

# MAURITIUS TIMES

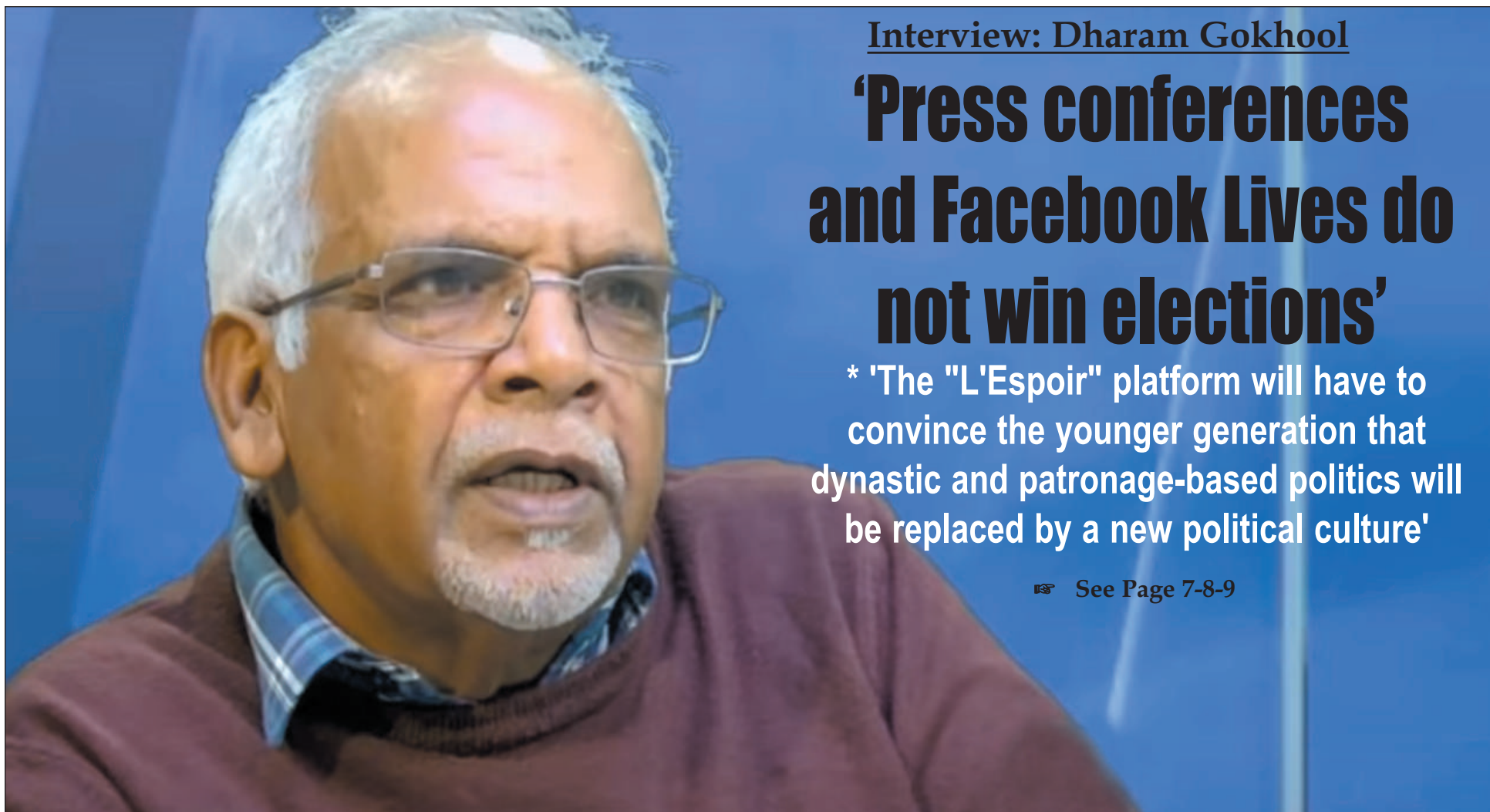
• "That which does not kill us makes us stronger." -- Friedrich Nietzsche

Interview: Dharam Gokhool

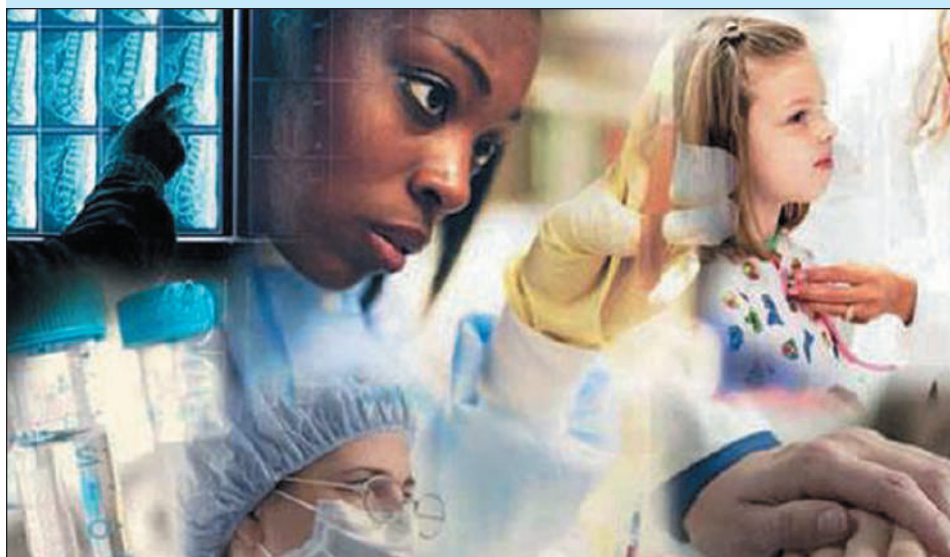
## 'Press conferences and Facebook Lives do not win elections'

\* 'The "L'Espoir" platform will have to convince the younger generation that dynastic and patronage-based politics will be replaced by a new political culture'

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## Healthcare Quality - A Systems Issue



Covid is dramatic and important - but no less so are the myriads of other problems that health services face 24/7, non-stop

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## All Is Not Well



The government cannot bury its head in the sand. The present Covid-19 situation in the country is untenable. We need to urgently fix it

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## Violence and Chaos in Haiti and South Africa

**H**aiti had still not recovered from the devastating cyclone that had struck it nearly a decade ago. South Africa after the legacy of Mandela had engaged in the process of building a viable democracy.

Suddenly, mayhem has engulfed both countries. Haitians suffered a lot during the 'Papa Doc' Duvalier years with their 'tontons macoutes,' but once the dictator was gone they had hoped for better days to come. There was a semblance of a return to a more orderly form of governance, one more stable and lending its ears to the people who had faced hardships for so long. Governments changed but the lives of the people did not undergo as fast an improvement as they would have wished. Given their dire initial starting point, even small incremental changes in their conditions as regards food, housing, employment, education and health would have meant a lot to them.

Willy-nilly, despite the persisting political instability, positive changes were taking place, albeit slowly. Unfortunately came that devastating cyclone, with thousands of deaths and damage to human habitations and infrastructure. The UN along with many organizations in the US stepped in to provide emergency and then medium- to long-term support in reconstruction and re-instituting the essential services as a basis to scaling up all amenities that a functioning country requires. Alas, there was mishandling and diverting of food aid and millions that were being poured in. Poverty, unemployment, poor health and educational services have continued to plague the country.

Against this backdrop there was bitter political rivalry brewing, and then the brutal killing of President Jovenel Moïse in his residence. There had been calls for him to step down, but they went unheeded. No less than 39 persons have been identified and arrested as having forged the conspiracy to assassinate the President. The protests and violence that have followed his death mean that the country is likely to slide backward again, both socio-economically and politically.

On the other hand, South Africa is a much richer and much more developed country with enormous resources of gold and diamonds, along with well-established health, educational, financial services that can rival the best anywhere, as well as a functioning legal system with a strong judiciary, including a Constitutional Court. The outgoing President Jacob Zuma, after resisting initially, had had to bend to the rule of law, and having been found guilty, and realising that the system was stronger than him, voluntarily gave himself up to the police. He was sent to jail to spend the 18 months of imprisonment that he had been imposed.

His supporters took a different line. In the looting, vandalism and hooliganism that they have unleashed, they have cut the ground from under their own feet. They have destroyed beyond belief those businesses that gave them employment and their essential provisions, and instilled fear and loss of confidence not only among the business class, but in society at large. For not even small and medium entrepreneurs in the townships have been spared, their means of livelihood gone for ever, a future of poverty staring at them. Worse still is that among them are many single mothers with many mouths to feed.

On the other hand, there have been no less than 70 deaths at least. Was this a simple protest or was it an insurrection, an attempt at subverting the state? To what extent is tribalism involved? Whatever be, the grim reality is that in both Haiti and South Africa, rebuilding is going to be a long-drawn affair – if at all it can begin under conducive conditions that their respective citizens only can bring about. Tall order indeed.

One nagging thought that keeps coming back when we take cognizance of these disturbing events: Mauritius has been lucky in having SSR and his Labour Party preside over the destiny of the country and for having instilled a culture of tolerance and power sharing since the early days of independent Mauritius. Neither Haiti nor South Africa has been as lucky, except for the brief five-year period when Nelson Mandela was at the helm of the latter country.

### The Conversation

## Why most economists continue to back lockdowns

*Pitting health against the economy is a false dichotomy*



Pic - Reuters

**W**ith the prospect of a lengthier lockdown looming over Sydney, the idea of "living with the virus" has resurfaced.

New South Wales' health minister, Brad Hazzard, raised the prospect of abandoning the lockdown and accepting that "the virus has a life which will continue in the community" at a press conference on Wednesday. NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Prime Minister Scott Morrison have rejected that idea, but many voices in the media have been pushing it.

As with pandemic policy in general, much of the discussion of the Sydney outbreak has framed the problem as one pitting health against the economy. In this framing, epidemiologists and public health experts are seen as the advocates of saving lives, while economists are seen as the advocates of saving money.

In reality, the great majority of Australian economists support policies of aggressive suppression or elimination — that is, keeping case numbers close to zero, and clamping down when an outbreak threatens.

### Broad agreement

As with epidemiologists, that broad agreement encompasses a range of views about the appropriate response in any particular case.

Some economists, and some epidemiologists, supported the NSW government's decision to delay a lockdown, while others wanted earlier action. But only a minority in either group support the idea of

ending restrictions and waiting for herd immunity to protect us.

Unfortunately, as we have already seen in the case of climate change, many media outlets thrive on conflict. It is more interesting to present a debate between a pro-lockdown public health expert and an anti-lockdown economist than to present a nuanced discussion of the best way to suppress the virus, taking into account insights from a range of disciplines.

### Understanding exponential growth

Why have economists endorsed the policy of suppression with more enthusiasm than, for example, political and business leaders?

First, because economists understand the concept of exponential growth.

While economics' stress on growth is rightly contested, its centrality to economic concepts means related concepts from epidemiology, such as the reproduction number (R), are immediately comprehensible to us.

Once you understand how rapidly exponential processes can grow, the idea that lockdowns are "disproportionate responses to a handful of cases", as *The Australian* has editorialised, loses its superficial attraction.

**John Quiggin, Professor, School of Economics, The University of Queensland & Richard Holden, Professor of Economics, UNSW**

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## Mauritius Times

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# Healthcare Quality - A Systems Issue



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

*Covid is dramatic and important - but no less so are the myriads of other problems that health services face 24/7, non-stop*

**T**here is no health system anywhere in the world that hasn't at some stage been overwhelmed by the tsunami of the Covid-19 pandemic. Naturally, the focus has been on dealing with the risks and challenges it has posed, which continue to receive the greatest attention. However, while all this has been going on, it must be underlined that besides coping with Covid, health systems had to also handle all the non-Covid medical and health conditions that form part of their daily routine, and that by far exceeded the Covid load. Covid is dramatic and important - but no less so are the myriads of other problems that health services face 24/7, non-stop and that are equally demanding as well as deserving of as much if not more attention.

For example, the Washington Post reports: 'In 2019, nearly 72,000 people died from drug overdoses. In 2020, amid the coronavirus pandemic, more than 93,000 people died from overdoses, according to National Center for Health Statistics' provisional data. That horrifying figure represents a record year-over-year increase of 30 per cent. Public-health crises converged as the pandemic stretched health-care resources, and illegal fentanyl and other opioid drugs continued to drive a high death toll.'

In fact, the US has been facing an 'opioid' crisis for several years, and a company producing opioids and coercing or inducing medical practitioners to overprescribe them has been heavily fined by the courts. Doctors deemed to have 'colluded' have not escaped chastisement either. One condition of interest to me is low backache, and I have been appalled to read about the overuse of opioids in its management, contributing significantly to the crisis and mortality. This is a medication that I personally use in very specific circumstances and for limited periods for that problem, there being other more effective options of treatment.

On the other hand, in the UK, a joint investigation by Channel 4 News and The Independent has revealed what has been termed the 'Nottingham maternity units scandal,' reporting that 'dozens of babies have died or been left with brain damage at a maternity service accused of bad care and neglect. From 2010 to 2020, at least 46 babies have suffered brain damage and 19 have been stillborn at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS trust maternity units. There have also been 15 deaths at the units involving mothers and babies.'

'Poor record keeping,' a 'culture of fear,' a 'warning notice' issued by the Clinical Quality Commission (CQC) whose recommendations were only partially implemented - the outcomes were the resultant of several factors, as is to be expected and is usually the case in such complex medical issues. There was 'evidence of poor care of both mothers and babies and of repeated failures to investi-



Pic - Pacific Press

**“Covid is dramatic and important - but no less so are the myriads of other problems that health services face 24/7, non-stop and that are equally demanding as well as deserving of as much if not more attention. For example, the Washington Post reports: 'In 2019, nearly 72,000 people died from drug overdoses. In 2020, amid the coronavirus pandemic, more than 93,000 people died from overdoses, according to National Center for Health Statistics' provisional data. That horrifying figure represents a record year-over-year increase of 30 percent...”**

gate deaths of babies,' with accusations of a 'failure or delay to treatment' and of a 'failure to recognise complications' as well as 'inadequate nursing care.' Further, 'vacancies were allowed to build up which meant staff were stretched and a lack of beds meant at-risk women would face delays for treatment.' At the same time, though, there was praise for 'many of the staff for working hard to maintain safety.'

Reading this was painful for me. This may not be the National Health System (NHS) where I had trained for several years over 40 years ago, but in spite of all these shortcomings, it still remains in my view one of the best health systems of the world. What has spoilt it, according to what I learn from my contacts in the UK, is excessive and overzealous bureaucratism, but also shortcomings in training and continuity of care.

Childbirth and maternal health have been a major focus of medicine through-

out the ages. I do not envy my obstetrician-gynaecologist colleagues. Obstetrics is one of the most exacting specialties to practise, and I do not relish the thought of my experiences during my posting in that department as a junior resident!

The death of a newborn is a tragedy for both health staff and the parents and family, and it is not always avoidable. The same logic applies to all other cases across the whole medical spectrum. But what is important is to be prepared to the best of one's ability and resources, and here qualifications, training and experience are crucial. This is a very broad and complicated matter, but there are basic principles that can guide one. The approach and solution(s) can only be at systems level, and that mean at all levels of the system of healthcare.

Specifically as regards maternity, for example, there must be qualified and trained midwives who, by definition, can only gain experience under the supervision of experienced and dedicated midwives. To start with of course they must be qualified nurses, which locally means obtaining a diploma in nursing after following a 3-year course at the Central School of Nursing, after which they must follow a course of training in midwifery. The former one-year course had been abolished some years back (for reasons that I need not go into here), and replaced much later by a two-year course. However, for the past two years this course has not been run. Covid or no Covid, this ought not to have happened. Unless this issue is taken up with the urgency it deserves, and all related matters too are analysed and viable solutions worked out by clear-headed minds focused on bringing improvements rather than finding heads to chop, the risk of tragedies will remain.

But it is not only Obs-Gynae that is concerned, the same approach must inform all other specialties, clinical and non-clinical, on a proactive, ongoing basis. Only one policy innovation has been brought about for the overall improvement of healthcare quality in the past decade, and that was the introduction of Continuing Medical Education through the Finance Bill in 2011. CME too has faced difficulties in the Covid period, and here also there is a need to revisit the conduct of this programme from a systems perspective. There will always been a long way to go and millions to do - but it's up to the country to make a good start in the hope of a sound finish.





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Mrinal Roy

The story of the world's arduous battle against Covid-19 has been repeatedly undermined and hobbled by successive surges and waves of infection caused far too often by governments who imposed lockdowns and restrictions to contain the spread of the virus too late or lifted them too soon. At a time when the overriding imperative should have been to protect and save the lives of people against a deadly pandemic, which has already caused more than 4 million deaths in the space of some 18 months, such questionable choices have invariably been dictated by uncalled for pressures from economic actors and vested lobbies.

The upshot is that new waves of coronavirus infection fuelled by new and more contagious variants such as the highly infectious Delta and Lambda variants continue unabated to infect and cause deaths and distress in the world in a context of widespread vaccination inequality. A third wave of infection is affecting countries around the world. The Delta variant has already been identified in more than 100 countries whereas the Lambda variant, first identified in Peru (which has by far the highest number of Covid deaths per capita), has already spread to 29 countries.

Many scientists speak of the Lambda variant's unusual combination of mutations, which may make it more transmissible. These mutations may make it easier for Lambda to bind to our cells and make it harder for our antibodies to latch onto the virus and neutralize it.

### Unethical

In a letter published in *The Lancet* last week, more than 100 scientists have condemned the UK government's plans to lift all coronavirus restrictions and stated that the government's strategy which 'tolerates high levels of infection is both unethical and illogical'. The scientists also claimed that a hasty lifting of restrictions will cause an exponential growth of Covid-19 and risks 'leaving hundreds of thousands of people with chronic health problems, long Covid and disability'.

Nobel-winning geneticist Paul Nurse also warned that if the government opens up England too hastily 'we could create a variant resistant to vaccines'. Last week, the World Health Organization also cautioned against the complete lifting of public

# All Is Not Well

The government cannot bury its head in the sand. The present Covid-19 situation in the country is untenable. We need to urgently fix it



health and social measures at a time when there has been a 33% increase in new infections in the European region in the last week.

Despite the potent risks flagged by the scientists and the UK health secretary's admission that daily cases could exceed 100,000 in the summer from the current level of more than 27,000 new cases reported every day, the United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced this week that he planned to lift Covid-19 restrictions, including social distancing and mask mandates adding that UK must learn to live with the virus. In essence, the government is shifting the responsibility of dealing with the rapidly spreading virus to companies and individuals raising legitimate questions about who assumes the cost of liabilities.

'We must learn to live with the virus' has therefore become the new leitmotiv of governments bent on arbitrating in favour of the economy and the realpolitik of corporate balance sheets as opposed to saving lives. Rising rates of infection and deaths are callously considered as expendable collateral casualties. Instead of taking robust actions as per their mandate as elected MPs to contain the spread of Covid-19 and save lives, the onus of protection against the virus is shifted to the people who 'will need to take personal responsibility'.

### Questionable mantra

In Mauritius, the government bent on opening our frontiers to shore up the tourism and hospitality sector has also blithely adopted the mantra that 'we must learn to live with the virus'. However, the rising number of daily cases of Covid-19 infection in many enterprises, hospitals, schools and random locations across the country attests to the fact that Covid-19 is no longer limited to clusters and red zones but is extensively present in the community. There is thus a heightened risk of coronavirus infection in the country while com-

muting, at the work place, at school and while shopping, etc., especially as government has lifted all restrictions on economic, social and sporting activities. We also know that fully vaccinated persons can be infected and be a carrier of the virus. There have already been several such cases reported in the country.

In such a context, students commuting to school in crowded buses, the majority of which are not vaccinated, are particularly vulnerable to the pervasive and insidious risk of infection. Already more than 10 schools have already registered cases of Covid-19 infection in the country. This means closure of the schools, contact tracing and PCR testing of all those in contact with the infected persons and the quarantine of those tested positive. After the disinfection and sanitization of the school, it is once again opened to students. What if new cases of infection are detected during the 14 day cycle of the virus? This will entail new contact tracing, PCR testing and quarantine measures. This could trigger an unending cycle. This is a very onerous, disruptive and patently ill-thought-out protocol which needs to be urgently reviewed.

The government and the ministries concerned must therefore take stock of the pervasive risk of Covid-19 infection in the country and must fully assume their responsibilities to above all assure the safety of students, as most of them are not vaccinated and therefore at risk. They cannot pass the buck.

### Core problem

The core problem facing the country is that the government has so far been unable to contain the spread of the second wave of Covid-19 infection since its outbreak in early March and break its chain of transmission. Covid-19 now has a pervasive presence in the country as evidenced by the rising number of daily cases of infection in locations scattered across the country. Despite the muddled way the daily

tally of Covid-19 cases is presented on national TV, the number of new cases of infection has registered a quantum 97% jump of 275 new cases during the 5-15 July period.

It is therefore clear that all is not well with the management of the second wave of Covid-19 infection in the country. This failure cannot only be attributed to the irresponsibility of some. The competent management of the pandemic lies with the government and requires that it constantly reassesses and reviews its decisions in the light of the evolution of the Covid-19 situation locally, on the scientific front and in countries which are our main trading partners and principal sources of tourists in the world. Many countries such as Australia, UK, Germany, France, the US, Japan or South Africa have had to radically revise their Covid-19 related decisions and policies in the light of events in order to better manage the pandemic. There is no shame or ruffled egos in honestly correcting failed policies.

### Risky gamble

Against such a backdrop, the opening of our borders to tourists this week under the present circumstances is therefore fraught with risks. It is a risky gamble. The hotel personnel and those working at the airport and in the hospitality sector will be at risk of being infected by more contagious variants and be carriers of the virus to their close ones and in the community. No one wants highly contagious Covid-19 variants to spread in the country. Fully vaccinated persons can still be infected. This is a lose-lose situation.

The government cannot bury its head in the sand. The present Covid-19 situation in the country is untenable. We need to urgently fix it. This can judiciously be done as Mauritius is a small country. Rational decision making requires that we take all steps necessary to first contain and break the chain of transmission of the virus to urgently make Mauritius Covid-safe even if it means investing in a two weeks plus lockdown. In a context of rising numbers of cases of Covid-19 infection, this is a small price to pay against the continuously rising costs of quarantine, contact tracing, PCR tests, hospitalization and diverse support measures, etc., borne from public funds.

Secondly, we urgently need to take all actions necessary to expedite the vaccination programme to achieve herd immunity in the country at the earliest.

### Decisive actions

The status quo will make matters worse. It requires urgent and bold decisions before the situation gets out of hand. The onus is squarely on government to do what it takes to make the country Covid safe again and attain herd immunity. Once this is securely achieved, the country can safely reboot the economy and judiciously open its frontiers without fear and latent apprehensions. Mauritius cannot therefore afford to let matters worsen through culpable procrastination or lack of decisive actions.



# Twitter sees jump in govt demands to remove content of journalists, news outlets

**T**witter Inc saw a surge in demands over the course of last year from governments around the world to take down content posted by journalists and news outlets, data to be released by the social media platform for the first time will show.

In its transparency report to be published on Wednesday and a copy of which was seen by Reuters, Twitter said verified accounts of 199 journalists and news outlets on its platform globally were subject to 361 legal demands from governments to remove content in the second half of 2020, an increase of 26% from the first half of the year, reports Reuters.

It declined to elaborate on which countries submitted the demands, or how many of the legal demands pertaining to journalists or news outlets the platform complied with.

The new details in Twitter's biannual report on its enforcement of policy rules and the information and removal requests it receives comes as Twitter and other social media companies including Facebook and Alphabet's YouTube are facing scrutiny from governments around the world over the content allowed on their platforms.

On Monday, Cuba began restricting access to Facebook and messaging apps like Telegram amid widespread anti-government protests. Last month, Nigeria banned Twitter's service from the country and ordered television and radio stations not to use the platform to gather information.

The company said globally it received over 14,500 requests for information between July 1 and Dec. 31, and it produced some or all of the information in response to 30% of the requests. Such information requests can include governments or other entities asking for the identities of people tweeting under pseudonyms.

Twitter also received more than 38,500 legal demands to take down various content, and said it complied with 29% of the demands.

Twitter has been embroiled in several conflicts with countries around the world, most notably India over the government's new rules aimed at regulating content on social media. Last week, the company said it had hired an interim chief compliance officer in India and would appoint other executives in order to comply with the rules.



Twitter said globally it received over 14,500 requests for information between July 1 and December 31. Pic - ournainnews.com

Like other social media companies, Twitter has struggled to police hate speech, misinformation and other abuses on its service, with Chief Executive Jack Dorsey among the tech leaders who appeared in a hearing before Congress in March on misinformation.

Major social media companies were most recently under fire this week over racist abuse on their platforms directed at Black players on the England soccer team.

## There may be illegitimate parents, but no illegitimate children: Karnataka High Court

**A** Karnataka High Court bench has observed that the law must recognize the fact that there may be illegitimate parents but there can never be illegitimate children.

The bench headed by Justice B V Nagarathna striking out the clause prescribed by the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (KPTCL) in this regard, reports Swarajya.

"No child is born in this world without a father and a mother. A child has no role to play in his/her birth. Hence, law should recognise...there may be illegitimate parents, but no illegitimate children," the Karnataka HC bench observed, reports Times of India.

The clause mentioned in the 2011 circular issued by KPTCL maintained that the second wife or her children are not eligible for getting jobs on compassionate grounds, if the second marriage had taken place secretly without the knowledge of the first wife and society.

The petitioner was denied eligibility on compassionate grounds appointment, as it said the second wife or her children were not eligible to get jobs on compassionate grounds.

The petitioner's father, who worked as a lineman, died in June 2014. His application seeking a job on compassionate grounds was rejected by the KPTCL.

Challenging this order, the petitioner had approached the court. His petitions were not allowed by the single judge bench of the high court. However, the divisional bench allowed the petition and addressed the grievance.

## Sputnik V Covid vaccine's single dose triggers strong antibody response: Study

**A**ccording to a study, a single dose of the Sputnik V vaccine may be enough to evoke strong antibody response against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, in already infected people.

The new study, published in the journal Cell Reports Medicine, examined whether a single dose of Sputnik V vaccine would achieve greater public health benefit than two doses by allowing protection of a larger population more quickly, reports news agency PTI.

Previous studies have found that two doses of Sputnik V, a vector vaccine produced using a combination of two adenoviruses, results in 92 per cent efficacy against Covid-19 infection, reports Susmita Pakrasi of Hindustan Times.

"Due to limited vaccine supply and uneven vaccine distribution in many regions of the world, health authorities urgently need data on the immune response to vaccines to optimize vaccination strategies," said study senior author Andrea Gamarnik of the Fundacion Instituto Leloir-CONICET in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The researchers noted that the evidence from other vaccines offers support for the one-shot approach. The AstraZeneca vaccine, for example, shows 76 per cent efficacy after a single dose, and the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines may induce sufficient immunity in previously infected individuals after one dose, with no apparent benefit of an additional dose, they said.

The researchers compared the effects of one and two shots of Sputnik V on SARS-CoV-2-specific antibody responses in 289 healthcare workers in Argentina. Three weeks after the second dose, all volunteers with no prior infection generated virus-specific immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibodies.

However, even within three weeks of receiving the first dose, 94 per cent of these participants developed



Previous studies have found that two doses of Sputnik V, a vector vaccine produced using a combination of two adenoviruses, results in 92 per cent efficacy against Covid-19 infection. Pic - HT

IgG antibodies against the virus, and 90 per cent showed evidence of neutralising antibodies, which interfere with the ability of viruses to infect cells.

The research further showed that IgG and neutralising antibody levels in previously infected participants were significantly higher after one dose than those in fully vaccinated volunteers with no history of infection.

A second dose did not increase the production of neutralising antibodies in previously infected volunteers. "This highlights the robust response to vaccination of previously infected individuals, suggesting that naturally acquired immunity might be enhanced sufficiently by a single dose, in agreement with recent studies using mRNA vaccines," Gamarnik noted.

The researchers stated that further studies are needed to evaluate the duration of the immune response and to assess how antibody levels relate to vaccine protection against Covid-19.

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## Why Indians are choosing Canada over US, experts testify before US lawmakers

**I**ndians are now choosing Canada over the United States because of the outdated US immigration policies, immigration and policy experts have said testifying before a panel of US lawmakers, underlying that the per-country quota on issuing the green cards is driving Indian talent away from the United States.



Outdated immigration policies of the United States are driving Indians away from the US and they are now choosing Canada, experts have said. Pic - Weekly Voice

Testifying before the House Judiciary Committee-Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, National Foundation for American Policy Stuart Anderson said the backlog is increasing and, within a decade, more than 2 million people will be waiting in line for the green cards and they might have to wait for years and decades, reports Poulomi Ghosh of Hindustan Times

On the other hand, it is easier for international students to work in temporary status and then acquire permanent residence in Canada. Jennifer Young, CEO, Technology Councils of North America, said Canada's pre-pandemic immigration rules allowed its companies to hire high-skilled foreign talent in even four weeks.

India has been contributing significantly to the number of international students in the United States. For example, out of the US's total full-time graduate students pursuing Computer Science, 75 per cent is from outside. In the 2016-17 academic year, two-thirds of the international students were from India. According to an analysis of the US government data by the National Foundation for American Policy, this share has declined by more than 25 per cent between 2016-17 and 2018-19.

At the same time, Indian students studying at Canadian universities rose by 127 per cent, from 76,075 in 2016 to 172,625 in 2018, according to the Canadian Bureau for International Education.

"In sum, Canada's immigration policies are much better than America's for facilitating the entry of talented individuals. Congress established America's policies in 1990, before smartphones, e-commerce, social media, cloud computing and the daily use of the internet exploded the demand for high-skilled technical labour. The world has changed since 1990. US immigration policy has not," Anderson said.

## UAE becomes 1st Gulf nation to open embassy in Israel

**T**he United Arab Emirates on Wednesday became the first Gulf nation to open an embassy in Israel, nearly a year after both countries signed an agreement to normalise diplomatic ties.

The new mission is located in Tel Aviv Stock Exchange building. The ceremony was attended by new Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

UAE Ambassador Mohammad Mahmoud Al Khajah officially presented his credentials at the beginning of March but the official opening was not held until now, reports ANI.

"It is a great honour to open the embassy here. Ten months ago our two countries signed the Abraham Accords with a vision of dignity, prosperity and peace for the two peoples," Khajah said at the ceremony on Wednesday. He added: "This is just the beginning. Both countries are innovative nations and we will harness these new approaches for the prosperity of the countries."

Herzog, who took office last week,



Israel's President Isaac Herzog, left, cuts a ribbon with United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Israel Mohamed Al Khaja during the opening ceremony for the new UAE Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel. Pic - atalayar.com

hailed the embassy opening as an "important step for the entire Middle East."

Last month, Israel Foreign Minister Yair Lapid visited the UAE on the first official trip by an Israeli minister to the Gulf state, where he inaugurated the Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi and a consulate in Dubai.

Israel and the UAE announced in August 2020 that they would normalise diplomatic relations, bringing over a decade of covert ties into the open. Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco later also joined the US-brokered Abraham Accords, and other countries were also rumoured to be in talks.



People in Sreenagar, Bangladesh walk to board a ferry to their hometowns. Pic - AFP

**B**angladesh will lift its nationwide coronavirus lockdown for the country's second-biggest religious festival, the government said Tuesday, even as new infections soared to record levels.

The cabinet said all restrictions would be eased in the country of 169 million people from Thursday, ahead of the Eid al-Adha festival which will be celebrated from July 20 to 22 this year. The removal of the curbs would "normalise economic activities" ahead of the celebrations, it added. Tens of millions of people usually head back to their villages to mark Eid al-Adha with their families, reports AFP.

Bangladesh imposed its strictest-ever lockdown at the start of the month as new Covid-19 cases and deaths climbed to pandemic highs. Under the lockdown, people were only allowed to leave home for emergencies and to buy essentials, with public transport, shops and offices shut.

But infections have continued to climb, with nearly 14,000 people testing

## Bangladesh to lift lockdown for festival despite record infections

positive on Monday -- a new daily record -- to take the total number of cases to just over one million. The death toll has risen above 16,600. But experts say the real figures could be much higher amid fears of underreporting.

Mohammad Shahidullah, who heads a health committee that advises the government on how to manage the pandemic, said his group of experts opposed the easing of the lockdown.

"The committee opines that this strict lockdown should be continued till there is a declining trend in infections," said Shahidullah. "Amid the lockdown, there is an increasing trend of infections and fatalities. The infection level is still very high."

The announcement came as authorities restarted the country's Covid-19 vaccination drive, which virtually ground to a halt in late April after imports of shots from neighbouring India were suspended to meet local demand amid a massive virus surge.

The revived inoculation programme kicked off on a large scale on Tuesday with two million shots of Sinopharm from China and 2.5 million Moderna doses from the United States via the Covax programme.

So far, 4.2 million people in Bangladesh have been fully vaccinated with two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine bought or donated from India.

In nearby Bhutan, half a million Moderna doses arrived late Monday from the United States via Covax. More shots are expected to be donated by Denmark, Croatia, Bulgaria, China and several other countries.

The tiny Himalayan kingdom, which has a population of 770,000, had pleaded for more shots after using up most of the 550,000 AstraZeneca doses donated by India.

It had inoculated more than 60 per cent of its population with first doses in late March and early April.

In India, where cases have declined from record highs in May, Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned against people flocking to northern Himalayan states to escape the scorching summer heat.

"The virus does not come and go on its own... we bring it with us when we disobey the rules. Experts are warning us repeatedly that careless behaviour -- like overcrowding -- will lead to an increase in Covid cases," he said Tuesday during a meeting with state leaders.

Compiled by D. Ramlallah



Dharam Gokhool

# 'Press conferences and Facebook Lives do not win elections'

*'The "L'Espoir" platform will have to convince the younger generation that dynastic and patronage-based politics will be replaced by a new political culture'*



**E**ven as the country is currently facing two major challenges in the health and economic sectors, the government seems bent on arbitrating in favour of the economy. It is thus keeping the schools open and will proceed with the complete reopening of our frontiers as from 1 October with the attendant risk of losing the gains that have been made so far in the fight against the Covid pandemic, the more so in light of the rise in Delta variant cases which is forcing many countries to put in place tougher restrictions. Dharam Gokhool, former Education minister says in today's interview that if 'we should now live with Covid-19 as the new normal, then this new situation calls for an entirely new multi-pronged approach, a new way of thinking... which should transcend the fragmented, narrow, sectoral, silos response we are witnessing'. He also shares his views on another worrying trend - rising unemployment, which might have already crossed the 100,000 mark, and which according to him, with the end of support schemes for the unemployed or for those on furlough, could be 'the precursor to a looming social crisis'. He also comments on the current political scene, urging the 'L'Espoir' platform to come up with a credible, better deal for the people. Read on

**Mauritius Times:** Like most other countries, we are also currently facing two major challenges: one, the health issues with the resurgence of the Covid infection in different localities, and second, the economic impacts of the pandemic. The government seems to believe that economic recovery should now prevail over the health challenges, and that we should revert back to normality in particular in the sectors of tourism and education. Are we doing the right thing, or do you have fears that things may get out of hand?

**Dharam Gokhool:** For the last two years, Covid-19 has been a terrible tragedy for the global community. The health crisis quite naturally took precedence over the economy and the narrative, so far, has been that people's lives matter. The economy was put on the back-burner. With the passage of time, it is now being realised that Health and livelihood cannot be segregated. Hence the focus is now shifting to economic recovery.

But the global community is also constantly being reminded that Covid-19 is not going to go away so soon and that we should now live with Covid-19 as the new normal. If that is the case, then this new situation calls for an entirely new multi-pronged approach, a new way of thinking based on a whole-systems, innovative, proactive paradigm, which should transcend the fragmented, narrow, sectoral, silos response we are witnessing.

There is a huge difference between doing things right,

where the focus is on incremental, operational efficiency, and doing the right things, where the focus is on charting a new transformational agenda for surviving and thriving together in a Covid-19 ecosystem. This, to my mind, should have been the real challenge, which calls for a bold, farsighted, visionary leadership at the helm of the nation. In the absence thereof, I am afraid the measures being advocated will not take us too far.

**\* We have not yet attained herd immunity, the number of Covid vaccines delivered to date and vaccinations done are below the threshold required. There have also been cases of indiscipline and breaches of the Quarantine Act at social gatherings, weddings, etc, which have led to a surge in Covid cases. Another cause for worry are the yet to come Delta or Lambda variants. Is it safe in these conditions to keep the schools open and to reopen completely the frontiers**

**“The “L'Espoir” platform has been criticising and attacking the Government, conference after conference, but has it so far come up with a credible, better deal for the people? Why is the “L'Espoir” platform failing to generate traction on the ground? Press conferences and Facebook Lives do not win elections. Elections are won and lost in the hearts and minds of the people...”**

**as from October 1?**

In the initial phase, herd immunity through an aggressive vaccination strategy, together with accompanying sanitary measures, was thought to reduce the risks to health and life, associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. A number of developments have since put into question the whole concept of herd immunity.

Controversies about vaccine effectiveness (people with two doses of vaccines being contaminated and some countries starting a third dose), the difficulty in tracking asymptomatic cases, virus mutations, the lack of compliance with sanitary measures like wearing of masks, social distancing, have also put into question the very notion of herd immunity. Is herd immunity still a realistic, achievable target? Or will it have to be recalibrated in the light of developments mentioned earlier?

With the constant increase in the number of cases of infections, the risk factor is very much a matter of live concern. Slogans like “Covid Safe”, “Covid Free” and “Sel Solution Vaccination” have considerably undermined public confidence. It is quite understandable that parents do not want their children to be exposed to contamination. With the opening of frontiers, the risk factor is likely to increase. By keeping schools and frontiers open, is not the Government sending the contradictory signal that the economy matters more than the health of the population?

**\* As for the immediate, rising prices have also become a major cause of concern for a large number of people, hitting in the main low-income and middle-class households. Government's Rs 500 M subsidy granted to importers and distributors for price control has come in for strong criticisms from different quarters. One comment from *Resistans ek Alternativ* worth mentioning is as follows: "The state persists in squandering public funds to feed the big capitalists. This social inequality is unfair...". What's you take on that issue? Do you think the subsidy will really trickle down to the consumer?**

Covid-19, across the world, has had a crippling effect on the global economy.

● Cont. on page 8

# 'Governments are there for saving lives and livelihoods but not at the expense of wastage or misuse of public funds'



● Cont. from page 7

Developing economies have been hit the hardest, and the lower- and middle-income groups have suffered the most. Many have been pushed below the poverty line. With the combined effect of inflation, depreciation of the rupee and the significant rise in prices of a wide range of household commodities, the economic burden of the poorer sections of the population has increased considerably.

True it is that Government has come up with schemes like the Wage Assistance and Self Employed Assistance, but such

hold expenditures do not come under the ambit of the Government subsidy, for example the rising prices of medicines.

In contrast to the Rs 80 billion earmarked for the private sector under the MIC, the Rs 500 million on prices of commodities sounds more like peanuts. It is adding insult to injury. The corporate sector, as usual, will take the lion's share, and the common people will have to content itself with leftovers. *Resistans ek Alternativ* ideological broadside against such a government initiative is fully justifiable, not only politically but also morally.

“The Government Rs 500 million subsidy to importers and distributors will only have a marginal effect on prices as many household expenditures do not come under the ambit of the Government subsidy, for example the rising prices of medicines. In contrast to the Rs 80 billion earmarked for the private sector under the MIC, the Rs 500 million on prices of commodities sounds more like peanuts. It is adding insult to injury...”

initiatives have not made up for loss of their regular income, forcing many households to rely on debts. The general rise in prices has made the situation worse. The Government Rs 500 million subsidy to importers and distributors will only have a marginal effect on prices as many house-

\* On the other hand, another worrying trend is the rising unemployment rate, which is likely to become a very dominant issue in the months ahead. There is controversy about the figures of Statistics Mauritius, and the Leader of Opposition is of the view that we

have already crossed the 90,000 mark. There is a lot of uncertainty regarding the government's wage assistance scheme and about job losses once that scheme is terminated. Are we in for troubled times ahead?

Before I comment on the issue of unemployment and job losses, let me state

"we should not worry about money, we should instead save lives and livelihoods... That's what governments are for...". There does not seem to be other options, isn't it?

Many people, if not all, who are heading many public institutions in Mauritius, are political nominees. They are bound to

“Does Government have the political clout to require the large hotel establishments to open their accounts for scrutiny before the disbursement of funds? The multiple stars hotel establishments have been there for more than half a century. Have they all been running at losses? How about their accumulated reserves? Should they not also share the burden of economic recovery?”

that it is a matter of grave concern that Statistics Mauritius has got itself entangled in controversies, which has led its Chairman, a well-respected professional, to resign from his office only a few days after growth projection figures were tampered with, without any credible explanations or justifications. Reminds me of a similar deplorable situation at the Mauritius Standards Bureau. Unbridled political interference has been taking a heavy toll on governmental credentials.

As far as unemployment, under employment and job losses are concerned, it is no secret that when economies go through recessions, fewer jobs are created; employees are put on furlough. SMEs, which contribute to the largest share of employment, are hit the hardest and self-employment opportunities dwindle. Those who are more vulnerable are youth and women. Some 10,000 plus graduates and diploma-holders are in the employment queue since years

If we add up the backlog of unemployed, in all categories - be they unskilled, diploma-holders and graduates and those on furlough - we might well have crossed the 100,000 mark. With the end of support schemes for the unemployed or for those on furlough, the situation cannot but deteriorate. And that could be the precursor to a looming social crisis.

\* There has been a lot of spending by the government since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 with the financing of the Wage Assistance Scheme, and the latest being the Rs 500 M price subsidy. That is clearly not sustainable, but Lord Desai, the former MIC chairman, has been saying lately that

speak the language of their bosses to whom they owe allegiance for obvious reasons.

I always thought that Lord Desai was made of another mettle, a respected professional who would scrupulously resist being labelled as "his master's voice". By a strange coincidence, his statement resonates with similar statements from Government ranks inside and outside the National Assembly, till very recently.

The National Audit Office's severe strictures on wastage of public funds and the recent ICAC investigations into alleged cases of corruption in the procurement of medical supplies for Covid-19 are only the tip of the iceberg as far as the questionable financial stewardship of public funds is concerned.

Governments are there for saving lives and livelihoods but not at the expense of wastage or misuse of public funds. Besides, the use of public funds should abide by the sacrosanct principles of transparency and accountability. Is MIC exempted from these obligations?

A forensic investigation of how public funds of the MIC have been disbursed and utilised and how much of the funds will be recuperated, at the end of the day, will provide the nation with a graphic account on the misdirection or otherwise of public funds.

On a concluding note on this issue, Government is coming to realise the ABC of basic economics that one has to cut one's coat according to the available cloth, and that the assistance schemes could well be unsustainable.

● Cont. on page 9



# 'Have the multiple stars hotel establishments been running at losses? Should they not also share the burden of economic recovery?'



• Cont. from page 8

Alternatives must be explored. Will Lord Desai then change his original hypothesis that "we should not worry about money"?

**\* About the MIC itself, billions have been earmarked to be channelled towards the major distressed enterprises, mostly those in the tourism sector, but now we hear the some of the multiple stars hotels will go in for major renovation works after benefitting from almost 18 months of wage assistance. Misplaced priorities or what?**

The MIC funds are shrouded in a thick veil of secrecy by the Central Bank and the MIC itself. Even parliamentary scrutiny has been denied by Government.

The Financial Action Task Force has established that Government does not have the capacity to conduct complex financial investigations. But, more importantly, does Government have the political clout to require the large hotel establishments to open their accounts for scrutiny before the disbursement of funds?

The multiple stars hotel establishments have been there for more than half a century. Have they all been run-

ning at losses? What about their accumulated reserves? Should they not also share the burden of economic recovery?

Since the Government has not come forward with a well-calibrated, multi-pronged, balanced economic recovery strategy, for example by giving support for food security and the circular economy, and since the tourism sector is a major earner of foreign currency, and as Government is betting on this sector to kick start the economy, it will have to play to the tune of the piper.

**\* There is much uncertainty about when normality will be restored, and most economists are saying the continuing uncertainty about the Covid pandemic makes economic forecasts difficult. Our Finance minister is betting on the**

**"Slogans like "Covid Safe Covid Free" and "Sel Solution Vaccination" have considerably undermined public confidence. It is quite understandable that parents do not want their children to be exposed to contamination. With the opening of frontiers, the risk factor is likely to increase. By keeping schools and frontiers open, is not the Government sending the contradictory signal that the economy matters more than the health of the population?"**

**revival of the tourism sector with the reopening of the frontiers in October and on further investments in infrastructure to take out of the current stagnation. Could he be right?**

Investment in infrastructure is important, but it will take its own time to generate income for the Government. In normal conditions, the tourism sector, with its multiplier effects, plays a major role in economic growth. But in a Covid-19 context where the tourism market worldwide is quite depressed, and with limited spending capacity of travellers, will the expected flow of some 650,000 tourists in the coming months materialise, both in terms of numbers and projected revenues?

The daily increase in the number of infections is indeed worrying, and Government seems to be losing control on this front. If the Covid situation deteriorates, Government runs the risk of losing its gamble of betting heavily on the tourism sector. And being caught in the net of a zero-sum game.

**\* On the political front, it would appear the 'L'Espoir' parties are on course to getting back together after a brief period when each party went its separate way lately. Do you think the Labour Party's place is with that "plateforme", as one political leader**

**"The track record of this Government, so far, has been highly disappointing, and people feel let down. The rot has not gone away, nor is "développement" and a "bigger share of the cake for the people" at the rendezvous, as promised in 2014 and 2019. There is a general feeling among the population that the country is stuck in a rut and problems are piling up. Public frustration with the political class has never been so acute..."**

**has suggested recently, or is the place already too crowded?**

I view the situation from a different angle.

The track record of this Government, so far, has been highly disappointing, and people feel let down. The rot has not gone away, nor is "développement" and a "bigger share of the cake for the people" at the rendezvous, as promised in 2014 and 2019. There is a general feeling among the population that the country is stuck in a rut and problems are piling up. Public frustration with the political class has never been so acute.

The "L'Espoir" platform has been criticising and attacking the Government, conference after conference, but has it so far come up with a credible, better deal for the people? Why is the "L'Espoir" platform failing to generate traction on the ground? Press conferences and Facebook Lives do not win elections. Elections are won and lost in the hearts and minds of the people.

"L'Espoir", with or without the Labour Party, will have to convince the population that it will last, and that it has a programme and the people to deliver on that programme, and that it will be the harbinger of an era of political renaissance in the Mauritian landscape. Last but not the least, it will have to convince the younger generation that dynastic and patronage-based politics will be replaced by a new political culture where merit and morality will prevail.

**\* Some Labourites have been saying that it appears to them that the party is still in hibernation, leaving the field to the four leaders of 'L'Espoir' to do all the talking for quite some time now. Are you beginning to have doubts about LP's capacity to get back on its feet?**

Whether it is hibernation or hypersomnia, both conditions can impair the bounce-back potential of a political organisation. In an era where agility, both mental and physical, is the norm, the ground rule is to be up and running.

If the government of the day is failing, it's because it came unprepared and is unable to be proactive. Fire-fighting and crisis management has become the norm.

The Labour Party is a sleeping giant, but the key to a successful bounce-back is to be in a state of preparedness.

According to Benjamin Franklin, failing to prepare is preparing to fail. Let this be a wake-up call for the Labour leadership.

**"Will the expected flow of some 650,000 tourists in the coming months materialise, both in terms of numbers and projected revenues? The daily increase in the number of infections is indeed worrying, and Government seems to be losing control on this front. If the Covid situation deteriorates, Government runs the risk of losing its gamble of betting heavily on the tourism sector..."**



# Yes, you can still get Covid after being vaccinated, but you're unlikely to get as sick

*People who are vaccinated and still contract Covid-19 are less likely to develop severe symptoms, be hospitalised, or die from it*



Lara Herrero,  
Griffith University

**W**hen a Covid cluster includes people, who are vaccinated against the virus, we inevitably hear rumblings of complaint from people who wonder what the point is of vaccination.

But when you read past the headlines, you usually see the answer: in most cases, those who were vaccinated and contracted Covid-19 didn't die, didn't develop severe symptoms and didn't need to be hospitalised.

For the unvaccinated in their later years, the chance of dying from Covid is high. For unvaccinated people in their 80s, around 32% who contract Covid will die from it. For people in their 70s, it's around 14%. (For unvaccinated people in their 60s, it drops to around 3%. And for under-50s, it's less than 1%.)

The good news is both Pfizer and AstraZeneca are very effective at preventing severe disease and death from Covid-19, even from the more virulent Delta strain.

## So how effective are our vaccines?

Preliminary data from the United Kingdom shows after your first dose of either Pfizer or AstraZeneca, you're 33% less likely than an unvaccinated person to contract the Delta variant.

Two weeks after your second dose, this rises to 60% for AstraZeneca and 88% for Pfizer. This data is for any form of Covid-19, from mild to severe.

But when you look at how much the vaccines reduce your risk of developing

severe illness that requires hospitalisation, the coverage is high for both. Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines are 96% and 92% effective (respectively) in preventing Delta variant hospitalisations.

## Why do some people still get Covid after being vaccinated?

Vaccines aren't magic barriers. They don't kill the virus or pathogen they target.

Rather, vaccines stimulate a person's immune system to create antibodies. These antibodies are specific against the virus or pathogen for the vaccine and allows the body to fight infection before it takes hold and causes severe disease.

However, some people won't have a strong enough immune response to the vaccine and may still be susceptible to developing Covid-19 if exposed to the virus.

How a person responds to a vaccine is impacted by a number of host factors, including our age, gender, medications, diet, exercise, health and stress levels.

It's not easy to tell who hasn't developed a strong enough immune response to the vaccine. Measuring a person's immune response to a vaccine is not simple and requires detailed laboratory tests.

And while side effects from the vaccine indicate you're having a response, the absence of symptoms doesn't mean you're having a weak response.

It also takes time for the immune system to respond to vaccines and produce antibodies. For most two-shot vaccines, antibody levels rise and then dip after the first dose. These antibodies are then boosted after the second.

But you're not optimally covered until your antibody levels rise after the second dose.

## What does Covid look like after being vaccinated?

The PCR tests we use to detect SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, are very sensitive and can detect a positive case even if you have low levels of the virus in your system. This means a person can test positive for SARS-CoV-2 but still not have symptoms of Covid-19.

Of those vaccinated people who have reported symptoms, the vast majority report mild ones, with a shorter duration.

There is always a chance a vaccinated person could pass the virus onto a non-vaccinated person without having symp-

toms themselves.

But vaccinated people who develop Covid-19 will likely have a lower viral load than unvaccinated people, meaning they're less likely to spread the virus.

One study estimated those who were vaccinated with either Pfizer or AstraZeneca were 50% less likely to pass it on to an unvaccinated household contact than someone who wasn't vaccinated. This transmission will likely reduce again if both household members are vaccinated.

But if you're not vaccinated and contract Covid-19, you're much more likely to spread the virus.

## What about future variants?

So far, the preliminary data (some of which is ongoing and/or yet to be peer reviewed) shows our current vaccines are effective at protecting against circulating variants.

But as the virus mutates, there is increasing chance of viral escape. This means there is a greater chance the virus will develop mutations that make it fitter against, or more easily able to evade, vaccinations.

Scientists are closely monitoring to ensure our current and/or future vaccines are effective against the circulating strains.

To help the fight against Covid-19 the best thing we can do is minimise the spread of the virus. This means get vaccinated when you can, ensure you maintain social distancing when required and get tested if you have any symptoms.


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# Why most economists continue to back lockdowns

• Cont. from page 2

A clear majority of economists surveyed in May 2020 (after the end of the national lockdown) supported strong social distancing measures to keep R below 1. Most of those who disagreed felt alternative measures could hold R below 1 at lower costs. Only a handful supported a "let it rip" strategy.

## Considering counterfactuals

Second, economists understand counterfactuals — that is, the need to specify what would have happened under an alternative policy.

It is easy to make the point that lockdowns are both economically costly and psychologically traumatic. But the counterfactual is not a situation where the economy is unaffected and everyone is happy. Living in fear of the virus, and watching family and friends suffer and die from it, is psychologically traumatic.

As regards the economic

costs, the steps people take to reduce their exposure to risk are themselves costly, as is the need to allocate medical resources to treat the sick.

## Weighing trade-offs

Third, and most importantly, economists understand about trade-offs.

There are always trade-offs within the space of policy choices. Should we lock down at the first sign of an outbreak and risk unnecessary costs, or wait until later and risk a longer and harsher lockdown? Should we incur the costs of purpose-built quarantine facilities, or accept the greater risk of leakage from hotel quarantine?

Economists also understand that not all choices involve trade-offs. Sometimes one policy is unequivocally worse than another, on all relevant criteria. While there are always trade-offs somewhere in policy space, it's often the case that, of the live options, one dominates the other



Pic - Getty Images

in all important dimensions.

On the central question of suppression versus herd immunity, there was no trade-off, as countries like Sweden found out.

The evidence points strongly to one conclusion. Allowing the virus to spread uncontrolled would have done more economic

damage than temporary lockdowns, as well as causing thousands of avoidable deaths and tens of thousands to suffer severe, and possibly long-lasting, illness.

## Risk and uncertainty

Finally, economists understand the complexities of risk and

uncertainty.

One implication is the benefit of diversification by "backing every horse in the race", as opposed to "putting all your eggs in one basket", or even a few.

The federal government's vaccine policy relied heavily on a limited range of options — primarily AstraZeneca, and the University of Queensland's vaccine venture — both of which ran into problems. If we had followed the logic of diversification, we would be much better placed than we are now.

Economics doesn't have all the answers. No one knows that better than economists. Dealing with the pandemic requires insights from a range of disciplines. But lazy stereotypes, pitting one profession against another, don't help.

*John Quiggin, Professor, School of Economics, The University of Queensland & Richard Holden, Professor of Economics, UNSW*

## PROGRAMME DES COURSES

### 11<sup>e</sup> journée samedi 17 juillet 2021

1 THE AMORETTO PLATE 1600 m - Valeur [0-15] - 12h15					
1 DAREDEVIL AVIATOR	SPN	9-11/7-8-9	61(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	8 2500
2 GROBAN	RM	7-7-7/7-3	61	R.Joorawon	11 700
3 XANTHUS	PM	2-8/3-5-2	61	R.K.Chumun	1 350
4 BLUNDERBUSS	CR	4-1-9/10-5	60.5	P.K.Horil	10 900
5 KINGS EMPIRE	SH	3-1/2-2-7	60.5	Bhaugerothee	5 400
6 MISTY ROLLER	CD	2-3-2-1/4	60.5(-4)	M.Sonaram	9 450
7 KING'S STORY	JMH	7-8-9/7-5	60	D.Bheekary	6 3000
8 BIOMETRIC	VA	3/9-5-5/6	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	3 700
9 HIT THE GREEN	RM	3-3-2/2-6	59.5	R.Hoolash	7 550
10 SLIGHTLY SCOTTISH	AS	8-9-8-8/7	56	S.Rama	2 1000
11 SPECIAL FORCE [EA]	SPN	10-11-3/4-8	55.5	-----	4 -----

2 THE SAMAN PLATE 1500 m - Valeur [0-26] - 12h50					
1 BENI DES DIEUX	RG	nouveau	60	J.Allyhosain	2 300
2 FAIRBANKS	VA	4-1-2/7-6	60	B.Fayd'herbe	8 500
3 MASTER MARINER	JMH	0-0-0-0-7	60	R.Joorawon	5 900
4 OXFORD BLUE	CD	0-0-7-4-5	60(-4)	M.Sonaram	4 350
5 RUBY SPIRIT	AS	6-5-4/4-2	60	S.Rama	1 300
6 SUPREME ORATOR	CR	8-9-6/6-7	60	P.K.Horil	3 2000
7 THE TIME IS NOW	SPN	nouveau	60	D.Bheekary	6 900
8 LEAD SINGER	P	0-3-7/9-7	59	G.D.Aucharuz	7 2000

3 THE HELLO POLLY PLATE 1400 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 13h25					
1 SIX DEGREES	SN	nouveau	61.5	G.D.Aucharuz	4 350
2 ROMANUS	G	1-N-5-3-5/	61	S.Donohoe	3 480
3 MIDDLE PATH	RG	1-5-3-1-5/	60.5	B.Bhaugerothee	5 1800
4 RON'S JOY	GR	0-0-1-5-1/	60.5	J.Allyhosain	2 300
5 SACRED NIGHT	VA	2-3-1-2-6/	60.5	B.Fayd'herbe	10 1200
6 TYRIAN	PM	1-5-7/4-5	60	S.Rama	6 800
7 DUKE OF ABERCORN	JMH	nouveau	59.5	R.Joorawon	8 1800
8 RED ROCK CANYON	SPN	nouveau	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	7 1800
9 RIVER THAMES	SJ	7-8/2-6-8	59.5	T.Juglall	1 450
10 SEVENTH RULE	PM	0-0-2-4-9/	58.5	R.Oliver	9 2500

4 THE NOBLE HERO PLATEP 1450 m - Valeur Benchmark 51 - 14h00					
1 POP ICON	SPN	0-0-7-R-10	61	G.D.Aucharuz	4 1300
2 QUATRO FIVE SIX	PM	0-0-0-0-4	61	R.Oliver	5 650
3 SEATTLE KID	CD	1-1-3/6-3	61(-4)	M.Sonaram	1 200
4 MAMBO ROCK	GR	2-2-3-2/2	59.5	B.Bhaugerothee	3 320
5 GIMMETHERAIN	SJ	1-1-5-5/4	59	T.Juglall	2 450
6 YORKTOWN	RG	0-0-0-0-5	59	J.Allyhosain	7 650
7 WAIMEA	JMH	0-0-0-0-7	54	S.Rama	6 2000

5 THE MAURICE MARTIN CUP 1450 m - Valeur Benchmark 36 - 14h35					
1 HIGH VOLTAGE	AS	0-0-0-R-6	61.5	S.Rama	7 1200
2 BONJOUR BABY	CR	8-3-1-5/9/	61	P.K.Horil	2 1600
3 DO OR DARE	JMH	8-1-1/7-6	60	G.D.Aucharuz	1 300
4 ALAMEERY	SJ	0-0-8-4-2	59.5	J.Allyhosain	6 370
5 THOMAS HENRY	G	0-0-2-1/1	59.5	S.Donohoe	8 300
6 DIVINE CONNECTION	SPN	5/6-7-4-3/	59(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	3 2000
7 SKIP THE RED	RM	7-1-R-8/4	59	P.C.Orffer	4 520
8 THE JAZZ SINGER	SH	8-7-6-9/6	58.5	I.Santana	5 1000
9 WELL CONNECTED	VA	3-10-9/6-9	56.5(-3)	A.Roy	9 2500

6 THE REYNOLDS COQUET CUP 1450 m - Valeur Benchmark 51 - 15h10					
1 HUBBLE	SJ	1-7/7-5-2	61	J.Allyhosain	2 230
2 ROYAL ITALIAN	SN	0-0-0-8-4	61	D.Bheekary	4 300
3 ALL ABOUT THE BASS	P	2-1-4-2-8/	59.5	O.Sola	5 1000
4 COLOUR MY FATE	AS	0-0-0-0-2	59	S.Rama	6 350
5 ROMAN DANCER	G	R-1-7-1/1	59	S.Donohoe	3 500
6 DUKE'S DOMAIN	RG	1-4-3-2/5	57.5	P.K.Horil	7 1600
7 TIGER'S ROCK	JMH	nouveau	55	R.Joorawon	1 2000

7 THE MAURITIUS GUINEAS CUP 1600 m - Valeur G.2 4yrs Old - 15h45					
1 COUNT JACK	GR	0-0-0-6-6	61	J.Allyhosain	5 600
2 ARIZONA SILK	PM	0-0-0-8-5	58.5	R.Oliver	2 2000
3 FOOLS GOLD	RM	1-3-3-3/6	57	P.C.Orffer	3 550
4 PADRE PIO	SJ	0-0-0-2-1	56	S.Donohoe	7 210
5 ETCHED IN BLUE	JHM	0-0-0-3-1	55.5	R.Joorawon	6 450
6 BAG OF TRICKS	RG	0-0-0-3-3	54	P.K.Horil	4 550
7 KAYDENS PRIDE	RM	2-2-3/1-1	52	S.Rama	1 500

8 THE INTERCONTINENTAL PLATE 1450 m - Valeur [0-25] - 16h20					
1 AL JAZEERA	CR	0-0-0-0-4	61	P.K.Horil	1 450
2 MANOLETE	CD	N-1-6/6-5	61(-4)	M.Sonaram	7 650
3 XENON	RM	0-0-0-8-4	61	P.C.Orffer	6 500
4 MR MOGAMBO	SN	3-3-3-4-5/	60.5	G.D.Aucharuz	8 2000
5 YANKEE FORCE	RG	6-5-1/1-2	60	J.Allyhosain	5 300
6 ANZA- BORREGO	PM	5-6-5-2-2/	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	2 650
7 TICKET HOLDER	SJ	7-10/9-8-7	59.5	T.Juglall	3 3300
8 BLEU ROYALE	P	0-0-N/4-2	59	S.Bussunt	9 350
9 GREATFIVEEIGHT	CD	7-4/9-4-9	52	S.Rama	4 2500

9 THE WINGED PHAROAH PLATE 1365 m - Valeur [0-20] - 16h55					
1. LOOSEN YOUR TIE	JHM	6-4-N-6/4	60	D.Bheekary	2 400
2. MAURITIUS	SH	0-0-0-0-1	60	I.Santana	1 150
3. ARCTIC FLYER	SPN	5-5-7/3-5	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	4 2000
4. DUNZIE	CD	2-2/5-4-2	59.5(-4)	M.Sonaram	7 500
5. EPIC SWORD	SN	7-5-6-9-7/	59.5	G.D.Aucharuz	3 3000
6. WHAT A KID	RG	N-5-5/2-6	59.5	B.Bhaugerothee	6 1500
7. MINALOUSHE VENTURE	AS	4-3/5-7-10	58.5	S.Rama	8 3000
8. CAPTAIN FALCON	G	6-8-2/5-1	58	S.Donohoe	5 600

SELECTIONS					
1. XANTHUS, KINGS EMPIRE, MISTY ROLLER					
2. BENI DES DIEUX, RUBY SPIRIT, OXFORD BLUE					
3. ROMANUS, SIX DEGREES, RON'S JOY					
4. SEATTLE KID, MAMBO ROCK, GIMMETHERAIN					
5. THOMAS HENRY, DO OR DARE, ALAMEERY					
6. HUBBLE, COLOUR MY FATE, ROYAL ITALIAN					
7. PADRE PIO, ETCHED IN BLUE, KAYDENS PRIDE					
8. YANKEE FORCE, ANZA- BORREGO, BLEU ROYALE					
9. MAURITIUS, LOOSEN YOUR TIE, DUNZIE					



# From flying boats to secret Soviet weapons to alien visitors

## A brief cultural history of UFOs

The history of UFOs weaves together public fascination, government secrecy and cultural phenomena. Recent news and shifts in the government's stance on UFOs are giving new life to the mystery

On June 25, 2021, the U.S. government released a nine-page preliminary report on UFOs, or, as it is now calling them, Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, or UAPs. The report is the latest notable event in what has been a renaissance for UFOs in recent years. Greg Eghigian is a historian of science at Penn State who has published research and is writing a book on the history of UFOs in the U.S. We spoke with him for The Conversation Weekly podcast the day before the new report came out to better understand the cultural history of UFOs in the U.S.

Below are excerpts from our conversation that have been edited for length and clarity.

### When did the idea of UFOs first emerge?

The idea of aliens and that other worlds might be inhabited actually goes back to ancient times. The question was a matter of real debate among philosophers, scientists and theologians in the Western world by the 18th century and it was widely accepted that alien civilizations existed.

But something changed in the 19th century. That's when you first start to see these reports of people seeing what they say were flying ships overhead. The things people describe back then sound a lot like the things they were familiar with - they literally saw ships and vessels that would normally float on the sea in flight. Some people would see steam-powered ships.

But it's really not until the summer of 1947 that people began to regularly speak of seeing flying objects that some attributed to extraterrestrials.

### What happened in 1947?

A pilot by the name of Kenneth Arnold was flying his small plane near Mount Rainier in Washington state. As he was flying around he said he saw some sort of glimmer or shine that caught his eye and was concerned that maybe he was going to have a collision with another aircraft. When he looked, he saw what he described as nine very odd-shaped vessels flying in formation.

After Arnold landed, he reported his sightings to authorities at a nearby airport and eventually talked to some reporters. When a reporter asked Arnold to describe how the things moved, he said, "they flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across water." Some very clever enterprising journalists came up with the headline "flying saucers" and from that point forward they were flying saucers - even though Arnold never uttered the phrase himself.

A Gallup poll six weeks after the event



The worldwide fascination with UFOs started in the late 1940s after a few incidents made the news in the U.S. David Zaitz/The Image Bank via Getty Images

discovered that 90% of Americans had heard the term flying saucer. This was the beginning of the phenomenon that some call the flying saucer era and the contemporary idea of UFOs.

Within days other people in the country began reporting having seen similar things in the sky. Within weeks the U.S. Air Force decided to look into the reports. Arnold's story also triggered a lot of press interest and soon the international media were covering this story. It was a worldwide phenomenon within months.

### Who starts to look into UFOs?

Two things happened in parallel: First were government-sponsored investigations in the U.S., specifically within the Air Force. Starting in 1947 the Air Force set in motion a number of different projects all basically interested in one question: Do UFOs represent a national security threat? The government wasn't interested in a deep scientific analysis of these things.

On the other hand, from 1947 to 1950 you had a lot of the general public who were just utterly fascinated with the mystery of flying saucers. What are they? Are they real? If they are real, who's behind them? Some people threw around the idea of aliens, but that's not really the major theory that people bought into. Most people - if they thought the sightings were real - believed they were either secret weapons of the U.S. military or secret weapons or secret aircraft of the Soviets.

So out of this fascination developed what you could call the equivalent of fan groups - flying saucer clubs. Those

became the seeds of growth in the 1950s and 1960s for UFO organizations first at the local, then the national and then the international level.

### How did government programs fit into the UFO ecosystem?

A lot of what the Air Force did was behind closed doors and supposed to be clandestine. The government has released files over many years that show that a considerable number of UFO sightings were people seeing secret airplanes like the U2. It's no surprise that the Air Force would try to keep strict control over what's revealed to the public.

But that strict control is one of the many things that fed conspiracy theories over the years. The idea among UFO believers became "The government isn't shooting straight with us. Somehow we've got to get these people to disclose all the information they know."

### What is the modern American perspective on UFOs?

Up until the '90s the Cold War played a really fundamental formative role in how people in the U.S. imagined UFOs - both in terms of how we think about humanity's prospects technologically, but also relating to the fears and anxieties surrounding the Cold War. But when the Cold War ended, interest fell off. From the late 1990s into the early 2000s media coverage was nominal.

That all changed with the 2017 revelations about the secret UFO project in the Pentagon. This spurred on a resurgence of interest in UFOs. The way the media were

talking about UFOs had a lot of the same elements from before: Are these things alien? If they're not alien, are they from our military or somebody else's military? Are the people who were pushing the narrative and stories of sightings operating in good faith or are these con men?

In so many ways this was all really reminiscent of the 1940s and 1950s.

### Do you see a shift in how scientists think of UFOs?

In my conversations with scientists I've been seeing some movement toward a willingness to say, "This stuff is maybe worthy of looking into more seriously." The important change since the 1990s - specifically for astrophysicists and astronomers - has been the discovery of so many planets around other stars that could possibly support life.

I'm excited by the prospect of deeper study - both as a phenomenon that needs to be investigated by physical scientists but also as a social and cultural phenomenon. Mystery breeds speculation, and the UFO phenomenon is not a puzzle that can be easily solved. The mystery part gives people an opportunity to ask big questions about not just humanity's place in the universe, but about the limits of technology and knowledge. I think that's why people keep returning to the question of UFOs.

**Greg Eghigian**  
Professor of History, Penn State





### A married man's prayer

**D**ear God, you gave me childhood, you took it away; you gave me youth you took it away.

You gave me bondage, it's been years now being reminded by my employees: "Sir, you are a lion in the office, what about at home?"

Dear God, "I am a lion too, but my (Goddess Doorga) sits on the lion there."

\*\*\*

### The bluff of the cowboy

A cowboy rode into the city and stopped at a saloon. Unfortunately, the locals had a habit of playing tricks on foreigners, and when he drowned down his drink, he found his horse had been stolen. He went back into the bar, flipped his gun in the air, caught it above his head without looking and fired a shot into the ceiling.

"Who swindled my horse?" he bellowed making glasses on the bar shake.

No one answered the cowboy; he squinted around the room, then without looking shot off a bottle of whisky on the bar.

"All right, I'm gone. Have another drink, and if my horse isn't back outside by the time I finish, I'm gonna have to do what I did in Texas," He snarled at the room in general.

The locals shifted uneasily in their seats as the fellow swivelled around suddenly. "And let me tell you - I don't

want to do what I did in Texas."

Chairs creaked restlessly and the cowboy sat at the bar again, and quickly drowned his second drink. The locals watched as he got up, paid his bill including the bottle of whisky and walked outside to find his horse back where he'd left it. As the cowboy saddled up to ride out of town, the bar owner wandered out of the bar. Unable to contain his curiosity, he approached the cowboy.

"Say man, before you leave, what happened in Texas?"

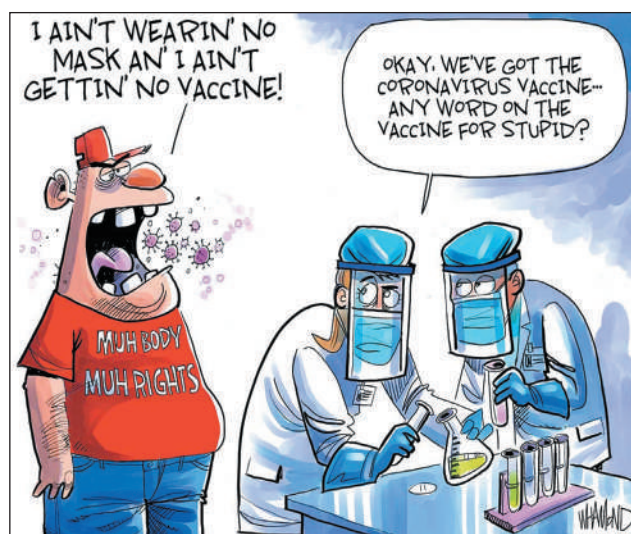
The cowboy turned back, "Sadly I had to walk home."  
\*\*\*

### Just for a sexy laugh!

C'est un type qui va chez le médecin (un sexologue) parce qu'il ne vient plus.

- Docteur, je ne viens plus.

Le médecin l'examine et lui donne des cachets et lui dit :  
- Vous prenez ces cachets. Si vous venez, ne revenez pas, mais si vous ne venez toujours pas et bien revenez



me voir !

Quelques semaines plus tard, le type est à nouveau chez le médecin. Il s'adresse à la secrétaire :

- Mademoiselle, je suis venu il y a quelques semaines parce que je ne venais pas. Le médecin m'a donné des cachets et m'a demandé de ne pas revenir si je venais, mais que si je ne venais pas de revenir aussitôt. J'ai pris les cachets et je suis venu. Alors, je ne suis pas revenu. Cependant, maintenant, je ne viens plus, alors je suis venu.

La secrétaire va parler au médecin:

- Docteur, il y a ici un type à qui vous avez demandé de ne pas revenir s'il venait et de revenir s'il ne venait pas. Il est venu donc, il n'est pas revenu, mais aujourd'hui, il ne vient plus, alors, il est venu .

Le docteur lui répond :

- Parfait mademoiselle, faites- le venir!

Et la secrétaire de répondre :

- C'est ce que j'ai fait docteur; et il est reparti!

### 742 grains of green gram

A retired officer goes to a shop and asks the young shopkeeper: "Give me 742 grains of green gram." The boy, without speaking a word, quickly weighs 200 grams of green gram and gives it to the customer. Customer asks him: "Are there really 742 grains in this packing?"

Youngster replies: "of course, you can go home and count. My dad has counted and established that each kilo of green gram comprises of 3710 grains. Therefore, for 200 grams, it should contain 742 grains."

The customer gets even more curious, and asks the youngster: "What does your dad do?"

The youngster replies: "He is also retired, like you."

### Life's Lessons

## Have you made it to the top?

**T**his is one incident I can never forget. I was at a senior position in HR and we had just finished our annual reviews. I had the list of employees who were to be given their promotion letters.

All was going well until I called this guy to talk to him about a new opportunity. It was a promotion from his current role, and he had the right skills and qualifications.

"Sorry but I'm not interested," he politely said.

I pressed him on it until he said something that really confused me. He told me that he "already made it to the top".

I was familiar with his current role and looked at his CV again.

He wasn't anywhere near the top. He would have needed binoculars to see the top. He wasn't even a senior manager yet.

He explained to me that "making it to the top" for him meant he loved the exact work he did each day, he loved his company, he was treated fairly and with respect, he made enough money to be comfortable, he had excellent benefits, he had flexibility, and most importantly to him, he's never missed a single football game, school play, parent-teacher conference, anniversary, birthday, or any family event.

He knew what taking the next step in his career meant. More time, travel, and sacrifice. Not worth it, he

said.

### Reflection

Your definition of "making it to the top" doesn't have to be society's or anyone else's definition.

An aspiration in life to make it to the TOP we all live with. The secret is it is in your hands to do it - only thing needed is your vision to define what is the top for you.

Life has become a race and in this we have forgotten to live life! The sad part is by the time we want to live it's too late.

We often argue and justify ourselves by saying it is for the family, to give my kids a good future that you are working so hard. But the reality is: if you cannot enjoy time with your loved ones when they are still there, what's the fun?

### Hiring dumb asses

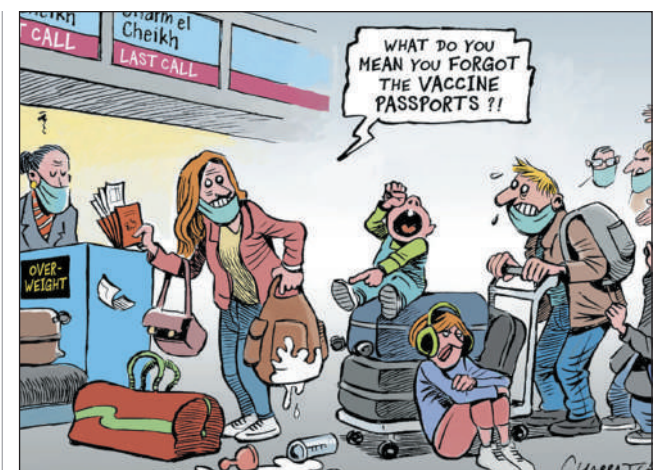
**A** king wanted to go fishing, and he asked the royal weather forecaster the forecast for the next few hours.

The palace meteorologist assured him that there was no chance of rain.

So, the King and the Queen went fishing. On the way, the King met a man with a fishing pole riding on a donkey, and he asked the man if the fish were biting.

The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, you should return to the palace! In just a short time I expect a huge rain storm."

The King replied: "I hold the palace meteorologist in high regard. He is an educated and experienced professional. Besides, I pay him very high wages. He



gave me a very different forecast. I trust him."

So, the King continued on his way.

However, in a short time there was a torrential rain, and the King and Queen were totally soaked. Furious, the King returned to the palace, and gave the order to fire the meteorologist. Then he summoned the fisherman and offered him the prestigious position of Royal Forecaster.

The fisherman said, "Your Majesty, I do not know anything about forecasting. I obtain my information from my donkey. If I see my donkey's ears drooping, it means with certainty that it will rain."

So, the King hired the donkey.

And thus, began the practice of hiring dumb asses to work in influential positions of government. The practice is unbroken to this day...





will likely adjust. Over-the-counter meds may help you digest these foods more easily.

#### Find the FODMAPs

These are a group of carbs that are hard to digest for some people. They can cause bloating from gas and fluid buildup. FODMAPs include lactose in dairy, fructose in fruit and honey, and many others. Keep notes on how your body handles different foods. Share that info with your doctor to help figure out whether FODMAPs might be to blame, so you know if you need to drop them from your diet.

#### Slow down!

The faster you eat, the more air you swallow. Your stomach can swell when it traps the air, which sometimes passes on to your intestines. Plus, you down more food when you eat quickly. That's in part because it can take as much as 30 minutes for your stomach to tell your brain that you're full. You might overdo it before your brain gets the message -- and that can also make you feel bloated.

#### Put boundaries on bubble

Limit fizzy drinks. The gas that you swallow when you drink soda and other bubbly drinks -- beer, champagne, seltzer -- can fill up your digestive system. You burp some of it away, and some remains and moves through your digestive system until it "passes" out the other end. That's why it's called "passing gas."

#### Be carb-smart

Your body taps into this fuel more quickly than protein or fat, which take longer to digest. After your body uses the carbs it needs for energy, it stores the rest: first as glycogen, which makes your body retain water, and then in fat cells. Both can make you feel bloated. It can help to avoid "simple" carbs, like white bread and pastries, in favor of "complex" carbs, like whole grains and vegetables that take longer to digest.

#### Eat just enough

Your stomach is only about the size of a fist. Food compacts somewhat through the digestive process, but if you eat too much, it starts to stretch out your stomach, and that can make you feel bloated. Plus, too much food

makes it more likely that you'll overdo the salt, carbs, fat, and calories, all of which can also make you feel bloated.

#### Limit salt

Your body needs it to work, but most of us get more than we need. It prompts your body to retain more water, which can make you feel bloated. It also can cause kidney problems and high blood pressure. You may get more salt in your diet than you realize from processed and fast foods. So check food labels for salt (sodium) levels and remember: Just because you don't taste it, it doesn't mean it's not there.

#### Constipated?

When you get "stopped up," you can feel bloated. Mostly, it happens when you need water, fiber, or exercise. But diet changes, illness, or stress also can do it. It usually passes, but exercise, water, and over-the-counter meds can help. See a doctor if you're losing weight and don't know why, it lasts more than a week or two, or you have dizziness, belly pain, or blood in your stool. These could be signs of something more serious.

#### Check on your weight

Have you gained 10 or more pounds in the last year? That's often the case for people who say they feel bloated. It could be because that weight often goes on around the belly, which leaves less room for your stomach to stretch. You and your doctor may be able to build a well-balanced diet and exercise program that helps you lose weight and feel less bloated.

#### Trim fat calories

Your body takes quite a while to digest fat. That means it can stick around in your stomach for a while and leave you feeling bloated. Plus, it's the most calorie-dense food that you can eat. Those calories can add up quickly and cause you to gain weight, which could also make you feel bloated. It might help to limit fat calories with lean protein, whole grains, and vegetables.

#### Manage medical conditions

Your doctor can help you figure out if gut conditions like irritable bowel syndrome, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, celiac disease, infection, or others are causing your bloating. Treatment may include changes in diet, sleep, and exercise habits, along with medication. The more closely you follow your doctor's suggestions, the more likely you are to ease your bloating. Tell your doctor if your bloating is severe or comes back.

## Health Tips

# 11 Ways to Relieve Bloating

That too-full feeling may be thanks to something you ate. Or it could be constipation, or a symptom of a medical condition. Here's what you can do, as advised by Jennifer Robinson, MD, of WebMD, to ease the discomfort.

#### Why are you bloated?

It's that too-full feeling you get in the belly after you eat a bit too much. Or it might be the type of food you ate, or how fast you ate it, or too much salt, fat, or sugar, that causes gas, weight gain, constipation, or water retention. Certain medical conditions like celiac disease, Crohn's disease, irritable bowel syndrome, or ulcerative colitis might also make it more likely.

#### Gassy foods

Beans are a great source of fiber and protein. They also have a substance called raffinose that bacteria need to break down. That can produce gas and lead to bloat. It's not bad for you, and how gassy you get varies from person to person and by types of beans. Broccoli, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts also have raffinose. Your body

## Facts about arranged marriages

In Indian society, arranged marriages are seen as the sole foundation on which family's bond. For ages, this social marital institution has been followed by people of marriageable age, where elders or parents decide a suitor for the life-long commitment. Even though some argue that this encourages the patriarchal mindset, it is no doubt that a large percentage of people who engage in arranged marriages are happy, respected and successful. In account of this, Times of India brings to you a few facts about arranged marriages that you probably never noticed.

#### Compatibility between partners

In arranged marriages, partners are chosen on the basis of their societal status, background, cultural beliefs and traditions. These factors are very important for contributing to balanced compatibility between a married couple. And with more compatibility, there are fewer problems, fights and disagreements involving opinions, views and cultural notions.

#### Inheritance and financial aspects



One often forgets that arranged marriages promise you a better financially secure future. When your parents decide on a suitable partner, they do not leave out the financial standing of the family and make sure that as a couple down the line, ancestral inheritance is passed down to you.

#### Keeping the tradition alive

Arranged marriages are decided among families of the religion or place and so with this, the newlyweds are given the responsibility of carrying the tradition and culture

forward. This keeps the values, principles, beliefs and traditions alive.

#### It saves you time

In the modern world, where everyone is competing against time to get more successful, there is no time or space to hold a relationship. Often, successful people who entirely focus on their work, turn towards arranged marriages. They let their elders find them a suitable partner to share their life with. What's more, it may save you from countless heartbreaks and unpredictable decisions.

#### A mixture of modern and traditional beliefs

Many couples in love marriages have reported that after the honeymoon period, they tend to fight a lot over trivial matters about family upbringing and values. Arranged marriages prevent any such matters from taking place as the partners are aware of the same values.

With multiple other problems hoarding your life, marital problems shouldn't be one of them. Arranged marriages allow a much assured and stabilised lifestyle, devoid of any issues. If you're stable at home, you will prosper emotionally and physically.





## A year later, what Bollywood learned from Sushant Singh Rajput's death

**S**ushant Singh Rajput was not the most followed actor on Instagram or Twitter but, post his death, he dominated social media trends for a large part of 2020 as thousands turned keyboard warriors in the crusade for justice for him.

### Mental health matters

For some, there is still no closure on how Sushant died even though evidence suggests that

it was by suicide. However, if there's one thing we do know, it is that the actor was concerned about his mental health, reports Suhani Singh of India Today. She adds: He consulted multiple psychologists and sought therapy and medical intervention because he knew it was instrumental for his overall well-being.

### The never-ending nepotism battle

The inside vs. outsider debate surfaced again with a multiple National Award-winning actress playing a leading role in dictating news coverage around how some stakeholders in the industry was to be held accountable for the actor's "murder". Did Sushant feel he didn't get his due and was overlooked in favour of other actors? Was he heartbroken over losing projects and seeing others like NASA-based drama *Chanda Mama Door Ke* and the Shekhar Kapur-directed drama *Paani* never take off? These are some questions that remain unanswered.

### The dangers of drugs

The Sushant Singh Rajput case saw the involvement of the Mumbai Police, the Enforcement Directorate, the Narcotics Control Bureau and, finally, the Central Bureau of Investigation. But the agency that opened the biggest can of worms was the NCB, which arrested Sushant's flatmate, Siddharth Pithani. The organisation summoned multiple actresses for interrogation last year as it expanded its investigation beyond the Sushant case to dig deep into Bollywood's drug cartel.

Rhea Chakraborty and her brother were arrested; so were some alleged suppliers. Karan Johar's name and the house party he hosted once again came under scrutiny. The nexus between Bollywood and the drug mafia ultimately became a diversion from Sushant Singh Rajput himself.

## Bollywood celebs who earn millions but choose to live in rented homes

**W**hile some choose to buy and reside in luxurious apartments, the likes of Hrithik Roshan, Jacqueline Fernandez seem to be happy and contented in their rented apartments.

One big aspect of the celebrity lifestyle happens to be where the stars live, whether in a mansion of their own or apartments in plush localities. Where they reside, often gives a glimpse of their personal life and what they like to surround themselves with.

Apart from giving a sneak peek of one's lifestyle, where you live is also an indication of your financial well being. For most people, the more they earn, the better localities they start to home. However, in the case of some big shots in Bollywood, this notion does not stand true. Despite earning in millions with their films and endorsing the best of brands, these celebrities chose to stay in rented apartments. Times Now makes a list out celebs who live in apartments they do not own.

**Katrina Kaif:** Katrina Kaif reportedly has a flat for which

she pays whooping Rs 1.5 M. At present, the actress resides in her penthouse in Bandra.

**Hrithik Roshan:** Katrina's *Bang Bang* co-actor Hrithik Roshan too follows the same path as her and lives in an apartment for which he reportedly pays Rs 825,000 per month. Hrithik is neighbours with Akshay Kumar.

**Sunny Leone:** Reports suggest that earlier Sunny Leone leased out Celina Jaitley's penthouse and lived there with her husband Daniel Weber. As per the latest news, the Splitsvilla hosts live in Juhu.

**Nawazuddin Siddiqui:** In an interview with Hindustan Times in 2014, Nawazuddin Siddiqui had revealed that he is happy living in a rented apartment. Ever since there has been no news suggesting that the actor has moved to a new place. "I am happy living in a rented house. The difference between an actor and a star is the budget and the overall presentation of a film," he had said.



## YOUR STARS

### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You'll have enough enthusiasm and courage to undertake ambitious projects and carry out interesting ideas. In order to assure the success of your amorous conquests durably, show good sense of humour and beware of jealousy.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 10, 15, 18, 30, 31

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Don't forget to do exercise every week if you don't do sport. Beware of your capricious humour which may tax the patience of your close ones. There may be violent clashes, notably with your children, who'll challenge your authority.

**Lucky Numbers:** 8, 14, 15, 21, 30, 33

### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Beware of nuisances! Be on the lookout for good opportunities in the material as well as professional fields; you'll have the possibility to obtain full powers for an ambitious project which will fulfil all your desires.

**Lucky Numbers:** 14, 18, 20, 22, 30, 36

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

A painful feeling of loneliness might incline to imprudences so as to fill the void at all costs; try to remain clear-sighted. Rely on your intuitions: they'll be sure and efficacious. Favourable climate for work.

**Lucky Numbers:** 8, 15, 17, 21, 31, 32

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Your job must bring you some joys in addition to comfortable gains. Learn to always look at the bright side of life, flee pessimism as you do bubonic plague. Your love affairs would be ideal if you keep your critical mind under control.

**Lucky Numbers:** 7, 14, 15, 29, 30, 31

### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Despite all the difficulties you're going to meet, you'll live exquisite hours with your beloved one. Lonely people will find their sister soul. Think of making clever savings which will allow you to live well while spending less.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 7, 11, 15, 17, 20

### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Don't give in to the feeling of helplessness in face of the misunderstanding of your dear ones; it'll be simply a bad moment to go through. It would not be good to spend too much time with friends to drink and to palaver.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 21, 26, 27, 31, 40

### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You'll find the ways to be at peace with yourself. In family, don't take decisions all by yourself; ask for your spouse's opinion. The stars will support all your professional undertakings; whatever your initiatives, they'll be destined for success.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 22

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

No obstacle will resist you and no practical problem will remain unsolved. Bright spell on the heart front; if you're single. Beware of envious people. You'll have the possibility to make excellent investments and consolidate family finances.

**Lucky Numbers:** 10, 12, 14, 17, 21, 30

### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Refrain from carrying out risky investments and audacious stock market operations. It'll be in your interest to provide yourself with moments of composure so as to recover your peace of mind. Nothing is ever granted beforehand; continue to fight.

**Lucky Numbers:** 7, 10, 15, 16, 25, 30

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

An old romance will perhaps surface and you'll find it quite moving! You'll have enough psychological finesse to solve certain very delicate family problems; moreover, you'll be quite clever at listening to your dear ones.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 10, 16, 18, 20, 25

### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Luck with money will allow you to live in certain ease. But make savings in anticipation of hard blows of fortune which are always possible. Love will make you big smiles; you'll have the chance to meet your sister soul.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 12, 18, 20, 30, 36



## 'Kundali Bhagya' actor Anjum Fakhri is in love



From talking about her favourite actors to her WhatsApp display pictures, Anjum shared many secrets from her personal life. Source - India TV News

**T**V actress Anjum Fakhri, who plays the role of Srishty in Zee TV's show *Kundali Bhagya*, has confessed that she is in love. The actress interacted with her fans through a 'Ask Me Questions' session on Instagram. From talking about her favourite actors to her WhatsApp Display pictures, Anjum shared many secrets from her personal life. The actress said, "Ask me anything you want and I will choose a few interesting questions to answer them honestly... Never done this before... This is exciting for me."

Anjum Fakhri's fans asked her about her favourite actors to which she replied, "Chris Hemsworth, Robert Downey Jr and Will Smith." One fan also asked her if she is in love. To this, she said, 'Yes I am.' However, when the fans asked who is it, the actress said that it is a secret she will never tell. talking about her WhatsApp display picture, Anjum shared that it is a shayari that reads, "*Galib ne ye sochkar tod di maala... Gin kar kyun naam lu uska jo behisab deta hai.*"

Anjum Fakhri also revealed that she auditioned for the roles of Preeta and Srishty in *Kundali Bhagya* and after look test, she was finalized for Srishty. When a fan asked, "how much it is difficult for a middle class person with no godfather and achieving the height of success?", she said, "I believe am still not successful... it's subjective... It's not difficult at all if you are focused and you strive hard to achieve what's best for you... I followed my heart and my passion... And here I am giving answers to you."

Anjum Fakhri parted ways with her boyfriend Kettan Singh in August 2020 after being in a relationship for one year. It was said that incompatibility led to a lot of issues between them and they decided to end it.

## Divyanka Tripathi: I was offered 'Bade Acche Lagte Hain 2'

but there is no confirmation as talks are in the initial phase

**D**ivyanka Tripathi, who is all set to surprise fans with her daredevil avatar in the TV show, *Khatron Ke Khiladi 11*, was recently in news for being finalised for the upcoming season of *Bade Acche Lagte Hain*. However, while talking to ETimes TV exclusively, Divyanka reacted to the reports and revealed whether she is doing the show or not.

"I've got the proposal for '*Bade Acche Lagte Hain*', but the talks are at a very initial phase. It has not even reached a point where there can be rumours or reports of me doing it," Divyanka told ETimes TV.

Not just *Bade Acche Lagte Hain*, Divyanka was also in the news for replacing Disha Vakani in one of the longest running shows of Indian Television *Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah*. Reacting to the same, Divyanka clarified that she is not replacing anyone, she said, "I have not been offered *Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah*. I want to tell people spreading rumours about it to please stop. It's a very popular, hit show and it is still being loved by



people even after so many years. The artists playing characters on the show are wonderful and I am not replacing anyone as I have not been offered the show."

Divyanka, who has been in the industry for 15 years and has played various characters, now wants to try challenging things. The actress loves

adventure activities and now after *Khatron Ke Khiladi 11*, she has decided to start doing things that she enjoys the most, "I have made up my mind now that I won't stop for anything. I won't stop myself from doing a project just because I've an injury, I will figure out a way to do it," she said.

## 'Kulfi Kumar Bajewala' fame Mohit Malik: 'I will never leave television'



**F**or actor Mohit Malik, the year 2021 has been more than special. The actor couple, Mohit and Addite Malik became parents to a baby boy this April and they often share unfiltered glimpses of their parenting journey.

A complete hands-on daddy, if his social media posts are anything to go by, Mohit is subliminally setting the right example of team work when it comes to bringing up a child, reports Times of India.

Recently, rumours were rife that the *Kulfi Kumar Bajewala* star is shying away from television after turning down *Khatron Ke Khiladi 11*. Mohit later clarified as to why he had to turn down the reality show as it was scheduled to be shot around Addite's due date.

Asserting why he will never leave television, Mohit who was last seen in '*Lockdown Ki Lovestory*' shares, "Television is my home. I feel it gives me the amazing opportunity to go on set every single day and work, and as an actor there is no greater joy than the joy of being on set. What's better for an actor to go on sets every day and shoot for 12 to 15 hours. Sets have been my home and will continue to be so. The energetic vibe that a show set gives out makes me feel lucky to be a part of this amazing field and profession. I have cherished every moment on the sets of all my shows."



## CINE 12

Samedi 16 Juillet - 21.15

## Miami Magma



## MBC 1

Samedi 17 Juillet - 21.20

## 2 Years Of Love



## MBC 1

Dimanche 18 Juillet - 21.40



## MBC 1

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
10.15 Local Prod: Rodrig Prog  
11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
12.53 Local Prod: Elle  
13.50 Local Prod: Generations J  
14.30 D.Anime: The Garfield Show  
14.43 D.Anime: HTDT  
14.55 D.Anime: Astrology  
15.19 D.Anime: Little Spirou  
15.26 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...  
15.58 D.Anime: DinoFroz  
16.24 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.25 Local: Come On Let??S  
21.20 Serial: Seal Team  
22.01 Serial: Beauty And The Beast  
23.35 Mag: Eye On Sadc

## MBC 2

08.00 Educational Prog: Grade 3  
10.15 Educational Prog: Grade 4  
12.30 Film: Talav  
14.21 DDI Magazine  
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek  
15.25 Serial: Aamhi Doghi  
15.46 Serial: Bava Maradallu  
16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal  
16.34 Serial: Silah  
16.48 Serial: Imtihaan  
17.09 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.27 Serial: Chhanchhan  
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone  
18.30 Mag: DDI Magazine  
19.05 Journal Kreol  
19.24 DDI Magazine  
19.50 Serial: Band Khirkiyan  
20.30 Local: Aqeedat Ke Phool  
21.30 Local: Urdu Programme  
22.25 DDI Live

## MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India  
06.26 Mag: Shift  
06.38 Mag: Sur Mesure  
06.52 Mag: Border Crossing  
07.17 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
09.00 Educational Prog: Grade 5  
11.30 Educational Prog: Grade 8  
14.03 Doc: Jewish In Europe  
14.45 Doc: The Berlin Wall??s  
16.10 Mag: Eco India  
16.39 Mag: Shift  
17.04 Mag: Border Crossing  
17.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
18.00 Doc: Duck Academy  
18.46 Mag: Arts And Culture  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.29 Mag: Euromaxx  
20.05 Doc: Innovation On Board  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.40 Master Of Engineering  
21.47 Doc: Nagasaki

## Cine 12

01.28 Film: Wolf  
03.28 Serial: Shades Of Blue  
05.48 Tele: Muneca Brava  
04.08 Film: Signed, Sealed, Deliv...  
05.33 Tele: Muneca Brava  
06.15 Serial: Madam Secretary  
06.57 Film: Le Salaire De La Viol...  
09.45 Tele: Daniella  
10.37 Tele: Tanto Amor  
11.00 Serial: Shades Of Blue  
12.00 Film Signed, Sealed Deliv...  
13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava  
14.45 Film: Le Salaire De La Viol...  
16.43 Serial: French Series  
17.23 Serial: Madam Secretary  
18.05 Tele: Daneilla  
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor  
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones  
20.30 Serial: French Series  
21.15 Film: Miami Magma  
22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava

## Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Jajantaram  
Mamantaram  
11.46 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna  
12.10 / 20.11 - Chupke Chupke  
12.29 / 20.32 - Mere Sai  
12.51 / 21.09 - Agnipheara  
13.12 / 21.24 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
13.38 / 21.46 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
14.563 / 22.55 - Sethji  
15.15 Film: Izzatdaar  
Starring: Dilip Kumar,  
Govinda, Madhuri Dixit,  
Raghuvaran  
18.00 Live: Samacher  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.51 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
19.14 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
19.37 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak

vendredi 16 juillet

samedi 17 juillet

dimanche 18 juillet

06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man  
06.26 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz, And  
06.51 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe...  
07.17 D.Anime: Kid Lucky  
07.41 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis...  
08.02 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...  
08.26 D.Anime: The Garfield Show  
08.51 D.Anime: Pet Alien  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Daniella  
15.05 D.Anime: The Garfield Show  
15.42 D.Anime: Little Spirou  
15.49 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...  
16.22 D.Anime: DinoFroz  
16.48 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
17.00 Serial: Creeped Out  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Entertainment: Dance  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.25 Local: Le Rendez Vous  
21.20 Film: 2 Years Of Love  
23.00 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Bhai Ho To Aisa  
09.30 Serial: Vir: The Robot Boy  
09.27 Serial: Guddu  
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
11.40 Serial: Bloody Romance  
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare  
12.24 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
12.47 Serial: High School  
13.03 Annakodiyum Ainthu  
Pengalum  
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek  
15.30 Film: Jeans  
Starring Prashanth, Aishwarya  
Rai, Nassar  
18.30 Mag: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki  
Rahasya Gatha  
20.28 Serial: Bitti Business Wali  
21.01 Film: Agneepath  
Starring: Hritik Roshan, Priyanka  
Chopra, Sanjay Dutt, Rishi Kapoor

06.00 Doc: Duck Academy  
06.42 Mag: Japan Video Topics  
07.12 Mag: Euromaxx  
07.47 Doc: Innovation On Board  
08.16 Master Of Engineering  
09.51 Doc: Collected Memories  
10.54 Doc: Duck Academy  
11.45 Mag: Global 3000  
12.28 Doc: Innovation On Board  
13.09 Doc: Master Of Engineering  
14.32 Doc: Collected Memories  
15.18 Student Support Program...  
17.53 Mag: Amazing Gardens  
18.17 Doc: Baby Business  
18.43 Doc: Vue D'en Haut  
19.00 Mag: Check In  
19.36 Doc: Tricky Memory  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.40 MFDC Short Film  
20.53 Doc: Wedding The French...  
21.45 Doc: Taste Hunters  
22.38 Doc: Nollywood

01.30 Film: Miami Magma  
02.55 Serial: Dynasty 2  
03.35 Film: Shadow People  
04.53 Tele: Tanto Amor  
05.38 Serial: Dnyasty  
06.45 Film: Nessie & Me  
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer  
09.18 Serial: French Series  
09.59 Serial: Incorporated  
10.41 Film: Miami Magma  
12.14 Serial: Dynasty 2  
13.28 Serial: Shades Of Blue  
15.05 Tele: Amanda  
15.48 Tele: Muneca Brava  
16.30 Mag: Hollywood On Set  
17.00 Serial: Dynasty  
17.45 Film: Saint-Valentin Pour...  
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones  
20.30 Series: Dynasty  
21.15 Film: When The Bough Break  
23.02 Tele: Dulce Amor

04.05 Radha Krishna  
04.26 Chupke Chupke  
04.48 Mere Sai -- Shraddha Aur...  
05.11 Agnipheara  
05.34 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
06.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek  
06.16 Sethji  
06.38 Bin Kuck Kahe  
07.25 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
08.02 Zindagi Ki Mehek  
09.47 Motu Patlu  
10.01 Siddhi Vinayak  
12.00 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
14.00 Sanjivani  
14.00 Chupke Chupke  
16.00 Pavitra Rishta  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Film: Behen Hogi Teri  
Star: Rajkummar Rao, Shruti  
Haasan, Gautam Gulati  
20.26 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
21.09 Serial: Naagin

06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man: Fully...  
06.39 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz and...  
06.51 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe...  
08.03 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...  
09.30 Mag: Future Mag  
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil  
10.30 Serial: Mustangs FC  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.40 Tele: Daniella  
14.15 Local: Elle  
15.19 D.Anime: The Garfield Show  
15.36 D.Anime: Trolls: En Avant La...  
15.55 D.Anime: Little Spirou  
17.11 Serial: Creeped Out  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local Prod: Manoj Kumar  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.10 Local: Groov'in  
21.40 Film: Seized  
Avec: Scott Adkins, Mario Van  
Peebles, Karlee Perez

07.00 Film: Mike  
08.37 Film: Vir: The Robot Boy  
09.28 Serial: Guddu  
11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai  
11.22 Serial: Santoshi Maa  
12.00 Film: Naqaab  
Stars: Bobby Deol, Urvashi  
Sharma, Akshaye Khanna  
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek  
15.21 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
15.44 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht  
16.05 Apoorva Raagangal  
17.00 Mahakali  
17.43 Kisna  
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
20.06 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas..  
20.47 Serial: CID  
21.32 Serial: Naagin Season 2  
22.17 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki  
22.59 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens  
06.26 Doc: Baby Business  
06.52 Mag: Vue D'en Haut  
07.45 Doc: Tricky Memory  
09.30 Doc: Taste Hunters  
10.23 Doc: Nollywood  
11.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens  
11.34 Doc: Baby Business  
12.24 Mag: Check In  
12.53 Doc: Tricky Memory  
17.33 Mag: Check In  
18.00 Mag: Tendance XXI  
19.00 Doc: Garden Party  
20.05 Magazine  
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)  
20.54 Doc: Comme Une Envie De...  
21.46 Doc: Stunt Warriors  
22.34 Doc: Dark Eden  
23.16 Doc: Mega Yachts  
00.25 Doc: Ville En Fête  
00.52 Doc: Garden Party

01.32 Film: When The Bough Break  
03.19 Serial: Emerald City  
04.00 Film: 2 Years Of Love  
05.25 Tele: Tanto Amor  
06.09 Serial: Dynasty  
06.50 Film: Sox: A Family's Best...  
08.31 Serial: Mike Hammer  
09.19 Film: 2 Years Of Love  
10.47 Film: Saint-Valentin Pour...  
12.15 Serial: Emerald City  
13.25 Serial: Shades Of Blue  
15.28 Telenovela: Amanda  
16.10 Tele: Muneca Brava  
17.00 Serial: Dynasty  
17.45 Serial: Emerald City  
18.30 Serial: Supercopier  
19.33 Hollywood On Set  
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones  
20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor  
21.15 Film: Man Trouble  
22.50 Tele: Dulce Amor

00.35 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak  
02.08 Bhakharwadi  
04.01 Chupke Chupke  
06.00 Pavitra Rishta  
08.00 Motu Patlu  
08.32 Ikyawann  
10.00 Jaana Na Dil Se Door  
11.43 Piya Albela  
13.31 Agnipheara  
15.19 Bin Kuch Kahe  
17.09 Punar Vivaah  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Film: Ready  
Starring: Salman Khan,  
Asin Thottumkal, Paresh  
Rawal, Mahesh Manjrekar  
20.24 Entertainment: Dance  
21.31 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
23.36 Serial: Piya Albela

## MBC 2

Samedi 17 Juillet  
- 21.00Stars: Hritik Roshan, Priyanka  
Chopra, Sanjay Dutt, Rishi  
Kapoor

Dimanche 18 Juillet

- 18.30

Stars: Salman Khan, Asin Thottumkal,  
Paresh Rawal, Mahesh Manjrekar



# South Africa in flames: spontaneous outbreak or insurrection?

*Corruption thrives in a destabilised state with weak institutions. South Africa cannot be allowed back to that space because there will be no turning back*

South Africans spent most of mid-July glued to their news outlets, from established media outlets to TikTok, from streaming news to old-fashioned printed words, to see just one thing: would Jacob Zuma blink? Would the country finally get some taste of revenge for the state capture, looting, destruction of institutions and threats to the country's democracy their former president had enabled and championed? Would the rule of law win?

Zuma blinked, with a few minutes to spare, and handed himself over to police. An hour or so later he was booked into a rather comfy looking "state of the art correctional facility" in Estcourt (which had taken 17 years to refurbish).

The rule of law won. The institutions that had been so assiduously hollowed out under the nine years of his presidency had flexed their new-found muscle. The Constitutional Court had long held firm, the police were rather more wobbly, but despite much assegai-rattling by family members and the Zuma Foundation, into prison he went. No ANC leader expressed joy, only sorrow that the man had fallen so low; for people not in such elevated positions, it was a rare moment of jubilation in the midst of a global pandemic that has us locked down, again.

Protests that had been low key since he was arrested on Wednesday night (7 July 2021) exploded into an orgy of looting, marching, xenophobic attacks, arson, truck-burning, stabbing and shooting, and blockading of roads and freeways (among others) by Sunday. It seemed - and Zuma's allies and (adult) children were quick to preach the word - that he was so popular and such an object of sympathy that a spontaneous outbreak of bloody violence and theft was unavoidable, and a dark portent if Zuma was not immediately released. Prescience seemed to have replaced profligacy.

The stakes were (and remain) exceptionally high. Thanks in part to the commission of inquiry into state capture and corruption Zuma established and later refused to attend, Zuma is now known to have allowed the Gupta family, using organised crime money-laundering vehicles, to bankrupt the state. As has been noted, fish rot from the head. From the time that he was fired by former president Thabo Mbeki (in 2005) to date, Zuma has deployed his infamous Stalingrad legal strategy. In effect, he has been fighting every single item in court while adopting the victim stance of a man more sinned against than sinning.

Sadly, Zuma is not a Shakespearean hero, but a man of decidedly clay feet. For nine years as president, he outmanoeuvred pretty much all and sundry - he reshuffled cabinets to destabilise oppo-



nents; he forced the Whip and faced down multiple votes of no confidence; he allowed R50 billion to be stolen by his friends, the Gupta family - all now safely in Dubai - and ran state and party as both cash cow and defensive wall.

He met his match in Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa, who succeeded him as ANC and national president. Ramaphosa has moved with the cold, calculating methodology that proves him to be the real chess master (Zuma has a passion for the game). Ramaphosa has outmanoeuvred Zuma and many of his allies in the ANC (such as secretary general Ace Magashule). He has done this by trying to resuscitate the organs of state, investigation and prosecution that had been severely damaged by his predecessor.

The rule of law - which took a pummelling over the last decade - seems to be out of rehab. Zuma may only be in prison for a contempt charge - but the notion that the first ANC leader in orange overall would be Zuma was not a fantasy that played out as realistic in most imaginations.

## Why the violence

Many reasons have been offered for the violence, looting, racist bile and bloodshed that erupted. These include:

- the pent-up frustration of hungry and cold people facing few prospects for socio-economic improvement;
- inequality and the gulf between the conspicuous consumption of the "made it" compared to others;
- ethnic tensions within the ANC, with the president representing a "minority" tribe and apparently lacking legitimacy;
- good old stereotypical Zulu nationalist violence was breaking out as it did in the early 1990s;

- internal ANC factional tensions were spilling onto the streets; and more.

All of these have some truth. Yet none provides a narrative thread that ties together these disparate issues and scattered but clearly organised acts of violence. Part of the gap in our understanding is how a middle-of-the-night incarceration of Zuma - albeit done in the blaze of TV arc lights - led to such a widespread and destructive but apparently spontaneous outbreak.

This narrative suits Zuma and his supporters perfectly: pity for the victimised former president unleashed patriotic fervour that was unstoppable, proving his popularity and victim status. Family, the Zuma Foundation and others all began pumping out the narrative - much as Zuma's daughter tweeted the video of a gun firing bullets into a poster of Ramaphosa. Subtlety did not play much of a role.

But when the Minister of State Security reported on the morning of Tuesday 13 July that her spies had managed to stop attacks on substations, planned attacks on ANC offices and in Durban-Westville prison, things began to look different. How did they know of the plans, and for how long? Who was doing the planning? How did they stop it?

When "impeccable sources in the intelligence service and law enforcement" warned of arms caches at Zuma's home, Nkandla; when we recall that the police admitted to "losing" some 20,000 weapons in the 2000s, as had the State Security Agency, we are permitted to ask uncomfortable questions.

Suddenly the acts look rather more organised and rather less spontaneous.

Neeshan Balton, executive director of the not-for-profit lobby group, the Kathrada Foundation, has suggested that part of the

strategy was a wildfire - strike lots of matches and just let them burn whatever is in their path to destabilise the democratic project.

This too is premised on the existence of a plan.

The danger with suggesting that this was not at heart a set of random acts by poor people who were overcome by emotion at the thought of Zuma in prison but rather a (more or less well) planned and executed attempt to destabilise the state is that rather than "joining the dots" as Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan advised, one may be constructing a crazy conspiracy theory.

The definition of insurrection is to rise against the power of the state, generally using weaponry. Conspiracies exist. From dark warnings of another massacre like the one at Marikana in 2012 should Zuma be touched, to planning sabotage against municipal infrastructure, and fanning the flames of xenophobic violence, it seems very difficult to ignore the planned insurrection at hand.

Poor and hungry people exist, and the state should be ashamed. But hungry people do not become violent looters on behalf of better-known looters who are in jail. They may well be available for mobilisation (looting, violence, marching) behind the organisers - but it is the organisers that need to be brought to book, and who must also face the rule of law.

Corruption thrives in a destabilised state with weak institutions. South Africa cannot be allowed back to that space because there will be no turning back.

**David Everatt**

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