

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• "The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack in will." -- Vince Lombardi



Interview : Catherine Boudet, Sociologue

## “Nous sommes dans une période de transition irréversible

*Il va falloir nous préparer à intégrer dans l'analyse politique des comportements électoraux certaines données encore invisibles à l'œil nu”*

📖 Voir Page 8-9-10

## Fake news, Patriotism and Spin doctoring



The test of patriotism must also be applied to government policies and style of governance. Is it patriotic to favour nepotism and appoint the coterie or the party faithful to key and cushy government posts

By Mrinal Roy 📖 See Page 3



## Municipal Elections: A Test for the Future

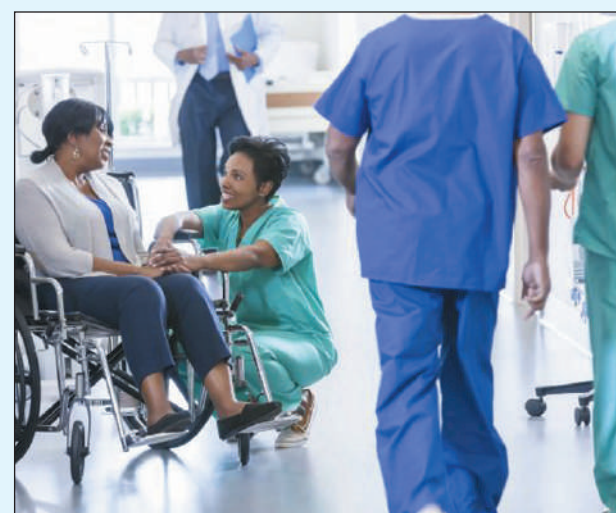
By Sada Reddi 📖 See Page 5

## How will the Covid pandemic end?

*Countries yet to experience major outbreaks will probably see big rises in cases, even if their vaccine programmes are successful*

By Paul Hunter, Professor of Medicine, University of East Anglia 📖 See Page 2

## Communication in Medicine and Healthcare



*How do we cure, relieve or console without communicating?*

By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee 📖 See Page 4



# Saving Air Mauritius

**A**s from 1 October 2021 fully vaccinated international travellers will be allowed to visit Mauritius. This full reopening is being made against the backdrop of the uncertainty prevailing to this day as regards the fate of Air Mauritius. Given the government's focus and the economy's dependency on the tourism sector's revival (which contributed at least 23% to GDP in earlier years), one would have expected it come out with some concrete policy decision regarding our national airline instead of allowing it to remain in voluntary administration for 11 long months. It is to be recalled that the Finance minister chose in last budget speech to keep mum about air access policy and what the government would be proposing to do with Air Mauritius that used to carry around 55% of tourists prior to the lockdown and before it was placed under voluntary administration.

No major decision has been made about Air Mauritius for more than a year, and the so-called watershed meeting scheduled initially for December 2020 was postponed a first time to June 2021. Public accountants Sattar Hajee Abdoula and Arvindsingh Gokhool of Grant Thornton, have been tasked with the voluntary administration exercise. We now hear that the watershed meeting will finally be held end September or sometime in October in light of the Supreme Court's decision to impose such a meeting before January 2022. One proposition that is being floated is to bring together the different companies associated with the aviation industry, namely Airports of Mauritius Ltd, Mauritius Duty Free Paradise, Airport Terminal Operations Ltd and Air Mauritius itself into a holding company with a view to taking advantage of the resulting synergy to allow the national airline to take to the skies again.

Aviation, passenger and cargo, requires more than customary accounting or management skills. It weaves specialist knowledge covering a multitude of factors from aircraft and fleet purchase/maintenance, flight destinations and overseas traffic hubs, seat and cargo marketing and sales, industry evolution analysis in addition to having well-trained air and ground personnel, etc. We would like to believe that accountants have the necessary specialist industry overview and skill range to prepare a sustainable forward-looking plan for what remains of our national carrier. It is to be hoped that the Grant Thornton team would have roped in airline industry expertise to propose viable solutions. What government decides on that score and what emerges from the forthcoming watershed meeting will have a determinant impact not only for the carrier's personnel and air operators but also for our exporters, our tourism and hospitality sectors, our foreign exchange inflows and throughout the national economy.

Air Mauritius is strategically and economically important for Mauritius. Other airlines come and go depending on how much profit they can make or not make by serving the destination. In the case of Air Mauritius, it is different. Other than being a company in its own right, Air Mauritius is the most dependable link we have to the rest of the world.

Air Mauritius can still make it, the less there is outside or political interference in its rational upkeep and autonomous running. Mauritius is unfortunately a place where a lot of irrationality has interfered against the efficient working of many a workplace. If this were to stop and the professional management given a freer hand and the company's board composition decided solely by the extent of strategic aviation expertise each member has, we could have spared ourselves a rather costly mess.

Funding of Rs 9 billion was earmarked in the last budget towards, one assumes, keeping basic operations going and minimal staff on the payroll. Half of that sum has been already used up and no further amounts having been budgeted this year, there are high expectations from all quarters, including MK personnel, that the situation be clarified at the earliest. The watershed meeting will, we trust, provide the long-awaited scenario(s) and preferred option for our national carrier to ensure its sustainable future, so vital for much of our economic activities and their resumption post-pandemic.

## The Conversation

# How will the Covid pandemic end?

*Countries yet to experience major outbreaks will probably see big rises in cases, even if their vaccine programmes are successful*

**A**fter over 18 months of this pandemic, with the social distancing, mask wearing and on-off lockdowns, what we all want to know more than anything else is when it will all be over and how it will end. While nothing is certain, we have a lot of evidence on which to build some realistic expectations about how the pandemic will progress over the next year or so.



Current evidence suggests SARS-CoV-2 – the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 – is here to stay. Pic - Credit: AFP

Covid-19 may not be the first time a coronavirus has caused a dreadful global pandemic. It's been hypothesised that the "Russian flu", which emerged in 1889, wasn't actually influenza, but was caused by another coronavirus, OC43.

The Russian flu pandemic caused four or five waves of disease over the following five years, after which it seemed to disappear. In England and Wales, most of the excess deaths it caused were restricted to 1890-91. OC43, the potential cause, still circulates today, though rarely causes severe disease.

Current evidence suggests SARS-CoV-2 – the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 – is also here to stay, a conclusion reached some months ago by many scientists working on the virus. Neither vaccines nor natural infection will stop the virus from spreading.

While vaccines do reduce transmission, they don't block infection to a high enough degree to eradicate the virus. Even before the delta variant arrived, we were seeing double-vaccinated people both catching the virus and spreading it to others. As vaccines are somewhat less effective at combating delta compared to other forms of the virus, the possibility of infection post-vaccination has grown.

Immunity to infection also starts to wane within weeks of receiving a second vaccine dose. And because immunity to infection is neither absolute nor permanent, herd immunity is unachievable. What this means is that Covid-19 is likely to become endemic, with daily infection rates plateauing depending on how much immunity and mixing there is across the popula-

tion.

The other human coronaviruses cause repeat infections on average every three to six years. If SARS-CoV-2 ends up behaving the same way, this suggests that in the UK between one-sixth and one-third of people – or between 11 and 22 million – could get infected with it every year on average, or 30,000 to 60,000 a day. But that is not as scary as it sounds.

Yes, emerging research (still in preprint, and so awaiting review by other scientists) does suggest that immune protection against developing symptomatic Covid-19 appears to wane. However, protection against severe disease – generated either by immunisation or natural infection – is much longer lasting. It also doesn't appear to be lost when facing new variants.

Indeed, for the other human coronaviruses, the vast majority of infections are either asymptomatic or at worst a mild cold. The signs are there to suggest that Covid-19 may end up being the same.

## A pandemic with multiple endings

How Covid-19 will end will vary from one country to another, depending largely on the proportion of people immunised and how much infection has occurred (and so how much natural immunity has built up) since the start of the pandemic.

**Paul Hunter,**  
Professor of Medicine, University  
of East Anglia

● Cont. on page 11

## Mauritius Times

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# Fake news, Patriotism and Spin doctoring



Mrinal Roy

There was a doctored blitzkrieg and a contrived hullabaloo on MBC-TV recently about fake news. A blatantly obvious and condemnable case of fake news relating to Navin Ramgoolam, who is in India for Covid-19 treatment, was slyly used to pillory fake news.

This begs some key questions. Who decides what is fake news? Is daily spin doctoring on national TV at public expense not an insidious form of fake news? Is this sudden hype about purported fake news not a stratagem to arbitrarily crack down on criticisms or dissenting opinions? Is the intent a restriction of our sacrosanct democratic space and fundamental right of opinion and expression? In a world marked by polarized and partisan political allegiances mainstream media and state TV channels promote their own biased editorial policies and also give their own spin to news. This further muddles what really constitutes fake news.

## Masking the truth

Is the abject manipulation of information to mask the truth about so many unanswered questions and interrogations on questionable policies and decisions in the country including the current rising Covid-19 related death toll not fake news? Is the absence of transparency surrounding the terms and conditions tens of billions of Rupees advanced from the fund of Rs 80 billion, drawn from the country's foreign exchange reserves to bail out distressed companies including some of the biggest conglomerates of the country and the intent to hide the truth not a brand of fake news? The list could go on and on given the entrenched culture of opacity which is the hallmark of governance in the country.

## Tweaking fundamental rules

The following example is relevant to the situation currently prevailing in Mauritius. In the United Kingdom the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) was asked for informed advice on the vaccination of children aged 12 to 15 years. The JCVI is an independent expert advisory committee that advises UK health departments on immunisation and makes recom-

The test of patriotism must also be applied to government policies and style of governance. Is it patriotic to favour nepotism and appoint the coterie or the party faithful to key and cushy government posts



**“The government has also levelled accusations of unpatriotic comments against the media. However, how can it be unpatriotic to flag that if the government does not urgently take robust actions to drastically contain the rampant spread of Covid-19 in the country and cut down the daily tally of new cases of infection, fully vaccinated tourists entering the country with no restrictions as from 1 October run the risk of being infected? This could adversely affect the classification of Mauritius as a Covid-safe tourist destination...”**

mendations concerning vaccine safety.

After careful evaluation of the pros and cons, the JCVI committee advised earlier this month that 'the benefits from vaccination are marginally greater than the potential known harms but acknowledges that there is considerable uncertainty regarding the magnitude of the potential harms. The margin of benefit, based primarily on a health perspective, is considered too small to support advice on a universal programme of vaccination of otherwise healthy 12- to 15-year-old children at this time. As longer-term data on potential adverse reactions accrue, greater certainty may allow for a reconsideration of the benefits and harms. Such data may not be available for several months.'

Vaccine scientists know that despite continuous research and diligently compiled and assessed data, quite a few aspects of the epidemiology of Covid-19 and coronavirus vaccines are still unknown.

For example, the JCVI has found out after reviewing in collaboration with experts from overseas updated evidence relating to the epidemiology of Covid-19 in the UK and safety data related to myocarditis following Covid vaccination in the UK, US and Canada that there is increasingly robust evidence of an association between vaccination with mRNA Covid-19 vaccines and myocarditis. There is therefore an imperative need to advance with extreme caution.

Against such a backdrop, the chief medical officers from the four countries of the UK decided this week to set aside the advice of the JCVI and offer children aged 12 to 15 years a first dose of Pfizer vaccine as soon as pos-

sible. Parental consent will be needed for vaccinations, but children can overrule parents who do not want them to get the vaccine dose if deemed "competent". A second injection will be potentially given once more evidence is gathered, not before the spring term at the earliest. This irresponsible tweaking of basic rules flouting parental consent to avert the need for lockdowns in the winter risk stoking conflicts within families and is a licence for societal mayhem.

## Children on the line

According to press reports, the UK PM Boris Johnson is dead set against any lockdown in the new blueprint for managing Covid-19 during winter. The offer of coronavirus vaccines to children aged 12 to 15 years is based on the gamble that expanded vaccination can avert the need for lockdowns in the winter. How can the health of young children and well-established rules of parental oversight be wantonly staked in the name of political expediency? Such a gamble is akin to blindly groping in the dark amid uncertainty regarding the magnitude of the potential harms to the children and is fraught with serious risks.

Once a controversial decision has been taken by government, spin doctoring by the partisan media and state TV have a field day extolling or decrying government. Instead of a rational discussion on policy, the whole debate is derailed by partisan rhetoric. The only beacon of hope remains independent news channels who doggedly investigate to sort the wheat from the chaff to expose the truth.

As we survey world or local news in a context of spin doctoring and partisan propaganda, it is more and more evident that the distinction between fake and doctored news is very blurred. Furthermore, despite the findings of independent investigations, the truth about, for example, whether Covid-19 originated in a lab or not and so many questions regarding the array of scandals and costly blunders which have rocked the country over the last decade remain unanswered and buried.

## Test of patriotism

The government has also levelled accusations of unpatriotic comments against the media. In order to be credible, it is important that journalists are measured and constructive in their criticisms. However, how can it be unpatriotic to flag that if the government does not urgently take robust actions to drastically contain the rampant spread of Covid-19 in the country and cut down the daily tally of new cases of infection, fully vaccinated tourists entering the country with no restrictions as from 1 October run the risk of being infected? This could adversely affect the classification of Mauritius as a Covid-safe tourist destination and the inflow of tourists as well as the prospects of the tourism sector. Tourism is such an important sector of the economy that every precaution must be taken to ensure that tourists are Covid safe and healthy during their stay in the country.

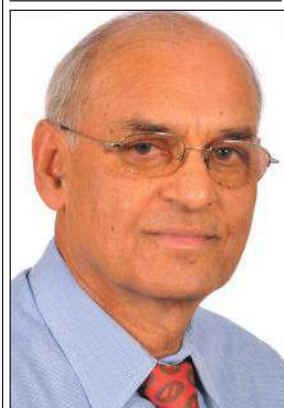
The test of patriotism must however also be applied to government policies and style of governance. Is it patriotic to favour nepotism and appoint the coterie or the party faithful to key and cushy government posts such as ambassadors and at the head of important institutions and state-owned companies? Is it patriotic to squander billions of Rupees of public funds owing to misguided government decisions such as the termination of the Betamax contract or the BAI debacle which backfired?

● Cont. on page 11



# Communication in Medicine and Healthcare

*How do we cure, relieve or console without communicating?*



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

**T**he Covid-19 pandemic has brought forcefully, almost brutally we could say, into focus the importance of proper communication both with individual patients and families but also with the public. This means giving as accurate and correct information as is available, and where this is possible give reassurance about whatever condition one is dealing with. But it is also a fact that quite often in medicine, there is bad news, and how far one can go in disclosing this depends on the psychology of those concerned, and this is a judgement that the treating doctor must make before s/he decides to go further. Some patients and family want to know the blunt truth, others may not and leave it to the doctor to handle the situation. That does not make it easy for the latter, but it is a call that all doctors have to take in their career, which will be strewn with innumerable episodes where this dilemma arises.

It is no different when the doctor has to face the public in the larger context of Public Health problems, such as the current pandemic. The skills for these encounters – with individuals, the public – begins at the bedside. It cannot be dispensed by lay ‘communication specialists,’ who have quite often been foisted upon practitioners in Ministry of Health settings, and who do not have the foggiest idea of what this highly specific field demands in terms of addressing the apprehensions and fears of the subjects.

During my passage at MOH as Director General Health Services, a number of times I had to meet patients, parents of patients or their relatives for various reasons connected invariably with their treatment in the public service.

There was this couple who had lost their 9-year old daughter following a brief



**“Proper communication is the critical element in the quality of the medical care that we deliver, if only because of the truism of enunciated by Armand Trousseau, an outstanding doctor and teacher of the 19th century, about the role of the doctor: ‘Guerir parfois, soulager souvent, consoler toujours.’ For let us not forget that, however far medical technology will advance, our mortality will ever remain the one finality that we cannot escape from. How do we cure, relieve or console without communicating?”**

illness. According to the medical report by the treating doctors this was a rare case of viral myocarditis. By the time the child was brought to the hospital she was already in acute heart failure, and unfortunately despite aggressive supportive treatment she passed away.

The parents were pious, semi-educated and of modest means. They had accepted that everything had been done to save their child, and stressed that they had not come to complain about the treatment that was given. Their main concern was that the succession of doctors who saw the child did not keep them sufficiently informed about the seriousness of her condition, and they were not allowed to be near her during her last moments: doesn’t this ring a bell about the complaints made regarding Covid-affected patients?

The other example I can give was a Public Health issue. It is about the panic that gripped the University of Mauritius when one, then four students were diagnosed with tuberculosis. Not only their fellow classmates, but practically all the UOM students were refusing to attend classes. At the request of the UOM authorities and the government, I along with a Chest Physician from the Poudre d’Or Hospital and the Principal Medical Officer (Public Health) went to the UOM, and we addressed the students who had packed the Octave Wiehe Auditorium.

The next day all students were back on campus.

Proper communication is fundamental to the practice of good medicine. Neglect of it not only leads to a lot of dissatisfaction, but can be a source of great distress or misunderstanding as the examples given above show. Clearly, it is primarily *our* duty, as doctors, to address this problem and find the solutions appropriate to our given context, and apply them.

When I was doing my postgraduate studies in surgery in the late 1970s, I remember coming across a set of lectures collected in book form on the theme of communication in medicine. If my memory serves me right, it was in the introductory section that the editor, a surgeon, observed that practically 50% of problems in medicine arise from poor communication: amongst doctors and other colleagues, and between doctors and their patients. Judging by the content and tenor of the majority of complaints that are brought to light, I would think that that observation is still as valid today as when it was made more than three decades ago.

In those days, communication skills were neither formally taught nor assessed in the medical curriculum. One had to acquire them ‘on the job’ as one went along, so to speak. But in developed countries, teaching communication skills has since become an integral part of undergraduate medical education – which is where it should start, from the very beginning, not after one has qualified. It goes without saying that in countries with formal, established medical education structures the culture of communication is more likely to be present and to permeate the health services. With several medical colleges in the country, this is something that needs thinking about if it is not being done already.

Communication really begins at the point of first contact with patients or their families in the usual clinical settings: the A&E department, the health centre, the outpatient clinic, the bedside, the operation theatre. It does not matter whether the situation at hand is an emergency or not: the necessity of proper communication, which will add to the sense of professional accomplishment as well as

most likely leave a satisfied patient, underpins the whole process which involves a number of players – doctor, patient, family/close ones of the latter, nurses and other ancillary staff. For obvious reasons, however, it is the doctor-patient relationship which receives the most attention: it is the pivot around which revolves and which sets in motion the medical chain of events. That is why it falls primarily upon the medical profession to lead its own and the other members of the health professionals team in care and communication.

This is all the more important in today’s world with the explosion of information and the ready access to it via the modern means of communication. They allow many people to come to us armed with some familiarity with medical conditions, including modalities and techniques of treatment, and even the relevant ethical issues, all of which heighten their expectations. Once upon a time we might have dismissed all this as ‘a little knowledge is a dangerous thing’ – today, it would be ...dangerous to do so, because like it or not we have to take the time and the trouble to explain what is possible and what is not possible.

Because time is precious and limited, we have to constantly hone our skills, whether we are new to the field or are experienced. What this means in practice is that the junior doctor has to be prepared to join and remain on the learning curve, and the experienced doctor must be willing to support the juniors and impart to them the required skills: it is a two-way process for mutual benefit with the objective of serving the patient better. It follows that juniors must seek and seniors must use every opportunity to learn and share communication skills, for example – but not only! -- during Continuing Medical Education sessions and clinical meetings where real-life clinical situations based on actual cases can be discussed and the lessons drawn.

I would go as far as to say that proper communication is *the* critical element in the quality of the medical care that we deliver, if only because of the truism of enunciated by Armand Trousseau, an outstanding doctor and teacher of the 19th century, about the role of the doctor: ‘Guerir parfois, soulager souvent, consoler toujours’ - ‘Cure sometimes, relieve often, console always.’ For let us not forget that, however far medical technology will advance, our mortality will ever remain the one finality that we cannot escape from. How do we cure, relieve or console without communicating?



# Municipal Elections: A Test for the Future



Sada Reddi

*The results of the coming municipal elections will inform us about the direction in which the different parties and the electorate will be travelling*



**“All the parties also have the duty and the responsibility to provide the public with candidates with a high profile of ethics and probity, for the quality of candidates fielded will be an important factor in its choice. It will also be an opportunity for the young to come forward and make the plunge, for the country needs a lot of new faces, creative minds alive to the needs of society...”**

Every election, municipal or general, takes place in a particular context. This time round the forthcoming municipal elections will be held in a totally different setting from what we have known in years past. The reasons are many. They come in the wake of a pandemic and in very difficult economic, political and social circumstances. Above all, they will take place two years after the general elections, and that will provide parties as well as the electorate with a mid-term assessment of the government's performance, with important consequences for the general elections.

While in the past municipal elections have generally been held shortly after the general elections, which enables the winning party or alliance to capitalise on the euphoria generated by its victory to win most of the municipal councils, this one will be different. But it could turn out that, contrary to what obtained in the past, we might have a higher turnout at the next municipal elections. The electorate will probably come out to express its many dissatisfactions which have been smouldering under the surface, suppressed by a repressive Covid-19 legislation introduced under the umbrella of sanitary measures.

Social discontent is widespread as a result of the many ills confronting society - from unemployment, poverty, violence, drug abuse and state failure to cope with the multiple problems to the numerous economic problems confronting the government both at the local and international levels. In such circumstances, no government would want to face the electorate, but any temptation to postpone the municipal elections would be suicidal for the government.

However, if on the one hand the government is confronted with major challenges, it may get some consolation in the fact that the opposition is also divided. Thus, the division of opposition votes may enable the government alliance to win; in fact it's quite possible for any party or alliance to win the elections with just a small margin. At present one does not know what type of alliances will be crafted in the months to come although all the main opposition parties have expressed the willingness to come together.

Government optimism will quickly melt away if the opposition parties try to be creative enough to build a common front. Unlike general elections where alliances are always problematic, municipal elections provide greater possibilities for collaboration among different

parties at both government and the opposition levels, but more so for the opposition. Opposition parties may reach some electoral agreement not to fight each other in all the municipal constituencies. They may even decide to share the municipalities among themselves, leaving one party alone to fight the government alliance in a particular municipality and others aligned in different other municipalities.

For example, the MLP will face the government alliance in Quatre Bornes, MMM in Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, and the PMSD in Curepipe with different parties sharing the different wards in the two remaining Municipalities of Port-Louis and Vacoas-Phoenix. Or they could even assign the different wards in the different municipalities among themselves such that one party may have to fight it out in one ward and leaving the others to focus their electioneering efforts in other wards where there is greater certainty of winning. This is more easily said than done for the different parties must be able to convince their respective segments in the electorate of the necessity of such a strategy. Unless they can do so, this can boomerang, which means that an intensive political campaign must be put in place to achieve these ends. Such permutations may even include the new parties if there is the will to work towards a common front in the present circumstances.

One should not ignore the other small parties and in particular the new ones. Some have pleaded for the small and new parties to band together and form their own alliance different from the mainstream parties. This too is a valid suggestion and it does not cost anything to try this option as well. Even without uniting their efforts, small parties usually play an important role in elections for even if they fail to elect their candidates, they influence the results causing the balance to tilt to one side or the other by securing hundreds of votes which could have

gone to any other party or candidate. This is usually the case as victories are sometimes won by small margins. On the other hand, if they manage to elect a few candidates, they can even play a significant role in the balance of forces in the municipal councils.

What will be the response of the electorate to the different configurations to be put in place cannot be known at this stage. Political parties with their ears to the ground may have a sense of what the electorate wants and shape their strategy accordingly. While local issues matter a lot to the electorate, such as garbage collection, road repairs, leisure infrastructure and facilities, environment and other services, national issues will play a determining role as these have a direct impact on the lives of the citizens.

Growing insecurity, violence, drugs, housing shortage, poverty, unemployment and arrested development, and illegal construction are the major sources of the prevailing malaise in the country and in the urban areas. Not surprisingly for many, it does not appear to be 'Maurice C'est un plaisir' anymore...The electorate will have to weigh all this before it casts its vote either for change or for maintaining the status quo.

All the parties also have the duty and the responsibility to provide the public with candidates with a high profile of ethics and probity, for the quality of candidates fielded will be an important factor in its choice. It will also be an opportunity for the young to come forward and make the plunge, for the country needs a lot of new faces, creative minds alive to the needs of society and ready to go off the beaten track and deliver. It will be for them to overhaul local government services and develop it in line with the needs of the 21st century.

Finally, the coming municipal elections will allow both the parties and the electorate to test the ground for the next general elections. The results will inform us about the direction in which the different parties and the electorate will be travelling. Parties, party programmes, the type of alliances and electoral behaviour will provide the inputs to refine and shape the strategies for the future. So, the next municipal elections will have a decisive role for the future and they are too important to be ignored by both politicians and the electorate.



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## Sputnik V 97.2% effective against Covid-19, says RDIF citing data from Belarus govt



Sputnik V demonstrates 97.2% efficacy. Pic - Republic World

**S**putnik V, Russia's Covid-19 vaccine, has been found to demonstrate 97.2% efficacy against the coronavirus, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) announced, citing data from the Republic of Belarus' health ministry. Further, the RDIF also said that no severe adverse events associated with the vaccination and no deaths related to the vaccination were observed, according to the data from Belarus.

The RDIF also said that the data was based on results of over 860,000 people who were inoculated between January and July this year. "The Russian vaccine has demonstrated 97.2% efficacy against coronavirus in Belarus. The efficacy of Sputnik V was measured based on data from more than 860,000 people vaccinated between January and July 2021," the RDIF said in a statement on Wednesday.

Belarus, also a neighbour of Russia, was the first foreign country to register Sputnik V for the inoculation of its citizens against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Earlier in the month, RDIF also said that the vaccine demonstrated an efficacy of 94.8% over 21 days after administering the first dose and 95.9% against hospitalisations, based on real world data released by the health ministry of San Marino.

Meanwhile, Dr Reddy's Laboratories in India has received a nod from the subject expert committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to conduct phase 3 clinical trials for the Sputnik Light vaccine. The two-dose Sputnik V vaccine is one among the six shots that have been granted an emergency use approval (EUA) in India and is currently being used in the country's Covid-19 vaccination drive.

## Biden admin pressing India to resume export of Covid vaccines: Report



Lagging behind on global vaccine targets, Biden admin urges PM Modi to open exports. Pic - APN News

**T**he Joe Biden administration has been pressing Prime Minister Narendra Modi reportedly to let India resume exporting Covid-19 vaccines, and is tying it to a possible prominent role for him at a global summit US President plans to hold on the sidelines of the UN general assembly meetings.

"We have been regularly communicating with (the) government of India in bilateral and multilateral channels to discuss vaccine supply and inquire about timeline for exports," a US official told Axios news publication, insisting, at the same time, that "these conversations are not tied to a specific summit or engagement".

Prime Minister Modi will be joining his counterparts from Australia and Japan - Scott Morrison and Yoshihide Suga - and President Biden for the first in-person summit of the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) at the White House on September 24, according to announcements by the Indian ministry of external affairs and the White House. And, the pandemic is on the agenda, along with climate change and the Indo-Pacific, reports Hindustan Times.

India ceased export of Covid-19 vaccines earlier in the year after it faced internal criticism for not inoculating enough Indians in the wake of a massive surge in cases caused by the more virulent Delta variant.

India is in a far better place with half of its eligible population having received at least one shot of a vaccine.

Axios reported that Biden administration officials have said they understand this is a sensitive issue and have thus decided to adopt a "soft approach" to Modi and it added, citing officials, the administration has "decided against trying to pressurise Modi by conditioning his participation on his willingness to release vaccines to Covax. He'll be welcomed regardless of his decision".

The United States had itself banned the export of Covid-19 vaccines as it sought to marshal all available resources to vaccinate Americans and build a stockpile of vaccines for use domestically, by invoking special wartime powers of the president. This had created a shortfall of raw material for vaccines in India, as supplies were blocked from shipping.

The United States lifted the curbs as part of a relief package it announced for India to help it deal with the crippling surge in cases fuelled by the Delta variant, along with oxygen concentrators, therapeutics such as remdesivir and personal protection equipment for healthcare workers.

\*Contd on page 7

## US army head secretly called China over fears Trump could spark war: Report

**U**S General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called General Li Zuocheng of the People's Liberation Army on Oct. 30, 2020 - four days before the election - and again on Jan. 8, two days after Trump supporters led a deadly riot at the US Capitol, the newspaper reported.

In the calls, Milley sought to assure Li the United States was stable and not going to attack and, if there were to be an attack, he would alert his counterpart ahead of time, reports Reuters.

The report was based on 'Peril', a new book by journalists Bob Woodward and Robert Costa, which they said relied on interviews with 200 sources and is due to be released next week.

Trump, in a statement, cast doubt in the story, calling it "fabricated." He said if the story was true Milley should be tried for treason. "For the record, I never even thought of attacking China," Trump said.

Republican Senator Marco Rubio called on President Joe Biden, a Democrat, to immediately fire Milley.

"I do not need to tell of you the dangers posed by senior military officers leaking classified information on US military operations, but I will underscore that such subversion undermines the President's ability to negotiate and leverage one of this nation's instruments of national power in his interactions with foreign



Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Mark Milley. Pic - i.dailymail.co.uk

nations," Rubio said in a letter to Biden.

Asked about the Washington Post report, White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre declined to comment and referred questions to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Defense Department.

Trump, a Republican, named Milley to the top military post in 2018 but began criticizing him, as well as other appointees and former staffers, after losing the presidential election to Biden in November 2020.

The Washington Post reported that Milley was motivated to contact Beijing the second time in part due to a Jan. 8 call with US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who had asked the general what safeguards were in place to prevent an "unstable president" from launching a nuclear strike.

"He's crazy. You know he's crazy," Pelosi told Milley, the newspaper reported, citing a transcript of the call. According to the cited call transcript, the general replied, "I agree with you on everything."



## US, UK and Australia launch Indo-Pacific pact



Joe Biden participates in a virtual press conference on national security with Boris Johnson (R) and Scott Morrison in the East Room of the White House in Washington. Pic - www.aljazeera.com

In a development termed historic and a game-changer, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia on Wednesday announced a trilateral security partnership that will enable Canberra to deploy nuclear-powered submarines in the Indo-Pacific in a major challenge to China and its claims in the region.

US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison launched the alliance in a joint virtual appearance.

AUKUS, as the partnership is being called, will strive over the next 18 months to equip Australia with nuclear propulsion technology, which the United States has shared only with the United Kingdom under a decades-old arrangement put together in the face of the threat from

the then Soviet Union, reports Hindustan Times.

Australia's nuclear-powered submarines, when they deploy, will be armed with conventional weapons only and not nuclear weapons, the leaders said.

The leaders also made it clear that the new alliance does not and will not supersede or outrank existing arrangements in the Indo-Pacific region such as the Quad, which the US and Australia form with India and Japan, and Asean, and that it will complement these groups and others.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, a member of the Quad and other multilateral groups in the region, also sought to convey continued salience of these formations for Australia. "AUKUS will also enhance our contribution to our growing net-

work of partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region: ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand and the US); our Asean friends; our bilateral strategic partners, the Quad; Five Eyes (US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand) countries; and, of course, our dear Pacific family."

None of the three leaders mentioned China and senior Biden administration officials who briefed reporters ahead of the announcement insisted "this partnership is not aimed (at) or about any one country; it's about advancing our strategic interests, upholding the international rules-based order, and promoting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific".

But the threat emanating from China's territorial claims in the Indo-Pacific and its worldwide ambitions are the reason for this new partnership - to equip, empower and embolden Australia, a fellow traveller and an ally that has been loathe challenging China.

"I think pulling Australia into the shared technology for subs and undersea warfare is a fantastic development! It further multilateralises what were previously different kinds of bilateral or plurilateral arrangements - absolutely essential for the successful balancing of China," said Ashely Tellis, Tata chair for strategic affairs at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the dean of Indo-Pacific experts.



China is poised to report its first population decline in five decades following a once-in-a-decade census. Pic - Reuters

## With China's population set to decline, couples given cash to have babies

A county in western China will give cash subsidies to couples to have children, the latest push to encourage more births in a country where the population is set to decline in coming years.

Families with three children in Linze county in Gansu province will be able to receive 5,000 yuan (\$777) in a lump sum payment when the third child is born, as well as 10,000 yuan a year before the kid reaches three years old, the local government said in a WeChat post this week. Families with one or two children can receive smaller subsidies, and the local authority has promised subsidies for schooling fees and home purchases.

Panzhihua city in the southwestern province of Sichuan became the nation's first city in July to offer cash handouts to encourage childbirth. Authorities are taking more active steps to slow the declining birthrate, making a surprise decision in May to allow all couples to have a third child and promising supportive measures to help parents raise kids, reports Bloomberg.

Linze's policy was introduced because the number of permanent residents in the area has shrunk significantly, falling 22,000 in the latest census from the previous one 10 years earlier, local health official Jia Yongming said in a report by Beijing Youth Daily. The county government aims to increase the local population by 9% by 2030 from 2020.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

## SpaceX makes history, launches 4 amateurs on private Earth-circling trip



The quartet of amateur space travellers are strapped into the pressurised cabin of the Crew Dragon capsule. Pic - Reuters

SpaceX, the American aerospace company founded by businessman Elon Musk, made history on Wednesday night by launching the Inspiration4 mission with the world's first all-civilian crew into space. The four amateur astronauts are travelling to an altitude of 357 miles (575 kilometres) above the surface of the Earth, which is much further and deeper into space than the International Space Station (ISS), in the private flight that will encircle the Earth for three days. The event generated great interest across the world since it is expected to pave a new era of human spaceflight for average people, rather than just government-sponsored astronauts.

The SpaceX flight was powered by the Falcon 9 rocket, which took the Crew Dragon capsule carrying the civi-

lians roaring into space. The launch occurred at 8pm eastern time on Wednesday (which translates to around 5:32am IST on Thursday) from Nasa's Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral in Florida, where the Apollo 11 mission once took off for the Moon, reports Joydeep Bose of Hindustan Times.

The SpaceX Dragon capsule separated from the second stage of a Falcon 9 rocket 12 minutes after liftoff, and the aerospace company informed that the civilian crew had successfully been launched into orbit.

However, it is to be noted that the aforementioned crew is still far from 'average', in the true sense of the word. The trip is being sponsored by Jared Isaacman, a 38-year-old billionaire and philanthropist with pilot training. He is the founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of payment processor Shift4 Payments Inc, and also the mission commander of the spaceflight, having chosen the rest of the crew himself through a competition.

All of these crew members were vetted by SpaceX, which designed the flight and deemed the passengers ready to go. The amateur astronauts were trained for about nine months, when they were taught about the Dragon's systems, how to intervene during the flight if necessary, and other endeavors such as practicing in a centrifuge to withstand high-gravity forces. They also flew several times in a fleet of former military fighter jets Isaacman owns to become accustomed to G forces.

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Catherine Boudet, Sociologue

# “Nous sommes dans une période de transition irréversible

*Il va falloir nous préparer à intégrer dans l'analyse politique des comportements électoraux certaines données encore invisibles à l'œil nu”*

**C**ette semaine, Catherine Boudet fait une lecture de ce qui apparaît dans la presse écrite, plus spécifiquement, elle décortique une dépêche de l'Agence France Presse. Elle jette un regard acerbe sur la trahison du principe de neutralité attendu des journalistes. Si chacun est libre d'accepter ou non le bien-fondé de ses propos, sa prise de position invite le citoyen ordinaire à adopter résolument une posture de défiance vis-à-vis de la circulation de l'information, et aussi un regard plus nuancé sur la profession du journalisme, dit neutre. De même, elle considère les informations circulant sur les réseaux sociaux, nous invitant à repenser les fonctions de ces espaces numériques modernes et de ce qui est véhiculé, faisant ou non l'objet d'un large consensus social...

**Mauritius Times:** Vous tapez fort sur l'Agence France Presse dans un post sur Facebook pour condamner une dépêche de cette agence par rapport à la situation de la Covid-19 dans le pays – «article localement téléguidé», écrivez-vous, «pour mieux poignarder 250,000 Mauriciens vivant de l'activité touristique...» Vous n'y allez pas de main morte. Pourquoi cette position ferme et vigoureuse?

**Dr Catherine Boudet :** Je tape fort sur l'Agence France Presse (AFP) qui a servi de cheval de Troie pour faire passer une dépêche aux agendas douteux et dangereux pour le pays. «L'île Maurice fait face à une explosion de Covid-19 qui interpelle à moins de trois semaines de la réouverture complète de ses frontières» proclame la fameuse dépêche AFP de ce mardi 14 septembre, postée dans la foulée sur le site de *l'express* qui avoue avoir sa main dans la rédaction.

Rédigée dans un mix de journalisme et de marketing viral, cette pseudo-dépêche de l'AFP brosse le portrait d'une île Maurice qui serait au bord de l'explosion épidémique. Et le texte est tellement exagéré qu'en le lisant, on a l'impression que la réouverture des frontières annonce une apocalypse covidienne. C'est clairement un article qui a été écrit pour torpiller la réouverture de Maurice.

Le contenu chaotique de cette dépêche ne correspond pas du tout au standard journalistique habituel de

cette prestigieuse agence de presse internationale qu'est l'AFP. Par sa technique de rédaction et les mots utilisés, elle relève davantage de l'article de propagande que du journalisme d'information. Elle adopte des techniques de marketing viral pour jouer sur l'émotionnel des lecteurs : «situation grave», «quête traumatisante», «état alarmant» ... Les mots sont soigneusement choisis pour susciter la peur et l'inquiétude chez le lecteur et lui donner la pire perception possible de l'état sanitaire du pays.

Je suis toujours choquée qu'on puisse vouloir décrédibiliser son propre pays face aux puissances étrangères.

**\* Vous faites allusion dans votre post au «jeu des pyromanes locaux» auquel l'AFP se prêterait pour lancer «une véritable bombe à fragmentation». Qui aurait intérêt à faire du mal au pays et à torpiller la destination mauricienne, selon vous?**

Ce n'est pas à moi de pointer du doigt des personnes. Moi, je montre comment opèrent les logiques du discours. Ma spécialité, c'est l'analyse des contenus et le décryptage des rhétoriques, qu'elles soient politiques, journalistiques ou scientifiques. Ensuite, chacun est libre de tirer ses propres conclusions ou interprétations.

J'ai montré que cette pseudo-dépêche AFP répondait davantage aux règles du marketing viral qu'à celles du journalisme. Une dépêche AFP a déjà - de par sa nature - un fort potentiel de viralité à l'étranger. Et quand les lecteurs sont des clients potentiels du tourisme mauricien, on voit très bien les dégâts que cela peut causer. C'est pour cela que j'ai qualifié cette pseudo-dépêche de bombe à fragmentation médiatique.

**\* La dépêche de l'AFP soulève pourtant la question de la situation de la Covid à Maurice dans le sillage du nombre croissant de cas d'infections dans le pays, et surtout en prévision de la réouverture complète de nos frontières à partir du 1er octobre prochain. C'est une démarche journalistique tout à fait légitime, puisqu'il s'agit de poser des questions sur la capacité des structures de l'Etat à gérer la pandémie, non?**

La pandémie? Quelle pandémie? Une pandémie (du



**« Le meurtre de Kistnen et son enquête judiciaire sont une véritable boîte de Pandore. Le dernier épisode en date tourne autour de la question des falsifications du rapport d'autopsie. Est-ce vraiment une surprise, dans la mesure où on a l'habitude de falsifier beaucoup de choses, ici, à Maurice ? C'est juste que le rideau se lève sur des pratiques douteuses au sein de différents services de l'Etat, en vigueur depuis longtemps de façon cachée... »**

grec *pan* = tout et *demos* = peuple), c'est une épidémie qui s'étend à la quasi-totalité d'une population. La pseudo-dépêche de l'AFP met l'accent sur une explosion des cas de Covid qui ont été multipliés par cinq depuis la réouverture partielle des frontières en juillet, avec un peu plus de 12,000 cas.

Mais même en considérant que les chiffres officiels de la Covid pourraient bien être en deçà de la réalité, cela fait 1% de la population mauricienne qui a été contaminée depuis le début de la soi-disant «pandémie». 1% de la population contaminé sur un an et demi, peut-on appeler cela une pandémie? Il serait temps de replacer les choses dans une perspective plus juste.

Ce que ne fait pas cette fameuse dépêche de l'AFP... Qui ne pose pas non plus la question des capacités des services de l'Etat à gérer la situation sanitaire et à affronter la réouverture. Au contraire, elle part d'emblée dans une logique défaitiste pour montrer que le pays court à la catastrophe avec la réouverture.

● Suite en page 9

**« Nous sommes dans une période de transition irréversible. Les schémas de vote habituels, de type «mathématiques ethniques» et/ou «vote castéiste», pourraient bien se retrouver minorés par de nouvelles variables émergentes. Même si le système électoral continue de déterminer la superstructure du jeu politique, il va falloir nous préparer à intégrer dans l'analyse politique des comportements électoraux certaines données nouvelles et même encore invisibles à l'œil nu... »**



# '1% de la population contaminé sur un an et demi, peut-on appeler cela une pandémie ?

Il serait temps de replacer les choses dans une perspective plus juste'



« L'hospitalisation de Navin Ramgoolam en Inde pour cause de Covid, bien entendu c'est un **«game changer»** politique... Mais qui a toutes les probabilités de jouer en faveur du bloc gouvernemental. De facto, le PTr se retrouve dans l'obligation de préparer la succession de son leader, qui jusqu'ici a tout fait pour résister à cette évidence. C'est une période de test pour le PTr... »

● Suite de la page 8

D'ailleurs, elle commence avec une description qui reprend le narratif catastrophique utilisé par les médias internationaux à propos du variant Delta en Inde : hôpitaux saturés, respirateurs artificiels rares et cimetières pleins.

Ensuite, tout le reste de l'article sert à étayer ce scénario de départ. Et c'est fait non pas sur la base de faits ou d'interrogations de principe, mais en rapportant les appréciations négatives de différents acteurs qui expriment leurs peurs et leurs appréhensions. Il a ainsi recours à des techniques de grossissement des faits et d'amplification des émotions négatives, pour parler au lecteur sur un registre émotionnel... Ce que font tous les propagandistes qui veulent empêcher leurs lecteurs de se servir de leur intellect.

Et il pousse le vice jusqu'à conclure avec la projection d'un scénario catastrophe, agitant le spectre d'un stade «où nous devrons peut-être décider qui obtiendra de l'oxygène et qui devra mourir» ...

\* Par ailleurs, il y a une autre affaire qui continue à défrayer l'actualité : le meurtre de Soopramanien Kistnen et toute la controverse autour de l'autopsie du cadavre. C'est une véritable boîte à surprises,

paraît-il. Au train où vont les choses, diriez-vous qu'il faut s'attendre à d'autres surprises – mauvaises ou même désagréables ?

Le meurtre de Kistnen et son enquête judiciaire sont une véritable boîte de Pandore. Le dernier épisode en date tourne autour de la question des falsifications du rapport d'autopsie. Est-ce vraiment une surprise, dans la mesure où on a l'habitude de falsifier beaucoup de choses, ici, à Maurice ? C'est juste que le rideau se lève sur des pratiques douteuses au sein de différents services de l'Etat, en vigueur depuis longtemps de façon cachée et autour desquelles règne l'omerta avec une bonne dose d'hypocrisie.

On peut donc sûrement s'attendre à d'autres rebondissements, «surprises» ou révélations dans cette affaire, sur un mode «Mauriflix». Mais j'aurais tendance à dire que le meurtre lui-même a été fait dans cet objectif.

On est surpris ou on fait semblant de l'être, si on regarde les choses par le petit bout de la lorgnette et dans la direction qu'on a bien voulu nous indiquer... Pourtant, quand on examine les détails du meurtre de Kistnen, c'est une évidence qu'il ne relevait pas d'un banal banditisme mais qu'il a été perpétré par des professionnels avec un modus operandi bien précis. C'est un modus operandi que l'on retrouve dans les pays où opèrent les grands cartels.

Soyons logiques. Si on veut faire disparaître un témoin gênant, on n'expose pas son corps carbonisé dans un champ de cannes par un jour de grand vent dans une zone où il pourra être découvert rapidement. On voulait donc que le corps de Kistnen soit vu. Si on part de ce postulat, il fallait donc que certains éléments puissent être portés à la connaissance du public, tout en protégeant les protagonistes.

A partir de là, il y a tout un scénario qui se déroule au fur et à mesure que des pans de l'affaire se dévoilent... Ou plutôt au fur et à mesure que se dévoile l'étendue de ce qui a été caché... et risque fort de le rester.

\* Tous les scandales que nous avons connus depuis un bon bout de temps ne sont pas pour inquiéter le gouvernement, semble-t-il, au regard de l'absence d'une opposition forte en face du pouvoir politique en place, mais aussi de ce qui paraît être l'indifférence de la grande majorité des Mauriciens. De toute évidence, l'opposition sur les réseaux sociaux dans le confort de son chez-soi ne suffit pas... Qu'en pensez-vous ?

En l'état actuel des choses, avec une confortable majorité au Parlement et une opposition morcelée, Pravind Jugnauth reste maître du jeu politique. Dans un système électoral où «the winner takes all», les recompositions actuelles du champ politique ne changent rien à cet état de fait.

La fragmentation de l'opposition parlementaire et extra-parlementaire joue même pour renforcer le bloc de la majorité dans sa position dominante, et ce, même si on a pu penser que le MSM au pouvoir était un peu en mode «village gaulois assiégé par les Romains», pour reprendre l'image de la bande dessinée bien connue.

Pourtant, on ne peut pas dire que l'opposition parlementaire soit faible ou molle. C'est même le contraire ;

ils sont très actifs, en tout cas dans leur prise de parole. Avant 2019, l'opposition parlementaire avait généralement pour habitude de ménager la chèvre et le chou dans l'espoir d'être à nouveau en alliance avec le parti au pouvoir. Mais depuis qu'ils ont perdu tout espoir d'alliance avec le MSM, ils sont devenus très virulents et n'hésitent pas à sortir dossier sur dossier.

« On ne peut pas dire que l'opposition parlementaire soit faible ou molle. C'est même le contraire ; ils sont très actifs, en tout cas dans leur prise de parole. Avant 2019, l'opposition parlementaire avait généralement pour habitude de ménager la chèvre et le chou dans l'espoir d'être à nouveau en alliance avec le parti au pouvoir. Mais depuis qu'ils ont perdu tout espoir d'alliance avec le MSM, ils sont devenus très virulents... »

On a donc enfin une vraie opposition dans le pays. Et surtout, même s'ils sont divisés dans leur guerre d'egos, on peut remarquer qu'ils peuvent travailler de façon concertée pour sortir ces dossiers. Ils fonctionnent de concert avec leur presse d'opposition et avec des opposants extra-parlementaires comme les Avengers, et même Bruneau Laurette qui s'est (logiquement) politisé dans le processus.

Cette opposition semble avoir fait le choix d'être très «vocale» dans sa fonction de dénonciation, en s'appuyant sur les réseaux sociaux pour gagner à la fois en visibilité et en «nuisance value». Mais elle agit aussi, en s'appuyant sur des techniques de «lawfare», c'est-à-dire de politisation de dossiers judiciaires. C'est notamment la ligne éditoriale des Avengers, qui fait leur succès auprès des Mauriciens.

Mais, pour le moment comme on l'a dit, le gouvernement n'a aucune raison d'être ébranlé par les actions de l'opposition tant qu'il dispose de sa confortable majorité parlementaire et tant que le *lawfare* de l'opposition ne réussit à faire tomber aucune tête.

\* L'état de santé de Navin Ramgoolam n'est pas pour arranger les choses non plus pour l'opposition. Voyez-vous une recomposition du champ politique et même au sein de l'opposition dans les semaines ou mois à venir, quel que soit le cas de figure ?

Les recompositions du champ politique qui ont commencé l'an dernier du côté de l'opposition sont très intéressantes et n'ont pas fini leur processus de gestation. De toute façon, ce processus de gestation ne trouvera son aboutissement qu'à l'approche des échéances électorales.

Ce qui est particulièrement intéressant actuellement, c'est qu'il s'est créé depuis l'épisode du Wakashio une zone de collaboration entre l'opposition parlementaire classique, composée du Parti Travailleurs, du PMSD et du MMM, et des entités de l'opposition extra-parlementaires (Reform Party, *Rezistans ek Alternativ*, 100% Citoyens, Avengers, *Linion Sitwayin Morisien* de Bruneau Laurette).

● Suite en page 10



# 'Pravind Jugnauth reste maître du jeu politique.'

*Les recompositions actuelles du champ politique ne changent rien à cet état de fait'*

**« On ne peut pas dire que l'opposition parlementaire soit faible ou molle. C'est même le contraire ; ils sont très actifs, en tout cas dans leur prise de parole. Avant 2019, l'opposition parlementaire avait généralement pour habitude de ménager la chèvre et le chou dans l'espoir d'être à nouveau en alliance avec le parti au pouvoir. Mais depuis qu'ils ont perdu tout espoir d'alliance avec le MSM, ils sont devenus très virulents... »**



● Suite de la page 9

Et cela, ce n'est pas nouveau. Ce beau monde a été rejoint en février dernier par le démissionnaire du MSM Nando Bodha qui, entre-temps, a lui aussi créé son propre parti.

Mais cette coopération n'est pas si surprenante dans la mesure où les membres des principales entités extraparlémentaires, Avengers ou le Reform Party, sont des personnels politiques qui ont également siégé au Parlement, que ce soit Rama Valayden, Sanjeev Teeluckdharry ou Roshi Bhadain. Donc leur socialisation politique d'origine favorisait de facto leur rapprochement avec l'opposition parlementaire.

Dans ce paysage d'opposition très mouvant et divers, une seule alliance a été formalisée en mai dernier entre les quatre « dinosaures » que sont Xavier-Luc Duval (PMSD), Paul Bérenger (MMM), Nando Bodha (ex-MSM) et Roshi Bhadain (Reform Party). Baptisée Alliance de l'Espoir, elle ne semble être à ce stade qu'une entente entre leaders et donc, à ce titre, vulnérable à toute guerre d'égos potentielle. Sans compter qu'elle a déjà créé des susceptibilités au sein même de l'appareil des partis impliqués.

Donc, il est fort possible qu'il y ait encore des circulations de personnel politique à venir, comme, par exemple, la récente démission groupée dans la régionale numéro 6 du MMM.

Quant à l'hospitalisation de Navin Ramgoolam en Inde pour cause de Covid, bien entendu c'est un « game changer » politique... Mais qui a toutes les probabilités de jouer en faveur du bloc gouvernemental. De facto, le PTr se retrouve dans l'obligation de préparer la succession de son leader, qui jusqu'ici a tout fait pour résister à cette évidence. C'est une période de test pour le Parti Travailleiste, que l'on sait monolithique et solidement organisé.

Mais les guerres intestines qui risquent de se jouer vont temporairement le fragiliser et ce d'autant que l'hospitalisation du leader sera longue. De plus, les différentes options successorales iront de pair avec différentes

options d'alliances, ce qui ne peut que brouiller encore plus l'échiquier politique de l'opposition.

**\* Recomposition aussi pour une lutte à trois et dictée par le rapport de forces sur l'échiquier politique présentement... ?**

Au vu de tout ce que nous venons de décrire, champ politique en pleine recomposition, opposition fragmentée mais coopérative, alliance formalisée mais instable, nous ne pouvons même pas dire s'il y aura une lutte à trois aux prochaines élections législatives. Nous ne savons même pas quand se tiendront les prochaines élections municipales, mais même la configuration des élections municipales ne sera pas nécessairement décisive pour les élections générales.

**« Quand on examine les détails du meurtre de Kistnen, c'est une évidence qu'il ne relevait pas d'un banal banditisme mais qu'il a été perpétré par des professionnels avec un modus operandi bien précis. C'est un modus operandi que l'on retrouve dans les pays où opèrent les grands cartels... »**

Ce qui reste certain, c'est que le champ politique mauricien se polarise toujours fortement autour de la notion du plus fort. Les critères d'identification de ce « plus fort » reposent sur des données concrètes mais aussi beaucoup sur des éléments psychologiques. C'est ce « plus fort » perçu comme tel par les partis, les médias et l'électorat qui va polariser le schéma des alliances à l'approche des élections.

A mon avis, le principal tendon d'Achille du gouvernement, c'est la politique de vaccination obligatoire. Du fait que nous ne connaissons pas les effets secondaires à long terme des vaccins anti-Covid, nous ne pouvons pas estimer les dégâts potentiels sur la santé publique à moyenne échéance. Si c'est le cas, la vaccination pourrait bien devenir une variable politique, même

si, pour le moment, il n'y a aucun clivage politique autour de la vaccination. La vaccination obligatoire comporte, à mon avis, un risque politique pour le MSM.

De toute façon, sur le plan politique, nous sommes dans une période de transition irréversible. Les schémas de vote habituels, de type « mathématiques ethniques » et/ou « vote castéiste », pourraient bien se retrouver minorés par de nouvelles variables émergentes. Même si le système électoral continue de déterminer la superstructure du jeu politique, il va falloir nous préparer à intégrer dans l'analyse politique des comportements électoraux certaines données nouvelles et même encore invisibles à l'œil nu pour le moment. J'ai cité la vaccination mais il y en aura d'autres.

## MAURITIUS TIMES To Our Readers

65 years ago, *Mauritius Times* was founded with a resolve to fight for justice and fairness and the advancement of the public good. It has never deviated from this principle no matter how daunting the challenges and how costly the price it has had to pay at different times of our history.

We are determined not to abandon this line of action, which is the cardinal principle of our raison-d'être. This is what has given *Mauritius Times* a unique standing in the local publishing world.

Our production circumstances have changed since last year with the onset of the Covid-19 lockdown, and we have had to move to the digital platform. We have since March 2020 freely circulated the paper via WhatsApp and by email, besides making it available on our website.

However, with print journalism in Mauritius and across the world struggling to keep afloat due to falling advertising revenues and the wide availability of free sources of information, it is crucially important for the *Mauritius Times* to still meet its cost of production for it to survive and prosper.

Readers will no doubt appreciate that it takes a lot of time, hard work, money and the continued support of our contributors to produce the *Mauritius Times* - as we have done without interruption in these last 65 years. We can only continue doing it with the support of our readers.

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The Editorial Team

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## Fake news, Patriotism and Spin doctoring

● Cont. from page 3

Is it patriotic that there is no transparency and accountability as to why the costly Rs 16 billion Safe City project could not provide key deliverables such as crucial video footage to help elucidate the ongoing investigation into the suspect death of a political activist? Is it patriotic that criminal investigations into various alleged wrongdoings by Ministers and allegations of corruption and bribery by 'members of the Mauritian administration and others' in the 2014 Rs 4.3 billion CEB Saint Louis Power Plant Redevelopment Project remain stalled for so long? Is it patriotic that public spending does not abide by the most rigorous benchmarks of accountability and transparency? This list could go on and on.

This week the US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken was asked to testify and respond to criticisms before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. The US go-

vernment actions are under constant scrutiny and those responsible are answerable and held accountable. This is a far cry from the level of governance, transparency and accountability prevailing in Mauritius.

### Accountable politicians

Is it not high time to put in place such a system of accountability in the country whereby Ministers are questioned on their policies and actions in a structured parliamentary forum to ensure that they meet the test of incisive appraisal and expert scrutiny?

We need to establish a new order which ensures that all politicians are accountable.

Fake news and spin doctoring mask and manipulate the truth and can hardly be considered patriotic. They spin and thrive on lies and untruths and need to be scuttled forthwith for the good of people and country.

**Mrinal Roy**

● Cont. from page 2

In the UK and other countries with high vaccine coverage and also high numbers of past cases, most people will have some form of immunity to the virus. In England, for example, it's estimated that at the beginning of September over 94% of the adult population had Covid-19 antibodies.

Among those with prior immunity, it's been shown that Covid-19 tends to be less severe. And as more people's immunity is boosted over time by natural reinfections or booster immunisations, we can expect an increasing proportion of new infections to be asymptomatic or at worst cause mild illness. The virus will remain with us, but the disease will become part of our history.

But in countries without much prior illness, even with high vaccine coverage, many people will remain susceptible. Even in countries with the highest vaccine coverage worldwide over 10% of people are yet to receive a vaccine. Virtually everyone who has not been vaccinated is likely to catch the virus. When infected, they will be as much at risk of severe disease and death (depending on their age and medical status) as at any time during the pandemic.

And in these countries, opening



Pic - Noam Galai/Getty Images

## How will the Covid pandemic end?

up will almost certainly lead to exponential growth of infections due to the large number of people with no immunity. And as the amount of virus circulating rises, there will be more cases in vaccinated people too, given that vaccines aren't 100% protective. Although Covid-19 tends to be less severe in vaccinated people, some do still get very ill – and these countries may see a sizeable number of vaccinated people needing hospital care.

When these countries choose to open up will also have a critical impact. Too soon and many people will still be waiting to be vaccinated. Too late and the effectiveness of vaccines in the already-vaccinated may have started to wane.

Nevertheless, the key lesson from the Russian flu is that Covid-

19 will become less relevant over the coming months, and that most countries are almost certainly over the worst of the pandemic. But it is still critical that vaccines are offered to the world's remaining vulnerable populations.

It's becoming clear that the main impact of vaccination won't be to stop people from catching SARS-CoV-2, but to reduce the severity of infection the first-time people encounter the virus. If people have already been through their first or second natural infection, vaccines will add relatively little protection. To offer the biggest reduction in severe disease, vaccines need to be rolled out to as many people as possible now.

*Paul Hunter, Professor of Medicine, University of East Anglia*

## Programme des Courses

1

### THE STUDDER CHALICE PLATE

1500 m - Valeur [0-15] - 12h30

1 Jet Path	VA	7-6-4-4-6	60.5	K.Kalychurun	3	900
2 Big Smoke	P	5-8/3-1-7	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	1	340
3 Epic Sword	SN	6-9-7/5-6	59.5	G.D.Aucharuz	10	2000
4 Valerin	CD	2/2-6-5-3	59.5(-3)	M.Sonaram	8	750
5 Newsmen	RG	2/2-3-6-4	59(-1.5)	M.Teetan	4	700
6 Nightingale Lane	CR	6/6-1-8-9/	59	P.K.Horil	7	3500
7 Seven Carat	SN	1-4-4-2/9	59	K.Ghunowa	5	1400
8 Hit The Green	RM	2-6-7-4-3	57.5	R.Hoolash	9	900
9 Minaloushe Venture	AS	5-7-10-8-9	57.5(-4)	I.Taka	6	3000
10 Midnight Messenger	SPN	5-6/3-3-8	57	D.Bheekary	2	350

2

### THE WILLY LARCHER PLATE

1365 m - Valeur [0-25] - 13h05

1 Intothemystic	SN	0-0-0-10-6	60	D.Bheekary	1	3500
2 Jacalac	P	0-0-0-7-4	60	B.Sooiful	8	1200
3 Mauritius	SH	0-0-0-1-1	60	I.Santana	5	135
4 Ticket To Cairo	JMH	0-0-6-4-6	60	R.N.Darshan	4	3500
5 Global Glory	PM	0-0-2-9-R	59.5	K.Ramsamy	2	1200
6 Sauna's Cessna	CD	0-0-0-1-5	59.5(-3)	M.Sonaram	3	570
7 Cloud Seeder	AS	7-7-10-2-3	59	S.Rama	6	1600
8 Duke Of York	RM	R/3-5-4-5	58	J.Allyhosain	7	3000

3

### THE SALOON PASSAGE PLATE

1650 m - Valeur Benchmark 36 - 13h40

1 Bonnie Prince	SH	5-2-4/4-7	61	I.Santana	8	800
2 Anderson	SJ	0-0-0-8-7	60.5	B.Woodworth	7	5000
3 Six Degrees	SN	0-0-0-4-1	60.5	G.D.Aucharuz	6	260
4 Giggin	PM	0-5-5-6-6	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	1	520
5 Bellagio King	SPN	0-0-0-2-7	59	R.Vaibhav	5	1000
6 Black Indy	PM	6-9-2/4-6	59	R.K.Chumun	4	2000
7 Grand Vision	G	0-0-1-7-3	57.5	Y.Emamdee	2	350
8 Lasair	JMH	8-8/10-5-7	56.5	R.N.Darshan	3	5000
9 Overdose	AS	4-2-8-1-5	56.5	S.Rama	9	1500

## 22è journée samedi 18 septembre 2021

4

### THE BLACK TULIP CUP

1400 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 - 14h15

1 Double Blue	G	nouveau	60(-3)	P.Mogun	10	7000
2 Alaskan Night	AS	nouveau	59.5	S.Rama	3	800
3 Bless My Path	CD	0-0-0-0-6	59.5	R.Joorawon	6	550
4 Choir of Angels	JMH	R-8-6-R-R	59.5	R.N.Darshan	9	2500
5 Freedom of Speech	PM	0-0-0-0-7	59.5	K.Ramsamy	7	3000
6 Bold Phoenix	SJ	1/4-2-7-5	59	B.Woodworth	5	420
7 Times New Roman	P	0-0-0-5-9	59(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	2	1000
8 Tripod	CR	8-3/5-7-4	58.5	D de Gouveia	8	2500
9 Ron's Joy	GR	1-5-1/1-1	58	B.Sooiful	1	260
10 Toothless	VA	nouveau	58	S.Bussunt	4	1300

5

### THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA CUP

1850 m - Valeur Benchmark 51 - 14h50

1 Hubble	SJ	7-5-2-6-5	60.5	J.Allyhosain	2	650
2 Royal Italian	SN	0-0-8-4-5	60.5	D.Bheekary	1	600
3 Captain Flynt	GR	6-7/1-2-3	59.5	N.Teeha	6	550
4 Cyber Special	GR	2-3-1/1-2	59.5	B.Sooiful	4	420
5 John Hancock	G	6-3/6-1-5	59	Y.Emamdee	3	1200
6 Absolutist	AS	0-6-4-1-2	57.5	S.Rama	7	350
7 Arlingtons Revenge	ISJ	4/4-1-1-4	57.5	B.Woodworth	9	1400
8 Kazaar	P	7/6-7-7-5	57.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	8	3500
9 Tiger's Rock	JMH	0-0-7-6-7	54	T.Juglall	5	9900

6

### THE JOSEPH MERVEN CUP

1500 m - Valeur [55+] - 15h25

1 Black Cat Back	G	1-1/5-4-3	61	Y.Emamdee	3	285
2 Count Jack	GR	0-0-6-6-7	59	N.Teeha	6	1400
3 Wall Tag	VA	3/2-1-3-5	55.5	B.Sooiful	1	450
4 Haylor	SJ	5-8-1-1-7	55	R.Joorawon	2	500
5 Arizona Silk	PM	0-8-5-4-6	54.5	K.Ramsamy	7	3000
6 Stopalltheclocks	CD	7-9-7-9-6	53	S.Rama	4	900
7 Red Mars	SJ	2-2/5-3-1	52	T.Juglall	5	450

7

### THE WOODLEIGH PLATE

1400 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 16h00

1 Straight	JMH	4/6-1-1-4	60	R.N.Darshan	8	2000
2 Unbelievable Lad	AS	6-7-9/7-6	60	S.Rama	1	2500
3 Yankeedoodledandy	G	9-11-8/3-3	60	Y.Emamdee	3	900
4 Desert Boy	P	0-0-6-1-2	59.5	J.Allyhosain	4	180
5 Rock Manor	CR	2/5-3-4-3	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	6	2200
6 Jals Tiger	GR	5-10-2-4-1	59	N.Teeha	7	1200
7 The Jazz Singer	SH	7-6-9/6-7	59	I.Santana	9	1600
8 Mr Hardy	CR	8-3-5/2-6	58.5	D de Gouveia	2	600
9 Quest For Good	P	0-0-0-0-6	58.5	K.Ramsamy	5	6000
10 Stockbridge	PM	3-3/5-3-2	58	P.K.Horil	10	1000

8

### THE NITRAM PLATE

1650 m - Valeur [0-26] - 16h35

1 Beni Des Dieux	RG	0-0-0-5-5	60	R.Joorawon	10	900
2 Casanova King	SJ	nouveau	60	B.Woodworth	7	1400
3 Italian Way	VA	3-5-3-4-5	60	B.Fayd'herbe	9	550
4 Oxford Blue	CD	7-4-5-3-4	60(-3)	M.Sonaram	5	700
5 Potawatomi	SN	8/3-9-6-7	60	G.D.Aucharuz	8	5000
6 Gontravelin	CR	0-0-2-3-2	59.5	D de Gouveia	4	350
7 Betathanthrest	SJ	0-0-6-7-8	59	T.Juglall	6	2000
8 Opague	G	4-2-1-9-4	59	Y.Emamdee	1	370
9 Fairbanks	VA	7-6-4-4-4	58.5	S.Bussunt	3	2000
10 Arnica Montana	SN	0-0-0-7-R	58	D.Bheekary	2	1400

## Selections

1. Big Smoke, Midnight Messenger, Valerin
2. Mauritius, Sauna's Cessna, Jacalac
3. Six Degrees, Giggin, Grand Vision
4. Ron's Joy, Bold Phoenix, Bless My Path
5. Cyber Special, Captain Flynt, Absolutist
6. Black Cat Back, Wall Tag, Haylor
7. Desert Boy, Stockbridge, Mr Hardy
8. Gontravelin, Italian Way, Beni Des Dieux



# Covid vaccine effects wane over time but still prevent death and severe illness

Governments are launching booster programmes over fears about waning immunity levels, but vaccines are still highly effective at what matters most - preventing severe disease.

Several countries - including the UK - are now offering third COVID-19 shots amid reports of vaccines proving less effective over time. But do these countries really need to embark on widespread booster campaigns? Here's what research tells us so far about how vaccines are performing.

One study suggests that after four months of the second dose, the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is less effective at preventing infection (classified as a positive PCR test), with protection falling from 96% to 84%. However, the research is a preprint, meaning that its results have yet to be formally reviewed by other scientists.

Similarly, real-life data from Israel suggests that over-60s who received their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine in March 2021 were 1.6 times better protected against infection than those who received their second dose two months earlier. However, the data was less clear cut when looking across other age groups. This study also hasn't yet been peer reviewed.

Data for the Moderna vaccine shows that functional antibodies (those able to stop viruses from entering cells) persisted in most people for six months after vaccination. However, there was a gradual decrease in performance against the beta variant of the virus, and the study didn't assess the vaccine against the now-dominant delta variant.

A separate preprint has looked at vaccine effectiveness against delta, and found both the Oxford/AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines were less effective at preventing infection when facing this variant. Similar findings have been reported by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

While all these studies may sound alarming, most are yet to be formally reviewed, so their results need to be treated with caution. They also measure different things. Some look at numbers of positive PCR tests rather than symptoms or disease. Others consider antibody levels or the response to different variants. Really, we need to consider what the most important goals of vaccination are when assessing performance.

## Vaccines still protective

An ideal vaccine would completely prevent infection and so stop people catching and spreading the virus. However, earlier on in the pandemic, reports appeared of people being reinfected with COVID-19 as well as of antibodies waning - and high levels of antibodies are thought to be important in preventing infection from starting. So, it's been suspected for a while that creating a vaccine that completely blocks infection wouldn't be possible.

Indeed, antibodies are just one indicator of an effective immune response. We also need T lymphocytes that kill the virus, and immune memory to enable us to quickly produce lots of these killer T cells and antibody-producing B cells. Here the news is much more positive. Studies have shown that both killer T cells and immune memory persist well.

What this could mean is that some people might not have enough antibodies to completely prevent infection, but can still fight the infection off and stop it from taking hold. If this were the case, you would expect vaccines to reduce the impact or severity of disease. And this is where we are seeing good news.

Reports in the UK and the US are showing fewer vaccinated people requiring hospitalisation or developing severe symptoms from the delta variant. For example, fully vaccinated people in the US have been shown to be five times less likely to get COVID-19 and ten times less likely to be hospitalised or die from it.

Similarly, the Israeli study mentioned above showed that in people aged 40-59, four months after vaccination,



vaccines were 98% effective at preventing people from being hospitalised with COVID-19. After six months, protection remained high, at 94%.

For people over the age of 60, though, the data shows a bigger drop off in performance, with protection against hospitalisation lower after four months (91%) and six months (86%). This difference may be due to older people being less able to mount a good immune response following vaccination, as well as the challenge of the delta variant.

However, what's clear is that the vaccines are highly effective at protecting against severe disease compared with those who have not had a vaccine. And this, really, is the most important goal of vaccination - to stop people getting dangerously ill and dying.

## Turning on the boosters

Despite protection against severe disease remaining high many months after vaccination, a number of governments have chosen to launch vaccine booster programmes. Will the third doses being rolled out by the UK and other governments be sufficient to provide long-term and even more highly protective immunity in the most vulnerable? The truth is, we don't yet know.

We should remember that vaccination is just one of the ways we protect ourselves from infection, and that maybe other measures, such as mask wearing and ventilation, will still be needed if we cannot achieve sufficient protection.

Indeed, as well as boosters, the British government has also outlined plans for reintroducing home working and mask wearing over the winter should the virus threaten to get out of hand.

The other question we have to ask ourselves is whether we should actually be looking to help other vulnerable people across the world. It's been estimated that the richest countries have more than enough vaccines already, even if boosters are used and children are vaccinated.

The most important goal of vaccination is to protect against severe disease and death, yet many countries haven't given even 2% of their population a first vaccine dose, enabling the virus to thrive at a huge cost to lives. Really, can we look the other way?



## COMMUNIQUE

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

Authorised under Section 17 of the Public Procurement Act 2006

### PROVISION OF TRANSPORT SERVICES

(Bid No.: MRA/OABTRANSPORT/33/21)

The closing date for submission of bids is **Tuesday 12 October 2021 up to 1400 hours at latest.**

For further details, please consult the government procurement website: [eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org](http://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org).

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## Don't mess with women, but...

A woman was golfing and accidentally she hits the ball into the woods. She then goes into the woods to look for it and there she sees a frog in a trap.

The frog says to her: If you release me from this trap, I will grant you three wishes.

The woman frees the frog, and the frog says: Thank you, but I have failed to mention that there is a condition attached to your wishes, and that is: whatever you wish, your husband will get ten times of that wish.

The woman says: That is okay with me.

For her first wish, she wants to be the most beautiful woman in the world.

The frog warns her: you do realize that this wish will also make your husband the most handsome man in the world, an Adonis, to whom women will just flock to!

The woman replies, That is fine, because I will be the most beautiful woman and he will have eyes only for me.

So in a movement, she becomes the most beautiful woman in the world.

For her second wish, she wants to be the richest woman in the world.

The frog says: That will make your husband the richest man in the world, and he will be ten times richer than you.

The woman replies: That is okay, because what is mine is his and what is his is mine.

So, in a split second she becomes the richest woman in the world.

The frog then asks her, what is her third wish?

She says: I would like to have a mild heart attack.

**Moral of the story: Women are clever. Don't mess with them.**

But this is the end of the joke...

The man had a heart attack ten times "milder" than his wife!!!

**Moral of the story : Women are great but sometimes falsely believe that they are very smart.**

\*\*\*

## One for our doctor friends...

A doctor was relaxing on his sofa one evening just after arriving home from work. As he was tuning into the evening news, the phone rang.

The doctor calmly answered it, and heard the familiar voice of a colleague on the other end of the line.

We have already opened an 18-year-old Rare Single Malt Glenfiddich Whiskey.

"I'll be right over," whispered the doctor.

As he was moving out, his wife asked, "Is it serious?"

"Oh yes, quite," said the doctor gravely. Shaking his head, he muttered: "Only 18 years old. Three doctors are there already!"

\*\*\*

## Firing Lois

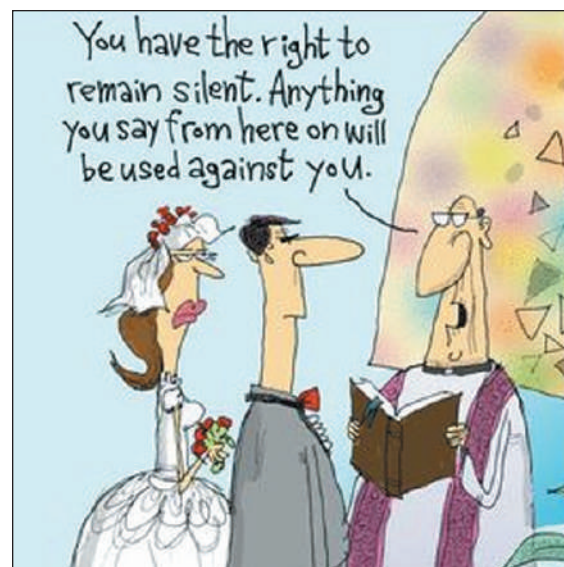
Times were tough at the Daily Planet and Perry White was forced to fire a star reporter. Either Lois Lane or Clark Kent.

He struggled making a decision for days until he went to the grocery store and saw a sign. The next day he called both of them into his office where fired Lois Lane.

After she left, Clark Kent asked him, "Perry, how did you decide which of us to fire?"

He replied, "I couldn't make a decision until I went to the grocery store and right there, I saw a sign. I looked up and right in front of the store was a sign that said 'Fire Lane.'"

\*\*\*



## Daily Affirmations

I have the power to channel my imagination into ever-soaring levels of suspicion and paranoia.

I assume full responsibility for my actions, except the ones that are someone else's fault.

I no longer need to punish, deceive, or compromise myself. Unless, of course, I want to stay employed.

In some cultures what I do would be considered normal.

I honour my personality flaws, for without them I would have no personality at all.

I am grateful that I am not as judgmental as all those censorious, self-righteous people around me.

Today I will gladly share my experience and advice, for there are no sweeter words than "I told you so".

Just for today, I will not sit in my living room all day watching TV. Instead I will move my TV into the bedroom.

I will find humour in my everyday life by looking for people I can laugh at.

The next time the universe knocks on my door, I will pretend I am not home.

To have a successful relationship I will learn to make it look like I'm giving as much as I'm getting.

I am willing to make the mistakes to help others learn from them.

## Life's Stories

### The Paul Newman Effect

*It's called the Paul Newman Effect. Only women of a certain era will fully appreciate this true story.*

A Michigan woman and her family were vacationing in a small New England town where Paul Newman and his family often visited.

One Sunday morning, the woman got up early to take a long walk. After a brisk hike, she decided to treat herself to a double-dip chocolate ice cream cone.

She hopped in the car, drove to the village and went straight to the ice cream parlour.

There was only one other patron in the store. Paul Newman was sitting at the counter having a doughnut and coffee.

The woman's heart skipped a beat as her eyes made contact with those famous baby-blue eyes.

The actor nodded graciously and the star struck woman smiled demurely.

Pull yourself together! she chides herself. You're a happily married woman with three children, you're forty-five years old, not a teenager!

The clerk filled her order and she took the double-dip chocolate ice cream cone in one hand and her change in the other. Then she went out the door, avoiding even a glance in Paul Newman's direction.

When she reached her car, she realised that she had a handful of change but her other hand was empty. Where's my ice cream cone? Did I leave it in the store? Back into the shop she went, expecting to see the cone still in the clerk's hand or in a holder on the counter or something. No ice cream cone was in sight.

With that, she happened to look over at Paul Newman.

His face broke into his familiar warm friendly grin and he said to the woman, "You put it in your purse."

## Thought to live by

### Unlearn with Coffee

-- Srinivasan Ramachandran, Trekone Academy

Unlearning is more important in life than learning...

We always find a jar of coffee beans in the perfume store. Why is it there? Is there something we can learn? A handful of coffee beans are so important to sell an expensive bottle of perfume.

How?

When we try perfumes, after 4th or 5th trial, we are unable to distinguish between fragrance. Now, the vendor brings in the jar of coffee beans and makes us smell it. And we undergo a process of unlearning...

Due to coffee's strong fragrance, our brain now only remembers coffee. We can now start testing perfumes again. All of this happens within a minute.

**What's the unlearning?**

We have an amazing power to unlearn and move on to new things. We got it as it is an important process of evolution. With ego getting predominant, we forget how to "let it go". Letting go is called unlearning. Creativity and productivity gets enhanced when we learn to let things go.

What things you need to unlearn?

- 1) Past failures/disappointments.
- 2) Relationships which are not cordial.
- 3) People who have exploited/hurt us.
- 4) Emotional entanglements.
- 5) Unwanted information/data.

**Key Points:**

Unlearning is important to enjoy numerous fragrances that come along. Unlearning is not forgetting. Unlearning is Letting Go which needs to be done consciously...

Let's learn to let it go. In our personal & professional lives.



## Weight Management

# Morning habits to help you lose weight

*Adopting habits like these in the early hours can make a big difference throughout the day.*

*Tips from by Brunilda Nazario, MD - WebMD*



## Hop on the Scale

Weighing yourself first thing in the morning after you pee is more accurate than checking later in the day. What you eat and drink later on can change the results. That visual reminder of your weight each morning can help you stick to your healthy eating plan the rest of the day or week.

## Drink a glass (or 2) of water

One or two glasses of plain H<sub>2</sub>O before you eat breakfast may help you lose weight. Water has no calories, but it's satisfying and curbs your appetite, so you may not want to eat such a big breakfast afterward. It also stimulates your metabolism to help you burn calories.

## Work out before breakfast

Do some moderate exercise before you sit down to eat in the mornings. Working out on an empty stomach actually helps you get better results from exercise. Prebreakfast sweat sessions can help you burn more of your body's fat for fuel.

## Eat a high-protein breakfast

This nutrient may help you lose weight because it makes you feel fuller longer after you eat. It's also harder for your body to store it as excess fat. Another perk of protein: Your body uses more calories to break it down than it uses for carbs or fat. Go for protein-rich breakfasts, such as an egg and turkey sausage on whole wheat toast or a Greek yogurt smoothie with peanut butter and berries.

## Make a meal plan for the day

Every morning, write up a quick list of what you'll eat that day. Planning meals ahead of time can

help you choose lower-calorie foods. If you've already decided what to eat for your day's snacks and meals, you may be less likely to reach for high-calorie convenience foods like fast-food burgers or fries.

## Get some sun

Some sunlight on your skin can actually help you burn a little bit more body fat. Research shows that people who soak up a few rays in the morning tend to have a lower body-mass index (BMI), or a leaner, slimmer physique, than people who step out in the sun later in the day.

## Use measuring cups and spoons

It's easy to supersize portions that pack more calories than you need without even knowing it. Keep measuring cups and spoons where you typically dish out breakfast. Measure foods like cereal or milk before you place them in the bowl so you serve yourself the right amount.

## Practice mindfulness

Slow down and think about what you're eating. Appreciate the smell, look, and taste of even a simple

breakfast. Don't watch TV or scroll through social media when you eat in the morning: just breathe, relax, and enjoy a peaceful meal. This practice could help you eat less and lose weight.

## Use a juice glass

Most standard drinking glasses are far larger than a serving of juice. That makes it easy to consume more than you should. And many fruit juices have as much sugar in them as a can of soda. But they also have lots of vitamins and minerals that are great for you as you start your day. To pour a more sensible portion, use a small juice glass.

## Pack your lunch and snacks

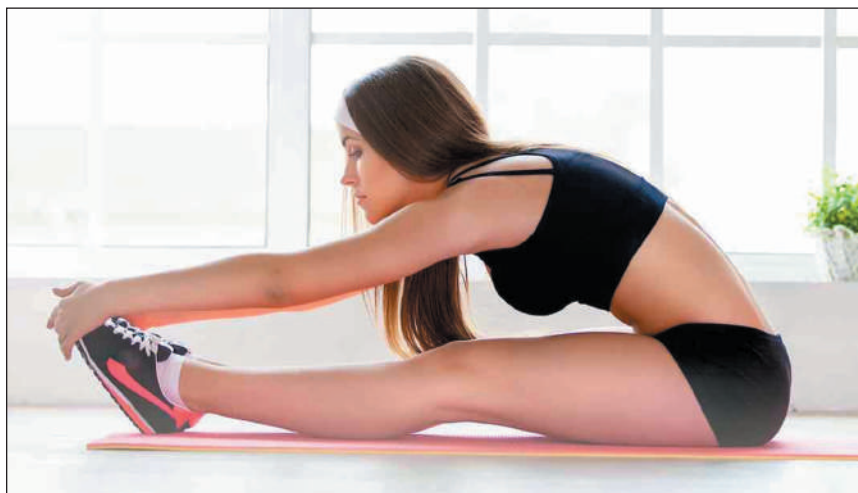
Before you leave the house for the day, grab a sack and pack a healthy lunch and low-calorie snacks like fresh fruit or low-fat cheese. You'll be prepared to eat a sensible meal when hunger strikes later on, so you don't reach for junk food. Choose fiber-rich foods like whole-grain crackers to keep you feeling fuller longer.

## Make a shopping list

Make a shopping list before you head to the supermarket or place your online grocery order. Stick to your list when you shop. You'll be more likely to buy items that fit your healthy meal plan and not grab junk food on impulse.

## Get enough shut-eye

Too little sleep each night can fuel your appetite all day long, which can lead to weight gain. You may also be more likely to skip your workout if you're pooped. Make sure you're catching enough ZZZs every night. Stick to a regular bedtime, and find ways to control your stress so you can relax and snooze until it's time to get up.



## Health, Diet & Lifestyle Tips

# This is why women gain weight after pregnancy

It has always been a topic of discussion with some inconclusive results that why women gain weight after pregnancy. As per a new study, a steady weight gain after pregnancy can be the result of one's lifestyle choices, which include eating your child's leftovers and spending more time in sedentary activities like reading or watching movies with kids, scientists say.

Olga Yakusheva, an associate professor at University of Michigan began investigating weight comparisons between women with and without children.

In a study of nearly 30,000 women who had given birth between one and four times, researchers found that most women never returned to their pre-pregnancy body weight after birth.



However, their weight at 1-2 years after giving birth was nearly identical to what they could have been expected to weigh had they remained childless.

It is not until the toddler years that a higher trajectory of weight gain became evident for mothers as compared to women who did not have children.

The typical age-related weight gain for women is 1.94 pounds a year. The researchers found women with toddlers gained almost a full additional pound annually.

The reason many mothers have higher rates of weight gain is due to lifestyle, said Yakusheva.

"Mothers tend to put the needs of their children first so they might not be exercising or taking care of themselves," she said.

"It might also be little things like finishing the food on their child's plate or spending more time sitting with their kids reading or watching a movie," she added.

"Many women really crank up their diet and exercise for a short time to get back to their pre-pregnancy weight, and often get discouraged by the results," Yakusheva said.

"But it is much better to take a holistic approach focused on a long-term healthy lifestyle before, during, and after pregnancy," she said.

Researchers encourage health care providers to counsel women about weight changes expected with age, and to make them aware of subtle ways parenthood could exacerbate the ageing-related weight gain trend over many years.



# Saif Ali Khan, Kangana Ranaut, Govinda - Bollywood celebrities involved in public brawls

**B**ollywood celebrities strive hard to maintain a glamorous public image but then there have been times when things go awry. A lot of Bollywood actors have often landed in trouble for heated arguments and unpleasant exchanges. From Saif Ali Khan upsetting an NRI at a restaurant to Kangana Ranaut's war of words with a journalist - here's taking a look, as reported by TOI, at public brawls involving B-Town:

## Govinda slapped a fan on the sets of 'Money Hai Toh Honey Hai'

Govinda came under the fire in 2008 when he slapped commoner Santosh Ray on the sets of 'Money Hai Toh Honey Hai' at Filmistan Studio. On his part, the actor had reportedly stated that Santosh was allegedly misbehaving on the sets. Ray had filed a case against the actor in the Bombay High Court but it was quashed in 2013 stating that Ray had filed a case a year after the incident, making it look like he was instigated to act against the actor. He then moved Supreme Court, post which Govinda offered Santosh Ray an unconditional apology for his inappropriate conduct.



## Kangana Ranaut's war of words with a journalist

Back in 2019, while promoting her movie 'Judgemental Hai Kya', Kangana Ranaut had a war of words with a journalist. While speaking to the media, Kangana reportedly accused a male reporter of bashing her directorial

debut 'Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi', following which the reporter denied the claims and they got into a heated argument. Kangana said, "You were bashing 'Manikarnika'. Have I done anything wrong by making a film on nationalism? You called me a jingoistic woman who is making a film on nationalism." However, the journalist maintained that he had not tweeted anything about the said movie and that she cannot intimidate a journalist because she is on a stage.

## Saif Ali Khan's public fight with an NRI at a restaurant

Saif Ali Khan had a rather public scuffle back in 2012 at a five star restaurant in Mumbai. The actor was dining with Kareena Kapoor, Malaika Arora, Amrita Rao and a few male friends when a brawl broke out. The actor maintained that the ruckus took place after NRI Iqbal Mir Sharma passed provocative statements and used abusive language for the women accompanying him. While according to the police, the NRI businessman stated that Saif punched him in the face after he protested against the chatter caused by the actor and his friends.

## BollyBytes

## Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone buy a luxurious bungalow in Alibaug



Alibaug to wrap up the pending paperwork of their newest property. Ranveer and Deepika have reportedly bought a plot in the coastal area and it houses two bungalows and a coconut and betel nut grove.

In Mumbai, Ranveer and Deepika reside in a plush 4BHK flat located in Mumbai's Prabhadevi locality. DP reportedly bought this property in 2010 and after her marriage with Ranveer Singh in 2018, the couple moved into her apartment together. All through lockdown, Deepika and Ranveer had dropped glimpses of their abode on Instagram.

On the work front, Ranveer and Deepika will be seen in '83, stepping into the shoes of former captain of the Indian cricket team Kapil Dev and his wife Romi Bhatia. Ranveer also has 'Cirkus', 'Jayeshbhai Jordaar' and 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani'. Deepika Padukone will be seen romancing Prabhas in his next venture, 'Pathan' with Shah Rukh Khan, 'Fighter' with Hrithik Roshan, Shakun Batra's next and 'The Intern' remake.

## Salman Khan's niece Alizeh Agnihotri stuns in ad

**A**lizeh Agnihotri, the niece of actor Salman Khan, featured in an ad for a jewellery brand. She is the daughter of his sister Alvira Khan and producer Atul Agnihotri. She is expected to make her Bollywood debut soon.

In the video, shared on Instagram by the jewellery brand, Alizeh flaunted her bracelet, hand thong, necklace and rings, as she struck numerous poses. She wore a green bralette with white pants.

Fans flocked to the comments section to shower Alizeh with compliments.

The caption of the Instagram



post was a statement from Alizeh about her relationship with jewellery. She revealed that she never got her ears pierced. "A lot of people find it strange, because wearing earrings comes so naturally to most people, but somehow I haven't had the desire," she said.

Alizeh talked about how there was a time when she wore no jewellery at all but now, she picks out her accessories before even choosing her outfit. "Jewellery to me is about finding new ways to express myself, and I've always leaned towards doing that with rings, necklaces, anklets and even body chains," she said.

## Radhika Madan, Sunny Kaushal's 'Shiddat' to release digitally on Oct 1

**T**he trailer of Radhika Madan and Sunny Kaushal's upcoming romantic film 'Shiddat'

released on Monday. The film will release digitally on October 1. The film also stars Mohit Raina and Diana Pentz.

The trailer shows the story of two strangers who meet. While Radhika's character is engaged to someone else, Sunny's character is head-over-heels in love with her." Mohit and Diana are seen getting



married in the trailer.

The film will be released digitally on October 1 on Disney+ Hotstar. The film is directed by Kunal Deshmukh and produced by Bhushan Kumar and Dinesh Vijan.



## TellyBytes

## 'Emotionally taxing to play the role of SherylIn in 'Kundali Bhagya': Ruhi Chaturvedi

**R**uhi plays the role which is dynamic and has layers of emotions, but thanks to her talent she makes it look effortless. In an exclusive conversation with Tellychakkar, Ruhi talks about her role in the show and her personal interests!

**You play SherylIn in the show. Does the constant planning and plotting affect you while performing your scene?**

It does, but playing a negative character in different variations is important, otherwise the audience will get bored. At times you have to be angry, and thereafter cunning so it does take a lot of effort and emotionally taxing.

**Does it happen that you end up carrying this baggage post pack up too?**

At times these things really affect me. I have yet to fully learn the trick of on and off. But once I go back home, my family makes me feel comfortable.



**Speaking about your personal life what are your personal interests and hobbies?**

I like baking, which I just learned, I like reading books which doesn't happen too often because the work schedule is really tough.

**If not an actor, which profession would you choose?**

I don't think anything else; since I was born I wanted to be an actor. Madhuri Dixit used to stay in my building so I followed her footsteps and while growing up I never thought about medical or engineering.

## How Bharti Singh lost 15 kgs

**B**harti Singh spoke about how she lost 15 kgs thanks to intermittent fasting. She said that her weight loss also helped with her asthma and diabetes.

Comedian Bharti Singh revealed in an interview that she has lost 15 kgs through follows intermittent fasting, and is surprised by how much weight she has lost. This has also helped with her pre-existing medical conditions, such as diabetes and asthma. Bharti Singh earlier weighed 91 kgs, and now weighs 76 kgs.

"Now I don't have problem breathing and feel lighter. My diabetes and asthma are also under control," she told a leading daily. "I don't eat



between 7 pm and 12 pm. I just attack food post 12 pm," Bharti continued, adding, "My body doesn't accept dinner any later than 7 pm."

She says she is 'very proud' of herself, and feels good when she sees herself on screen. Bharti is currently featured on *The Kapil Sharma Show* and *Dance Deewane 3*.

## Rubina Dilaik: 'Social media is a platform for you to explore, not to control you'

**R**ubina Dilaik's popularity has been rising each year. With her numerous fans supporting her personal and professional moves, the *Shakti* actor admits that her "heart is filled with gratitude for all their love."

Recently, Dilaik was number seven on Twitter's list of top 10 hashtags in the first half of 2021, reports Hindustan Times. She shares that after her *Bigg Boss* win earlier this year, she realised the impact of social media. She explains further, "If I said I am happy being talked about globally, then it would be an understatement.

But, for me, the takeaway from Twitter trends is all about the love of my fans. I strive that my work should speak for me and recognition for that work is what we all look for. To be acknowledged on a global platform for your work is unmatched. These trends prove how much people love me, talk about my work and the effort they put into showing it."

While the actor enjoys social media, she also states that it is just a tool between her and her fans and one doesn't need to go nuts about it. "I keep everything in life in a balanced state it also applies to my appearance on social media and its impact on my state of mind. Fitting into every trend, keeping a tab on what people say about you or replying to hateful comments is not important. Be who you are and know how to use social media. I am mindful of what I put out, what I want to represent on the platform and also what I want to absorb from it. I don't pay attention to the comments and trolling."

## YOUR STARS

### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

In your work, events will evolve roundly. Beware, there'll be aggressiveness around you and it will threaten your chances; you may show yourself too violent or arrogant, which could discourage good will.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 13, 15, 21, 24**

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

A week rich in new relationships and propitious to the progress of your affairs. Your various problems will get solved, but certain of your friends might disappoint you; try to tie new contacts, to enlarge your horizon.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 16, 30, 33, 38**

### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

In your couple, discussions may rapidly turn stormy. There'll be a need of much courage and perseverance in your work for reasons for discouragement will not be lacking.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 20**

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Very eventful but not necessarily bad love life; nevertheless, don't run after anyone you meet. You'll need the support of your close ones so as to face the difficulties in your work. Watch over your utterings and avoid useless clashes.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 4, 7, 20, 27**

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

There'll be for you love at first sight, an unexpected amorous encounter, a vigorous sentimental renewal, or extraordinary passionate fervour. Very lucky week for those who begin a career. Beware of sexually transmitted diseases.

**Lucky Numbers: 10, 15, 17, 19, 32, 34**

### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Learn to treat money exactly as it deserves, no more no less. Be circumspect in your social relationships in order to avoid a possible dispute. At work, you should make good progress; but remain very realistic.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 14, 18, 20, 30**

### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Couple life will be very much favoured; single people will make a promising encounter. You'll have no difficulty at all to understand your children, to win their confidence, and to give them useful counsels.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 11, 16, 30, 31**

### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

It would be necessary that you respect a sufficient time of sleep. Energetic and optimistic, you'll be decided to cope with your professional difficulties frontally and to make an effort at realism in order to solve concrete problems better.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 17**

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

A week marked with serious financial difficulties which you'll have to face without external help; remain cool-headed. At work, don't change course even though people try to influence you.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 17, 20, 30, 33**

### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You'll give much importance to your social and mundane life and you'll have easy relationships. You'll have ideas of genius but will have difficulty to carry them out right away. An exalting and decisive sentimental encounter might take place.

**Lucky Numbers: 14, 20, 23, 35, 39, 40**

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You'll make an amorous encounter this time and, if you're still unattached, you'll right away renounce your dear freedom! Your friends will manifest you their profound attachment. The career sector will be very much favoured.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 18, 20, 21, 33, 37**

### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Your love affairs will be flourishing. Success in your job; the professions which demand meticulousness and patience will be particularly favoured. You may have disorderly reflexes; do yoga.

**Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 12, 17, 30, 31**



## CINE 12

Vendredi 17 septembre - 21.15



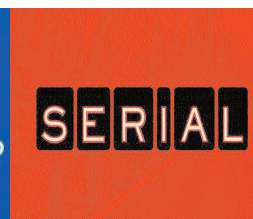
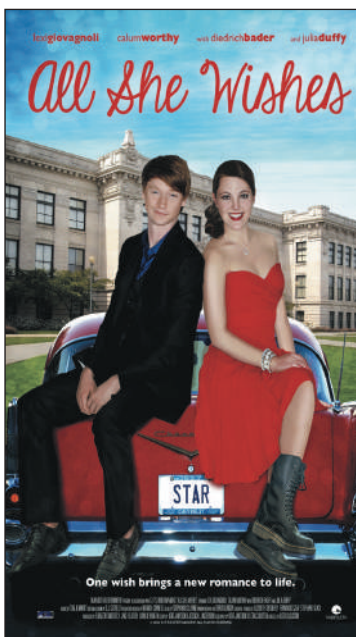
## MBC 1

Samedi 18 septembre - 21.20



## MBC 1

Dimanche 19 septembre - 21.10



## MBC 1

vendredi 17 septembre

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
09.00 Doc: The Neanderthals  
11.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir  
12.50 Local: Prod: Elle - No 32  
13.50 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A...  
14.40 D.Anime: Twirlywoos  
14.46 D.Anime: The Garfield Show  
15.00 D.Anime: Baby Boss  
15.23 D.Anime: Wishfart  
15.35 D.Anime: Dragons  
17.15 Serial: Dark Oracle  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local: Come On Let'??S  
21.05 Serial: 19-1  
23.35 Le Journal  
23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC

## MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
08.00 Educa Prog: Grade 3  
10.15 Educa Prog: Grade 4  
12.30 Film: Karuna Shiv Shankara  
15.05 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek  
15.23 Serial: Aamhi Doghi  
15.44 Serial: Bava Maradallu  
16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal  
16.28 Serial: Aatish  
16.48 Serial: Imtihaan  
17.05 Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.25 Serial: Chhanchhan  
18.00 Serial: Dr. Qin  
18.30 Local: Abhay Charan  
19.05 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.02 Serial: Aas  
20.46 Local: Anjuman  
21.09 Local: Urdu Programme  
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  
07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
09.00 Educa Prog: Grade 8  
10.42 Educa Prog: Grade 5  
14.03 Doc: 360 GEO  
15.37 Doc: Extreme Tourism - Volcanoes, War Zone  
16.20 Mag: Eco India  
16.49 Mag: Shift  
18.03 Doc: Starting Strong  
18.45 MFDC I Am Better  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.33 Mag: Euromaxx  
20.05 Doc: Volcano Stories  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.53 Sos Animaux En Darger  
21.45 Doc: Pavarotti, Pop Tenor

## Cine 12

03.09 Serial: Chicago Med  
03.58 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delive..  
05.28 Tele: Muneca Brava  
06.03 Serial: Unforgotten  
06.51 Film: Amazing Grace  
09.00 Serial: When Calls The Heart  
09.45 Tele: Teresa  
10.37 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.00 Serial: Chicago Med  
12.00 Film: Signed. Sealed, Delive..  
13.33 Tele: Muneca Brava  
14.45 Film: Amazing Grace  
16.42 Serial: When Calls The Heart  
17.18 Serial: Unforgotten  
18.05 Tele: Teresa  
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
19.35 Mag: Hollywood On Set  
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
20.30 Serial: Dynasty 2  
21.15 Film: Le Poids Des Mensonges  
22.46 Tele: Muneca Brava

## Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Alag - He Is Different, He Is Alone  
Starring: Akshay Kapoor, Dia Mirza  
12.08 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna  
12.31 / 20.11 - Chupke Chupke  
12.50 / 20.32 - Mere Sai  
13.12 / 21.09 - Agnipheara  
13.27 / 21.24 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
13.50 / 21.46 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
14.17 / 22.20 - Maharakshak  
14.57 / 22.55 - Sethji  
15.25 Film: Waqt Hamara Hai  
Starring Akshay Kumar, Sunil Shetty, Ayesha Jhulka  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.52 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
19.14 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
19.36 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak

samedi 18 septembre

06.00 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill  
06.22 D.Anime: The Hive  
07.00 D.Anime: Sissi  
07.25 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda  
07.45 Film: Valentina  
08.45 D.Anime: The Garfield Show  
09.07 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Défenseur  
09.35 Serial: Luccas Etc.  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.35 Tele: Teresa  
15.20 D.Anime: Petit Creux  
15.45 D.Anime: Wishfart  
16.40 D.Anime: Linkers  
17.17 Serial: Les Copains Carlins  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Entertainment: Dance  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.15 Local: Le Rendez Vous  
21.20 Film: Spinning Man  
Avec: Guy Pearce, Pierce Brosnan, Minnie Driver

07.00 Film: Gharonda  
09.11 Mag: Yoga With Ira Trivedi  
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
11.40 Serial: Bloody Romance  
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare  
12.24 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
12.42 Serial: High School  
13.11 Annakodiyum Aintu Pengalum  
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek  
15.25 Film: Aarakshan  
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Saif Ali Khan and Manoj Bajpai  
18.03 Mag: Koshish Se Kamyabai Tak  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha  
20.20 Serial: Bitti Business Wali  
21.01 Film: Ek Villain  
Stars: Sidharth Malhotra....

06.00 Doc: Starting Strong  
06.42 Mag: Arts And Culture  
06.55 Mag: Our Voices  
07.50 Doc: Volcano Stories  
09.08 Doc: Pavarotti, Pop Tenor  
10.00 Doc: Tsunamis  
10.46 Doc: Big Pharma  
12.11 Mag: Our Voices  
13.01 Doc: Sos Animaux Danger  
14.50 Mag: Japan Video Topics  
17.30 Doc: Amazing Gardens  
17.53 Doc: Rainforest Radio  
18.19 Doc: Zenith  
19.30 Doc: Beatbox  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 MFDC I Am Better  
20.51 Doc: Code(s) Polar  
21.39 Doc: Taste Hunters  
22.33 Doc: The Rock Road To Tokyo  
00.07 Doc: Zenith  
00.33 Mag: Magazine

02.56 Serial: The Night Shift  
03.37 Film: Hollows Grove  
04.57 Tele: Tanto Amor  
05.42 Serial: Dnynasty 2  
06.48 Film: Clarity  
08.30 Serial: The Enemy Within  
09.18 Serial: Brooklyn Nine Nine  
10.04 Serial: Falling Water  
10.43 Film: Le Poids Des Mensonges  
12.15 Serial: The Night Shift  
13.00 Serial: The Magicians  
15.05 Tele: Amanda  
15.58 Tele: Muneca Brava  
17.00 Serial: Dynasty 2  
17.45 Film: Jumanji (1995)  
19.35 Mag: Hollywood On Set  
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
20.30 Series: Dynasty 2  
21.15 Film: The Ottoman Lieutenant  
23.01 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir

04.05 Radha Krishna  
04.26 Chupke Chupke  
04.48 Mere Sai -- Shraddha Aur...  
05.11 Agnipheara  
05.34 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
06.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek  
06.16 Sethji  
06.38 Chhanchhan  
07.02 Kundali Bhagya  
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  
16.00 Pavitra Rishita  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Film: Hum Tumhare Hai Sanam  
Star: Salman Khan, Shahrukh Khan, Madhuri Dixit  
21.18 Serial: Namah

dimanche 19 septembre

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains  
06.27 D.Anime: The Hive  
06.42 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
07.00 D.Anime: Sissi  
09.35 Serial: Lucas Etc  
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil  
10.30 Serial: Backstage  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.40 Tele: Teresa  
14.10 Local: Elle  
15.05 D.Anime: Twirlywoos  
15.25 D.Anime: Petit Creux  
15.51 D.Anime: Dragons  
17.15 Serial: Les Copains Carlins  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local Prod: Gata Rahe Mere...  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.20 Local: Groov'in  
21.15 Film: All She Wishes  
Avec: Lexi Giovagnoli, Calum Worthy, Diedrich Bader

07.00 Film: Guddi  
10.00 Local Prod: MBC Prod  
11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai  
11.22 Serial: Santoshi Maa  
12.00 Film: Banjaran  
Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Sridevi, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, Gulshan Grover...  
14.26 Mag: Masters Of Cinema  
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek  
15.22 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
15.44 Serial: He Mann Baware  
16.12 Apoorva Raagangal  
17.05 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
18.00 Mag: Little Green Man  
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
20.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas..  
20.58 Serial: CID  
21.43 Serial: Naagin Season 2  
22.13 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki

06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens  
06.26 Doc: Rainforest Radio  
06.52 Doc: Zenith  
07.46 Doc: Beatbox  
08.41 Doc: Code(s) Polar  
10.23 Doc: The Rocky Road To...  
11.13 Doc: Amazing Gardens  
11.39 Mag: Rainforest Radio  
12.00 Doc: Zenith  
13.56 Doc: Code(s) Polar  
17.46 Mag: Magnifique  
18.14 Doc: Builders Of The Future  
18.59 Mag: Trend Book  
19.32 Doc: Comme Une Envie...  
19.38 The Real Dr. Strangelove  
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)  
20.45 MFDC I Am Better-Short  
22.07 Doc: Le Funeste Destin...  
23.02 Doc: Stolen Blood  
23.44 Mag: Magnifique  
00.14 Doc: Builders Of The Future

01.20 Film: The Ottoman Lieutenant  
03.48 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
03.38 Film: Spinning Man  
05.25 Tele: Tanto Amor  
06.10 Serial: Dynasty 2  
06.46 Film: For The Love Of George  
08.30 Serial: The Enemy Within  
09.12 Film: The Ottoman Lieutenant  
10.56 Film: Jumanji  
12.36 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
13.29 Serial: Chicago Med  
15.28 Tele: Amanda  
16.09 Tele: Muneca Brava  
17.01 Serial: Dynasty 2  
17.45 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
18.30 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man  
19.35 Mag: Hollywood On Set  
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
20.30 Serial: Pure Genius  
21.15 Film: November Criminals

00.35 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak  
02.21 Bhakharwadi  
04.10 Chupke Chupke  
05.56 Pavitra Rishita  
08.00 Motu Patlu  
08.11 Ikyawann  
10.00 Jaana Na Dil Se Door  
12.00 Piya Albela  
14.00 Agnipheara  
16.29 Punar Vivaah  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Film: Manikarnika  
Starring: Kangana Ranaut, Jishu Sengupta, Danny Denzongpa  
20.51 Entertainment: Dance  
21.36 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
23.31 Serial: Piya Albela

## MBC 2

Samedi 19 septembre

- 18.30

Stars: Sidharth Malhotra, Shraddha Kapoor, Ritesh Deshmukh



Dimanche 19 septembre

- 18.30

Stars: Kangana Ranaut, Jishu Sengupta, Danny Denzongpa





# Shadow states are the biggest threat to democracy in Africa: fresh reports detail how

*The extent of democracy capture varies markedly between countries. It's much higher in states such as Zimbabwe, where the government has never changed hands*

**T**he capture of democratic political systems by private power networks is arguably the greatest threat to civil liberties and inclusive development in Africa. That's the conclusion of two new reports that address the issue of threats to democracy on the continent.

The first report is published by Ghana's Centre for Democratic Development. It focuses on the capture and subversion of democratic institutions in Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Nigeria.

These case studies reveal that even in more democratic states such as Benin and Ghana, ruling parties can "hijack" democracy and appropriate its benefits. They do this by capturing the institutions of democracy itself. This includes electoral commissions, judiciaries, legislatures and even the media and civil society.

The net effect is to undermine transparency and accountability. This in turn facilitates the abuse of power, especially in more authoritarian contexts.

The second report was curated by Democracy in Africa and takes a slightly different approach. It looks at how unelected networks can infiltrate and subvert state structures.

In particular, it maps the emergence of shadow states in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These case studies show that networks of unelected businessmen, civil servants, political fixers and members of the presidents' families wield more power than legislators.

By mapping how these networks are organised across different groups and countries, the report reveals how influential and resilient certain groups have become. It also shows how many shadow states have been integrated into transnational financial and - in some cases - criminal networks.

This is not an "African" issue. Similar processes have been identified in a number of different countries and regions. These include Bangladesh, Brazil and the US. But this does not mean that the need to recognise and confront these issues is any less pressing.

States with higher levels of democracy capture are prone to becoming more authoritarian, corrupt and abusive.

## Democracy capture and the shadow state

According to politics professor Emmanuel Gyimah-Boadi, democracy capture occurs when 'a few individuals or sections of a supposedly democratic polity are able to systematically appropriate to themselves the institutions and processes as well as dividends of democratic gover-



nance'.

In other words, democracy capture expands the idea of "state capture" to include all political institutions and democratic activities including civil society and the media.

The term is widely used in South Africa to refer to the undue influence of special interest groups over state institutions.

Indeed, what is striking about this process is the well-structured networks that encompass a broad range of individuals from government to the security forces, traditional leaders, private businesses, state-owned enterprises, and their family members. According to a separate study by South African academics Ivor Chipkin and Mark Swilling, what distinguishes these actors is their privileged "access to the inner sanctum of power in order to make decisions".

One helpful way of conceptualising these networks is the idea of shadow states developed by the influential political scientist William Reno.

For Reno, a shadow state is effectively a system of governance in which a form of parallel government is established by a coalition of the president, militias, security agencies, local intermediaries and foreign companies. In extreme versions such as Sierra Leone real power no longer lies in official institutions of government such as the legislature.

This kind of shadow state is characterised by the existence of private armies and a severely limited, almost imaginary, formal state.

More recently, researchers have identified manifestations of the shadow state in countries that are not in the middle of civil

war and have stronger formal political systems. Good examples include Kenya and Zambia.

In these cases, the shadow state is more oriented towards hampering the activities of opposition parties and ensuring impunity for its members.

## Africa is not a country

The nine case studies featured in the two reports show that the extent of democracy capture varies significantly. It is lower in states like Ghana, where robust electoral contestation among rival parties has seen multiple transfers of power. It's much higher in states such as Zimbabwe, where the government has never changed hands.

The shape and resilience of unelected power networks also varies in important ways. In Uganda, the shadow state is run by an axis of President Yoweri Museveni's family, a "military aristocracy" and interlocutors in the business community.

In Benin, President Patrice Talon has exploited the weakness of the legal system, the judiciary and the legislature to expand his power. Through this process he has turned one of the continent's most vibrant democracies into a near political monopoly.

The picture is different again in the DRC. International military alliances were critical to the way that former presidents Laurent Kabila and Joseph Kabila took and held power. This led to a shadow state that has been more profoundly shaped by transnational smuggling networks and the activities of the security forces.

The situation in Zambia is also distinctive. Under former president Edgar Lungu, the security forces were less relevant than

the nexus between politicians, government officials and businessmen. This led to rampant corruption and mismanagement. But it did not prevent a transfer of power in 2021.

In contrast, in Zimbabwe the government has been progressively militarised, penetrating further areas of the state and the economy. This raises serious questions about whether President Emmerson Mnangagwa - or army leaders - holds real power.

It is, therefore, important to map the shadow state on a case-by-case basis because no two networks are the same. The differences between them reveals who really holds power.

## The consequences

Shadow states have a negative impact on democracy and accountability. But the damage they do goes well beyond this. It undermines inclusive development through three related processes:

- creating a culture of impunity, which facilitates corruption and diverts resources from productive investments
- manipulating government expenditure and other public resources and opportunities to sustain the patronage networks and ensure the shadow state's political survival
- creating monopolistic or oligopolistic conditions that increase prices and enable companies with links to the shadow state to make excessive profits.

The result is that resources and investment are systematically diverted into private hands.

In Uganda, Museveni issues tax waivers to business allies in return for election support. This denies the treasury hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.

In Zimbabwe, companies in league with the ruling party and the military have used these connections to establish near monopolies in key sectors of the economy that exploit the public. In one case, this led to severe fuel shortages that artificially inflated prices.

When added to the billions of dollars lost through straightforward corruption, theft and fraud, it is clear that these processes represent one of the most significant barriers to inclusive development in Africa. Unless these networks are challenged, they will continue to keep citizens in poverty while enriching those connected to the shadow state.

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