

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way". -- Franklin D. Roosevelt



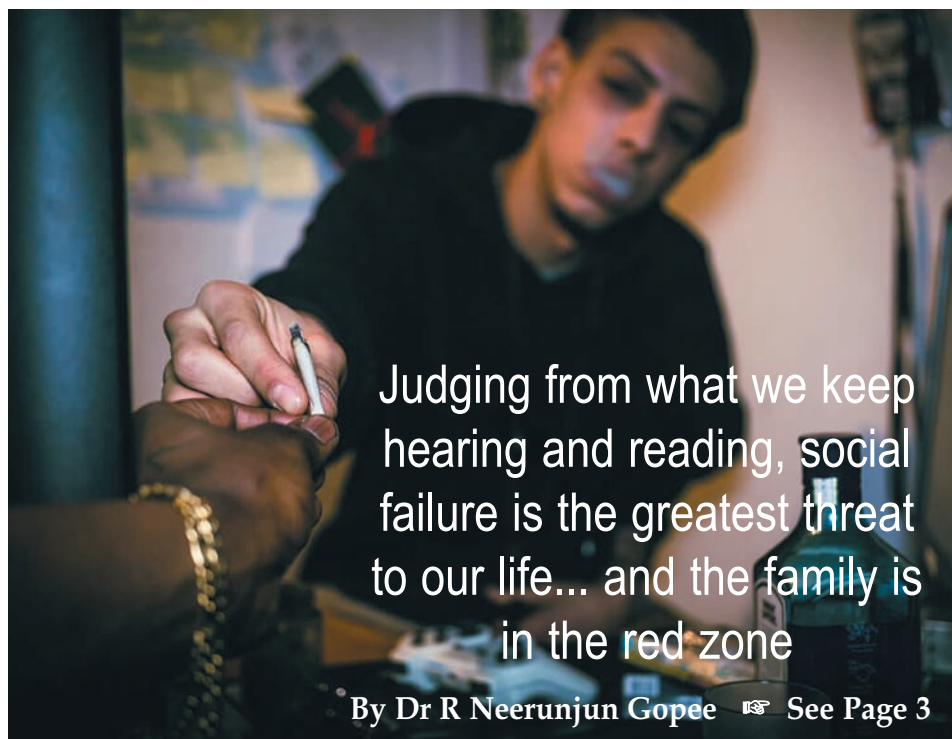
Interview - Jacques Bizlall

“Il est évident que le rapport Domah est politisé dans son utilisation par le régime...”

Mais il n'est pas vrai de dire que c'est un rapport partisan”

📖 Voir Page 8-9-10

What do we do about social ills?



Judging from what we keep hearing and reading, social failure is the greatest threat to our life... and the family is in the red zone

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IMF's Special Drawing Rights - Funny Money to Rival Bitcoin?



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Parliament and The Speaker

The recent happenings in Parliament, reckoned to be the temple of democracy, are a matter of serious concern to the country at large. There was already the perception of partiality on the part of the Speaker, notably whenever he was seen to be acting as a shield for the government benches against an inquisitive but numerically smaller opposition, which is fulfilling its duties as is expected by the electorate. The latest showdown in Parliament involving the Speaker and MMM MP Rajesh Bhagwan, during which the latter was disparaged on account of his skin condition is one too many. Various options are being examined by the Opposition to challenge the Speaker, including the possible mass resignation of the Opposition.

Much has been said about what is considered to be an abuse of his powers by the current Speaker with regard to the PQs of Opposition MPs. For instance, the perfectly legitimate question of Hon Assirvaden some time back about the status of the ambassadorship of Showkutally Soodhun in Saudi Arabia to which Hon Minister Ganoo replied. The Speaker's posterior decision to erase the PQ and answer from the Hansard, and the resulting protest by Opposition MPs, led to the suspension of Hon Assirvaden from the sitting of Parliament. The subsequent naming of Hon Arvin Boolell, Hon Paul Berenger and Hon Rajesh Bhagwan and their suspension from the current session of Parliament, was only lifted upon a motion by the Prime Minister when the matter was about to be heard in the Supreme Court. The recent suspension of Arvin Boolell from 8 sittings of Parliament, that is until the end of the year, is clearly disproportionate to any fault that would have been committed by the Labour Party MP. It is to be hoped Hon Boolell will stick to his decision to go for a judicial challenge of the Speaker's decision if only to obtain a pronouncement of the Supreme Court on the speakership of Mr Phokeer as well as in a bid to preserve the dignity of duly elected MPs and that of Parliament.

It bears repeating, as we have pointed out before, that Parliament is too important an institution in a representative democracy like ours for its functionings to be allowed to be sapped by any dysfunction whatsoever. Besides representing the electorate and making laws, its other function is to hold the government accountable for its decisions and scrutinise its functioning through debates and parliamentary questions set by the Opposition. That is why rules have been made to ensure its proper and orderly functioning. It falls upon the Speaker to ensure that the Standing Orders and Rules of the National Assembly are complied with, despite the numerical majority that any government enjoys.

In a contribution to this paper, Lex had argued that the Standing Orders cannot be incompatible with the Constitution and cannot be used to trample on democratic principles like frustrating a Member of the Opposition from fulfilling his duties. On the question of the doctrine of parliamentary supremacy and whether the Supreme Court would be prepared to make a pronouncement on the internal workings of the Assembly, in particular whether the exercise of his powers by the Speaker is subject to Constitutional and judicial review, late Justice Lallah had ruled in the case of Attorney General against Navin Ramgoolam in 1993 that - "Where Parliament exercises sovereign powers under the Constitution and the Courts are empowered to exercise a particular jurisdiction which itself requires an enquiry into the exercise of those powers by Parliament, then the jurisdiction of the Courts must be exercised to the appropriate extent in order to enable it to determine the particular question that is before it. It would be misleading, in those circumstances, to invoke the sovereignty of the National Assembly which would have the effect of paralysing the effective exercise of the constitutional jurisdiction of the Court."

That is why Hon Boolell would do well to pursue his legal challenge for the sake of the country's image. No self-respecting National Assembly moulded in the British parliamentary tradition, can serve democratic interests or expectations of good governance through the people's elected representatives, when the referee is himself poised as a bulwark for struggling government Ministers. As for the number of unanswered questions over the past two years, without the faintest reprimand from either the Speaker or the Leader of the House, it remains an irritant that government could dispense with. As leader of the House and nominator of the Speaker, the PM has an overarching responsibility in the current state of affairs and can decide whether the dignity, decorum and governance issues of a democratic state are worth more than narrow partisan interests.

The Conversation

As pandemic restrictions ease, we need to consider ethical travel in our return

As global travel resumes, now is the perfect time to establish new conversations for what ethical travel might look like



Pic - herefordtimes.com

Throughout much of the pandemic governments — including Canada's — "fought" the pandemic through limiting travel.

As vaccinations rise, so does the desire to return to travel. Now is the perfect time to establish new conversations for what this might look like.

Changing travel for climate change

The danger of human-caused climate disruption remains one of the most crucial themes of international public policy. Human-caused climate change is linked with a history of industrialization, de-forestation and large-scale agriculture, contributing to the rise in greenhouse gases.

Recently Canada and the United States suffered a deadly heat wave and Germany received record precipitation which caused deadly flash floods.

Of course, it is nearly impossible to understand the speed with which these events will increase, but an unimpeded travel boom as lockdown restrictions lift seems counter-productive to human-caused climate disruption.

Consider the aviation industry that produces between five and eight per cent of global emissions and impacts the climate most significantly. Despite these facts, public debate on connections with human-caused climate change and air travel remains scant.

We sit at a crucial moment not only for how we impact climate change, but also

fundamentally rethinking travel, because it hasn't been a major part of our lives for the last 18 months.

Mobility as a guiding principle

Mobility has always been a central feature of the pandemic.

Covid-19 highlights how important it is for us to move. In the last several months, individual governments and the European Union have put forth tentative plans for vaccine passports.

While vaccine passports will be under scrutiny, the primary reason for building a system is a return to mobility. On July 1, the EU formally introduced a vaccine passport that allows its citizens to travel freely across the EU.

Mobility and the economy

What will the future of travel look like?

It is still hard to predict what future travel patterns will be, although predictions continue to rise. We move not only because it is a feature of the human experience, but also because it sustains the global economic system — we need to move to sustain the economy.

As people are fully vaccinated, pre-pandemic travel patterns are slowly returning. Take for example that on April 30, 2020, the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screened just 171,563 air travellers.

Matt Harker, PhD Candidate (ABD), Theory & Criticism, Western University

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This paper has been produced with the assistance of

Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy

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



mtimes@intnet.mu



www.mauritiustimes.com



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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

What do we do about social ills?

Judging from what we keep hearing and reading, social failure is the greatest threat to our life... and the family is in the red zone

While we all have to accept that change is the law of life and is inevitable, it is also a truism that such change can be for better or worse. It would be foolhardy to deny that mankind has made tremendous material progress since the advent of science and technology which allowed industrialisation to take place. This in turn put a variety of products, from items for personal consumption to gadgets for domestic use and entertainment, ranging from clothing and cosmetics to appliances in the kitchen, the bathroom, the rest of the house, the office: a bewildering range available all over the developed and developing world that has made life easy for billions. Sadly, it is also a fact that hundreds of millions too are still trapped in poverty for complex reasons, despite all the efforts being made globally over decades to lift them out of it.

Unfortunately, though, there has not been a corresponding level of progress on the non-material front, because we have understood 'progress' to mean essentially the improvement of our physical or material conditions of living, whereas true progress would be a good quality of social life. The focus has been on growth (increase in volume, e.g., products) and development (widespread availability of products) rather than true progress. An analogy would help to understand what this is about, and the human organism provides a wonderful example. When a baby is born, first there is growth in size, then the organs start to develop and mature; in so doing they work together in harmony and cooperation so as to continue the growth and development process smoothly, and that results in a healthy human being.

If we transpose this 'model' to society at large, then a good quality of social life would be the equivalent of a healthy human being: all the component parts are functioning in unison to achieve a common purpose, namely maintaining the psycho-biological integrity and life of the person. In this connection, there has been a study about happiness conducted by Harvard University some time back which is frequently cited. Its conclusion was that the happiest people were those who had stable and joyous social relationships, irrespective of all other factors such as wealth, profession, social status among others.

Most of us are busy chasing such factors because we think they represent success, only to find that falling short of achieving it causes dissatisfaction and despondency. When this happens, especially to the young, it can lead to impulsive and irrational behaviours. From there to spiralling down is but a small step, and is the root of many social ills. The faster are the changes taking place around us, the greater seem to be the possibilities of such ills emerging, as everyone tries to conform by hook or by crook to the prevailing fashions. And the youth are particularly vulnerable.

Of course, the problem of social ills is not peculiar to one society: in fact all over the world, all countries -- from the lesser developed to the developing and the developed -- are facing similar problems, although the scale may be

different. Our standard of comparison has always been what are considered to be the more developed and advanced countries, but in the case of Mauritius because of our colonial past the two countries we tend to refer to most of the time are France and England. It is only in the past couple of decades that other countries such as the USA have come into our orbit. But with the advent of globalisation and social media, and the easy access to the devices that are their vehicles, the smartphones in particular, we are subjected to influences from all over, because the world literally lies in our palms now.

the greatest cause of our social discontents. Social failure is the greatest threat to our quality of life. It ought therefore to be the major preoccupation of government, and of all concerned citizens for many years to come.'

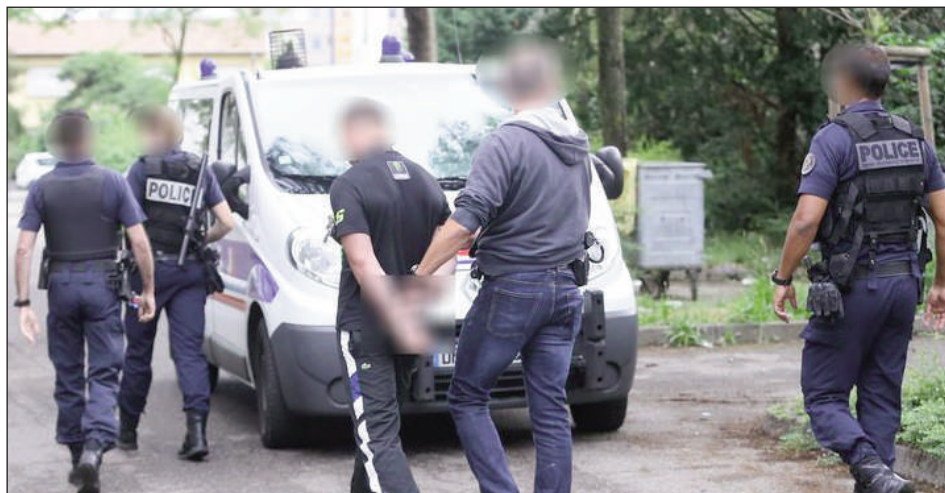
Fast forward to today in our country, and we can see that, judging from what we keep hearing and reading, even here social failure is the greatest threat to our life. And we don't have to look around with a loupe to make out that the family is in the red zone. Here too it is in the interest of one and all that not only must this be a major preoccupation of any government, but equally, it is citizens -- the community

at large -- who must be involved at all levels of society and in a variety of forums and structures to rebuild the family as the fundamental unit of society so as to restore balance and sanity in society. We cannot keep crying wolf and throw our hands up in despair. We have to get up and go as it were. And do something, fast, and that will produce results. It goes without saying that the young will have to be fully committed and engaged in any endeavour in this direction, under the guidance and with the support of wise elders.

The latter are to be found in all communities, and while national efforts spearheaded by government or political leaders are both necessary and to be welcomed, each community in the country

must mobilize its internal resources and find the role models who will inspire their likes towards responsible behaviour that will be conducive to the national weal. And inevitably, such individuals have to emphasise the universal values which form the basis of harmonious living. The major ones are few and simple: non-injury to self and others, honesty, truth, mutual respect and acceptance, love. As a matter of fact, if one follows sincerely just one these values, all the others follow automatically: it is like pulling one leg of a chair, and all the other legs will come too.

The question is how far are we prepared to do that, because the blunt truth is that if we don't, the social deterioration will not stop.



"We can see that, judging from what we keep hearing and reading, even here social failure is the greatest threat to our life. And we don't have to look around with a loupe to make out that the family is in the red zone. Here too it is in the interest of one and all that not only must this be a major preoccupation of any government, but equally, it is citizens -- the community at large -- who must be involved at all levels of society and in a variety of forums and structures to rebuild the family as the fundamental unit of society so as to restore balance and sanity in society..."

Nevertheless, while modern technology has no doubt accelerated the deterioration in the social space, even before that this slide had started. In fact, going back to my archives, I came across an article in the UK press a few years into the second millennium with the title: 'Social breakdown is a threat to our quality of life which we ignore at our peril.'

It began as follows: 'The symptoms of a broken society are all around us. Over a million British youngsters are neither in education nor a job. The incidence of knife-crime has doubled in two years. New victims fall prey to the feral young on an almost daily basis. Even if they do not necessarily host homicides, many public spaces are steadily growing scruffier and dirtier. They look as if there should be a sign: "Decent people keep out." Does this ring a bell?

In trying to fathom the diagnoses of Britain's social ills, the author pointed to the breakdown of discipline in the following terms, 'from the Sixties onwards, in pursuit of the permissive society, there has been a steady erosion of authority. Policemen, parents and teachers have all come under attack. As a result, many of them have lost their nerve.'

The conclusion of the author was: 'But the main problem is not economic. The decline of the family is





Protecting lives, ensuring happiness

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

marketing@licmauritius.intnet.mu

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

1956-2020



Anil Madan

IMF's Special Drawing Rights - Funny Money to Rival Bitcoin?

If creating new money is so easy, why didn't the IMF just go ahead and move to create the full \$2.5 trillion package?

On March 30, 2020, within weeks after the first lockdowns and isolation protocols went into effect, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) called for a \$2.5 trillion coronavirus crisis package for developing countries. It stated that:

- \$1 trillion should be made available through the expanded use of special drawing rights (SDR)
- \$1 trillion of debts owed by developing countries should be cancelled this year
- \$500 billion is needed to fund a Marshall Plan for health recovery and dispersed as grants.

Less than a month later, on April 23, 2020, UNCTAD issued a news release under the catchy headline: "Covid-19 is a matter of life and debt, global deal needed." That report again called for \$1 trillion in debt relief and a new international body to oversee such a debt relief program. UNCTAD's rationale was reasonable although its call for another layer of bureaucracy is lamentable. UNCTAD projected that commodity-rich exporting countries would see a \$2-3 trillion drop in investment from overseas over the next two years.

More importantly, it estimated that in 2020 and 2021 alone, developing countries' repayments on their public external debt alone will soar to between US\$2.6 trillion and \$3.4 trillion. UNCTAD's report also noted that in the two months since the virus began spreading beyond China, developing countries have taken an enormous hit in terms of capital outflows, growing bond spreads, currency depreciations and lost export earnings, including from falling commodity prices and declining tourist revenues.

Almost one and one-half years since UNCTAD's call, it has become starkly clear that developing countries simply do not have the resources to meet their debt obligations and that dealing with the impact of Covid-19 is likely to demand even more resources than UNCTAD projected. However, it is one thing to call for a \$2.5 trillion package, but quite another to generate that much money. Or maybe not. After all, in the US the Federal Reserve Bank has shown us that it can simply "create money" out of nothing. The Federal Reserve's website notes that during the 2007-2008 financial crisis, its balance sheet expanded from \$870 billion in August 2007 to \$4.5 trillion in early 2015. Thereafter, the Fed attempted what it calls "normalization" but was only able to achieve a modest reduction to \$3.8 trillion by 2017. Since Covid-19 became a reality, the massive stimulus packages enacted by the U.S. Congress under Presidents Trump and Biden, the Fed's balance sheet has grown to almost \$8.25 trillion. The Fed accomplishes this "magic" by buying US government Treasury securities with money it doesn't have — it simply issues an electronic credit to the Treasury in exchange for the "securities" or notes and bonds. And the Treasury in turn has newly found money to spend.

But how to do this on the international stage? Under the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the Managing Director has the authority to propose an SDR allocation to help meet a long-term global need to supplement existing reserves. (The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves.) If the proposal is approved by the Executive Board and Board of Governors of the IMF, support from member countries representing at least 85% of the total voting power is required to



countries would benefit most from an IMF SDR increase?
Pic - Reuters

“While it is true that ultimately, the issuance of SDRs by the IMF is nothing more than a funny money game akin to issuing new Bitcoin, the truth of the matter is that to the extent that the US and China can direct their own stakes in the new tranche to countries that will buy products and services that spur American or Chinese GDP respectively, there is a benefit to all concerned...”

bring it about. SDR allocations are distributed across the IMF membership in proportion to IMF quota shares.

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the IMF issued a statement touting the benefit to all member countries of the proposed \$650 billion allocation in their efforts to recover from the Covid-19 crisis. She also promised that IMF staff "will develop new measures to enhance transparency and accountability in the use of SDRs while preserving the reserve asset characteristic of the SDR. In parallel, staff would also explore options for members with strong financial positions to reallocate SDRs to support vulnerable and low-income countries." It is not clear what exactly IMF staff can do to preserve the reserve asset characteristic of the SDR. However, note the not-so-subtle call for the richer nations of the world to reallocate their shares of SDRs to poorer countries.

Georgieva also stated: "If approved, a new allocation of SDRs would add a substantial, direct liquidity boost to countries, without adding to debt burdens. It would also free up badly needed resources for member countries to help fight the pandemic, including to support vaccination programs and other urgent measures." Well, this goes without saying. Obviously, giving free money to a country without adding a corresponding obligation to repay it, adds to liquidity. However, channeling more money to countries by itself does nothing to increase the supply of vaccines to fight Covid-19.

If creating new money is so easy, why didn't the IMF just go ahead and move to create the full \$2.5 trillion package? There are two answers to this question as well as some practical considerations.

First, astute readers will have noticed that SDRs are distributed across IMF membership countries in proportion to IMF quota shares. This means that just under \$120 billion would be allocated to the US. But US law requires approval from Congress of any SDR allocation that exceeds the equi-

ty stake of the US in the IMF. That is approximately \$115-120 billion. Therefore, if the IMF were to make an allocation of \$1 trillion in SDRs, the need for Congressional approval would be triggered.

US law mandates that Congress approves a general SDR allocation in a set five-year period in which the US gets more than its equity stake in the IMF. The need for approval would be tripped in a \$1 trillion new SDR allocation because the US SDR share would exceed the equity stake of the US in the IMF. It is not clear that Congress would approve a \$1 trillion tranche of new SDRs.

The Biden Administration supports the issuance of the tranche of \$650 billion worth of SDRs. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has endorsed the plan. But there is much criticism leveled at Secretary Yellen and the Biden administration in general. The most strident criticism is that the \$650 billion tranche of SDRs represents near the highest amount, rounded, that the Biden administration can endorse without congressional approval and that the Biden administration is attempting to circumvent Congress by breaking the issuance of new SDRs into tranches. The remaining \$350 billion of the UNCTAD proposal for \$1 trillion can be okayed later because a year later, any IMF issuance would fall into a new five-year period.

Other criticisms involve the specific benefits that some nations will receive. For example, critics lament that more than 250 people have been killed by Myanmar's security forces since the military coup. Yet, Myanmar would stand to receive about three-quarters of a billion dollars' worth of SDRs.

Senator John Kennedy of Louisiana questions the wisdom of the SDR issuance because the largesse is going to benefit Iran, Russia and other countries. Iran, for example, would get about \$4.5 billion worth of SDRs. Although member states are obligated to exchange SDRs for their currency, US sanctions on Iran make it unlikely that a direct exchange of Iran's SDRs to US dollars is going to happen. But that is no real impediment. Many countries including China, Russia, India, and several European countries are eager to do business with Iran. Conversion of Iran's IMF stake to Euros and ultimately to US dollars is perhaps just a matter of paying a commission to another nation acting as middleman.

Notwithstanding the IMF's lofty statements, the reality is that the world's poorest countries will get less than 10% of the proposed allocation. Ultimately, the poorer countries will have to depend on how much of their stakes the US, China, Britain, and the EU countries are willing to give away as donations.

European countries have economic and debt problems of their own so they may be reluctant donors of their allocated shares of SDRs. However, the IMF has also stressed that the SDRs are necessary to help developing countries cope with climate change initiatives. Since the EU has committed itself to addressing climate change seriously, it is likely that at least some of the EU countries will channel funds to developing nations for climate-change-specific projects. China may distribute a large portion of its newfound stake. After all, it is easy enough for the Chinese to convert their stake to dollars and loan the proceeds to poorer countries who agree to buy Chinese products. This is consistent with China's ongoing strategic approach to financing its Belt and Road initiative. Here, China will have found free money easily converted to U.S. dollars to benefit its initiatives around the world.

While it is true that ultimately, the issuance of SDRs by the IMF is nothing more than a funny money game akin to issuing new Bitcoin, the truth of the matter is that to the extent that the US and China can direct their own stakes in the new tranche to countries that will buy products and services that spur American or Chinese GDP respectively, there is a benefit to all concerned.

The nations of the world desperately need the assistance. Creation of funny money has a serious side to it.

Cheerz...
Bwana

The Mauritius Labour Party Memorandum - 1965, Part II

"The heterogeneity of the population is today no obstacle to Independence..."

Indeed, delay will only encourage further appeals to communal fears and prejudices"



Sada Reddi

As a supplement to the introductory note on the Mauritius Labour Party's memorandum addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for discussions in the context of the Constitutional Conference of 1965, we provide more details in this second and final part. The points taken up in this second part reinforce our claim that our Constitution is an evolutionary one; some of the Labour Party proposals had already been implemented in the

1964 Constitution, but the Party wanted them incorporated in the Independence Constitution as well.

For example, the first 16 sections of the 1964 Constitution 'contain justiciable safeguards for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual.' It also allowed for an 'unofficial Member of the Council of Ministers to be appointed Attorney General, and the Director of Public Prosecutions be given exclusive and independent authority in relation to the taking over, continuance and discontinuance of criminal proceedings'. Furthermore, the Constitution made provision for a Public Service Commission, a Police Service Commission and a new Judicial and Legal Service Commission. In fact, in the report of the Constitutional Commissioner Professor S.A de Smith, submitted in November 1964, the major constitutional issues which allowed the various parties to consider and make proposals were examined. For example, at the Constitutional Conference of 1961, the IFB had asked for a high-powered tribunal to investigate abuses of authority in the country. What was proposed instead by the Colonial Office was for the leader of the IFB and the President of the Labour Party to visit Sweden to learn about the operation of the institution of the Ombudsman there. Finally, it was the New Zealand's model which was proposed for Mauritius.

Mauritius Labour Party Memorandum - Part II

12. The Ministers

The Cabinet shall consist of not more than fifteen Ministers to be appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister from among the elected members of the National Assembly. The Prime Minister and other Ministers should vacate office on ceasing to be Members of the National Assembly, except upon a dissolution, when they would remain in office until a Prime Minister is appointed or reappointed after the general election.

13. Leader of the Opposition

The right of organised political opposition should be recognised in the Constitution (in addition to any reference in the Bill of Rights) by reference to the office of the Leader of the Opposition. He should be appointed by the Governor-General under guidance provided in the Constitution to secure the selection of the elected member commanding the confidence of the largest number of opposition mem-

bers in the Assembly.

14. The Constitution should require the Prime Minister to consult the Leader of the Opposition on certain stated decisions of national importance, namely the appointment of the members of the Service Commissions and the Electoral Commission. In the event of the Governor-General failing to reconcile a difference, the recommendation of the Premier should prevail. The Constitution should be framed if possible so as to encourage the establishment of a convention that the Leader of the Opposition is consulted on important questions of national policy which transcend party positions. It is not thought practicable to define or list such matters.



Mauritians rallying for independence in London in the 1960s

15. Financial Procedure

The Labour Party is in favour of the Constitution making provision for the Consolidated Fund, the control of Parliament over annual expenditure, the borrowing of money and the creation of charges on and the authorisation of withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund, and for the function and independence of a Controller and Auditor-General.

16. Safeguards against abuse of powers

The Labour Party strongly supports the inclusion of the following safeguards in the Constitution and is willing to examine objectively any other proposed safeguards, provided that they are not calculated to impede the development of a national spirit or hamper the Government in protecting and fostering the interests of the nation as a whole:

(1) A chapter of fundamental human rights, with adequate provision for their enforcement by the Courts and including the prerogative writs or equivalent remedies. These provisions should include comprehensive provision for the preservation of religious freedoms, for the prohibition of racial or other discrimination in the law or in its administration, for the preservation of free trade unions as an aspect of freedom of association and for freedoms in the provision of education.

(2) Provision of an Ombudsman on the lines sug-

gested by Professor De Smith. The responsibilities of this officer require detailed consideration, but no obstacle of principle to the implementation of this proposal is anticipated.

(3) A chapter on the Judiciary for the unlimited jurisdiction of the superior courts, the rights of appeal, the appointment of the judges of the superior and subordinate courts by the Judicial Service Commission, and their security of tenure of office. The Chief Justice should be appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister, as in other Commonwealth countries.

(4) The Judicial Service Commission, the Public Service Commission and the Police Service Commission (if that Commission is not merged in the Public Service Commission) should be executive, that is to say should appoint, discipline and remove all officers within their jurisdiction. Certain of the highest posts in the public sector, such as Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Department, should be appointed by the Governor-General acting on the advice of the Public Service Commission, which should consult the Prime Minister but should be removable only by the Public Service Commission. Up to a certain level appointments and removals in the Police Force should be in the power of the Commissioner of Police.

The method of and qualifications of appointment to the Service Commissions should be designed to secure their independence from party political or communal bias. The members of the Service Commissions should enjoy a security of tenure of office similar to that of the Judiciary.

(5) The periodical review of constituencies and the supervision of elections should be the functions of an independent Electoral Commission. The method and qualifications for appointment of the members of the Commission should be designed to secure absence of bias. The members of the Commission should be protected from removal of office.

(6) A Bill for the amendment of the Constitution should require the support of two thirds of all the Members of the National Assembly on the second and third readings. The degree of entrenchment is common in Commonwealth countries, and in the context of Mauritius is considered ample to safeguard the Constitution.

17. Whatever may be decided upon for Mauritius at the Conference, the matter on which the Mauritius Labour Party and the overwhelming majority of Mauritians feel more strongly than any other is that the goal must be reached at the earliest possible date. It is the unalterable conviction of the Labour Party that nothing is to be gained, and much is to be lost, by delay. Mauritius has no lack of talent or aptitude for government. The heterogeneity of the population is today no obstacle to Independence, since it is reflected in the leadership and support of the principal political party, in the public service and in all fields of public life. Indeed, delay will only encourage further appeals to communal fears and prejudices. The important and indisputable fact is that since 1961 the constitutional practice in Mauritius has been in all significant respects precisely what it would have been if the fullest measure of internal self-government had been granted in that year. The people of Mauritius feel strongly that no more time can be wasted on the playing of further variations on the theme of internal self-government as a prelude to independence.

Port Louis, Mauritius

14th August 1965





The Dixie Fire rages in Plumas county, California. Pic - AFP

Countries around the world race to rein in wildfires

Wildfires continued to torment the Mediterranean as well as the western part of the US, as authorities in Greece, Turkey and California scrambled to protect their civilians and property from further damage.

Fire crews across Greece struggled amid a record heat wave to contain new blazes, including one near the birthplace of the ancient Olympic Games - Olympia. Temperatures in parts of Greece reached 45 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, in what authorities describe as the worst heat wave since 1987. No deaths or severe injuries have been reported from any of the Greek wildfires.

In Turkey, firefighters were battling 16 wildfires across the country on Wednesday, including one near a coal-fired power station, with high temperatures, low humidity and strong winds fanning the flames, reports Agencies.

Meanwhile, wildfires have already produced a record amount of carbon emissions in Russia's Siberian region of Yakutia, with still more weeks of the fire season to come, according to the European Union's Copernicus satellite monitoring unit.

California's largest wildfire continued to grow on Wednesday as thousands of firefighters prepared for a tougher fight as dangerous weather returns.

A red flag warning was issued through Thursday because of hot, bone-dry conditions with winds up to 64kmph. That could drive flames through timber, brush and grass, especially along the northern and northeastern sides of the vast Dixie Fire.

Boeing postpones Starliner capsule test flight to space due to glitch

Boeing Co on Tuesday postponed the planned launch of its CST-100 Starliner capsule from Florida's Cape Canaveral bound for the International Space Station due to a glitch in what was to have been a crucial do-over test flight following a near-catastrophic failure during its 2019 debut.

During pre-launch preparations, Boeing engineers detected "unexpected valve position indications" in its propulsion system, Boeing said in a statement. The problem was detected during checks after electrical storms in the region, reports Reuters.

"We're disappointed with the outcome and the need to reschedule our Starliner launch," said John Vollmer, the program's manager.

The Starliner capsule loaded with supplies had been scheduled to have



An Atlas V rocket carrying Boeing's CST-100 Starliner capsule for launch to the International Space Station in Cape Canaveral.

Pic - i.ytimg.com

blasted off atop an Atlas V rocket flown by the United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Boeing and Lockheed Martin Corp, at 1:20 p.m. from Space Launch Complex-41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

The launch had been planned for

last Friday, but was postponed by NASA after the space station was briefly thrown out of control with seven crew members aboard, a mishap caused by the inadvertent reignition of jet thrusters on a newly docked Russian service module. Russia's space agency blamed a software glitch.

Tuesday's planned uncrewed mission was intended as a precursor to a closely watched crewed flight potentially to be conducted before the end of the year. It was to be a key trial for the U.S. aerospace giant after back-to-back crises - a pandemic that crushed demand for new planes and a safety scandal caused by two fatal 737 MAX crashes - that have damaged Boeing's finances and engineering reputation.

Bill Gates, Melinda French officially divorced: Report

The divorce between Microsoft co-founder and billionaire Bill Gates and Melinda French was finalised on Monday, news agency Reuters reported citing a court document.

Bill and Melinda, who are the co-founders of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, filed for divorce on May 3 this year after nearly 30 years of marriage, becoming the second high profile billionaire couple to separate after Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos and MacKenzie Bezos had divorced in 2019.

Bill Gates and Melinda French announced their divorce on Twitter. Amid a slew of speculations regarding their divorce, there have been a number of media reports which highlighted Bill Gates' questionable



Bill Gates and Melinda French have said that they would continue to work together at their charitable foundation. Pic - Reuters

behaviour at the workplace. A recent report by 'The New York Times' stated that the software magnate used to pursue women who worked at Microsoft and his foundation on many occasions, reports Hindustan Times.

Bill Gates and Melinda French have said that they would continue to work together at their charitable foundation. They also said they had a

consensus on how to divide their marital assets.

But no details of the above agreement were disclosed in Monday's order which was filed at the King County Superior Court in Washington's Seattle, Reuters further reported. The court has also not issued property, money or spousal judgement in the divorce of Bill Gates and Melinda French. The court said that both should comply with the terms of the separation contract which was not filed.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is known for its work in the area of global public health and has spent over \$50 billion for more than 20 years to bring a business approach to combating poverty and disease.

China's high-speed train in Tibet carries out maiden military mission

China's recently launched high-speed train connecting Tibet's provincial capital Lhasa with strategically located Nyingchi, a Tibetan town situated close to Arunachal Pradesh border, has been used for its first military transporting mission, official media in Beijing reported.

The newly opened Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway carried new recruits of a combined arms brigade affiliated with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Tibet Military Command to an exercise field at an elevation of 4,500 meters, reports PTI.

The high-speed railway serves as a boost to the capability of the PLA, the daily quoted analysts as saying.

The high speed train was part of China's efforts to beef up border infrastructure which included well-



The G10 Fuxing bullet train running on the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway. Pic - xinhuanet.com

developed road, rail and air networks for rapid movement of troops.

On July 23, President Xi Jinping made a rare visit to Nyingchi, becoming the first top Chinese leader to visit the Tibetan border town and travelled to Lhasa by high-speed train. It was also his first visit to Tibet as President.

Opened on June 25, the 435-kilometre-long railway line has a designed speed of 160 km per hour. It reduces the travel time from Lhasa to Nyingchi from 5 hours to approximately 3.5 hours.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, which is firmly rejected by India. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC).

* Contd on page 7

In a strange discovery, scientists detect light behind black hole for first time

Scientists have detected light from behind the black hole for the first time, confirming a scenario predicted by Einstein's theory of general relativity. Stanford University astrophysicist Dan Wilkins and his colleagues were observing X-rays released by a supermassive black hole 800 million light-years away when the telescopes recorded additional flashes of X-rays smaller and of different colours than the bright flares.

"Any light that goes into that black hole doesn't come out, so we shouldn't be able to see anything that's behind the black hole," Wilkins, the author of the study, said in a statement.

While the bright flares are not an unusual phenomenon, the X-rays reflecting from behind the black hole was a strange discovery. Material falling into a supermassive black hole gets superheated due to the enormous gravity around it, powering continuous sources of light in the universe by forming corona, reports



First direct observation of light from behind a black hole. Pic - cdn.wionews.com

Hindustan Times.

When the electrons separate from atoms at such a high temperature, a magnetic plasma is created. The magnetic field breaks as it arch high above the black hole and then bends towards it, producing high energy electrons that subsequently produce the X-rays. Researchers determined that the series of smaller flashes were the same X-ray flares but reflected from behind the black hole.

The study, published late last month in the journal 'Nature', is the first direct observation of light from behind a black hole.

"Fifty years ago, when astrophysicists starting speculating about how the magnetic field might behave close to a black hole, they had no idea that one day we might have the techniques to observe this directly and see Einstein's general theory of relativity in action," said Roger Blandford, a co-author of the paper.



NHS loses crown as world's best healthcare system

The NHS has lost its rating as the best healthcare system in the world, an accolade it had held for seven years. In a survey of healthcare in 11 wealthy countries, the UK was only ranked in fourth place, dropping down from first in 2017 and 2014. It came just ninth in a comparison of healthcare outcomes, which includes early deaths, cancer survival and baby deaths at birth. The study, by American think tank The Commonwealth Fund, found Norway, the Netherlands and Australia were the top-performing countries overall, ahead of the UK. Issues such as access to care and the experiences of lower-income groups were blamed for the NHS's slipping

Thousands will avoid isolation after NHS Covid-19 app changed

Tens of thousands of people will no longer be required to self-isolate if they come into contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus following major changes to the NHS Covid-19 app, the British government has

announced. From Monday, the app will only "ping" a person's close contacts from the two days prior to a positive test, instead of the current five days.

The move comes following sustained pressure on the government to act after almost 700,000 alerts were sent by the app to users in England and Wales for the week to 21 July, a record since it was launched, prompting staffing issues across multiple industries nationwide. Labour meanwhile has accused the government of "shambolic" mixed messaging and suggested the tweaks to the app were a sign that the government was abandoning its attempts to bring down

infection rates.

Britain's 'lost' blueprint for fighting a coronavirus outbreak - written 16 years ago

A blueprint for responding to a coronavirus outbreak was drawn up by the UK government in 2005, The Independent can reveal, but the plan was seemingly "lost" in Whitehall, never acted upon or even considered when Covid-19 swept the planet. The document, drawn up in response to Sars, recommended building up infrastructure for virus testing and PPE stockpiling in case of an outbreak, while response measures included travel restrictions, isolating and testing contacts with infections and limiting "super-spreader" events.

One former government adviser said that the framework - based on a coronavirus outbreak beginning in China and spreading across the globe - could have saved "tens of thousands of lives" if it had been used to guide the response to Covid-19. Instead, the draft contingency plan appears to have gone "missing" shortly after it was submitted, reports The Independent.

Airline industry blasts 'missed opportunity' as France and Germany benefit from limited relaxation of travel rules



Boris Johnson's latest review of travel restrictions has been blasted as a "missed opportunity" by the aviation industry, after ministers cleared the way for thousands of British families to visit France quarantine-free this summer but moved only a handful of countries onto the lowest risk category. Airlines meanwhile lamented the decision not to ease requirements for expensive PCR coronavirus tests for arrivals in the UK, which has been condemned as a "£100-a-

head tax on flights" by the industry. Ministers were accused of "flip-flopping" on France after reversing their decision last month - branded "nonsensical" by one Conservative MP - to place the whole country in its own "amber-plus" category of heightened restrictions because of a spike in cases of the Beta variant of Covid-19 in faraway island territories La Reunion and Mayotte.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Jack Bizlall

"Il est évident que le rapport Domah est politisé dans son utilisation par le régime..."

Mais il n'est pas vrai de dire que c'est un rapport partisan"

Mauritius Times: Nous semblons aller de mal en pis quant à nos pratiques démocratiques fondamentales, et la dernière en date se rapporte aux propos du Speaker de l'Assemblée nationale à l'adresse de Rajesh Bagwan. Si les recours légaux sont limités, est-ce qu'il serait donc sage pour l'opposition de démissionner collectivement, comme semble le penser une partie des Mauriciens?

Jacques Bizlall: Je ne crois pas qu'il soit raisonnable de démissionner en bloc pour pousser le Speaker au départ. Ce n'est pas le rôle d'un député de se protéger de toute attaque du pouvoir pour le museler. C'est le rôle des électeurs.

C'est une question politique qui exige une action politique et une action politique se construit dans la rue.

Dans le cas de Phokeer, une pétition est en circulation parmi d'anciens députés pour que le Speaker soit démis de ses fonctions. Ce matin j'ai rendu visite à Vidoula Nababsing en compagnie d'Alain Laridon et Bashir Khodabaccus pour faire signer cette pétition. Nous sommes 11 actuellement à avoir signé cette pétition pour demander le départ de Phokeer.

Le pays a connu plusieurs Speakers. Le premier Mauricien fut Harilall Vaghjee. Avant lui, ce fut Robert Stanley. Après lui, on a connu des Speakers comme Ramesh Jeewoolall, Alan Ganoo, Kailash Purryag, Razack Peeroo, Ajay Daby, etc.

Les deux seuls Speakers qui ont fait de leurs fonctions un bras agissant du MSM furent Maya Hanoomanjee et Sooroojdev Phokeer. Mais ce dernier est de loin le plus dangereux. Ses commentaires à l'égard de Rajesh Bhagwan sont inacceptables.

Pour moi, il doit partir. D'ailleurs j'ai écrit une lettre en date du 17 juillet 2021 à Arvin Boolell en lui faisant plusieurs propositions dont une pétition et des manifestations pour provoquer le départ de Phokeer. Dans quelques semaines, cette histoire va prendre des proportions d'agitation populaire.

*** Nous savons que notre pays se bat depuis plusieurs mois pour sortir le plus rapidement possible de la liste noire de l'EU. Or, les régulateurs occidentaux sont particulièrement attentifs aux pratiques démocratiques. De ce fait, ce que nous voyons au Parlement participe-t-il à réduire nos chances de sortir de cette liste?**

Je suis outré par l'idéalisme de certains de croire qu'il suffit de changer les lois pour éradiquer la corruption, la fraude, le blanchiment d'argent, la dilapidation des ressources, le gaspillage et d'autres pratiques qui

"Bhadain a eu ce qu'il mérite. Je lui ai dit de ne pas s'associer à la dynastie Jugnauth. Cette dynastie ne laisse à personne l'occasion de s'opposer à eux. Elle a utilisé et éliminé les Bissoondoyal, les Ramgoolam, les Mohamed, les Boolell, les Bérenger... D'autre part, Bhadain est un expert : j'attends qu'il produise un rapport critique sur ce rapport pour se 'blanchir'..."

La démocratie est en danger à Maurice! Cela fait des années que l'on entend cette rengaine. Et pourtant, les élections se suivent et se ressemblent, les scandales se bousculent, la cacophonie au Parlement devient intolérable et les esclandres semblent interminables. On croirait que la classe politique arrive au pouvoir non pour assainir le paysage local mais les uns les autres rivalisent en stratégies de compétition pour mettre à mal la démocratie déjà souffrante... Jack Bizlall s'exprime sur ce sujet dans l'interview qui suit...



font que certains s'enrichissent au détriment des autres.

Ce problème est mondial. Peut-on appliquer la peine de mort comme en Chine contre les fraudeurs? Je dis NON. Je ne suis pas pour la peine capitale. Doit-on adopter des punitions corporelles comme dans les pays islamiques? Je dis NON. Je ne sépare pas l'être et son corps.

Le paradoxe est que le plus nous avons de lois, le plus ces pratiques augmentent et font des dégâts encore plus graves. Une société a besoin d'une culture qui construit une civilisation qui ne permette pas des enrichissements inacceptables.

Si les ressources d'un pays sont équitablement distribuées et qu'il y a un rapport entre les revenus, tout enrichissement illicite et licite serait non seulement impossible mais surtout combattu. Il y a une limite à l'enrichissement.

Que voyons-nous ces temps-ci sinon des agissements crapuleux de nos dirigeants politiques et de nos bourgeoisies (Traditionnelles, économiques d'Etat)?

Sans aucun besoin de sanctionner, il suffit que celui qui est riche explique tout enrichissement dépassant un seuil et il faut introduire une taxe importante quand vient le temps de partager ses biens entre ses héritiers. Une civilisation qui se respecte ne se construit pas sur les privilèges par la transmission génétique.

"Je ne crois pas qu'il soit raisonnable de démissionner en bloc pour pousser le Speaker au départ. Ce n'est pas le rôle d'un député de se protéger de toute attaque du pouvoir pour le museler. C'est le rôle des électeurs. C'est une question politique qui exige une action politique et une action politique se construit dans la rue..."

*** Les scandales s'enchaînent et se succèdent. Le dernier en date est le rapport du juge Domah sur l'affaire Britam. Pensez-vous, comme peuvent le déclarer certains juristes, qu'il s'agit d'un rapport politisé?**

J'ai lu en partie le rapport Domah. C'est un rapport de 352 pages signés par S. Domah, S. Hajee Abdoula et I. Ramtohul.

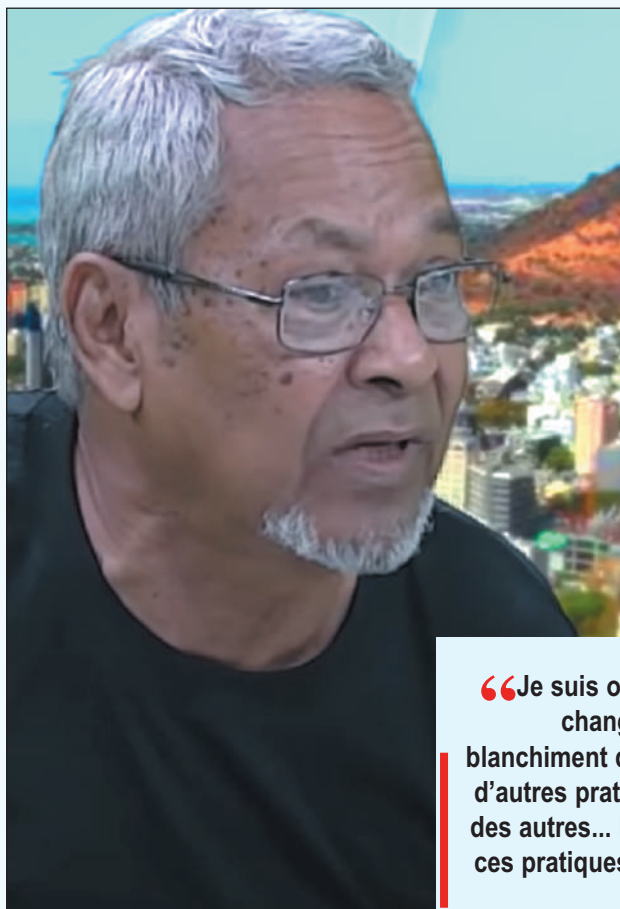
Au chapitre 24, il est proposé 31 recommandations qu'il faudra analyser. Plusieurs de ces recommandations émanent du *wishful thinking*. Ce n'est pas grave puisque cela nous donne une perspective volontariste. D'autres sont réalisables.

Il est évident que le rapport est politisé dans son utilisation par le régime en place pour discréditer et abattre Bhadain.

● Suite en page 9

'Tout le monde veut devenir Premier ministre.'

Le problème est que quand l'opposition secoue le cocotier, les noix de cocos tombent sur leur propre tête'



“Je suis outré par l'idéalisme de certains de croire qu'il suffit de changer les lois pour éradiquer la corruption, la fraude, le blanchiment d'argent, la dilapidation des ressources, le gaspillage et d'autres pratiques qui font que certains s'enrichissent au détriment des autres... Le paradoxe est que le plus nous avons de lois, le plus ces pratiques augmentent et font des dégâts encore plus graves...”

● Suite de la page 8

Mais il n'est pas vrai de dire que c'est un rapport partisan.

Mais Bhadain a eu ce qu'il mérite. Je lui ai dit de ne pas s'associer à la dynastie Jugnauth. Cette dynastie ne laisse à personne l'occasion de s'opposer à eux. Elle a utilisé et éliminé les Bissoondoyal, les Ramgoolam, les Mohamed, les Boolell, les Bérenger...

D'autre part, Bhadain est un expert : j'attends qu'il produise un rapport critique sur ce rapport pour se 'blanchir'. Il ne peut venir nous dire que c'est un rapport qui le vise en tant que politicien.

Je l'attends. J'ai mon opinion. J'insiste sur ma position. Il faut qu'il se disculpe avec toutes les explications nécessaires. Puis-je vous dire que Domah a fait un jugement en sa faveur et que cela fait référence dans sa réclamation contre l'ICAC ?

Il ne l'a pas dit et je sais qu'il ne pourra pas critiquer Domah. La seule chose qui serait considéré comme crédible, c'est un rapport sur ce que Domah dit et la publication détaillée de ses revenus et de ses dépenses.

*** Plusieurs rapports comme cela ont été publiés ces dernières années - comme le rapport Lam Shang Leen sur le trafic de drogue - mais, en fin de compte, rien ne semble être fait à la suite de ces rapports. Ces derniers semblent être comme des exercices de communication. Et on les enferme aussitôt dans des tiroirs une fois le buzz passé. À quoi servent-ils donc ?**

Je crois que les Mauriciens n'ont rien compris de la politique mauricienne. Trois questions :

1. Comment un fils qui devient Premier ministre après son père pourrait-il soulever des manquements

graves dans la gestion de son père comme PM? C'est pour cela qu'il faut combattre les dynasties.

2. Comment deux dirigeants qui ont constitué une alliance politique au pouvoir peuvent-ils s'entretuer et ainsi se discréditer mutuellement? C'est pourquoi il faut revoir notre système électoral.
3. Comment combattre un gouvernement au pouvoir par le biais des commissions d'enquête quand il faut l'assentiment du PM pour que le Président de la République institue de telles commissions?

Il y a plusieurs raisons pour que nous soyons paralysés devant ce constat que vous faites...

De plus, les médias révèlent des dossiers graves et, ensuite, c'est l'oubli... Qui parle de MedPoint ou des moteurs de Saint Louis, par exemple?

Quant au rapport Lam Shang Leen, il me semble que nous évitons de parler de deux choses. Que Maurice est une plaque tournante des drogues mortifères. Et, que le

bertés. Ils sont des marionnettes du système. Ils n'ont pas le droit de réfléchir...

Tant que l'Etat sera au service de la classe dominante, son système éducatif sera celui d'insertion et sa police sera celle de coercition.

*** Cela fait des années que nous parlons de l'insécurité et du 'Law and Order' à Maurice. Encore une fois, il semble que nous sommes face à des situations qui continuent de se dégrader sans que la puissance publique ne puisse réagir. Dans le cas du nouveau Commissaire de police, est-il raisonnable de s'attendre à une action ferme et efficace de sa part ou bien sera-t-il ralenti par les blocages institutionnels et politiques?**

On ne choisit pas celui qui va nous agresser dans les manifestations, ou qui va nous surveiller politiquement...

Un citoyen qui se respecte ne respecte pas une police qui est au service des nantis, des accapareurs et du droit au service des oligarchies, des dynasties...

Je dois vous dire que, d'une façon ou d'une autre, je suis un hors-la-loi par conviction et par l'orgueil de mes convictions.

Je n'ai pas de permis de conduire, j'ai conservé ma vieille carte d'identité, je ne me suis pas fait vacciner... et je préfère m'arrêter là. La liste est très longue.

Je n'ai jamais eu de problèmes avec la police, mais je reste un hors-la-loi dans la vie et dans l'âme. Un révolutionnaire n'est pas un anarchiste, mais il n'est pas non plus un adepte de la soumission volontaire ou de la soumission imposée par le système. En passant, aucune police n'est neutre.

*** Le Gouvernement a pour projet la mise en place d'un organisme qui viendrait remplacer, à terme, la Mauritius Turf Club. Pensez-vous que c'est le moyen d'avoir un contrôle accru sur l'argent des paris sportifs ? Ou bien le Gouvernement ouvre-t-il une boîte de Pandore qu'il ne pourra pas contrôler ?**

Il y a beaucoup plus que ça dans les intentions du Gouvernement.

“Il y a beaucoup plus que ça dans les intentions du Gouvernement. J'ai été et je suis le négociateur du syndicat des palefreniers. Ce fut un des premiers secteurs dont je me suis occupé à la GWF. L'organisation des jeux, n'importe lequel, est un moyen de s'enrichir sur la naïveté des autres... et, pour d'autres, un moyen de blanchir son argent. Les courses sont pourries...”

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Je me souviens de ce que feu Marc David m'avait dit un jour: "Je quitte ce sport pour deux raisons. Quand mon jockey me dit qu'il va gagner, il perd, et quand il me dit de ne pas jouer, il gagne."

● Suite en page 10

financement de ce commerce international est contrôlé par des financiers d'ici et d'ailleurs.

Nous combattons ces drogues mais, en même temps, nous permettons à des milliers de jeunes de se détruire avec des drogues synthétiques.

La solution, c'est la légalisation de la consommation du cannabis comme un médicament et comme un moyen récréatif.

*** Un nouveau Commissaire de police vient d'être nommé. Quelles seront les défis prioritaires qui l'attendent, selon vous?**

Ah... Quand on me dit qu'un nouveau Commissaire a été nommé, j'ai l'impression que l'on insinue qu'il est un nouveau-né avec un nouveau comportement, de nouvelles pratiques, une 'nouvelle' honnêteté, de nouveaux assistants, de nouveaux policiers.

Malheureusement, non... Il n'y aura rien de nouveau sous le soleil.

Les problèmes sont toujours les mêmes – manque de sécurité, drogue, prostitution, vols, agressions sexuelles, problèmes de trafic routier... La liste est longue.

Ce n'est pas un homme qui peut changer les choses. C'est un système et surtout une société qui se construit avec un fond commun de civilisation... acceptable et acceptée de tous.

Je vois que, pour la sécurité, on introduit un système de surveillance vidéo. On veut contrôler l'Internet, on veut approprier la liberté de la personne humaine.

Je vais vous dire quelque chose du plus profond de mon être – aucun policier n'a des dispositions pour aider notre société à avancer sur le plan des droits et des li-

'J'attends que Bhadain produise un rapport critique sur le rapport Domah pour se 'blanchir'.

Il ne peut venir nous dire que c'est un rapport qui le vise en tant que politicien'



“Les médias révèlent des dossiers graves et, ensuite, c'est l'oubli... Qui parle de MedPoint ou des moteurs de Saint Louis, par exemple ? Quant au rapport Lam Shang Leen, il me semble que nous évitons de parler de deux choses. Que Maurice est une plaque tournante des drogues mortifères. Et, que le financement de ce commerce international est contrôlé par des financiers d'ici et d'ailleurs...”

● Suite de la page 9

Mon écurie est championne et j'ai perdu beaucoup d'argent... Je pars et je ne retournerai pas."

Ces derniers temps, un groupe de personnes, entre autres, Rama Poonoosamy, Vivian Gangaram, Jessika Rosun, Josian Boullé, Alain Offman, Kevin Meselliah, Shama Aboobakar, Jean Michel Giraud, Michel Glover, Sheila Seebaluck, et d'autres personnes ont pris position contre ces magouilles. Je crois qu'ils ont raison.

Je pourrais peut-être dire à Pravind Jugnauth et consorts... que leurs intentions ne seraient pas aussi pures qu'ils le prétendraient.

Je ne soutiens pas le régime dynastique des Jugnauth. Je n'ai rien à voir avec cette famille, et je crois qu'on se fait une illusion que le fils est meilleur que le père. La seule chose qui le lie avec son père c'est le pouvoir. Par ailleurs, c'est une vérité de La Palice, le pouvoir est un moyen de gagner de l'argent.

*** Le Finance Bill est passée avec quelques amendements. Le texte de loi sur la CSG et les amendements à la 'Workers Rights Act' ont fait grand bruit. Comment réagissez-vous aux conséquences des changements qui vont intervenir dans les deux cas ?**

Je pense que nous avons tout dit dans les deux programmes publiés par la FPU. Présentement, il faut sauver le secteur touristique, entre autres, Air Mauritius, Mauritius Duty Free Paradise, les Casinos et le secteur hôtelier. La situation s'améliorera et je pense que nous allons nous en sortir de la crise sanitaire sans grand fracas.

La CSG est la source d'une crise sociale qui va éclater un jour ou l'autre. C'est en fait une taxation qui est utilisée pour remplir les caisses de l'Etat. La pension qui sera payée à l'avenir n'a rien à voir avec les revenus de cette taxe. Cette taxe peut être augmentée comme elle peut ne pas être suffisante pour financer ce système de pension.

“Aucun policier n'a des dispositions pour aider notre société à avancer sur le plan des droits et des libertés. Ils sont des marionnettes du système. Ils n'ont pas le droit de réfléchir... Tant que l'Etat sera au service de la classe dominante, son système éducatif sera celui d'insertion et sa police sera celle de coercition...”



Il y aura donc deux groupes d'insatisfaits: les anciens qui sont régis par l'ancien régime, et les gros salariés qui vont faire valoir leurs droits à une pension en relation avec leur contribution.

Quant aux amendements à la 'Workers' Rights Act', il faudra regarder les aspects pratiques. J'ai l'impression qu'il existe une dissonance entre le ministère de la Justice et le ministre du Travail. Il faudra rencontrer les techniciens du ministère du Travail pour en savoir plus.

*** Le nombre de cas positifs à la Covid-19 dépasse quotidiennement les 50 cas depuis deux semaines. Est-ce que l'objectif d'une ouverture des frontières pour les vaccinés le 1er octobre pourra être tenu?**

J'ai écrit une lettre à l'OMS et une lettre au ministre de l'Education. Ces lettres seront ratifiées samedi et seront envoyées lundi. Dans cette lettre, je dis ceci :

Notre organisation s'insurge contre le silence de l'OMS par rapport aux nombreuses critiques contre des vaccins autorisés par elle. Il existerait des risques liés en rapport à d'autres virus et à d'autres vaccins. Principalement :

- 1) à la génétique et à notre système immunitaire ;
- 2) au système de reproduction ;
- 3) au système sanguin, etc., et
- 4) à notre système neuronique.

C'est incontestable. Les effets sont multi-dimensionnels.

Notre organisation vous demande de statuer sur ces risques et d'informer la population mondiale de l'ampleur des effets néfastes établis ou allégués tels que :

- 1) les problèmes urinaires (incontinence) ; La paralysie des membres inférieurs et faciaux (gauche et partielle) ;
- 2) le syndrome Guillain Barré ;
- 3) les problèmes cardiaques ;
- 4) l'arrêt de la menstruation ;

- 5) les problèmes au rein et au foie ;
- 6) la thrombose ;
- 7) les anomalies dans la réaction hormonale touchant la croissance, l'humeur, la sexualité et le métabolisme ;
- 8) le déséquilibre diabétique ;
- 9) les douleurs musculaires ; et
- 10) les décès.

Dans le monde, il existe deux positions inacceptables.

- Sur une chaîne de Canal Plus, tout est contesté d'une façon sauvage, populiste et anarchique. Je ne regarde plus CNews avec ses intervenants d'extrême droite comme Zemour.
- A Maurice, tout est fait pour soutenir la politique du gouvernement en place. Tout va bien... Aucune contestation ... Je ne regarde plus la télévision mauricienne.

Mes observations me poussent à conclure que les effets de la Covid-19 s'estompent d'une part et cela provoque une opposition assez sérieuse contre les vaccins qui ont des effets dangereux sur la santé.

J'ai analysé toute la situation et deux longues lettres seront adressées aux autorités.

Moi-même, je suis réticent à me faire vacciner non pas que je suis contre la vaccination mais il existe trop de dangers.

*** Pour revenir sur le plan politique, l'opposition semble ne pas pouvoir secouer le cocotier, et nous voyons Nando Bodha afficher son ambition d'être premier ministrable. Vos commentaires à ce sujet?**

Tout le monde veut devenir Premier ministre. Le problème est que les électeurs se rendent compte que quand l'opposition secoue le cocotier, les noix de cocos tombent sur leur propre tête.

Il y a des décisions qu'il faut prendre :

- 1) Faire partir le Speaker
- 2) Rédiger une nouvelle Constitution pour l'instauration d'une nouvelle république
- 3) Faire partir la famille Jugnauth sans faire retourner Ramgoolam
- 4) Adopter l'éducation d'assertion
- 5) Mettre l'économie au service du social
- 6) Nous débarrasser de tous les opportunistes, des populistes et des jouisseurs aux prochaines élections de 2024, et
- 7) Renforcer les droits et les intérêts de la masse des gens, pensionnés, travailleurs, femmes au foyer et au travail...
- 8) Développer une politique en faveur des producteurs et des travailleurs indépendants, bref élargir la classe sociale non liée au capitalisme pour préparer son remplacement.

Je suis dans le pouvoir extra-parlementaire et, croyez-moi, on peut faire beaucoup de choses.

7	THE MAURITIUS DERBY CUP					
	1850 m - Valeur P.d'Age - Open - G1 - 4yrs Old - 15h45					
1 Fools Gold	RM	3-3-3/6-3	58	P.C.Orffer	4	310
2 Special Blend	SPN	0-0-0-9-9	58	G.D.Aucharuz	1	1600
3 Padre Pio	SJ	0-0-2-1-6	58	B.Fayd'herbe	5	200
4 Battle Of Alesia	RG	0-0-5-3-5	58	P.K.Horil	6	1400
5 Bag Of Tricks	RG	0-0-3-3-2	58	S.Donohoe	3	320
6 Hubble	SJ	7/7-5-2-6	58	T.Juglall	2	1400
8	THE FLAMING AXE PLATE					
	1365 m - Valeur [0-25] - 16h20					
1 Alssakhra	G	6-5-4/3-8	60	S.Donohoe	4	350
2 Global Glory	PM	0-0-0-2-9	60	R.Oliver	6	450
3 The Right Stuff	CD	3-7-3/7-3	59.5(-3)	M.Sonaram	7	1600
4 Emblem Of Hope	SH	nouveau	59	I.Santana	1	260
5 Barak Lavan	SN	6-5-8-8/5	57.5	D.Bheekary	5	1500
6 Crushing Force	JMH	1/8-5-4-2	57.5	G.D.Aucharuz	3	360
7 Loosen Your Tie	JMH	4-N-6/4-6	57	B.Sooful	2	2000
9	THE PINEHURST PLATE					
	1450 m - Valeur [0-15] - 16h55					
1 Epic Sword	SN	5-6-9-7/5	61	D.Bheekary	7	1800
2 Big Smoke	P	6-5-8/3-1	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	8	360
3 Valerin	CD	4-2/2-6-5	60(-3)	M.Sonaram	10	650
4 Gimme A Swinger	PM	5-6-10-6/1	59.5	R.Oliver	6	550
5 Minaloushe Venture	AS	3/5-7-10-8	59.5	S.Rama	2	1200
6 Kali's Champ	CR	4-6-7/7-8	59	P.K.Horil	4	1100
7 Hit The Green	RM	3-2/2-6-7	58.5	P.C.Orffer	9	1000
8 Kings Empire	SH	1/2-2-7-4	58(-3)	A.Roy	1	400
9 Northern Rebel	JMH	8-6-6/3-8	55.5	B.Sooful	3	800
10 Special Force	SPN	11-3/4-8-10	54.5	K.Kalychurun	5	1400
SELECTIONS	1. Newsman, Sarah's Secret, Xanthus 2. Red Force One, Capkuta, Mounted Warrior 3. Desert Illusion, Stockbridge, Italian Way 4. Memphis Mafia, Copenhagen, The Byzantine 5. Alameery, Captain Gone Wild, Silver Heritage 6. Seattle Kid, Mambo Rock, Huyssteen 7. Padre Pio, Fools Gold, Bag Of Tricks 8. Alssakhra, Emblem Of Hope, Crushing Force 9. Big Smoke, Kings Empire, Valerin					

Happiness is an illusion, here's why you should seek contentment instead

Contentment has the potential to serve as a robust foundation upon which episodes of joy and pleasure can be experienced and cherished.



Sidney Bloch
Emeritus Professor in
Psychiatry, The University
of Melbourne

I want to share a personal view of what it is to be happy and how it differs from feeling content. Let me begin with a clinical story.

They met at a party; it was love at first sight just like one reads about in romantic novels. They married following an exhilarating courtship, and since they shared an eagerness to raise a family, Jennifer soon announced the joyful news of her pregnancy. They called their baby Annie after Adam's late mother.

They felt blessed; every moment since their first encounter had been nothing but pleasurable. Everyone who knew them concurred that their lives as a couple had been replete with happiness.

Tragically, it was not to endure. Their first setback occurred only days after Annie's birth. She was sleeping fitfully and her colic stubbornly persisted. Jennifer felt utterly demoralised as a new mother. Her mounting sense of guilt and melancholy led to her admission to a psychiatric ward (her first ever encounter with psychiatry); the fear of her harming Annie or herself spread through the family and circle of friends.

And then, quite shockingly, despite the most diligent medical and nursing care, Jennifer met her death after jumping off a second-floor balcony. Her family and friends plunged into deep grief; the medical professionals who had looked after her were similarly bereft.

An elusive goal

Having worked as a psychiatrist for over four decades and got to know dozens of men, women, and children of diverse backgrounds and with unique life stories, I have witnessed many a sad narrative, although suicide has mercifully been a rare event.

These experiences, in tandem with a lifelong fascination with what makes people tick, have led me most reluctantly to the judgement that while we may savour



happiness episodically, it will invariably be disrupted by unwelcome negative feelings. Still, most of humankind will continue to harbour the expectation of living happily and remain oblivious that this wishful fantasy is an unconscious way of warding off the threat of psychic pain.

Rather than confront and demoralise those who have sought my help, I have gently but honestly responded to their plaintive yearning ("all I want is just to be happy"), by highlighting an inherent human sentiment. Namely that clinging to the fiction of being able to avoid suffering and enjoying a continuing state of pleasure is tantamount to self-deception.

I have offered them the hope - but not a guarantee - that they have the potential to lead a more fulfilling life than hitherto by participating in a challenging, and at times even distressing process of self-exploration whose purpose is to enhance self-understanding and acceptance of the reality-bound emotional state I call contentment.

You may retort: "But you treat people who are miserable, pessimistic and self-deprecating, surely you must be hopelessly biased." I would readily understand your reaction but suggest that all of us, not just those in treatment, crave happiness and are repeatedly frustrated by its elusiveness.

As the father of psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud emphasised in his 1930 essay, *Civilization and Its Discontents*, we are much more vulnerable to unhappiness than its opposite. That's because we are constantly threatened by three forces: the fragility of our physical self, "doomed" by ageing and disease; the external world,

with its potential to destroy us (through floods, fires, storms and earthquakes, for example); and our unpredictably complicated relationships with other people (regarded by Freud as the most painful source of unhappiness).

So, am I simply a misanthrope? I hope not but I am inclined to agree with Elbert Hubbard, the American artist and philosopher, who said, "Life is just one damn thing after another".

We only have to think about the 50 million people who are currently displaced and unlikely to find a secure haven anytime soon, or the 2.2 billion people - including millions of children - who live on less than US\$2 a day to appreciate the validity of that remark.

A better option

Given the formidable obstacles to chasing after happiness or promoting its sustainability if we are lucky enough to come by it, what options do human beings have? I have not come across any meaningful approach to this question, even from the unswervingly confident proponents of the contemporary school of positive psychology.

So, I espouse the following: given that we have the means to distinguish between happiness and contentment, we can examine how they differ and, in so doing, identify an alternative to the futile pursuit of happiness.

Happiness, derived from the Norse word *hap*, means luck or chance; the phrase happy-go-lucky illustrates the association. Many Indo-European languages similarly conflate the feeling of happiness and luck. *Glück* in German, for instance, can be translated as either hap-

piness or chance, while *etihiia*, the Greek word for happiness, is derived from *ef*, meaning good, and *tixi*, luck or chance.

Thus, a mother may have the good fortune to feel ecstatic when responding to her infant's playfulness, only to see it evaporate a couple of years later and be replaced by the initial features of autism. In the story we started this article with, Jennifer may have persevered had her baby slept peacefully and not been assailed by colicky pain in her first few weeks of life.

Contentment is derived from the Latin *contentus* and usually translated as satisfied. No multiple meanings here to confuse us. In my view, feeling content refers to a deep-seated, abiding acceptance of one's self and one's worth together with a sense of self-fulfilment, meaning and purpose.

And, most critically, these assets are valued and nurtured whatever the circumstances, or even especially when they are distressing or depressing.

I have had the privilege of knowing men and women who suffered grievously as children in the ghettos and concentration camps of Nazi Europe but emerged from their nightmare to face the challenge of seeking strengths, emotional and spiritual, within themselves. With the passage of time, many succeeded in achieving a sense of deep-seated contentment.

What these survivors have clearly demonstrated is that accepting and respecting oneself, coupled with determining what is personally meaningful, stand a greater chance of accomplishment, even if never completed, than a relentless and ultimately futile pursuit of happiness. What's more, contentment has the potential to serve as a robust foundation upon which episodes of joy and pleasure can be experienced and cherished.

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How do you find someone to marry?

A survey of kids' response to that question

1. You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. -- Alan, age 10

- No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all the way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. -- Kristen, age 10

2. What is the right age to get married?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person forever by then. -- Camille, age 10

3. How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

-- Derrick, age 8

4. What do you think your mom and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. -- Lori, age 8

5. What do most people do on a date?

- Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if

you listen long enough. -- Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure?)

- On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. -- Martin, age 10

6. When is it okay to kiss someone?

- When they're rich. -- Pam, age 7 (love her)

- The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. -- Curt, age 7

- The rule goes like this: if you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. Howard, age 8

7. Is it better to be single or married

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. -- Anita, age 9 (bless you child)

8. How would the world be different if people didn't get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? -- Kelvin, age 8 and the #1 favourite is...

9. How would you make a marriage work?

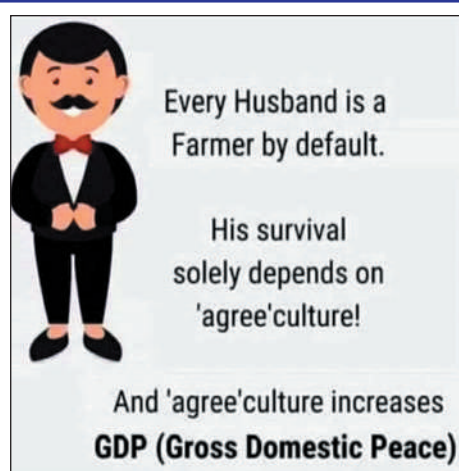
Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a dump truck. -- Ricky, age 9

* * *

Never go to HR for help!!!

After 4 years of selfless service, I realized that I had not been promoted, no salary increment, no commendation. So, I decided to walk up to my HR Manager. The manager looked at me, smiled and asked me to sit down saying: "My friend you have not worked here for even a single day!"

I was shocked to hear this, but the manager went on to explain. And here's the conversation that took place:



Manager: How many days are there in a year?

Me: 365 days and sometimes 366.

Manager: Do you come to work on weekends?

Me: No sir.

Manager: How many days are there in a year that are weekends?

Me: 52 Saturdays and 52 Sundays equals to 104 days.

Manager: Thanks for that. If you remove 104 days from 366 days. how many days do you now have?

Me: 262 days

Manager: How many hours make up a day?

Me: 24 hours.

Manager: How long do you work in a day?

Me: 10 am to 6 pm (i.e., 8 hours a day.)

Manager: So, what fraction of the day do you work in hours?

Me: 8/24 i.e., 1/3 (one third).

Manager: This is nice of you! What is 1/3rd of 262 days?

Me: 87 (1/3 x 262 = 87 days)

Manager: I do give you 2 weeks sick leave, 15 days casual leave, 5 days optional leave, 30 days earned leave

every year. Now remove those 64 days from the 87 days left. How many days do you have remaining?

Me: 23 days.

Manager: Do you work on festivals (20 days)?

Me: No Sir!

Manager: Do you work on Republic Day?

Me: No sir!

Manager: Do you come to work on Independence Day?

Me: No sir!

Manager: So how many days are left?

Me: 1 day sir!

Manager: Do you come to work on New Year's Day?

Me: No sir!

Manager: So how many days are left?

Me: None Sir!

Manager: So, what are you claiming?

Me: I have understood, Sir. I did not realise that I was stealing company money all these days!!!

* * *

I have a doubt, Dad

A 15-year-old son said: Dad, I have a doubt.

Dad: What's it about, son?

Son: I learnt that Shri Ram attained Godly status by listening to his father in Trethayug.

Dad: That's true, son.

Son: But then Prahlad became great by not listening to his father in Satyayug.

Dad: That is also true.

Son: So, dad, kindly enlighten me. Should I listen to you or not?

Dad: My dear son, we are living in Kaliyug. It's good for both of us to listen to your mother to lead a harmonious life!

Life's Lesson

About our daughters

Dedicated to emotional, cute, pretty, sweet & sincere girls

Congrats to who all have daughters. Daughters are like parrots in the house.

When she speaks without a break and everyone says,

"Will you please keep quiet for some time."

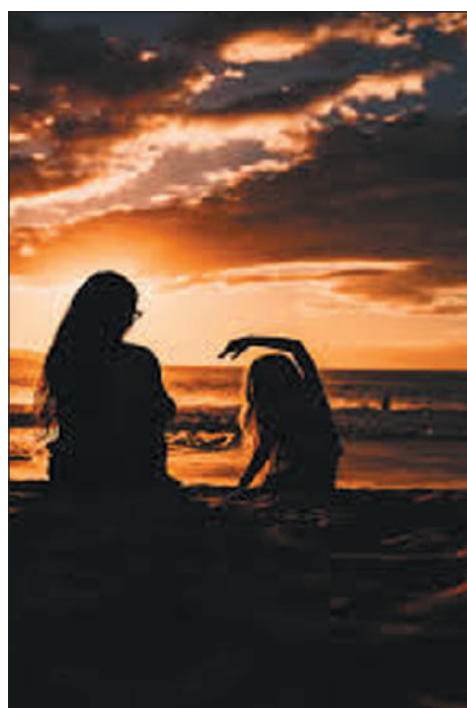
When she is silent, mother says, Are you fine my child?

Father says, "Why there is so much of silence?"

Brother says, "Are you angry with me?"

And when she is married, all say, "It's like all the happiness has gone from the house."

She is the real nonstop music.



Girls are proud to be a daughter. Woman has the most unique character like salt.

Her presence is never remembered...

But her absence makes all the things tasteless!

* * *

Daughter is not equal to tension

But in today's world daughter is equal to ten sons.

* * *

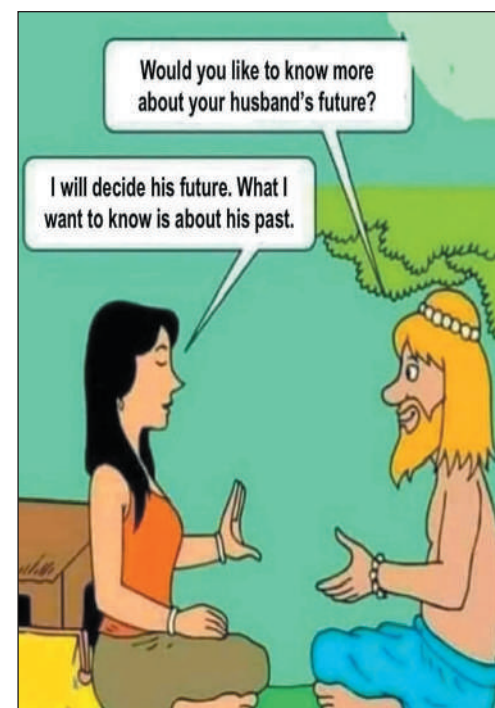
A father asked his daughter: Who would you love more, me or your husband?

The best reply given by the daughter: I don't know really, but when I see you, I forget him. But when I see him, I remember you.

* * *

You can always call your daughter as beta.

But you can never call your son as beti. That's why daughters are special.



Being Mum & Dad



"My pre-teen daughter doesn't want to spend time with family"

"My 11-year-old daughter spends a lot of time talking to her friends over the phone, chats and just about everywhere. I want her to also spend time with the family, but she finds excuses. It feels like she is getting emotionally distant. Is this a normal part of growing up or something is wrong?"

— Query from a reader

Response by Dr Komal Mishra, Counselling Psychologist: During teens and pre-teens, it is common for children to get engrossed in their own life and

wanting to spend time with their friends. Children during this age often get overly engaged in their social media, however this is a crucial stage to establish and sustain the emotional connection with your daughter. Children at this age go through a lot of changes and everyone reacts to the same differently, depending on their experiences and the kind of support they get from family and friends. But they learn the most from modelling. Preaching them about something won't make a difference unless the same is shown to them

through actions.

To get connected with your child, you can use the following strategies:

- As parents, we tend to always give instructions to our children and forget to listen to their problems. The first strategy to build an emotional connection with your child is to listen to them effectively.
- All humans fear judgements, so do our adolescents. Hence provide your child with a free space to discuss their emotions and have unconditional positive regard so that your child feels that she can disclose her emotions.
- Do not trivialize their feelings and emotions.
- Do not impose restriction on them and neither give constant instructions.
- Disclose to them about your emotions and open a window for emotional disclosure.

- Do not restrict them from talking to their friends completely.
- Get in family recreational activities.
- You can provide her with emotional support by creating an open space for her to talk to you, with no judgements, this will encourage her to open up with you, deepening the emotional bond.
- In addition, you can set some "house rules" with your daughter, asking her to take some time every day without her phone and engage in a family activity such as helping lay out the dinner table, playing some game or watching TV together, but don't impose this on her, ask your daughter to find time in a day when she would like to do this.
- Give her some space, try to rationally think if she is actually making excuses or does something keep coming up. With everything happening online, it may be possible that she is also struggling to find a balance between home, school and social life.

Adolescence is a very crucial stage in a child's life. It's the stage where a child starts finding meaning to their life, explore themselves, and come out of the fairy tale fallacies. At the same time, children also go through multiple biological changes in the adolescent phase, which promotes their risk-taking tendency. They also start believing and behaving on the thought that - "This is only happening to them and nobody else has experienced this". In this process, they get pulled away from parents and trust more in their friends.

It is advisable for the parents to believe their children what they say about their experience and make them feel special since it is their first time in adolescence. Self-disclosure will also prove helpful - parents can disclose some of their personal experiences of adolescent age. This will help them gain trust in you. Getting worried about your child may make you enter into helicopter parenting, but it is a big NO. Become a friend of your child if you want to be a part of their decisions and experiences.

Healthy Beauty

Home remedies for tired eyes

Lots of reading or screen time can leave your peepers tired, dry, and achy. Find out what you can do on your own to ease eye fatigue

Apply a warm washcloth: Try a washcloth soaked in warm water on your tired, achy eyes.

Wash your hands before you start so bacteria doesn't get in your eyes. Dip your washcloth in water that you've boiled (to sterilize it) and cooled until lukewarm. Then put it on your eyes for 5-10 minutes, or as long as your doctor advises.

Adjust lights and device screens

Different tasks call for different types of light. While you watch TV, it's easier on your eyes to keep the room softly lit. When you read, put the light where it's behind you and pointed toward the page, out of your eyes. On digital screens, adjust the brightness to match the level of light around you. Also, adjust the screen's contrast, so your eyes don't have to strain to see.

Wear computer eyeglasses

With these prescription eyeglasses, your eyes can focus at computer screen distance. That's about 20-26 inches from your face. Some have special lenses to help you quickly shift focus between close, middle, and far distances. Before you go shopping, understand that comput-



er glasses are not the same as those that block blue light. Blue light-blocking specs may make you more comfortable, but they don't always prevent eyestrain.

Palm your eyes

Eye experts link this technique to an alternative therapy. Research shows that palming could help to ease eyestrain. Cup your palms over your closed eyes, putting no pressure on your eyeballs. The idea is that this can help to relax your eyes.

Change your computer setup

Small tweaks can make a big difference to your eyes. Make sure your screen is about arm's length (20-26 inches) away from your face. The center of the screen should be slightly below eye level (4-5 inches). It helps to have a chair you can move up and down. Adjust the text size so you don't squint. And try a document holder next to your monitor for printed papers. This limits how much you move your eyes back and forth.

Try tea bags

Tea bags are good for more than a hot drink. They also work as a relaxing cold compress for your eyes. After you've brewed chamomile or regular tea, put the bags in a clean container in the fridge. Once they've cooled, put them on your eyelids to help soothe your eyes and reduce swelling. Make sure you've washed your face and hands well and taken out your contacts. And don't get any tea in your eyes.

Do eye exercises

Your eyes have muscles, and they can benefit from a workout, too. Try this: Hold your finger a few inches from your eyes and focus on it. Then, focus far into the distance, then back on your finger. Repeat a few times. Or, close your eyes, roll them up toward the ceiling, then down toward the floor. Look to the right, then left. These exercises may help ease eye fatigue. But they won't actually make your eye muscles stronger.

Take screen breaks

Experts say that when you use a digital device, you should take regular screen breaks. They recommend the 20-20-20 rule. Take a 20-second break to look at something 20 feet away every 20 minutes. Another tip: for every 2 hours of screen time, rest your eyes for 15 minutes.

Improve your air quality

When your eyes are dry, they feel more tired. Use a humidifier to add moisture to the air and your eyes. A humidity level of at least 45% is best. Also, adjust your thermostat or move away from vents so dry air doesn't blow on your face. If you smoke, think hard about quitting.

**Reviewed by Whitney Seltman, OD
WebMD**



Vidya Balan: 'I decided one day I am going to do what I want to do. That is so liberating'

Vidya Balan said that she tried to dress like other female actors but 'looked foolish' as she did not feel comfortable and was therefore unable to carry off the outfits, reports Hindustan Times.

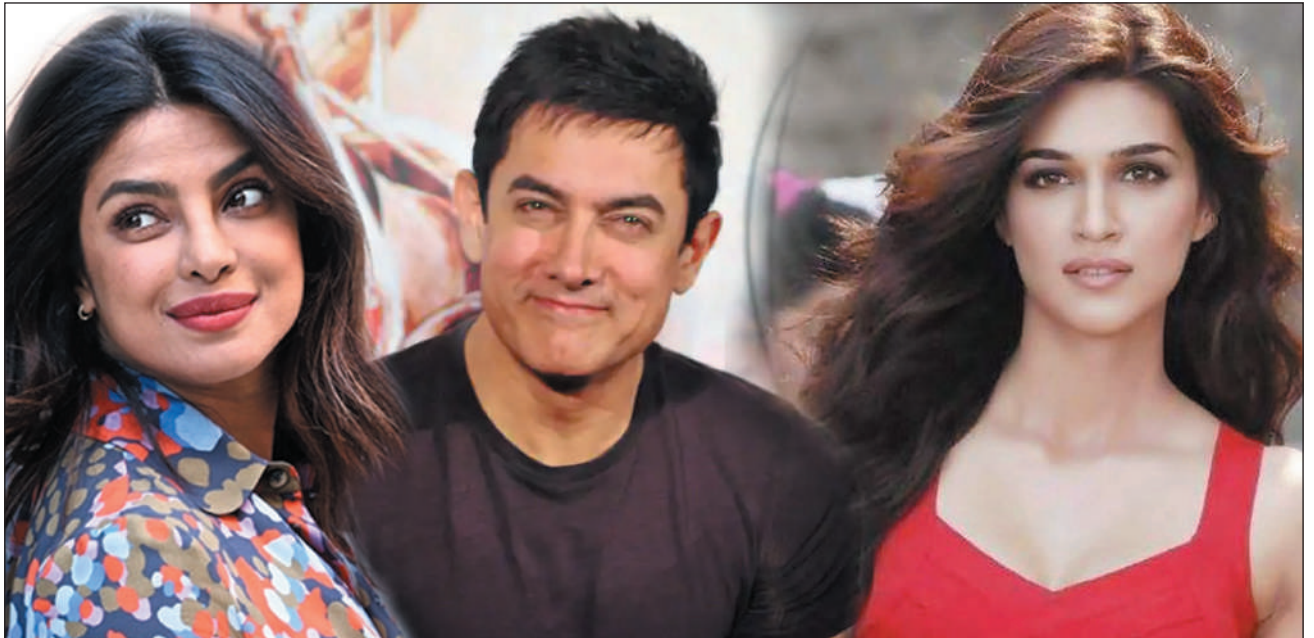
In an interview, Vidya Balan was asked about setting a trend by opting for sarees on the red carpet. She told radio host Siddharth Kannan, "I was choiceless in that. I didn't fit in, I wasn't one of those girls. I realised I can spend an entire lifetime wanting to be them or I can just be myself and hope that someday, people will say, '*Achcha, yeh sahi hai* (She is good)'." She added that the moment she stopped trying to be like others, she was accepted by the audience.

On being asked if she ever tried to emulate the style of other female actors, Vidya admitted that she did but it did not work for her. "I tried to dress like them and I looked foolish because I was very uncomfortable in those kind of clothes. They carry it off beautifully, I didn't. I love the saree and I am so glad that I decided one day that I am going to wear what I like to wear, I am going to do what I want to do, I am going to say what I want to say. That is so liberating, it's so freeing, and then people have no choice but to appreciate you. Because they realise you are too shameless," she laughed.

Vidya was most recently seen in Amit Masurkar's *Sherri*, in which she played a forest officer who battles sexism in the personal and professional space. The film, which also starred Sharat Saxena, Vijay Raaz, Ila Arun and Neeraj Kabi, was unanimously lauded by critics.

Up next, Vidya will reunite with her *Tumhari Sulu* director Suresh Triveni for a film. She has also signed a few other projects but is yet to officially announce them.

Aamir Khan, Kriti Sanon, Priyanka Chopra: Actors who kissed well-toned bodies goodbye and gained weight just to fit a role



A lot of celebs use their social media platforms to inspire fans to take up a healthy lifestyle and sweat it out in the gym. However, sometimes these stars are asked to lose or gain extra kilos to fit their roles. And being dedicated to their professions, these actors don't bat an eyelid before doing so. Take a look at actors who gained weight for films:

Aamir Khan: In the sports drama, '*Dangal*', Khan essayed the role of a Haryanavi wrestler, Mahavir Singh Phogat. The actor reportedly went from 68 kilos to 95 kilos to portray the role of the older Phogat, and then reduced down to 70 kilos to play the younger role in the movie.

Vidya Balan: Vidya Balan, too, had to gain weight for one of her most-applauded roles. While '*The Dirty Picture*' changed the manner in which Vidya's career was progressing, she had to put in a lot of effort for the film. Later, the makers clarified that the story was not officially or literally based on Silk Smitha alone, but on many of her Southern contemporaries. Did you know that Vidya had to gain 12 kilos to look the part?

Kriti Sanon: Kriti Sanon recently made headlines for

her upcoming film, '*Mimi*'. In the film, she plays the role of a surrogate mother and for that, she had to put on as much as 15 kilos. The actress wanted to gain weight for the second schedule of the film so she would look pregnant for real instead of just using prosthetics.

Priyanka Chopra: Priyanka Chopra had to gain a few kilos for her older character in '*7 Khoon Maaf*'. She played the role of Susanna Anna-Marie Johannes, who tries to find love, but six of seven times, her husbands' flaws prove fatal for them. She played the role of an ageing woman and for that, she had gained some weight on her own to fit the part.

Hrithik Roshan: In the 2019 film, '*Super 30*', Hrithik essayed the role of Anand Kumar, a middle-class Math teacher who comes up with a revolutionary educational program. In order to fit into the character of Anand, the Greek God had to transform his physical appearance. He kissed goodbye to his six-pack physique and added on 8 inches around the waist. He had to gain a lot of kilos to suit his character's transition from a young man to a middle-aged man.

Shilpa Shetty finds support in friend R Madhavan: 'You will overcome this with grace and dignity'

Shilpa penned a long note on the recent events surrounding her husband Raj Kundra's arrest. Now, her friend R Madhavan has voiced his support for her.

On her post, Madhavan left a comment to share his prayers for the actor and her family. "You are one of the strongest people I know and I have complete faith that this challenge too you will overcome with grace and dignity. Our prayers always with you and your family," he wrote, reports Hindustan Times.

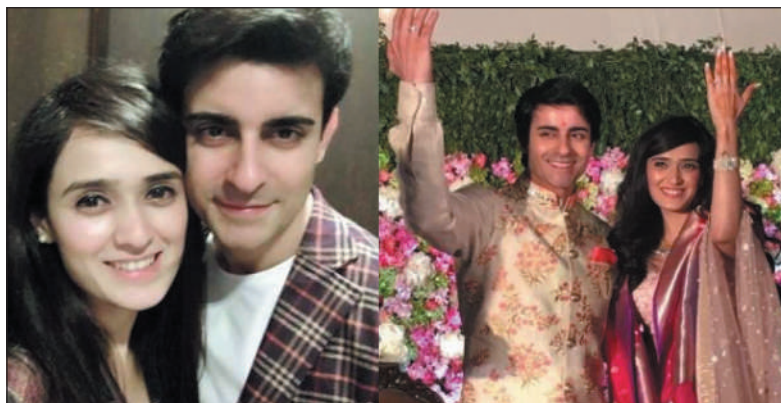
In her note, Shilpa wrote, "Yes! The past few days

have been challenging, on every front. There have been a lot of rumours and accusations. A lot of unwarranted aspersions on me cast by the media and (not so) well-wishers as well. A lot of trolling/questions posed... not only to me but also to my family. My stand... I have not commented yet and will continue to refrain from doing so on this case as it is subjudice, so please stop attributing false quotes on my behalf."

She also asked the media not to publish unsubstantiated reports about her. "As a family, we are taking recourse to all our available legal remedies. But, till then I humbly request you - especially as a MOTHER - to respect our privacy for my children's sake and request you to refrain from commenting on half-baked information without verifying the veracity of the same," she said. "We don't deserve a media trial. Please let the law take its course," she added.

Raj Kundra was arrested by the Mumbai Police on July 19 for his alleged connection with a pornography racket case. Apart from him, 11 other people were also arrested on charges related to the alleged creation of pornographic films. On July 27, a court in Mumbai sent Raj to judicial custody for 14 days.

Gautam Rode: Lucky to still be working



"Luckily my symptoms were mild, and I resumed shooting for two other projects after recovery and post an antibody test," said Gautam adding, "This has not been an easy phase, but I am still lucky that I was working and earning." He continued, "This has also been the time when all of us realised that family is the most important thing. I was lucky that I have been with my family and their support kept me going. I have lost a few friends in the

Gautam Rode recently underwent a surgery at a hospital in Gurgaon and is currently recovering. "My surgery was on July 28 and it was for my back. The surgery went well and I will be discharged in a day or two. I will be taking a few weeks of physiotherapy and then I am hoping to get back to my workout. I have to take precautions for a few weeks and I will be better then. I will wait to be back at the gym," Gautam told TOI after his surgery.

Not many days before his surgery, the actor had gone to Delhi after a holiday-cum-work trip to Kashmir. Before his surgery, Gautam Rode and his actor wife Pankhuri Awasthy Rode, decided to stay back in Delhi then and enjoy some quality time with Gautam's family - something they could manage to do after a year and a half.

'Can't complain as I still had enough work in pandemic'

The actor said that the past year has been tough for him, personally, but not so much in terms of work. "I have lost work during the pandemic, but I can't complain, as I still got to shoot two projects. I had Covid in November last year, and lost out on one project I was supposed to start shooting for during that period," he said.

pandemic. Actor Bikramjeet Kanwarpal, who passed away due to Covid complications, was a very close friend. I lost my driver, who was with me for the last seven years. I have acquaintances who lost their loved ones, but there is nothing you can do. Staying with family has kept me strong."

'I really like Pankhuri as an actor'

For the first time after their marriage, Gautam and Pankhuri shot together for a music video. The duo was happy to get the chance to travel together, and also enjoy a small break in the process. "Both of us have been offered a lot of work together, including music videos, but we decided to do this one as it had a good concept and storyline. As actors we want to be a part of a music video where we get to do something, instead of just 'look good as a pair'," he said, adding that he enjoyed working with Pankhuri, not just because he was comfortable with her, but also because 'she is a brilliant actor'.

He said, "With time both of us have matured as performers. I really like Pankhuri as an actor. She is a brilliant actor and that is why I enjoy working with her. When you expect something from a co-actor in terms of performance and you get that, it is wonderful."

Dheeraj Dhoopar & Vinny Arora celebrate 12 years of togetherness



fans. However, he and his wife Vinny Arora celebrated 12 years when they first met. They even shared the photo and revealed how they met.

It was on 19th July; they had first met. On this occasion, the couple shared an adorable before and after image post on their social media handles. The couple had met on the sets of their show *"Maat Pitaah Ke Charnon Mein Swarg"* where they worked together for the very first time. This was also the first show that Dheeraj Dhoopar was seen in.

According to the couple, they usually don't celebrate this day publicly but their social media family celebrates it for them. This year also marked 12 years of Dheeraj Dhoopar in the industry and even for that his fans made the occasion special by sending him gifts and cake to celebrate the moment. This moment is certainly very special for the couple as in many of their interviews they have mentioned how they first met and the importance of that day in their lives.

Dheeraj Dhoopar has all reasons to be happy. His current show *Kundali Bhagya* has recently completed 1000 episodes and the whole team was seen celebrating. They cut the cake and were even seen receiving gifts from fans. The actor rose to fame from the role of Karan Luthra. His chemistry with Shraddha Arya is also adored by

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You'll hatch out very ambitious professional projects and they'll have good chances to be successful. Give top priority to your private life; profit by the prevailing favourable influences to become closer to your parents and your children.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 15, 17, 25, 27, 28

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Particularly agreeable relationships with your friends. On the contrary, conflictual situation within your family. You won't feel on the same wavelength as your mate; your aspirations will even prove diametrically opposed to his/hers.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 14, 16, 17, 30, 31

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Do your job in double quick time and you can achieve very ambitious professional objectives. Risks of heated discussions in your home. Don't let yourself become rusted: do some sport even though your timetable is already clogged.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 19, 20, 25, 36, 39

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You might have to cope with competition in love; don't resort to fits or scenes of jealousy. In your professional life, you'll have to get out of your shell, assert your personality more and even to show authority.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 4, 15, 22, 26

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

In love, resist your current desire to engage yourself thoughtlessly. In business, luck will be with you: speculate, ask for a loan, etc. You'll be well inspired and your ideas will be worth gold.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 14, 18, 21, 23, 25

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

There'll be duplicity in the air: be cautious in your social, friendship, and professional relations. On the material plane, you'll have to make choices: to decide to embark on audacious undertakings, take risks, or on the contrary to stake on security.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 17, 20, 29, 36, 39

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Love life placed under the sign of tenderness. Give your children some money regularly for they have an understandable need of it. Show benevolence and understanding; it's by acting this way that you'll continue to secure many sympathies.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 11, 15, 17, 20, 30

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You'll have the possibility to single yourself out in your profession. Heart wise, you'll have the right to moments of ethereal bliss. Don't overdo things and heed the warnings emitted by your body; otherwise, fatigue may set in, perhaps for a long time.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 15, 18, 20, 26

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Career wise, do your job in double quick time for interesting opportunities will present themselves. If you're married, you'll hope that your spouse will close his/her eyes on your escapades; don't delude yourself too much...

Lucky Numbers: 8, 14, 20, 22, 30, 36

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

It would be time to recharge your batteries so as to recover tonicity and energy. You might profit by a small financial success; but if a too enticing proposal is made to you, gather all necessary documentation before giving your accord.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 7, 11, 16, 17, 20

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Delays, small problems of all kinds may very well interfere with your work, but things will soon change by themselves in your favour. This time friendship will be privileged at the expense of love but this will do no harm. Great financial concerns.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 20, 30, 36, 38, 40

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You'll have to undergo certain trials, but you'll get out of them without damage. Don't let yourself be influenced in any way by your family circle; if you've made a decision, stick to it... on condition to have taken time to analyze all the aspects of the problem beforehand.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 18, 17, 30, 31, 36

CINE 12

Vendredi 6 août - 21.15



MBC 1

Samedi 7 août - 21.20



MBC 1

Dimanche 8 Août - 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
13.05 Local Prod: Evasion
14.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
14.30 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
14.43 D.Anime: HTDT
14.55 D.Anime: Astrology
15.19 D.Anime: Teenie Weenie
15.32 D.Anime: Petit Creux
16.02 D.Anime: Johnny Test
16.24 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
17.05 Serial: Superstore
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: 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: Geetha Govindam
14.41 DDI Magazine
15.05 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
15.27 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.49 Serial: Bava Maradallu
16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.34 Serial: Aatish
16.56 Serial: Imtihaan
17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.34 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.00 Serial: Dr. Qin
18.30 Mag: DDI Magazine
19.05 Journal Kreol
19.24 DDI Magazine
20.02 Serial: Band Khirkiyan
20.46 Local: Anjuman
21.15 Local: Urdu Programe
22.07 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: 360 GEO
14.55 Doc: Legendary Hotels
16.20 Doc: Eco India
16.49 Mag: Shift
17.01 Mag: Border Crossing
17.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
18.00 Doc: Abbas By Abbas
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
21.31 Doc: China's New Silk Road

Cine 12

02.28 Film: Containment
03.44 Serial: Chicago Med
04.30 Film: Signed, Sealed, Deliv...
05.52 Tele: Muneca Brava
06.34 Serial: Madam Secretary
07.16 Film: The Post
09.00 Serial: Macgyver
09.45 Tele: Daniella
10.37 Tele: Tanto Amor
11.00 Serial: Chicago Med
12.00 Film Signed, Sealed Deliv...
13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: The Post
16.39 Serial: Macgyver
17.27 Serial: Madam Secretary
18.05 Tele: Teresa
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Serial: Dynasty 2
21.15 Film: Encounter
22.47 Tele: Muneca Brava

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Main Aur Mr Right
Starring : Barun Sobti,
Shenaz Treasurywala,
Kavi Shastri
12.08 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna
12.31 / 20.11 - Chupke Chupke
12.50 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
13.12 / 21.09 - Agniphera
13.34 / 21.24 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
13.57 / 21.46 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
15.04 / 22.55 - Sethji
15.15 Film: Yeh Lamhe Judaai
Ke
Starring Shah Rukh Khan,
Raveena Tandon, Mohnish
Behl, Navneet Nishan
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.51 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
19.14 Serial: Bhakharwadi

vendredi 6 août

samedi 7 août

dimanche 8 août

06.00 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
06.26 D.Anime: Teenie Fables
07.00 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe...
07.21 D.Anime: Kid Lucky
07.45 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis...
08.07 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...
08.42 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
08.54 D.Anime: Pet Alien
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Daniella
14.55 D.Anime: The Garfield Show
15.20 D.Anime: Astrology
15.43 D.Anime: Teenie Weenie
16.25 D.Anime: Johnny Test
16.48 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
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: Hollywood Homicide
Avec: Harrison Ford, Josh Hartnett...

07.00 Film: Kasma
09.40 Serial: Vir: The Robot Boy
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.40 Serial: Bloody Romance
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare
12.24 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.47 Serial: High School
13.03 Annakodiyum Aintu
Pengalum
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
15.30 Film: Total Dhamaal
Starring Ajay Devgn, Anil Kapoor...
17.30 Mag: DDI Magazine
19.00 Live: Journal Kreol
19.30 DDI Magazine
20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki
Rahasya Gatha
20.28 Serial: Bitti Business Wali
21.01 Film: The Tashkent Files
Starring: Naseeruddin Shah,
Mithun Chakraborty, Shweta Basu
Prasad

06.00 Doc: Abbas By Abbas
06.42 Mag: Arts And Culture
07.21 Mag: Euromaxx
07.47 Doc: Innovation On Board
08.16 Master Of Engineering
09.50 Doc: Cool & Clever
10.35 Local: Turf Time
11.35 En Direct Du Champ De
Mars
16.56 Mag: Global 3000
17.51 Mag: Amazing Gardens
18.17 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor...
18.49 Doc: Vue D'en Haut
19.00 Mag: Check In
19.37 Doc: Car Wars
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.40 Doc: Wedding The French...
21.32 Doc: Taste Hunters
23.07 Doc: Amazing Gardens
23.32 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor...
23.32 Mag: Vue D'en Haut

01.24 Film: Encounter
02.58 Serial: The Night Shift
03.39 Film: Shadow People
04.58 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.10 Serial: Dnynasty 2
06.52 Film: A Gift Horse
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Serial: Brooklyn Nine Nine
09.59 Serial: Incorporated
10.41 Film: A Date With Miss
Fortune
12.18 Serial: The Night Shift
13.28 Serial: Chicago Med
15.05 Tele: Amanda
15.48 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.30 Mag: Hollywood On Set
17.00 Serial: Dynasty 2
17.45 Film: Dummie The Mummy...
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Series: Dynasty 2
21.15 Film: Monster Island
22.45 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir

04.05 Radha Krishna
04.26 Chupke Chupke
04.48 Mere Sai -- Shraddha Aur...
05.11 Agniphera
05.34 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
06.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek
06.16 Sethji
06.38 ChhanChhan
07.25 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
08.02 Zindagi Ki Mehek
10.00 Motu Patlu
10.12 Siddhi Vinayak
12.01 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.00 Chupke Chupke
16.24 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Bhaiji Superhit
Star: Sunny Deol, Ameesha
Patel, Preity Zinta
20.34 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
21.37 Serial: Naagin

06.00 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
06.24 D.Anime: Teenie Fables
06.57 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe...
08.11 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...
09.35 Serial: Lucas Etc
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
10.30 Serial: Mustangs FC
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Daniella
14.15 Local: Elle
15.21 D.Anime: HTDT - Humpty...
15.32 D.Anime: Tempete De Boulet...
15.53 D.Anime: Wishfart
17.15 Serial: Creeped Out
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local Prod: Gata Rahe Mere...
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Local: Groov'in
21.05 Film: Final Fantasy
Avec: Alec Baldwin, Steve
Buscemi, Ming-Na Wen

07.00 Film: Victoria No 203
10.00 Local Prod: MBC Prod
11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai
11.22 Serial: Santoshi Maa
12.00 Film: Prince
Stars: Vivek Oberoi, Isaiah,
Aruna Shields
14.13 DDI Magazine
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
15.22 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
15.45 Serial: He Mann Baware
16.09 Apoorva Raagangal
17.05 Mahakali
17.51 Kisna
19.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
19.00 Live: Journal Kreol
20.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...
20.50 Serial: CID
21.36 Serial: Naagin Season 2
22.17 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
22.57 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens
06.26 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor...
06.52 Mag: Vue D'en Haut
07.46 Doc: Car Wars
10.17 Doc: Botticelli's Inferno
11.05 Doc: Amazing Gardens
11.31 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor...
11.57 Mag: Vue D'en Haut
15.06 Student Support Prog
17.43 Mag: Tendance XXI
18.09 Doc: Builders Of The Future
18.36 Doc: Garden Party
19.05 Mag: Future Mag
19.37 Doc: Tricky Memory
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.55 Doc: Comme Une Envie De...
21.32 Doc: Will Roots Save The
World?
22.14 The Language Of Whales
22.56 Mag: Tendance XXI
23.22 Doc: Builders Of The Future

01.36 Film: Monster Island
03.03 Serial French Series
03.41 Film: Hollywood Homicide
05.37 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.18 Serial: Dynasty 2
07.00 Film: A Date With Miss
Fortune
08.40 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.25 Film: Archie Chien Robot
10.54 Film: Dummie The Mummy...
12.15 Serial: French Series
13.30 Serial: Chicago Med
15.29 Tele: Amanda
16.16 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.00 Serial: Dynasty 2
17.45 Serial: French Series
18.30 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
19.35 Mag: Hollywood On Set
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor
21.15 Film: Heaven's Fall

00.35 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
02.19 Bhakharwadi
04.11 Chupke Chupke
06.01 Pavitra Rishta
08.00 Motu Patlu
08.11 Ikyawann
10.00 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
12.00 Piya Albela
14.00 Agniphera
16.29 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Film: Nanu Ki Jaanu
Starring: Abhay Deol,
Patralekha, Manu Rishi
20.30 Entertainment: Dance
21.25 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.13 Serial: Piya Albela

MBC 2

Samedi 7 août
- 21.00Stars: Naseeruddin Shah, Mithun
Chakraborty, Shweta Basu

Dimanche 8 Août

- 18.30

Stars: Abhay Deol, Patralekha, Manu Rishi



"Les antivaccins sont des irresponsables"

ou l'idéologie totalitaire de la vaccination obligatoire et la diabolisation des voix de la raison



**Dr Catherine Boudet,
Analyste politique**

"Revendiquer le droit de ne pas se faire vacciner en pleine pandémie, c'est comme revendiquer le droit de rouler en sens inverse sur une autoroute. C'est aussi stupide, aussi idiot." "Les antivaccins se retrouvent dans un axe très francophone qui regroupe les disciples du professeur Raoult et toutes sortes d'adeptes de complots et de conspirations." "... A Maurice et ailleurs, un langage de plus en plus accusateur et dénigrant se déploie envers ceux qui refusent la vaccination obligatoire. Y compris dans la bouche du Président Macron, pour lequel refuser de se faire vacciner "ce n'est pas ça la liberté, ça s'appelle l'irresponsabilité, l'égoïsme". Et les citoyens opposés à l'obligation vaccinale se retrouvent étiquetés de façon caricaturale comme "antivaccins" ou "antivax". C'est ce genre de procédés qu'emploient les idéologies totalitaires pour dénigrer et abattre ceux qui les dérangent.

L'idéologie, comme l'a définie le politologue Raymond Boudon, c'est un système de pensées et de jugements construit pour justifier une situation, dans le but de pousser les gens vers une action... Ici, en l'occurrence, c'est la vaccination par tous les moyens, y compris la tromperie (distribution de cadeaux), le chantage (au 'pass' sanitaire et à la perte de salaire) et la coercition (obligations par décret ministériel ou pressions pour faire passer des lois en procédures accélérées).

Caricaturer les whistleblowers

La caractéristique de l'idéologie justement, c'est de construire un argumentaire en s'appuyant de façon sélective sur des arguments pseudo-scientifiques, en les déformant à sa convenance pour imposer sa vision du monde. Et c'est ce que fait l'idéologie vaccinale quand elle s'efforce d'écarter, de dégrader et de faire taire les voix de scientifiques qui, à travers le monde, tirent la sonnette d'alarme sur les risques de la vaccination anti-Covid et des thérapies géniques qu'elle contient.

Sur un mode de simplification de la pensée, les whistleblowers scientifiques

sont tout bonnement taggés d'"antivaccins" ou, plus caricatural encore, d'"antivax" : la sanction pour avoir émis des questionnements sur les effets des vaccins anti-Covid et des doutes sur le bienfondé de la vaccination obligatoire. Cette diabolisation des whistleblowers fait partie de la panoplie traditionnelle des discours totalitaires, lesquels édifient un ennemi pour mieux l'abattre, à la sauce stalinienne.

Pourquoi accuser les "antivax" de diffuser de fausses rumeurs quand ils soulèvent des questionnements et émettent des hypothèses scientifiques pour signaler les possibles dangers d'une vaccination de masse ? Et puis, pourquoi le terme de "vax" d'abord ? On parle de vaccination, d'une pratique médicale, c'est quelque chose de sérieux, pourquoi cette banalisation d'un geste médical par ceux qui, précisément, prônent son obligation ?

C'est que, comme l'a montré le sociologue Pierre-André Taguieff, toute idéologie appelle une contre-idéologie. Quand les partisans de la vaccination obligatoire caricaturent les whistleblowers en "antivax", ils transforment le discours scientifique en une vaste campagne de propagande. Ils tentent au passage de faire diversion sur les véritables enjeux sanitaires en installant un (faux) débat dont ils ont truqué, au préalable, les prémisses grâce à l'étiquetage de ceux qu'ils ont identifiés comme les opposants de leur plan global. Voilà comment le simplisme manichéen du "provax vs. antivax" participe de la fabrique du consentement au vaccin obligatoire.

Transformer le discours scientifique en propagande

C'est bien la preuve que nous sommes en présence d'un discours idéologique, absolument pas démocratique, absolument pas scientifique, absolument pas thérapeutique, absolument pas citoyen, mais bien totalitaire, sur la vaccination qu'ils prétendent imposer comme une obligation et une fatalité.

Mais la question de la vaccination est trop grave et a trop d'implications humaines pour qu'on la transforme en objet de polémique. Ce jeu de la polémique et de la diabolisation est une stratégie pernicieuse qui nous dévie des vrais questionnements.

Il y a des voix de scientifiques qui se sont élevées, et des études médicales qui le démontrent : les "vaccins" actuels contre la Covid basés sur de la thérapie génique peuvent endommager le système immunitaire des vaccinés, conduire à des co-infections virales plus graves, et même induire la formation de variants. C'est une hypothèse démontrée scientifiquement, qui est liée au phénomène d'échappement immunitaire. Citons trois références parmi les différentes voix sur la question :



1. "Antibody-dependent enhancement and SARS-CoV-2 vaccines and therapies", Nature Microbiology n°5, 09 September 2020 [<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41564-020-00789-5>]

2. "Open letter to all authorities, scientists and experts around the world", par Dr Geert Vanden Bossche, virologue et expert en vaccins, 13 mai 2021 [<https://www.geertvandenbossche.org/post/open-call>]

3. "SARS-CoV-2 mass vaccination: Urgent questions on vaccine safety that demand answers from international health agencies, regulatory authorities, governments and vaccine developers", Roxana Bruno et. al, 13 mai 2021 [<https://www.scienceopen.com/document?vid=2e541e0b-64fd-4a3f-bf5b-735425cfd39d>]

Et une hypothèse scientifique, en matière de santé publique, cela s'appelle un risque potentiel. L'honnêteté intellectuelle et l'éthique scientifique réclament que l'on prête attention à ces voix des spécialistes éclairés. Seuls des idéologues ou des défenseurs d'agendas cachés peuvent balayer d'un revers de main de telles hypothèses en les traitant de complots et de rumeurs.

Une omerta sur les chiffres réels d'accidents post-vaccination

D'autant que dernièrement, nous avons pu voir à Maurice sur les réseaux sociaux - par exemple, grâce à Buzz.tv venue suppléer l'information là où règne une omerta médiatique et politique sur la question -, une multiplication de témoignages sur des accidents post-vaccination, parfois fatals. Même si lors de la PNQ du 27 juillet dernier, le ministre de la Santé a concédé seulement 1,153 cas officiels d'effets indésirables, et aucun décès.

De toute façon, pourquoi s'apitoyer sur ces personnes qui se retrouvent handicapées suite à la vaccination ? Puisque cela forme partie des "risques" qui

doivent être assumés individuellement par ceux qui ont signé le 'consent form' pour cela, et que, de toute façon, ces risques resteraient toujours minimes par rapport au grand "bénéfice" général de la vaccination, décrété cyniquement par l'OMS.

Mais parlons donc en termes de bien commun, puisque c'est la préoccupation essentielle des "provax" obligatoires. Eh bien que voit-on ? Depuis la rentrée scolaire, pas moins de 10 écoles ont dû fermer pour cause de contaminations alors même qu'une régulation ministérielle a rendu obligatoire la vaccination des personnels avant la rentrée. Et on ne pourra pas dire que ce sont les non-vaccinés qui contaminent les autres, puisque les personnels non-vaccinés doivent fournir un test PCR négatif, et que les parents non-vaccinés sont interdits d'accès.

Et que dire des dortoirs d'usines, où tous les travailleurs sont vaccinés mais qui sont devenus des 'clusters' depuis la vaccination ? Une certaine propagande a voulu nous faire croire que les non-vaccinés risquaient de contaminer les vaccinés, mais voilà les faits : les dortoirs de travailleurs étrangers, pourtant tous vaccinés, sont placés sous cordon sanitaire de la Special Mobile Force pour les empêcher de propager la Covid-19 dans la communauté. Selon les dernières statistiques du ministère de la Santé, au 23 juillet 2021, sur les derniers 2,479 cas positifs, 52% étaient... vaccinés.

Alors, quand va-t-on cesser de pratiquer la dissonance cognitive pour enfin se poser les bonnes questions ? C'est-à-dire, celles du rapport entre la courbe des contaminations et celle de la campagne de vaccination massive et les avertissements des virologues quant aux effets secondaires de la vaccination ? Il se pourrait que l'on découvre bientôt que, dans cette affaire, les anti-vaccins ne sont peut-être pas les plus irresponsables... Espérons que, lorsque l'autruche sortira la tête du sable, il ne sera pas trop tard.