

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "A healthy democracy requires a decent society; it requires that we are honorable, generous, tolerant and respectful." -- Charles W. Pickering

Game changing Lessons from Covid-19

The world is in the throes of reinventing itself. Mauritius needs to be alive to these game changers and aptly adapt them to our own conditions and work ethos

By Mrinal Roy See Page 4



Vaccine Racism or India-phobia?

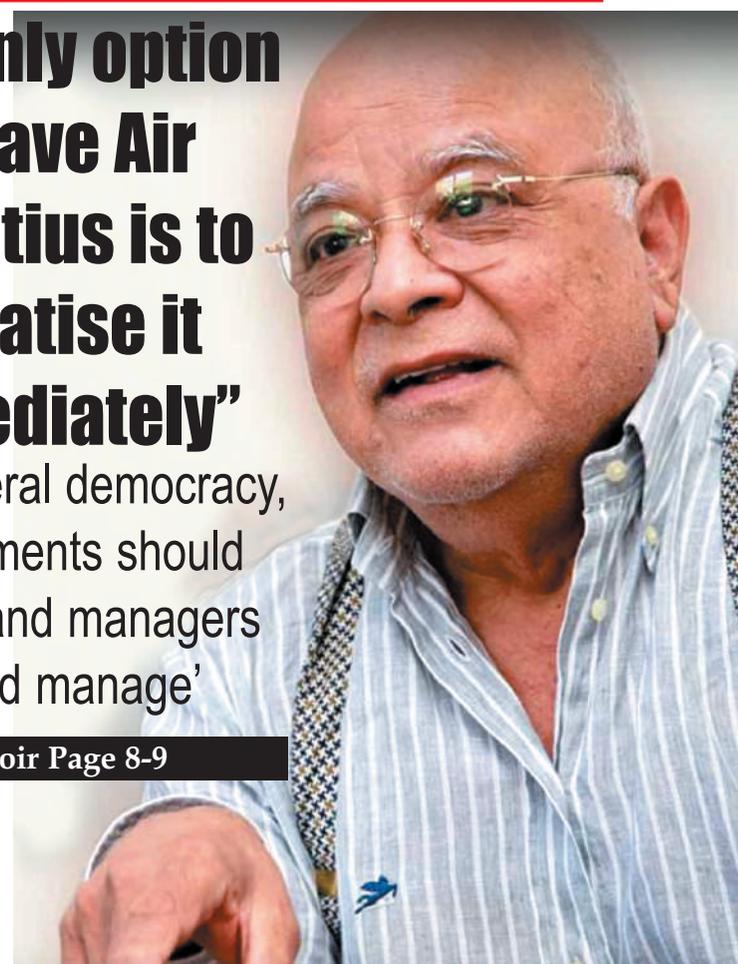
By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee See Page 3

Interview - Feroze Bundhun

"The only option to save Air Mauritius is to privatise it immediately"

* 'In a liberal democracy, governments should govern and managers should manage'

Voir Page 8-9



St Louis Gate, FATF & ICAC

Readers will recall that what is today known as the St Louis Gate scandal came to light following the issue of a public communiqué by the African Development Bank (ADB), dated 8 June 2020, that is 16 months back, wherein its Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption concluded that Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC) had financially rewarded members of the Mauritian administration and others, for providing access to confidential tender-related information and resulting in BWSC winning in 2015 the Rs 4.3 billion contract for the CEB's St Louis power plant re-development project.

This is a matter of shame for the country, especially coming as it did in the wake of the decision of the European Commission to place Mauritius on the list of countries with strategic anti-money laundering deficiencies. Readers will also recall the embarrassment endured by ICAC, which had started an investigation into this matter, following the ADB's refusal to pass on to it copy of its report on the St-Louis investigation, and redirected the ICAC to BWSC, which was also in possession of a copy of its investigation report. The ADB's position vis-à-vis the ICAC's request for information and its refusal must have surely been taken note of by the EU.

Given the seriousness of this case involving a powerful local energy parastatal body and an international funding agency like the ADB and its implications for the country both nationally and globally, the least that one could have expected was for ICAC to expedite its investigation into the matter. True, some officials, intermediaries and representatives of a PADCO, the company involved with the Danish firm BWSC, and whose employees would have allegedly bribed Mauritian officials, have been charged. True also that in light of the summary report which was made available to the Prime Minister by the ADB's Integrity Oversight Committee in relation to the CEB-BWSC tender dealings, wherein Ivan Collendavelloo and others have been named, the latter lost his job of Deputy Prime Minister. But many questions however remain unanswered as regards the CEB-BWSC tender.

Now former Energy minister and presently energy consultant Prof Kasenally has been

arrested by ICAC this week, with the former's name having been retrieved from a server and who would have allegedly made available confidential information relating to the CEB tender that would have helped Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor tailor its winning offer for the St Louis power plant re-development project against monetary reward. Prof Kasenally has, as to be expected, pleaded his innocence which he is expected to substantiate when the matter comes to court. But he also linked his arrest to the ongoing FATF's inquiry into the Mauritius jurisdiction's strategic anti-money laundering deficiencies, stating that he is just a "collateral damage" in an inquiry that is being accelerated through pressure to respond to the FATF onsite money-laundering audit conducted a fortnight ago.

All this does not bode well for the country's reputation at a global level, especially in light of the European Commission's decision to place Mauritius on the list of high risk jurisdictions. And also, at a time when funding agencies will be scrutinising our response to what appears to be a clear-cut case of corruption involving a "conspiracy" to thwart the public procurement process and in particular by resorting to a convenient emergency procurement umbrella. The long time that our investigative agency has taken to go to the bottom of this matter and the fact that no actual trial has even started after more than 16 months, does not speak well for the country's commitment to handle white collar crime independently of political proximity.

The sad truth is that unless international organisations of weight man the whip in the oversight of fraudulent, corrupt, money-laundering activities, it is far too convenient for government to be content with the desultory level of control which our regulatory and investigative institutions enjoy, basking, as it were, in the certainty that they will not be taken to task in our local setup. Whether the FATF/ESAAMLG audit has provided a stinging prod or a wake-up call we may never know, but what is certain is that further delays in the painful extraction from the notorious grey and black list of the IMF/FATF and the EU would be most unwelcome at a time when the country wants to project itself as a clean and safe destination for travel and business.

The Conversation

Angela Merkel

Gentle persuasion in an age of populism

How many other world leaders can claim to have become a verb?



Angela Merkel deliberates with US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of a G7 summit in 2018 (Pic: Jesco Denzel/Bundesregierung via Getty Images)

Angela Merkel has been such a distinctive presence in world politics during her time as German chancellor that it's almost impossible to imagine a world without her at the top table. But that world will soon become a reality. Germans go to the polls to choose her replacement this Sunday. In his assessment of her tenure, Merkel biographer Matt Qvortrup identifies the key characteristics that have turned her into a political legend, and even a verb. You might not find her very exciting, but that's precisely the point.

“Now she is all alone.” Former president Barack Obama slightly squinted and bit his lip in characteristic fashion as he spoke these words to his adviser. Obama had spent three hours alone with Angela Merkel in Hotel Adelon in Berlin. It was late November 2016. Donald Trump had just been elected the 45th President of the United States and his soon-to-be predecessor was worried as he prepared to leave office. Only one individual, thought Obama, could keep the liberal world order alive while America was taking leave of its geopolitical senses. And that person was the German chancellor.

But – and this worried the 44th president – Merkel had decided not to seek another term after the German federal elections in September 2017. Obama was in the German capital to make her change her mind. He succeeded. Merkel was persuaded that it was her duty to carry on the baton of liberal internationalism, free trade and democracy. At least for the next four years.

“I noticed a tear in her eye as we left,” Obama's speechwriter Ben Rhodes later noted when he recounted the rendezvous between the two leaders. At least, that is the story as told in a fly-on-the-wall account by the editor of the German newspaper Die Welt. In the next four years, it was Merkel who sought to salvage the Paris climate accord, and it was she who maintained the geopolitical pressure on Vladimir Putin when Trump did the opposite.

If anything is Merkel's legacy, it is her custodianship of the liberal world order. Angela Dorothea Merkel (née Kastler) is above all a pragmatic foreign politician.

Matt Qvortrup -- Coventry University

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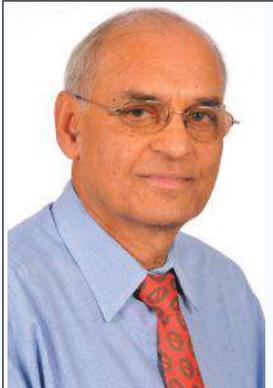
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Vaccine Racism or India-phobia?



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

As reported in the Indian media, 'Britain's decision to force visitors from India to quarantine for 10 days even if they have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19 has been blasted as "racist", "un-scientific" and "utterly bizarre".'

It is pointed out that 'Both countries have made widespread use of the AstraZeneca-Oxford jab – known in India as Covishield – for their vaccination drives, with Britain even taking delivery of about 5 million doses made under licence by the Serum Institute of India before the world's largest vaccine manufacturer halted exports amid a devastating second wave of the virus earlier this year.

'Yet unlike vaccinated travellers from other countries, vaccinated Indians travelling to the UK must now undergo a 10-day quarantine, complete with two rounds of compulsory testing, even if they have received the AstraZeneca-Oxford jab.'

One wonders if it is the money that Britain is after – since the Indian travellers will have to pay for both quarantine and the double-testing themselves, a hefty sum --, in which case that could have been stated in as many words. After all their policy as regards students allows for tweaking, as the mother of one Indian student said: 'When they wanted the fees that Indian students were going to pay universities, they conveniently relaxed the 10-day hotel quarantine rule because they wanted the money. Now they've gone back to treating us differently.'

Understandably, there has been an uproar in India against this biased decision by Britain, and the topic was discussed between India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly this week. Meanwhile, the Indian authorities have announced that they will consider reciprocal retaliatory measures if this issue is not resolved.

In a partial U-turn, the UK then reversed its stand and said it would recognize Covishield, which has received WHO approval, but maintained quarantine and self-testing on the flimsy grounds of what they called 'certification issues.' Subsequently, Britain's High Commission in India said that 'We are engaging with the government of India to explore how we could expand UK recognition of vaccine certification to people vaccinated by a relevant public health body in India.'



“One wonders if it is the money that Britain is after – since the Indian travellers will have to pay for both quarantine and the double-testing themselves, a hefty sum --, in which case that could have been stated in as many words. After all their policy as regards students allows for tweaking, as the mother of one Indian student said: 'When they wanted the fees that Indian were going to pay universities, they conveniently relaxed the 10-day hotel quarantine rule because they wanted the money'”

In fact, in an earlier presentation by WION, the anchor Palki Sharma Updadhya had shown visuals of India's vaccination certificate, which is a properly certified one, in sharp contrast to that of the US which is a 'mere scrap of paper' - but which is accepted by the UK. It may be noted that the US is shortly to allow entry of all double-jabbed travellers, and that Germany and France have had no issue with Indian travellers.

Why Britain persists in discriminating against India is something that it only can answer. Thinking aloud, one may justifiably ask whether it is aligning itself with the rag-tag gang of so-called academics who organized the recent 'Dismantling Global Hindutva' Conference a few weeks ago? Based at Rutgers University and led by a certain Audrey Truschke, known for her anti-India, anti-Modi and anti-Hindu rants, they claimed to have had the sponsorship of several prestigious universities in the US.

However, there was a massive backlash by the Hindu American Foundation and other bodies which contacted the named 'sponsor' universities, besides the viral video that was put up by Pt Satish Sharma of the UK aptly titled 'I am Hindutva,' in which featured prominent scholars and peace lovers like Jeffrey Armstrong, Sahana Singh, Vaishali Shah, Sinu Joseph, Subuhi Khan and others. The result was that several universities dissociated themselves from the organizers and the so-called conference was a total flop.

As Minhaz Merchant, a well-known commentator in the Indian media, wrote in the *Swarajya* magazine of Sept. 22, 2021, 'With PM Modi's first in-person bilateral meeting with the United States President Joe Biden in Washington this week, expect a surge in Modiphobia and Hinduphobia.

'I'm not a Hindu but never cease to be astonished at the venom certain Hindus spew at Hinduism.

'In a liberal democracy, self-criticism is an asset, not a liability. But Hinduphobia is not self-criticism. It is an extreme, anarchic form of hate. The online conference "Dismantling Global Hindutva" would have deserved little or no attention but for its attempt to mainstream anti-

Hinduism.'

Perhaps it is time for Britain to regain a bit of its lost glory of empire by reverting to some of its traditional values, which are also Hindu values, as underlined by one of its Members of Parliament, Bob Blackman in 2014, and that still resonate:

'When we talk about British values, some people think that is excluding others. Standing on your own two feet, loyalty to country, family, rule of law are great British values. 'These are also great Hindu values. Remember the Hindu contribution to the country. The power of our economy is driven by Hindu contribution. Hindus are the most law abiding citizens with 0.005% rate of imprisonment. The smallest sector of any identifiable group. They are more likely to be victims of crime rather than perpetrators. So actually, when you see young people learning the art of self-defence that is a big deterrent to being victims of crime and there is nothing wrong with

defending yourself from aggressors. So that is something to celebrate.

'We should also remember that belief of education is embedded in Hindu religion and that is great. Parents want their children to become doctors, engineers, scientists etc. Also remember, tomorrow we will commemorate 100 years to the start of World War One. Great contribution was made by India and now Commonwealth. So many soldiers sacrificed their life so that we can be free and their contributions are often forgotten and we should not allow that.'

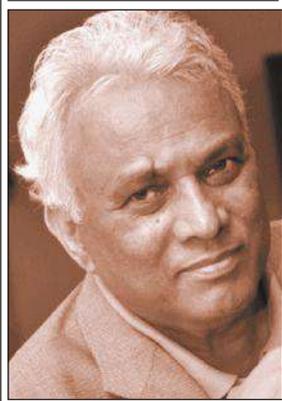
“Why Britain persists in discriminating against India is something that it only can answer. Thinking aloud, one may justifiably ask whether it is aligning itself with the rag-tag gang of so-called academics who organized the recent 'Dismantling Global Hindutva' Conference a few weeks ago? However, there was a massive backlash by the Hindu American Foundation and other bodies... The result was that several universities dissociated themselves from the organizers and the so-called conference was a total flop...”

Already then there was media bias, as he pointed out: 'We recognise media bias exists out there against the community in general. During Indian elections several accusations were made on Mr Modi, mainly false. He was banned from coming here by the previous government and the coalition government has now removed the ban. We expect him to visit us this autumn and hear his wise words about he turned around Gujarat and will now turn around India as well.'

Time for Britain to acknowledge the new world order that is emerging. All the more so in light of the ruling of the International Court of Justice in the matter of Diego Garcia. If anything, at the very least, this should show that the days of colonialism are long gone.

Game changing Lessons from Covid-19

The world is in the throes of reinventing itself. Mauritius needs to be alive to these game changers and aptly adapt them to our own conditions and work ethos



Mrinal Roy

Has the world learnt some of the crying lessons of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has exposed many of our failings and shortcomings.

The first cardinal lesson is that family matters. Covid-19 has brought to the fore the anguish and distress of not being able to visit parents living alone and having to struggle on their own in the midst of the pandemic. So many deaths and funerals had to be organized without close family members. So many children and grandchildren can only see their parents and grandparents in old people's homes through glass windows. This has changed mindsets and social behaviour. A survey found that 52% of the American population between ages 18 and 29 were living with their parents, a figure unmatched since the Great Depression. More and more people are moving older family members out of nursing homes and into a loved one's home. In too many instances, the rat race has distanced so many from kin. Covid-19 will hopefully reverse this deplorable let down.

Path breaking research

Covid-19 has also shown that the scientific community working together can carry out path breaking research to find a vaccine. In the past it took four to 20 years to create conventional vaccines. In the case of the new messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, it took a record-setting 11 months to develop an effective vaccine. This process may have changed forever the way drugs are developed. Vaccines may one day treat heart disease and other ailments. In the near future, mRNA technology could lead to better flu vaccines that could be updated quickly as flu viruses mutate every season.

We therefore need to have an open mind towards all important research developments which could add to the arsenal of measures to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, the hypothesis that natural immunity offers unreliable protection against Covid-19 is being rapidly debunked by science.

More than 15 studies have demonstrated the power of immunity acquired by those who have been infected by Covid-19. A recent study covering 700,000 persons in Israel found that those who had experienced prior infections were 27 times less likely to get a second symptomatic Covid infection than those who were vaccinated. A study carried out on health-care workers (who are often exposed to the virus) in a June Cleveland Clinic in the US



Pic - AP / COP26



Pic - Credit: Reuters

“Time is running out. The internationally agreed global warming maximum threshold of 1.5°C is perilously close. Will the forthcoming UN Climate Change summit (COP26) to be held on 31 Oct-12 Nov 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, trigger the last ditch actions and robust measures required by world leaders to stem greenhouse gas emissions to save planet Earth from an impending climate change disaster? The world must necessarily unite to do what it takes to urgently reverse the dire impact of climate change on planet Earth...”

also showed that none of the healthcare workers who had previously tested positive were reinfected. The study authors concluded that “individuals who have had SARS-CoV-2 infection are unlikely to benefit from Covid-19 vaccination.” In May, a Washington University study found that even a mild infection resulted in long-lasting immunity. If these findings are validated by peer review it could free millions of doses of Covid-19 vaccines for use by the multitude denied access to vaccines because of limited and ring fenced supplies.

Game changers

Covid-19 has also taught people to take better care of their health through a better nutrition, adequate sleep, regular exercise and physical activity to maintain a healthy weight. Studies on adults in their 40s to 60s who do not keep fit or exercise and have risk factors such as obesity show that they have a higher risk of having severe Covid.

Covid-19 has also taught people to master and use the immense potential and game changing benefits of digital technology on their lives. The tech boom has opened wide-ranging possibilities. Popular food delivery apps more than doubled their earnings last year. Weddings and memorial services were held via videoconferences. It is expected that even when we resume with live weddings, cameras and live feeds will continue to include remote people who cannot attend. In the financial sector, PayPal reported that its fastest-growing user group were people over 50.

A new model

Covid-19 has also compelled corporates and government services to adapt and re-invent the way they operate. Working-from-home has caused a plethora of jobs not to be location specific. People forced to work from home from the start of the pandemic have realized that they can be just as productive as they were at the office, thanks to videoconferencing, high-speed internet and other technologies. Many companies have already announced plans to shift towards a more work-from-home model of operation on a permanent basis. The spin off from this development is that corporates are downsizing their offices and, if sensible, relocating them, resulting in savings. As a quid pro quo, those working

from home are provided with the required tech facilities, equipment and support to set up an efficient and congenial work office environment at home.

As a result of these profound changes, our cities will also be transformed. Crowding, packed public buses and subways represent a health risk. Crowded office towers are no longer on. The office and business district will look different. Instead, they are being replaced by a spacious office in a home located in a congenial environment providing a high quality of life. The city habitat will have to be redesigned accordingly. The standard 9 to 5 work setup and routine is therefore undergoing profound changes.

New impetus

The world is in the throes of reinventing itself. Mauritius therefore needs to be alive to these game changers and aptly adapt them to our own conditions and work ethos with the object of providing a much needed impetus to the development thrust and economic prospects of the country.

Together we can

The world is at an important crossroads. Humanity is facing two major existential threats: climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic. These crises have exposed so many systemic failings of our model of socio-economic development.

The crying warnings and repeated calls by the world's top climate scientists for immediate action to drastically cut down greenhouse gases in order to keep global warming within a maximum of 1.5°C to prevent a climate change catastrophe have been to no avail. The main polluting countries hell-bent on pursuing their corporate interests are yet to wake up to the urgency of significantly reducing their carbon emissions by the extent required to safeguard our homeland, planet Earth.

Scientific evidence has also demonstrated that many climate related changes such as the acidification of the ocean, global sea level rise, melting ice and glacier retreat due to unchecked greenhouse gas emissions are already irreversible and will last for centuries to millennia.

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Global voter turnout has been in decline since the 1960s

Across the world, people have become less likely to take part in elections in recent decades

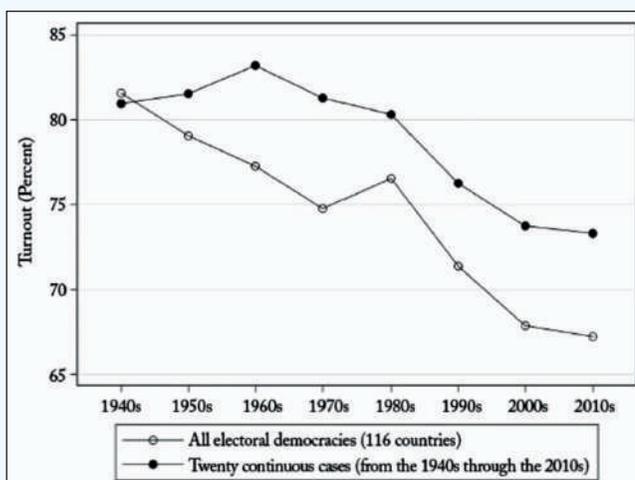
Filip Kostelka, University of Essex
André Blais, Université de Montréal

Any democratic nation in the world holding a legislative or presidential election in the late 1960s could expect around 77% of its citizens to turn up to vote. These days, they can expect more like 67% – a decline that is both problematic and puzzling.

Research shows that low turnout is bad for democracy. It usually means that socioeconomically underprivileged citizens vote less and, as a result, public policies benefit the rich. Politicians feel less under public scrutiny and turn a deaf ear to the needs of the wider public. Instead of formulating general public policies serving society at large, governments can more easily target benefits to their core supporters.

And the decline has occurred against a backdrop that might be more likely to imply an increase in election participation. Educational attainment has increased since the 1960s, for example, and election results have become closer – which would be thought to mobilise electorates.

Evolution of voter turnout in national elections 1945-2017



The figure draws on the first rounds of legislative (lower house) and presidential elections. Voter turnout is measured as a percentage of registered voters. Twenty continuous cases are countries that held democratic elections continuously from the 1940s through the 2010s. Author provided (no reuse)

Scholars and pundits have offered several hypotheses for the decline. Some think that political dissatisfaction has increased and keeps people away. Others cite economic globalisation, suggesting that if national governments hold less power, the stakes of their national elections are lower and people won't see the point in taking part. We tested all of these hypotheses in the most extensive cross-national study of voter turnout to

date, drawing on 1,421 national elections, and 314,071 individual observations from high-quality post-electoral surveys.

Generational shift

Our statistical analysis did not find support for many of the popular explanations. Instead, we identified two main causes. The first is a generational change resulting



The high levels of participation in the 2020 US election remind us that people turn out when they feel a lot is at stake. Pic - EPA

from economic development. People born into more affluent societies develop values that are less conducive to participation. Once countries reach a certain level of economic wealth, new generations become less deferential to authorities and less likely to conceptualise voting as a civic duty. They go to the polls less often than their older counterparts, who were socialised in earlier stages of economic development. The mechanical process of generational replacement, whereby new generations' share in the electorate grows as older generations pass away, accounts for 56% of the voter decline.

The other main cause, responsible for 21% of the decline, is the rise in the number of elective institutions. When elections are more frequent, voter fatigue sets in and people's interest in taking part slides. In Europe, the number of elective institutions increased by 34% since the 1960s. This was driven by European integration, state decentralisation, the frequent use of direct democracy, and institutional reforms such as the introduction of directly elected presidents. If voters are asked to vote nearly twice a year, like in France, some of them will get fed up and not bother.

Further to fall?

The generational nature of the problem suggests that turnout may continue to drop. But this isn't inevitable. While new generations vote on average less than older generations, they do mobilise in particularly polarised contexts where a lot seems at stake. For example, the most recent presidential election in the United States in November 2020, in which the controversial incumbent

Donald Trump sought re-election, yielded the highest voter turnout in the US for 120 years.

The rising salience of cultural and environmental issues, which new generations care deeply about, could likewise offset some of the generational declines in turnout.

Public authorities can also help by reducing the number of times citizens are called to the voting booth. This can be achieved without reducing citizens' rights by reorganising election calendars and combining different election types on the same day.

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.

We hope you'll continue to support the paper by taking a subscription or by making a recurring donation through a Standing Order to our not-for-profit Foundation. Our future will be secure with the support of our readers and well-wishers.

The Editorial Team

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Africa: Covid-19 - Big Pharma fuelling unprecedented human rights crisis

Six companies at the helm of the global Covid-19 vaccine roll-out are fuelling an unprecedented human rights crisis because of their refusal to waive intellectual property rights and share vaccine technology, with most of the companies failing to prioritise vaccine deliveries to poorer countries, Amnesty International said Wednesday in a major new report.

In the 64-page report, 'A Double Dose of Inequality: Pharma companies and the Covid-19 vaccines crisis', Amnesty investigated six of the companies that hold the fate of billions of people in their hands: AstraZeneca plc, BioNTech SE, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Novavax and Pfizer. The findings paint a dismal picture of an industry that is woefully failing to respect human rights.

Out of 5.76 billion doses administered worldwide, a minuscule 0.3% have gone to low-income countries, with almost 80% being delivered to upper-middle and high-income countries. Despite calls to prioritise and collaborate with COVAX, the international initiative attempting to ensure a fair global vaccine allocation, some of the companies have instead continued to top up vaccine supplies for wealthy countries already known to be hoarding vaccines, reports Amnesty International.

Polly Truscott, Foreign Affairs Adviser at Amnesty International, said: "Amnesty's report makes it abundantly clear that rich countries and big pharma are shamefully failing poorer nations. We urge the UK's new Vaccines Minister, Maggie Throup, to scale up support to the billions of people around the world who have not yet received a single dose, and ensure pharma companies put people before profit by



Amnesty slams pharmas over 'unprecedented human rights crisis' of vaccine inequality. Pic - Irish Examiner

sharing vaccine technology.

"The UK positioning itself as a 'force for good' in the world will never be credible if its approach to vaccine sharing continues. By the end of this month the UK will be sitting on 26 million surplus doses it does not need, increasing to over 70 million by the end of the year, as deliveries pile up that could be used to save lives elsewhere.

Amnesty reviewed each of the big pharma companies' human rights policy, vaccine pricing structure, their records on intellectual property, knowledge and technology sharing, the allocation of available vaccine doses, and their overall transparency - finding that, to differing degrees, all six of the vaccine developers had failed to meet their human rights responsibilities.

To date, the companies in Amnesty's

report have refused to take part in international initiatives designed to boost global supply by sharing knowledge and technology. They have also opposed proposals to temporarily lift intellectual property rights, such as the World Trade Organisation Trade Related Intellectual Property Rules (TRIPS) Waiver proposed by India and South Africa.

Further findings include:

Pfizer and BioNTech have so far delivered nine times more vaccines to Sweden than to all low-income countries combined. High prices mean the companies are set to earn more than \$86 billion in revenue by the end of next year.

Moderna has not yet delivered a single vaccine dose to a low-income country, has provided just 12% of its vaccines to lower-

to-middle-income countries, and will not deliver the vast majority of its promised supplies to COVAX until 2022. Higher prices mean the company is set to earn more than \$47bn in revenue by the end of 2022.

Johnson & Johnson has developed the world's only single-dose vaccine and sells at cost price, yet it will not deliver the vast majority of its commitments to COVAX and the African Union until 2022. It has also refused to grant a licence to a Canadian manufacturer offering to manufacture millions more doses.

AstraZeneca has delivered the most vaccines to lower-income countries, sells at cost price, and has issued some voluntary licences to other manufacturers. However, it has refused to openly share its knowledge and technology with WHO initiatives and has opposed the TRIPS Waiver.

Novavax has yet to be approved for use, but currently plans to provide almost two-thirds of its production to supply COVAX. However, like other companies, it has refused to share its knowledge and technology and has opposed the TRIPS Waiver.

Amnesty wrote to each company before publication. Five companies - AstraZeneca, Moderna, Pfizer, BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson - responded. The companies acknowledge that fair and equitable distribution - particularly in low-income countries - is essential, but all the companies have failed to meet these aspirations and fulfil their human rights responsibilities.

Joe Biden calls on rich countries to escalate Covid-19 vaccine donations

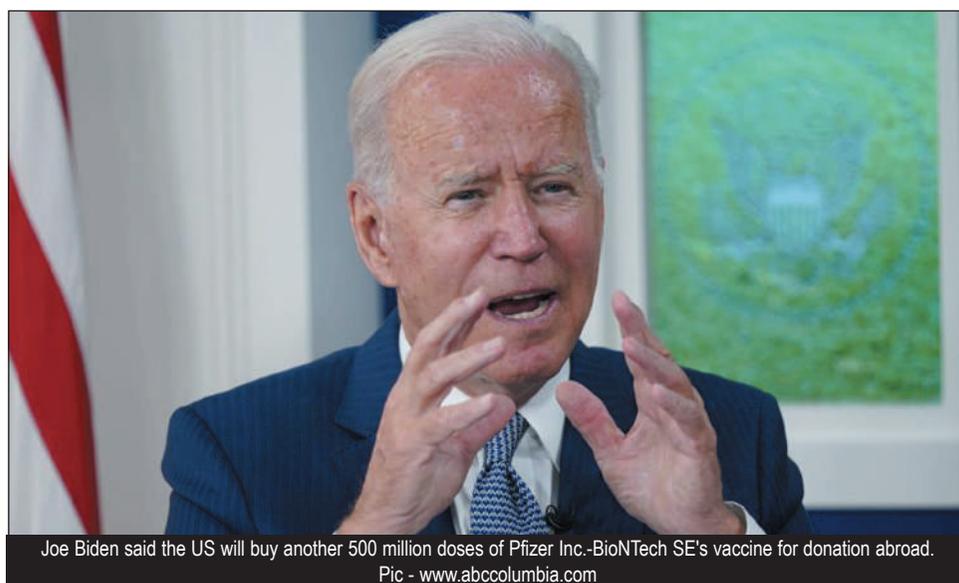
President Joe Biden called on other countries to help vastly expand production and availability of coronavirus vaccines and treatments in order to end the Covid-19 pandemic.

Biden hosted a virtual vaccine summit on Wednesday, coinciding with the United Nations leaders' meetings in a bid to marshal more aid to developing nations where inoculations, treatments and supplies remain scarce.

The summit highlighted how difficult it will be to attain Biden's goals. He called for 70% of the world to be vaccinated by this time next year but a report by an anti-poverty group says the world isn't on pace to hit that target. Biden also called for pledges of a billion more doses, and promised 500 million more doses from the US, reports Bloomberg.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan announced during the summit that his country would provide about 60 million doses "in total," according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Biden cast the summit as a starting



Joe Biden said the US will buy another 500 million doses of Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech SE's vaccine for donation abroad. Pic - www.abccolumbia.com

point, saying leaders would gather again in several months, and advocates have said the US push should be lauded. But the summit's test will be whether the global response, and donations, will rise after months of vaccine nationalism that has steered doses overwhelmingly to rich

nations.

Biden said the US will buy another 500 million doses of Pfizer Inc.-BioNTech SE's vaccine for donation abroad, pushing the total US donation pledge above 1.1 billion doses. The doses will be produced in the US and be shipped through Covax, the

global vaccine sharing system, to low-income and lower-middle-income countries, beginning in January and running through next September.

Biden also announced \$370 million in US funding to help with vaccine administration abroad.

An analysis released Wednesday by the ONE Campaign, an antipoverty advocacy group, shows that the world will fall about 1.2 billion people short of Biden's 70% goal by next September. Biden's 500-million-dose announcement will make a dent but not bridge the gap.

The new US commitment is on top of a 500-million-dose donation announced in June at the Group of Seven summit in the UK. Distribution of those vaccines began last month. Combined with 130 million doses shipped out so far that had initially been bought for domestic use, the US donation total is now at least 1.13 billion doses, more than double the total delivered domestically.

*Contd on page 7

Canada elections: Jagmeet Singh's NDP wins 25 seats, well short of expectations



The New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh gestures alongside wife Gurkiran Kaur Sidhu after addressing the media in Vancouver, British Columbia on September 20, 2021 following the Canada elections that Justin Trudeau's Liberals won. Pic - www.hilltimes.com

The NDP will, however, return to its status of putting pressure on PM Justin Trudeau of the Liberal Party to deliver on issues that the NDP pursues as the fourth largest party in the 338-seat House of Commons.

Days before the Canada elections, Justin Trudeau and his main rival Erin O'Toole of the Conservative Party had both urged voters across the country to avoid backing smaller parties, reports Hindustan Times.

Justin Trudeau and his Liberals won the election, but yet again settled for a minority government.

Jagmeet Singh addressed a post-election press conference in Vancouver on Tuesday and said the NDP was "proud" of its electoral performance. "Despite our number, we were the most successful opposition party in the last parliament, and this parliament looks pretty much the same," he said.

However, the NDP was still unable to even become the third-largest party in the House of Commons.

Just like it had done in 2019, the Bloc Quebecois won more seats this time as well, getting 34. That gives Justin Trudeau options in terms of turning to another party for support to pass key legislation.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's clarification to voters to avoid opting for smaller parties in the 2021 Canada elections - in what is called split-voting - seems to have dealt Jagmeet Singh's New Democratic Party (NDP) a blow. Tipped to win about 40 seats in the September 20 snap polls, the NDP settled for 25 - going up marginally from the 24 it had won in 2019.

Jagmeet Singh and his NDP clearly failed to live up to their expectations in the just concluded Canada elections despite recording 17.7% of the vote share.

Pakistan allows PM Modi's flight to use its airspace

As Indian PM Narendra Modi flew to Washington where he will address the UN General Assembly and attend the Quad Summit, Pakistan gave its nod to use its airspace, a top government source told news agency ANI. This comes as a departure from the previous occasions when Pakistan denied the permission of President Ram Nath Kovind and PM Modi at least thrice following India's abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

According to government sources quoted by ANI, India had sought permission from Pakistan regarding the usage of Pakistan's airspace for Prime Minister Modi's flight to the US, for which a nod was given by Islamabad. This comes after India permitted Pakistan PM Imran Khan's flight to use India's airspace when he was travelling to Sri Lanka.

When did this airspace 'ban' come into force? In 2019, Pakistan had issued a statement refusing to allow PM Modi's flight "in view of the situation in (Jammu and) Kashmir".

"We have decided not to give permission to the Indian prime minister and we



PM Modi gesturing from a plane as he leaves for the US for a five-day visit. Pic - i2.wp.com

have conveyed this decision to the Indian High Commission," Pakistan foreign ministry had said in a statement in 2019.

After that, India registered a protest against Pakistan with International Civil Aviation Organisation on the denial.

PM Modi's plane also decided to avoid Afghanistan airspace as the country had closed its airspace for any commercial use.

In a statement just before leaving for the US, Modi said he will conclude his visit with an address at the United Nations General Assembly focusing on the pressing global challenges including the Covid-19 pandemic, the need to combat terrorism, climate change and other important issues.

India set to get third set of Swiss bank account details this month

In a likely boost for the Indian government's efforts towards tracking and curbing the use of black money stashed abroad, India will get the third set of Swiss bank account details of Indian nations this month, reports Economic Times.

The details will be received under the information pact signed by the Indian government with the Swiss counterparts some years back.

The development also gains much significance because of the fact that this would be the first time that the details being shared will also include the data about real estate properties owned by

Indians in Switzerland, reports Swarajya.

These would include complete information about the flats, apartments or condominiums owned by Indians in Switzerland, and also the earnings made from such properties. This would help the Indian authorities to look into tax liabilities associated with such gains.

The developments come at a time when Switzerland has been taking steps to reposition itself as a key global financial centre and to change the long-persisting perception that the country's banking system has been a safe haven for hoarders of black income.

Delta globally dominant variant, replacing other variants of concern: WHO



Coronavirus safety posters are displayed in the window of the Sondheim Theatre on June 14, 2021 in London, England. Pic - Getty Images

The delta variant of Covid-19 is the globally dominant variant circulating around the world, out-competing the alpha, beta and gamma variants, Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on Covid-19 told reporters on Wednesday. The delta variant has also become more fit and transmissible over time and is now actively replacing all other Covid-variants in circulation, Van Kerkhove added.

"Less than one percent each of Alpha, Beta and Gamma are currently circulating. It's really predominantly delta around the world," the health body official said on Wednesday.

"Delta has become more fit, it is more transmissible and it is out-competing, it is replacing the other viruses that are circu-

lating," Kerkhove said during a social media interaction.

The delta variant has been detected in 185 countries till date. The WHO has downgraded alpha, beta, gamma along with three other variants - eta, iota and kappa - to "variants under monitoring", indicating that they "no longer pose a major added risk to global public health" as they are being outcompeted by delta.

"This is really due to changes in circulation and that the variants of interest are just out-competed by the variants of concern. They're just not taking hold," Van Kerkhove added.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

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Feroze Bundhun

“The only option to save Air Mauritius is to privatise it immediately”

- ‘In a liberal democracy, governments should govern and managers should manage’



The future of Air Mauritius will be decided at the Watershed Meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, 28th Sept. Following the release of the report of the Voluntary Administrators Sattar H. Abdoula and A. Gokhool, we have sought the views of Feroze Bundhun on what would be the best option to ensure a future for our national airline.

F. Bundhun was a former Executive of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, the world's largest financial institution, where he was responsible for overseeing an international real estate portfolio of US\$4.0bn. He subsequently moved to CBRE, the world's largest property consultants where for a period of twenty years he advised on some of the large investments in the hotel sector in Istanbul, London and Europe generally. He has travelled extensively around the world and has experience of the airline industry. He shares his insights on the local context below.

to believe that this was not the case. The Administrators' appointment seems to me to have been a political one like most other executive appointments at Air Mauritius since its inception more than 50 years ago. The level of abuse in the management of the Company is too long to list here, suffice it to say that governments of all colours have treated the company as a cash cow and for the benefit of their own

the only fate of a bankrupt company is to close it down or to sell it off to the highest bidder if there is one.

But this will not happen because Air Mauritius is a useful platform for the placements of incompetent political supporters of the government of the day rather than to be put in the hands of skilled, qualified and professional managers. It reinforces the power of some in authority who continue to enjoy the privileges of their positions which itself is a form of corruption. Why is the airline in such a predicament today if not because of past mis-management?

*** Air Mauritius has had a streak of poor performance over many years, with a peak coming on with the 'hedging' saga. Though it's true that the aviation industry has been at times in a bad shape, as an activist shareholder, what exactly would you attribute the sustained declining performance of the national airline to?**

Throughout its existence Air Mauritius has been a blithering basket case due to its mismanagement by incompetent political appointees. Those who have benefited most from the company are political parties and their agents rather than the travelling public or its shareholders.

One exception, however, was Nash Mallam-Hassam, appointed twenty five years ago as CEO, who put an end to all sorts of abuses such as free travel by many people by virtue of their social status alone, the 10% commission paid to Rogers & Co on all tickets by the airline rather than those sold by the travel agent alone. Moreover, Air Mauritius in those early days often bailed out the overseas travel and accommodation costs of well-known public figures and the list goes on and on.

I have personal experience of staff attitudes towards senior managers being favoured over passengers. I have seen staff and their families occupying first class seats when full-fare paying passengers are downgraded to a lower class of travel. When the Chairman of Virgin Airlines, Sir Richard Branson, travels on business he does not expect to be looked after and be treated like a king: he would don his overall and serve his fellow passengers instead!

Mauritius Times: Voluntary Administrators Messrs Abdoula and Gokhool have submitted their report, under the Insolvency Act 2009, 16 months after they were appointed, on the progress of their administration. The focus of comments on social media since the report has become public has been on the Administrators' remuneration (954, 867 euros, or Rs 48.5 million), and legal and other professional fees (2,218,765 euros, or Rs 112.7 million). Questions have been asked about 'whether the compensation is reasonable based on the customary compensation charged by comparably skilled practitioners in similar cases in the industry'. As a shareholder of the company, what's your take on that?

Feroze Bundhun: The level of compensation paid to the Administrators, if correctly reported, is plainly excessive and out of kilter with normal market practice. No self-respecting administration would appoint Administrators without first agreeing their fees based on rates obtained from a competitive bid in the open market.

Were bids obtained in the first place? There is reason

“The current pandemic does not allow an objective analysis of the situation in the hotel sector, but it would be appropriate to ask why the government is bailing out the hotel sector with public money when they had plenty of time to create their own reserves during the golden days of tourism in the country. Again, a plain case of poor management...”

“Airlines that trade profitably albeit still majority government-owned are those that are managed independently by experienced professionals. Singapore Airlines again comes to mind! I am afraid that the merger of the three companies into one structure to be known eventually as Airport Holdings Ltd will precipitate the collapse of the entire edifice in no time. One bad apple in the basket can ruin the whole basket!...”

political parties rather than for the benefit of the shareholders of the Company.

There is evidence to suggest that the politicians in power have since decades been interfering directly with the running of the Company on matters such as who should be upgraded to a class of travel they have not paid for, on appointments to executive positions of people who have not the slightest clue about business in general never mind the airline business, not to mention the visits paid to headquarters of the Company by ministers to collect funds at election time.

*** Even if these comments and questions that the Voluntary Administration raises, wouldn't we be missing the forest for the trees with the focus on the Administrators' remuneration? The larger issue is about saving the national airline, and the Administrators would have hopefully roped in the competent consultants for their inputs given the complexity of the task, isn't it?**

The national airline is obviously a bankrupt enterprise:

• Cont. on page 9

'MK is obviously a bankrupt enterprise: the only fate of a bankrupt company is to close it down or to sell it off to the highest bidder if there is one'

• Cont. from page 8

The quality of service you provide is paramount to the success of an operation. Air Mauritius does not have the reputation of providing the best service in the airline industry. During a five-hour flight to Cape Town for instance, there is no food available to passengers in Business Class other than the poor breakfast they are served with indifference on departure.

“The only option to save Air Mauritius is to privatise it immediately and end government interference in its management. The market will decide what valuation to put on it based on the value of its assets: goodwill, infrastructure and future trading prospects depending on the quality of its eventual management team. In the past many airlines in the world have been privatised to save them from bankruptcies: British Airways is a good example; Turkish Airlines is another...”

Given that their position is secure whilst their political masters remain in place, the Company's managers are too narcissistic, preening themselves in front of the mirror with a strong sense of entitlement. It should rather invent a motto similar to BA for instance: "To Fly To Serve". Serving is the last thing in their mind!

* **The Administrators' report to the company's creditors came out ahead of the 'Watershed Meeting' scheduled for next Tuesday 28th September, which will vote of the three different options - corporate restructuring, end of voluntary administration or company liquidation. What is surprising is that ahead of that meeting, Government has also brought together Airports of Mauritius, Airports Terminal Operations Ltd and Mauritius Duty Free Paradise - all three-profit making -, as well as the loss-making Air Mauritius under the umbrella of a superstructure - Airport Holdings Ltd. How do you react to that?**

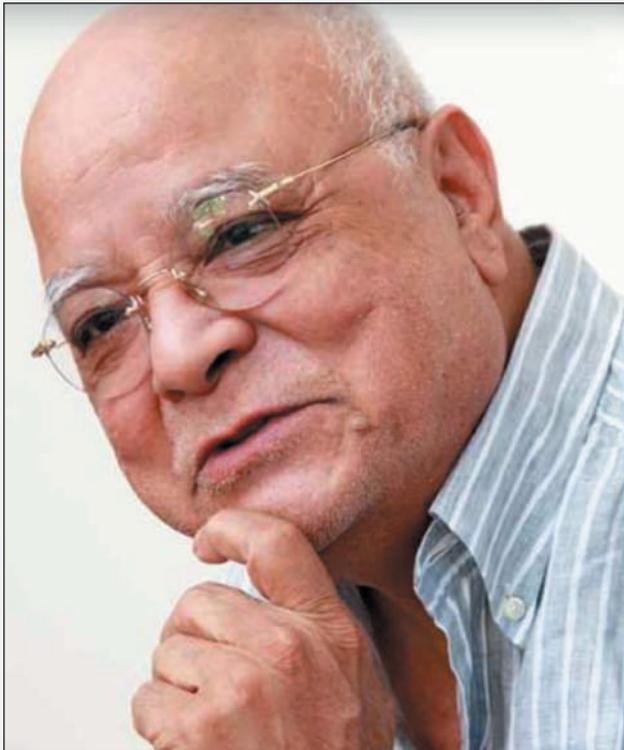
The only option to save Air Mauritius is to privatise it immediately and end government interference in its management. The market will decide what valuation to put on it based on the value of its assets: goodwill, infrastructure and future trading prospects depending on the quality of its eventual management team.

In the past many airlines in the world have been privatised to save them from bankruptcies: British Airways is a good example; Turkish Airlines is another; in the latter case a strategic investor was identified in the first place and given a free hand to manage the company along profitable lines. It is now trading successfully.

Most state-owned airlines lose money: Gulf Air and Air India are good examples of these. Singapore Airlines and the TATA Group of India have recently launched Vistara to compete with Air India, and it will not take a long time before the new company eliminates the competition.

Airlines that trade profitably albeit still majority government-owned are those that are managed independently by experienced professionals. Singapore Airlines again comes to mind!

I am afraid that the merger of the three companies into



“How has such a small country like Singapore been transformed by one man from the third to the first world in one generation? Today the size of its economy is similar to those of most Middle Eastern economies: Temasek Holdings alone has become the world's foremost financial investor. There is complete absence of corruption and Ministers are appointed on merit alone not through favouritism...”

one structure to be known eventually as Airport Holdings Ltd will precipitate the collapse of the entire edifice in no time. One bad apple in the basket can ruin the whole basket! Management consultants would agree that it is better to safeguard what is profitable and dispose of the rest.

* **It's said that government ownership of certain businesses can open the door to corruption and fraud instead of ensuring that citizens have access to important commodities and services at affordable prices. We seem unable to avoid this scenario time and again. Why is that so?**

In a liberal democracy, governments should govern and managers should manage. It is a fact of life that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely; the adage is truer in small economies in limited geography where favouritism jostles with ethnicity rushing for the gates.

In the case of Mauritius, government is busy protecting its own agents, the "colleurs d'affiches" and other supporters, thus encouraging corruption at all levels.

Is there one politician in the country who can, with his hand on his heart, admit to not benefiting from corruption when the opportunity arose? Only privatisation can root out corruption practices that are too ingrained in our country.

Do qualifications, experience and skills mean anything to the government of our country?

* **Why haven't we risen to the level of Singapore and its Temasek Holdings, the investment company owned by the Government of Singapore, often cited as an example to follow, when it comes to state-owned enterprises? Here state-owned banks and casinos lose money...**

Singapore Airlines (SIA) is probably the best run state-owned airline in the world because it is precisely managed independently and professionally. It has earned its reputation through the quality of the service it provides both on the ground and in the air, in comfort and security and with punctuality. All these are reflected in the performance of its shares in the stock markets.

SIA was at the forefront of many innovations in the industry: treating its customers with dignity and respect, its staff all undergo thorough training and if any passenger has the smallest complaint about any aspect of service, staff is automatically stopped from flying for one month to enable them to undergo further training. SIA listens to its customers' feedback and implements what the customer wants. Can we imagine or envisage such a regime in Air Mauritius?

How has such a small country like Singapore been transformed by one man from the third to the first world in one generation? Today the size of its economy is similar to those of most Middle Eastern economies: Temasek Holdings alone has become the world's foremost financial investor. There is complete absence of corruption and Ministers are appointed on merit alone not through favouritism. Ministers are compensated like CEOs of large multinational companies - a situation that precludes corruption practices. What you need is a vision for the country, not necessarily an iron fist.

* **To be fair, it's not only state-owned companies that lose billions, there are also the banks and private companies that have incurred massive losses. You had raised pertinent questions at the annual general meetings of different hotel groups about the issue of corporate governance and non-payment of dividends in the past. Have things improved with the way these corporate bodies are being governed?**

“The quality of service you provide is paramount to the success of an operation. Air Mauritius does not have the reputation of providing the best service in the airline industry. During a five-hour flight to Cape Town for instance, there is no food available to passengers in Business Class other than the poor breakfast they are served with indifference on departure...”

The current pandemic does not allow an objective analysis of the situation in the hotel sector, but it would be appropriate to ask why the government is bailing out the hotel sector with public money when they had plenty of time to create their own reserves during the golden days of tourism in the country. Again, a plain case of poor management.

When the CEO of an hotel company earned 1500 times more than the lowest paid staff member in its heyday, then there is something fundamentally wrong in the ways the company is managed.

Laughter is the best medecine

Pets for Sale

A man was going through the daily newspaper and suddenly decided that he wanted a dog...

He was going through the 'Pets for Sale' section of the newspaper when he came across a cute brown puppy that he decided he was going to buy.

So, he called the advertiser and asked regarding the dog:

Man: "So I wanted to know if the brown puppy put up for sale is still available?"

Advertiser: "Yes of course! The puppy still has not found a good enough owner for her. Would you be interested in buying her, sir?"

Man: "Yes actually I would like to. But before that I wanted to know if the puppy is faithful to her owner?"

Advertiser: "Yes! She is so faithful in fact, when the last person bought her from me, in not even a few days she came back to me!"

Man: Cuts call.

* * *

A Jewish grandmother

A Jewish grandmother is at the beach with her 10 years old Jewish grandson. She's chilling while he's playing in the water.

Suddenly, a huge wave comes and takes the kid away with it. The grandmother is obviously in tears and starts speaking to God.

"It's been more than 70 years since I started worshipping you God. I've raised 3 generations, my siblings, children and grandchildren according to Jewish religion and traditions. I prayed daily, only ate kosher food, did the Sabbath and everything else required by You for my whole life. How can you let this happen? How can you let my grandson die at such a young age?"

A few seconds later, a huge godly wave with the kid on top comes in and the grandson lands safely on the sand...

The grandmother can't believe her eyes: "Thank you Lord, thank you, thank you, thank you..."

As she looks towards the sky: "I, I don't want to push my luck, but he had a brand-new baseball cap."



COMMUNIQUÉ

GOVERNMENT WAGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME (GWAS) AND SELF-EMPLOYED ASSISTANCE SCHEME (SEAS)

Extension for the Month of September 2021

Following the decision of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius to extend the **Government Wage Assistance Scheme (GWAS)** and the **Self-Employed Assistance Scheme (SEAS)** for the month of **September 2021**, the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) informs employers and self-employed individuals of the following measures for the payment of the financial assistance:

A. Tourism Sector

Financial assistance under **GWAS** and **SEAS** will continue to be provided to employers and self-employed individuals in the tourism sector in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues for the **full month**.

B. Sectors other than the Tourism Sector

Financial assistance for a full month will be provided under **GWAS** and **SEAS** to those carrying out the following activities who were not allowed to operate during the month of September 2021:

1. Professional Sports;
2. Horse racing bookmakers (outlets), casinos and gaming houses;
3. Theatres and cinema halls;
4. Nightclubs licensed by the Tourism Authority.

C. Operators who were allowed to operate as from July 2021 subject to sanitary conditions

1. Fitness centres;
2. Leisure parks, amusement centres, including aquariums;
3. Multi-purpose halls, including wedding halls;
4. Bars whose turnover for the accounting year ended in the year 2020 did not exceed Rs 50 million;
5. Religious body;
6. Canteen of a private international school (excluding public and private grant-aided secondary school) whose turnover for the accounting year ended in the year 2020 did not exceed Rs 50 million;
7. Training institutions registered under the Mauritius Qualifications Authority Act;
8. Auctioneers appointed under the Sales by Auction Act;
9. Restaurants, fast food, café, caterers and other prepared food selling businesses whose annual turnover do not exceed Rs 50 million;
10. Fee charging crèches, pre-primary schools, primary schools, secondary schools and registered universities;
11. Self-employed individuals who are –
 - (i) Stallholders in markets that remained closed;
 - (ii) Haberdashers operating in a market;
 - (iii) Hawkers not allowed to operate;
 - (iv) Artists.

Applications for GWAS and SEAS for the month of September 2021

GWAS: Employers who are eligible for GWAS are required to submit a fresh application through the MRA website www.mra.mu.

SEAS: Eligible self-employed are not required to submit fresh applications.

For further details, kindly visit the MRA website: www.mra.mu or phone the MRA Helpdesk on **2076000** during working hours or send an email at headoffice@mra.mu.

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Game changing Lessons from Covid-19

● Cont. from page 4

Time is running out. The internationally agreed global warming maximum threshold of 1.5°C is perilously close. Will the forthcoming UN Climate Change summit (COP26) to be held on 31 Oct-12 Nov 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, trigger the last ditch actions and robust measures required by world leaders to stem greenhouse gas emissions to save planet Earth from an impending climate change disaster? The world must necessarily unite to do what it takes to urgently reverse the dire impact of climate change on planet Earth to protect and prevent future generations from facing extremely severe climate related consequences. The world is already experiencing a series of devastating extreme weather events this year.

New divide

At a time when there is an urgent need for unity and solidarity among nations to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic, the wealthy countries have hastened to secure their vaccine requirements to vaccinate and protect their population. They are now busy assuring a booster third dose of vaccine when 98% of Africa's population is yet to be vaccinated and many African countries are facing a devastating third wave of Covid-19 infection. This begs the question of what is envisaged next. A divided world where developed countries lay claim on an

“The world can overcome and win the daunting battles against climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic only if we are united and act as one with a single minded resolve. Not to do so is akin to shooting ourselves in the foot. Together we certainly can...”

annual booster dose in a context where only 2% of the population in low-income countries have received at least one dose of vaccine.

The world must realize that this situation is untenable. Are we now creating a new divide in the world between those countries and people who are Covid vaccinated and those that are not? Do we seriously think that such double standards are sustainable? Travel bans are already creating friction and provoking sabre rattling about retaliatory measures. Such a divide will hobble socio-economic recovery.

Does this also mean that the world is now trapped in an endless and costly cycle of annual Covid-19 vaccination? Is this a

viable way forward? This dependence on annual booster vaccination for continued protection also limits supplies of vaccines available for use by poor countries. In a pandemic, every country and its people must have access to evolving information on Covid-19 research and an equitable access to vaccines. A pandemic which has brought the world on its knees cannot be an opportunity for profiteering by vaccine producers. They must be altruistic partners providing every support to people and countries across the world to overcome the pandemic.

Widening inequality, war and political strife are increasing the pressure of migrants on the frontiers of the European Union, the United States and other developed countries. Does the world now want the migrant pressure to explode because of Covid-19 insecurity owing to the multitude of countries which do not have adequate and affordable access to vaccines to protect their population?

The upshot is that the world can overcome and win the daunting battles against climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic only if we are united and act as one with a single minded resolve. Not to do so is akin to shooting ourselves in the foot. Together we certainly can.

Mrinal Roy



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Programme des Courses 23^e journée samedi 25 septembre 2021

1 THE HARRY OF MONMOUTH PLATE
1450 m - Valeur [0-20] - 12h30

1 Grey Again	RG	4/5-2-5-8	61.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	3	400
2 Celestial Magma	PM	0-0-0-7-10	61(-4)	I.Taka	4	4000
3 Double Winner	P	7-9-R/8-8	61	O.Sola	8	5000
4 Siberian Husky	CR	4/5-8-4-2	61	P.K.Horil	1	330
5 Le Quartier	CD	0-0-7-8-9	60.5	R.Joorawon	5	3000
6 Captain Falcon	G	5-1-2-3-1	59.5	Y.Emamdee	7	370
7 Gordonstoun	SN	1/5-3-5-7	59.5	D.Bheekary	2	370
8 Northern Rebel	JMH	6/3-8-1-8	55	B.Sooful	6	1100

4 THE DEEPA DABY MEMORIAL TROPHY
1500 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 - 14h15

1 Jet Stream	AS	7-7/1-10-6	60	S.Rama	7	7000
2 Silver Heritage	RM	1/4-1-3-3	60	P.C.Orffer	3	450
3 Lickerio	AS	6/7-10-8-5	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	6	3000
4 Numberninetynine	G	0-0-0-8-10	59	S.Bussunt	2	6000
5 Syds Liason	RG	3-3-4-8-5	59	J.Allyhosain	8	1600
6 Bestday Of Mylife	CD	2-3/2-6-3	58.5	R.Joorawon	4	550
7 Cash Call	SH	3-5/8-5-4	58.5	I.Santana	5	330
8 Camp David	GR	3/2-1-5-1	58	B.Sooful	1	310

7 THE MOUNTAIN PASS PLATE
1600 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 16h00

1 Power Tower	RG	3/1-6-7-2	61	R.Joorawon	3	750
2 Star of Zeus	PM	6/3-5-4-3	61	B.Sooful	7	1100
3 Eight Cities	VA	7-8-2-5-4	60.5	B.Fayd'herbe	5	600
4 Ruby Spirit	AS	4/4-2-1-5	60.5	S.Rama	8	4000
5 Chosen Way	G	0-0-7-1-1	60	Y.Emamdee	4	300
6 Crazy Charlie	GR	4-3-9-3-2	60	N.Teeha	1	400
7 Imperial Rage	SJ	7-6-3-5-5	60	J.Allyhosain	2	700
8 Tyrandeus	SN	1-7/3-7-5	56	D.Bheekary	6	8000

2 THE WYN COURT PLATE
1850 m - Valeur [0-25] - 13h05

1 Captain Scabiosa	SH	0-0-0-8-9	60	I.Santana	5	750
2 Citadel	G	0-0-0-3-7	60	Y.Emamdee	1	400
3 High Key	SN	3-5-6-2-8	59.5	D.Bheekary	4	400
4 Man From Seattle	RG	6-5-6-5-6	59.5	R.Joorawon	6	600
5 Potawatomi	SN	3-9-6-7-7	59.5	R.K.Chumun	2	1400
6 The Time Is Now	SPN	0-0-6-6-7	59.5	R.Vaibhav	3	5000
7 Eagles Vision	SPN	R-6-3-2-1	59(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	7	400
8 Dreamforest	CD	1-2-5-4-6	58.5	J.Allyhosain	8	1000

5 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH 11 CORONATION CUP
1365 m - Valeur Benchmark 46 - 14h50

1 Secrets of Maya	VA	nouveau	61	S.Bussunt	5	2000
2 Mac 'N Scar	SH	3-8/3-1-3	60	I.Santana	2	190
3 Sockeroo	G	0-7-R-3-7	59.5	Y.Emamdee	1	750
4 Nevil Mu	GR	0-0-0-0-10	59	N.Teeha	4	1400
5 Soul Connection	SPN	0-0-6-7-5	59	O.Sola	6	1400
6 Swagger Jagger	PM	2-7-1-4-5	59	K.Ramsamy	8	650
7 Waimea	JMH	0-0-7-7-7	55.5	B.Sooful	3	4500
8 El Patron	SN	3-N-1/4-2	54	S.Rama	7	820

8 THE ASTRONOMY PLATE
1450 m - Valeur [0-26] - 16h35

1 Digital Fortress	SPN	0-0-0-0-8	60	R.Vaibhav	3	5000
2 Lite of My Life	RG	0-0-0-0-3	60	R.Joorawon	7	450
3 Pin Drop	SPN	0-0-0-4-3	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	4	500
4 Skip The Red	RM	8/4-5-6-2	60	P.C.Orffer	2	200
5 Smuts	AS	0-0-0-0-7	60	S.Rama	6	2000
6 Master of Disguise	VA	0-0-8-6-10	58.5	J.Allyhosain	8	1400
7 Street Byte	CD	3-1/5-6-6	57.5	K.Kalychurun	5	1600
8 Volatile Energy	SN	5-5-1/9-7	57.5	D.Bheekary	1	800

3 THE ESPANITA PLATE
1450 m - Valeur Benchmark 36 - 13h40

1 Lighthearted	P	7-8/8-5-4	61.5	K.Ramsamy	1	4000
2 Captains Fort	SPN	0-0-0-0-3	61	R.Vaibhav	3	1000
3 Drageda	AS	0-0-0-5-10/	61	S.Rama	9	9995
4 Nao Faz Mal	RG	3-5-5-1-5	60.5	R.Joorawon	5	1000
5 Gunston	SH	4/7-9-5-5	60	I.Santana	6	520
6 Senor Don	P	0-0-0-0-4	60	K.Kalychurun	10	1000
7 Copenhagen	VA	2-6-1-3-6	59.5	B.Fayd'herbe	7	1100
8 Memphis Mafia	RM	1/1-2-4-6	59.5	P.C.Orffer	2	320
9 Promissory	VA	7-4-4-5-7	59.5	J.Allyhosain	4	900
10 Candle Cove	SN	0-0-0-6-4	59	D.Bheekary	8	900

6 THE JACQUES VALLET CUP
1400 m - Valeur Benchmark 56 - 15h25

1 Huyssteen	RG	4-1/1-3-5	61	R.Joorawon	8	4000
2 We Light The Fire	CR	0-0-0-7-4	61	D de Gouveia	4	5000
3 Prince of Persia	G	1/3-2-4-2	60.5	Y.Emamdee	2	750
4 Creation	SPN	0-0-9-7-5	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	9	4000
5 Ottoman Empire	GR	nouveau	60	B.Sooful	5	2000
6 Footy Goal	RM	0-0-3-2-3	59.5	P.C.Orffer	6	600
7 King of Tara	VA	8-5-1-1-1	59	B.Fayd'herbe	1	600
8 Colour My Fate	AS	0-0-2-2-1	58.5	S.Rama	10	1800
9 Var's Elusion	SJ	0-1-1-1-1	57	J.Allyhosain	7	650
10 Walls of Dubrovnik	SH	0-0-1-1-1	54.5	I.Santana	3	280
11 Culture Trip [EA]	SN	0-1-1-7-7	57	-----	11	-----

- ### Selections
- Captain Falcon, Gordonstoun, Siberian Husky
 - Eagles Vision, Citadel, High Key
 - Copenhagen, Memphis Mafia, Nao Faz Mal
 - Camp David, Silver Heritage, Cash Call
 - Mac 'N Scar, El Patron, Swagger Jagger
 - Walls of Dubrovnik, King of Tara, Prince of Persia
 - Chosen Way, Crazy Charlie, Eight Cities
 - Skip The Red, Pin Drop, Lite of My Life

Angela Merkel: Gentle persuasion in an age of populism

• Cont. from page 2

Whereas her immediate predecessors – her mentor, the Christian democrat Helmut Kohl (1982-98) and the social democrat Gerhard Schröder (1998-2005) are primarily remembered for domestic policies, Merkel was a foreign-policy politician. Kohl presided over German unification and Schröder reformed the welfare state. Merkel's legacy, now that she really is standing down, has been international.

Evidence, deliberation, experts

Merkel used state intervention on a massive scale to rescue the world economy after the 2008 financial crash. She embraced anti-austerity policies to save the euro. She was always pragmatic. As she told me in 2008: "I want as much market economics as possible, with as much state intervention as necessary." When reminded that this was reminiscent of socialist politics from the 1960s, she just smiled and shrugged, "Yes, and, so what, if it works."

That things just must work – or *funktionieren* (in German) – is her mantra in most things. If any politician was wedded to the idea of evidence-based policymaking, it is her. As a scientist with a doctorate in quantum physics, she is unique in a country where most politicians are lawyers or economists.

When she had to choose a cabinet minister for the Kanzleramt – her executive office – she opted for Helge Braun, a medical doctor. This was because she knew he would focus on facts. It turned out to be an inspired choice. Braun had a special interest in infectious diseases, and his work, alongside a well-functioning public health system, meant that Germany was ahead of many



Merkel and Obama pictured at the 2015 G7 summit in Germany. Pic - Alamy

other countries when Covid-19 hit the world in early 2020.

Because of her preference for facts and evidence, Merkel has been called the "master of procrastination" – *Die Zauderkünstlerin*. Whereas as most other world leaders are "men of action" who go off like proverbial firecrackers when crises emerge, Merkel preferred to do her homework, and then, at the last minute, make a decision based on facts. The Germans even invented a word for it, *Merkeln* – "to merkel" – means to mull over a decision before action is taken.

We didn't need another hero

People often search for exceptional individuals. It is a popular view that history is shaped by exceptional men and women. Certainly, there is a place for this "great man theory of history" as it was called in the gendered language of the Victorian age. If we are tempted by this

trope, we should note that but for Merkel, the fate of the world economy, the euro, and the over one million refugees that were allowed into Germany during the height of the migrant crisis would have been very different. And yet, she was not a successful politician because she was uniquely wise or prescient. She got results because she was willing to collaborate and find common ground.

At a time when so many strong men are seeking dictatorial powers around the world, it provides food for thought that the most successful democratic politician of the past few decades – and perhaps even the modern era – is a woman who believed in consensus. Merkel shows that politics should be focused on solving problems rather than on winning the arguments.

"Who do you ring when you want to call Europe?" asked Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State. The answer for the past 16 years has been Angela Merkel. She will be missed. There are no politicians who can fill her shoes. But her successor – whoever he or she turns out to be – will still be the person to call. Germany, due to its size, speaks for Europe. That Obama wanted Merkel to stay on during what he foresaw would be a chaotic period under Trump was not only due to her formidable skills – it was also a sign that Germany is the European power.

The brute fact is that international politics is determined by institutions and established rules more than it is governed by individuals. Merkel's legacy is not so much what she did but how she defended this rule-based international order.

Matt Qvortrup - Coventry University

Programme des Courses

1 THE ST JOHNS WOOD PLATE 1850 m - Valeur [0-15] - 12h30

1 Starsky	CD	8-8-4-9-4	61.5	R.Joorawon	4
2 Midnight Oracle	SPN	7-7-5-3-7	60.5	R.Vaibhav	5
3 Lady's Knight	RM	4/9-8-6-8	60	P.C.Orffer	9
4 Glitterrock	AS	8-8/6-2-7	59.5	S.Rama	8
5 Desert Thief	RG	3/3-4-5-3	59	J.Allyhosain	3
6 King's Story	JMH	9/7-5-9-R	59(-3)	A.Roy	2
7 Biometric	VA	9-5-5/6-3	57.5	B.Sooful	7
8 Bypass	SPN	10-3-8/2-2	57.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	6
9 Blunderbuss	CR	1-9/10-5-5	57	D de Gouveia	1

2 THE TALES OF BRAVERY PLATE 990 m - Valeur Benchmark 36 - 13h05

1 Benev	SPN	0-0-0-9-7	61	R.Vaibhav	2
2 Dark Force	RM	1-1/8-3-8	61	P.C.Orffer	4
3 Short Cut	CD	0-0-0-0-8	61	R.Joorawon	8
4 Savvy	SJ	6-7/9-6-7	60.5(-3)	A.Roy	5
5 High Voltage	AS	6-9-6-10-9	59	S.Rama	6
6 Marula	JMH	3/3-1-1-3	59	B.Sooful	1
7 Remus	SH	0-0-0-0-1	55.5	I.Santana	3
8 Trojan Quest	JMH	4-1/5-5-4	54.5	K.Ramsamy	7

3 THE UBUSUKU PLATE 1850 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 - 13h40

1 Roll of Drums	CD	7-7-6-5/9	60	S.Rama	3
2 Snowy Mountain	P	0-9-4-5-5	60	J.Allyhosain	6
3 Drop Kick	VA	8/2-9-4-11	59(-3)	A.Roy	9
4 Moschino	VA	6-7-3-2-4	59	B.Fayd'herbe	5
5 Protea Paradise	RG	10/5-5-8-8	59	R.Joorawon	8
6 Taking Silk	GR	0-0-3-2-7	59	B.Sooful	4
7 All Aboard	GR	1-3-3-5/3	58.5	N.Teeha	2
8 Borya	G	6/6-1-1-4	58.5	Y.Emamdee	1
9 Six Degrees	SN	0-0-4-1-2	57(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	7

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4 THE ONE FOR THE ROAD PLATE 1500 m - Valeur Benchmark 46 - 14h15

1 Kaydens Pride	RM	1-1-1-2-2	61	P.C.Orffer	1
2 Prince of Venice	PM	0-5-5-R-7	61(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	3
3 Bold Horizon	AS	0-0-0-9-6	60.5	S.Rama	9
4 Charleston Hero	VA	6-R-5-3-10	60.5	B.Fayd'herbe	2
5 Gimmetherain	SJ	5-5/4-5-2	60.5	J.Allyhosain	5
6 Ovation Award	GR	4-3/6-3-7	60.5	N.Teeha	7
7 Inauguration	CR	7/4-2-3-3	59	D de Gouveia	8
8 Steak And Ale	GR	5-4-6/2-7	59	B.Sooful	4
9 Clouded Hill	JMH	9/8-7-5-6	57	K.Ramsamy	6

5 THE AMEDEE POUPARD CUP 1365 m - Valeur Benchmark 61 - 14h50

1 Kamadeva	RG	2/1-2-2-9	60	R.Joorawon	2
2 Dutch Alley	CD	0-0-0-0-7	59.5	N.Teeha	4
3 Brilliant Disguise	CR	0-0-4-8-10	57.5	D de Gouveia	5
4 Etched In Blue	JMH	3-1-5-6-5	57.5	B.Sooful	7
5 Al Bragga	G	0-0-0-0-3	57	Y.Emamdee	3
6 Emerald Band	VA	4-3-4-1-2	56(-3)	A.Roy	6
7 Quatro Five Six	PM	0-0-4-4-9	55	K.Ramsamy	1

6 THE WESTMINSTER RACING SYNDICATE PRINCESS MARGARET CUP 1400 m - Valeur P.d'Age - G.1 - 15h25

1 Frosted Gold	RM	0-0-0-4-7	58	P.C.Orffer	6
2 Rule The Night	GR	3-5-2/C-5	58	K.Ramsamy	5
3 Baritone	CR	1-2-3/3-2	58	D de Gouveia	3
4 Alramz	RM	0-9-1-4-7	58	J.Allyhosain	7
5 Winter Chill	VA	0-0-0-0-10	58	B.Fayd'herbe	4
6 Ehsaan	G	4-6/1-3-7	58	Y.Emamdee	2
7 Trippi's Express	RG	3/2-2-5-3	58	P.K.Horil	1

7 THE ENAAD PLATE 1450 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 16h00

1 Romanus	G	5-3-5/3-4	61	Y.Emamdee	8
2 Bonjour Baby	CR	1-5/9/8-9	60	P.K.Horil	2
3 Free To Win	SH	0-0-4-4-1	60	I.Santana	6
4 James Peter	SN	0-0-1-6-5	60	D.Bheekary	9
5 Flowerscape	RG	2-4-2-1-6	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	1
6 Amandla	JMH	3/5-1-3-1	59	B.Sooful	5
7 Carlton Heights	AS	9/3-3-7-5	59	S.Rama	7
8 Taranaki	GR	2-4-6/1-9	59	N.Teeha	4
9 Tyrian	PM	7/4-5-5-8	59	R.K.Chumun	3
10 Well Connected	VA	6-9-6-1-10	59	S.Bussunt	10
11 The Right Stuff [EA]	CD	7-3/7-3-4	56.5	-----	11

8 THE MAN TO MAN PLATE 1500 m - Valeur [0-25] - 16h35

1 Al Madhar	GR	0-0-0-4-4	60	B.Sooful	4
2 Alpirod	PM	0-0-0-8-6	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	5
3 Middle Path	RG	1-5/7-7-2	60	P.K.Horil	6
4 Mounted Warrior	CD	0-0-0-5-6	60	R.Joorawon	7
5 Sacred Night	VA	6/6-7-9-4	60(-3)	A.Roy	2
6 San Andreas	SJ	0-0-3-3-8	60	J.Allyhosain	8
7 Global Spectrum	RM	0-0-6-4-7	59.5	P.C.Orffer	1
8 Perfect Pursuit	SN	5-6-5-5-10	59.5	D.Bheekary	9
9 Lead Singer	P	7/9-7-7-7	59	K.Ramsamy	3

Selections

- Desert Thief, Bypass, Biometric
- Marula, Remus, Trojan Quest
- Six Degrees, All Aboard, Moschino
- Kaydens Pride, Gimmetherain, Inauguration
- Emerald Band, Al Bragga, Kamadeva
- Trippi's Express, Baritone, Ehsaan
- Amandla, Flowerscape, Free To Win
- San Andreas, Sacred Night, Middle Path



Start where you are

A very poor woman called a radio station asking for help from God. A non-believer who was also listening to this radio program decided to make fun of the woman. He got the woman's address from the radio station and told his secretary to carry a large amount of foodstuff to the woman.

However, he gave the following instruction, "When the woman asks who sent the food, tell her that it's from the devil."

When the secretary arrived at the woman's house, the woman was happy and grateful for the help received. She started putting the food packets inside her small house.

The secretary then asked her, "Don't you want to know who sent the food?"

The woman replied, "No, I don't care because when GOD orders, even the DEVIL obeys!"

When I was about 9 years old, I accompanied my father to the funeral of a friend of his, someone who I didn't even know.

When we got there, I stayed in a corner waiting for the time to pass.

Then a man approached me and said, 'Enjoy life son, be happy because time flies. Look at me now, I didn't enjoy it.'

Then he passed his hand over my head and left.

My father, before leaving, forced me to say goodbye to the dead person. When I looked in the coffin, I was horrified to see that the man in the coffin was the same man who had spoken to me!

I was so traumatized I couldn't sleep properly. I had terrible nightmares. I was terrified of being alone. I couldn't sleep without a night light for many years.

I saw many psychologists, endured much turmoil throughout my adolescent years. It got better as I aged, but I would still occasionally wake up screaming in fear.

Years later, I discovered something incredible that changed my life.

The dead bastard had a twin.

Husband: I should have married a sensible woman!

Wife: A sensible woman will never marry you...

Husband: Just! That's all I wanted to prove!!

A Malaysian left his job in Malaysia and joined as a salesman in a big departmental store in Australia. On the first day, the Malaysian worked with full vigour.

At 6 pm:

Boss: How much of sales did you do on the first day?

Malaysian: Sir, I attended to 1 sale.

Boss: Just only 1 sale the whole day? Usually every salesman here does 20 to 30 sale transactions a day. Well, tell me what is the money value of your

today's one sale?

Malaysian: \$93,300 dollars.

Boss: What! Unbelievable! But how did you do that?

Malaysian: Sir, one person came and I sold him a small fishing hook. Then a Mazola and then finally sold a big hook. Then I sold him one big fishing rod and some fishing gear. Then I asked him where does he go to catch fish and he said in the coastal area... Then I said it would need a boat. So, I took him down to the boat department and sold him a 20 ft double engine schooner boat. When he said the boat won't come in his Volkas Wagon, I took him to the auto mobile section and sold him the new Deluxe 4 x 4 blazer to carry the boat.

And when I asked him where he would be going fishing? He didn't plan anything. So, I took him to the camping section and sold him a six-sleeper camper tent. And then he took groceries worth \$200 and 2 cases of beer.

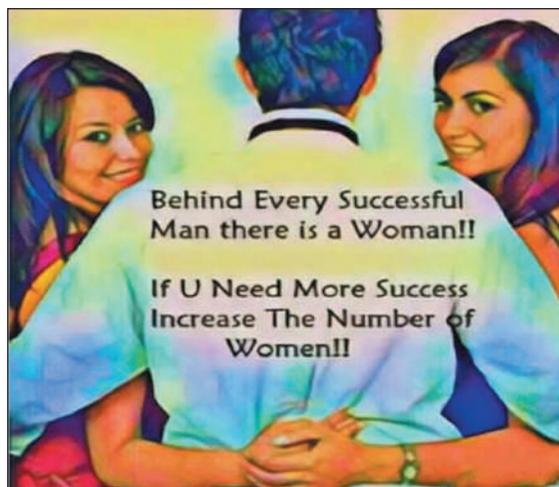
Now the boss took two steps back and asked: You sold all this to the man who came just to buy only 1 fish hook?

Malaysian: "No, Sir..." He only came to buy one tablet for his headache... I explained to him that fishing is the best way to get rid of headaches.

Boss: Where did you work before?

Malaysian: Yes, I was a PRO in a private hospital in Malaysia: On any minor complaint, we get the patients tested for pathology, ECO, ECG, TMT, CT SCAN, X-Ray, MRI, etc.

Boss: Will you please sit in my chair? I shall go to Malaysia and join a private hospital for training.



Pfizer & Pepsi to merge

This will no doubt put Coca Cola out of business in the near future!

The Pfizer Corporation announced recently that Viagra will soon be available in liquid form and this new product will be marketed by Pepsi Cola as a power beverage suitable for use as a mixer.

It will now be possible for a man to literally pour himself a stiff one.

Obviously, we can no longer call this a soft drink, and it gives new meaning to the names of cocktails, highballs and just a good old-fashioned stiff drink.

Pepsi will market the new concoction by the name of: Mount & Do.

Thought for the day: There is more money being spent on breast implants and Viagra today than on Alzheimer's research.

This means that by 2025, there should be a large elderly population with perky boobs, stiff ones and absolutely no recollection of what to do with them.

Life's Lessons

Beyond 60 and death

It's time to use the money you saved up. Use it and enjoy it. This is also a bad time for investments, even if it seems wonderful or fool-proof. They only bring problems and worries. This is a time for you to enjoy some peace and quiet.

Keep a healthy life, without great physical effort. Do moderate exercise (like walking every day), eat well and get your sleep. It's easy to become sick, and it gets harder to remain healthy. That is why you need to keep yourself in good shape and be aware of your medical and physical needs. Keep in touch with your doctor, do tests even when you're feeling well. Stay informed.

Always buy the best, most beautiful items for your loved ones. The key goal is to enjoy your money with your spouse/family. One day one of you will miss the other(s), and the money will not provide any comfort then, enjoy it together.

Don't stress over the little things. You've already overcome so much in your life. You have good memories and bad ones, but the important thing is the present. Don't let the past drag you down and don't let the future frighten you. Feel good in the now. Small issues will soon be forgotten.

Regardless of age, always keep love alive. Love your partner, love life, love your family, love your neighbour and remember: "A man is not old as long as he has intelligence and affection."

Be proud, both inside and out. Don't stop going to your hair salon or barber, do your nails, go to the dermatologist and the dentist, keep your perfumes and creams well stocked. When you are well-maintained on the outside, it seeps in, making you feel proud and strong.

Don't lose sight of fashion trends for your age, but keep your own sense of style. There's nothing worse than an older person trying to wear the current fashion among youngsters. You've developed your own sense of what looks good on you - keep it and be proud of it. It's part of who you are.

Always stay up-to-date. Read newspapers, watch the news. Go online and read what people are saying. Make sure you have an active email account and try to use some of those social networks. You'll be surprised what old friends you'll meet.

Respect the younger generation and their opinions. They may not have the same ideals as you, but they are the future, and will take the world in their direction. Give advice, not criticism, and try to remind them that yesterday's wisdom still applies today.

Never use the phrase: "In my time." Your time is now. As long as you're alive, you are part of this time.

Some people embrace their golden years, while others become bitter and surly. Life is too short to waste your days on the latter. Spend your time with positive, cheerful people, it'll rub off on you and your days will seem that much better. Spending your time with bitter people will make you feel older and harder to be around.

Do not surrender to the temptation of living with your children or grandchildren (if you have a financial choice, that is). Sure, being surrounded by family sounds great, but we all need our privacy. They need theirs and you need yours. Even then, do so only if you feel you really need the help or do not want to live by yourself.

Don't abandon your hobbies. If you don't have any, make new ones. You can travel, hike, cook, read, dance. You can adopt a cat or a dog, grow a kitchen garden, play cards, checkers, chess, dominoes.

Try to go. Get out of the house, meet people you haven't seen in a while, experience something new (or something old). The important thing is to leave the house from time to time. Go to museums, go walk through a park. Get out there.

Speak in courteous tones and try not to complain or criticize too much unless you really need to. Try to accept situations as they are.

Pain and discomfort go hand in hand with getting older. Try not to dwell on them but accept them as a part of the life.

If you've been offended by someone - forgive them. If you've offended someone, apologize. Don't drag around resentment with you. It only serves to make you sad and bitter. It doesn't matter who was right. Someone once said: "Holding a grudge is like taking poison and expecting the other person to die." Don't take that poison. Forgive, forget and move on with your life.

Laugh. Laugh away your worries Remember, you are one of the lucky ones. You managed to have a life, a long one. Many never get to this age, never get to experience a full life!

Dating & Relationships

How to break up with your partner nicely

The worst part of a breakup is to have the talk. It can be heart-wrenching and extremely difficult to break it down to the person you are about to break up with. It can be absolutely terrifying to have this conversation with the person you like.



But the best way to do this is to break up with your partner in a nice and cordial manner. So, we bring to you some ways to break up with your partner nicely.

Be careful to choose the right words: It's always good to plan what you will be saying to your partner when you break up with them. Carefully choose the right words or sentences that don't leave a sour taste in their mouths. Don't ever shout at them or hurl any abusive words at them, no matter how much they have hurt you. If the latter happens, the breakup will never end peacefully.

Provide the proper reason: Don't be the person your ex talks about when the worst person comes to his mind. You should give a proper explanation as to why you chose the breakup. A concrete reason with details will help your partner understand why you no longer can invest in the relationship. This also gives proper closure in the relationship.

Don't blame: Even if your partner has done something to infuriate you, don't blame them when you're breaking up. Avoid the blame game as much as possible because it can be extremely hurtful to be the one because of whom the relationship perished.

Be the first one to tell your partner: Your partner is going to be super hurt if they find out from others that you have been planning to break up with them. In moments of confusion, where you need others' support, don't blabber everything that's on your mind. Keep the most important details to yourself.

Act maturely after the breakup: Don't go on sharing every little detail about your breakup with everyone else. You should take your time to heal and grow from the previous relationship. Keeping a nice attitude after the breakup is more important to let the breakup heal. You shouldn't contact your ex after the breakup as you both need to move on from the hurt.

Health & Balance

Simple Ways to Practise Self-Care

You don't have to spend a fortune to take care of yourself. Give your body and brain the love they deserve with these simple -- and free -- actions.

Ever become so absorbed in a hobby that you lose track of time? That's a good thing! Whether you knit, write sci fi, garden, or work on your car, you should spend time on things that keep your full interest. When you're "in the zone," your mind doesn't churn, you feel more sure of yourself, and you aren't as afraid of taking risks. Make time to do what you love, and you'll also give your life more meaning, advises Carol DerSarkissian, MD of WebMD. Read on:

Unplug already

Stare at any screen for hours and you'll miss what's going on IRL. Make it a priority to fully connect with your loved ones -- in person. This also allows your brain to slow down so you can better focus. It makes you calmer and lifts your mood. It may take (a lot of) practice to put your phone and laptop away, but try to do so more often -- and especially when you're with family and friends.

Nix negative friendships

"Toxic" people can leave you drained and less sure of yourself. After spending time with them, it's easy to feel frustrated. If you have a friendship with someone like that, it's time to rethink it. We all need true friends in our lives. Look for ones who offer support and comfort and make you feel happy.

Get a massage

It can do more than ease sore muscles and help manage pain. Massage also helps when you're stressed, anxious, or depressed (though you may still need more help if you have a mental health condition). Studies show that massage can even lower your heart rate and blood pressure. You don't have to go to a spa.

Go green

No matter your age or where you live, being outdoors can help you feel more calm and balanced. Studies show that time spent in nature also lessens pain, improves your focus, and helps you better connect with others. Can't get out as much as you like? Sit next to a window, look at nature photos, or buy a plant. These will help you feel grounded, too.

Get more shut-eye

Going to bed early can feel like a splurge when you have so much to do. It's not! Your body and brain need plenty of sleep to be at their best. That shut-eye you get helps you to think clearly, be alert, and handle stress. It also helps manage your



immune system, heart, hormones, and weight. Aim for 7-8 hours each night.

Move on

If you tend to space out or feel "stuck" when you're stressed, getting active can get you back in the zone. Turn up your favorite playlist and dance in your living room, swim laps, take a brisk walk... Rhythmic movements get you out of your head and into the present moment so you're ready for the next challenge.

Seek out happy people

You can "catch" others' emotions just like you would a cold. So what vibes are the people around you spreading? Where you can choose to, try to surround yourself with people who have a cheerful, positive outlook on life, even while they face their challenges. "Happy" is one of the best emotions to absorb. And then you, in turn, can pass it on to someone else.

Plan a getaway

Next time you have days off from work, head out of town. It doesn't have to be somewhere far-flung or fancy. The best trips are the ones that are most relaxed. Can't travel right now? Some research shows that you may get a mood boost by simply planning your trip. It's fun to have something to look forward to, like which beach to visit or what shows to book.

Tap into thankfulness

Stop for a moment and take stock of what you're grateful for. It helps you notice that even when some things are hard, there's still good in the world and some of it has come your way. (It may also distract you from other, less pleasant feelings like envy.) Try this: Think of someone who's helped you, in a large or small

way, and write them a thank-you note. Even if you never send it, you'll still get a positive mental boost.

Jot it in a journal

Put your thoughts and feelings on paper, and you may find them easier to deal with. A journal can help you see which of your worries and fears aren't such a big deal, give you a chance to work through problems, and break the habit of negative self-talk. Keep a paper and pen handy, and try to write something every day, or type it into your phone. Remember, your journal is just for you, so let your true feelings flow.

Simplify

Your home won't feel as cozy as it should if it's filled with too much stuff. (And it's not just Marie Kondo who thinks so.) Clutter makes us less happy about where we live, as well as how we feel about ourselves. It can even prevent you from getting a good night's sleep. Little by little, chip away at what you don't need or want anymore.

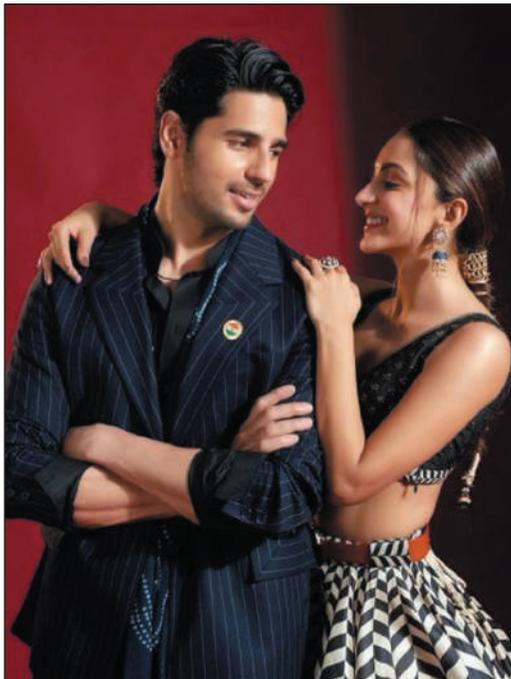
Feed your spirit

People who tend to their spiritual side are less apt to worry and feel sad. For some, that means prayer and worship services. For others, it has nothing to do with religion. You may simply meditate every morning. Either way, the result can be that you're better able to take on stress.

Seek help when you need it

When a big problem hits, don't pretend nothing's wrong. Speak to a counsellor in private, or check out a support group. It helps you get a different view of your situation so you can make your best choices. Although your problem probably won't vanish right away, get it off your chest. You'll feel recharged by taking charge -- with help from a pro.

Sidharth Malhotra breaks his silence on wedding plans



Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani have been hitting headlines for their rumours romance. While they charmed fans with their onscreen chemistry in 'Shershaah', Sidharth and Kiara have remained tightlipped about their off-screen relationship. Recently when a news portal asked Sidharth when he is getting married, the actor casually stated that he is no astrologer so he doesn't know when it will happen. Sidharth added that there is no timeline as such, but just that it has to be done correctly.

Speaking about his bond with Kiara, Sidharth had told *ETimes* in an interview, "I think even personally, there is a sense of regularness to her, which we both connect on. I am a boy who is from Delhi and I am not connected to the industry *per se*, but now have been here for many years. She has been working for a couple of years as well. We both have lives away from the industry and that is something that we connect on

and cherish. Sometimes you get so embroiled in all these things that you forget to have a regular life. I think both of us have regular lives and that's what we connect on."

While Kiara had told *ETimes* that Sidharth is one of her closest friends in the industry. "As a co-star, Sidharth is extremely driven and focused. He loves to prep a lot and does a lot of readings. That's very similar to the way I like to work on a film. So, in that sense, we got along very well. As a friend, I'd say he is one of my closest friends in the industry. I think, even as a friend, he's full of life and always fun to be around," Kiara had shared.

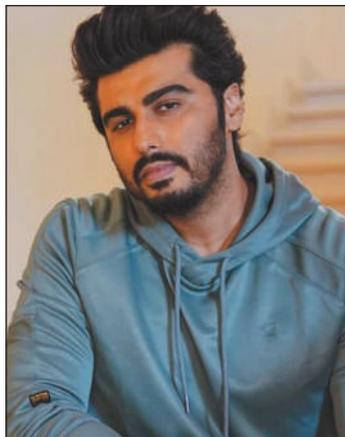
Arjun Kapoor: Work for the long term, not for quick results

Arjun Kapoor says he feels encouraged with the appreciation that he has been receiving for his physical transformation and added that one should have long term planning to stay fit and not look at short term results.

Arjun, who has battled obesity for the longest time, wants to share the wealth of knowledge that his trainer and food curator have to offer through his social media so that people benefit from it.

The actor said that a lot of people have been asking him to share how he has transformed himself and so he is thinking of starting chat sessions on social media with his trainer, food curator, among others to "discuss how a transformation can be achieved without pushing your body close to the edge".

He added: "Without doing it in a harmful way that can have adverse effects on one's body and health. One should have long term planning to stay fit and healthy and not look at short term results."



Bipasha: With my debut character, I had an opportunity to explore my range

Bipasha Basu's debut movie 'Ajnabee' has completed two decades since its release in Hindi cinema on Sept 21. She says with her maiden character itself, she had an opportunity to explore her range as an artiste.

Taking a stroll down memory lane, Bipasha said: "Not very often do you get a chance to perform a character so nuanced and unconventional for your first film. With *Ajnabee*, I had so much to do with my role."

She added: "A thriller peels like an onion - layer by layer - and it allows you to play with those layers. So, with my debut character Sonia itself, I had an opportunity to explore my range as an artiste. It was an incredible experience to work with Abbas-Mustan and the whole team."

Bipasha was later seen in films such as 'Raaz', 'Apharan', 'Omkaara', 'No Entry', 'Corporate' and 'Dhoom 2' to name a few.

BollyBytes

Debut film of Shweta Tiwari's daughter Palak to release in Oct

The debut film of Palak Tiwari, daughter of celebrated TV actress Shweta Tiwari - 'Rosie: The Saffron Chapter' - will be released in October, confirms the producer of the film Perna V. Arora.

Speaking about the release of the film, producer Perna said, "The film is based on a real-life incident that happened in Noida and our main focus in this film is about 'Akal Mrityu' and the effects they have on the family and friends. The teasers released already gave the audience a peek into the story and the response to them was mind-blowing. We can't wait to see how the audience reacts to the film."

The film is a spooky horror love story. It also features Arbaaz Khan, Tanishaa Mukerji.



Kangana Ranaut to win her 5th National Award for 'Thalaivii'?



Thalaivii's reviews are in and as always Kangana Ranaut is being praised sky high for her performance as Jayalalitha, with Arvind Swami as MGR. In fact, some are going so far as to say that the star actress may be a hot contender for her fifth National Award, which would make her just the first actor in the history of Indian cinema to have bagged the prestigious award five times, reports Bollywood-life.

The latest vote of confidence for Kangana has come from none other than her parents, who have watched the Jayalalitha biopic after the screening for critics and had no hesitation in congratulating their daughter for her fifth

National Award victory. The actress herself posted the good news on her Insta story along with a pic of her proud mother and father and captioned it: "Mummy, papa after watching the film #Thalaivii ...said congratulations for 5th National Award."

Kangana targets Alia for appearing in ad

Moreover Kangana Ranaut took to her Instagram account recently to call out Alia Bhatt and her commercial for a jewellery brand that questions the tradition of 'Kanyadaan'.

In the commercial, Alia's character, a bride, is seen wondering if women were 'paraya dhan' (someone else's wealth) meant to be given away to a man during 'Kanyadaan'. The bride declares at the commercial's end: "*Kanyadaan nahin, kanya maan*" (Don't give away your daughter as a gift; give her respect)."

Kanagana put up a long post on her Instagram account, highlighting the importance and history of 'Kanyadaan' in Hindu culture. She also asked her followers to seek a ban on the advertisement.

In another post, where she explained Hindu marriage traditions, she added in the caption: "Don't become a pest who loves to abuse and condemn Hinduism just because it is the most tolerant religion."

Rubina Dilaik: 'I want to be spiritually and mentally healthy'

Rubina Dilaik, who is currently seen in *Shakti-Astitva Ek Ehsaas Ki* playing the role of a transgender, is emotional about the show wrapping up after five years. The actress recently posted a picture on social media along with the cast and wrote a heartfelt message about her journey, reports Times of India.

Rubina says, "When I had quit the show a year-and-a-half ago, I was in an indecisive mode. The story was going on a different track and we weren't able to agree on how to move it ahead. I left the show with a heavy heart. When I joined it again, I was happy because the story was unfolding well. Now, when the show is coming to a natural end, I am full of gratitude for being a part of something so unique. I am going to miss Shakti a lot."

So, what's next on the anvil? "To be honest, I am not looking out for any project as of now because immediately after *Bigg Boss 14*, the makers of *Shakti* wanted me back on the show. I had other commitments, too, like music videos, which I was busy with. In the middle, I also tested positive for Covid-19 and recovering from that took time. All this has taken a toll on my health. I realised that I have been working nonstop and now, I need a break to rest and focus on my health. My first priority is health and I want to be spiritually and mentally healthy, so that when I commence my next project, I am fit to give in my 100% time and energy," says Rubina, who won *Bigg Boss 14*.



Nia Sharma: 'What are we running after? What does fame mean?'

The news of Sidharth's death was tough on her. "It was not easy to accept," she says



Nia Sharma is looking at the positive side of life and believes that things will get better than yesterday. She says, the pandemic taught us the value of our health and family. "I have learnt to appreciate what I have. I have lost work due to the pandemic but I have not complained as people have lost their lives. *Aaj zinda rehna zaroori hai*. I can't cry about losing a project. With God's grace, *kaam aara jayega*. Everyone I know has lost someone close or in their immediate family and it is

a terrible feeling. But what can you do but live with harsh realities with a heavy heart. One has to move on and get back to work," she explains.

The *Jamai Raja* actor reveals that though didn't know the late Sidharth Shukla personally, the news of his death hit her badly, reports Kavita Awaasthi of Hindustan Times. She was in a reality show for a day and was excited and jumping around when she came out as it had turned out well but then, she heard about Shukla. She recalls, "It hit me so hard. I was crying for good 20 minutes. I felt like the world had crashed. I didn't know what all this was about? What are we running after? What does fame mean? My head was exploding with these questions. The surge of emotions was tough. It was not easy to accept."

Sharma adds that so many people spoke about Shukla right after his death, which was not needed. "Let a death be a death. Let people close to that person mourn for their loss in private. Don't hog or try to achieve two-seconds of fame from someone's death. Sadly, this is how the world, media and all of us function. Sidharth Shukla was a huge star who rose to heights of fame and touched millions of hearts all over. Everyone cried for him and everyone wanted to cover him, but things went too far and too many insensitive moments should have been avoided. We need to change ourselves and be better," she hopes.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You'll harvest armfuls of various satisfactions. The present family problems will end. A favourable week for love affairs, but won't be among the best ones to get married. Take care of your physical appearance.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 10, 19, 30, 32

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Try to avoid all interference between your private life and your professional life, otherwise beware! You'd do well to make some savings. If you want to enjoy peace in your home, avoid showing yourself to be authoritarian.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 11, 14, 17, 30

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

New relationships will enlarge your horizons. An uncertain week on the professional plane: no excess of optimism or of self-confidence, please! Your affective life will be very much protected; you'll give much love, tenderness.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 12, 25, 31, 35, 39

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Financial constraints will be heavy but you'll get out of them very well. You'll work with enthusiasm and efficiency. Have confidence in your long-standing friends who'll be present to encourage and support you.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 7, 9, 20, 36, 40

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

The stability of your love life will be of your utmost concern; you'll try your best to achieve it. A good week for your finances. Don't hesitate to appeal to your intimate friends if you need help to solve a problem of a personal order.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 9, 13, 16, 20, 36

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

An ideal week to put your love affairs in due order. Success in your work, but this will give rise to some jealousies. You'll have better luck with money than usual; a money entry is more than probable.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 15, 17, 21, 23, 30

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

In your work, something can come to an end; despite the appearances, this change will be very favourable to you. You'll succeed in finding the best balance possible between your professional activity and your family life.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 11, 17, 24, 30, 31

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You'll enjoy increased cleverness in all fields. Be however cautious: your excess of self-confidence might play dirty tricks on you. You'll be able to make titanic efforts to finish all pending works and projects; don't waste it by indulging in futile activities.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 17, 28, 31, 36

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Your children will be a source of satisfactions to you. Career wise, everything can only evolve the best way possible. Other people are not always of good counsel; this time, only follow your intuition.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 14, 25, 29, 30

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You'll feel light and carefree, all the more so as life will seem pleasant to you. It would be wise to think as of now to organize your succession. You must show discernment, don't have confidence in everybody.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 9, 14, 20, 23, 30

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

The circumstances won't be quite fit for secret amorous liaisons but will favour serious love affairs. Don't let anyone into your intimacy without having put him/her to test beforehand.. A very unstable week for your finances.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 16, 20, 23, 24

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You may go through a period of doubt and anxiety, but there'll be nothing serious; you'll preserve your habitual self-confidence. You must see to maintaining good relationships with your entourage or with your beloved one so as to avoid a painful rupture.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 13, 17, 20, 21, 30



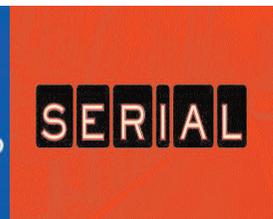
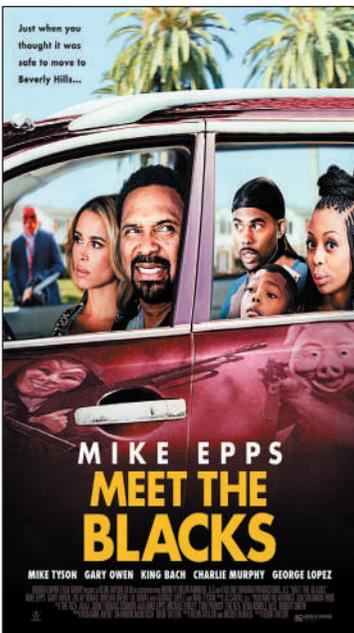
Vendredi 24 septembre - 21.15



Samedi 25 septembre - 21.20



Dimanche 26 septembre - 21.10



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 24 septembre	07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 09.00 Doc: Craft Chocolate 11.10 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Mag: Green Touch 13.38 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 17.07 Serial: Mustangs FC 17.40 Mag: Sur Mesure 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: 19-2 23.35 Le Journal 23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC	07.00 DDI Live 08.00 Educa Prog: Grade 3 10.15 Educa Prog: Grade 4 12.30 Film: De Taali (Gujarati Film) 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 Kullfi 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	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 5 10.42 Educa Prog: Grade 8 14.03 Le Rwanda Aux Femmes 15.37 Doc: Children In Art 16.39 Mag: Eco India 17.05 Mag: Shift 17.17 Mag: Sur Mesure 18.03 Doc: Huawai: A Global Force 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 Soss Animaux En Darger 21.45 Doc: Battle Of The Dunkirk...	03.09 Serial: Chicago Med 03.52 Film: From The Rough 05.25 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.03 Serial: Unforgotten 06.49 Film: Leave No Trace 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: From The Rough 13.33 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: Leave No Trace 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: Marshall 23.09 Tele: Muneca Brava	08.00 Film: Veerey Ki Wedding Starring: Pulkit Samrat, Jimmy Sheirgill, Kriti Kharbanda 12.08 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna 12.31 / 20.11 - Chupke Chupke 12.50 / 20.32 - Mere Sai 13.12 / 21.09 - Agniphera 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: Raja Starring Sanjay Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, Mukesh Khanna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.52 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.14 Serial: Bhakharwadi 19.36 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
samedi 25 septembre	06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains 06.27 D.Anime: The Hive 07.00 D.Anime: Sissi 07.25 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda 07.45 Film: Ghost Patrol 08.52 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 09.17 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Defenseur 09.35 Serial: Luccas Etc. 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Teresa 15.06 D.Anime: The Garfield Show 15.52 D.Anime: Wishfart 16.26 D.Anime: HTDT 17.17 Serial: Les Copains Carlins 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Entertainment: Dance 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.20 Local: Le Rendez Vous 21.20 Film: Dixieland Avec: Chris Zylka, Riley Keough, Faith Hill	07.00 Film: Mili 09.11 Mag: DDI Magazine 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 Ainthu Pengalum 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek 15.25 Film: Awara Paagal Deewana Starring: Akshay Kumar, Sunil Shetty, Aftab Shivdasani 18.03 DDI Magazine 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 20.28 Serial: Bitti Business Wali 21.01 Film: Table No. 21 Stars: Paresh Rawal, Rajeev Khadelwal, Tena Desae	06.00 Doc: Huawei: A Global Force 06.42 Mag: Arts And Culture 06.55 Mag: Our Voices 07.50 Doc: Volcano Stories 09.08 Doc: Battle Of The Dunkirk.. 10.20 Doc: Le Douanier Rousseau 11.16 Doc: Huawei: A Global Force 11.58 Mag: Our Voices 13.19 Doc: Sos Animaux Danger 15.03 Student Support Prog... 17.53 Doc: Amazing Gardens 18.19 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 18.45 MFDC I am Better-Short 19.30 Doc: Mr Brown 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.40 Doc: Destinations 21.00 Local: Thirumaal Thiruvurul 00.00 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 00.26 Doc: Zenith 00.51 Mag: Check In 01.17 Doc: Mr Brown	03.29 Serial: The Night Shift 04.10 Film: Dark Tourist 05.25 Tele: Tanto Amor 06.07 Serial: Ddynasty 2 06.48 Film: Dominion 08.30 Serial: The Enemy Within 09.18 Serial: Brooklyn Nine Nine 09.53 Serial: Falling Water 10.43 Film: A Doggone Hollywood 12.15 Serial: The Night Shift 13.00 Mag: Hollywood On Set 13.30 Serial: Chicago Med 15.05 Tele: Muneca Brava 16.28 Mag: Hollywood On Set 17.00 Serial: Dynasty 2 17.45 Film: Race To Win 19.17 Mag: Ultimate Countdown 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Series: Dynastay 2 21.15 Film: Mindhunters 22.57 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir	04.05 Radha Krishna 04.26 Chupke Chupke 04.48 Mere Sai -- Shraddha Aur... 05.11 Agniphera 05.34 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 06.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek 06.16 Sethji 06.38 Chhanchhan 07.02 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 Rishta 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Dream Girl Star: Ayushmann Khurrana, Nushrat Bharucha, Annu Kapoor 20.35 Serial: Namah
dimanche 26 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: Zanafan 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: Baby Boss 15.48 D.Anime: Dragons 17.15 Serial: Les Copains Carlins 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local Prod: Mohammad Rafi Ki Yaad Mein 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Local: Groov'in 21.15 Film: Meet The Blacks Avec: Mike Epps, Zulay Henao...	07.00 Film: Naya Din Nai Raat 10.00 Local Prod: MBC Prod 11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai 11.22 Serial: Santoshi Maa 12.00 Film: Masti Stars: Ajay Devgan, Aftab Shivdasani, Vivek Oberoi, Ritesh Deshmukh 14.35 DDI Magazine 14.58 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 DDI Magazine 18.30 Local: Tiba Tiba Nu Avance 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 20.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas.. 20.58 Serial: CID 21.43 Serial: Naagin Season 2 22.16 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki	06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens 06.26 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 06.52 Doc: Zenith 07.46 Doc: Mr Brown 08.36 Doc: Code(s) Polar 10.17 Entertainment: Last Night.. 11.54 Doc: Amazing Gardens 12.20 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 12.45 Doc: Zenith 13.41 Doc: Mr Brown 17.52 Mag: Japan Video Topics 18.30 Doc: Builders Of The Future 18.59 Doc: Garden Party 19.32 Doc: Comme Une Envie... 19.38 The Real Dr. Strangelove 20.30 Local Prod: News (English) 20.40 Mag: Nouveau Look Pour... 21.50 Doc: How The Beatles Changed The World 23.39 Mag: Magnifique 00.07 Builders Of The Future	01.42 Film: Mindhunters 03.24 Serial: Midnight, Texas 04.05 Film: Dixieland 05.25 Tele: Tanto Amor 06.18 Serial: Dynasty 2 06.58 Film: The Pirate 08.41 Serial: The Enemy Within 09.18 Film: A Doggone Hollywood 10.42 Film: Race To Win 12.15 Serial: Midnight, Texas 13.29 Serial: Chicago Med 15.29 Tele: Muneca Brava 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: Origine Inconnue 22.46 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir	00.35 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak 02.21 Bhakharwadi 04.10 Chupke Chupke 05.56 Pavitra Rishta 08.00 Motu Patlu 08.11 Ikyawann 10.00 Jaana Na Dil Se Door 12.00 Piya Albela 14.00 Agniphera 16.29 Punar Vivaah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Film: Kesari Starring: Akshay Kumar, Parineeti Chopra, Mir Sarwar, Rajpal Yadav, Vansh Bhardwaj 20.51 Entertainment: Dance 21.36 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 23.34 Serial: Piya Albela

MBC 2 Samedi 25 septembre - 18.30 Stars: Paresh Rawal, Rajeev Khadelwal, Tena Desae

B TV Dimanche 26 septembre - 18.30 Stars: Akshay Kumar, Parineeti Chopra, Mir Sarwar, Rajpal Yadav, Vansh Bhardwaj



Positivity in Media



Nita Chicoore-Mercier

Heavy tolls caused by a deadly pandemic worldwide, climate change disasters and mounting tensions among rival nations are far from instilling a dose of joy in daily news dished out to the public. Presumably, *India Today's* initiative to launch a *Good News Channel* is to balance the gloom and doom picture and nuance the series of negative messages sent to the people at every hour of the day.

In fact, *Indian news channel* or any other mainstream press outlets, in big and small countries, must be aware that systematic negative portrayal of everything under the sun - from the ruling parties' performance to social development and superficial surveys of devastating world news - raises questions about the media's fair reporting and analysis of events, at a time when television and newspapers face competition from social media networks that allow people to dig for deeper insight into events from other sources, create groups, share information, express opinion and interact with others freely. The positive aspect of social media is that it allows users to tune in to good news as well.

Democratic societies broadly agree on the duty of media to act as a counter-power to elected ruling teams that are prone to abuse political power and govern in all opacity. A fairly informed public in modern societies does not expect the media to act as bootlickers of governments. Politicians are far from being a monolithic block of integrity and honesty. Temptation to resort to corrupt means and use crony capitalism to feather their own nests is prevalent in even advanced democracies, mainly during pre-electoral periods. Media are expected to investigate and grill politicians in case of wrongdoings. However, despite a few flaws, governments in democracies strive to improve the living conditions of people, reduce social injustice, improve general welfare and promote human dignity by allowing free speech to the public.

A fairly educated public is also aware of the fact that media outlets, press and television channels, are not a monolithic block of independence, impartiality and honesty. If the executive has to undergo the scrutiny of the fourth power and constantly be checked by them, on what grounds should private media be looked up as an immaculate class of people to whom the public



should surrender their intelligence and gobble down whatever narrative is peddled by them? In some cases, 'independent' media in big countries and small islands is a big joke, not to mention that vested interests of private groups in big media corporates need no introduction. Often, media outlets act at the behest of the economic, political and ideological agenda of their sponsors, and behave like stooges to promote sectarian interests. Yet, they broadly do their duty of investigating and informing the public on key topics. The point is that since media also have the power to influence the public, any attempt to distort facts and manipulate public opinion by insidious active involvement in partisan politics has to be denounced and exposed to the public by other figures than media spokespersons.

What *India Today* means by broadcasting a *Good News Channel* is yet to be seen. A rosy-coloured picture of the overall economic and social situation is surely not what the Indian public or any other country is looking forward to. They are self-confident and mature enough not to go into fits of paranoia when fair criticism of social flaws, underdevelopment and backwardness are splashed in the media. In other words, they have no issue with reality. What media can do is to also highlight achievements by central and state governments in thousands of villages, focus the lens on improved infrastructure, cleanliness campaigns, government allowances for construction of millions of toilets, the benefits of electricity to remote villages, the use of small solar panels for cooking, how modern facilities change the lives of villagers, aids granted to promote education among the underprivileged classes, etc. Also, highlight the investment in Science and Technology, and education in general, publish reports by the public on their satisfaction with their everyday life and so on.

They could similarly shed light on solidarity organizations like Sai Baba which generously give food to thousands of people daily using solar energy, and associations which fly to the rescue and help of victims of natural disasters in other countries including America. These are positive news that are not mentioned by international news agency, let alone mainstream world television channels where India is non-existent, and whenever it is mentioned (like on Al-Jazeera) it is bound to be negative.

A degree of positivity is what the public at large expects to find in daily reporting and broadcasting of events. The role of counter-power in free societies has led some media outlets to feel entitled to run down the Establishment, level cheap criticism at whatever looks like 'élite' classes and sling arrows at majority groups in multi-ethnic societies while promoting the victim status of minorities, with the end result of disrupting social harmony. Media with a leftist bent also feel inclined to de-construct the foundation of a country's civilizational ethos in a grotesque mimicry of their western counterparts, a disastrous exercise which fosters self-hate and encourages hostile forces to propagate.

This is a phenomenon which has blown up in the face of the élites in western societies in recent years. It is the outcome of the stances taken by irresponsible intellectuals and media outlets. Being 'against' the government does not equate to brushing a dark picture of everything in a country. Allegations of being 'anti-national' and 'anti-patriotic' in extreme cases come as no surprise from ruling party's leaders in moments of exasperation. If the press feels free to shoot right and left, politicians also have the right to answer back. It is not a self-proclaimed one-way unilateral attack against the authorities. The press is far from being inclusive and tolerant of counter-views to their editorial lines in online comments or readers' corner, which is totally undemocratic and autocratic.

The point is that the public cannot be taken for a ride and fooled by a few media spokespersons, as in Mauritius, who display the arrogance the French language confers on them and adopt a condescending and patronizing tone in addressing one and all. The fact is that members of the 'élite' class in the public are more learned and well-versed in major issues which are peddled to them from a pedestal by a handful of press people.

As things stand, there are enough causes for worry in the world, but life also goes on beautifully. No one in his right mind wants to start the day with solely bad news, and go to bed with the same negative news which give sleepless nights. As of today, there are plenty of sources for reliable standpoints, and the quest for truth ranks high in priorities. So, any subterfuge to confuse the public and manipulate emotions and opinions is bound to fizzle out sooner or later.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Reactions to Life Events

Our past experiences, can and do, influence our emotional reactions and responses to present events.

Our experiences color everything. The events of the past can have a profound effect on how we see our lives now and what we choose to believe about our world. Our past experiences can also influence our emotional reactions and responses to present events. Each of us reacts to stimulus based on what we have learned in life. There is no right or wrong to it; it is simply the result of past experience. Later, when our strong feelings have passed, we may be surprised at our reactions. Yet when we face a similar situation, again our reactions may be the same. When we understand those experiences, we can come that much closer to understanding our reactions and consciously change them.

Between stimulus and reaction exists a fleeting moment of thought. Often, that thought is based on something that has happened to you in the past. When presented with a similar situation later on, your natural impulse is to unconsciously regard it in a similar light. For example, if you survived a traumatic automobile accident as a youngster, the first thing you might feel upon witnessing even a minor collision between vehicles may be intense panic. If you harbor unpleasant associations with death from a past experience, you may find yourself unable to think about death as a gentle release or the next step toward a new kind of existence. You can, however, minimize the intensity of your reactions by identifying the momentary thought that inspires your reaction. Then, next time, replace that thought with a more positive one.

Modifying your reaction by modifying your thoughts is difficult, but it can help you to see and experience formerly unpleasant situations in a whole new light. It allows you to stop reacting unconsciously. Learning the reason of your reactions may also help you put aside a negative reaction long enough to respond in more positive and empowered ways. Your reactions and responses then become about what's happening in the present moment rather than about the past. As time passes, your negative thoughts may lose strength, leaving only your positive thoughts to inform your healthy reactions.