly, I do feel that I could have been a little less choosy. Even my last show happened more than a year back. It's not that there is a lack of offers, it's more because I don't want to do everything that comes my way. I want to be associated with different characters. This is why I move towards theatre during my breaks.

Q. You've trained under Barry John, the same coach as Shah Rukh Khan. Didn't you want to try your luck in films too?

Obviously the plan was to do that. But it's really difficult to enter the movies. I have done a couple of small roles in films. There have been a few more offers but nothing materialised. If and when the opportunity comes, I would be happy to give films a try.



TV actor Ankit Gera ties the knot

Ankit Gera shared that his wife Rashi Puri did not have a clue about his work as an actor and liked him as a person.

Pratigya actor Ankit Gera got married to Rashi Puri, an NRI from Nigeria, on June 5. The wedding function, attended by only 10 people, was held in Chandigarh. The actor shared that it was an arranged marriage.

"It's an arranged marriage. We are family friends. Our parents were looking for suitable partners for us and

that's when they suggested that we should talk. We started talking in April and soon developed a liking for each other. She flew down to India around three weeks ago before the wedding to meet me. Even though it was a short span, we got to know each other better and decided to take the plunge," Ankit Gera told ETimes.

The *Sapne Suhane Ladakpan Ke* actor also mentioned that he was

never in favour of a lavish wedding. He said that while their families were planning to fix a December date, he decided to have a lockdown wedding 'which was attended by people who matter to us.'

Talking about his wife Rashi Puri, Ankit Gera said that they are very different people. Interestingly, Rashi did not have a clue about his work as an actor and liked him as a person. The actor admitted that this quality made him fall in love with her.

Ankit Gera started his career with Mahi Way and has been part of shows like *Maharakshak: Devi*, *Santoshi Maa*, *Agnipheera* and more recently *Choti Sarrdaarni*. He was also a contestant in *Bigg Boss 9*. The actor has dated Aadaa Khan, Roopal Tyagi and Sara Khan in the past.



Sriti Jha: I maintain a low profile because I still don't know who I am

Since 2014, Sriti Jha has been playing Pragya in *Kumkum Bhagya*. Now the show is set to go in for a time leap. In a candid chat with the actress, Farzana Patowar of TNN spoke to her about how comfortable she was with the time leap. "Having explored the simple, unassuming, caring aspects of Pragya's persona for seven years, I now move into showcasing a more stylish, confident, self-assured dimension and that's truly exciting for me as an artiste," said Sriti.

Talking about Pragya's transformation on the show, she said, "The viewers will see my character turn into a powerful corporate professional at a multinational company in

another country. I look forward to approaching the character from a new perspective and hope to do it well. What's interesting is that while she seems to be the boss lady in control to the world outside, she is deeply anguished on the inside, with her eyes giving away her pain at times."

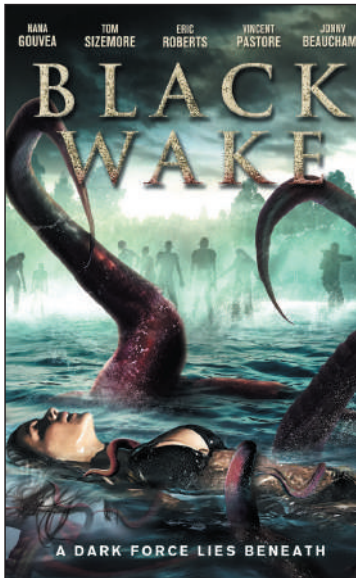
Given that the show has gone on for years, did she at any point want to quit, given the monotony?

She answers, "Not really because the team is so good that going to work is like going to family. I love meeting these amazing set of people everyday. People have left and new people have joined but shooting with everyone is so fun. I feel like going back again and again to work. It might be over too one day but I want to make the most of it till it lasts."

On the personal front Sriti has always preferred to keep a low profile and she rarely speaks about her life. Ask her what the real Sriti is like and she says, "Oh dear...I don't know! Probably that is why I maintain a low profile. I haven't figured out myself who the real Sriti is. Nobody has figured that out maybe because we are constantly growing and evolving. I was someone, now I am someone else and I hope to become a more evolved person in the future."



Mardi 15 juin - 21.10
Black Wake

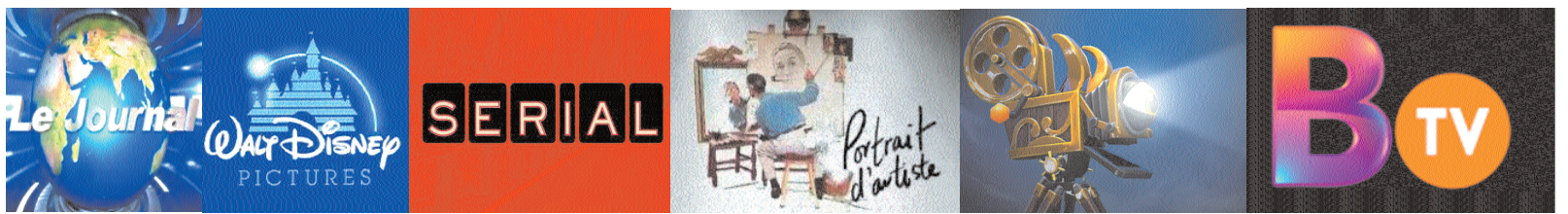


Mercredi 16 juin - 21.00
Xenophobia



Jeudi 17 juin - 21.15
Spinning Man

Avec: Guy Pearce, Pierce Brosnan, Minnie Driver



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
mardi 15 juin	07.00 Dessin Anime 09.00 Film: Le Petite Princesse... 10.35 Serial: Oh Yuck! 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Doc: L'art Et La Matière 14.00 Local: Proze Dime 14.30 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies 14.56 D.Anime: Spirit: Au Galop En... 15.18 D.Anime: La Famille Blaire... 15.30 D.Anime: Little Spirou 15.37 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis... 15.48 D.Anime: The Deep 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.56 Local Prod: Charcha 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.35 Local: En Eta Dalert 21.05 Film: Black Wake 23.10 Le Journal	10.00 Serial: CID 10.48 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha 12.04 Film: Ijaazat Starring: Rekha, Naseeruddin Shah, Anuradha Patel 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.25 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.45 Serial: Bava Maradullu 16.08 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal 16.29 Serial: Sila 16.49 Serial: Imtihaan 17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.34 Telugu - Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Bluff Master Star: Shammi Kapoor, Saira Banu, Pran	06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.52 Mag: Voa Connect 07.21 Mag: In Good Shape 07.47 Doc: Amazing Gardens 08.19 Mag: Future Mag 10.03 Mag: Global 3000 10.29 Mag: Washington Forum 11.04 Mag: Eco@Africa 11.39 Mag: Arts And Culture 12.05 Mag: Voa Connect 13.06 Doc: Amazing Gardens 13.25 Mag: Future Mag 13.54 Doc: Tresors Oublies De La... 15.16 Mag: Global 3000 15.53 Mag: Washington Forum 16.20 Mag: Eco@Africa 16.46 Mag: Arts And Culture 18.02 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 19.00 Open Univ: Student Support 19.31 Mag: Made In Germany 20.40 Doc: Ville En Fête	01.30 Film: The Evil Within 03.08 Serial: Shades Of Blue 03.49 Film: Ghostbuster II 05.40 Tele: Muneca Brava 07.04 Film: A Doggone Hollywood 09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible 09.48 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: Shades Of Blue 12.00 Film: Ghostbusters II 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.15 Mag: Hollywood On Set 14.45 Film: A Doggone Hollywood 16.41 Serial: Mission: Impossible 17.23 Serial: Imposters 18.05 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: Imposters 21.15 Film: A Midsummer's Hawai... 23.18 Serial: Mission: Impossible	08.00 Film: Chhichhore 12.04 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.26 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.48 / 20.32 Agniphera 13.09 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.51 / 21.59 - Naagin Season 3 14.33 / 22.25 - Sethji 15.11 / 22.56 - Mere Sai - Shradha Aur Saburi 15.18 Film: Mrityudand Starring: Shabana Azmi, Madhuri Dixit, Ayub Khan 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.52 Serial: Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka
mercredi 16 juin	07.15 Dessin Anime 10.34 Serial: Oh Yuck! 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Doc: L'art Et La Matière 14.05 Local: Priorite Sante 14.30 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies 14.57 D.Anime: Spirit: Au Galop... 15.19 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau 15.38 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis... 17.00 Serial: Backstage 17.38 Serial: Magic Mania 17.50 Doc: A Question Of Science 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 Local Prod: Nayi Drishti 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.25 Prod Indepden: Lottotech 21.20 Film: Xenophobia Stars: Kristen Renton, Manu Intriaymi, Brinke Stevens	07.00 DDI Live 09.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 09.24 Serial: Chota Bheem 10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha Meeth 12.00 Film: Aatank Hi Aatank 14.10 DDI Magazine 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.21 Aamhi Doghi 15.44 Bava Maradallu 16.01 Apoorva Raagangal 16.25 Serial: Sila 16.48 Serial: Imtihaan 17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.33 Serial: Kulvadhu 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Programme In Marathi 20.30 Film: Justice Bao 23.06 Live: DDI Live	06.00 Rev: The Global Auto... 06.26 Doc: Dream Job Or Rip-Off 06.52 Mag: Check In 07.18 Mag: Made In Germany 08.19 Doc: Ville En Fête 10.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 11.27 Mag: The Global Auto and... 11.54 Doc: Dream Hob Or Rip-Off 12.24 Mag: Check In 13.19 Mag: Trend Book 13.45 Doc: Ville En Fête 14.13 Doc: Snapshots 15.07 Mag: Close Up 15.33 Local: Klip Seleksion 17.26 Doc: Dream Job Or Rip-Off? 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Vous Et Nous 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.04 Mag: Tendance XXI 20.55 Doc: The World From... 21.21 Doc: Comme Un Poisson...	00.31 Serial: Imposters 01.37 Film: Avenging The Throne 03.13 Serial: Shades Of Blue 03.54 Film: Crooked Arrows 05.39 Tee: Muneca Brava 06.57 Film: A Midsummer's Hawii 09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible 09.45 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: Shades Of Blue 12.00 Film: Crooked Arrows 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: A Midsummer's Hawii 16.40 Serial: Mission: Impossible 17.28 Serial: Imposters 18.10 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: Madam Secretary 21.15 Film: Le Charge Des Tuniqu... 22.49 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.31 Serial: Mission: Impossible	08.00 Film: Mrityudand Starring: Shabana Azmi, Madhuri Dixit, Ayub Khan 12.04 / 20.06 - Sanjivani 12.24 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna 12.44 / 20.02 - Agniphera 13.34 / 20.46 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.36 / 21.09 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.47 / 21.31 - Naagin Season 3 14.36 / 21.46 - Sethji 14.55 / 21.59 - Mere Sai - Shradha Aur Saburi 15.16 Film: Jaani Dushman: Ek Anokhi Kahani Starring: Sunny Deol, Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Raj Babbar 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.23 Bhakharwadi
jeudi 17 juin	06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.45 Local: Sur Prise 07.15 D. Anime: La Ligue Des... 10.35 Serial: Oh Yuck! 11.00 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous? 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.52 Local: Le Rendez Vous Avec... 14.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 14.30 D.Anime: Teenie Tots 15.00 D.Anime: Spirit: Au Galop En 15.16 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau 15.28 D.Anime: Little Spirou 17.00 Serial: Backstage 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 Local: Tirth Yatra 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Film: Batla House Stars: John Abraham, Nora Fatehi, Mrunal Thakur	10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 12.05 Film: Samraat Starring: Dharmendra, Jeetendra, Hema Malini 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek 15.27 Aamhi Doghi 15.51 Serial: Bava Maradallu 16.09 Serial: Apporva Raagangal 16.36 Serial: Sila 16.58 Serial: Imtihaan 17.16 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.37 Local: Amrit Vaani 17.47 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 18.07 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.33 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da... 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.10 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.36 Local Prod: MBC Prod 21.19 Film: Spinning Man Starring: Guy Pearce, Pierce Brosnan,	06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.25 Mag: Vous Et Nous 07.28 Doc: Garden Party 08.20 Doc: The World From Above 09.36 Mag: Initiative Africa 10.10 Mag: Focus On Europe 10.28 Doc: Legendary Hotels 11.13 Mag: Motorweek 13.28 Doc: The World From Above 13.55 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 14.50 Mag: Initiative Africa 16.27 Mag: Motorweek 18.03 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: The World From... 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.05 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.40 Doc: 360 GEO 21.58 Doc: Antarctica: A Message... 22.40 Doc: China's Gateway To...	01.50 Film: Death Fighter 03.18 Serial: Shades Of Blue 03.59 Serial: Island Doctor 05.28 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.51 Film: La Charge Des Tuniqu... 09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible 09.48 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.00 Serial: Shades Of Blue 12.00 Serial: Island Doctor 13.35 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.16 Mag: Hollywood On Set 14.48 Film: La Charge Des Tuniqu... 16.50 Serial: Mission: Impossible 17.29 Serial: Madam Secretary 18.15 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: Madam Secretary 21.11 Serial: Supercopter 21.48 Film: The Living And The...	08.00 Film: Jaani Dushman: Ek Anokhi Kahani Starring Sunny Deol, Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Raj Babbar 12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.22 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.48 / 20.32 Agniphera 13.07 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.32 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.45 / 21.46 - Naagin 14.36 / 21.59 - Sethji 14.55 / 22.52 - Mere Sai 15.20 Film: Mrityudand 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.16 Serial: Bhakharwadi



Mercredi 9 juin - 15.20
Star: Sunny Deol, Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Raj Babbar



Jeudi 17 juin - 20.15
Stars: John Abraham, Nora Fatehi, Mrunal Thakur



Euro 2020: how football managers and coaches control the narrative

The images projected to fans of the sport have always been intentional. Here's what they do to keep people onside



Scotland team manager Steve Clarke tends to have more muted emotional responses in public. PA Images/Alamy

“Should I shout and show 'passion', or stay quiet and appear 'calculated'? Will I echo the feeling of the fans or stay aligned with the views of the board? Am I a suit-and-tie manager or a tracksuit and boots coach?” These decisions may appear trivial, but the impression a football manager or coach makes on the stakeholders who monitor their performance can influence their credibility, effectiveness and job security.

Knowing how to “work your audience” has long been important for launching and sustaining a successful career in football management. Associated with a series of public theatrics, the job requires real-life actors to move between performative stages for different groups as they attempt to manage impressions up (such as in relations with board members), down (with players and support staff), and sideways (with fans and media).

As coaches and managers gear up for the UEFA European Championships, let's consider the impressions that each nation's manager might be trying to make, while also acknowledging the mental health dangers of coaches prioritising how they look over how they feel.

Coaches and managers as actors

Sociologist Erving Goffman's ideas of performativity suggest a tendency for people to engage in behaviours that others will judge favourably. This can be

understood using the metaphor of an actor adopting a character that fits a script in a given social context. The actor may not naturally align themselves with the projected qualities and traits of the character they are portraying, and how they act “off stage” could be entirely different. Yet, on stage, they conform to the persona that the audience desires.

Coaches operate in a very similar way. Studies on depression and alcoholism in sport coaching have revealed a great deal about this phenomenon in football. Research into the matter gives an example of an elite coach portraying a confident image to players and staff, despite experiencing turmoil off stage in his private life. Here, the coach was aware that putting on a professional front is desirable because becoming “discredited” would jeopardise job security and hinder project success.

Managers' use of language also gives away a lot about attempts to “perform” in their industry. In the absence of Wales manager Ryan Giggs, for example, assistant manager Robert Page has been tasked with steadying the ship through the Euros. When Page stepped up, Wales were in disarray, so using resilient phrases like “put your tin hat on, dig a trench, and rise to the challenge” in interviews may be intended as a rallying call to Welsh supporters in overcoming adversity.

Page is now regarded as a potential permanent replacement for Giggs, and has presented a demeanor of confidence when discussing big calls like squad selection and match preparations with the press. But hierarchy and loyalty matter in the workplace, which is reflected in Page's decision to also publicly thank Giggs for his ongoing offer of advice and support.

This juxtaposition between backing his own capacity to lead while respecting Giggs' authority is a delicate micro-political balance. Downplay his competence too much and Page risks portraying himself as a deferential assistant. Promote himself too much and Page risks being seen as disloyal. During the Euros, pay close attention to what Page communicates about his ambitions and how.

Dress to impress

Research has also shown that clothing has an impact on public perceptions of managers. This report on the clothing styles of French professional football managers identified three broad wardrobe choices managers tend to choose from to make impressions on their audiences. Some use the business suit to denote themselves as the professional “boss”. Others the “hands-on” tracksuit warrior look (think Page) and then there's the middle-ground, smart-casual “project

leader” appearance (think Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola).

Without suggesting that a manager's micro-political strategy can be pigeonholed into an all-encompassing dress profile, England manager Gareth Southgate's appearance fits loosely within the “boss” profile. This compliments his measured touchline behaviours and statesman-like media handlings.

Southgate recently revealed that while his “boss” look will continue at the Euros, his signature waistcoat won't because he now sees it as a “gimmick” that needs to be removed from his image. Ditching what has become a fancy dress accessory among fans may be a public statement of Southgate's seriousness to reach a final. Here he shows shrewd awareness of how his attire creates an impression.

Poker face

Scotland national team manager Steve Clarke is an example of a manager who rarely shows emotion. However, in the face of the fact that the Euros will be the first major tournament Scotland have taken part in since 1998, he recently expressed how emotional and proud he felt about the achievement in his post-match interviews, mirroring the nation's euphoria and consolidating his popularity as manager.

Clarke admits that his typical seriousness is a “professional face” he puts on to hide his nervousness, tension, and other “usual head coach emotions” from public view. Concealing vulnerable feelings is a common strategy among coaches, because as leaders they worry over appearing weak or incompetent to others. Clarke's case provides a lesson in exploiting opportune moments to make positive impressions, and highlights how managers and coaches can absorb stigmatising assumptions about what a leader should look like.

One certainty at the Euros is that managers will try to manipulate the impressions of others to further their own agendas. Unfortunately, the urge to “look” and “sound the part” may be a front for tumultuous experiences behind the scenes. So during the highs and lows of the championship, stakeholders in football should be aware of the person behind the performance and think twice before lambasting a manager. Meanwhile, other professionals could perhaps learn from these high-profile coaches, and consider what they can do to manage impressions in their own careers.

Mark James Carroll

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Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Achieving A High Vibration

All matter is made up of energy, and that energy is in motion continually. Everything in the universe, from the smallest molecules to the most complex living beings, has an optimal rate of vibration to keep it healthy. We reach this high vibrational level when we are whole, healthy, and fulfilling our potential.

Human beings are able to consciously control these vibrations within themselves using a variety of techniques. We know when we have reached a high vibrational state because we feel good and can sense that we are aligned with all that is. We find we are capable of healing and have good intuition and perception that are a result of our resonating closer and closer to our ideal frequencies.

Thoughts, emotions, intentions, choices, and actions contribute to our vibrational state, as do the environments we inhabit. Affirmative activities that leave us feeling joyous, appreciative, loving, and peaceful raise our vibration. Constructive, creative, and expansive thoughts do the same. When we cultivate habits that contribute to our physical health and strength, our vibration is likewise raised.

Certain mantra meditations, breathing exercises, and chants are designed to increase vibration. But simply practising gratitude and forgiveness, surrounding ourselves with loving high-vibration people, eating whole foods, and spending time in nature can also help us transcend our current vibrational limitations.

When your desire for change is strong enough, you will find yourself gravitating toward what can help you achieve and maintain a high vibrational state. A positive outlook will then become the most important tool you possess, and this outlook will sustain you when the path leading toward transformation is wide and winding.

As you evolve, your vibrational frequency will also evolve, aiding you in the creation of an even higher reality. Consciously and unconsciously, you will attract auspicious circumstances and positive people that will help you continue exploring the scope of your higher self until you move beyond the earthly plane.