

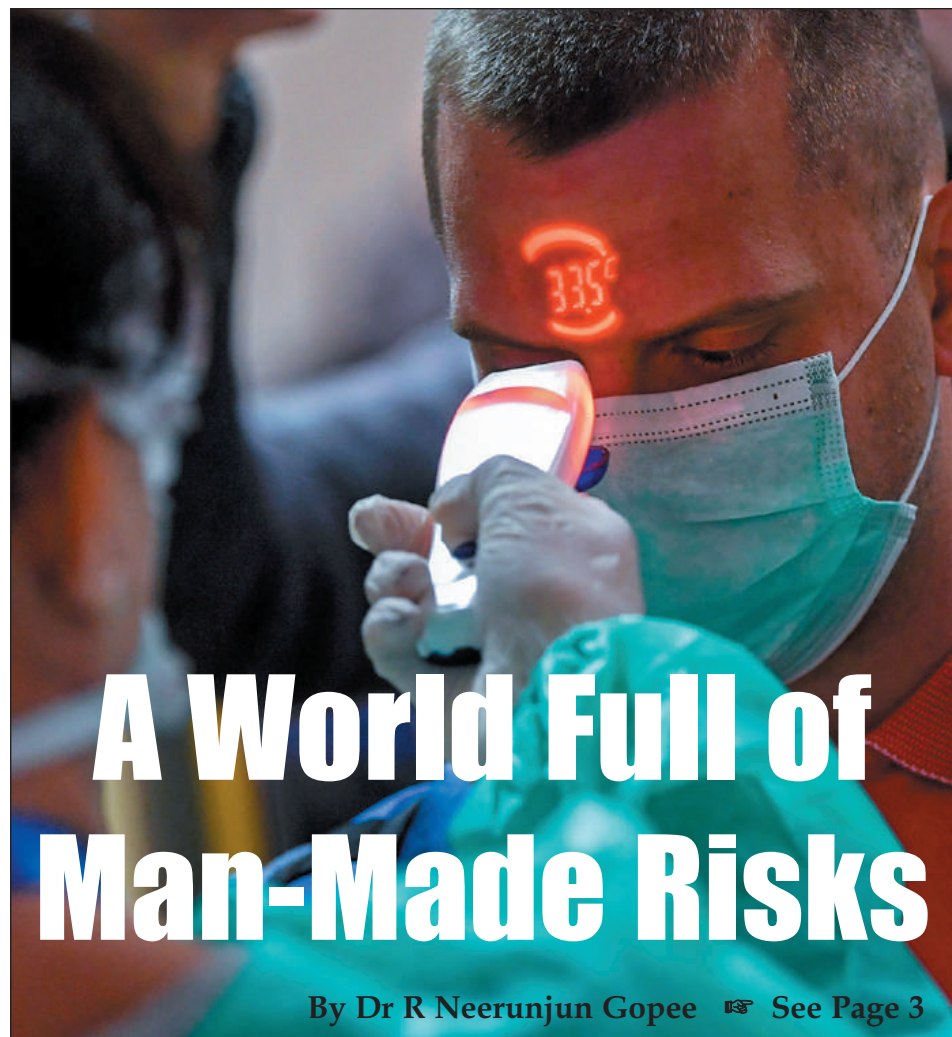
MAURITIUS TIMES

• "The pandemic is an opportune moment in human history to refocus our efforts to revitalise nature and allow it to bloom in all its glory". -- Shana Gokul

Interview: Suren Bissoondoyal

"Anerood Jugnauth was a pragmatist... It was the final objective that mattered to him"

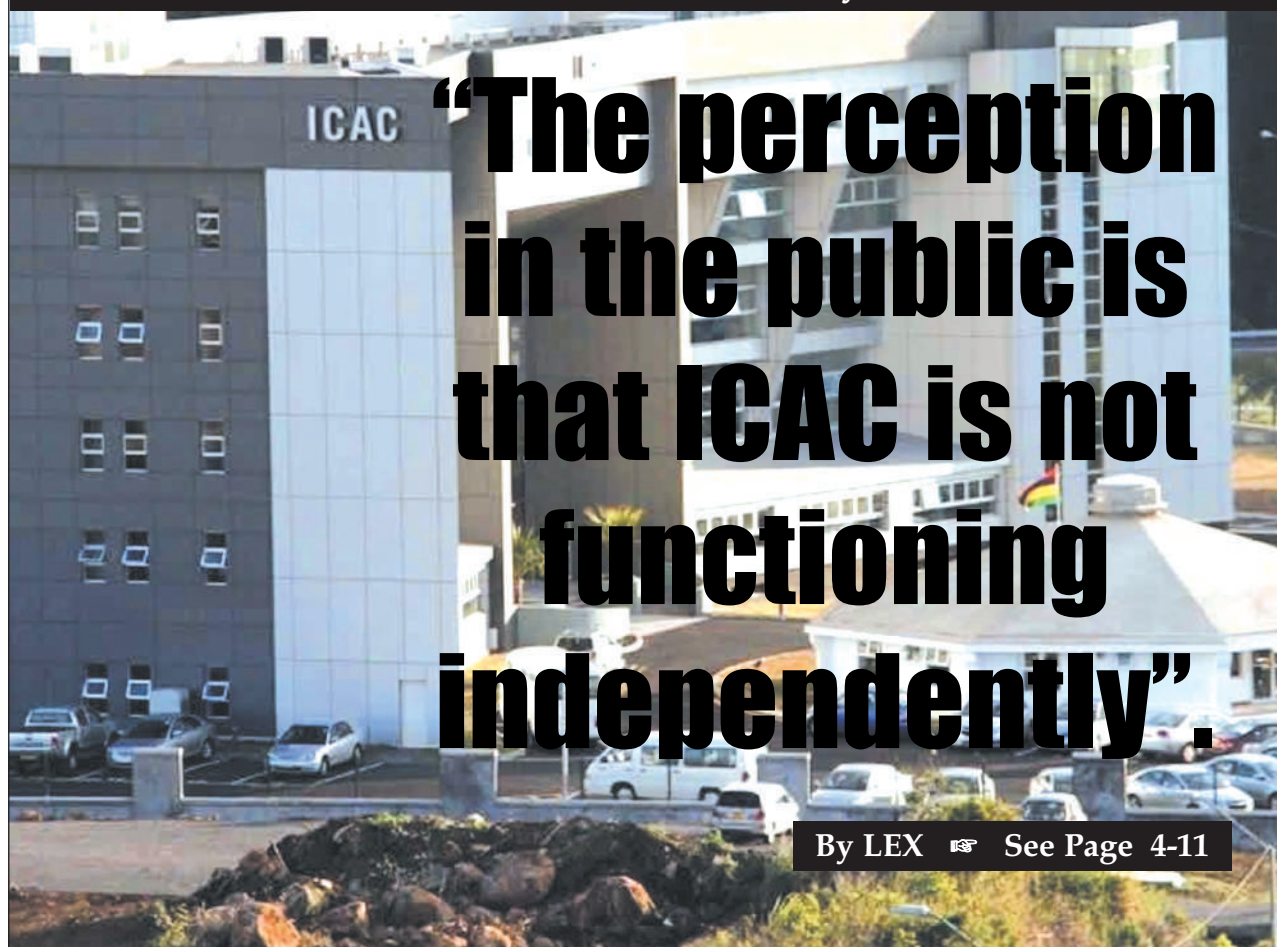
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"The perception in the public is that ICAC is not functioning independently".

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SAJ : Naissance d'un homme d'Etat



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Sir Anerood Jugnauth

On Thursday 3rd June 2021 Mauritius lost one of its most illustrious sons of the soil, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, former Prime Minister and President of the Republic. He was among the longest serving political leaders in any democratic country, his active engagement in politics extending over six decades, which also made him one of the oldest statesmen in the world at the time that he stepped down as Prime Minister in 2018. He had led his party, the MSM formed after breaking away from the MMM in 1983, to victory five times in alliance with other parties.

Hailed for leading the country towards an accelerated industrialization after the defeat of the Labour Party in 1982, he achieved national, regional and international stature over the years. Thus, he was honoured at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held in India, the global forum of the almost 30 million strong Indian Diaspora, and subsequently was awarded the Padma Vibhushan by the Government of India. He got enhanced recognition internationally when he took it upon himself to defend the cause of the Chagossians at the International Court of Justice at the Hague and at the UN afterwards.

Like most Indo-Mauritians of his generation, he was born and brought up in a poor family in Palma, and faced the hurdles that such circumstances place in the way of obtaining proper primary and secondary education, before proceeding to London to study law and returning to Mauritius after completion of his studies.

Given this background, it was quite natural that he would have the interest of the poor and the downtrodden at heart, and his profession as lawyer no doubt placed him in a position to gain more awareness about their plight and the need to defend their rights and improve their conditions. He saw education as key to this, which is the reason that he rejected the recommendation of the IMF in 1982 to cut the education budget, as Suren Bissoondoyal points out in his interview to this paper today.

In fact, as the interview shows, he was influenced by the activism of the Bissoondoyal brothers in the social and political fields, and this led him to join the Independent Forward Bloc founded by Sookdeo Bissoondoyal. He stood as its candidate in 1963 at Riviere du Rempart and defeated the Labour Party stalwart Anauth Beejadhur. This political engagement was complemented by his involvement in the All Hindu Congress, which had a socio-cultural focus.

As is well known, the IFB joined with the Labour Party and the CAM to fight for Independence, but split from the LP shortly after independence was won. The next stop of Anerood Jugnauth was the MMM from the 1970s onwards, until he formed his own party MSM in 1983, and leading it to five successive victories by forming alliances with other parties, including LP.

The new breed of leaders have not been exposed to the kind of hardships that SAJ and others of his generation went through, having grown up in relatively more well to do circumstances. This is all the more reason for them to be inspired by the trajectories of those who have assumed the responsibilities of the highest offices of the land with honour and dignity.

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*This paper has been produced with the assistance of
Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy*

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

The Conversation

How virus detectives trace the origins of an outbreak – and why it's so tricky

Bat hosts, lab leaks – tracing SARS-CoV-2 to its origins involves more than just tracking down patient zero.

Every time there is a major disease outbreak, one of the first questions scientists and the public ask is: "Where did this come from?"

In order to predict and prevent future pandemics like COVID-19, researchers need to find the origin of the viruses that cause them. This is not a trivial task. The origin of HIV was not clear until 20 years after it spread around the world. Scientists still don't know the origin of Ebola, even though it has caused periodic epidemics since the 1970s.

As an expert in viral ecology, I am often asked how scientists trace the origins of a virus. In my work, I have found many new viruses and some well-known pathogens that infect wild plants without causing any disease. Plant, animal or human, the methods are largely the same. Tracking down the origins of a virus involves a combination of extensive fieldwork, thorough lab testing and quite a bit of luck.

Viruses jump from wild animal hosts to humans

Many viruses and other disease agents that infect people originate in animals. These diseases are zoonotic, meaning they are caused by animal viruses that jumped to people and adapted to spread through the human population.

It might be tempting to start the viral origin search by testing sick animals at the site of the first known human infection, but wild hosts often don't show any symptoms. Viruses and their hosts adapt to each other over time, so viruses often don't cause obvious disease symptoms until they've jumped to a new host species. Researchers can't just look for sick animals.

Another problem is that people and their food animals aren't stationary. The place where researchers find the first infected person is not necessarily close to the place where the virus first emerged.

In the case of COVID-19, bats were an obvious first place to look. They're known hosts for many coronaviruses and are the probable source of other zoonotic diseases like SARS and MERS.

For SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, the nearest relative scientists have found so far is BatCoV RaTG13. This virus is part of a collection of bat coronaviruses discovered in 2011 and 2012 by virologists from the Wuhan Virology Institute. The virologists were looking for SARS-related coronaviruses in bats after the SARS-CoV-1 pandemic in 2003. They collected fecal samples and throat swabs from bats at a site in Yunnan Province about 932 miles (1,500 kilometers) from the institute's lab in Wuhan, where they brought samples back for further study.



A challenge in viral origin tracing is the wide range of human and animal samples that need to be collected and tested. Pic - Getty Images

To test whether the bat coronaviruses could spread into people, researchers infected monkey kidney cells and human tumor-derived cells with the Yunnan samples. They found that a number of the viruses from this collection could replicate in the human cells, meaning they could potentially be transmitted directly from bats to humans without an intermediate host. Bats and people don't come into direct contact very often, however, so an intermediate host is still quite likely.

Finding the nearest relatives

The next step is to determine how closely related a suspected wildlife virus is to the one infecting humans. Scientists do this by figuring out the genetic sequence of the virus, which involves determining the order of the basic building blocks, or nucleotides, that make up the genome. The more nucleotides two genetic sequences share, the more closely related they are.

Genetic sequencing of bat coronavirus RaTG13 showed it to be over 96% identical to SARS-CoV-2. This level of similarity means that RaTG13 is a pretty close relative to SARS-CoV-2, confirming that SARS-CoV-2 probably originated in bats, but is still too distant to be a direct ancestor. There likely was another host that caught the virus from bats and passed it on to humans.

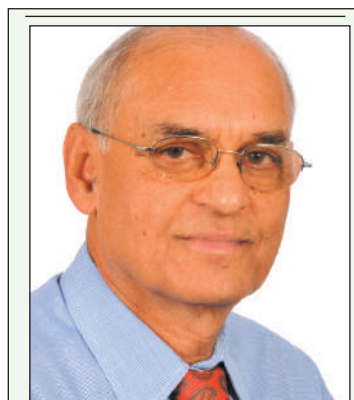
Because some of the earliest cases of COVID-19 were found in people associated with the wildlife market in Wuhan, there was speculation that a wild animal from this market was the intermediate host between bats and humans. However, researchers never found the coronavirus in animals from the market.

Marilyn J. Roossinck

Professor of Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology, Penn State

A World Full of Man-Made Risks

We still have to reckon with the possibility of third waves emerging at different times in future in different countries, including our own, meaning that we cannot let our arms down yet



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Even as the Covid-19 pandemic seems to be finally abating in terms of the total numbers of cases and deaths that are being reported regularly, another controversy that has now gone mainstream is the theory of the lab-leak which is receiving extensive coverage in the US media in particular. Much of the research about the sanitary measures had been done there initially, and then crystallized into the recommendations made by the US Centres for Disease Control, which were broadly accepted and followed by most countries, as they were also articulated by the WHO.

One would recall the expert who was on American TV almost daily, and invariably when President Trump would be giving his briefings, namely Dr Antony Fauci, considered to be the top infectious diseases specialist in the US and Director of its National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. As 2020 rolled out, gradually Dr Fauci's appearances diminished, until finally he was no longer present at all in these briefings.

Things have taken a 180-degree turn about him following the availability of his 900 emails totaling over 3000 pages. According to US news channels, they have revealed correspondence between him and the Wuhan Institute of Virology, with US scientists and researchers working in collaboration with the Institute and funded via an entity called Ecohealth Alliance to carry out what is called 'gain of function' research on coronaviruses. Other than engineering these viruses to make them more lethal and produce corresponding diseases that could then be studied, so that scientists and doctors would be more prepared to face them should they erupt in future, at some stage concern was raised about this line of research becoming 'too risky.' The worry was about using such engineered viruses for biowarfare. Whether or not that research was stopped is yet to be determined, and hopefully the task force set up by President Biden to investigate the

“One global issue of more direct and immediate concern is vaccination: regarded by all experts as the key measure, among the others recommended, that will stop the spread of the virus, in practice all countries are facing problems of supply, and most have to fall back on the WHO Covax platform. Predictably, the rich countries have secured their supplies in advance and on a priority basis. UK PM Boris Johnson has made an appeal at the recent G7 meeting for the whole world to be vaccinated by the end of 2022. How achievable is that depends of course on availability and access to all - a tall order!”

origins of the Wuhan virus will come up with a more definitive answer than the WHO team has.

Meanwhile the pandemic has swept across the world, infecting hundreds of millions and killing millions, and leaving in its long trail medical and health devastations, as well as social and economic impacts that will disrupt lives and societies far into the future.

One global issue of more direct and immediate concern is vaccination: regarded by all experts as the key measure, among the others recommended, that will stop the spread of the virus, in practice all countries are facing problems of supply, and most have to fall back on the WHO Covax platform. Predictably, the rich countries have secured their supplies in advance and on a priority basis. UK PM

Boris Johnson has made an appeal at the recent G7 meeting for the whole world to be vaccinated by the end of 2022. How achievable is that depends of course on availability and access to all - a tall order!

Even if this be possible, there still remains the significant proportions of people in all countries who refuse to receive the jab, a situation which we are facing here too. This pitches the debate to one between private choice and public good, posing a challenge to authorities everywhere, and making the prospect of total immunity recede even farther. Each country has to take this call for itself about how best it can achieve its vaccination goal, and some hard decisions no doubt have to be made.

Meanwhile, while some countries are beginning to lift restrictions given their improving situations - UK, France, India, US among others -- we still have to reckon with the possibility of third waves emerging at different times in future in different countries, including our own, meaning that we cannot let our arms down yet.

Protecting ourselves from films and social media

The golden rule should now be: everything is fake until proved otherwise

The recent discovery of the bodies of two young women in a fruit orchard in Mare d'Albert, suspected of being murdered by an alleged serial killer, brings to the fore once again the vulnerability of people to the perverse influence of forms of the media that exert inordinate influence on our lives - and sends alarm bells about how all of us should be extremely careful in our responses to what we view.

The golden rule should now be: **everything is fake until proved otherwise.**

Several years ago, before the explosion of social media, I had written an article titled 'Reel life is not real life.' It was to caution youngsters of an impressionable age about the dangers of an over-exposure to Bollywood films in particular. I had observed: 'There are many films which provide wholesome entertainment. Unfortunately, many of the more popular ones, which tend to be lapped up and therefore imitated uncritically by the credulous - especially in matters of dress and "style" - fall into the "misguiding" category. And this applies in particular to the Bollywoodian films which depict heady romanticisms centred around the stale love triangles of cavorting macho-looking actors and actresses aping their

Western counterparts, in tropical locations far removed from the context and realities of India. *Et pour cause* - because these films are targeted essentially at the Indian masses who need to escape from the tedium of their daily grind.'

I had quoted the remarks of Bollywood actor Shatrughan Sinha, who had then been appointed Union minister of Health: 'I deeply regret misguiding the youth in my films with the villainy antics...my style of smoking and drinking in the films might have misled many youths and I am sorry for that,' adding that he quit posing for a liquor brand after doing so only once because of the money.

While many youths, female and male keep succumbing to the fakes peddled in Bollywood films, social media with Facebook leading has now emerged as a major corrupting influence if not properly used. This was highlighted in last week's editorial in this paper about **the dark, dangerous side of social media**: about cases of 'especially women in vulnerable situations, taken in by the false promises being made, using fake identities and changed names. Unsuspectingly, they believe that the names being used and the promises being made - of marriage, or travel outside/settling abroad - are genuine, and it is too late by the time they realise and then can't escape because of blackmail, well-known being photos of the victims in compromising

postures being surreptitiously taken and made to go viral on social media. In extreme cases, these lead to suicide, or to the killing of these subjects.'

Was also emphasized 'that the responsibility of protecting oneself lies squarely on the shoulders of the individual... since it would appear that many people, especially those in difficulty, are not aware of the dangers that await them on Facebook.' Further, 'everyone must be extremely careful in using Facebook, whether it is posting material especially personal details, or responding to posts. They **must check, check, check** before they take any step forward if they do not want to end up cheated or dead.'

It is therefore up to parents and family, NGOs and civil society organizations to take the lead in creating the necessary awareness among citizens. But, at the same time, the State should also step in and launch a campaign to supplement the efforts of non-State actors in this project. There is a very valid reason for the State to be involved: in the protection of the citizens of the country, fundamentally, and eventually, when a crime is committed, it is the State's human and logistical resources that are mobilized to investigate and try to solve the crime, resources which could otherwise be put in service elsewhere.

This is a world full of risks at every bend. It's up to us, both individually and collectively, to be extremely vigilant at all times. And seek help if we are not sure.

ICAC's Parliamentary Committee

“The perception in the public is that ICAC is not functioning independently.

Why, it may be asked, but this would be a rhetorical question”

The performance of the institution set up in 2002 to help combat corruption and money-laundering, ICAC, has been under the scanner recently with a large number of high-profile cases that have been reportedly sent its way. Despite a sizable budget and experienced investigative staff, the general perception in the public is that it is not living up to expectations. Wherein lies the problem, the governing law, the mode of appointment of the DG, the parliamentary monitoring mechanism, or the inherent complexity of financial scams that elude its investigative powers? We have asked LEX to weigh in.

LEX



“We do not know whether all politicians want ICAC to be under their thumb. The Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 guarantees the independence of ICAC. We have never had under any previous regime since ICAC was established such a perception of a total lack of independence from ICAC when it comes to some specific investigations. It is a real cause for concern...”

* The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has lately been heard proceeding apace with the investigation into the case of alleged corruption in the St Louis Power Station Redevelopment Project. Bertrand Lagesse, head of AMB Lagesse Business and Engineering Consultancy, and Philippe Hao Thyn Chuan Ha Shun of PAD Co had been called, late May 2021, for further inquiries. Whether this would qualify as a complex inquiry or not and why it is taking so long for ICAC to conclude the investigation are not known, but things are moving... and that should be sufficient, isn't it?

Financial crimes are not easy to investigate in view of their complexity and ramifications. Today financial crimes are not frontier-bound; they have become transnational. This necessitates international assistance, and requests for mutual assistance may give rise to legal issues in the

country that receives the request for assistance. Of course there are financial crimes which have a local component only, and these should move quickly as far as the investigation is concerned.

* The Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 does not seem to provide for any oversight mechanism that could have monitored the ICAC at its operational level, especially as regards the conduct of investigations. Moreover, Section 20 (2) & (3) provides that 'The Commission shall act independently, impartially, fairly and in the public interest', and 'Subject to this Act, the Director-General shall not be under the control, direction of any other person or authority' respectively. Is it in the public interest that such should be the case?

Yes, it is in the public interest, and for the sake of the integrity of investigations it is necessary that an institution that is man-

dated to fight financial crimes should be independent and not be under the control or authority of anybody or any other institution. The only monitoring mechanism resides in the people who man ICAC. How they do it and how the public react to their actions can be said to constitute a form of monitoring.

* Moreover, Section 19 (4) provides for the appointment of the Director-General of ICAC by the Prime Minister after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. It does not seem the Director-General enjoys the same constitutional protection as the Director of Public Prosecutions or of Judges. Without putting in doubt the integrity of the holder of the post, this may place the Director-General of ICAC in an uncomfortable position vis-à-vis the head of government, isn't it?

An institution is an inert body. It becomes functional and operative when persons are appointed to man it. Its function depends on how the person so appointed does it. Independence is a state of mind. If the head of ICAC decides to jettison his independence and kow-tows to orders or instructions from the person who appointed him, then the only solution is to shut down the institution.

* We have not heard from Opposition politicians, now or during the time when they were at the helm of the affairs of the country, taking issue with this state of affairs and taking any corrective measures. All politicians want to have the ICAC under their thumb, right?

We do not know whether all politicians want ICAC to be under their thumb. The Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 guarantees the independence of ICAC. We have never had under any previous regime since ICAC was established such a perception of a total lack of independence from ICAC when it comes to some specific investigations. It is a real cause for concern.

* The Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 has also provided for a Parliamentary Committee, 'composed of 9 members, 5 of whom shall be designated by the Prime Minister and 4 of whom shall be designated by the Leader of the Opposition', whose functions is to 'monitor and review the manner in which the Commission fulfils its functions, but cannot intervene nor interfere in any 'specific case under investigation by the Commission'. Opposition members on that Committee

have expressed dissatisfaction with its workings and the irregular or delayed holding of meetings. What would this suggest?

This is what appears on the website of ICAC: 'The Parliamentary Committee monitors and reviews the manner in which the Commission fulfils its functions under the Act, reviews the budgetary estimates of the Commission, and issues such instructions as it considers appropriate with regard to the financial management, and the staffing requirements of the Commission, as well as the allocation of resources to the various operations of the Commission.'

The Parliamentary Committee's role does not extend to monitoring a matter related to any investigation being carried out by ICAC or the findings of the Commission in relation to a particular investigation. The ICAC accounts for its investigative decisions through a separate mechanism, i.e. to the judiciary.

The question may be asked as to whether since the formation of the new government in 2019 and the composition of the Parliamentary Committee, the Committee is living up to its mandate. It would appear this has not been the case, hence the dissatisfaction of the Members of the Opposition.

The impression is that the government, the Parliamentary Committee and ICAC constitute a close-knit confederation.

* We have seen recently the Integrity Reporting Services Agency dragging the ICAC to Court for failure to furnish it with detailed reports on cases of unexplained wealth. Could the Opposition, if it wanted to make its voices heard within the Committee and ensure that it is allowed to carry out the functions as prescribed by the Act, have in the same manner gone to the Supreme Court for redress?

The Parliamentary Committee is an emanation of Parliament, and it is unlikely that the Supreme Court would intervene in the manner in which it functions. But there is no harm in trying by filing a test case.

On the other hand, the case filed against ICAC by the Integrity Reporting Services Agency concerns an administrative matter in the sense that ICAC as an institution, outside the purview of Parliament, as regards its powers, apparently failed to submit detailed reports on certain matters to the Agency. Let us wait for the outcome.

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Meghan Markle and Prince Harry welcome second child, Lilibet 'Lili' Diana

The second baby for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex is officially here: Meghan gave birth to a healthy girl on Friday.

A spokesperson for Prince Harry and Meghan said Sunday the couple welcomed their child Lilibet "Lili" Diana Mountbatten-Windsor. Their daughter weighed in at 7 lbs, 11 oz.

Her first name, Lilibet, is a nod to Her Majesty The Queen's nickname. Her middle name is in honor of her grandmother and Harry's mother. The baby is the eighth in line to the British throne. No photos of the newborn or the Sussexes accompanied the announcement.

The birth comes after Harry and



The birth comes after Harry and Meghan's explosive TV interview with Oprah Winfrey in March. Pic - Reuters

Meghan's explosive TV interview with Oprah Winfrey in March. The couple described painful discussions about the colour of their first child's skin, losing royal protection and the intense pressures that led her to contemplate suicide.

Buckingham Palace said the allegations of racism made by the couple were "concerning." The royal family said the issue would be addressed privately.

In early 2020, Meghan and Harry announced they were quitting royal duties and moving to North America, citing what they said were the unbearable intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media. They live in Montecito, a posh area recently bought a house in Santa Barbara, California.

G7 leaders strike deal to tax Google, Amazon and other tech giants



Hundreds of billions of dollars could flow into the coffers of governments left cash-strapped by Covid-19. Pic - Reuters

The United States, Britain and other large, rich nations reached a landmark deal on Saturday to squeeze more money out of multinational companies such as Amazon and Google and reduce their incentive to shift profits to low-tax offshore havens.

Hundreds of billions of dollars could flow into the coffers of governments left cash-strapped by the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic after the G7 advanced economies agreed to back a minimum global corporate tax rate of at least 15%.

The decision was taken at the meeting of G7 finance ministers in London, reports Amit Chaturvedi of Hindustan Times.

British Treasury chief

Rishi Sunak posted a Twitter thread where he explained what the deal means. "Under the principles of the landmark reforms, the largest global firms with profit margins of at least 10% will be in scope - with 20% of any profit above the 10% margin reallocated and then subjected to tax in the countries where they make sales," he said in one of the tweets.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the agreement "provides tremendous momentum" for reaching a global deal that "would end the race-to-the-bottom in corporate taxation and ensure fairness for the middle class and working people in the U.S. and around the world."

US lawmakers push Biden for more Covid-19 vaccines and medical aid to India

Several US lawmakers have urged the Biden administration to ensure that India receives enough Covid-19 vaccines and medical aid, saying the health crisis in the country is "devastating" and America has a responsibility to help its close allies defeat the pandemic, reports Hindustan Times.

Biden said the US will share the vaccine to many countries to fight the pandemic through the UN-backed COVAX global vaccine sharing programme as part of his administration's framework for sharing 80 million vaccines globally.

"The crisis in India is devastating and demands more action from (President Joe) Biden. More Covid-19 vaccines and medical supplies are needed to help one of our most important global allies fight this virus," Texas Governor Greg Abbott said.

In a tweet, the Republican governor urged US citizens to join him in praying for India.

Republican Senator Ted Cruz said that almost 300 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered in the US.

"India is a critical friend of the US. Biden's vaccine sharing programme is flawed: We should prioritise our allies such as India, and make sure it receives the Covid-19 vaccines they desperately need," he said.

Senator Roger Wicker from the Senate Armed Services Committee said that it is important for the US to continue helping other nations beat the coronavirus. "Sending excess vaccines to close allies like India doesn't just make sense, it is the right thing to do," he said.

Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna, also a member of the House Armed Services Committee,



said to help India deal with shortage, the US needs to send those vaccines that it will never use, just like India helped America in its time of need.

Congressman Dan Crenshaw said Houston is home to a large Indian community with friends and families in need back in India. "It should be a priority within this international programme," he tweeted.

Observing that the Covid-19 situa-

tion in India is "heartbreaking", Congressman August Pfluger said that the US has a responsibility to help its ally.

The US has also sent critical medical equipment and medicines to India to fight the second wave of Covid-19.

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Protecting lives, ensuring happiness



1956-2020

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

marketing@licmauritius.intnet.mu

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

France fines Google 220 million euros for abusing market spot with online ads



based on prices offered by other so-called ad servers.

At the same time, Google arranged for AdX, its own supply-side platform (SSP), to give preferential treatment to offers emanating from Doubleclick -- effectively squeezing out competitors such as Xandr or Index Exchange.

"The practices are particularly serious because they are penalising Google's competitors in the SSP market as well as the editors of websites and mobile apps," the regulator said in a statement.

Media groups saw their online ad revenues crimped "even as their business model has been strongly undermined by the decline in paper subscriptions and the associated drop in advertising revenue," it said.

Le Figaro eventually dropped its complaint.

Google did not contest the findings, and the regulator said the company has committed to operational changes including improved inter-operability with third-party ad placement providers.

The fine represents just a tiny fraction of the \$55.3 billion in revenue booked by Google in the first quarter of this year alone, mainly from online ad sales.

France's competition regulator on Monday fined Google 220 million euros after finding it had abused its dominant market position for placing online ads, as US tech giants face growing pressure in Europe, reports AFP.

The penalty is part of a settlement reached after three media groups -- News Corp, French daily Le Figaro, and Belgium's Groupe Rossel -- accused Google of effectively having a monopoly over ad sales for their websites and apps.

The competition authority determined that Google gave preferential treatment to its own ad inventory auction service AdX and to Doubleclick

Ad Exchange, its real-time platform for letting clients choose and buy ads.

"It is the first ruling in the world to scrutinise the complex algorithmic processes for the auctions that determine online 'display' advertising," the authority's president Isabelle de Silva said.

Media groups looking to sell ad space on their internet sites or mobile apps using rival platforms often found that Google's services were unfairly competing against rivals, using a variety of methods.

For example, regulators found that Doubleclick would vary the commission it took when making a sale

Pandemic wanes in US, other markets, China's exports and imports surge



An employee sorts vegetable inside a Metro China supermarket, operated by Wumei Technology Group Inc., in Beijing, China. (Bloomberg)

Beijing's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States rose 14% to \$31.8 billion, while the surplus with the European Union fell 43% to \$12.7 billion.

China has reported its exports and imports surged in May on growing demand as the pandemic was waning in the US and other key markets, though the pace of growth is leveling off.

Customs data released Monday showed exports rose 28% from a year earlier and imports soared 51% - at the fastest annual pace in over a decade. Total exports climbed 40% in the first five months of the year from a year earlier. They were up 29% from the same period in 2019, reports AP.

China has led the global recovery from the pandemic, which is still raging in many parts of the globe but receding in some places, mostly where vaccinations have been widely deployed.

Chinese manufacturers benefited from strong demand for protective gear and other products as other countries battled Covid-19, gaining market share from competitors.

Nepal signed non-disclosure agreement for Sinopharm jabs: Report

Nepal has had to sign a non-disclosure agreement with the makers of China's Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine in order to gain access to doses amid questions about the legality of such an undertaking, according to a media report on Monday.

The Nepal government has been desperately looking for alternate sources of vaccines after India temporarily halted the export of jabs in late March to cope with a devastating second wave. Close to a million people in Nepal who received the first dose of the Covishield vaccine are currently waiting for their second dose after the passage of more than two months, reports Hindustan Times.

Sinopharm's proposal for a non-disclosure agreement created a dilemma among officials of Nepal's health ministry as the country's laws don't have a provision for non-disclosure agreements in public procurements, The Kathmandu Post reported.

The official further said the China National Pharmaceutical Group, the maker of Sinopharm, will quote a price after Nepal states how many doses it intends to procure. "Then the procurement process will move forward. I cannot say when the vaccines will be available," the official said.

China earlier supplied 1.8 million doses of the Sinopharm vaccine as grants to Nepal.

Nepal's Public Procurement Act of 2007 and the recent Covid-19 Crisis Management Ordinance are silent on non-disclosure agreements, though they allow the



government to procure directly from suppliers or manufacturers without competitive bidding in extraordinary situations.

According to Nepal's Public Procurement Monitoring Office, details of all procurements must be disclosed under the existing law, except in situations where the government procures defence-related materials that are sensitive from a national security point of view.

"If the existing procurement law and the ordinance don't allow us to procure the much-needed vaccines through the non-disclosure agreement, the procurement

process can move ahead only through a policy decision of the Cabinet," said Taranath Pokharel, director of the Family Welfare Division of Nepal's health ministry.

"I think the Cabinet will take a decision to facilitate the vaccine procurement in the current pressing time," he added.

The controversy over Sinopharm vaccine in Nepal follows rows related to the jab in other countries.

The procurement price of the Sinopharm vaccine in Sri Lanka triggered a row after reports emerged that Colombo paid a higher per-dose price than Bangladesh. Sri Lanka is paying \$15 a dose, or \$5 higher than what Bangladesh paid.

Bahrain, which was one of the first countries to back the Sinopharm vaccine last year, has raised doubts about the jab's effectiveness. Bahraini officials recently told the media that authorities will offer the Pfizer vaccine to high-risk individuals who had received two Sinopharm doses because these jabs didn't appear to be enough in the face of a new wave of Covid-19 infections in the West Asian country.

Suren Bissoondoyal

“Anerood Jugnauth was a pragmatist... It was the final objective that mattered to him”

Surendra Bissoondoyal has been a prominent figure in the education sector at all levels, and as a scion of the Bissoondoyal family has had a ringside view of the political developments in Mauritius from the pre-Independence days. And that includes a close knowledge of the interactions between the young politician and activist Anerood Jugnauth and the Bissoondoyal brothers, as well as the subsequent events that made and separated and re-made party alliances, and the impact on the socio-economic development of Mauritius in which Anerood Jugnauth was a key player. In this interview he sheds more light on these important aspects of Mauritian politics which are not as well known to the public.

Mauritius Times: We understand you had become acquainted with Anerood Jugnauth since his early days in politics or even prior to that, when he would come visiting Basdeo and Sookdeo Bissoondoyal before eventually joining the Independent Forward Bloc (IFB) and standing as an IFB candidate in the 1963 elections. Would it be right to say that the influence of the Bissoondoyal Brothers and of the Jan Andolan have had a determining impact on his political choices and on his politics?

young age, he eventually became a 'Bissoondoyalist' himself. I suppose the influence you undergo when you are young stays with you much longer than when you have already grown up. That influence must have stayed on with him.

That could be the reason why he decided that the Esplanade at the Port-Louis Harbour should be named after Basdeo Bissoondoyal despite the entreaties of some government officials to have his own name instead. Anerood Jugnauth became and remained a

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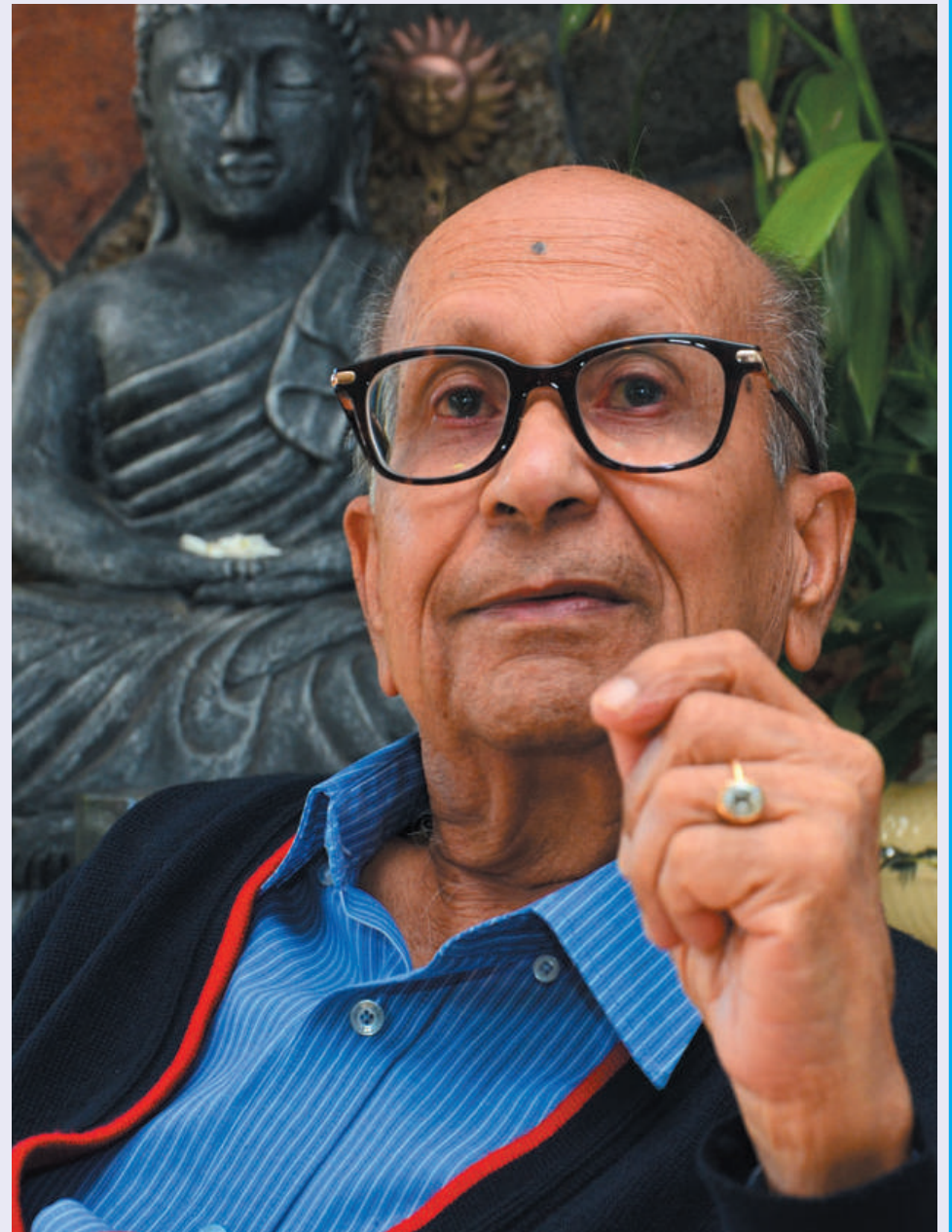
Surendra Bissoondoyal: I was studying in London at that time, so I did not know Sir Anerood Jugnauth from close quarters. But I got the news about his election in 1963 -- not an easy victory though, since he had to stand against Anauth Beejadhur, the sitting member in that constituency. That was to earn him the reputation of 'giant killer'.

When I came back in 1965, he was sitting in the Legislative Council and had become Deputy Leader of the IFB in a short time. I watched him recently in a film produced by the Basdeo Bissoondoyal Trust Fund recalling his childhood days when he would accompany, as a child of around 10 years, his father to the sermons of Basdeo on the Hindu scriptures in Palma. His father was a 'Bissoondoyalist', he said, and though he could not grasp what it meant at his

'Bissoondoyalist', and that is why he himself and his wife Sarojini made it a point to attend the sermons of Basdeo at Rivière du Rempart or wherever they were held.

* You said that Sir Anerood Jugnauth became a 'Bissoondoyalist', what did it imply to be a 'Bissoondoyalist'?

At that time, the discrimination that the Indian community faced put them at a terrible disadvantage. When Basdeo Bissoondoyal came back from India, he wanted them to be proud of their culture and to fight for their rights so as to earn respect. He instilled a new spirit in the people: Stand up and fight discrimination and exclusion; it was a spirit of empowerment. That spirit was reflected when the people responded positively to the appeal



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of Basdeo and Sookdeo to boycott the notorious 'Le Course Malbar', a term used in a derogatory manner to diminish them as inferiors - only worthy of making a spectacle of themselves at the Champ de Mars on that particular racing day.

* What do you think caused him to leave the IFB to found the All Mauritius Hindu Congress? Could it be said that the Congress' harder line appeared more appealing to the young Jugnauth

than the IFB's ideology?

He did not really leave the IFB. The Hindu Congress had no intention to evolve into a political party, but probably under the influence of Basdeo and Sookdeo sought to empower the Hindu community. In fact, Anerood Jugnauth, whilst staying with in the IFB, joined the Hindu Congress.

* Cont. on page 8

'Both Basdeo and Sookdeo were firm about their principles. They would be prepared to accommodate to some extent - but no further'

* Cont. from page 7

The affinity between those two movements - one political, and the other socio-cultural - was such that during a ceremony in Flacq, Sookdeo garlanded the leader of the Hindu Congress.

“When it comes to practising accommodation as a political strategy, there is a limit to which you can go to if you have lived and operated by some principles and also what your final objective is. Both Basdeo and Sookdeo were firm about their principles. They would be prepared to accommodate to some extent - but no further... because they believed that they have to live by their principles...”

As regards what is perceived as the harder line approach of the Congress, it was clear that the Congress openly pursued a pro-Hindu agenda, which was not the case insofar the IFB was concerned and which also brought together non-Hindu members and election candidates. That is how in the 1963 elections, Abdool Wahab Foondun, a Muslim IFB candidate, got elected in a predominantly Hindu constituency: Bon Accueil. The ambition was to build the IFB into a national party, not one reserved for a particular community. That is also why Sookdeo Bissonndoyal, as Member of the Legislative Council, obtained in those days the full support of Dr Edgar Millien of *L'Oeuvre*. When he was suspended from the Council by the Governor, it was Guy Forget of the Labour Party who tabled a motion to repeal the suspension.

* The IFB and the Labour Party did come together for the 1967 elections, but their alliance did not last long. Even in later years the MSM, founded by Anerood Jugnauth, went into another alliance with the LP, then headed by the son of SSR. Why do you think they could not click? Was it due to ideology, personality clashes or different political cultures?

I suppose it was to some extent a question of personalities as well as the approach to be adopted vis-à-vis the colonial authorities. Sookdeo and Basdeo were more vigorous in their defence of the people than SSR and Seeneevassen, who appeared more inclined to make all sorts of compromises, which Sookdeo in particular was not prepared to do. That did not deter them however from coming together for the 1967 elections when there was something greater at stake.

But again, as regards their differences, it could also have to do with their political grooming - one British and the Bissoondoyal's Indian. Basdeo had been to India at a time when the Indians were fighting against the British for their independence. There was beside the non-violent movement of the Indian National Congress the more



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vigorous Azad Hind Movement of Subhash Chandra Bose, who would also found his party, the Forward Bloc. The inspiration for the name of the Independent Forward Bloc no doubt came from Subhash Chandra Bose's Forward Bloc whereas SSR inherited the Labour Party which was based on the British Labour Party.

* Fifty years down the line, who do you think was right in terms of political ideology and approach: SSR or Basdeo/Sookdeo?

It is a difficult question to answer, but what played in

SSR's favour was that he had the support of the Governor and of the British at that time, who wanted him because of his pro-British inclination rather than Sookdeo to become head of independent Mauritius. Even in India, at that time, there was Jawarharlal Nehru whose approach was much like SSR's - and therefore more accommodating and acceptable to the British to be the Prime minister of India. Subhash Chandra Bose, on the other hand, was a fighter - just like Nehru was also - but less accommodating.

* To come back to Anerood Jugnauth, even if the MSM were to go into alliances with the LP, PMSD, MMM, etc., in later years, could it also be said that the IFB's ideology had remained with and influenced Anerood Jugnauth's prime ministership down the years? For example, when you consider his position towards electoral reform, the language issue...

When you consider all these issues, I would say he was more in line with the thinking of the Bissoondoyals. But you have to first get yourself elected and thereafter have the free hand to be able to implement your ideology.

* Cont. on page 9

'It was a mistake of Berenger to try to usurp SAJ's powers as Prime Minister'



* Cont. from page 9

That's why he broke up with the MMM in 1982-1983. It was a mistake of Berenger to try to usurp his powers as Prime Minister. You can be the real leader of the party, but once you have chosen somebody else to be the leader of the alliance, in this case the MMM-PSM alliance, you must play by the rules. Berenger instead was disrespectful towards SAJ, and was all the time trying to convey the impression that he was the leader of that alliance.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth could not accept that. He not only broke away, but he also wanted to give up politics - just like he would have done in earlier years when as Minister of Labour he was not happy with the attitude of SSR. He had then said to Sookdeo that he would go back to his profession. This is how he left politics to go to the State Law Office - and only to return to politics many years later at the insistence of the MMM.

In 1982, it was the insistence of many of the MMM's party members that held him back. In fact, there was a crucial meeting, comprising MMM and PSM party members, held at Uttam Bissoondoyal's place to persuade him to stay and fight back. I must say that Harish Boodhoo lent his support as well and later made a magnificent gesture by merging the PSM with the newly-formed MSM. That was to give Jugnauth the strength to fight back.

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down Paul Berenger's proposal to head an MMM-IFB alliance as prime ministerial candidate, and so did Satcam Boolell in 1991. Anerood Jugnauth used realpolitik extensively and with tremendous success, joining forces with different parties - the MMM, LP, PMSD - at different times to ensure his political survival. In fact, he survived the IFB itself. What do you think?

Anerood Jugnauth was a pragmatist who knew how to take advantage of some given situation and used it effectively. He knew that the MSM on its own would not be able to fight the MMM, so he enlisted the support of the Labour Party and the PMSD. He knew what was required and how he could get it. It was the final objective that mattered to him.

* In a way, he was more like SSR than Sookdeo Bissoondoyal, isn't it? If the latter had adopted the same approach, he might have gone much farther...

You have a point there, but when it comes to practising accommodation as a political strategy, there is a limit to which you can go to if you have lived and operated by some principles and also what your final objective is. Both Basdeo and Sookdeo were firm about their principles. They would be prepared to accommodate to some extent - but no further... because they believed that they have to live by their principles. They were really not interested with power just for power's sake.

* It has been said recently that it was Sir Anerood Jugnauth in the main who resisted the IMF and World Bank's recommendations to slash the Education budget in 1982 at a time when the economy was doing badly. You have interacted with him in your capacity as director of the MES and later as Pro-Chancellor of the UOM. What were your impressions then of the stand he had taken?

I have been the Director of the MES for 13 years and Pro-chancellor for 17 years, and I have to say that Sir Anerood Jugnauth did not interfere in the day-to-day running of the UOM. There was never a time when he would ask me to do something, because he simply did not want to interfere. Even when Jagadish Manrakhan left as Vice-chancellor, he never sought to influence the decision-making process for the appointment of the new Vice-chancellor. It was only after we had chosen the best candidate and appointed Prof Mohamedbhai that we informed him of our decision.

As far as the IMF and World Bank are concerned, for having known poverty and the difficulty of access to education by the poor, Anerood Jugnauth was very much aware of the importance of education for the poor in our towns and villages. That is why he did not accept to slash the education budget. Also, it was during his tenure as Prime Minister, from 2000 to 2003, that his Minister of Education, Steven Obeegadoo embarked on the most ambitious project of setting up 30 State Secondary Schools and even allowed MGI to build three more secondary schools. I was adviser at that time to Steven Obegadoo, and I can tell you that he worked very hard to make that happen. The result was that access to State schools was fundamentally improved.

* The ensuing conflict with the confessional authorities when the latter reneged on the deal relating to the trade-off Reserved Seats and Inclusion of Oriental Languages must have shaken SAJ. His hard-hitting reaction at the airport had remained stuck with him for a long time. What do you remember about that episode, and was SAJ fundamentally right at that time?

I believe he was aware, just like SSR was, that the Roman Catholic schools had done a good job and that we had to accommodate them to some extent. Thankfully, a solution for the reserved seats (50:50) was found and the government accepted the solution, which I think was in the best interests of everybody. Thereafter Oriental languages was finally accepted for inclusion for exam purposes.

SAJ : Naissance d'un homme d'Etat



Dan Callikan

Les neuf mois de vie de l'alliance MMM-PSM et la bataille électorale de 1983 auront constitué l'épreuve principale de feu Anerood Jugnauth. Ils le font sortir de l'ombre géante de Paul Bérenger pour le propulser en pleine lumière au devant de la scène, en pleine possession, dorénavant, de ses moyens, pour devenir un véritable homme d'Etat.

Ses traits de caractère tels que la sincérité, l'intégrité, le sens de la discipline et le travail bien fait en sortiront renforcés.

Les valeurs de Anerood Jugnauth

Au cours de ces neuf mois balisant deux épisodes charnières de l'histoire politique mauricienne, il aura su apprécier l'importance de l'amitié, le respect de la parole donnée, et la nécessité d'un dialogue permanent avec la population. Il aura, en même temps, fait preuve d'une énergie farouche dans la défense de ses idéaux et de sa vision pour un pays où règne la justice sociale.

La lutte contre la pauvreté et la protection des plus défavorisés lui donne l'énergie nécessaire pour résister, à l'opposé de Paul Bérenger, aux exigences du Fonds monétaire international (FMI) en ce qui concerne l'enlèvement des subsides sur le riz et la farine et l'élimination de l'éducation gratuite au niveau du secondaire.

C'est un thème qui aura profondément divisé l'alliance MMM-PSM et qui constituera un des thèmes majeurs de la campagne électorale de 1983. L'éducation secondaire gratuite introduite par le PTr en 1977 a constitué un moyen de promotion sociale et a permis le succès du programme de développement économique pendant les années 80.

Autre élément qui aura opposé Anerood Jugnauth à Paul Bérenger : le taux de compensation à être accordé aux travailleurs. Le taux proposé par Paul Bérenger, alors ministre des Finances de son Cabinet, est considéré inacceptable par la classe syndicale. Pendant la campagne électorale de 1983, Anerood Jugnauth proposera de tout faire pour éliminer le chômage mais ne fera pas de propositions démagogiques impossibles à tenir. En fait, le plein emploi fut presque atteint avant les élections de 1987.

En accordant la majorité à Anerood Jugnauth aux élections générales de 1983, les Mauriciens pouvaient-ils deviner qu'ils avaient donné naissance à un homme d'Etat à la personnalité complexe?



“Une des principales leçons retenues par Anerood Jugnauth des épreuves politiques dures et impitoyables subies au sein du MMM après la victoire de 1982, a été la conviction qu'il ne pouvait plus être à la merci d'une majorité contrôlée par quelqu'un d'autre au sein d'un parti politique. Anerood Jugnauth ne veut aucunement subir les multiples humiliations subies au sein de son parti, par exemple lors des conflits au sujet de l'expulsion du PSM de l'alliance gouvernementale à la demande d'un groupe parlementaire du MMM déchaîné...”

Conflits internes au MMM

Une des principales leçons retenues par Anerood Jugnauth des épreuves politiques dures et impitoyables subies au sein du MMM après la victoire de 1982, a été la conviction qu'il ne pouvait plus être à la merci d'une majorité contrôlée par quelqu'un d'autre au sein d'un parti politique.

Anerood Jugnauth ne veut aucunement subir les multiples humiliations subies au sein de son parti, par exemple lors des conflits au sujet de l'expulsion du PSM de l'alliance gouvernementale à la demande d'un groupe parlementaire du MMM déchaîné. D'autres étudient les pistes pour le destituer comme PM et, surtout, l'attaque directe et frontale dont il a été lui-même l'objet pendant une réunion du comité central du MMM font déborder le vase.

Il encaisse, fait le dos rond, mais épaulé par ceux - dont SSR - qui lui rappellent que la constitution d'un parti politique ne peut avoir préséance sur la Constitution du pays, il prépare sa contre-offensive qui débouchera sur la cassure du parti. Tous ces épisodes l'ont marqué au fer rouge, un écorché vif dont le franc-parler ne s'accommodera pas toujours de nuances.

Chef incontesté

C'est ainsi qu'il a exigé que les députés qui l'ont suivi suite à la cassure du MMM et les députés du PSM se réunissent au sein d'un parti, le Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM), sous son leadership et que Harish Boodhoo soit le Campaign Manager du parti. Ce fut une décision historique qui a changé les données de la politique mauricienne de façon durable.

Il a assuré la santé financière du parti en construisant le Sun Trust à partir des donations faites au MSM pendant la campagne électorale et dont les revenus assureraient le financement des activités du parti. Anerood

Jugnauth avait toujours revendiqué la transparence dans cette entreprise tandis que d'autres qualifient l'immeuble de “bâtiment de la honte”.

Contact permanent avec l'électorat

Une dernière remarque peut être faite au sujet du déroulement des événements de 1982 à 1983 : c'est la volonté affichée par Anerood Jugnauth d'être en contact permanent avec son électorat en organisant des réunions privées, des meetings régionaux, et des meetings nationaux, d'une part pour obtenir le soutien de cet électorat, répondre aux critiques de l'adversaire et contrer l'activisme de son principal adversaire sur le terrain.

Pendant la campagne électorale de 1983, malgré sa santé fragile, Anerood Jugnauth mettait la main à la pâte pour l'organisation des activités du parti et descendait sur le terrain pour sillonner les circonscriptions et contrer les thématiques de l'opposition.

Cette proximité et cette mobilisation constante sera sans doute capitale pour se dépêtrer du désastre potentiel de l'affaire dite des “Amsterdam Boys” qui éclate en 1985. Le MSM était très présent sur le terrain après les élections de 1983 alors que Harish Boodhoo en était responsable de l'organisation et, plus tard, le Dr Dinesh Ramjuttun prit la relève : c'est ainsi que le MSM triompha du MMM aux élections de remplacement de Ivan Collendavelloo dans la circonscription de La Caverne/Phoenix en 1989 suite à la démission de ce dernier du Parlement.

Pour remporter les élections générales de 1983 face à un MMM présent sur le terrain depuis 1969, ayant une profonde influence sur le monde syndical, Anerood Jugnauth fit l'ouverture politique vers le PTr et le PMSD, au-delà de leurs différences idéologiques, afin de constituer l'alliance bleu-blanc-rouge qui sera présentée comme le rassemblement de la grande famille mauricienne. C'est une volonté pragmatique de rassembler toutes les bonnes volontés et les compétences afin de mettre en commun leurs efforts et leurs expériences pour relever les défis énormes sur les plans économiques et sociaux.

Nouveau départ

Le décor est ainsi planté pour que le pays prenne un nouveau départ. Le gouvernement rassemblé en 1983 sous la direction d'Anerood Jugnauth a sans doute été le meilleur dans l'Histoire du pays tant sur le plan politique que sur celui de la compétence : quelques noms restent gravés pour la postérité : Sir Gaëtan Duval, Sir Satcam Boolell, Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo, Kishore Deerpalsing, Armoogum Parsuramen, Kadress Pillay, travaillant de concert avec le soutien actif de Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam et de Harish Boodhoo.

➡ Suite en page 12

How virus detectives trace the origins of an outbreak – and why it's so tricky

Likewise, when a related coronavirus was identified in pangolins confiscated in an anti-smuggling operation in southern China, many leaped to the conclusion that SARS-CoV-2 had jumped from bats to pangolins to humans. The pangolin virus was found to be only 91% identical to SARS-CoV-2, though, making it unlikely to be a direct ancestor of the human virus.

To pinpoint the origin of SARS-CoV-2, a lot more wild samples need to be collected. This is a difficult task – sampling bats is time-consuming and requires strict precautions against accidental infection. Since SARS-related coronaviruses are found in bats across Asia, including Thailand and Japan, it's a very big haystack to search for a very small needle.

Creating a family tree for SARS-CoV-2

In order to sort out the puzzle of viral origins and movement, scientists not only have to find the missing pieces, but also figure out how they all fit together. This requires collecting viral samples from human infections and comparing those genetic sequences both to each other and to other animal-

derived viruses.

To determine how these viral samples are related to each other, researchers use computer tools to construct the virus's family tree, or phylogeny. Researchers compare the genetic sequences of each viral sample and construct relationships by aligning and ranking genetic similarities and differences.

The direct ancestor to the virus, sharing the greatest genetic similarity, could be thought of as its parent. Variants sharing that same parent sequence but with enough changes to make them distinct from each other are like siblings. In the case of SARS-CoV-2, the South African variant, B.1.351, and the U.K. variant, B.1.1.7, are siblings.

Building a family tree is complicated by the fact that different analysis parameters can give different results: The same set of genetic sequences can produce two very different family trees.

For SARS-CoV-2, phylogenetic analysis proves particularly difficult. Though tens of thousands of SARS-CoV-2 sequences are now available, they don't differ from one another enough to form a clear picture of how they're related to each other.

The current debate: Wild host or lab spillover?

Could SARS-CoV-2 have been released from a research lab? Although current evidence implies that this is not the case, 18 prominent virologists recently suggested that this question should be further investigated.

Although there has been speculation about SARS-CoV-2 being engineered in a lab, this possibility seems highly unlikely. When comparing the genetic sequence of wild RaTG13 with SARS-CoV-2, differences are randomly spread across the genome. In an engineered virus, there would be clear blocks of changes that represent introduced sequences from a different viral source.

There is one unique sequence in the SARS-CoV-2 genome that codes for a part of the spike protein that seems to play an important role in infecting people. Interestingly, a similar sequence is found in the MERS coronavirus that causes a disease similar to COVID-19.

Though it is not clear how SARS-CoV-2 acquired these sequences, viral evolution

suggests they arose from natural processes. Viruses accumulate changes either by genetic exchange with other viruses and their hosts, or by random mistakes during replication. Viruses that gain a genetic change that gives them a reproductive advantage would typically continue to pass it on through replication. That MERS and SARS-CoV-2 share a similar sequence in this part of the genome suggests that it naturally evolved in both and spread because it helps them infect human cells.

Where to go from here?

Figuring out the origin of SARS-CoV-2 could give us clues to understand and predict future pandemics, but we may never know exactly where it came from. Regardless of how the SARS-CoV-2 jumped into humans, it's here now, and it's probably here to stay. Going forward, researchers need to continue monitoring its spread, and get as many people vaccinated as possible.

Marilyn J. Roossinck

Professor of Plant Pathology and
Environmental Microbiology, Penn State

ICAC's Parliamentary

“The perception in the public is that ICAC is not functioning independently. Why, it may be asked, but this would be a rhetorical question”

☛ Cont. from page 4

* Section 20 (1) f & g prescribe that the functions of the ICAC shall be to, *inter alia*, 'monitor... the implementation of any contract awarded by a public body, with a view to ensuring that no irregularity or impropriety is involved therein'; and 'examine the practices and procedures of any public body in order to facilitate the discovery of acts of corruption and to secure the revision of methods of work or procedures which, in its opinion, may be conducive to corruption'. That seems to be too heavy a load on the shoulders of the Commission, isn't it, what with so many cases still under investigation?

There is no doubt that ICAC is confronted with a whole load of cases. It has quite a numerous staff. If ICAC carries out its function without *guette figir* and in total independence from the government, it could have achieved more.

* After all is said, will it be correct to say that The Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 does provide the adequate framework and mechanism to fight corruption?

The law is there. Its proper functioning depends on the holders of power within the ICAC. The perception in the public is that it is not functioning independently. Why, it may be asked, but this would be a rhetorical question.



VACANCY NOTICE

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

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

- i. TEAM LEADER, RESEARCH, POLICY & PLANNING
- ii. TECHNICAL OFFICER, INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mode of Application:

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

Closing Date: Monday 21 June 2021

MRA reserves the right:

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

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04 June 2021

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius
T: +230 202 0500 | F: +230 216 4317 | E: humanresourcesandtraining@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu



SAJ : Naissance d'un homme d'Etat

“Pendant la campagne électorale de 1983, malgré sa santé fragile, Anerood Jugnauth mettait la main à la pâte pour l'organisation des activités du parti et descendait sur le terrain pour sillonner les circonscriptions et contrer les thématiques de l'opposition. Cette proximité et cette mobilisation constante sera sans doute capitale pour se dépêtrer du désastre potentiel de l'affaire dite des "Amsterdam Boys" qui éclate en 1985...”

vilégiée au niveau des différentes institutions et le respect de la loi et de l'ordre ainsi que du judiciaire sécurisait les investisseurs locaux et étrangers. Les baisses des taux de l'impôt sur le revenu et les facilités *duty-free* accordées par le ministre des Finances sur les produits tels que le textile et les appareils vidéos aidaient à créer un « *feel-good factor* », ce qui poussait les Mauriciens à donner le meilleur

d'eux-mêmes sachant que l'effort était récompensé.

Malgré les problèmes politiques internes au MSM suite à l'épisode "Amsterdam Boys", la révocation de Sir Satcam Boolell en 1984 et l'arrestation choquante de Sir Gaëtan Duval en 1989, et les alliances quelquefois conjoncturelles qui en découlèrent, le système mis en place fonctionna de façon satisfaisante dans la stabilité pendant les années 80 et le pays put progresser vers un développement équilibré, gommant progressivement les différences entre villes et campagnes.

En accordant la majorité à Anerood Jugnauth aux élections générales de 1983, les Mauriciens pouvaient-ils deviner qu'ils avaient donné naissance à un homme d'État à la personnalité complexe, avec ses forces et ses faiblesses, et que ce dernier allait marquer l'Histoire du pays?

Dan Callikan

☛ Suite de la page 10

Face aux défis, le gouvernement était mû par la volonté de mettre en œuvre une politique pragmatique pour réussir le décollage économique. Toutes les opportunités furent saisies. Une campagne agressive de promotion fut entreprise auprès des industriels de Hong Kong pour faire connaître les avantages découlant de notre appartenance à la Convention de Lomé signée en 1975 s'agissant de l'entrée au sein du marché européen de produits manufacturés à Maurice.

Le pays tout entier fut considéré comme une zone franche, modèle originale à l'époque, qui permettait aux entreprises de s'installer dans les grandes agglomérations afin de faciliter l'accès à la main d'œuvre, en évitant les problèmes de transport. Des facilités hors-taxes furent octroyées pour l'importation des matières premières et l'exportation des produits finis. Des soutiens furent accordés pour la construction des bâtiments industriels dans des centres stratégiques. Plus tard, l'*Africa Growth and Opportunity Act* (AGOA) rendit l'accès au marché américain plus facile pour les produits mauriciens. D'autres emboîteront le pas aux pionniers Hongkongais, y compris des grands groupes mauriciens. Ces mesures réussirent en l'espace de quelques années à résorber le chômage et à donner un coup de fouet à la diversification industrielle.

Le secteur offshore prit son envol grâce au traité de non-double imposition avec l'Inde. Tout un nouveau secteur prenait naissance, qui allait transformer le pays en un centre financier reconnu dans le monde. Une nouvelle génération de professionnels apportait un plus au développement économique. Le secteur hôtelier et touristique prit de l'essor et constitua assez rapidement un secteur économique important apportant une diversification dans l'offre d'emplois aux jeunes Mauriciens.

Transformation économique

Anerood Jugnauth présidait à cette transformation économique. Il faisait confiance à ses ministres et à ses collaborateurs, déléguant les responsabilités. Il prenait rapidement les décisions requises pour enlever les obstacles au développement économique et à la modernisation du pays. En retour, ses ministres étaient motivés et apportaient des résultats. La compétence était pri-



COMMUNIQUE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TAX RETURNS & APPLICATION FOR TAX ARREARS SETTLEMENT SCHEME (TASS)

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) reminds the public that the deadline for the submission of the following returns and payment of tax, if any, is **28 June 2021**.

• Advance Payment System (APS)

APS statements and payment of the tax by companies for any quarter ended in August 2020, and up to quarter ended in March 2021.

Payment of the 2nd instalment of tax under APS by companies operating in the tourism industry and having opted to pay tax under APS, for quarters ended in October 2019 and up to September 2020, in two equal instalments. The 1st instalment was payable on or before 29 December 2020.

• Corporate Tax

Payment of the 2nd instalment of corporate tax by companies operating in the tourism industry and having opted to pay corporate tax, for accounting periods ended in September 2019 and up to June 2020, in two equal instalments. The 1st instalment was payable on or before 29 December 2020.

Companies whose accounting period ends in December 2020 are also required to submit their annual income tax return and effect payment of tax, if any, by 28 June 2021.

• Returns and Payment of tax due in May 2021

Returns and Payment of tax, if any, that were due in the month of May 2021 from all taxpayers and employers.

VAT Return and Payment of VAT for the month of February 2021

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

Tax Arrears Settlement Scheme (TASS)

Taxpayers having tax arrears, outstanding as at 31 October 2020, under an assessment issued or a return submitted on or before 31 October 2020, under the Income Tax Act, the VAT Act and the Gambling Regulatory Authority Act, are reminded that the deadline to make an application to the MRA to join the TASS is 30 June 2021.

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

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

04 June 2021

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





A private is alone on sentry duty when the phone rings in his box.

"Hello, hello," a voice shouts down the phone. "Are there many vehicles in the officers' car park?"

The guard steps out of his box and looks around. He finds a solitary Bentley parked. He goes back to his box and answers the caller.

"Only that fat bastard General Smith's car," he says.

"Do you know who is speaking to you?" booms the voice down the line. "This is General Smith."

"Do you know who is on line now?" the sentry replies.

"No," General Smith answers.

"Well, don't shout fat fellow," the sentry replies.

Fight between husband and wife

Both are M.A. in English literature, and instead of shouting, abusing or physical force, they exchange poems to each other.

Wife

I wrote your name on sand it got washed away...

I wrote your name in air, it was blown away.

Then I wrote your name on my heart & I got heart attack.

Husband

God saw me hungry, he created pizza.

He saw me thirsty, he created Pepsi.

He saw me in the dark, he created light.

He saw me without problems, he created you!

Teacher: "Can you give the names of two great kings who have brought happiness and peace in people's lives?"

Student: "Smoking and drinking."

Girl: "Nice mobile, where did you buy it?"

Boy: "I won this in a running race."

Girl: "How many people participated?"

Boy: "Mobile owner, policeman and I."

Teacher: "Can you define who is a teacher?"

Student: "A lecturer is a person who has a very bad habit of speaking when others are enjoying their sleep."

Boy: "You a girl, drinking whisky?"

Girl: "Then should I change my gender for 2-4 pegs?"

Baba Ramdev says for good health one should control one's saas (breath)

Wife

Twinkle twinkle little star

You should know what you are

And once you know what you are

Mental hospital is not so far!

Husband

The rain makes all things beautiful.

The grass and flowers too.

If rain makes all things beautiful

Why doesn't it rain on you?

Wife

Roses are red; Violets are blue

Monkeys like you should be kept in zoo!

Husband

Don't feel so angry, you will find me there too

Not in a cage but laughing at you!



Man: "How to explain Baba that when one does not have control on one's wife, how can one control one's mother-in-law (saas)?"

Customer: "Waiter, make a special tea that that would make me dance."

Waiter: "Sir, we use cow milk, not

snake's milk?"

A woman dies. In heaven she sees a wall full of clocks. She asks angel: What are these for?

Angel answers: These are lie clocks; every person has a lie clock! Whenever you lie on earth, the clock moves.

The woman points towards a clock and asks: Whose clock is this?

Angel says: It's Gandhi's. It never moved, showing that he never told a lie.

The woman asks: Where are the clocks of married men?

The angel replies: Those are in our office; we use them as 'office fans'.

She then asked, what about the married women?

The angel replied: Those are kept out... they are generating electricity!

Life's Stories

The most beautiful heart

A young man was proud of his healthy and beautiful heart. One day, standing in the middle of the town, he proclaimed that he had the most beautiful heart in the whole valley. A large crowd gathered to have a look at his heart. His heart was smooth, shiny and looked very healthy. Indeed, the man had the most beautiful heart in the valley, everyone agreed.

The proud young man felt delighted and boasted his perfect heart which everyone admired. Suddenly, a voice from the crowd said, "Your heart is not as beautiful as mine." The young man searched for the person behind the voice and an old man appeared in front him.

"Show us your heart if you believe you have got more beautiful heart than mine," said the young man. The old man carefully showed his heart. The crowd and the young man looked at the old man's heart. The heart was beating strongly and healthily but it

was not smooth and shiny as the young man's heart. Instead, it had scars all over it. It had places where some pieces of the heart had been removed and other pieces were put in. The other pieces didn't fit perfectly and there were several uneven edges. In some places, there were deep gouges where some pieces were missing.

The crowd laughed at the old man's heart. "How can he claim that he has the most beautiful heart when it is all scared and uneven," they thought.

The young man looked at the old man's heart and laughed. "You must be kidding. Compare your heart and mine. My heart looks perfect and smooth and yours is a mess of scars and tears."

"Yes, your heart looks perfect, but I would never trade your heart with mine," said the old man. "Every scar in my heart represents a person whom I have given my love. I tear a piece of my heart and give to them. Often, my loved one gives me back a piece of their heart which fits into the empty place in my heart. Since everyone loves each other in a different way, their piece of heart may not perfectly fit my heart, so you can see some rough

edges. These scars and rough edges remind me of the love we shared," he continued.

"Sometimes I would give a piece of my heart, but the other person may not return a piece of his heart to me. These are the empty gouges. Although these gouges are painful, these remind me of the love I have for these people too. So, do you now see what a true beauty?" asked the old man.

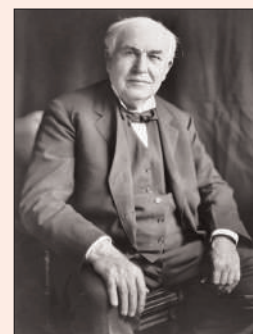
The young man and the crowd stood silently with tears running down their cheeks. The young man walked to the old man, reached into his perfect young and beautiful heart, ripped a piece out of it and offered it to the man with trembling hands.

The old man gratefully received his offering, placed it in his heart and then took a piece from his old heart and placed it in the young man's heart.

The young man looked at his heart, it did not look shiny and smooth like it used to. But it was now more beautiful because he could feel the love from the old man's heart flowing into him.

They embraced and walked away side by side.

Thomas Edison and a note



One day the young Thomas Edison came home and handed a paper to his mother from his school. He told her, "My teacher gave this paper to me and told me to give it only to you."

His mother's eyes were tearful as she read the letter out loud to her son.

"Your son is a genius. This school is too small for him and doesn't have good teachers for training him. Please teach him yourself."

After years, Edison's mother died and he was renowned as one of the greatest inventors of the century. One day he was going through his old family things. Suddenly, he noticed a folded paper in the corner of a drawer. He took it and opened it up.

On the paper was written: "Your son is addled. We won't let him come to school anymore."

Thomas Edison cried for hours and then he wrote in his diary: "Thomas Alva Edison was an addled child that, by a hero mother, became the genius of the century."

alltimeshortstories.com

Healthy Living

5 foods that you need to have close to bedtime for weight loss

It is a common notion that munching late at night, especially close to bedtime can derail your weight loss journey. But as per another theory going to bed with a rumbling tummy can also sabotage your weight loss goal. Hunger disturbs your sleep at night and makes you cranky in the morning. As a result, you eat more and often make unhealthy food choices. To stay on track and lose weight effectively, it is better to go to bed sans hunger pangs. There are plenty of food options that you can munch on late at night to curb your hunger and also get a peaceful sleep. Here are a few food items, as reported by TOI, that you can eat.

Yoghurt

High in protein and low calories, yoghurt is extremely filling and can help you build muscles even when you sleep. Having a bowl of fresh yoghurt at night can even improve the digestion process for those suffering from digestive issues. A study published in the American Journal of Physiology suggests that eating yoghurt at night right before sleeping can stimulate overnight protein synthesis. This can help in muscle growth and repair. Besides, the micronutrient in it can aid in weight loss.

Bread and peanut butter

If you are looking for something more filling then have 1 or 2 slices of whole-grain bread with some peanut

butter. Rich in protein, peanuts can help in muscle repair and regeneration. They are also high in tryptophan, an amino acid that puts you to sleep. When paired with whole-grain your body can easily absorb the amino acid in peanut due to the presence of Vitamin B. The two food items can also boost your metabolism and help you burn more calories in the morning.

Almonds

There couldn't be anything better than having a



handful of nuts when hunger strikes you late at night. Low in calories and packed with essential nutrients, almonds can repair muscle overnight and increase satiety. The tree nut can reduce belly fat and also help you maintain the overall body mass index. Have a handful of unsalted, soaked and peeled almonds at night for better results.

Banana

Banana is mostly believed to be a fattening fruit. But actually, it is loaded with nutrients that can help you sleep peacefully at night and even aid in weight loss. The fiber content in it can keep you full for a longer time and even curb your craving for sugary stuff. Rich in potassium and magnesium, the yellow fruit can also help your muscles

relax. Loaded with nutrients, bananas can also improve sleep quality, reduce stress and alleviate muscle cramps.

Cottage cheese

Cottage cheese is another perfect bedtime snack for all those trying to shed kilos. Rich in casein, cottage cheese can keep you full all night and can also be beneficial in muscle repair and regeneration. Besides, it also contains tryptophan, an amino acid that



can help you fall asleep faster. The findings of a study published in the British Journal of Nutrition suggest that having just 2 tablespoons of cottage cheese 30 minutes before bedtime could speed up your metabolism and can improve your overall health.

A 70-year-old study reveals the secret to raise successful kids



When it comes to parenting, every parent strives to give his or her best. But what exactly is good parenting? Is it inculcating good values in your offspring or is it giving them your precious time? Well, good parenting is much simpler than it looks like. A 70-year-old detailed study which took into account extensive data of

over 70,000 kids will help you in this matter.

Referred to as 'British Birth Cohorts', this study began in the UK after World War II. The scientists were keen to understand the parenting condition of mothers in the war stricken country.

They did a survey of every woman who gave birth over a one week period in 1946. In the end, they collected over 14,000 detailed questionnaires pertaining to the birth aspect during that time.

The scientists took into account different generations of kids over time, which gave them a sample size of 70,000 kids over 70 years. Here are some excerpts on how to be a successful parent. A report by TOI...

Conversations - Talking to your kids and listening to them plays a big role in parenting. Hearing your kids out is as important as talking to them.

Making it clear you have plans for their future - Sketching out a future plan for your kid is an essential part of growing up. The only thing you need to ensure is that you don't dump your own unfulfilled dreams on them. Being emotionally warm-Cater to your kid's emotional needs more than anything. Create a cozy environment which will make him trust you with everything.

Taking them on trips - Family trips and adventures are the best way to break away from the monotony of life. This will also give you and your kid ample of time to bond.

Habit of reading - Inculcate the habit of reading in your kid's daily schedule. Young minds can quickly adapt to things and he or she might form this good habit for a lifetime.

Some of these tips come out as Make sure you scoop out some time from your daily schedule to spend with your kids. 'Quality time' does not always mean doing an activity together or being productive. Just sitting with your kids, talking to them about their day and bonding with them is enough to make your kids feel loved and valued.

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From Shahid-Mira to Shilpa-Raj

Popular Bollywood celebs who are rocking an arranged marriage

Marriage is a very important social institution. Every person wants to get a perfect match, but the criteria for choosing the partner is different. In love marriages, people prefer to choose their partners as per their wish and understanding, whereas in case of arranged marriages, individuals prefer partners chosen by their family or parents. There is a continuous debate regarding the best way to choose the partner for marriage.

Well, here's looking at some of the prominent Bollywood celebrities who opted for arranged marriage, as reported by Pooja Nayak of Times Now and can't get enough of the marital bliss. The list includes celebs right from Raj Kapoor, Shashi Kapoor to Govind, Shilpa Shetty, Esha Deol to the new-age couple, Shahid Kapoor and Mira Rajput.

All the above-mentioned celebrities have been married for years and they have often gone on record to mention how happy they are in this arranged marriage set-up. After all, arranged marriage is more like falling in love after tying the knot so it saves the excitement and adventure for years to come unlike love marriages which makes you completely aware of your partner before settling down.

Shahid Kapoor-Mira Rajput

It was on July 7, 2015 when Shahid and Mira got married. They are blessed with two children - daughter Misha and younger son Zain. The cuties were introduced to each other through their families who belong to the same community. Shahid and Mira had once revealed how they hit it



off in the very first meeting despite sharing a huge age gap. They both were honest about themselves and accepted each other without any baggage attached. Shahid also admires how maturely Mira had blended with his life and has embraced parenthood with open arms.

Madhuri Dixit and Dr Sriram Nene

Madhuri got married to Dr Nene, a cardiovascular surgeon in the year 1999. After her marriage, she settled down in the US with her husband for many years before settling down in Mumbai. They have two boys - Arin and Ryan. Last year, Madhuri had made her singing debut with her son playing the piano and it had created a lot of waves on the internet.

Shilpa Shetty and Raj Kundra

Shilpa Shetty got married to Raj Kundra, a businessman, in 2009. The couple didn't exactly have an arranged marriage but they were also not someone who painted the town red for years before taking the plunge. Their intentions were clear right from the time they met. Turns out Raj and Shilpa met through a business alliance and instantly connected.

Raj had just parted ways from his ex-wife Kavita and although his past had created some hurdles for Shilpa's

future but soon things were clear and in no time, Raj and Shilpa announced to the world that they were getting married. The couple is happily blessed with two children - son Viaan and daughter Samisha.

Vivek Oberoi and Priyanka Alva

Vivek Oberoi got married to Priyanka Alva in 2010. In an old interview with HT, the actor had said, how grateful he is to have married Priyanka. He believes that marriage is a deep bond that goes beyond attraction. "I didn't want to compromise on who I married. I was deeply lonely before I met Priyanka. But now I feel like I'm home. It has been five years. We are blessed with two amazing children, and every day, I fall deeper in love with my wife. An arranged marriage also brings with it the romance of discovering each other over time," he was quoted saying.

Govinda and Sunita

Govinda got married to Sunita in 1987. They share one of the strongest marriages in B-town. It's believed that Sunita was Govinda's mothers' choice. The couple has two children - daughter, Narmmadaa Ahuja, and a son, Yashvardhan Ahuja. Narmmadaa was born on July 16, 1988, and is fondly known as Tina and is an actress by profession. Yashvardhan was born in 1997 and is gearing up for his Bollywood debut.



Five Inspiring Dialogues from Bollywood films

Bollywood is often seen as a land of dreams, aspirations, hopes, and inspiration. Several films have inspired us in our lives either through their storyline, acting, or more often from their dialogues.

Zindagi Jeene Ke Do Hi Tarike Hote Hain - Ek Jo Ho Raha Hai Hone Do,

Bardaasht Karte Jao Ya Phir Jimmedari Uthao Usse Badalne Ki -- is the popular dialogue from the famous film *Rang De Basanti*. This dialogue has a lasting impact on the minds of the viewers. Many such dialogues gave the correct dose of inspiration. From Ranveer Singh's 'Apna Time Aayega' in *Gully Boy* to *Barfi*, these hit Bollywood films entertained and also gave memorable one-liners that will boost your spirits...

Pinkvilla has compiled five dialogues for you. Take a look:

1. Dear Zindagi

Don't let the past blackmail your

present... to ruin a beautiful future

Directed by Gauri Shinde, the film stars Alia Bhatt and Shah Rukh Khan in the lead roles. The story is about a budding cinematographer who is upset with her life. She meets a free-spirited psycho-logist who helps her to gain a new perspective about her life. The film received good reviews from the audience as it also speaks about mental health.

2. Barfi

Life mein sabse bada risk hota hai risk nahi lena

The film, directed by Anurag Basu, was released in 2012. It has left a mark on the audience's mind. The film stars Ranbir Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra, and Ileana D'Cruz in the lead roles, with Saurabh Shukla, Ashish Vidyarthi, Jisshu Sengupta, and Rupa Ganguly in supporting roles. The film was critically acclaimed for its performances, direction, screenplay, cinematography, the music. The film was one of the highest-grossing Bollywood films of 2012 in India and overseas.

3. Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara

Insaan ka kartavya hota hai koshish karna. Kaamyabi, nakaamyabi sab uske haath mein hai

The film's name only says 'You only live

once' so why make it boring. A 2011 released film was directed by Zoya Akhtar. The film features Hrithik Roshan, Abhay Deol, Farhan Akhtar, Katrina Kaif, and Kalki Koechlin. The story shows three childhood friends reuniting for a three-week road trip. During the trip, each friend chooses a dangerous sport for the group to participate in it.

4. Super 30

Aaj raja ka beta raja nahi banega ... raja wohi banega joh haqdaar hoga

The film is a biopic of a world-renowned mathematics teacher and educator Anand Kumar and his educational institute. The film features Hrithik Roshan, Mrunal Thakur, Nandish Sandhu, Amit Sadh, Virendra Saxena, Pankaj Tripathi, and Aditya Srivastava in pivotal roles.

5. Bharat

Ummeed, Hope Duniya Ki Sabse Badi Takat Hai... Or Isi Takat Ne Hum Sub Ko Zinda Rakha Hai

Salman Khan starrer film may not have an inspiring storyline but the dialogues of the film were sure. Like this one which speaks on hope is an impactful dialogue. One should never lose hope in his or her life. The film stars Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif, Sunil Grover, Disha Patani, and Jackie Shroff. Tabu makes a friendly appearance.

Mallika Singh to portray the role of Alakshmi in 'RadhaKrishn'



upcoming days.

The upcoming highpoint in the show will bring to light the story of Goddess Alakshmi the elder sister of Goddess Lakshmi who is deemed to be the harbinger of misfortune and poverty. It is believed that Alakshmi was born during the churning of the milky ocean or the Samudra Manthan. And hence, she is the elder sister of Maa Lakshmi. She as the asura (demon) of inauspiciousness and grief is the opposite of Lakshmi the goddess of auspiciousness and joy.

In the upcoming episodes, Radha (Mallika Singh) will portray her character to bring forth her story to the world and audience, reports Times of India.

Speaking about her portrayal of Alakshmi, Mallika Singh said, "Essaying her character has been a challenge in itself. I have been given a new look for this new storyline. I will be donning multiple looks, one of which I will be seen in black attire with dark make-up. While playing an adverse role on television is a new stint for me I am excited to venture into this new genre."

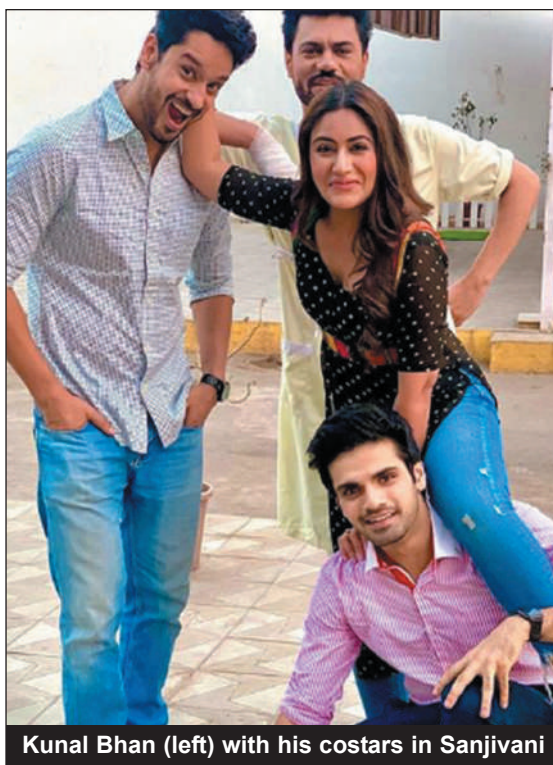
'RadhaKrishn' has been entertaining viewers consistently in these trying times with its storyline and showcasing many unknown facets of Krishna and Radha. While the current track focuses on Lord Hanuman and his story with Lord Krishna, the audience are in for a treat in their

Sanjivani actor Kunal Bhan reveals why he took a break from television

Kunal Bhan, who was last seen on the TV show *Sanjivani*, made a conscious decision to take a break from acting after the pandemic struck. The actor lives with his grandmother and didn't want to risk her health by stepping out to work in such challenging times, reports Neha Mahesh of TNN.

He shares, "*Sanjivani* wrapped up around the time when the first wave of Covid-19 took us by storm last year. This was followed by shoots coming to a standstill. I could have taken up work once the shooting resumed, but I live with my grandmother and didn't want to put her through any risk. Also, a lot of my actor friends were testing positive. So, I decided to stay put, make sure no one came in contact with her and I didn't become a carrier. I would feel very guilty if anything happened to her."

The pandemic also played spoilsport with his plans of meeting his family that lives in the Middle East. It has been over a year since he met



Kunal Bhan (left) with his costars in *Sanjivani*

them last. He says, "The original plan was to go home to my parents after *Sanjivani* ended. But flights were sus-

pended because of the pandemic. Besides, it wouldn't have been ideal on my part to leave my grandmother alone in such a situation."

Kunal now plans to get back to work by the end of the year and is hoping that things will improve by then. He has already started auditioning for parts. He says, "Just when I got back in full swing, the second wave hit us. So, it's a case of sheer bad luck for me. When I realised that we are back to where we were last year, I decided to utilise the time productively. It was taxing to sit idle at home - it was dull and boring. So, this time around, I have started creating content for my social media pages. For now, that's keeping me creatively busy."

the audience. I am glad and have no regrets as I have earned fame, financially too I am satisfied. I got many shades to play in this particular show. *Agnifera* has been a blessing in my career."

Yukti feels the series has also been a learning experience for her.

"I have learnt a lot as a lead debutant in the series. I have evolved as an actor. Now, I understand many aspects of the acting profile which I was not aware of earlier."

Talking about the difficulty faced during the show, she



Yami Gautam marries Aditya Dhar: 'They were seeing each other even during Uri'

The sudden marriage of actress Yami Gautam and director Aditya Dhar has taken even their friends by surprise, reports in.style.yahoo. An informed source from the *URI* unit reveals, "They didn't really tell anyone about it. But even during the shooting of *Uri*, the vibes between the two were very warm. When Aditya would explain a shot to Yami his voice would soften. The others on the set were like, 'What is going on?' Soon it became clear that they were a couple."

Absolutely mum on their relationship, Aditya and Yami had originally planned to wait until the end of the pandemic to get married. But since the pandemic seemed nowhere near an end the couple decided to have an intimate wedding with immediate family members present to witness the holy union.

Aditya and Yami are the first Bollywood couple this year to take the plunge. There are other couples from the entertainment industry in the queue waiting for the pandemic to end before taking the plunge.



Yukti Kapoor thanks her stars for Agnifera

Bubbly beauty Yukti Kapoor is thankful to her stars for blessing her with an amazing show and star cast.

The actress, who has been enchanting audience with her character Ragini in &TV's *Agnifera*, says that the daily is like a blessing in her life.

She adds, "I am a happy soul now as I am loved by

shares, "The most difficult part was that I am feminine and the character is a total tomboy. I had to learn few nuances of a tomboy girl's personality. It has been a challenge for me. I thank my producer, director and co-actors for being patient with me."

Yukti believes that Ragini's daring nature connects her with fans. "The fearless factor of Ragini is what I would love to adapt in myself. I think that is the one thing that connect audience to my character. Although, she is a strong girl but she has a pure soul," ends the lovely actress.

Mardi 8 juin - 21.10
Predestination

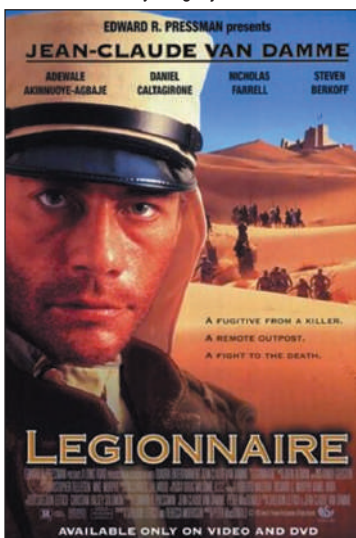


Mercredi 9 juin - 21.00
The Quiet Hour



Jeudi 10 juin - 21.15
Legionnaire

Avec: Jean-Claude Van Damme, Adewale Akinnuoye, Agbaje, Daniel



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
07.00 Dessin Anime 10.35 Serial: Open Heart 11.00 Mag: Le Saviez Vous? 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Doc: L'art Et La Matière 14.00 D.Anime: The Hive 14.37 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau 14.49 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz And... 14.56 D.Anime: Pet Alien 15.12 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum... 15.35 Film: Rock Dog 17.05 Serial: Backstage 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.56 Local Prod: Kala 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.35 Local: Generation J 21.05 Film: For The Love Of George 23.10 Le Journal	10.00 Serial: CID 10.48 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha 12.04 Film: Parvarish Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Vinod Khanna, Shammi Kapoor.. 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.25 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.45 Serial: Bava Maradullu 16.08 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal 16.29 Serial: Sila 16.49 Serial: Imtihaan 17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.34 Telugu - Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Bluff Master Star: Shammi Kapoor, Saira Banu, Pran	06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.52 Mag: Voa Connect 07.21 Mag: In Good Shape 07.47 Doc: Amazing Gardens 08.19 Mag: Future Mag 10.03 Mag: Global 3000 10.29 Mag: Washington Forum 11.04 Mag: Eco@Africa 11.39 Mag: Arts And Culture 12.05 Mag: Voa Connect 13.06 Doc: Amazing Gardens 13.25 Mag: Future Mag 13.54 Doc: Tresors Oublies De La.. 15.16 Mag: Global 3000 15.53 Mag: Washington Forum 16.20 Mag: Eco@Africa 16.46 Mag: Arts And Culture 18.02 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto.. 19.00 Open Univ: Student Support 19.31 Mag: Made In Germany 20.40 Doc: Ville En Fête	01.45 Film: Dominion 03.04 Serial: Shades Of Blue 03.49 Film: Maudie 05.40 Tele: Muneca Brava 07.04 Film: The Big Gundown 09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible 09.48 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: Shades Of Blue 12.00 Film: Maudie 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.15 Mag: Hollywood On Set 14.45 Film: The Big Gundown 16.41 Serial: Mission: Impossible 17.23 Serial: Absentia 18.05 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: Imposters 21.15 Film: Predestination 23.30 Serial: Mission: Impossible	08.00 Film: Mera Haque 12.04 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.26 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.48 / 20.32 Agnipheara 13.09 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.31 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.51 / 21.59 - Naagin Season 3 14.33 / 22.25 - Ikyawann 15.11 / 22.56 - Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur Saburi 15.18 Film: Bajatey Raho Starring: Tusshar Kapoor, Dolly Ahluwalia 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.52 Serial: Ek Rishta Saajhedari Ka
07.15 Dessin Anime 10.34 Serial: Oh Yuck! 11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Doc: L'art Et La Matière 14.05 D.Anime: The Hive 14.38 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau 14.51 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz, And... 15.02 D.Anime: Pet Alien 15.40 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 17.30 Magazine: Origami 17.44 Serial: Magic Mania 17.55 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 20.25 Prod Indepen: Lottotech 21.20 Film: The Quiet Hour Stars: Dakota Blue Richards, Karl Davies.. 23.10 Local: Le Journal	07.00 DDI Live 09.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 09.24 Serial: Chota Bheem 10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha Meeth 12.00 Film: Saaz Aur Awaaz 14.22 DDI Magazine 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.21 Aamhi Doghi 15.44 Bava Maradallu 16.01 Apoorva Raagangal 16.25 Serial: Sila 16.48 Serial: Imtihaan 17.12 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.33 Serial: Kulvadhu 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.00 Programme In Marathi 20.30 Film: Pahila Paul 22.29 Live: DDI Live	06.00 Rev: The Global Auto.. 06.26 Doc: Good News From.. 06.52 Mag: Check In 07.26 Mag: Made In Germany 08.19 Doc: Ville En Fête 10.37 Local: Klip Seleksion 11.19 Doc: The Neanderthals 12.04 Mag: The Global Auto and.. 12.56 Mag: Check In 13.22 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous? 14.23 Doc: Ville En Fête 14.50 Doc: Snapshots 15.16 Doc: Les Miserables 16.41 Local: Klip Seleksion 17.23 Doc: The Neanderthals 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: The World From... 19.00 Student Support Prog.. 20.04 Mag: Tendance XXI 20.40 Doc: The World From... 21.06 Doc: Comme Un Poisson...	00.31 Serial: Imposters 01.28 Film: Hollows Grove 02.48 Serial: Shades Of Blue 03.29 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En... 05.39 Serial: Imposters 06.47 Film: For The Love Of... 09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible 09.45 Tele: Daniella 10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.01 Serial: Shades Of Blue 12.00 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En... 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: For The Love Of... 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: 19-2 21.15 Film: Julie Et Julia 23.13 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.55 Serial: Mission: Impossible	08.00 Film: Bajatey Raho Starring: Tusshar Kapoor, Dolly Ahluwalia 12.04 / 20.06 - Sanjivani 12.24 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna 12.44 / 20.02 - Agnipheara 13.14 / 20.46 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.36 / 21.09 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.47 / 21.31 - Naagin Season 3 14.29 / 21.46 - Ikyawann 14.50 / 21.59 - Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur Saburi 15.16 Film: Zor Starring: Sunny Deol, Sushmita Sen, Milind Gunaji 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka 19.21 Bhakharwadi
06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.45 Local: Sur Prise 07.10 D. Anime: La Ligue Des... 10.35 Serial: Oh Yuck! 11.00 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous? 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.52 Local: Le Rendez Vous Avec.. 13.44 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 14.25 D.Anime: The Hive 15.00 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau 15.11 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz and... 15.40 Film: Cop Dog 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: Bala Stars: Ayushmann Khurrana, Bhumi Pednekar, Yami Gautam	10.00 Karm Phal Data Shani 12.05 Film: Rakhi Starring: Ashok Kumar, Waheeda Rehman, Pradeep Kumar and Mehmood 15.00 Serial: Ek Deewana Tha 15.23 Aamhi Doghi 15.51 Serial: Imtihaan 17.09 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.30 Local: Amrit Vaani 16.53 Serial: Imtihaan 17.09 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da... 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 DDI Magazine 20.10 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.36 Local Prod: Evasion 21.19 Film: Legionnaire Starring: Jean-Claude Van Damme, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, Daniel	06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.25 Mag: Vous Et Nous 07.28 Doc: Garden Party 08.20 Doc: The World From Above 09.51 Mag: Business Africa 10.10 Mag: Focus On Europe 10.36 Doc: Fun, Sun And Guns 11.23 Mag: Motorweek 13.44 Doc: The World From Above 14.10 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 15.08 Mag: Business Africa 16.46 Mag: Motorweek 18.03 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: The World From... 19.00 Student Support Prog.. 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.05 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.40 Doc: 360 GEO 21.32 Doc: The Shah And The Ay.. 22.14 Doc: A Postcard From...	01.27 Film: The Evil Within 03.08 Serial: Shades Of Blue 03.49 Serial: Island Doctor 05.18 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.44 Film: Julie Et Julia 09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible 09.56 Tele: Daniella 10.45 Tele: Tanto Amor 11.25 Serial: Shades Of Blue 12.00 Serial: Island Doctor 13.35 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.16 Mag: Hollywood On Set 14.48 Film: Searching 16.50 Serial: Mission: Impossible 17.29 Serial: 19-2 18.15 Tele: Daniella 19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: 19-2 21.14 Serial: Supercopier 21.48 Film: Finding Altamira	08.00 Film: Zor Starring: Sunny Deol, Sushmita Sen, Milind Gunaji 12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani 12.22 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.48 / 20.32 Agnipheara 13.07 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.23 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek 13.45 / 21.46 - Naagin 14.29 / 21.59 - Sethji 14.55 / 22.52 - Mere Sai 15.20 Film: Mrityudand 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.51 Ek Rishta Saajhed Ka 19.16 Serial: Bhakharwadi 19.38 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak



Mercredi 9 juin -
15.20

Star: Sunny Deol, Sushmita Sen, Milind Gunaji



Jeudi 10 juin -
20.15

Stars: Ayushmann Khurrana, Bhumi Pednekar, Yami Gautam





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

There is no doubt that nearly a century of Mauritian history unfolded in the tribute paid to Sir Anerood Jugnauth, former Prime Minister and President of the Republic of Mauritius, who had been in the limelight of Mauritian politics for six decades. Homage came pouring in from across the political, economic and social spectrum of the country after news of his demise was made public on Thursday June 3rd. The sad news made people realize that Sir Anerood Jugnauth had definitely left the political landscape of the country, of which he was, undeniably, a dominant giant. Only now that he is no more do the people of Mauritius take full measure of the extent of his commitment to politics starting from the pre-Independence era.

The media coverage of his political career is most instructive and informative to the younger generation and serves as a reminder to one and all that SAJ's engagement spans almost three generations of Mauritian politics. He joined the charismatic highly-outspoken intellectual figures, the Bissoondoyal brothers of the Independent Forward Bloc, participated in delegations to England, actively engaged in elections during the colonial days. His engagement with the MMM in the late 70s paved the way to a promising career marked by his strong personality and commitment to play a leading role in the political affairs of the country. After a brief passage in the PSM, the foundation of his own party in the 1980s, the MSM, definitely made SAJ an indisputable player in the political arena to reckon with ever since.

Destiny plays a big part in life: this was SAJ's firm belief, judging from several statements he made on his career and even on the access of his son to the post of PM in 2017. What with his meeting with world figures like Nehru and Nkrumah in England and the fire he sensed burning in them that he felt would propel them to lead and shine as prominent figures in their respective countries, we must acknowledge that his career illustrated his belief in destiny. His lucky stars shone when several external factors combined to create a rapid development of the industrial zone, namely the investment from Hong Kong industrialists in the textile industry at a time when Sir Anerood was at the helm of power. The early eighties were a

Thank you, SAJ



“SAJ's strong personality and no-nonsense style of governance combined with a sense of discipline and principle of hard work played a major role in building up a positive reputation in the population. His straightforwardness in language and relations accounted for a few abrasive statements and blunt replies to critics. These were generally brushed aside by a public to whom his leadership qualities and contribution to economic development mattered more than the choice of words and tone in heated verbal exchanges among politicians, or undiluted remarks SAJ nervously hurled at any group that he may have antagonized...”

continuation of hard times which SAJ tackled with a policy of austerity advocated by the MMM, implying sacrifices people had to go through. A flourishing tourism industry and export in textiles signaled the light at the end of the tunnel, lifted thousands of Mauritians out of poverty, increased purchasing power and improved general living conditions of thousands of citizens.

Why were other charismatic leaders overshadowed by SAJ? Seasoned politicians like Sir Satcam Boolell and Sir Gaëtan Duval were great patriots and equally committed to the development of Mauritius. No one denies the contribution of SGD, mainly to the tourism industry. In general perception of politics, the former belonged to the past batch of politicians led by SSR while the latter was striding between controversial early beginnings in politics and the popularity he enjoyed thanks to his outgoing personality and a successful tourism policy he spearheaded for some years. Sir Anerood had a special drive to take the country forward, was imbued with a deep sense of patriotism to improve the life of citizens, seized the right economic opportunities by engaging with business barons of the private sector in further investments which were set to open further avenues for economic development.

SAJ's strong personality and no-nonsense style of governance combined with a sense of discipline and principle of hard work played a major role in building up a positive reputation in the population. His straightforwardness in language and rela-

tions accounted for a few abrasive statements and blunt replies to critics. These were generally brushed aside by a public to whom his leadership qualities and contribution to economic development mattered more than the choice of words and tone in heated verbal exchanges among politicians, or undiluted remarks SAJ nervously hurled at any group that he may have antagonized. His village background at Palma certainly left a deep imprint on the natural way he behaved, spoke and connected to others. I think he cared less for his image to please others than concrete actions he undertook. Anyway, politics is not an assembly of choir boys, but an arena for fighters to outsmart rivals, defend political agendas, convince others with the best arguments, promote one's worth and keep the reins of power in the party's hands.

What also endeared SAJ to the public in a way that no other party leaders of the time could was the simplicity of his village background, which he kept all his life and never disowned. He spoke spontaneously and naturally to one and all and remained a gaon man all his life. Mauritius is full of villagers who appreciate the simple way of connecting between politicians and the people, a phenomenon which is often overlooked in assessing merits and defaults of public figures.

My brother Kantilall keeps a fond memory of the Prime Minister when he was tasked by the management of Touessrok Hotel to accompany him in boat trips. SAJ wore a beret and a scarf round his neck, and was in a most relaxed mood

on such occasions. Care was taken not to pester the Prime Minister with questions; however, he spoke out and commented naturally and simply on any topic. He expected no grand reception on private visits. My youngest sister Brinda was instructed to meet SAJ with an umbrella to protect him from drops of rain a few yards away from the reception hall of Trou aux Biches Hotel. He declined the offer saying: *I am fine. Protect yourself, daughter (mo tifi)*. She obeyed, and of course, she was scolded by the administration for not insisting!. As for me, I always sensed an air of melancholy emanating from his face, which is perhaps linked to his childhood experiences.

I gauged the mood of the country on every visit during my globe-trotting experience in Europe, North Africa, the West Indies, Africa and Asia. Conversations with relatives, friends, casual encounters with all and sundry across the island conveyed a realistic overview of the hardships many folks were facing in the early 80s. Bright former Q.E.C students were jobless after completing their studies abroad. Once, I invited a couple of Sino-Mauritian girls to the house at Triolet when they knocked at the door to distribute leaflets for the Catholic Church in Port-Louis. They studied Accountancy and Architecture in Australia, and were unemployed. Faith instilled hope in them. Forget purchasing power; austerity and belt-tightening was the rule.

'Your country has refunded all its debts,' was the good news I heard from a Frenchman abroad, who had just come back from a cooperation mission in Mauritius in mid-1986. The gate was wide open to a new era of opportunities, investments, employment and prosperity. Educated young adults could not believe their eyes when they were summoned for job interviews, and were recruited. No backing or caste-preferences! Girls could find jobs and husbands as factories were set up in the villages, an idea emanating from the PMO. The pace of development gathered momentum in the early 90s. A feel-good factor pervaded society. Mauritius gained status in the region and at international level. It made Mauritians abroad proud of their country.

No wonder SAJ was disappointed at not being re-elected in 1995. There are ups and downs in every mortal's life, and no one is perfect. Destiny smiled again at him in 2000, and wiped out the humiliation of 2010 in the 2014 elections.

India did a great honour to Mauritius in declaring a mourning day on June 5th, 2021. The demise of Sir Anerood Jugnauth jolts the population, and mainly, the younger generation into an awareness of his achievements throughout his political career, and all the benefits people are enjoying today. He was the last representative of an early breed of politicians of high mettle. It is the end of an era in Mauritius. Our thoughts go to Lady Sarojini, his daughter and son, the Prime Minister, his wife, daughters and relatives. We can only say: Thank you, Sir Anerood.