

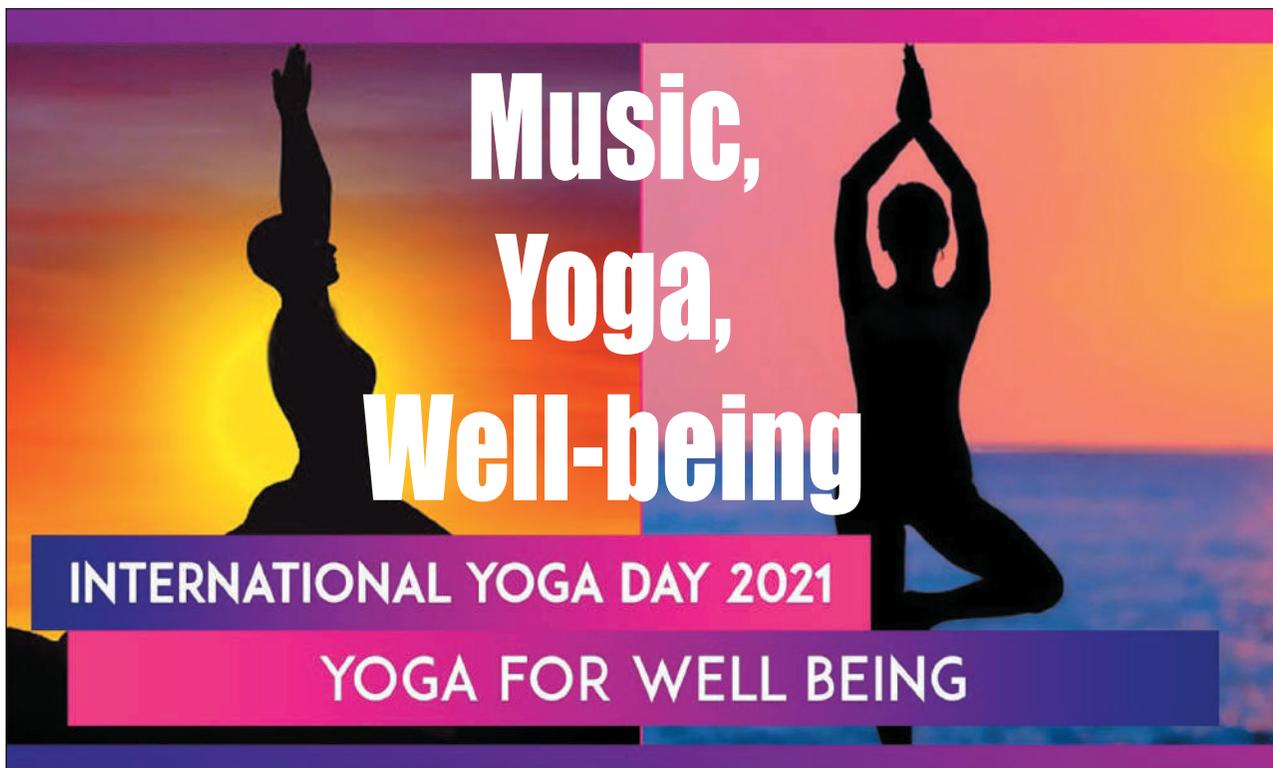
MAURITIUS TIMES

• "A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes." -- Mahatma Gandhi



STC-Betamax, CEB-IPPs/BWSC and Public Procurement Governance

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Music, Yoga, Well-being

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY 2021
YOGA FOR WELL BEING

Both music and yoga are about our well-being. How could they not be? For they take and connect us to the very depth of our being, of who we truly are, the subtle Self

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Sudhir Hazareesingh

“There is more to do in terms of creating

a society in which opportunities are equally available to all: we remain too stratified”



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The Budget's Proposals for Reform of the Judiciary

“Successive governments have simply jettisoned the Mackay Report.

Why? That remains a big mystery”



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Vaccination Blues

The virus originating from Wuhan, known as Covid-19, has been dogged with controversies since the very beginning of its explosive appearance on the world stage. The doubt about its origin – natural or a lab leak – is yet to be resolved. Almost inevitably, the issue of vaccination could not escape being trapped in this web of controversies, and along with the issue of origin, it is the one that now figures most prominently on the radar of everybody trying to either make sense of or is involved in the control of the epidemic.

Business, politics, ideology, religion form another explosive mix that is dogging the vaccine landscape, effectively impacting adversely efforts by national authorities across all countries to achieve levels of vaccination in their respective populations that would halt transmission. Initially 70% was considered to be the minimum segment of the population that needs to have had at least the two doses recommended to confer what is known as herd immunity, the phenomenon that would also protect the rest of the population.

Israel reached this threshold early on in the pandemic, and was able to lift restrictions which is maintained to date. But Seychelles which had vaccinated 75% of its population suddenly found itself subjected to a second surge. The question then shifted to the efficacy of the vaccine used, in this case Sinopharm. In fact, official data put Sinopharm's efficacy at 60%.

Other vaccines that have been produced and used – AstraZeneca-Covishield, Covaxin, Pfizer, Moderna, Sputnik, Johnson & Johnson have shown efficacies ranging from 80-90%. But then arose the basic problem of availability – quantities that needed to be manufactured, and fast – and affordability, along with issues of storage, supplies of paraphernalia required for administering vaccines (e.g. syringes) and logistics especially in the poorer countries.

Now another problem has surged and that is the variants, the Delta variant being considered the most widespread, and which is upsetting all calculations. Apparently available vaccines are effective against this variant, but it has come with a caveat: 70% herd immunity is not enough, now this has been revised upward to 90%. But when vaccines are slow in coming, how will countries that have no clout procure the amounts they need?

In the meantime, economies are suffering: open up and you enhance the risk of spread; maintain restrictions and the wheel of the economy cannot turn. Damn if you do, damn if you don't.

The reality is that unlike the established vaccines which have been in use for decades and form part of the universal immunization protocol, Covid vaccines are altogether new, and data about them are changing at relatively short notice. That, along with people's claim to their freedom to choose to be vaccinated or not, is posing a dilemma to all governments in democratic countries.

The solution to this is to hammer to the refuseniks their civic responsibility. Should they be asked to come forward, and register themselves formally if they have the courage of their conviction? And then be identified by a tag so that others can do the social distancing and reinforce the other protective measures vis-a-vis them? And penalties be made more severe for the refuseniks if they go about in public flouting the sanitary measures?

You can't have it both ways: I refuse vaccination, but I am free to put other citizens at risk. Each country has to devise its own strategies to deal with this issue. If vaccination cannot be made mandatory as in dictatorships, then the sanitary measures which are as critical a component of the prevention and control strategy must be strictly enforced at the cost of heavier penalties in the case of the refuseniks. The logic of public good must prevail.

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The Conversation

Covid: The three barriers that stop people being vaccinated

Psychologists have identified three potential barriers to vaccination: capability, opportunity and motivation.



Pic - Representational

Getting everyone in a country vaccinated is like watching software updates load: it whizzes along for the first 80% or so and then seems to take forever to finish the rest. Around 80% of the UK adult population has received at least one dose of the vaccine.

To fully vaccinate all adults is going to take a final big push. For it to be successful, those responsible for the vaccine rollout need to ensure that the public are sufficiently capable, have sufficient opportunity, and are sufficiently motivated to take the vaccine.

Capability is about having the knowledge and skills to take up the vaccine. For example, some people might not have had enough information to convince them that the vaccine is safe. They may not know when, where and how to get the vaccine. Or they may not be able to make plans to have the vaccine.

Opportunity is about having the necessary conditions to take up the vaccine. For example, someone might not have the encouragement or social support from family and friends. Or the vaccine might not be available in their region, so they don't have the opportunity to be immunised.

Motivation is about having the desire to have the vaccine. For example, some people might not believe the vaccine will protect

them from Covid-19, or they may not be able to overcome their fear of needles.

People differ in their capabilities, opportunities and motivations, so steps to increase vaccination uptake need to target the appropriate barrier. For example, it is not helpful to tell people about the positive outcomes of Covid -19 vaccination if the vaccination isn't available to them. It would be irresponsible to increase people's fear by telling them about the health risks of not vaccinating but not ensure they can easily get to the vaccination centres at a time that's convenient for them.

New guidance

Researchers in the UK recently reviewed the evidence about what works to encourage people to take up vaccinations in pandemics and epidemics. They found that the focus of previous interventions were mainly on changing capability (explaining why vaccines are safe and correcting misunderstandings) and motivation (telling people about the benefits of vaccination). There was little in the interventions that seemed to address opportunities.

Tracy Epton,
University of Manchester

* Cont. on page 11



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

If we go by the 24/7 noise that drowns the world and finds expression in all the forms of media that are available, we can easily sink into depression and despair. Unfortunately, this forms part of the realities of life that we have to battle with everyday, both at individual and collective levels, and we can be left bruised and battered if we do not equip ourselves both physically and mentally to cope with them.

Fortunately, that is not the whole story, for there are good things happening too that help us to find balance and steer through the storm of life.

It is therefore a nice coincidence that World Music Day and World Yoga Day are celebrated on the same day, June 21, because fundamentally both music and yoga are about our well-being. How could they not be? For they take and connect us to the very depth of our being, of who we truly are, the subtle Self – atman or soul.

Intuitively we know that we are something more than the perishable body, that mortal frame which having been born is by very definition limited in space and time and must come to an end. For we do say don't we, on somebody's passing, that s/he has gone – but who has gone? After all, the body is still there, it has not 'gone' anywhere isn't it?

Whether, therefore, it is through mere belief as in some systems of thought or through systematic enquiry into existence (as in Vedanta), we do come to a deeper understanding that there is some entity which lives on in another realm and is beyond time and space, is, in fact, timeless.

Both music and yoga have the potential to lead us towards that inner journey to that Self, a journey of calm, peace and love that transforms our lives. Yoga, like music, therefore is not merely about wellness, which concerns the body, but about well-being which is about the body, mind and the Self.

The body and the mind are directed towards the external world and have to deal with its hustle and bustle accordingly. Of course, they have to take in the shocks, but must come up again to face the next rounds. Like the willow tree, they may bend but must not break. How to do that? How to develop that resilience which allows the individual to bounce back every single day?

This is where music and yoga come in. They can help us to remain steady and stable, even as we face the whirlwinds. Here another analogy is useful: that of the spinning top, which remains spinning upright despite the speed, its axis remaining steady. The Self represents our axis, and both music and yoga by connecting us with it impart to us that steadiness and stability which help us to face whatever comes with equanimity. It's not that we will never falter, but the chances of being toppled over – like the spinning top – are reduced. We are better able to cope with everything that come in our way, both successes and failures.

Our exposure to music begins from the... beginning! After all, which mother does not sing to her baby? It starts with humming, which emanates from the bosom which the baby rests upon, and the sounds are therefore transmitted very directly and deeply to the baby. Humming later becomes lullabies, which in turn reinforce the impressions felt by the baby. No wonder, therefore, as we grow up we cannot help loving music, in whatever genre depending on context and culture. At its most primordial, we are bath-

Music, Yoga, Well-being

Both music and yoga are about our well-being. How could they not be? For they take and connect us to the very depth of our being, of who we truly are, the subtle Self



“The body and the mind are directed towards the external world and have to deal with its hustle and bustle accordingly. Of course, they have to take in the shocks, but must come up again to face the next rounds. Like the willow tree, they may bend but must not break. How to do that? How to develop that resilience which allows the individual to bounce back every single day? This is where music and yoga come in. They can help us to remain steady and stable, even as we face the whirlwinds...”

room singers if nothing else!

Those of my generation will remember the box type of radio of our childhood which used to be the only source of music that we could listen to. As regards playing an instrument, the only affordable one was the mouth organ or harmonica, which would be received as a new year gift. One type came from Czechoslovakia, and was the cheapest at Rs 3. The other one was of the 'Echo' make, made by Hohner of Germany. I received one, and it was my father who taught me how to play it. By the by I improved, and when I joined the Boy Scouts I used to take it along to play when we went camping. On the other hand, we learnt to sing the Boy Scout songs as well, the one that rings in my ears still is 'Marching through Georgia.'

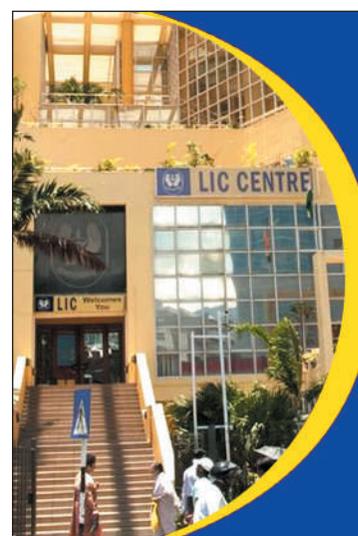
Our great richness in Mauritius is the variety of music that we are exposed to and that can enjoy, and that too from a very young age – Indian and Western, and African to supplement its local genre the national *séga*. In addition to the pop songs in both French and English by the legends of my teenage years such as Cliff Richard – recently listened to his latest rendering of *Summer Holiday* sent via Whataspp –, Elvis Presley, The Beatles, Françoise Hardy, Edith Piaf, Sylvie Vartan, Enrico Macias (a favourite) amongst so many others, there was an opportunity to learn about Western classical music too at the Royal College. In fact there was a Classical Music Society (of which I was secretary for some time) which was launched by the music teacher Mrs Brooks, who used to play the piano, and our

meetings used to be held in the newly constructed hall.

One of the most memorable sessions was that afternoon when she made us listen to Handel's Messiah. The proper atmosphere had to be created, by darkening the hall. This was done by pulling all the curtains, which were of black colour, so that not even a streak of light came through. She then put the record on the turntable of the bulky record player. Before placing the needle on the record, she told us that we must observe absolute silence during the whole session of nearly an hour.

It was an unforgettable experience, and years later in England, a relative offered me the set of two records of Handel's masterpiece. My two other favourite composers were Tchaikovsky and Strauss.

In England too, we bought another unforgettable titled... 'The Unforgettables,' ghazals of Jagjit and Chitra Singh. They, and the other Indian oldies will definitely accompany me through many more lifetimes till my *moksha*...



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Jan Arden

A full bench of the Privy Council, our final body of appeal, has ruled on the case filed by Betamax against the Supreme Court judgment this 14th of June 2021. The judgment, available online for every interested reader, has been ably commented upon both by political commentators, experienced editorialists and legal minds attuned to commercial law in an international context. We will not delve on the issue, which was aptly described in last week's editorial as 'A Multi-Billion Rupee Disaster', but cannot help but to flag some questions.

The 2015 Cabinet which included such experienced political and legal minds as Ivan Collendavelloo, Ravi Yerrigadoo (Attorney General), Anil Gayan, Etienne Sinatambou, Roshi Bhadain, Nando Bodha and Pravind Jugnauth, now PM, was led by SAJ who had a reputation for abiding with legal advice, protocol and procedures. Having furrowed the electoral campaign that the contract awarded by the STC to Betamax was tainted by pro-ximity of the company's CEO, Vickram Bhunjun, with the outgoing PM and was somehow a procedurally flawed or a tailor-made "jackpot", SAJ seemed nonetheless to have been fully conscious of the need to tread with legal caution.

At the first Alliance Lepep press conference of 10th January, as reported in *Le Mauricien*, he stated that *"les représentants des compagnies concernées ont été convoqués pour en discuter. Ces derniers ont accepté de renégocier le contrat. Les discussions commenceront mercredi prochain au ministère des Finances."* He added further to press questions that *"le gouvernement n'avait pas révoqué le contrat car voulant procéder 'de manière civilisée'"* or that choice of *"dossiers qui feraient l'objet d'enquêtes sera fait avec discernement afin de ne pas avoir à payer des dommages considérables, mettant ainsi l'économie en difficulté."*

The *"maniere civilisée"* SAJ claimed could not have been simply about moral and ethical considerations as nobody in government could ignore the importance of "permanence de l'Etat" in respecting contractual obligations, particularly those with clear international dimensions, while finding legally respectful avenues of course correction or conciliation. Both common and legal sense indicate that there are three alternatives open to an incoming government, unsatisfied with any major contract entered into by an outgoing government: (a) renegotiate terms that are deemed unfavourable or incompatible with new policies, it is the least costly option for the public purse; (b) terminate the agreement with adequate compensation for the investments made and projected earnings; every contract of such magnitude would undoubtedly contain such a termination clause and most probably would have been vetted by our able SLO; in the case of Betamax the negotia-

STC-Betamax, CEB-IPPs/BWSC and Public Procurement Governance

We have to look anew at the safe, accountable and transparent procedures when long-term contractual obligations can tie the hands of future governments and the Mauritian population



“We have to look anew at the safe, accountable and transparent procedures when long-term contractual obligations can tie the hands of future governments and the Mauritian population. From the CEB-IPP contracts to the ongoing Safe City project, at some Rs 19 bn spread over 17 years, they are enough cases in point for our best brains to ponder. A thorough review of our blanket emergency procedures that have given rise to cringe worthy deviations during the Covid-19 pandemic, is equally warranted. As is a strengthening of the Audit's powers and a more general reconsideration of the perception of immunity of the politico-administrative nexus taking major decisions on our behalf...”

ted compensation according to the press might have amounted to some Rs 1.5 bn with the STC inheriting the Red Eagle, a Rs 700-800 m worth ship; (c) the last alternative verges on a rogue state, through the termination of a *bona fide* international contract without compensation on charges of *malfaisance*, often mere political lipstick on a pig as the saying goes.

SAJ had obviously chosen the wisest course and it is common knowledge that the SLO and other expert legal advice favoured the second option only if negotiations were refused or broke down. There is concrete evidence that the Betamax CEO offered to review jointly with government those contractual clauses the latter felt uncomfortable with. There was therefore clearly no reason to forego the first two options.

So the questions remain about the mystifying events that would lead to that incomprehensibly disastrous decision by SAJ's Cabinet on 30th January 2015 to unilaterally terminate the Betamax-STC contract, a decision for which the population is ultimately called upon to pay the heavy price of near Rs 6 bn in the midst of a tottering economy and severely handicapped personal finances for the majority of us. That's ble-

eding every family on the island by some Rs 30,000.

Judgment at SIAC

The authorities here knew full well that Betamax was a joint venture with a Singapore firm (15% we gather) bringing the expertise for maritime transport and ship handling between Mangalore Refinery and Mauritius. Had the authorities sufficiently weighed in this triangular international aspect that would almost inevitably lead a unilateral contractual termination to an International Arbitration as per the contractual provisions?

The authorities were also fully cognizant that Mauritius was vying since 2011 through the London Chamber of Commerce-Mauritius International Arbitration Centre (LCC-MIAC) agreement to position itself as an international arbitration centre, giving birth in 2018 to the MIAC, with its autonomous rules, regulations and procedures adopted from world best practices. A 2018 MIAC Article lifted from those international rules states clearly that "all awards shall be made in writing and shall be final and binding on the parties. The parties shall carry out all awards without delay."

Even if the STC, hard-pressed by the January 30th Cabinet decision, could remotely give judicial credence to some of government's allegations, there was no certainty in an International Arbitration Court, in India, Singapore (or even at the LCC) that international contractual commercial obligations would be easily superseded or swept aside by local politico-economic reasoning.

Through government's rash decision, the STC was thus fully landed in scalding water at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre where, despite its weighty legal team, it could not defend its case that the contract was either illegal, tainted by allegations of *malfaisance* or contrary to public policies that could justify government's rash termination. The STC was accordingly condemned on 5 June 2017 to pay damages and legal costs that amounted to some Rs 4.7 bn payable from STC and the public purse. That award, as with our own MIAC, was binding and final and could not be appealed or re-litigated on matters of law or evidences produced, except for a very restricted public policy/order proviso.

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The Budget's Proposals for Reform of the Judiciary

“Successive governments have simply jettisoned the Mackay Report. Why? That remains a big mystery”

- *'Delay in the determination of cases is endemic in our system... By the time the election petitions are finally determined the next elections will at our door'*

In 1998 Lord Mackay chaired a commission to reform the judicial system and legal profession of Mauritius. Various recommendations were made, and they were subsequently reviewed in 2006. Besides comments in the press by various stakeholders, the Law Commission also brought out an Opinion Paper on the recommendations of the 1998 Mackay Report (and its updated version), as well as the relevant parts of the 2002 Sachs Report on reform of the structure and functioning of the judiciary and other related issues. More recently, Budget Speech 2021-2022 announced that the Courts Act and relevant legislations will be amended, after consultation with the Hon Chief Justice, to introduce time limits for judgements and rules on adjournments. Modern case management techniques will also be implemented, and the court management systems upgraded. Modernising the way in which justice works is a complex matter, and it may take more than a few paragraphs in the Budget to introduce deep and broad reform...

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* Mention is made in the Budget Speech 2021-2022 at para 89 that the Courts Act and relevant legislations will be amended, after consultation with the Hon Chief Justice, to introduce time limits for judgements and rules on adjournments. In the same vein, modern case management techniques will be implemented, and the court management systems upgraded. There must be more that need to be reformed as regards our justice system and the judiciary's workings, but is it the way to go about it?

What reforms are we talking about? To modernize we need trained people who are efficient and who can deliver. It is not only logistics that need to be reformed. There must be a change of attitude on the part of members of the legal profession in not delaying the hearing of cases by stretching the time that it takes to hear and determine cases or by moving for regular postponements. Each time a case comes to court, all sorts of technical points are raised in order to delay the hearing and final determination.

A recent classic example concerns the electoral petitions where the elected members whose elections are being challenged raise all kinds of objections through their lawyers. Many of them are ultimately rejected, but the harm is done as the cases have been beset by more delays.

* In the UK, the practice is to establish an independent law reform body, which is considered to be one of the most effective ways to bring about legal change or to improve the law. It is up to the British Parliament to implement any changes via legislation and at the moment about two thirds of recommendations have been implemented. Would that be the best way forward?

There should be regular consultations between the judiciary, the legal profession, the Attorney General and other stakeholders on how best to improve the system. We have a Law Reform Commission but to what extent its recommendations are implemented remains to be seen. The Chief Justice and the judges should also play an active role by suggesting proposals to the government through the Attorney General.

* We had the Presidential Commission, chaired by Lord Mackay, to examine and report on the structure and operation of the judicial system and legal profession of Mauritius. Its report was made public in 1997,



“By the time the election petitions are finally determined the next elections will at our door. There is a perception that this is being done deliberately in order to allow the government to carry on. This may be a wrong perception, but can the people be blamed? Why can't there be a fast track procedure to hear these petitions?”

but it does not seem that much has been achieved in terms of deep and broad reform. Would that be due to resistance to change?

One gets the impression that successive governments have simply jettisoned the report that contains a number of valuable suggestions. Why? That remains a big mystery.

* Lord Mackay had recommended the setting up of a Court of Appeal Section of the Supreme Court, but former Attorney General Y. Varma had mentioned in a press article in July 2018 that, at some point, resistance was shown against the reform on the basis of the argument that judges will lose their acquired right to hear appeals. He also added that, in his view, that objection did not hold water. What is wrong with having a separate court of appeal?

There is nothing wrong with setting up a court of appeal. At present judges indulge in a musical chair. One judge may sit on appeal of a colleague's judgment. The next day the judgment of the appellate judge who heard a matter at first instance goes before the judge on whose appeal he sat. This is simply unhealthy. The right to hear appeals is not an acquired right. This is pure nonsense. After all the judges

sitting at first instance will always have an opportunity to move to the court of appeal when a vacancy occurs.

* How are appeals being heard presently at the level of the judiciary?

A civil appeal from the Supreme Court judgment is heard by two judges. In case of disagreement, a third judge is brought in. Appeals from a criminal case heard by a judge are heard by a bench of three judges sitting at the Court of Criminal Appeal.

Appeals from the District and Intermediate Court are heard by two judges. In case of dissent, a third judge is brought in. If we had a court of appeal, all appeals should have been heard by three judges.

* Is it right that almost 30 years since Mauritius became a Republic we are still bound by strict English procedures when it comes to contesting decisions of a public body or of the Government?

This is an anomaly. Many of the English procedures were enacted bearing in mind the immunity of the Crown and all issues relating to the prerogatives of the Crown. There have been changes brought by legislation in the United Kingdom. Here, we follow the English procedures forgetting that we are now a Republic. It is high time that we adapt those rules to our own context without being hindered by all the shackles of the prerogatives of the British system. We tend to follow blindly these administrative procedures, and this is unfair.

* It also appears that procedures involved when it comes to challenging the constitutionality of a piece of legislation are quite cumbersome. Is that indeed the case?

Yes. There is no constitutional court as such. A law can stay on the statute book though it is deemed unconstitutional until it challenged following court proceedings. Section 46 of the ICTA has remained on the statute book and many have been prosecuted thereunder until part of it was struck down by the Supreme Court. Is that consonant with a country that boasts of its respect for the rule of law?

* The legal maxim “justice delayed is justice denied” has been oft repeated in different quarters, and several past Chief Justices have sought to remedy this situation - with little success however. Does this suggest that the matter can only be improved through appropriate legislations?

Delay in the determination of cases is endemic in our system. Serious thought must be given to that. The Privy Council has drawn the attention of the authorities regarding this matter.

* Cont. on page 18



A 2.83-meter original replica of the Statue of Liberty is seen in front of the Musee des Arts et Metiers in Paris before it departs for Ellis Island in New York. Pic - Reuters

A second 'Statue of Liberty' is on its way to US, courtesy of France

France is sending what it calls the "little sister" of the famous Statue of Liberty in New York, which the country once sent as a gift to the United States. The new statue, being loaned by a Paris museum to cement Franco-American friendship, will be a scaled-down replica of the original and will first be displayed on Ellis Island, later moving on to Washinton DC, where it will stay for ten years, reported news agency Reuters earlier last week.

The 'second' Statue of Liberty, as it is being called, is currently on its way from Paris to New York City, retracing the steps of its "big sister", a colossal neoclassical sculpture that now stands guard on Liberty Island in New York Harbor, within the New York City. The new statue is expected to arrive ahead of the Fourth of July, Independence Day in the United States.

The new replica of the Statue of Liberty measures 2.83 meters (or 9.3 feet) in height. It was gently lifted off its plinth on the back of a crane by workers in Paris two weeks ago and situated on the back of a truck, covered with plastic film for protection and wedged in with foam blocks. It was then embarked upon a ship, its destination being the United States of America.

The replica was designed in 1878 by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, the same person who - with help from engineer Gustave Eiffel - created the larger version now in New York. The larger version of the Statue of Liberty was given by France to the United States as a gift, and was completed and assembled in 1886.

Dubai eases travel curbs for fully vaccinated Indian travellers

Authorities in Dubai have eased travel restrictions for its residents from certain countries, if they have received two doses of a UAE-approved Covid-19 vaccine, according to a media report.

The Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management in Dubai, headed by Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, announced updates to Dubai's travel protocols for inbound passengers from South Africa, Nigeria and India, effective from June 23, the Gulf News reported.

With regard to travel from India, only passengers with a valid residence visa who have received two doses of a UAE-approved vaccine, are allowed to travel to Dubai. There are four



A view of the Burj Al Arab hotel and Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, June 9, 2021. Pic - images.khaleejtimes.com

vaccines approved by the UAE government — Sinopharm, Pfizer-BioNTech, Sputnik V and Oxford-AstraZeneca, the report added.

However, from South Africa and Nigeria, non-residence passengers are also allowed to travel subject to the vaccination and PCR test conditions.

A negative test certificate from a PCR test taken 48 hours before departure is required, the report said.

The UAE nationals are exempted from this requirement. Only QR-coded negative PCR test certificates are accepted, it said.

Times Square celebrates International Yoga Day with over 3000 yogis

The seventh International Yoga Day was celebrated at the iconic Times Square in New York on Sunday. The day-long yoga festival with the theme of 'Solstice in Times Square 2021' was attended by more than 3000 people where yogis, with their yoga mats and flexible bodies, filled Times Square to mark the start of summer, reports ANI.

Consulate General of India, New York partnered with the Times Square Alliance to host the Yoga celebrations under the theme 'Solstice for Times Square 2021'.

"As we celebrate yoga at the iconic Times

Square - at the crossroads of the world, let us remind ourselves of the truly global embrace of yoga. Yoga was born in India but is part of global heritage today. Yoga is about health, well-being and about living in harmony with nature. Yoga is a way of life and we must try to practice it in its entirety, for a peaceful society and for a greener planet," Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General told ANI.

"It was an incredible experience leading yoga, pranayama and meditation at Times Square NYC. Seeing thousands of yogis experience stillness amidst the chaos of the city that never stops," said Ruchika Lal who participated in the event.

Biden admin sees North Korea's Kim Jong Un comments as 'interesting signal'

The United States on Sunday said that it regards North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's "dialogue and confrontation" remark as an "interesting signal" but would wait for direct communication from Pyongyang for any potential talks.

"His comments this week we regard as an interesting signal and we will wait to see whether they are followed up with any kind of more direct communication to us about a potential path forward," US national security adviser Jake Sullivan told ABC News.

North Korea's state media reported on Friday that Kim ordered his government to prepare for both "dialogue and confrontation" with Washington, in his first reaction

to the Biden administration's new policy for Pyongyang. Kim also stressed the need to get "fully prepared for confrontation" to guarantee the "peaceful environment" and security of North Korea.

"What President Biden has communicated is that the United States is prepared to engage in principled negotiations with North Korea to deal with the challenge of North Korea's nuclear program towards the ultimate objective of the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," Sullivan said in the interview.

Last month, US President Joe Biden rejected his predecessor's approach to North Korea and its nuclear program, saying he would not give Kim Jong Un any "international recognition". Former US



North Korea's Kim Jong Un ordered his government to prepare for both "dialogue and confrontation" with the US under Biden administration. S-- i.insider.com

president Donald Trump met the North Korean leader in June 2018 during the Singapore summit but no mutually acceptable term for nuclear negotiations have been achieved so far.

"If he made any commitment, then I would meet with him," said Biden during a joint press conference with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

"But what I would not do is..what had been done in the recent past. I would not give him all that he's looking for - international recognition...and give [North Korea] what allowed [Kim Jong Un] to move in the direction of appearing to be more... serious about what he wasn't at all serious about," he added.

Cont. on page 7

Imran Khan on Uighur genocide: 'China one of the greatest friends'

In a recent interview with a journalist, Imran Khan was questioned on why he was silent on the atrocities on Uighur Muslims in China while being vocal about Islamophobia in the West. To which, Khan answered saying that "he is more concerned about what is happening at the border of his country." The Pakistani PM also said that he has been speaking about this with the Chinese people "behind the closed doors;" and as long as he has been informed, "this is not the case, according to the Chinese people."

The journalist, Jonathan Swan of Axio, asked why he felt a need to write a public letter about "Islamophobia" in the West? "It happened after the 9/11 attack when the word Islam terrorism came into existence," Khan said, reports Hindustan Times.

The journalist then asked Khan about the atrocities of Uighur which is happening just "across his border" and he is so outspoken about islamophobia in Europe and the United States and silent on the treatment of Muslims in western China?

"What our conversations have been with Chinese, this is not the case," Khan said in response. "Whatever issues we have with Chinese, we speak to them behind closed doors. China has been one of the greatest friends to us in our most difficult times. China came to the rescue when our economy was struggling," he also said.

Khan went on to say that he doesn't comment on what's going on in other countries because he's more concerned with what's going on in his own nation. "I look



Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. Pic - AFP

around the world, what is happening in Palestine and Syria, Somalia, Afghanistan. Am I going to start talking about everything? I concentrate on what is happening on my border in my country," he said.

Earlier this year in March, in rare US bipartisan agreement, the top diplomats of the former administration of Donald Trump and the new one of Joe Biden called China's treatment of the Uighurs 'genocide' in line with a stance of Canadian and Dutch parliaments.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government has denied the allegations and said that "some anti-China forces ignore facts and truth and wantonly fabricate all kinds of Xinjiang-related lies." "People of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, including Xinjiang women, live and work in peace and contentment," the Chinese foreign ministry said in March as allegations of human rights violations in Xinjiang mounted.



Unidentified stones that lured thousands of fortune seekers to a rural South African village to mine the land. Pic - assets2.rappler.com

South African 'diamond rush' unearths only quartz crystals, officials say

Unidentified stones that lured thousands of fortune seekers to a rural South African village to mine the land with picks and shovels were not diamonds as hoped, officials said on Sunday, but quartz stones with relatively low, if any, value.

People from across South Africa travelled to KwaHlathi in the country's eastern KwaZulu-Natal province where villagers had been digging since June 12 after a herder discovered the first stone in an open field and put out the word, reports Reuters.

Provincial executive council member for economic development and tourism, Ravi Pillay, told a media briefing on Sunday he had counted some 3000 there during a visit to the site, where samples were taken to identify the stones.

"The tests conducted conclusively revealed that the stones discovered in the area are not diamonds as some had hoped," he said, adding they were in fact quartz crystals.

"The value, if any, of the quartz crystals is yet to be established but it must be mentioned that the value of quartz crystals is very low compared to that of diamonds."

Singapore latest to cast doubt over Chinese Sinovac efficacy

Singapore top health officials are the latest to cast doubt on the efficacy of vaccines manufactured by the Chinese company Sinovac, even as the island city-state started administering the shots on Friday, according to the New York Times. Citing cases of Indonesia, Kenneth Mak, Singapore's director of medical services, said that he was worried about reports of people vaccinated with Sinovac getting sick with coronavirus disease, reported NYT.

"It does give the impression that the efficacy of different vaccines will vary quite significantly," Times quoted Mak as saying.

Last month, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued an interim recommendation for use

of the Sinovac-CoronaVac vaccine for inoculation against coronavirus disease (Covid-19). Phase 3 trials of Sinovac-CoronaVac around the world have reported the effectiveness of vaccine between 50 and 84 per cent.

However, Indonesian officials earlier this week revealed that more than 350 doctors and medical workers have been infected and dozens hospitalised despite being vaccinated with Sinovac, raising concerns about the vaccine against more infectious variants.

While most of the workers were asymptomatic, dozens were hospitalised with high fevers and falling oxygen-saturation levels, according to a senior health official in central Java.



Singapore has included only Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in its national vaccination program but allowed private health clinics to administer Sinovac. Pic - images.hindustantimes.com

Indonesian healthcare workers were among the first to be inoculated against the virus when the vaccination started in the country in January.

Singapore has included vaccines manufactured only by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna in its national vaccination program but allowed 24 private health clinics to administer Sinovac following authorisation by the WHO. Despite the availability of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, with 90% effectiveness in preventing infection, many in Singapore would choose to get Sinovac because they are either from mainland China or plan to travel there, according to Times.

Sudhir Hazareesingh:

‘The Haitian revolution is now seen as an event at least equal in magnitude to the French and American revolutions.

I think it is even more important than those two’



On June 9, 2021, Sudhir Hazareesingh won the Wolfson History Prize 2021 for his book 'Black Spartacus: The Epic Life of Toussaint Louverture', a 'gripping account' of the Haitian Revolutionary leader. The Wolfson History Prize is the UK's top history award which is given annually by the Wolfson Foundation to the best historical writing for the general audience "reflecting qualities of both readability and excellence in writing and research". David Cannadine, Chair of the Wolfson History Prize Judging Panel, said, "'Black Spartacus' vividly re-creates the extraordinary career of the leader and hero of the Haitian revolution, which reverberated far beyond that island and far beyond the Caribbean. This is an erudite and elegant biography with a message that resonates strongly in our own time."

Sudhir Hazareesingh has been a fellow and Tutor in Politics at Balliol College, Oxford, since 1990. Most of his work relates to modern political history from 1850, including the history of contemporary France as well as Napoleon, the Republic and Charles de Gaulle. In today's 'Encounter', he talks about his interest in "the intersection of revolutionary politics and charismatic leadership", the significance of the Haitian revolution, which is now seen as "an event at least equal in magnitude to the French and American revolutions" but which is in his view "even more important than those two" as well as about the "similarities between the Louverturean path towards self-determination and the road followed by my father's generation of Mauritian nation-builders - working together across ethnic groups, building bridges rather than walls..."

*** Your fascination with great figures that have shaped history continues with your latest publication. You have written about de Gaulle, Gambetta and Napoleon. How did the idea of writing about Toussaint Louverture come about?**

I have always been interested in the intersection of revolutionary politics and charismatic leadership: how the two phenomena are connected, and feed upon each other. I had not done any research on French colonial history and so when I started to explore this field it became obvious that Toussaint Louverture should be my subject, as he is a revolutionary leader par excellence.

*** Critics have lauded the extensive research carried out for your book. Toussaint Louverture was known to be a prolific writer and has bequeathed considerable material that constitutes a trove for biographers. Do tell us more about the research process and the most unexpected findings on him.**

It was excellent but somewhat daunting to find so much material in the archives on Toussaint, especially as it was dispersed across so many different locations - mostly in France (in Paris, Aix-en-Provence, and Bordeaux) but also in Britain, Spain, and the United States. He was a voluminous letter-writer (at the height of his power he would dictate several hundred missives a day) but this material is even more scattered. So it was a real challenge pulling all of it together.

I think the most remarkable finding from the archives is how methodical a thinker and political strategist he was: everything he did, whether it was in the administrative, military, or diplomatic fields, was carefully reasoned and worked through. My other main finding (and this is something historians have not sufficiently appreciated) is that he was a superbly creative leader, drawing on the thinking and practices of others but always looking for solutions of his own, and which were appropriate for the particular circumstances of late colonial

Saint-Domingue.

*** Louverture's progress from slave to father of the nation constitutes a singular story. Your book, which hails him as "the first black superhero of the modern age", differs from other biographies in that it lays emphasis on the myriad of influences that made him the towering figure that he was, and the importance of faith and the African culture in making him who he was. Could you tell us more about the complexity of the one you describe as the incarnation of a 'republcanisme creolisé'?**

Toussaint was a voracious learner, absorbing intellectual and cultural influences from far and wide: in the religious, scientific and military traditions of his ancestral Allada people (Toussaint's father had been a senior official in the kingdom); in the varied belief systems of 18th century Saint-Domingue, including Catholicism, the spiritual ideals of the native American Taino people, resistance ideologies of runaways, and the *vodou* religion; and in radical Enlightenment ideas about emancipation and equality. All of these ideas and values were interacting in his mind in 1791, like a tropical symphony, when he joined the insurrection of the enslaved.

*** You state that the success of the Haitian insurrection compared to that of other colonies in the Atlantic world can be attributed to the strength in numbers of the revolutionaries, Toussaint's leadership but also to the slaves' knowledge of military strategy. On the latter, you describe a hybrid of European techniques of war and 'guerilla' tactics. Which of these had the most telling influence on the outcome?**

I think they combined perfectly. I have a chapter in which I analyse Toussaint's military art and he put together from scratch - early on his fighters literally had no clothing and hardly any weapons -- a formidable fighting force. He knew perfectly how to use classical European military techniques, while also making the best of the topography of Saint-Domingue, where the inland territories are rugged and often very mountainous (the native American popula-

tion of the island called it 'Ayiti', which means land of mountains, and this is the origin of the name Haiti). This sort of landscape is very propitious for guerilla war, and Toussaint and his army exploited these opportunities to the full in their successful wars against the Spaniards, the British, and finally the French.

*** One of the influences on Toussaint Louverture is François Makandal, a maroon leader with a solid knowledge of voodoo practices that adopted a more radical approach in his fight and privileged the killing of slave-owners through guerrilla techniques such as the adding of poison to their meals. Toussaint opted for a more peaceful path to liberation. What explains this more measured approach?**

I would not necessarily call Toussaint's way "peaceful": he believed in using force as and when necessary (which is why he supported the slave insurrection of 1791, which kicks off the Haitian revolution), but he generally preferred to try and build bridges with people, including with the white settlers whom Makandal wanted to eliminate, and the British and the Americans with whom he wanted to trade so as not to become completely dependent on the French; one of his mottos was "doucement allé loin".

The fundamental difference with Makandal was that Toussaint's path to liberation followed what I would call an insider strategy - he always tried to work within existing institutions, and try to create something new while building up a position of strength. This is how he worked together with the slave elite on the plantations to help plan the 1791 insurrection (he was never tempted by marronage). Likewise, he also moved Saint-Domingue progressively towards autonomy and self-determination in the 1790s while also trying to stay within the French system. He did not want independence, at least in the short run.

*** The outcome of the battle of Vertières in November 1803, which saw the triumph of freedom-fighters over colonizers, is attributed to Toussaint Louverture who had already passed away in a French prison in April of that year. Do you subscribe to the view that the success of the liberators is the result of Toussaint's influence?**

Toussaint was arrested and deported in mid-1802 but by that point he had put into place the strategy which would eventually defeat the French: unifying the popular resistance under a central military command, adopting a scorched earth policy so that the invaders would struggle with supplies, harassing enemy lines constantly but retreating to the hinterland whenever necessary. Toussaint knew that the rainy season would bring diseases (notably yellow fever) which would decimate the invading forces. This is exactly what had happened to the British invaders in the 1790s. Above all, Toussaint had prepared his people to believe in themselves, and to fight back against anyone who came to enslave them: when he would review his troops he would raise his rifle and shout out "this is our strength!".

*** Contd on page 9**

*Contd from page 8

* The Haitian revolution and the birth of the first black independent state has been subject to what you term as 'erasure', whereby this chapter of history has been 'removed from sight'. How tough is it for historians to counter the imperialist-framing of such historical occurrences?

It is somewhat easier now that there are more people of colour (and from the Global South) who produce history, and that historians in the West are more aware of the seminal impact of the Haitian revolution, which is now seen as an event at least equal in magnitude to the French and American revolutions (I think it is even more important than those two). But there is still a tendency to treat these sorts of revolutionary events as marginal or peripheral, partly because doing otherwise threatens dominant narratives which Western countries have embraced for generations.

The French, for example, see their 1789 revolution as a glorious historical episode, which paved the way for the liberation of humankind: in fact, the events in Saint-Domingue throughout the 1790s show that it was Toussaint Louverture and his people who were leading this struggle for human emancipation, and of course the French under Napoleon went on to restore slavery in 1802, later building a colonial empire which treated black and coloured people as subjects, not full citizens.

The French are still struggling to come to terms with this imperialist legacy, as was shown recently by President Macron's embarrassingly enthusiastic official celebration of the bicentenary of Napoleon's death.

* **Your father Dr Kissoonsingh Hazareesingh was also a historian in his own right. Was he a great influence on your thinking, on your reading of history and on your worldview?**

I think (and hope!) I have very much followed in his footsteps: "Haza", as he used to be affectionately called, was a citizen of the world, very comfortable with and proud of his Indian roots, and also passionate about British and French culture (he studied at Cambridge and then the Sorbonne).

I grew up hearing about his exciting travels, and exchanges with people like Senghor and Malraux, and surrounded by all the wonderful books he had collected over the years-- his interests were all at once literary, historical and political, and he did not see any meaningful difference among these three intellectual spheres. I spent my entire adolescence in our library upstairs in the family home in Phoenix and so I can say without doubt that he was a decisive influence on who I am and have become.

* **Would you say that being Mauritian helped you get a better understanding of the Haitian story and generally on slavery?**

There are many ways in which my

'The French are still struggling to come to terms with their imperialist legacy, as was shown recently by President Macron's embarrassingly enthusiastic official celebration of the bicentenary of Napoleon's death'



“We are a young nation and there is more to do in terms of creating a society in which opportunities are equally available to all: we remain too stratified. There is also further work to accomplish in creating a genuine Mauritian identity, which amounts to more than the sum of our different parts. I think we will get there and this sentiment is already much more widespread among the younger generations, and can also be admired in Mauritian literature, poetry and painting (art deals naturally with the universal)...”

Mauritian roots proved immensely helpful. The Ile de France (as Mauritius was then known) and colonial Saint-Domingue had a lot in common: both were ruled by the French as plantation societies based on slavery, and experienced a lot of resistance activities and marronage. When I was growing up in Mauritius, I used to hear stories about slave revolts led by charismatic leaders such as Diamamouve, Tatamaka, and Madame François - at the time of course I knew nothing about Haiti and its glorious history; it did not feature in the school history curriculum.

Kreyol is spoken in Saint-Domingue/Haiti, and I could appreciate from my Mauritian experience (the two kreyols have some commonalities) all the marvelous opportunities this kind of language, with its creativity, wit and playfulness, and colourful imagery, would give someone like Toussaint in developing his leadership skills and independent line of thinking.

I am also very struck by the similarities between the Louverturean path towards self-determination and the road followed by my father's generation of Mauritian nation-builders - working together across ethnic groups, building bridges rather than walls, promoting toleration and forgiveness rather than conflict, and effectively sharing power among groups and institutions rather than concentrating it all narrowly in a few hands.

* **What are your views, as a**

historian, on the ongoing decolonisation process in Mauritius? Where have we reached and what is yet to be done?

Mauritius has much to be proud of: it has built a strong multi-cultural democracy, where citizens are treated equally in political terms, and where all religions are respected. We have remained on good terms with the British and the French (more so with the latter than the former, and quite rightly given the ongoing disgraceful British behaviour over the Chagos islands; colonialism never dies in some quarters).

We have maintained our cultural heritages with Europe, Africa and Asia, and been fortunate in having some very effective leaders since Independence, the two most outstanding being Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and Sir Anerood Jugnauth, who has just left us (more proof, were it need, that leadership

can make a big difference in politics).

At the same time, we are a young nation and there is more to do in terms of creating a society in which opportunities are equally available to all: we remain too stratified. There is also further work to accomplish in creating a genuine Mauritian identity, which amounts to more than the sum of our different parts. I think we will get there and this sentiment is already much more widespread among the younger generations, and can also be admired in Mauritian literature, poetry and painting (art deals naturally with the universal).

It was also very heartening to see the robust collective reaction across the island to the Wakashio disaster: it brought home how fragile our environment is, and that we must do our best to nurture and protect it.

* **There must be other fascinating historical stories about events and towering personalities to tell when you look towards the East. Have you given some thought to that?**

I have indeed, and one of the fascinating characters I would love to find out more about is Ho Chi Minh, who led his people to freedom after fighting off the French and the Americans. His story also shows the universality of the Haitian revolution: the African-American artist Paul Robeson called Ho Chi Minh "the Toussaint Louverture of Vietnam".

“The French see their 1789 revolution as a glorious historical episode, which paved the way for the liberation of humankind: in fact, the events in Saint-Domingue throughout the 1790s show that it was Toussaint Louverture and his people who were leading this struggle for human emancipation, and of course the French under Napoleon went on to restore slavery in 1802, later building a colonial empire which treated black and coloured people as subjects, not full citizens. The French are still struggling to come to terms with this imperialist legacy...”

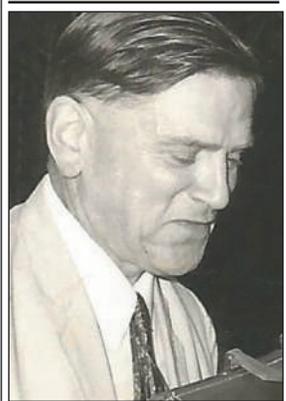
From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4th Year No 165

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 4 October 1957

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



Peter Ibbotson

47.5 in Mauritius ('Report of the Committee on Population', page 6).

Barbados has for years been much more highly developed, politically and constitutionally, than Mauritius. It has for example, Cabinet government. Like Mauritius, however, it has employment problems. Its government has

Topics of The Times

Assisted Emigration?

Barbados, in the West Indies, has much in common with Mauritius. It is a small, densely-populated island, dependent on sugar. It has a mixed population. Its birth rate is, however, only two-thirds that of Mauritius, being (in 1951) 30.7 per 1,000 as against

notified to the Barbados government by the British Transport Commission and by the British Hotels and Restaurants Association (on behalf of its member-employers). Workers who are selected for the vacancies are given a loan of £65 for their fare to the UK (£65 is Rs867). The loan is free of interest but repayments must be started after six weeks in the UK and are at the rate of 15 shillings (Rs10) per week. It thus takes 87 weeks, or nearly two years, to repay the loan.

Says *The Times Review*, the catering trade "suffering as it does from a chronic shortage of labour, offers a secure and modest livelihood, a firm foothold in the United Kingdom". Perhaps the Mauritius government could make arrangements with the British catering trade similar to the arrangements made by the Barbados government? The catering trade is short of workers: and the British Hotels

entitled 'World Illiteracy at Mid-century: A Statistical Study'.

The occurrence of illiteracy in many countries is presented statistically; and the incidence of illiteracy in a number of countries (Mauritius is one) is analysed in more detail.

In 1952, it appears, there were in Mauritius 300,256 persons aged 15 or over of whom 48.2% were illiterate. The criterion of illiteracy was the ability to read; and the figures do not include the dependencies of Mauritius. At mid-century, i.e. at the census nearest 1950, the rate of illiteracy in Madagascar was between 65 and 70%; in the Seychelles it was 60 to 65%; and in Reunion, again 60 to 65%. Mauritius thus compares favourably with the other Indian Ocean islands; but this favourable comparison is nothing to be complacent about. Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad - to select but four small British colonial territories - all had rates of illiteracy well below the level in Mauritius. In Jamaica, the rate was 25 to 30%; in British Guiana and Trinidad between 20 to 25%; and in Barbados, which is so like Mauritius socially and economically and demographically, it was as low as 5 to 10%. All these rates of illiteracy are percentages of the population aged 15 or over. (As a digression, we may contrast the illiteracy among the Algerians and the French *colons* in Algeria. For the former, the rate is 93.8% illiterate; for the *colons*, only 8.2% illiterate).

Examining the 1952 census in some detail, and examining the illiteracy figures contained therein, the UNESCO monograph shows that male illiteracy is less frequent than female illiteracy in Mauritius (excluding dependencies). Whereas 36.3% of males were illiterate, no less than 60.2% of females were unable to read. (Ability to read is the criterion of illiteracy.) Illiteracy was highest among the Indo-Mauritians, at 41.2% for males and 77% for females. Among the General Population it was 29.1% for males and 32.2% for females; and the lowest illiteracy rates were among the Sino-Mauritians: males 8.3% and females, 28.1%. It was notable among all three ethnic groups that there was a correlation between age and illiteracy; illiteracy was more prevalent among the older age-groups, reaching its highest level (90%, or nine out of ten) among Indo-Mauritian women aged 65 and over. The age-group with the lowest illiteracy rate, was incidentally, the 12-14-year-old age group of the Sino-Mauritian population, where (for boys and girls combined) there were only 5.5% unable to read.

Also traceable is a connection between the rate of illiteracy and the number of men engaged in agriculture. A graph shows very strikingly the sharp fall in illiteracy in Belgium, France, the UK and the USA as all four countries became more industrialised and less agricultural. Out of 35 selected countries, 13 have over half their population illiterate and at the same time over half the men working in agriculture. Countries with illiteracy rates comparable to that of Mauritius are Ecuador (44%), Thailand (48%) and Venezuela (48%): all three have more men working in agriculture than Mauritius.

On the other hand, Trinidad, with 29% of its men working in agriculture (as against 27% in Mauritius), has only 26% of its population illiterate, as against 48% in Mauritius. And Argentina, with 30% of men working in agriculture, has an illiteracy rate of only 14%.

There is scope for much work in Mauritius, therefore, to get rid of illiteracy. If Mr Snell can lay the foundations of a campaign to abolish illiteracy, therefore, he may yet go down in the educational history of the island as a great Director of Education.



Photograph of a woman arriving in England from the West Indies. May 1956. Pic - British Library

begun to tackle the problem of unemployment in an imaginative fashion, and on the principle of the Scottish proverb that "**mony a mickle maks a muckle**" -- many little things add up to one big thing.

For example, London Transport recently sent two senior recruiting officers to Barbados to interview prospective employees. A number of Barbadians were selected and came to the UK to work for London Transport. This was at the initiative of the Barbados government. And most people who have met Barbadians (and other West Indians) on London's buses and tubes have been impressed by their cheerfulness and courtesy. In both respects the Barbadian compares very favourably with his English fellow.

Another interesting aspect of assisted emigration from Barbados is detailed in the current issue of *The Times Review of the British Colonies*. Since 1955, it appears, the Barbados government has sponsored a training scheme for workers who want to emigrate to the UK to work in the catering trade. Vacancies in the UK catering trade are

and Restaurants Association (which has recruited over 2000 Barbadians under the scheme already, and it has been running only two years) acknowledges that they have been of great assistance to its members.

* * *

Illiteracy

Mr Ward and Mr Opper initiated a number of reforms and innovations during their tenures of office at the Education Department, a teacher correspondent reminds readers of the *Mauritius Times* (20 Aug 1957). He points out that Mr Snell's name is not so far associated with any desirable reform.

Mr Snell yet has time to make a name for himself in the development of education. He has time to prepare and put forward to his Minister a scheme for the eradication of illiteracy in Mauritius. UNESCO has just published a report in its series of monographs on fundamental education

STC-Betamax, CEB-IPPs/BWSC and Public Procurement Governance

• Cont. from page 4

An attempt to re-open and re-judge the case in our local courts would be clearly trying to take two bites at the same cherry, flouting the very essence and nature of international arbitration towards which we were patiently gearing up and possibly quite damaging for the credibility of MIAC. Again, although SAJ admitted in 2017 that there was no alternative other than to pay from public purse those consequential damages, government decided to appeal the arbitration award to the Supreme Court. The latter opined that the Betamax contract was made in flagrant breach of the Public Procurement Act (PPA), illegal and in conflict with public policy of Mauritius and set aside the arbitration award, providing huge (albeit temporary) relief to government's stalwarts.

Judgment of the Law Lords

The Privy Council judgment was a double whammy for our SC bench and a government that seems to have been caught off-guard. It reiterates that international arbitration awards are judged for merits and decided on through a jointly agreed mechanism that cannot and should not be subject to a second bite of the cherry at local courts. Consequently, the Law Lords made clear their first ruling that *"the Supreme Court was not entitled to review the decision of the*

Arbitrator on the legality of the contract of affreightment (COA) under Mauritian public procurement laws". The case might have ended there, but the Lords examined in some depth the question of legality of the COA between STC and Betamax, concluding that *"the COA was not in breach of Mauritian public procurement laws"*.

This judgement should be an important piece of jurisprudence and a costly reminder to our body politic that adversarial politics end when the electoral results designate a legitimate winner. The primary job of an elected government should be to get on with running the country rather than hounding opponents through abuse of levers of authority and power. *Malfaisance* allegations during electoral campaigns are rife in most elections but unless thoroughly investigated, cannot be the basis of crude political witch-hunting backed by trumped up provisional charges. The monumental gaffe of 2015 in the Betamax case would have cost the population Rs 4.7 bn in 2017, but delays and procrastination since then have added a further Rs 1 bn or more for a politically motivated wild goose chase.

Public procurement governance

The Betamax affair raises numerous questions. Those relating to public procurement procedures, their resilience and

“The Privy Council's judgement should be an important piece of jurisprudence and a costly reminder to our body politic that adversarial politics end when the electoral results designate a legitimate winner. The primary job of an elected government should be to get on with running the country rather than hounding opponents through abuse of levers of authority and power. Malfaisance allegations during electoral campaigns are rife in most elections but unless thoroughly investigated, cannot be the basis of crude political witch-hunting backed by trumped up provisional charges...”

robustness with many demonstrable lapses and insufficient accountability over the years, should be one such key area of concern. We cannot explore those for want of space, but, for instance there have been suggestions that Government to Government contracts, frequently accompanied by confidentiality clauses, which may be justified only for commercially sensitive or national security considerations, should not hinder tomorrow's quest for a more open and transparent state that treats its citizens as adults, democratic values as a cardinal principle and annual inspection by Audit as a governance imperative. Exemptions granted to large government-funded body corporates or their creative subsidiaries (the CEB comes to mind) from the Public Procurement Act should remain the exception rather than the frequent rule.

Some legal juggernauts of 2015 made much fuss that the STC-Betamax contract contained highly unusual or even "exorbitant" commercial features. Were they not aware that the long-term CEB contracts with Independent Power Procedures were rife with far more unusual, exorbitant and leonine features that were denounced in the press for the past twenty years? We have to look anew at the safe, accountable and transparent procedures when long-term contractual obligations can tie the hands of future governments and the Mauritian po-

pulation. From the CEB-IPP contracts to the ongoing Safe City project, at some Rs 19 bn spread over 17 years, they are enough cases in point for our best brains to ponder. A thorough review of our blanket emergency procedures that have given rise to cringe worthy deviations during the Covid-19 pandemic, is equally warranted.

As is a strengthening of the Audit's powers and a more general reconsideration of the perception of immunity of the politico-administrative nexus taking major decisions on our behalf. The most recent scandal, the multi-billion dollar CEB contract to a favoured supplier (Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor -- BWSC) has only reached our shores through an anonymous overseas denunciation that led to prompt enquiry and action by the Scandinavian firm and the African Development Bank, while the investigation and closure against local officials and agents is still sputtering on here. Are our investigative agencies up to the task and their capacities for independence and credibility a reliable indicator of our continued dishonourable status with FAFT, the EU or the UK? More need not be said but should our best brains and other patriots in office take note and attempt to remedy what can still be salvaged of the country's reputation?

Jan Arden

“The Betamax affair raises numerous questions. Those relating to public procurement procedures, their resilience and robustness with many demonstrable lapses and insufficient accountability over the years, should be one such key area of concern. We cannot explore those for want of space, but, for instance there have been suggestions that Government to Government contracts, frequently accompanied by confidentiality clauses, which may be justified only for commercially sensitive or national security considerations, should not hinder tomorrow's quest for a more open and transparent state that treats its citizens as adults, democratic values as a cardinal principle and annual inspection by Audit as a governance imperative...”

Covid: The three barriers that stop people being vaccinated



Pic - REUTERS - Alamy Stock

• Cont. from page 2

This research formed the basis of a guidance, written by the British Psychological Society, to be considered by people in public health when trying to get people to have the vaccine. It recognised that people's capability, opportunity and motivation to take up the vaccine differed because of factors that are often outside of people's control.

For example, some countries have low oppor-

tunity because of the cost of the vaccine prevents mass vaccination. Some people may have low capability as there may not be enough information about vaccine safety for their particular group – for example, pregnant women. And some people may have low motivation if they are afraid of leaving the home after shielding.

A person can have different capability, opportunity and motivation over time. For instance, some may worry more about vaccine safety for the first dose but have problems with opportunity, because of a lack of local vaccination sites, for the second dose. Public health experts need to address all of these barriers to ensure that people can have the vaccine so we can all be protected from Covid -19 and get back to normal life.

Tracy Epton, University of Manchester

Is your phone really listening to your conversations? Well, turns out it doesn't have to

Have you ever been targeted with ads that are scarily specific to you, and wondered how the app or website could have known?



Have you ever chatted with a friend about buying a certain item and been targeted with an ad for that same item the next day? If so, you may have wondered whether your smartphone was “listening” to you.

But is it really? Well, it's no coincidence the item you'd been interested in was the same one you were targeted with.

But that doesn't mean your device is actually listening to your conversations — it doesn't need to. There's a good chance you're already giving it all the information it needs.

Can phones hear?

Most of us regularly disclose our information to a wide range of websites and apps. We do this when we grant them certain permissions, or allow “cookies” to track our online activities.

So-called “first-party cookies” allow websites to “remember” certain details about our interaction with the site. For instance, login cookies let you save your login details so you don't have to re-enter them each time.

Third-party cookies, however, are created by domains that are external to the site you're visiting. The third party will often be a marketing company in a partnership with the first-party website or app.

The latter will host the marketer's ads and grant it access to data it collects from you (which you will have given it permission to do — perhaps by clicking on some innocuous looking popup).

As such, the advertiser can build a picture of your life: your routines, wants and needs. These companies constantly seek to gauge the popularity of their products and how this varies based on factors such as a customer's age, gender, height, weight, job and hobbies.

By classifying and clustering this information, advertisers improve their recommendation algorithms, using something called recommender systems to target the right customers with the right ads.

Computers work behind the scenes

There are several machine-learning techniques in artificial intelligence (AI) that help systems filter and analyse your data, such as data clustering, classification, association and reinforcement learning (RL).

An RL agent can train itself based on feedback gained from user interactions, akin to how a young child will learn to repeat an action if it leads to a reward.

By viewing or pressing “like” on a social media post, you send a reward signal to an RL agent confirming you're attracted to the post — or perhaps interested in the person who posted it. Either way, a message is sent to the RL agent about your personal interests and preferences.

If you start actively liking posts about “mindfulness” on a social platform, its system will learn to send you advertisements for companies that can offer related products and content.

Ad recommendations may be based on other data, too, including but not limited to:

- other ads you clicked on through the platform
- personal details you provided the platform (such as your age, email address, gender, location and which devices you access the platform on)
- information shared with the platform by other advertisers or marketing partners that already have you as a customer
- specific pages or groups you have joined or “liked” on the platform.

In fact, AI algorithms can help marketers take huge pools of data and use them to construct your entire social network, ranking people around you based on how much you “care about” (interact with) them.

They can then start to target you with ads based on not only your own data, but on data collected from your friends and family members using the same platforms as you.

For example, Facebook might be able to recommend you something your friend recently bought. It didn't need to “listen” to a conversation between you and your friend to do this.

Exercising your right to privacy is a choice

While app providers are supposed to provide clear terms and conditions to users about how they collect, store and use data, nowadays it's on users to be careful about which permissions they give to the apps and sites they use.

When in doubt, give permissions on an

as-needed basis. It makes sense to give WhatsApp access to your camera and microphone, as it can't provide some of its services without this. But not all apps and services will ask for only what is necessary.

Perhaps you don't mind receiving targeted ads based on your data, and may find it appealing. Research has shown people with a more “utilitarian” (or practical) worldview actually prefer recommendations from AI to those from humans.

That said, it's possible AI recommendations can constrain people's choices and minimise serendipity in the long term. By presenting consumers with algorithmically curated choices of what to watch, read and stream, companies may be implicitly keeping our tastes and lifestyle within a narrower frame.

Don't want to be predicted? Don't be predictable

There are some simple tips you can follow to limit the amount of data you share online. First, you should review your phone's app permissions regularly.

Also, think twice before an app or website asks you for certain permissions, or to allow cookies. Wherever possible, avoid using your social media accounts to connect or log in to other sites and services. In most cases there will be an option to sign up via email, which could even be a burner email.

Once you do start the sign-in process, remember you only have to share as much information as is needed. And if you're sensitive about privacy, perhaps consider installing a virtual private network (VPN) on your device. This will mask your IP address and encrypt your online activities.

Try it yourself

If you still think your phone is listening to you, there's a simple experiment you can try.

Go to your phone's settings and restrict access to your microphone for all your apps. Pick a product you know you haven't searched for in any of your devices and talk about it out loud at some length with another person.

Make sure you repeat this process a few times. If you still don't get any targeted ads within the next few days, this suggests your phone isn't really “listening” to you.

It has other ways of finding out what's on your mind.

Dana Rezazadegan,
Swinburne University of Technology



All husbands can enjoy a quick laugh

Wife: Shall I prepare Sambar or Rasam today.

Husband: First make it, we will name it later.

A couple was having dinner at a restaurant.

As the food was served, the husband said: "The food looks great, let's eat."

Wife: "Honey, you pray at home before eating..."

Husband: "That's at home, sweetheart... here the chef knows how to cook."

Husband: "I found Aladdin's lamp today."

Wife: "What did you ask him?"

Husband: "I asked him to increase your IQ ten times."

Wife: "Did he do that?"

Husband: "He laughed and said multiplication doesn't apply to zero."

A frustrated husband in front of his laptop...

"Dear Google, please do not behave like my wife. Please

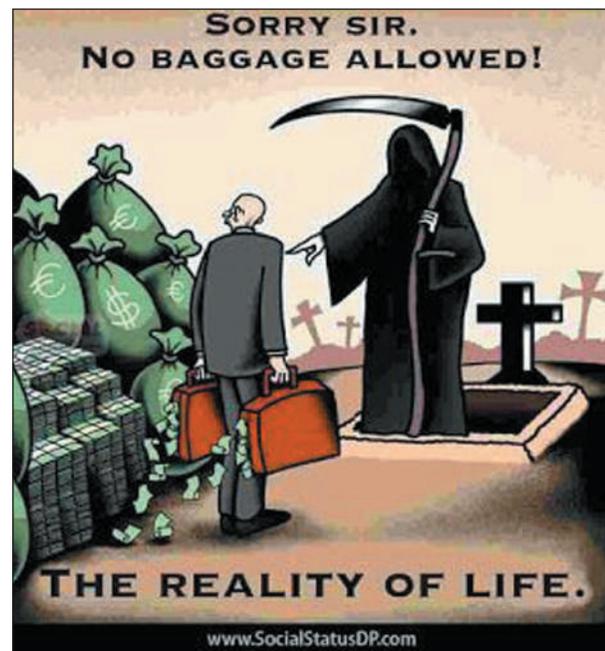
allow me to complete my sentence before you start guessing and suggesting..."

A man gifted his wife a pearl necklace for their marriage anniversary, and the wife didn't speak to him for one year.

Was the necklace fake?

No, that was the deal between husband and wife... that she would remain quiet for a year.

Best slogan on a man's t-shirt: 'Please do not disturb me, I am married and already disturbed.'



The Power of Language

1. If you take an Oriental person and spin him around several times, does he become disoriented?
2. If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
3. Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?
4. If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
5. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
6. Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
7. When cheese gets its picture taken, what does it say?
8. Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a racing car not called a racist?
9. Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposites?
10. Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?
11. Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one?
12. "I am" is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. Could it be that "I do" is the

longest sentence?

13. If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, dog trainers debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?
14. What hair colour do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?
15. Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the postmen can look for them while they deliver the mail?
16. You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.
17. No one ever says, "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
18. Ever wonder about those people who spend £2.00 a piece on those little bottles of Evian water? Try spelling Evian backwards: NAIVE.
19. Isn't making a smoking section in a restaurant like making a peeing section in a swimming pool?
20. If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER from diarrhoea, does that mean that fifth one ENJOYS it?

Wisdom

Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy... so when they grow up they will know the value of things - not the price.

Best awarded words in London: 'Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise you have to eat medicines as your food.'

The one who loves you will never leave you.

Because even if there are 100 reasons to give up he will find one reason to hold on.

There is a lot of difference between a human being and being human. Few understand it.

You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In-between you have to manage...

If you want to walk fast, walk alone.

But if you want to walk far, walk together.

Life's Lessons

On Intelligence

Whatever intelligence someone has, there are other qualities which are more important as shown in the following quotes:

The problem with the world is the intelligent people are full of doubts, while the stupid ones are full of confidence.

-- Anonymous

The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination. The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.

-- Albert Einstein

Knowledge is to have the right answer. Intelligence is to ask the right questions.

-- Anonymous

He whose intellect overcomes his lust is higher than the angels; he whose lust overcomes his intelligence is less than an animal.

-- Rumi

The ability to observe without evaluating is the highest form of intelligence.

-- Jiddu Krishnamurti

Spiritual intelligence is the capacity to conduct our life in such a way that it reflects a deep philosophical and metaphysical understanding of reality and ourselves discovered through personal experience during systematic spiritual pursuit.

-- Stanislav Grof

Sometimes it is better to be kind than to be right. We do not need an intelligent mind that speaks, but a patient heart that listens.

-- Anonymous

Intelligence comes into being when the mind, the heart and the body are really harmonious.

-- Jiddu Krishnamurti

Profit is better than wages

Jack Ma, the richest man in China said, "If you put bananas and money in front of the monkeys, they will choose bananas because monkeys don't know that money can buy a lot of bananas."



In fact, if you offer work and business to people, they will choose to work because most people don't know that a business can make more money than a salary.

One of the reasons the poor are poor is because the poor are not trained to recognize the entrepreneurial opportunity.

They spend a lot of time in school and what they learn in school is to work for a salary instead of working for themselves.

Profit is better than wages - because wages can support you, but profits can make you a fortune.

Relationships

How to stop being a people pleaser and learn to say no



When your brother-in-law asks you to help him move, you do it, even though your back has been killing you lately. When your roommate invites you to happy hour, you immediately reply "I'll be there!" - even when you'd much rather stay home and catch up on TV. If these scenarios sound familiar, then you're probably a people pleaser.

People pleasers crave approval and validation, so they'll go to great lengths to keep others happy - even at the expense of their own wellbeing.

People-pleasing tendencies often emerge in our childhood years. Psychologist Scott Rower said this type of behaviour is also common among people who grew up in dysfunctional environments where trauma or abuse may have occurred.

"Most of us are doing this unconsciously - 'It's just who I am' - without awareness that this was an adaptive strategy for navigating the world back then, but has outgrown its use," Rower told Kelsey Borresen of Huffpost. "Pleasing others and being seen as good provides the security, pleasure and status that we all seek to let us know we are safe, good and worthy."

Saying no, on the other hand, feels

risky, because it could lead to someone being upset with us. To a people pleaser, another person's disappointment or disapproval is more than just a mildly uncomfortable feeling.

Indeed, perpetually saying yes when you mean no can take its toll over time, leaving you overwhelmed, overworked, anxious and resentful.

"We only have so much emotional and physical energy," said social psychologist Susan Newman, author of 'The Book of No: 365 Ways to Say it and Mean it ? and Stop People-Pleasing Forever'. "Agreeing to too many obligations puts you at risk for the stress and anxiety that comes from completing all you've committed to.

So, how can you let go of your people-pleasing ways? Below, experts offer some practical advice that will help you learn to give a healthy "no."

Before you say yes to something, think about why you're agreeing to it.

Consider the motive behind each yes. Ask yourself if it's coming from a genuine place - is this something you actually want (and have the bandwidth) to do - or is there some other reason you're agreeing to do it?

"Are you doing this because it's too

scary not to?" Rower asked. "Are you wanting to say yes because ultimately it will lead to [this person] doing something for you without you having to ask for it?"

Learning to be more self-aware is the first step to changing your behaviour.

Often, the biggest obstacle to saying no isn't the boss, friend or relative who's making the request, Gazipura said - it's the false narrative in your head that equates saying no with being uncaring, mean or selfish.

"They think it's hurting others," he said. "In truth, saying no to what you don't want is healthy, adaptive and one of your human rights."

"Pleasing others and being seen as good provides the security, pleasure and status that we all seek to let us know we are safe, good and worthy."

To get more comfortable, Gazipura suggests repeating a phrase like, "I am allowed to say no when I want to."

Then practice saying no to small things.

Gazipura compared the act of saying no to strengthening a physical muscle. The more you do it, the stronger you'll become and the easier it will get. But you're not going to lift 50-pound dumbbells your first time at the gym - you start with 10-pound weights and work your way up over time.

Set boundaries around what you're willing to do and for whom

Think about which people in your life - be it a certain friend, relative or colleague - who tend to ask the most of you without offering much in return.

"Think about your priorities and decide who might be taking advantage of your willingness and good nature and to whom you truly want to be available," Newman said.

Once you've determined which relationships are worthy of your time and energy, set some limits around what you're willing - and not willing - to do.

"Knowing this makes it easier to refuse a request and establishes much-needed control over your own life," Newman said.

You're probably in the habit of giving a quick yes, no matter the request, and without giving it a whole lot of thought. Instead, take a beat and then reply by saying something like, "I have to check my schedule" or "Let me get back to you on that."

"Think about your priorities and decide who might be taking advantage of your willingness and good nature and to whom you truly want to be available."

It's also well within your right to ask for more details ("How long do you expect this task will take?"; "How many other volunteers will be helping out on Saturday?") before you agree.

And know that you can always negotiate the terms of your yes - it doesn't have to be all or nothing.

"Simplify a request and if comfortable, assume a smaller role," Newman said.

Resist the urge to explain too much

People pleasers often fall into the trap of thinking they need to provide a detailed explanation of why they can't (or don't want to) do something, but that's simply not the case. Keep your response firm and brief.

Gazipura offered examples: If friends invite you to dinner, you can say something along the lines of, "Thanks for the invitation to join you guys for dinner, but I won't be able to make it. Have fun."

If someone asks you on a second date and you're not interested, you can say, "I enjoyed meeting you the other night. However, I don't think we should continue seeing each other. I wish you all the best!"

Realize that saying no rarely ruffles as many feathers as you think it will.

People pleasers worry that if they tell someone no, there's going to be a huge amount of pushback from the person extending the invite or making the request. In reality, that's often not the case, Newman said.

"The key to stopping people-pleasing is understanding that when you say no, people are not thinking about you as much as you worry" they are.

How you can forgive your cheating partner

A relationship is built on the pillars of trust and love. If one of them goes missing, the relationship will crumble down. Trusting someone with all your heart and then finding them cheating on you can be very painful. Having conversations with your partner not only gets difficult but extremely heartbreaking. It leaves you heartbroken and negative but this is the time when you can actually retrospect on your relationship and lead the path of forgiveness for your own good. Here are some ways you can forgive your cheating partner.

Avoid being an emotional fool

When you first find out about your partner cheating on you, there is a sudden rush of emotions that leads you to anger and frustration. This can damage your health and so try preventing your emotions from taking a toll on your

actions. Try to be patient and calm even in this situation. Talk it out with your partner but be aware to be master of your emotions so that you never fall for their manipulative words.

Take care of your mental health

It is extremely important to take care of your mental health while you find out about your partner cheating on you. This should never be the reason for your sleepless nights and tiring days. Acceptance of your sadness will help you battle emotions of grief that endanger your positive mental health.

Give space to your relationship

At this point, it is essential to give yourself and the relationship some space and time. Instead of expecting your partner to talk, give your mind space to heal. Avoid

being in touch with your partner for some time and focus on the things that you love to do and this way, you will grow and heal slowly but definitely. at the same time.

Surround yourself with your loved ones

Your friends and family are the ultimate sources of happiness you will have, at times like these. Talk your heart out with your close ones and seek their comfort on this matter. Your loved ones won't judge you at all and will help you in coping up with this difficult situation.

Visit a therapist

If it comforts you, seeking professional help from a counsellor or a therapist might be a good idea. They will help you in effectively channelizing your emotions and will give you advice from a perspective of a professional that will help you in the long run.

Bollywood star kids who might not pursue acting in future

Not all star kids want to pursue acting like their parents or relatives. Pinkvilla takes a look at some of the kids of famous Bollywood families who have taken a different route in life.

Aryan Khan: Shahrukh Khan's son Aryan Khan was spotted outside Yashraj office a couple of months back, creating speculations about his 'acting' debut. However, quashing all the theories, it seems that Aryan is not interested to make a career in acting unlike his younger sister Suhana Khan. Aryan is keen on directing films. He recently graduated from the University of South California with a degree in Bachelor of Fine Arts, Cinematic Arts, Film and Television production, School of Cinematic Arts.

Navya Naveli Nanda: Navya Naveli Nanda is Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter - she is Shweta Nanda's daughter. Belonging to the Bachchan family as well as the Kapoor family (from her father Nikhil Nanda's side), people assumed that she would follow her grandfather, grandmother Jaya Bachchan and uncle Abhishek Bachchan's footsteps and try her luck in acting.



Turns out Navya is all set to work with her father in their family business (Escorts). She has also co-founded a healthcare company 'Aara Health' which focuses on everything women. She has also launched Project 'Naveli' - an organi-

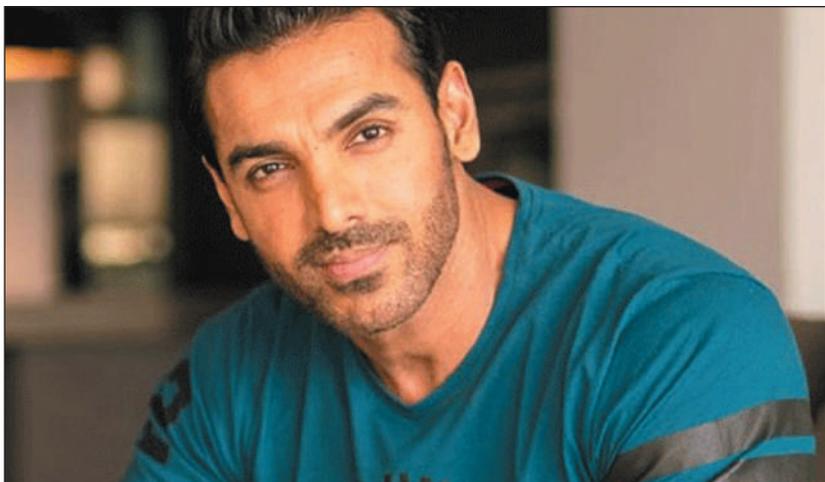
sation that focuses on gender equality.

Ira Khan: Aamir Khan's daughter Ira Khan aims to become a filmmaker someday, like Aryan Khan. However, she is learning how to 'act' as she believes that a filmmaker should also know acting just to understand the nuances of filmmaking.

Krishna Shroff: Tiger Shroff's sister Krishna Shroff has no interest in doing films as an actor. However, she is a social media sensation followed by 860k followers on Instagram. She has co-founded a fitness centre along with brother Tiger Shroff, as she is a fitness junkie and a nature enthusiast. By profession, Krishna is a film producer like her mother Ayesha Shroff.

Trishala Dutt: Trishala had dreams of becoming an actress. However, acting was a strict NO from her father and actor Sanjay Dutt. Obeying her father's decision, Trishala went on to pursue an undergraduate in Criminal Law from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York. She further pursued a master's in psychology. By profession, Trishala is an entrepreneur and a psychotherapist.

John Abraham: 'I am secure in my space'



John Abraham is one of those actors who have been able to successfully carve a fairly off-centre path for themselves in the film industry, which boasts of a diverse mix of subjects in the capacity of a producer and an actor. The actor was launched in Bollywood in 2003 by Mahesh Bhatt and Pooja Bhatt in *Jism*. Since then, he has come a long way, charting a path that was unique. While the initial years were tough for John, films like *Dostana*, *New York*, and *Madras Café* (which he also produced) turned the tide in his favour. This year, his movie *Mumbai Saga* was among the few films that saw a theatrical release. *Satyameva Jayate 2*, starring the actor, was meant to open on Eid this year, but was pushed ahead, reports TNN.

Talking about other actors in the industry, who have a similar trajectory as his, we're reminded of John's *Mumbai Saga* co-star, Emraan Hashmi. He says, "Emraan and I are very similar in the way we are and the trajectories we have. I am secure in my space, and so is he, and that is our biggest advantage. We are far more relevant than we ever were."

John adds, "We are now in a far more mature place as actors. We're in that space where our audience does not float depending on what we're doing. We have their trust. The audience will watch a Sanjay Dutt or a Salman Khan film irrespective of what they do because their audience is fixed. It makes me feel great that however small or big, we have a fixed audience."

Arjun Kapoor on his filmi journey

"Film sets are the best classrooms"



Arjun Kapoor calls the film set the best classroom, and shares that he loves to make as many movies as he can and keep improvising by being on the sets, reports IANS. Arjun posted his views with a video collage on Instagram recently, featuring clips from all his films, from "*Ishaqzaade*" to "*Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar*".

"I have grown up over this last decade on film sets. I feel strange not being there. It's my life,

passion and hobby! I'd love to make as many movies as I can and keep improving by being on the sets," Arjun wrote.

"They are the best classrooms. When it comes to films, I'm like any other child in a candy store. I'm in awe of what our work can do to engage and entertain people. Can't wait for that to happen again!" Arjun Kapoor added.

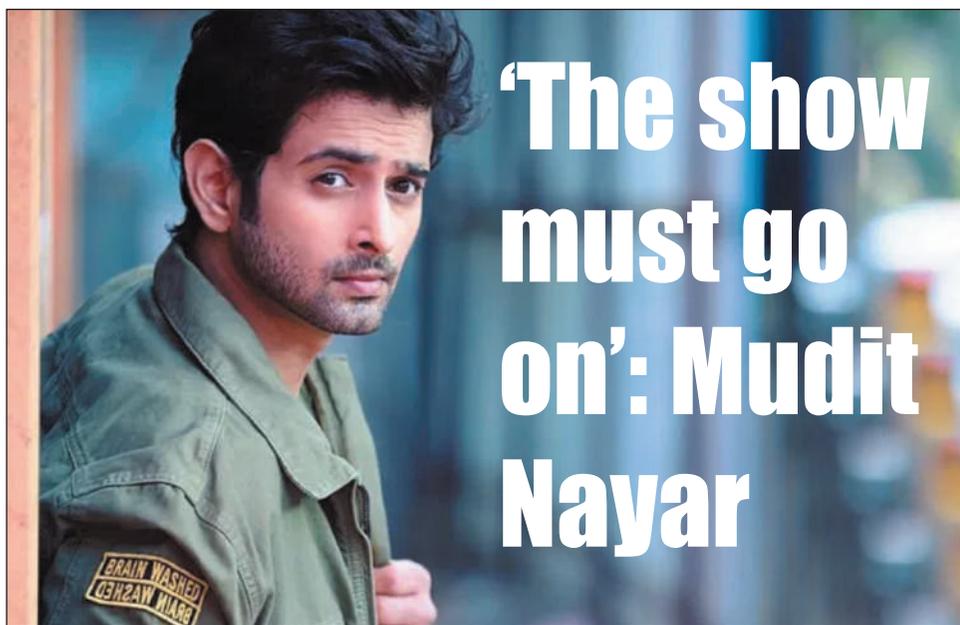
Arjun Kapoor and Parineeti Chopra recently received a lot of appreciation for their film *Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar*. The film too received critical acclaims and fans were in awe of the fact that these two actors have grown so much in terms of their acting.

Arjun will next be seen in two films - "*Bhoot Police*" and "*Ek Villain Returns*".

Appartement à louer - long terme



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'The show must go on': Mudit Nayar

Homecoming is always special but this time it was extra special for Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein actor, Mudit Nayar, who was recently in his home town Prayagraj, accompanied by his wife Aparajita, reports TOI. "It was a surprise visit, as I had not informed my parents about it, so when I reached home, they were really elated to see us. Ever since the outbreak of the pandemic my parents were really worried. Seeing the conditions in Mumbai, I had not ventured out, so travelling was out of question. Even when restrictions on travelling were lifted, we waited for some time to actually fly to my hometown," he says.

Though spending time with the family was the greatest bliss of this trip, the Anamika actor says he did miss out on certain things because of the pandemic. "Usually whenever I am in Prayagraj I tend to relish the street food. There are certain favourite food joints that serve some awesome street food. This time, though I went to the Sangam area, I skipped the usual kachori breakfast dished out by some shops in that area. Some shops in the city also serve some super delicious jalebis which I could not resist even this time. I got some, microwaved it, to ward off any health scare," he says with a laugh.

The TV industry is gradually resuming

shooting in this Covid times, though it could not escape the side effects of the pandemic. Some TV shows were axed and his show Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein was one of them.

Mudit says, "This news was unexpected for sure but I was not heartbroken. I understood the channel's stand as there are certain standing costs, since at that time (in April) when the decision was taken, it was not very clear till when the lockdown would continue. But I would have loved it if the show would have ended in a proper manner. The next day I got a lot of fan mail who wanted the show to continue."

The actor believes that all is not bad in these pandemic times. Mudit says, "One thing that has improved is the audition process. Now I am doing all the auditions from my home which is brilliant. Now there is no need to travel, stand in the queues and be part of crowded places. One can shoot from home and send the footage to the production houses, since visiting the sets is still a bit worrisome."

The actor goes on to add, "We have to live with the present condition and try to adapt to this new way of life... as the show must go on."



Debattama Saha talks about her career to The Tribune

helped me grow stronger. I come from a small village in Assam and then later moved to Kolkata to begin my dream career - acting. I never thought I would reach here one day.

Is there anything in particular that you are obsessed about?

I am particularly obsessed with cleaning. I ensure that my room is always kept clean - be it my workplace or my house. I'm also obsessed with clicking pictures for social media.

What is your agenda for 2021?

My agenda for 2021 is to remain calm and positive.

How would you define yourself?

I am filled with a lot of emotions and depth. I try to understand people and their point of views before speaking. I keep my talk crisp and clear.

What is that one quality that helped you become a better actor?

Basically, the struggles I faced during my initial days of becoming an actor

Kundali Bhagya's Dheeraj Dhoopar celebrates 12 years in the industry

Acting was never a part of his original plan, it was a matter of chance that he one day got a call from director's Kut productions for an audition and that was the beginning of his journey as an actor.

Not many would have realised this but Dheeraj Dhoopar has been giving hit shows since the last 8 to 9 years, reports TNN. His previous show *Sasural Simar Ka* was number 1 on TRP charts and post that his ongoing show *Kundali Bhagya* was also on number 1 position for over 4 years. The actor was also seen in a short film titled "Yellow" and with that he announced his arrival as a producer.

Dheeraj says, "12 years of me in the industry have been magical. I have been blessed with some wonderful people to work with and my journey till now has been magical. My 12 years perfectly showcases my journey as an entrepreneur to a model and finally as an actor. And I am sure there are many more things in the pipeline for me. Throughout this journey one thing that has kept me going is that I have always believed in keeping no stones unturned".

Dheeraj is married to actress Vinny.



Zain Imam goes bald... 'I don't want to be a part of a show that drags on'

be offered a role that requires my character to be bald. I call it my gangsta look."

He adds, "I understand that it's a bold move for an actor because your hair is as important as your looks. But I had been wanting to chop off my hair and recondition it. It also allows the scalp to breathe."

On the work front, the actor, who was last seen in *Ek Bhrm - Sarvagun Sampanna*, has decided to take a break from television and explore other mediums. He says, "I have got a lot of offers in recent times and it is difficult to say no. However, my reason for not taking up anything was that all the shows were pretty much the same and I don't want to be repetitive on screen. I want to do something productive and meaningful, which I am able to do on other mediums.

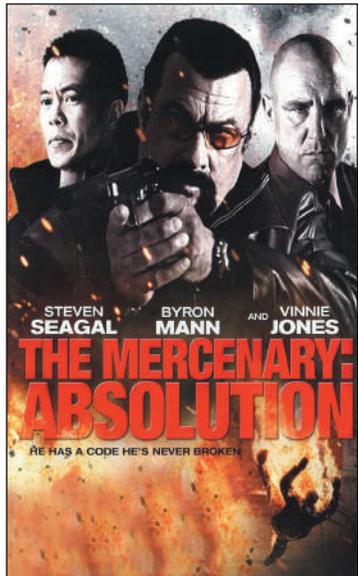
"I am not averse to working on TV, but I am not in favour of taking up an infinite series. I don't want to be a part of a show that drags on, making the process monotonous and boring. I would prefer to move on to another character and embark on a new journey with every show."

Change is the only constant, and actor Zain Imam couldn't agree more. He believes that an artiste needs to reinvent himself in order to stay relevant in showbiz. When not facing the camera, he loves to experiment with his looks. While he has undergone a physical transformation on several occasions, this time around, he has gone bald, reports Neha Maheshwari of TNN.

Ask him and he replies, "It's not for any project, but a personal choice. I plan to retain this look for some time and hope to

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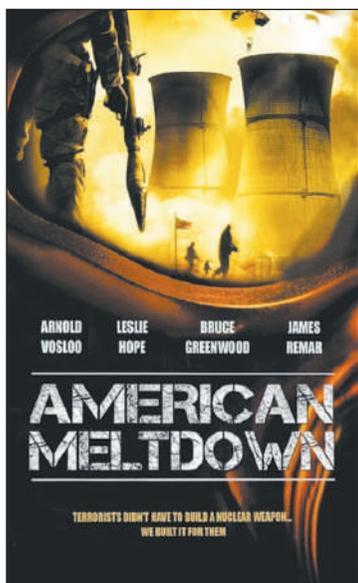
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Mercredi 23 juin - 21.00
Dark Tourist



CINE 12

Jeudi 10 juin - 21.15
American Meltdown



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<p>mardi 22 juin</p> <p>07.00 Dessin Anime 10.35 Doc: Zenith 11.00 Mag: Le Saviez Vous? 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.50 Doc: L'art Et La Matière 14.35 D.Anime: Teenie Tots 14.58 D.Anime: Spirit: Au Galop... 15.20 D.Anime: SLa Famille Blaire... 15.32 D.Anime: Little Spirou 15.39 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis... 15.50 D.Anime: Astrology 16.13 D.Anime: Garfield Originals 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.56 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.35 Local: Generation J 21.05 Film: Billy Lynn's Long... 23.10 Le Journal</p>	<p>08.00 Learning Channel: Grade 3 10.21 Learning Channel: Grade 4 12.30 Film: Teesra Kaun Starring: Feroz Khan, Kamal Mehra, Rajan Haksar, Shyam Kumar 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek 15.25 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.47 Serial: Bava Maradullu 16.08 Serial: Apoorva Raangangal 16.29 Serial: Sila 16.54 Serial: Imtihaan 17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.34 Telugu - Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Mag - Thalivar The Super... 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Coming U Graphics 20.00 Local: Programme In Tamil 20.30 Film: Asli-Naqli Star: Dev Anand, Sadhana...</p>	<p>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 08.45 Mag: Sur Mesure 11.30 Educational Prog: Grade 8 14.03 Mag: In Good Shape 14.29 Doc: Amazing Gardens 14.55 Mag: Future Mag 15.24 Doc: Bohemian Switzerland 16.16 Mag: Washington Forum 16.45 Mag: Eco@Africa 17.11 Mag: Japan Video 18.02 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 19.00 Mag: Check In 19.31 Mag: Made In Germany 20.40 Doc: Ville En Fête 21.10 Doc: Snapshots 21.36 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 22.57 Local: Klip Seleksion</p>	<p>01.45 Film: Shadow People 03.04 Serial: Shades Of Blue 03.49 Film: Let's Dance 05.40 Tele: Muneca Brava 07.04 Film: Hope Dances 09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible 09.48 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: Shades Of Blue 11.45 Film: Let's Dance 13.35 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.17 Mag: Hollywood On Set 14.45 Film: Hope Dances 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: Mercenary: Absolution 23.30 Serial: Mission: Impossible</p>	<p>08.00 Film: Gully Boy 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 15.33 Film: Pratikar Starring: Anil Kapoor, Maduri Dixit 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.52 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.15 Bhakharwadi</p>
<p>mercredi 23 juin</p> <p>07.15 Dessin Anime 10.34 Doc: Zenith 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Doc: L'art Et La Matière 14.35 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies 14.59 D.Anime: Spirit: Au Galop... 15.21 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau... 15.33 D.Anime: Little Spirou 15.40 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis... 17.35 Doc: World Stamps 17.50 Doc: A Question Of Science 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 Local Prod: Ayush 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.20 Prod Indepen: Lottotech 21.20 Film: Dark Tourist Stars: Melanie Griffith, Pruitt Taylor Vince, Michael Cudlitz 23.10 Local: Le Journal</p>	<p>07.00 Serial: Guddu 07.15 Serial: Bapu 07.26 Serial: Chota Bheem 07.49 Serial: Vir: The Robot Boy 08.00 Educational Prog: Grade 3 10.15 Educational Prog: Grade 4 12.30 Film: Ekka Raja Rani 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek 15.25 Aamhi Doghi 15.47 Bava Maradallu 16.01 Apoorva Raangangal 16.32 Serial: Sila 16.53 Serial: Imtihaan 17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.33 Serial: Kulvadh 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Mag: Yeh Sab Hai Meraas... 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Mag: Anmol Virasat 20.06 Programme In Marathi 20.36 Film: Zak Marli Baiko Keli 23.05 Live: DDI Live</p>	<p>06.00 Rev: The Global Auto... 06.26 Doc: Superfoods 06.52 Mag: Check In 07.18 Mag: Made In Germany 08.13 Doc: Ville En Fête 09.00 Education Prog Grade 5 11.30 Education Prog Grade 8 14.00 Doc: Snapshots 14.26 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 15.21 Mag: Close Up 15.47 Local: Klip Seleksion 16.34 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto 17.00 Doc: Superfoods 17.26 Mag: Check In 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Vous Et Nous 19.00 Mag: Arts.21 20.04 Mag: Tendance XXI 20.40 Doc: The World From... 21.06 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 22.02 Mag: Business Africa 22.28 Mag: Focus On Europe</p>	<p>00.31 Serial: Imposters 01.28 Film: Mercenary 03.05 Serial: Shades Of Blue 03.46 Film: The Midnight Swim 05.55 Serial: Imposters 06.37 Film: Love Potion No.9 09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible 09.45 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: Shades Of Blue 12.00 Film: The Midnight Swim 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: Love Potion No.9 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: Extraction 22.57 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.39 Serial: Mission: Impossible</p>	<p>08.00 Film: Pratikar Starring: Anil Kapoor, Maduri Dixit 12.04 / 20.06 - Sanjivani 12.24 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna 12.44 / 20.02 - Agniphera 13.10 / 20.46 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.39 / 21.09 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 14.01 / 21.31 - Naagin Season 3 14.42 / 21.46 - Sethji 15.04 / 21.59 - Mere Sai - Shradha Aur Saburi 15.36 Film: Challo Driver Starring: Kainaz Motivala, Vickrant Mahajan, Prem Chopra 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron 19.14 Bhakharwadi</p>
<p>jeudi 24 juin</p> <p>06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.45 Local: Sur Prise 07.10 D. Anime: Trolls: En Avant... 10.35 Doc: Zenith 11.00 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous? 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.52 Local: L'art Et La Matière 13.03 Local: Le Rendez Vous 14.35 D.Anime: Teenie Tots 15.25 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau 15.37 D.Anime: Little Spirou 15.44 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis 17.40 Serial: Magic Mania 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 Local: Tirth Yatra 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Film: Jabariya Jodi Stars: Sidharth Malhotra, Parineeti Chopra, Javed Jaffrey</p>	<p>07.00 Serial: Guddu 07.15 Serial: Bapu 07.26 Serial: Mighty Raju 07.49 Serial: Vir: The Robot Boy 08.00 Educational Prog: Grade 3 10.15 Educational Prog: Grade 4 12.30 Film: AB Tak Chhappan 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek 15.25 Aamhi Doghi 15.47 Bava Maradallu 16.01 Apoorva Raangangal 16.32 Serial: Sila 16.53 Serial: Imtihaan 17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.29 Local: Amrit Vaani 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da... 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Mag: Khwabon Ka Safar 20.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 21.09 Film: Marrying Mr. Darcy</p>	<p>06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous 07.19 Doc: Garden Party 09.00 Educational Prog: Grade 5 11.30 Educational Prog: Grade 8 15.00 Mag: Business Africa 15.25 Mag: Focus On Europe 15.51 Doc: Fungal Empire 16.36 Mag: Motorweek 17.02 Mag: Vous Et Nous 17.30 Mag: Arts.21 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: The World From... 19.00 Mag: Border Crossing 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.40 Doc: 360 Geo 21.32 Doc: Soul Ladies 22.14 Doc: Northern Lights 22.57 Mag: Eco India</p>	<p>01.34 Film: Extraction 03.15 Serial: Shades Of Blue 03.57 Serial: Island Doctor 05.25 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.48 Film: A Wish Come True 09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible 09.56 Tele: Daniella 10.36 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: A Wish Come True 16.40 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 21.14 Serial: Supercopter 21.48 Film: American Meltdown</p>	<p>08.00 Film: Challo Driver Starring Kainaz Motivala, Vickrant Mahajan, Prem Chopra 12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.22 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.48 / 20.32 Agniphera 13.07 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.33 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.55 / 21.46 - Naagin 14.37 / 21.59 - Sethji 14.55 / 22.52 - Mere Sai 15.37 Film: Naam Hai Akira 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.14 Serial: Bhakharwadi 19.38 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak</p>



Mercredi 23 juin - 15.20
Star: Kainaz Motivala, Vickrant Mahajan, Prem Chopra

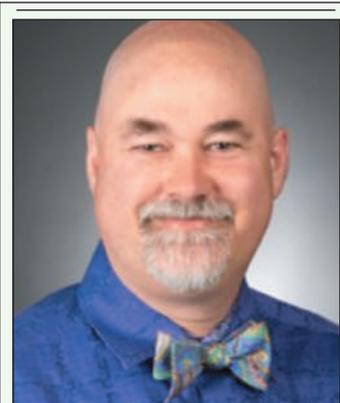


Jeudi 24 juin - 20.15
Stars: Sidharth Malhotra, Parineeti Chopra, Javed Jaffrey



The first mobile phone call was 75 years ago

What it takes for technologies to go from breakthrough to big time



Daniel Bliss
Arizona State University

I have a cellphone built into my watch. People now take this type of technology for granted, but not so long ago it was firmly in the realm of science fiction. The transition from fantasy to reality was far from the flip of a switch. The amount of time, money, talent and effort required to put a telephone on my wrist spanned far beyond any one product development cycle.

The people who crossed a wristwatch with a cellphone worked hard for several years to make it happen, but technology development really occurs on a timescale of decades. While the last steps of technological development capture headlines, it takes thousands of scientists and engineers working for decades on myriad technologies to get to the point where blockbuster products begin to capture the public's imagination.

The first mobile phone service, for 80-pound telephones installed in cars, was demonstrated on June 17, 1946, 75 years ago. The service was only available in major cities and highway corridors and was aimed at companies rather than individuals. The equipment filled much of a car's trunk, and subscribers made calls by picking up the handset and speaking to a switchboard operator. By 1948, the service had 5,000 customers.

This promotional film from the 1940s touts Bell Telephone's Mobile Telephone Service.

The first handheld mobile phone was demonstrated in 1973, nearly three decades after the introduction of the first mobile phone service. It was nearly three decades after that before half the U.S. population had a mobile phone.

Big history in small packages

As an electrical engineer, I know that today's mobile phone technology has a remarkable number of components, each with a long development path. The phone has antennas and electronics that allow signals to be transmitted and received. It has a specialized computer processor that uses advanced algorithms to convert information to signals that can be transmitted



An engineer demonstrates a car phone five months before the historic first call on a competing company's commercial mobile telephone service in 1946. Bettmann via Getty Images

over the air. These algorithms have hundreds of component algorithms. Each of these pieces of technology and many more have development histories that span decades.

A common thread running through the evolution of virtually all electronic technologies is miniaturization. The radio transmitters, computer processors and batteries at the heart of your cellphone are the descendants of generations of these technologies that grew successively smaller and lighter.

The phone itself would not be of much use without cellular base stations and all the network infrastructure that is behind them. The first mobile phone services used small numbers of large radio towers, which meant that all the subscribers in a big city shared one central base station. This was not a recipe for universal mobile phone service.

Engineers began working on a concept to overcome this problem at about the time the first mobile phone services went live, and it took nearly four decades to roll out the first cellular phone service in 1983. Cellular service involves interconnected networks of smaller radio transceivers that hand off moving callers from one transceiver to another.

Military necessity

Your cellphone is a result of over a hundred years of commercial and government investment in research and development in all of its components and related technologies. A significant portion of the cutting-edge development has been funded by the military.

A major impetus for developing mobile wireless technologies was the need during World War II for troops to communicate on the move in the field. The SRC-536 Handie-Talkie was developed by the predecessor to Motorola Corporation and used by the U.S. Army in the war. The Handie-Talkie was a two-way radio that

was small enough to be held in one hand and resembled a telephone. Motorola went on to become one of the major manufacturers of cellphones.

The story of military investment in technology becoming game-changing commercial products and services has been repeated again and again. Famously, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency developed the technologies behind the internet and speech recognition. But DARPA also made enabling investments in advanced communications algorithms, processor technology, electronics miniaturization and many other aspects of your phone.

Looking forward

By realizing that it takes many decades of research and investment to develop each generation of technology, it's possible to get a sense of what might be coming. Today's communications technologies - 5G, WiFi, Bluetooth, and so on - are fixed standards, meaning they are each designed for a single purpose. But over the last 30 years, the Department of Defense and corporations have been investing in technologies that are more capable and flexible.

Your phone of the near future might not only fluidly signal in ways that are more efficient, enable longer ranges or higher data rates, or last significantly longer on a charge, it might also use that radiofrequency energy to perform other functions. For example, your communications signal could also be used as a radar signal to track your hand gestures to control your phone, measure the size of a room, or even monitor your heart rate to predict cardiac distress.

It is always difficult to predict where technology will go, but I can guarantee that future technology will build on decades upon decades of research and development.



“Successive governments have simply jettisoned the Mackay Report. Why? That remains a big mystery”

• Cont. from page 5

* This brings us to the electoral petitions lodged soon after the 2019 general elections. We have not heard much about the cases to date. Wouldn't this undermine public confidence in the system's ability to deliver justice in a timely manner?

By the time the election petitions are finally determined the next elections will be at our door. There is a perception that this is being done deliberately in order to allow the government to carry on. This may be a wrong perception, but can the people be blamed? Why can't there be a fast track procedure to hear these petitions?

* What about the method of appointing judges? Should that also be reviewed so as to rope in members of the Bar?

Judges are appointed by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission chaired by the Chief Justice and two other judges as well as the chair of the Public Service Commission. All the judges are, in a way, civil servants having pursued their career in the civil service from where they are appointed. No judge is appointed from the Bar. However, the question that arises is who from the Bar would leave a lucrative practice to sit on the Bench?

* What about the procedures concerning the elevation of barristers and attorneys to the status of Senior Counsels and Senior Attorneys?

The choice is made by the Chief Justice presumably after consultations with other judges and members of the legal profession. In the United Kingdom, QCs are appointed by the Queen, on the advice of the Lord Chancellor. He is in turn advised by an independent selection panel which receives and considers each application and makes recommendations as to appointments. Should we not have a similar system here?

By LEX