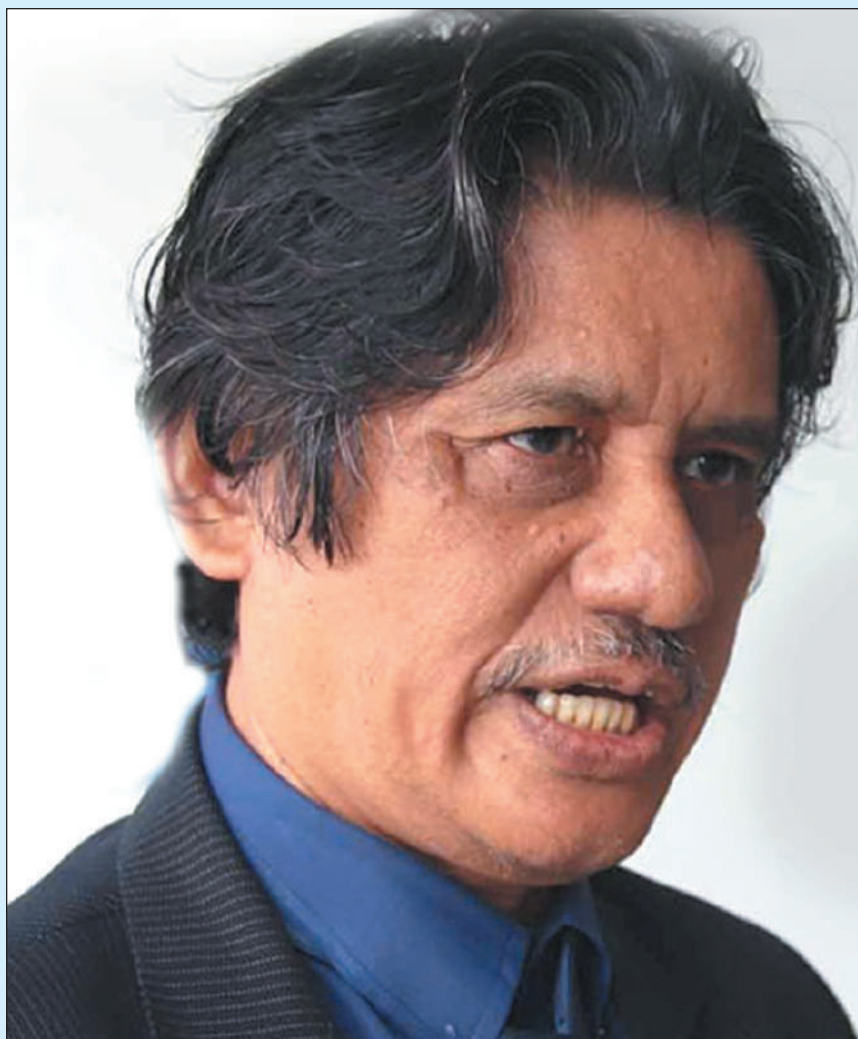


MAURITIUS TIMES

• “We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light the candle that can guide us through that darkness to a safe and sane future.” — John F. Kennedy

Interview: Jocelyn Chan Low



**“Avec une opposition
hopelessly divided,
Jugnauth a toutes
les cartes en main pour un
renouvellement de son mandat”**

📖 Voir Page 7-8-9



CENTRAL ELECTRICITY BOARD

Time to Stop the Rot

The Central Procurement Board is reported to have allocated 77 contracts valued at Rs 23 billion in 2020. Has the St Louis corruption and bribery case unveiled a much larger scam?

By Mrinal Roy 📖 See Page 3



Inequality is a global problem

While inequality is a global problem, its growth is most pronounced and the political, social and economic challenges it poses are most complex and pronounced in the global South

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Bites by animals



There has been talk of legislation to ban the importation of sterile rottweilers, but because of political pressure this has been stalling for years...

By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee 📖 See Page 4

MK: what will emerge?

The long-awaited meetings governing our national carrier Air Mauritius (MK) fate have finally taken place on Tuesday 28th September and the appointed Voluntary Administrators have successfully negotiated their proposed Deed of Company Arrangement (DOCA) with major categories of creditors. In return for the latter's acceptance of hair-cut losses, government is forking out some Rs 10 billion from public funds within one month plus an injection of some Rs 2.5 billion towards working capital of the new conglomerate structure called Airport Holdings Ltd. The latter will include MK, the airport ground and terminal handling (AML & ATOL) and the Mauritius Duty-free Paradise (MDFP). The conglomerate CEO and Chairman have already been identified by government as Ken Arian, special advisor at the PMO and Dev Manraj, a long-time career administrator in the Ministry of Finance with several successive governments.

The watershed outcome was unfortunately unavoidable when a carrier that was already under financial duress in the pre-Covid year, mostly due to ill-advised fleet expansion, was sent into a mega nose-dive during a pandemic that struck hard at all business and leisure international travel affecting most national and international carriers. The fleet has been trimmed of excessive older generation planes although at fire-sale prices and operating expenses have been slashed. Sadly, in that process, the hundreds of hands that kept their smiles and the national pride afloat, some for decades, seem to have been hardest hit by the uncertainties, furloughs and outright dismissals over the past eighteen months. Clearly it would not have overburdened government costs to offer supernumerary staff more dignified exit conditions.

There have been controversies regarding the lengthy period for the administrators to come up with their proposal, the treatment of the human dimension, their extortionate level of personal and professional fees of Grant Thornton (up to Rs 168m from MK and therefore public purse), the lack of analysis of conditions leading to the financial duress of MK and the new conglomerate structure under which MK will begin its new course. While these and other aspects will fuel much comment, most observers would like to know:

(a) what lessons have been drawn from the past? Political interference in what should have been sound management-cum-highly technical decisions have been a feature of MK history. Flight destinations, corridors, fleet expansion, personnel recruitment and promotion, Board and CEO selection, amongst other factors have weighed heavily in the past. Will MK's future be written with the same pen and ink?

(b) what are the Business Plans and fallback scenarios with the left-over resized MK fleet (4 Airbus wide-bodied long-haul A350s and 3 ATRs for regional flights)? We have to assume these have been provided to Government although not disclosed either at the watershed meetings or to the general public. Many valuable suggestions have been spelt out by well-versed or experienced professionals, including former MK CEOs and former Finance minister Rama Sithanen and we trust the authorities will not be averse to holding some consultations with all such knowledgeable Mauritians while fine-tuning the restart Business Plans of MK under the aegis of Airport Holdings Ltd.

(c) what does the future hold under this new mega structure of Airport Holdings Ltd and its stewardship? There may be some reasons to add the captive and profitable subsidiaries to the Holdings conglomerate but by the same token are we risking adding another administrative and management layer above MK that could certainly have devastating effects? We can only wonder whether any international high-calibre aviation industry specialist or any past MK CEO would accept a decision and reporting structure that seems designed to make them little more than simple executants of commercial, recruitment and fleet policy decisions taken elsewhere in higher abodes.

While the issue is not being personalized, we beg to believe that neither MK nor government have time, latitude or luxury for on-the-job training of a super CEO nor can the population be asked to wait years for results.

Learning from the MK's shock upheaval and the consequential burden on the taxpayer, every chance has to be put on our side for a safe relaunch of the MK brand by experienced industry professionals, particularly with the troubled visibility ahead in the travel and airlines industries.

The Conversation

Inequality is a global problem

While inequality is a global problem, its growth is most pronounced and the political, social and economic challenges it poses are most complex and pronounced in the global South



Bag sellers at Kumasi market in Ghana. Over 80% of workers on the continent work in the informal sector. Pic - DeAgostini/Getty Images

In the last decade inequality has been placed at the centre of the agenda for global social and economic policy. This has been driven in large part by the pioneering work of the British economist Sir Tony Atkinson, French economist Thomas Piketty's 'Capital in the Twenty-First Century', and the work of sociologists like Goran Therborn.

All of the key United Nations development targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals are informed by, and have as their key targets, the need to address growing levels of inequality across the globe.

Global attention on inequality is also informed by a set of issues that have given rise to more virulent right-wing politics in the US, the UK and much of Europe. This is the outcome of growing levels of inequality and high levels of discontent among so-called "blue-collar" workers, and the consequent rise of identity politics.

But, in our view, debates about inequality have not been sufficiently informed by perspectives from the global South.

If we are to address inequality across the globe the issue of inequality between countries – and the historical and political factors giving rise to this – cannot be ignored.

Given this reality, we have identified four main issues that we believe should drive the research agenda in the global

South. Notwithstanding the focus across the globe on the issue of inequality, in reality, very little has been achieved to fix the problem. This is most starkly shown by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has exposed massive inequalities across the globe.

Part of the reason for this is that the realities of inequality in the global South, and the forces driving these patterns, aren't sufficiently understood. For example, according to the International Labour Organisation in Africa around 85.8% of employment is informal. These workers do not form part of how labour markets are traditionally understood.

Another big difference is that in much of the global North, fiscal transfers are able to improve inequality outcomes. The global South has limited fiscal scope because it lacks the ability to raise large tax revenues.

Focus areas

Based on our insights from setting up the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, and our first four years of research, we have identified four areas that we believe should be at the forefront of the research agenda of academics in the global South.

Imraan Valodia,

Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management, University of the Witwatersrand

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Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah - Aug 1954-Sept 2000

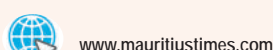
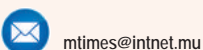
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Time to Stop the Rot



Mrinal Roy

Finally, after years of patent procrastination by the authorities, some alleged culprits have been identified and nabbed in one of the many scandals involving serious wrongdoings which have plagued the government over recent years. There was already a mounting clamour at the inordinate delay in concluding the criminal investigations into allegations of corruption and bribery by 'members of the Mauritian administration and others' made by the African Development Bank and the Danish contractor Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor A/S (BWSC) in June 2020 on the Rs 4.3 billion CEB Saint Louis Power Plant Redevelopment Project, more than a year ago.

There were also legitimate interrogations as to why the investigation remained stalled for so long despite the fact that the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC) had since November 2020 obtained a copy of the report of the law firm Poul Schmith commissioned by Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor A/S (BWSC) to investigate the allegations of corruption and bribery in the St Louis power plant contract.

In an advertisement extolling its role as a power partner of Mauritius under the title 'Our footprint in Mauritius', BWSC states that it has a long-standing connection to Mauritius due 'to our presence as a turnkey supplier of power plants over the last 20 years. During this period, BWSC has supplied 10 turnkey power plants to Mauritius and the state-owned utility company Central Electricity Board (CEB). We have also built CEB power plants in Rodrigues. The Mauritius contracts are a testament to the CEB's confidence in BWSC, and we appreciate the number of times CEB has appointed

The Central Procurement Board is reported to have allocated 77 contracts valued at Rs 23 billion in 2020. Has the St Louis corruption and bribery case unveiled a much larger scam?



"It is pointless to have institutions to assure the transparency of tender procedures without the authorities putting in place the required safeguards and exercising the oversight necessary to ensure that everything is above board and geared to ensure that Mauritius systematically obtains value for money. It is therefore imperative to review and audit all the public and CEB contracts involving the CPB, Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor A/S and the main protagonists of the Saint Louis Power Plant Redevelopment Project over the years to ascertain that all government contracts were rigorously based on international best practices..."

BWSC as the preferred supplier of high-quality power stations'.

Slush funds

The arrests effected so far in the ongoing investigation raises a host of questions. How on earth could the Central Procurement Board (CPB) entrusted with the mission to assure a fair and transparent tender process for public procurement and ensure that Mauritius obtains value for money be party to alleged cases of corruption and bribery at the expense of public funds under the nose of the authorities? How could it collude with bidders it was charged to oversee? It transpires from the investigation that the tender process was allegedly tailored to favour the preferred bidder and that the deliberately inflated successful bid generated tens of millions of Rupees of slush funds at public expense used to bribe all and sundry to keep everyone on board.

What is particularly galling is that this system of corruption seems to have been repeatedly used over the years to secure contracts for other major government infrastructure projects. It is surmised in the press that slush funds of some Rs 300 million may have been raised over time through this modus operandi. The Central Procurement Board is reported to have allocated 77 contracts valued at Rs 23 billion in 2020. Has the St Louis corruption and bribery case unveiled a much larger scam?

It should also be recalled that scathing criticisms have been levelled against the process of emergency government procurement tenders to source medicines, protective equipment, medical supplies and equipment and laboratory supplies in 2020 to fight the Covid-19 pandemic at a cost of more than Rs 1 billion from a non-descript array of suppliers amidst allegations of wrongdoing. As a consequence, 50 ventilators purchased since 31 July 2020 at a cost of Rs 80 million lie distressed and uncommissioned by the suppliers. Such malpractices are costly for the public exchequer.

It is pointless to have institutions to assure the transparency of tender procedures without the authorities putting in place the required safeguards and exercising the oversight necessary to ensure that everything is above board and geared to ensure that Mauritius systematically obtains value for money.

In the light of the above, it is therefore imperative to review and audit all the public and CEB contracts involving the CPB, Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor A/S and the main protagonists of the Saint Louis Power Plant Redevelopment Project over the years to ascertain that all government contracts were rigorously based on international best practices.

Repute on the line

It is evident that corrupt practices especially those effected in collusion with government institutions specially set up to prevent such illicit actions puts the reputation of Mauritius on the line at a time when the legislative and control measures and bulwarks put in place to comply with the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog are being assessed by FATF and the European Commission. These 40 FATF recommendations are the internationally endorsed global standards and tool kit against money laundering and terrorist financing. They increase transparency and enable countries to successfully take action against illicit use of their financial system.

This deplorable state of affairs must end. It stems from the decried government policy of nominating the coterie and political appointees to head key institutions of the country. Such an inane culture of governance has been the root cause of systemic failings of regulatory institutions and state companies and organizations. It has spawned and littered the history of the country. with so many costly blunders. It hobbles the prospects of the country and thwarts the legitimate aspirations of the young for a brighter future.

As a nation we need to urgently stop the rot.

More than ever before, we instead need qualified and seasoned professionals apt to man and head key institutions of the State and the government Establishment to build confidence in the integrity of the Mauritian jurisdiction and provide comfort to the world that the country adheres strictly to international best practices at all levels of its decision making process.

● Cont. on page 10



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Bites by animals

There has been talk of legislation to ban the importation of sterile rottweilers, but because of political pressure this has been stalling for years...

The attack of a young man last week by two rottweilers has received widespread media attention for several days, and was accompanied by graphics showing the man being savagely bitten by the two monsters as he lay down fighting for his life. There were also pictures showing him in the hospital bed, bandaged up after he underwent several operations.

This incident reminded me of a shark bite injury in a middle-aged tourist who was brought to the SSRN Hospital in 1975, the only such case I have ever seen - and wouldn't want to have to deal with another one! His right upper limb was torn into shreds, and I assisted Dr Steven Keating, Orthopaedic Surgeon (with whom I was attached as a junior doctor) in the operation that was carried out over hours trying to salvage his limb. He was lucky that he didn't lose his life.

“Whether it is large or small indoor pet, many animal bites, most of which are from dogs or cats, can be prevented. Parents and others looking after them must always keep a close eye on young kids around animals, even pets. They must be taught not to tease pets, to handle them gently, and to stay away from stray animals...”

Because of their ferocity and the strength of their jaws when in action, according to a veterinarian the force produced by the rottweilers is of the order of tons! No wonder that the young man has been mangled so badly, and is likely to be left with significant dysfunction and incapacity likely to impact his livelihood. This is over and above the current suffering that he is undergoing and the loss of time off his work until he is sufficiently recovered to resume.

According to WHO, animal bites are a significant cause of morbidity and mortality



“World's worst dog attacks revealed as pets maul kids and leave owners with horror injuries. Pic - The Sun”

worldwide, and pose a major public health problem in children and adults. Up to five million people are bitten by snakes every year, the majority in Africa and South-East Asia. Dog bites account for millions more of injuries annually and the highest risk is among children. In fact, the most important animal bites are those arising from snakes, dogs, cats and monkeys. Obviously, the health impacts of animal bites are dependent on the type and health of the animal species, the size and health of the bitten person, and accessibility to appropriate health care.

I am not aware that we have any data compiled on animal bites locally, but given that we have no snakes and wild animals, from personal experience and contacts with veterinarian friends it would seem that dog bites are the most common. This perhaps reflects the global situation; in fact, according to the WHO site 'there are no global estimates of dog bite incidence; however, studies suggest that dog bites account for tens of millions of injuries annually.'

Most of those that I have treated have fortunately been relatively minor but one veterinarian tells me that almost 80% of the dog bites that he has seen have been caused by rottweilers. They are classified as dangerous animals, and apparently the veterinary community has for years now been canvassing against the importation of sterile rottweilers. They are only used as guard dogs by certain types of people. They have therefore become a lucrative business for some importers who breed them for

sale at very high prices.

Apparently, there has been talk of legislation to ban the importation of sterile rottweilers, but because of political pressure this has been stalling for years.

These monsters, for that's what they look like and are, are known to be very capricious, and can turn on their owners too. A few years ago, a Mauritian elderly couple settled in Canada came over for a visit, and they were invited to lunch by friends in the south of the island who had a rottweiler. The lady guest was pounced upon by the beast as soon

as she went through the gate, sustaining severe injuries to her face including the eye. After initial treatment here, she had to undergo further reconstructive surgeries to her eye and eyelids when she went back to Canada.

There was also the case of a lady who lived alone in a big house in Curepipe, and she had probably six Dobermans. Usually well-behaved, suddenly one morning when she went to feed them, they all attacked her, and she was killed by them. There's also another incident of a younger lady, who was waiting for her children to come from school, not far from the gate of an embassy, when she was suddenly bitten in the legs by two Dobermans who had been released inside the yard. Fortunately, after they bit her, they went back inside,

and subsequently she had to have treatment in a private clinic.

When she and her husband went to the police station to register a complaint, they were told that it was pointless because the police were not allowed to take complaints against foreign embassies. If that is the case, then surely this lacuna needs to be addressed? At the very least embassies must ensure their dogs are well secured and not allowed outside their compounds.

When I was an intern in the Safdarjung Hospital New Delhi, I saw cases of people being bitten by snakes and scorpions, which they would bring - rightly so! - for the doctors to see so that they could record which type of animal had bitten, and especially in the case of snakes give the appropriate antivenom. Personally, I didn't like the experience of seeing these animals, but those who had brought them accompanying the victims seemed to be quite cool!

One injury that we have seen fairly frequently is the *laffe* bite in the feet of people who had been swimming. It is very painful, and the toxin is very powerful. It can cause gangrene of the area; this can result in amputation of a toe, and in some cases, there may be a raw area left that needs skin grafting.

Rarely I have had to deal with a few cases of bites by red ants in people with diabetes, affecting the heel and the toes. This is because of poor hygiene, but the resulting infection was severe enough that prolonged treatment was required, and even skin grafting in the case of an elderly person.

The same medical maxim applies when it comes to animal bites: **Prevention is better than cure**. Whether it is large or small indoor pet, many animal bites, most of which are from dogs or cats, can be prevented. Parents and others looking after them must always keep a close eye on young kids around animals, even pets. They must be taught not to tease pets, to handle them gently, and to stay away from stray animals.



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Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy was found guilty Thursday Sept. 30, 2021 of illegal campaign financing of his unsuccessful 2012 reelection bid. Pic - AP

Former France prez Sarkozy convicted for illegally financing 2012 election bid

Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy was found guilty of illegal campaign financing over his failed 2012 re-election bid by a Paris court yesterday. It was the second guilty verdict this year for Sarkozy, who led France from 2007 to 2012 and retains influence among conservatives despite falling from grace over his legal woes. The court was yet to say what sentence he would receive.

Prosecutors were seeking a one-year prison sentence, half of it suspended, for the 66-year old former president. He is in any case unlikely to go to jail immediately as he would be expected to appeal the sentence, reports Reuters.

His conservative party, the prosecutors said, spent nearly double the 22.5 million euros (currently \$19.2 million) allowed under electoral law on extravagant campaign rallies and then hired a friendly public relations agency to hide the cost.

Sarkozy has denied wrongdoing. He told the court in June that he had not been involved in the logistics of his campaign for a second term as president nor in how money was spent during the election run-up.

But the court said that Sarkozy was made aware of the overspending, that he did not act on it, and that it was not necessary for him to approve each individual spending to be responsible.

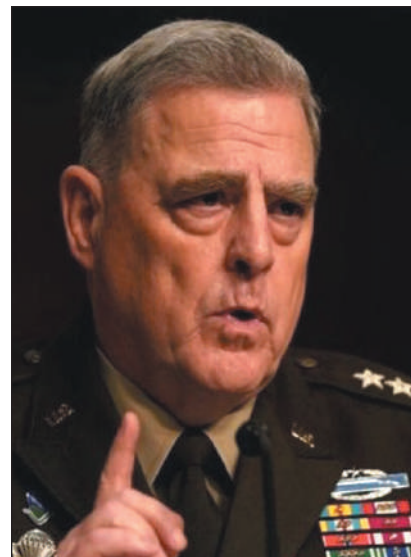
Sarkozy was found guilty in a separate trial in March of trying to bribe a judge and peddle influence in order to obtain confidential information on a judicial inquiry. He also denied any wrongdoing in that case.

The former president was sentenced to three years in jail in that trial - two of which were suspended - but has not actually spent time in prison yet, while his appeal is pending.

Top US military officials warned Biden against withdrawal

Top military officials of the United States, while testifying before a high-level Senate committee on Tuesday, revealed that they had recommended US president Joe Biden to keep some 2,500 American troops standing by on the ground in Afghanistan and also expressed concerns over the fact that the Taliban had not completely severed its ties with the al Qaeda terror outfit. The development comes after White House press secretary Jen Psaki said that Biden had received "split" advice from top-level leaders on what to do with the situation in Afghanistan, which the United States invaded 20 years ago after the al Qaeda conducted the 9/11 attacks in New York and Washington.

General Mark Milley, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff; General Kenneth McKenzie, commander of the US Central Command; and defense secretary Lloyd Austin were grilled for nearly six hours by members of the Senate Armed Services Committee about the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the chaotic evacuation from Kabul airport.



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley listens to a Senator's question during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the conclusion of military operations in Afghanistan. Pic - BBC

port.

General Milley and General McKenzie testified before the Senate committee that they had personally

recommended some 2,500 troops remain on the ground in Afghanistan, reports Joydeep Bose of Hindustan Times.

Milley also claimed that the United States' withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan amid the Taliban offensive had 'damaged' American credibility.

US president Joe Biden had in April ordered a complete pullout of US forces from the war-torn land of Afghanistan by August 31, making the decision to end a 20-year-war. Although he was following through with an agreement reached with the Taliban by former president Donald Trump, Biden was heavily criticised for the decision back home.

A national poll conducted soon after the Taliban takeover of Kabul showed that Biden approval ratings as president, which fell to 43 per cent, were at an all-time low. The majority of Americans disapproved of the way Biden handled foreign policy, while a large section of the populace also termed the United States' role in Afghanistan a "failure".

CIA plotted to kidnap and assassinate Julian Assange in 2017: Report

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), during Donald Trump's presidency, had chalked out plans to kidnap and possibly assassinate Wikileaks founder Julian Assange when he was holed up in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, a report has claimed.

According to Yahoo News, officials of the CIA and the Trump administration had hotly debated the plot to abduct the whistleblower in 2017, exploring the legality of such a move. The mission was eventually nipped in the bud, reports Hindustan Times.

Yahoo News spoke with over 30 former US officials to pursue the story. The report says Mike Pompeo, who was secretary of state then, was at the forefront of the plot. It quotes a former Trump national security official as saying that Pompeo and other CIA leaders were "seeing blood".



Assange was holed up at the Ecuadorian embassy from 2012-19, after which he was arrested and moved to London's Belmarsh prison. Pic- Reuters file

Assange was holed up at the Ecuadorian embassy from 2012-19, after which he was arrested and moved to London's Belmarsh prison.

New Zealand offers one-off resident visa to 165,000 migrants

New Zealand will offer a one-off resident visa to as many as 165,000 migrants after delays in processing residency applications during the Covid-19 pandemic threatened an exodus of skilled foreign workers.

"We are providing a way forward for our migrant families who have been long disrupted by Covid-19, while ensuring businesses have the certainty they need to plan into the future," Immigration Minister Kris Faafoi said in a statement Thursday in Wellington, reports Bloomberg.

The new visa creates an easier pathway to residency for migrant workers left in limbo during the pandemic, including thousands of skilled health workers whose



The 2021 Resident Visa will be available to most work-related visa holders and their immediate family members. Pic - AP

applications for residence had been delayed. Faafoi said the majority of applications will be granted within a year of the category opening in December.

The 2021 Resident Visa will be available to most work-related visa holders and their immediate family members.

Immigration New Zealand estimates eligible visa holders will include over 5,000 health and aged care workers, around 9,000 primary industry workers, and more than 800 teachers. There are also around 15,000 construction and 12,000 manufacturing workers on relevant visa types, some of whom will be eligible for the one-off pathway.

*Contd on page 6

Elon Musk, world's richest man, wants to send 'No 2' statue to Jeff Bezos: Report

Elon Musk on Monday once again reclaimed the title of the world's richest man as he made new records for himself - becoming only the third person in history to amass a net worth of \$200 billion, according to *Forbes* magazine. In the process, Musk crossed Amazon founder and fellow billionaire Jeff Bezos, who earlier enjoyed his stint as the richest man in the world. The celebratory rivalry between the two entrepreneurs is well-known, as in a seeming acknowledgment of this strife - Elon Musk took a fresh dig at Jeff Bezos.

According to the *Forbes* report, Elon Musk sent a 'short email', joking that he was now going to deliver a giant statue of the digit '2' to the Amazon founder, apparently mocking the fact that the latter had to settle for the number 2 position in the list of richest men.

Musk and Bezos have been engaged



This would hardly be the first time that Elon Musk has taken a crack at Jeff Bezos. Pic - HT

in a well-known feud over entrepreneurial ambitions for a long time now, but conflict recently peaked since both of them have

their eyes on the race to outer space and innovations in the automobile sector - including self-driving cars.

This would hardly be the first time that Musk has taken a crack at Bezos. He has already called his rival a "copycat" twice (both times using the emoji of a cat) - once when Bezos' Amazon announced plans to launch internet-beaming satellites in competition with Musk's SpaceX, and then again when Amazon acquired self-driving car company Zoox to take on Musk's Tesla.

Back in August last year, Jeff Bezos became the first person in history to amass a fortune worth \$200 billion. But later in the year, stocks for Musk's electric vehicle company Tesla rallied by a humongous 720%, and both of the billionaires were soon trading barbs as equals. Bezos is currently second on the list, with a net worth of \$192.5 billion, while French art collector and investor Bernard Arnault is third with a net worth of \$174 billion.

Piyush Goyal moots \$1 trillion target for India-US trade

Indian commerce minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday proposed an ambitious target of \$1 trillion for India-US bilateral trade over the next 10 years even as he expressed frustration over the failure of the two sides to conclude an agreement after multiple rounds of talks with the earlier Trump administration.

India-US bilateral trade in goods and services stood at \$146.1 billion in 2019, according to the latest update by the US Trade Representative's office, reports Hindustan Times.

"India and the US can be two countries which should be looking at a balanced future trade upwards of \$1 trillion in the next 10 years," minister Piyush Goyal said at the virtual annual leadership summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, an advocacy group, that started on Wednesday.

India-US trade is up against another ambitious target, one that was fixed by President Joe Biden when he was vice-president in the administration of President Barack Obama. In a speech at the



A US flag flies near containers stacked high on a cargo ship at the Port of Los Angeles on Tuesday. Indian commerce minister Piyush Goyal has proposed an ambitious target of \$1 trillion for India-US bilateral trade over the next 10 years. Pic - AFP

Bombay Stock Exchange during his 2012 India visit, Biden had suggested a "five-fold" increase in the volume of the bilateral trade, which had then stood at \$100 billion.

India and the United States were expected to sign an interim trade agreement - leaving a comprehensive trade agreement for a later date - during former President Donald Trump's visit to India in February 2020.

But the two sides failed to conclude talks in time for the visit and vowed to come up with something later in the year, which never happened as the US went into elections and Trump lost.

Piyush Goyal had said at the time a deal was just a few "phone calls away" to reflect how close the two sides were to an agreement. Indians have blamed the US side for failure by the two sides to get a deal saying American negotiators kept changing the goalpost constantly, making fresh and additional demands.

China's Covid-19 vaccine sales drop as nations switch to mRNA shots

In the early days of the Covid-19 vaccine rollout, Chinese shots saved countless lives. They kick-started inoculation programs across Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East, while richer countries hoarded scarce mRNA shots from Pfizer Inc. and Moderna Inc. But many governments that once relied on vaccines from Sinovac Biotech Ltd. or Sinopharm Group Co Ltd. are now turning to options from the US and Europe instead, as concerns mount about Chinese vaccines' efficacy against the delta strain and the Western stranglehold on mRNA supplies grows looser. That preference may already be showing up in China's customs data, where exports of human vaccines dropped 21% in August to \$1.96 billion from \$2.48 billion in July, after rising steadily since Dec. 2020, reports Bloomberg.

This shift played out during Thailand's deadly outbreak earlier this year. As cases surged and Southeast Asia emerged as

the new epicenter of the pandemic, the nation desperately tried to purchase vaccines. Only one supplier came through in time: China's Sinovac.

The shots allowed the country of 70 million to begin its inoculation campaign earlier than hoped, but Thailand soon confronted a challenge now faced by lawmakers across the developing world.

The efficacy of China's inactivated vac-

cines ranges from about 50% to 80% in clinical trials. But they are less potent than mRNA vaccines and questions are mounting about their effectiveness against the highly transmissible delta variant. As a result, the Thai government became the first in the world to offer an AstraZeneca Plc shot to people who had already received a jab or even two of Sinovac. While it is not an mRNA, Thai studies

showed the Cambridge, U.K.-based company's viral vector vaccine is potent as a booster to the Chinese shot, and that Pfizer's dose was found to be even more effective, reports Bloomberg.

But many Thais soon expressed a strong preference for Western shots -- even protesting to demand them -- and the country's opposition began lambasting the government for its reliance on China. Thailand halted orders of Sinovac and began buying more Western vaccines.

Moves like Thailand's represent a blow to China's vaccine diplomacy ambitions. Nevertheless, governments face a tricky balance between wanting to protect the public and maintaining good relations with China. The Thai Health Ministry has been careful to say that while it has no plans to order more Sinovac, it isn't suggesting the shots aren't effective.



A lab technician holds a vial of Chinese Sinovac's CoronaVac vaccine against coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in Constantine, Algeria, on September 29, 2021. Pic - Reuters

Interview: Jocelyn Chan Low

"Avec une opposition *hopelessly divided*, Jugnauth a toutes les cartes en main pour un renouvellement de son mandat"



Cette semaine, la démission de plusieurs membres du comité régional du MMM retient l'attention du grand public. Pourtant ce genre de comportement des membres de la classe politique n'étonne plus personne. Au contraire, la jeune génération s'attend à un développement accru de l'intégrité et de la dignité de la part des hommes et des femmes en politique. Aussi, nous vous invitons à connaître les réactions de Jocelyn Chan Low, historien et observateur politique mauricien.

Mauritius Times: Après la démission de plus de 25 membres du comité régional du MMM de la circonscription No 6 (Grand-Baie/Poudre-d'Or), ainsi que celle de l'ancien président de village et membre du comité central du MMM, Vinay Sobrun, un autre départ à signaler cette semaine: Madun Dulloo, un premier ministrable potentiel, mais dont la démission ne semble pas préoccuper grandement le parti. Est-ce normal?

Jocelyn Chan Low : Il n'y a rien de nouveau à cela. D'ailleurs, certains parmi les démissionnaires avaient déjà démissionné et fait campagne contre le MMM avant de rentrer au bercail. Ensuite le changement d'allégeance politique est devenu monnaie courante dans la vie

politique à Maurice. Souvent, c'est le résultat de tractations avec le régime en place qui y trouve son intérêt à affaiblir l'opposition à travers le débauchage de ses cadres et de ses activistes.

On connaît le scénario : un groupe de dissidents d'un parti de l'opposition organise une conférence de presse pour critiquer leur ancien parti et encenser le gouvernement. Et le tout est relayé longuement par la station de télévision nationale au journal télévisé.

Tout cela est du déjà vu et personne n'est dupe. Il faut souligner que cette pratique remonte à bien avant les élections générales de 2014.

*** Les démissionnaires de Grand-Baie/Poudre d'Or ont évoqué les**

mêmes raisons comme beaucoup d'autres avant eux pour justifier leur départ du MMM : "divergences d'opinion, l'inaction au sein du parti, une situation malsaine, 'business as usual', zig-zags...", ce qui ne permettrait pas au parti de remonter la pente. Pensez-vous que c'est aussi le sentiment de la base ?

Ces 'travers' qu'ils disent déplorer au sein du MMM ont fait l'objet de critiques de la part d'autres démissionnaires dans le passé. Mais les démissionnaires actuels les découvrent subitement aujourd'hui.

Cela dit, si l'on adopte une perspective plus large, il est évident que le MMM, depuis quelque temps, passe par une phase difficile de son Histoire. Au fil des années, il y a eu une dissociation croissante entre le MMM et la masse de son électorat et, ensuite, avec une partie de ses 'militants coalter'.

De même, le MMM s'appuie beaucoup sur son passé glorieux, héroïque des années de brasse. Mais de 1970 à 2021, cela fait plus de 50 ans. Et la génération d'aujourd'hui vit dans l'immédiateté. Qu'est-ce que le parti a à lui offrir?

Revoir son offre politique pour le 21^e siècle est une question quasi-existentielle pour le MMM s'il ne veut pas se retrouver dans la catégorie des 'has been'.

*** Quel est le sentiment de la base militante vis-à-vis de l'Entente de l'Espoir, une alliance réunissant les Bodha, Bhadain et Duval, selon vous?**

La base militante n'a pas été consultée au sujet de cette Entente parce que le regroupement ne constitue pas une alliance. Il n'y a pas eu d'Assemblée de délégués pour trancher la question. Mais je doute fort que les militants y soient opposés -- le MMM ayant travaillé avec le PMSD de Maurice Allet durant des

“Certains dirigeants affirment que le PTr se prépare à affronter seul les prochaines élections. Mais on ne sait pas à ce stade si le PTr sera mené par Navin Ramgoolam ou quelqu'un d'autre. Si ce n'est pas Navin Ramgoolam qui dirige le PTr, tout devient possible : pas seulement un regroupement des forces de l'opposition mais aussi une alliance avec le MSM...”

Cela est dû à plusieurs raisons, notamment l'abandon de la lutte des classes et de tout ancrage au niveau syndical, et sa transformation en un parti strictement parlementaire traditionnel, jouant le jeu de l'"ethnic politics" comme l'exige le système. Le résultat est que l'activisme du début qui avait grandement contribué à son essor n'y est plus, un grand nombre de cadres du parti sont partis ailleurs et la relève est relativement timide.

Les seules initiatives que prend le leadership restent au niveau des alliances et au niveau du Parlement. Alors que la rue gronde et que la contestation s'amplifie sur les réseaux sociaux, le parti reste relativement effacé. Et la base du MMM s'est beaucoup rétrécie au fil des années. On connaît les difficultés que le parti avait éprouvées pour mobiliser ses militants dans le cadre des élections générales de 2019. En fait, on est très loin de la machinerie du MMM que j'ai connue de l'intérieur dans les 70 et 80.

années alors que Roshi Bhadain est une valeur sûre de l'opposition. Quant à Nando Bodha, autant que je le sache, il n'a pas été pressenti comme un dirigeant d'une quelconque alliance...

*** On se rappelle qu'il y a près de trois semaines, Madun Dulloo avait critiqué Nando Bodha et Roshi Bhadain, ceux-là mêmes qui ont passé la majeure partie de leur carrière politique à essayer de démolir et le PTr et le MMM ou même le PMSD, et qui soudainement se découvrent des affinités avec ces mêmes partis. Si on vous disait que cette "entente de l'espoir" contient en elle-même les germes de sa propre destruction, que répondriez-vous à cela?**

Je ne crois pas qu'il soit question ici d'affinités mais plutôt de stratégie politique vis-à-vis du régime en place car toute fragmentation de l'opposition ne peut que profiter à Pravind Jugnauth, le système de 'First Past The Post' aidant.

● Suite en page 8

“Il ne faudrait pas sous-estimer le poids de l'influence étrangère dans la vie politique à Maurice. Il y a eu des exemples documentés dans le passé. Et, aujourd'hui, alors qu'une nouvelle guerre froide se profile à nos portes, et que Agaléga est au cœur d'un dispositif géostratégique pour l'un des protagonistes, ce ne serait guère étonnant de voir des influences étrangères manœuvrer afin qu'un régime qui lui soit favorable reste au pouvoir...”

"Revoir son offre politique pour le 21e siècle est une question quasi-existentielle

pour le MMM s'il ne veut pas se retrouver dans la catégorie des 'has been'"

● Suite de la page 7

Les dernières élections générales l'ont démontré d'une manière éclatante.

Toute entente ou alliance entre partis politiques entraîne automatiquement des frustrations et des déceptions. A Maurice, le 'front bench' d'un parti ou d'une alliance est déterminé par le souci de la représentation ethnique, voire sous ethnique - symbolique de telle personnalité. Evidemment, l'arrivée par exemple de Nando Bodha ne peut que nuire aux ambitions, d'ailleurs légitimes, de Madun Dulloo. Ce fait a été à l'origine d'un grand nombre de crises et de dissidences au sein du MMM dans le passé.

*** Un constat toutefois, c'est que l'opposition n'est pas parvenue jusqu'ici à se présenter comme une alternative crédible à l'alliance au pouvoir. Les leaders des deux grands partis de l'opposition souffrent de sérieux handicaps - celui du PTr en raison de la campagne de 'character assassination' menée contre sa personne par le MSM depuis 2015, et l'autre auprès de l'électorat lui-même en raison de ses alliances «con-**



“Evidemment, Jugnauth reste le maître du jeu malgré l'impopularité grandissante du régime notamment en raison des conséquences économiques et sociaux de la Covid-19 et les diverses 'affaires'. Mais cela est grandement dû non seulement à l'incapacité de l'opposition à se fédérer et à présenter une alternative crédible mais aussi du fait que les anciens s'accrochent...”

tre-nature» et dont une bonne partie de son électorat a pris graduellement ses distances. Mais c'est quand même difficile de croire que le PTr et le MMM soient des « spent forces » aujourd'hui, n'est-ce pas ?

Je ne crois pas qu'on puisse affirmer que le PTr ou même le MMM sont devenus des 'spent forces'. Il ne faut pas oublier que ces deux partis, avec le PMSD, ont recueilli plus de 50% des votes aux dernières élections générales.

Cela dit, le PTr se trouve confronté à un problème majeur résultant de la campagne de 'character assassination' menée contre Navin Ramgoolam. Cette campagne a grandement terni sa réputation malgré le fait qu'il a été blanchi de la majeure partie des accusations par le judiciaire.

Toutefois, on ne peut prévoir la décision de Navin Ramgoolam par rapport soit à sa carrière politique ou à sa succession après son retour de l'Inde où il suit actuellement un traitement.

Quant au MMM, il se retrouve confronté à la désillusion d'une section de l'électorat envers les partis traditionnels, avec comme conséquence un foisonnement de petits partis qui risquent de grignoter dans son électorat et lui porter préjudice en cas de vote panaché dans certaines circonscriptions urbaines.

*** Pour revenir au PTr, il paraît que le candidat Damry pour la succession de Navin Ramgoolam ne fait pas l'unanimité. Cela pourrait même provoquer la scission du parti, soutiennent certains membres du PTr en privé...**

Toute succession au sein d'un parti provoque inévitablement des frictions et des déceptions. C'est là où l'on mesure les qualités d'un nouveau leader. C'est à lui de faire en sorte que le parti ne sorte pas de cet exercice meurtri. Cependant, le PTr a une histoire de 'crisis management' beaucoup plus réussie que le MMM.

*** Au regard du rapport de forces sur l'échiquier politique, pensez-vous que les prochaines municipales constituent un test crucial pour l'échéance de**

“Le MMM s'appuie beaucoup sur son passé glorieux, héroïque des années de braise. Mais de 1970 à 2021, cela fait plus de 50 ans. Et la génération d'aujourd'hui vit dans l'immédiateté. Qu'est-ce que le parti a à lui offrir? Revoir son offre politique pour le 21e siècle est une question quasi-existentielle pour le MMM s'il ne veut pas se retrouver dans la catégorie des 'has been'...”

“Le gouvernement, bien qu'il contrôle les municipalités, part à ces élections en tant que challenger, du fait qu'aux dernières élections générales, ce sont les partis de l'opposition qui avaient remporté une majorité de sièges dans les circonscriptions urbaines. Et en outre, on verra si l'opposition pourra présenter un front uni face au régime en place...”

2024 ?

Bien sûr que les municipales seront très importantes par rapport à l'évolution politique du pays! Le Gouvernement, bien qu'il contrôle les municipalités, part à ces élections en tant que challenger, du fait qu'aux dernières élections générales, ce sont les partis de l'opposition qui avaient remporté une majorité de sièges dans les circonscriptions urbaines.

Et en outre, on verra si l'opposition pourra présenter un front uni face au régime en place. De même, on connaîtra le poids électoral des nouveaux partis. Cela dit, il y a un facteur qui risque de brouiller les cartes: le taux d'abstention.

En général, il tourne autour de 50%. Qu'en sera-t-il en temps de pandémie? Reste à voir...

*** Le PTr a pris ses distances de l'Entente de l'Espoir en raison de l'affaire de leadership de l'opposition, ce qui n'a toujours pas été résolu. Voyez-vous le PTr avancer résolument vers les prochaines élections générales tout seul, ou les données ont-elles changé depuis un certain temps ?**

Difficile à dire à ce stade bien que certains dirigeants affirment que le parti se prépare à affronter seul les prochaines élections. Mais on ne sait pas à ce stade si le PTr sera mené par Navin Ramgoolam ou quelqu'un d'autre.

Si ce n'est pas Navin Ramgoolam qui dirige le PTr, tout devient possible : pas seulement un regroupement des forces de l'opposition mais aussi une alliance avec le MSM.

D'ailleurs, il y a eu récemment certains signaux, peut-être délibérément entretenus par le MSM, en ce sens après la fameuse photo de Pravind Jugnauth et de Navin Ramgoolam conversant lors d'une réception à l'ambassade de l'Inde. Ensuite le PM a quand même été aux petits soins pour faciliter le transfert de Navin Ramgoolam en Inde pour son traitement.

Cela dit, il ne faudrait pas sous-estimer le poids de l'influence étrangère dans la vie politique à Maurice. Il y a eu des exemples documentés dans le passé. Et, aujourd'hui, alors qu'une nouvelle guerre froide se profile à nos portes, et que Agaléga est au cœur d'un dispositif géostratégique pour l'un des protagonistes, ce ne serait guère étonnant de voir des influences étrangères manœuvrer afin qu'un régime qui lui soit favorable reste au pouvoir. Cela s'est vu ailleurs.

● Suite en page 9

"Toute succession au sein d'un parti provoque inévitablement des frictions..."

Cependant, le PTr a une histoire de 'crisis management' beaucoup plus réussie que le MMM"

• Suite de la page 8

* En attendant, il paraît que Pravind Jugnauth reste toujours le maître du jeu, avec les différentes formations politiques nouvellement créées par Bruno Laurette et d'autres qui ne parviennent pas à peser lourd sur l'échiquier et les partis traditionnels peinent toujours à trouver une véritable entente...

Evidemment, Pravind Jugnauth reste le maître du jeu malgré l'impopularité grandissante du régime notamment en raison des conséquences économiques et sociales de la Covid-19 et les diverses 'affaires'.

Mais cela est grandement dû non seulement à l'incapacité de l'opposition à se fédérer et à présenter une alternative crédible mais aussi du fait que les anciens s'accrochent alors que la jeune génération réclame du renouveau.

Ce renouveau se fait à travers l'éclosion d'une myriade de petits partis qui ne peut qu'ajouter à la confusion sur l'échiquier politique

* Au regard de la gestion par le Premier ministre des affaires qui ont dominé l'actualité depuis le début de son mandat par rapport à Soopramanien Kistnen, Yogida Sawmynaden, St Louis Gate, et



“A Maurice, le 'front bench' d'un parti ou d'une alliance est déterminé par le souci de la représentation ethnique, voire sous ethnique - symbolique de telle personnalité. Evidemment, l'arrivée par exemple de Nando Bodha ne peut que nuire aux ambitions, d'ailleurs légitimes, de Madun Dulloo. Ce fait a été à l'origine d'un grand nombre de crises et de dissidences au sein du MMM dans le passé...”

autres, voyez-vous Pravind Jugnauth tenir le coup jusqu'à 2024?

A ce jour, il n'y a absolument aucune raison pour que le gouvernement s'écroule. Certes, il y a les pétitions électorales mais le temps de la justice est très long. Quant aux diverses affaires, les enquêtes traînent et c'est difficile de croire qu'elles seront bouclées rapidement.

En outre, le gouvernement dispose d'une solide majorité parlementaire. Il y a évidemment l'opposition de rue. On peut se référer aux manifestations monstres à Port Louis en août 2020 et février 2021. Mais, à Maurice, la vie politique se déroule à l'ombre du constitutionnalisme. La rue ne renversera jamais un gouvernement élu. Tout se jouera aux urnes.

Et, pour le moment, avec une opposition *hopelessly divided* Jugnauth a toutes les cartes en main pour un renouvellement de son mandat. Certes, il y en a qui crieront 'Au loup!' en évoquant une crise économique à venir. Mais dans le contexte géopolitique actuel, le régime pourra toujours emprunter...

MAURITIUS TIMES To Our Readers

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

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

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

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

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“In the light of press reports questioning the manner some important assets of Air Mauritius including six planes have been disposed of as well as the quantum of certain costs, it is imperative that an independent audit of Air Mauritius be carried out to provide an objective snapshot of the company before it takes its new flight as a streamlined, rejuvenated and efficient national airline...”

● Cont. from page 3

The country is reopening its borders to welcome fully vaccinated tourists with no restrictions as from 1 October. A concomitant and crucial decision is that Air Mauritius will once again rise like the Phoenix from the throes of voluntary administration. The revival of the tourism industry can-

not be envisaged without the operational support of a more efficient national carrier. There cannot be any compromise on a matter of such importance to the country.

It is also important that the government learns from past mistakes and ensures that the Board of Air Mauritius is not as before principally made up of government appointees with no experience or expertise to contribute to the specialized and pointed decision making required to define policies and successfully operate a national airline. It should be remembered that costly blunders of the past have caused Air Mauritius to lose billions of Rupees through *inter alia* ill advised hedging operations.

It is therefore high time for the Board of Air Mauritius to include members with the professional expertise, ex-

Time to Stop the Rot Air Mauritius: Assuring a new dawn

perience and business acumen of seasoned professionals from the commercial airline sector to enable it to define in conjunction with the management innovative strategies for a successful and commercially profitable future.

It is equally high time to ensure that the top brass of Air Mauritius and its CEO are experienced professionals of the airline sector and include on the basis of merit the top cadres of Air Mauritius at the time it was put in voluntary administration last year.

Air Mauritius has over the years developed a vibrant ecosystem encompassing a range of support services and professional skills relating to the airline sector, the leasing of planes, the management of airports and private jets, etc. These valuable skills should be harnessed to give synergic impetus to Air Mauritius to realize a successful and bright new beginning and future.

In the light of press reports questioning the manner some important assets of Air Mauritius including six planes have been disposed of as well as the quantum of certain costs, it is imperative that an independent audit of Air Mauritius be carried out to provide an objective snapshot of the company before it takes its new flight as a streamlined, rejuvenated and efficient national airline.

Mrinal Roy

Inequality is a global problem

● Cont. from page 2

We set them out below.

Technical solutions: These include fiscal transfers. While important, they are not by themselves sufficient to address inequality. What is needed is a fuller understanding of the political, social and economic factors driving the growth in inequality. This includes how these forces may be different in the global South. Inequality is a global problem, but this does not mean its causes are universal. Inequality is in essence an issue of power, which is socially constructed. For this reason, context matters. While inequality is a global problem, its growth is most pronounced and the political, social and economic challenges it poses are most complex and pronounced in the global South.

Money-metric assessments: One example of these assessments is the Gini coefficient, which measures levels of inequality. These assessments have been useful for measuring inequality but don't offer useful solutions. Inequality studies and policies need to move away from a preoccupation with these measures. This is important if we are to understand inequality as a viola-

tion of human dignity. Here, a multidisciplinary approach is called for if we are to solve the inequality challenge. History, sociology, gender studies, anthropology, philosophy, the natural sciences, and health sciences have as much to contribute as economics.

It is for this reason for example that UNAIDS executive director Winnie Byanyima will present the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies' annual Inequality Lecture. Ms Byanyima was previously Executive Director of Oxfam International and director of Gender and Development at the UNDP.

Differences in capacity: It's important to understand the differences in the fiscal capacities of countries in the global North and the global South to address inequality. High-income countries can ameliorate somewhat the high levels of inequality because they have high levels of taxation and significant state capacity. But this isn't possible in much of the global South – at least not to the same extent. This generates complex social and economic challenges which require policy attention.

Joined at the hip: This points to the need to understand that inequality within countries is

inextricably linked with the forces shaping inequality between countries. The problem can't be solved simply in one geography. Inequality between countries needs to be tackled simultaneously.

What next

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into sharp relief how very differently countries are experiencing the burden of the pandemic.

The heaviest tolls have been exacted on the most economically marginalised countries. In South Africa, for example, job and income losses have been most pronounced. Low-paid workers, the young and workers in the informal economy and in service sectors have borne a disproportionate burden of job and income losses. Women, who make up a substantial portion of workers in the services economy, have been the hardest hit.

Countries in the global North have been able to protect their economies from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic through a stimulus package of unprecedented levels. The US stimulus package has been estimated at US\$1.9 trillion. Developing and emerging economies, on the other hand, have been thrown into a deep-seated economic crisis due



How to ensure global debates about inequality are informed by views from developing countries - Investing.com ZA - Pic - Reuters

to the pandemic.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also highlighted inequality between countries. This is most starkly evident in the way in which access to vaccines has been determined. This is undermining the recovery in both developing and developed countries and points to the need for inequality to be tackled as a global issue, between countries and within countries.

For all of the excellent academic research on inequality, the COVID-19 pandemic shows us that very little has been achieved at the policy level to actually address the challenge and to move to a more equal world. If we

are to do that, global policies have to address the realities of how unequal economic and social patterns are across the globe.

Moreover, the realities of inequality from the perspective of the global South need to inform these policy changes. If we don't pursue such an ambitious policy agenda, the Covid-19 pandemic will be yet another shock, like the 2008 global financial crisis, that exposes the fragility and inequalities in our economic and social systems, but that we quickly forget about – that is, until the next global shock.

Imraan Valodia,
University of the Witwatersrand

'I see dead people': why so many of us believe in ghosts

Belief in ghosts also appears to be global, with most (if not all) cultures around the world having some widely accepted kind of ghosts



Anna Stone
Senior Lecturer in Psychology,
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James L Chaffin of Monksville, North Carolina, died after an accident in 1921, leaving his estate in full to his favourite son Marshall and nothing to his wife and three other children. A year later Marshall died, so the house and 120 acres of land went to Marshall's widow and son.

But four years later, his youngest son James "Pink" Chaffin started having extraordinary dreams in which his father visited him and directed him to the location of a second, later will in which Chaffin senior left the property divided between his widow and the surviving children. The case went to court and, as you'd expect, the newspapers of the time went mad for the story.

The court found in Pink's favour and, thanks to the publicity, the Society for Psychical Research (SPR) investigated, finally coming to the conclusion that Pink had indeed been visited by his father's ghost. Pink himself never wavered from this explanation, stating: "I was fully convinced that my father's spirit had visited me for the purpose of explaining some mistake."

Unlikely as it might seem in the cold light of day, ghosts and hauntings are a mainstream area of belief. Recent studies by YouGov in the UK and the USA show that between 30% and 50% of the population says they believe in ghosts. Belief in ghosts also appears to be global, with most (if not all) cultures around the world having some widely accepted kind of ghosts.

The existence of a ghost as an incorporeal (bodyless) soul or spirit of a dead person or animal is contrary to the laws of nature as we understand them, so it seems there is something here that calls for explanation. We can look at the worlds of literature, philosophy and anthropology for some of the reasons why people are so



Unwelcome guest: Banquo's ghost from Shakespeare's Macbeth. Photo - Théodore Chassériau

keen to believe.

Blithe (and vengeful) spirits

The desire for justice and the belief in some form of supernatural protection (which we see in more major religions) address basic human needs. Ghosts have long been thought of as vehicles for justice. Shakespeare's Hamlet is visited by the ghost of his murdered father seeking revenge on his murderer. In Macbeth, meanwhile, the murdered Banquo points an accusing finger at the man responsible for his death.

This idea has its equivalents today in various countries. In Kenya, a murdered person may become an ngoma, a spirit who pursues their murderer, sometimes causing them to give themselves up to the police. Or in Russia the rusalka is the spirit of a dead woman who died by drowning and now lures men to their death. She may be released when her death is avenged.

Ghosts can also be friends and protectors. In Charles Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol', Ebenezer Scrooge is helped by the ghosts of Christmas Present, Past and Future to mend his hardhearted ways before it's too late. In the 'Sixth Sense' (spoiler alert), the ghost character played by Bruce Willis helps a young boy to come to terms with his ability to see ghosts and to help them to find peace. Many people are comforted by thinking that their deceased loved ones are watching over them and perhaps guiding them.

But many people also like to believe that death is not the end of existence - it's

a comfort when we lose people we love or when we face the idea of our own mortality. Many cultures around the world have had beliefs that the dead can communicate with the living, and the phenomenon of spiritualism supposes that we can communicate with the spirits of the dead, often through the services of specially talented spirit mediums.

And we love to be scared, as long as we know we aren't actually in danger. Halloween TV schedules are full of films where a group of (usually young) volunteers spends a night in a haunted house (with gory results). We seem to enjoy the illusion of danger and ghost stories can offer this kind of thrill.

Philosophical idea

Belief in ghosts finds support in the longstanding philosophical idea that humans are naïve dualists, naturally believing that our physical being is separate from our consciousness. This view of ourselves makes it easy for us to entertain the idea that our mind could have an existence separate from our body - opening the door to believing that our mind or consciousness could survive death, and so perhaps become a ghost.

Looking at how the brain works, the experience of hallucinations is a lot more common than many people realise. The SPR, founded in 1882, collected thousands of verified first-hand reports of visual or auditory hallucinations of a recently deceased person. More recent research suggests that a majority of elderly bereaved people may experience visual

or auditory hallucinations of their departed loved ones that persist for a few months.

Another source of hallucinations is the phenomenon of sleep paralysis, which may be experienced when falling asleep or waking up. This temporary paralysis is sometimes accompanied by the hallucination of a figure in the room that could be interpreted as a supernatural being. The idea that this could be a supernatural visitation is easier to understand when you think that when we believe in a phenomenon, we are more likely to experience it.

Consider what might happen if you were in a reputedly haunted house at night and you saw something moving in the corner of your eye. If you believe in ghosts, you might interpret what you saw as a ghost. This is an example of top-down perception in which what we see is influenced by what we expect to see. And, in the dark, where it might be difficult to see properly, our brain makes the best inference it can, which will depend on what we think is likely - and that could be a ghost.

According to the Dutch philosopher Baruch Spinoza, belief comes quickly and naturally, whereas scepticism is slow and unnatural. In a study of neural activity, Harris and colleagues discovered that believing a statement requires less effort than disbelieving it.

Given these multiple reasons for us to believe in ghosts, it seems that the belief is likely to be with us for many years to come.



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Home



Motor car



car



Lorries

Arguing with the people you love? How to have a healthy family dispute

Disputes can seem to threaten us and what we stand for morally



Jessica Robles
Lecturer in Social Psychology,
Loughborough University

Unlike Britain's royal family, most of us don't have the option to move to another country when we don't see eye to eye. But most of us have likely experienced disagreements with loved ones.

Conversations are designed to do things - to start some action, and complete it - whether it's a service transaction, an invitation to coffee or reassurance on a bad day. Our uniquely complex communicative system has evolved to help us get things done in the social world.

Arguments are part of this complex system. They can be unavoidable, necessary or even productive. But they can also be difficult.

It can be hard to know what to do when tensions are high and harsh words are flying, particularly when it involves someone you're close to. But research on how disputes unfold - and conversation more generally - offers some ideas about the best way to handle one.

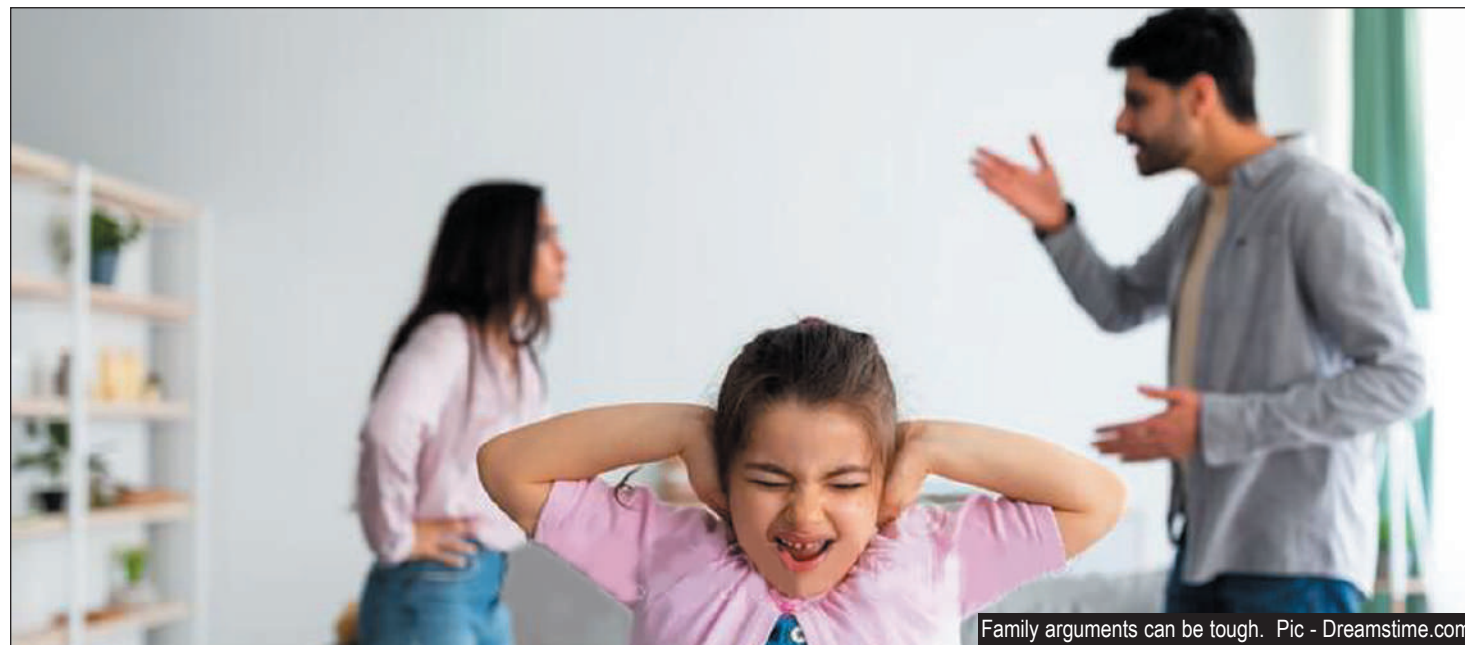
What is a dispute?

There are many words for disagreeing, and there are plenty of academic theories describing what disputes are and why they happen. But arguments are not abstract models. They're lived in, breathed in, sweated in and talked (or sometimes shouted) into being.

Research focusing on how disputes actually happen shows they're characterised by three types of features. First are the vocal features, which include talking in a higher pitch, louder and faster. Then, there are embodied features such as aggressive gestures and avoidant stances, such as turning away from someone. Finally, there are interactional features such as talking over each other, not listening or metatalk - comments about the conversation as it's happening.

Displays of emotion such as displeasure or anger, are also common. Participants might accuse each other of emotions or label their own emotions.

Disputes happen for several reasons. What each person is doing can vary, from



Family arguments can be tough. Pic - Dreamstime.com

complaints and accusations to demands, threats or resistance.

They can be about many things - familial obligations, what to have for dinner, politics or how to plan a holiday. Luckily, disputes share elements with each other and with conversation generally - so you don't have to invent new strategies every time you're caught in one.

Affiliation and alignment

When bickering with a friend or family member, there are ways to make them feel like you're still on their side even if you disagree. If you can keep these in mind, and use them at the right time, you might stop your dispute from escalating into something harder to mend.

The first thing is affiliation, which means support for the other person or their view of things.

Affiliation involves phrasing what you say so it's best understood and easier to respond to. For example, saying "you've been to France before, right?" invites someone to share their experience - partly by including the tag "right" at the end, which at least requires a confirmation.

It can also involve categorisation, the way we talk about or treat others as certain types or group members. For example, if you reduce the other person to a stereotype through labelling - by saying something like "girls always say stuff like that" or "OK, boomer" - you risk provoking a response to the insult, not to the action in which that insult was embedded.

The second thing we expect from any conversation is alignment - cooperating with the direction of the conversation, such as accepting or denying a request. The opposite, disalignment, might occur when a request is ignored.

Alignment has more to do with the

sequence of the conversation, how the dispute unfolds over time. Asking for clarification - a practice known as repair - or claiming a misunderstanding can treat problems as fixable errors rather than moral failings or attacks. Humour can diffuse conflict escalation.

How to have a healthy dispute

In the course of a dispute, you need to think about when to bring these tactics out. They're more likely to yield better outcomes earlier in the dispute. By the time it's escalated, your responses may be viewed through the prism of the dispute and any offensiveness you've already displayed toward each other. In cases like this, teasing can come across as contempt, for example, and claims to misunderstand as bad-faith mockery.

It can feel like disputes take on a life of their own - as if the conversation uses us rather than we use it - and this is partly because conversation can seemingly take us along for the ride (consider the difficulty of turning down invitations). We invest our identities into conversations so disputes can seem to threaten us and what we

stand for morally.

This may be starker with family, whose opinions of us often matter more than friends or colleagues, for example. It's always worth stopping to reflect on what a dispute is really for, whether what you're saying lines up with your goals and whether taking a stand is worth it.

NOTICE FOR BUILDING AND LAND USE PERMIT

Take notice that **COMPUSPEED LTD** will apply to the Municipal Council of Port Louis for a Building and Land Use permit for the construction of a Commercial at Ground Floor for office and residential at Second Floor at 29 Jawaharlal Nehru Street, Port Louis.

Any person feeling aggrieved by the proposal may lodge an objection in writing to the above-named Council within 15 days from the date of this publication.

Date: 01 October 2021

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The smiling corpses

Three smiling corpses are lying in a morgue in Alabama, and a detective pays a visit to the coroner to find the cause of death.

"This is Bob, he died after winning the jackpot of the state lottery," he says

He then proceeds to the second smiling corpse "This is Ned, he died having sex with a blonde," says the coroner.

Finally he moves onto the last smiling corpse. "This is Robin, he died after being struck by lightning," says the coroner.

"Well, why in the hell was he smiling?" asks the detective.

"Oh, he thought he was having his picture taken," comments the coroner.

A man enters a barbershop for a shave. While the barber is foaming him up, he states that he has a problem getting a close shave around his cheeks.

"I have the solution, and he removes two rubber balls from a nearby drawer. "Just place these between your cheeks and gum."

The guy places the balls in his mouth and the barber proceeds with the closest shave the man has ever experienced. After a few stokes the client is very impressed.

"Just one thing, what if I swallow

them?" he asks in a garbled voice.

"No problem, just bring them back tomorrow like everyone does," says the barber.

One Friday, a man and a woman walk into a very posh shop.

"Show the lady your finest mink," the guy tells the owner. So the owner of the shop comes back with a full length coat. As the lady tries it on, the owner whispers to the man: "That fur goes for £50000."

"No problem, I'll write a cheque."

"Very good, sir, you may come by on Monday to pick the coat up, after your clears," says the owner." So the man and the woman leave.

On Monday, the man returns alone. The owner outraged says: "How dare you show your face in here, there wasn't a penny in your account."

"Sorry," grins the guy, "but I wanted to thank you for the most wonderful weekend of my life."

During a company-held workshop on emergencies, our instructor asked, "What would you do if you received a letter

In the human resources department in the large corporation where I work, I receive absentee slips for all of the employees. Over the years I've heard every excuse, ranging from the reasonable ("I had no hot water") to the questionable ("My dog might have rabies"). But the other day I found one in my voice mail that I'd never heard before.



bomb?"

One guy knew: "Write 'Return to Sender.'"

I have always tried to be conscientious about teaching my children respect by example, keeping an even tone when speaking to my boys, and reserving my "big voice" for serious, repeated offences.

I found myself reflecting on this one morning after waking up with laryngitis.

I croaked out an explanation in a bare-

"I won't be in today," said my absent coworker. "I'll call back later with an excuse."

-- Kathy Price

When a woman applies for a job at a citrus grove, the foreman asks, "Do you have any experience picking lemons?"

"Well," she answers, "I've been divorced three times."

ly audible whisper to my eight-year-old son who turned to his five-year-old brother and said excitedly, "Matt! Mom can't yell at us! What do you want to do?"

-- Tracy Costa

I was standing at a crosswalk when a group of students marched by. "Okay, children, why do we all need to stay on the sidewalk?" the teacher asked.

I expected to hear something about the dangers of traffic.

Instead I heard,

"Because if we don't, our health insurance won't cover us."

-- Sandra Jergensen

A marine biologist was telling his friends about some of his most recent research findings.

"Some whales can communicate at a distance of 300 miles," he said.

"What the hell would one whale say to another 300 miles away?" asked his sarcastic friend.

"I'm not absolutely sure," the expert said, "but it sounds something like, 'Can you hear me now?'"

-- Marilyn Adkins

A friend had a waitressing position open at his diner and asked job seekers to fill out an application.

Under "Salary Expected," a woman wrote, "Friday."

Life's Stories

Do not go through life so fast

A successful young executive was riding his brand-new Jaguar down a neighbourhood street when he noticed a kid darting out from between parked cars. He slowed down a little but as he appeared near it, a brick smashed into his car's door. He slammed on the brakes and drove back to the place where the brick has been thrown.

The furious man jumped out of his car and caught the nearest kid shouting, "What was that all about? What the heck did you do to my car? Why did you do it?" The young boy was little scared, but was very polite and apologetic. "I am sorry Mister. I didn't know what else to do," he pleaded. "I had to throw the brick because no one else would stop for my call to help." With tears rolling down his cheeks, he pointed towards the parked cars and said "it's my brother, he rolled off the curb and fell off his wheelchair and he is badly hurt. I can't lift him up."

The sobbing boy asked the man, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He is hurt and he is too heavy for me." The young man was moved beyond words and tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the other kid from the spot and put him back to the wheelchair. He also helped the little kid with his bruises and cuts.

When he thought that everything will be ok, he went back to his car. "Thank you, sir, and God bless you," said the grateful kid. The young man was too shaken up for any word, so the man simply watched the little boy push the wheelchair bound brother down the sidewalk. It was a long and slow ride back home to the man. When he came out of the car, he looked at his dented car door. The damage was very noticeable, but he did not bother to repair it. He kept the dent to remind him of the message; "Do not go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention."

Moral: Life whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we do not listen to it, it throws a brick at us. It is our choice, listen to the whisper or wait for the brick.



Life's Lessons

Google CEO Sundar Pichai - Five Balls

Sundar Pichai gave a speech lasting only 60 seconds: He said:

Imagine life is a game of 5 balls that you manipulate in the air trying not to fall these balls. One of them is rubber, and the rest is glass.

The five balls are: work, family, health, friends, soul.

It will not be long before you realize that work is a rubber ball. Whenever you fall, you will jump again, while the other balls are made of glass. If one of them falls, it will not return to its previous form.

It will either be damaged, bruised, cracked or even scattered. You have to be aware of that and strive for it.

Manage your work efficiently during working hours, take the time to be assured of your sincerity, give the necessary time to your family and friends, take appropriate rest, and take care of your health. If you are gone, it isn't easy to return as it was.

The secret to long-lasting marriages

Humans are bound to make mistakes. None of us are perfect and we certainly can't vouch for not making mistakes. Lies, misunderstandings, ego problems, etc., all contribute to the little mistakes we make in our life, career, and relationships. But the most delicate of it all -relationships, is prone to break off even with the slightest mistake.

It's not easy holding up in a relationship where the two partners are always picture-perfect and with no faults. But that is not true. One is bound to break off at one point. The facade of perfection is just a mere reflection of who we want to be, but not who we are. People who do not realize this, end up making mistakes in their relationships and marriages.

It's never easy to stay in a marriage where one partner has evidently made mistakes, one after the other. Whether it's financial insecurity, gambling, emotional or physical infidelity, etc. marriages break if the partners cannot bring to rectify their mistakes.



He & She

And if they can't forgive.

Forgiveness is a highly valued emotion and feeling. It only arises out of love, trust, and sometimes, pity. In relationships, forgiveness stands at a very high pedestal, so much that it indeed plays a big role in keeping relationships and marriages together. Battling through the consistent tears and pain, a person may decide to forgive their partner for the mistakes in order to move along happily in the relationship which can fix and mend broken relationships to a point like nothing else.

This self-attributed emotion is scarce; not many people can forgive. It's hard to imagine a person forgiving their partner for countless yellings, cheating episodes, or even the financial blues but some do. They forgive. And then happily move on in their life. Studies suggest that forgiveness helps a person feel more empathy and love for their partner, thus allowing the latter to rectify their mistake. Fights are always bitter but solving them the right way can sweeten up the marriage. But many would argue that forgiveness is full of compromises. And are you ready to compromise?

Forgiveness isn't for the meek hearted

It takes gut and a strong will to forgive someone and trust them again. A person may trust their partner to never make the same mistake again, but when the latter takes it for granted, it turns toxic. The person always seems to think that their partner will always forgive them since they love them so much. This is wrong. Love should never be a weak point in any marriage. Forgiving a person for their mistake, again and again, isn't healthy, but at the end of the day, it all lies in choices. It's the person's choice if they decide to forgive their partner - thus leading to a successful, long-lasting marriage, filled with thorns and pain.

A healthy, forgiving marriage is where the individual accepts their mistake and takes charge of themselves to emerge as a good partner to their spouse. They recognize their faults and work persistently to improve their marriage's condition. This strengthens the marriage and the foundation of love and trust and provides the path for a long-lasting marriage ahead.

Health & Balance

Health Myths Debunked

Drink 8 glasses of water a day

No need to count cups. Research shows people who gulp a glass of H₂O when they're thirsty get enough to stay healthy and hydrated. Water-rich foods like soup, fruit, and vegetables and drinks like juice, tea, and coffee all help you get your fill. You might need to drink more water if your urine is dark yellow, you don't go regularly, you're very active, or you live in a hot climate.

Eggs are bad for your heart

Omelet lovers, rejoice. Eating an egg or two a day doesn't raise the risk of heart disease in healthy people. Yes, the yolks have cholesterol, but for most of us, the amount found in any one food isn't as bad for you as the mix of fats from everything you eat. What's more, eggs have nutrients, like omega-3s, that may lower the risk of heart disease.

Antiperspirant causes breast cancer

Don't sweat it! Some scientists think the chemicals found in antiperspirants and deodorants can be absorbed through your underarm. The idea is they end up in breast tissue and make tumours more likely. But the National Cancer Institute says there's no evidence connecting either product with breast cancer.

Being cold gives you a cold

No matter what your grandma might've told you, spending too much time in the cold air doesn't make you sick. One study found that healthy men who spent several hours in temperatures just above freezing had an increase in healthy, virus-fighting activity in their immune systems. In fact, you're more likely to get sick indoors, where germs are easily passed.

You need a daily multivitamin

You may have heard that a multivitamin can make up for nutrients that aren't in your diet. Researchers don't all agree on that point. But if your doctor tells you to take vitamin, do it. And if you're pregnant, you need to take folic acid to lower the risk of birth defects. Still, the best way to get your nutrients is to eat a diet filled with fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, and healthy oils.

Eat breakfast to lose weight

Eating breakfast does help some people lose weight. It can stave off hunger, and it might prevent



random eating later in the day. If you're not a breakfast fan, you can still slim down. A Cornell University study found that the non-breakfast crowd didn't overeat at lunch and dinner, and they ate about 400 fewer calories a day. The bottom line: Skipping breakfast may help some healthy people shed pounds.

Green mucus means infection

The contents of your tissue can't take the place of a lab test. Studies show that green or yellow mucus is slightly more common in certain bacterial infections. But it's not a sure sign that you have one or that you need antibiotics. A sinus infection can cause clear mucus, and a common cold can turn it green.

A toilet seat can make you sick

Don't stress if you can't cover the seat. Toilet seats are usually pretty clean -- it's bathroom doors, door handles, and floors that tend to be covered with bugs like E. coli, norovirus (a.k.a. "stomach flu"), and the flu. Cover your hand with a paper towel before you touch doors or handles, and use hand sanitizer or wash afterward.

Cracking joints causes arthritis

The sound might annoy people around you, but that's about all the harm it does. You may think bones or joints rub together to cause the noise, but that's not so. It results from a gas bubble that forms between the bones and "pops." Studies show it doesn't cause or play a role in arthritis. If you feel regular or severe pain when you do it, see your doctor.

*Medically Reviewed by Jennifer Robinson, MD
- WebMD*

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SCHOOL OF NURSING EMPLOYEES UNION CENTRAL NURSING SCHOOL CANDOS

All members of the School of Nursing Employees Union are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting which will be held on **Tuesday 19th October 2021 at 1pm** at Central School of Nursing Orbis Court Quatre-Bornes.

AGENDA

1. Reading and approval of last AGM minutes
2. President's Report
3. Treasure's Report
4. Change of Name
5. AOB

In case enough member do not show off to make a quorum, the meeting will be postponed to **Wednesday 3rd November 2021** at the same time and place and with same agenda.

Mrs Bactora
Secretary

28th September 2021

BollyBytes



Ranbir Kapoor celebrates his 39th b'day in Rajasthan with Alia Bhatt

Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor celebrated his 39th birthday at a beautiful resort near Jawai Dam in Rajasthan's Pali district along with his rumoured girlfriend Alia Bhatt.

Bhatt, in fact, posted the picture of the venue sitting on the banks of the dam and wrote "Happy birthday My Life." Alia's mother Soni Razdaan also joined them on the occasion.

The couple landed in Jodhpur three days back and since then have been travelling at different locations. The two were seen enjoying at Jawai Leopard hills.

The love birds, sources said, are searching for a perfect wedding destination for their much-awaited wedding.

* * *



Bhumi Pednekar: Always want films that portray women correctly

Bhumi Pednekar says she wants to do films that portray women correctly and she is thankful to the directors she has collaborated with because they shared the same vision for societal change.

Bhumi started her journey in Hindi cinema with the hit film '*Dum Laga Ke Haisha*' in 2015. She was then seen in films such as '*Toilet: Ek Prem Katha*', '*Son Chiriya*', '*Shubh Mangal Saavdhan*', '*Bala*', and '*Sandh Ki Aankh*' among others.

The actress is now looking forward to her upcoming line up, which includes '*Mr Lele*', '*Badhaai Do*' and '*Raksha Bandhan*'.

The actress said: "I have always been super confident of my film choices. I have always wanted them to be different and unique. As a woman, I feel it is my duty to choose scripts that portray women with a lot of dignity."

Mallika Sherawat says nude scenes now accepted

In an interview with a news portal, Mallika Sherawat spoke about how only women were targeted for doing bold scenes earlier and the men always got away with it. According to her, that is what the patriarchy system is all about. Men walk away with everything and it is the women who get blamed. However, the actress also added that the mind-set of the people has changed over the years. Not only the media but even society is very supportive towards women today.

Elaborating further, Mallika added that the actresses who are doing nude scenes today are accepted. It is even considered artistic.

In an earlier interview with Times of India, Mallika had said, "Mallika adds, "I am grateful to Bollywood for what I have. Who was I? This place gave me a career, a name. I can live life on my terms and enjoy my economic freedom. I have had the chance to work and hobnob with some fantastic people. No one gets a life like that. Things have just become better with such great roles being penned for women today. I feel so encouraged. It gives hope to actresses like me. It's the golden period for artists."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Mallika is currently seen in '*Nakaab*' which also stars Esha Gupta and Gautam Rode in lead roles.

On playing Ekta Kapoor-like TV producer in '*Nakaab*'

Mallika Sherawat who is playing the role of '*Zohra Mehra*', a leading and influential TV producer in the web show '*Nakaab*', says she relates to the perseverance of her character. And she also talks about her perspective on this character being compared with TV czarina Ekta Kapoor.

When asked about the same, Mallika says: "I have immense respect for Ekta and all that she has achieved in what was always a male-dominated industry. And while many may like to compare, my character Zohra is in fact made of a strong fabric, and I can totally relate to her. I started out from scratch and worked hard to reach where I am today."

'*Nakaab*' revolves around cop Aditi Amre (Esha Gupta) who get assigned to a high-profile death case of a prime-time television actress Vibha Dutta (Ankita Chakraborty) who was very close to Zohra Mehra (Mallika Sherawat).



Madhuri Dixit gives free 'Garba' classes on her online dance academy

Madhuri Dixit's online dance academy has announced free 'Garba' classes to celebrate the spirit of Navratri.

The Dance with Madhuri Academy has created the #2021GarbaExperience campaign. The online dance academy will also give free classes where audiences can learn the classic Garba steps from the best choreographers.

"Dance With Madhuri wanted to make sure people do not miss the opportunity of it and hence we provided a platform where people can stay at the safety of their homes and still have fun playing and learning Garba from the very best," says Madhuri.

The audiences can participate in the dance contest and top 9 entries performances will be featured one by one daily on their social media platform from October 7



- 14 and will be given free academy subscription and certificates. One grand winner will get a personalised video message from Madhuri Dixit herself.

Emraan Hashmi: "I can't romance my cousin"

As per a 2016 India TV report, rumours mills back then were churning with news that Emraan Hashmi actor was offered a film co-starring Alia Bhatt but the *Tiger 3* actor bluntly refused it. Wondering why? Well, the only reason Emraan Hashmi turned down the movie opposite Alia Bhatt was because it was supposed to be a rom-com. And he didn't want to play romantic lead against Bhatt. Scratching your head as to why the 'serial kisser' of Bollywood didn't want to romance this stunning and talented actress? Well, for the unversed, Alia and Emraan are cousins! And the actor knew it would have been very awkward for them to romance in reel-life given the relationship they share in real life, reports Koimoi.

A while before this news started doing the round in 2016, Emraan Hashmi, in an interview, had said that he would love to team up with his cousin Alia Bhatt. However, he added that he would not like to romance her on the silver screen. The *Chehre* actor had said, "I can only work with her as a brother... Any other thing would make me sick. I can't romance my cousin and I don't think anyone has done that; it would be awkward".

Rakshanda Khan: 'With age, a lot of things change in life'

Being a TV actor in the 40s, Rakshanda Khan says one is offered a particular kind of roles but she is glad to have done drama and supernatural.

With the festive season upon us, Rakshanda Khan is elated to see that almost everything in the city has opened up or will soon, she tells Kavita Awaasthi of Hindustan Times. "We know of a different world and I hope we go back to being better than normal. Since the last 17 months, we are living in 'ifs'. It is not a great feeling. We are not sure of what will happen next. But now, things seem to be settling."

As her seven-year-old daughter too was cooped up at home, Khan is looking forward to celebrating festivals. "Our building complex is quite cosmopolitan. We celebrate just about every festival as the kids enjoy and look forward to celebrating in our building. We celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi and now are getting into the spirit of celebration. We will enjoy Navratri, Durga puja, Dussera and Halloween."

On the work front, the actor, who turned 46 on Tuesday 28 Sept, will soon start shoot for a new show. Ask her about aging in the entertainment industry and she replies, "It depends on the way you look at age. It can be as daunting, fun, depressing or interesting or where you are in life, mentally. With age, a lot of things change in life. If you are a TV actor in your 40s, you will be offered a particular kind of role. I am blessed that I got chance to experiment with many roles including drama and supernatural."

"To do a *Naagin*, was fabulous as often people at my age don't get such roles. It has been a fascinating journey. But I agree that there is a limit, *ek seema hai* on TV and unfortunately, we accept it and go ahead with it. TV has not experimented much in years. Now that OTT is here, it seems all sorts of experiments in stories and roles are on the digital medium."



Nakuul Mehta: 'My greatest challenge is to be able to say no more comfortably'

There was a time when Nakuul Mehta was looking for validation from people in industry, and he would say yes to most projects. But now, he has learnt the art of saying no comfortably, and he considers that his greatest strength, reports Hindustan Times.

"My fodder as an artiste comes from the life I live outside. I don't know if many people in the industry get it because people are in a hurry or rush to work and hustle," confesses the actor.

Mehta became a household name with his small screen debut show, *Pyaar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyaara Pyaara* in 2012, and followed it up with *Ishqbaaaz* and a hosting gig. He was also seen in a web show, *Never Kiss Your best Friend*, last year.

But, he has not been consistent with his on-screen outings. "That's because I'm out in the real-world collecting experience to get better in the craft. I always took long breaks. Because that's when I live, understand, get curious, learn, and come back with more life experience."

The 38-year-old continues, "What has changed is that 10 years ago, I would say a lot more yes. Because you are waiting for validation from people, peers and industry. Today, my greatest challenge is to be able to say no more comfortably. Because a lot of things are thrown at you, including money and opportunity," admits the actor, who is back on the small screen with a mature love story, *Bade*



Achhe Lagte Hain 2.

With time, he has become "wiser, calmer and choosy" about the projects he wants to take on. Will the project make me happy and will it add value for me and everyone involved - he asks himself before picking any project.

Asked how comfortable he is while saying no to someone from the industry, and Mehta says, "That has become my greatest strength. As an artiste, I say no to many things comfortably. I think that also takes away the pressure of hustle for me and makes me really do things which I am joyful about. It doesn't matter where it comes from. Like, I always wanted to collaborate with Ekta Kapoor, and with my current show, it seemed the right opportunity to do it. That's why I said yes. But if something is not right, I wouldn't care where it came from, and just turn it away."

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

New encounters will give you the possibility to transform your habitual life framework. On the professional plane, it's team work that will be the most favoured. Your affective life will recover some warmth; you'll be relaxed, understanding and charming.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 11, 16, 21, 30

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

A good week for forming amorous projects, to get married. It's also a favourable week to take initiatives and to seek supports which would help in your professional success; go ahead and you'll succeed.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 6, 9, 11, 24, 29

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Your couple relations will have an occasion to grow stronger and deeper. Lonely souls will meet the person of whom they have always been dreaming. Don't loosen the strings of your purse too easily.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 9, 20, 21, 23

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You'll begin this time to free yourself from your recent internal contradictions. And suddenly you'll find a satisfactory solution to many a problem. Peaceful love affairs will be favoured, at the expense of tumultuous passions.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 18, 19, 21, 29

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

An ideal week to make friendship ties which will resist the test of time. devote a maximum of time to your family; if you've had disputes with your relatives, you'll do your utmost to reach beautiful reconciliation quickly.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 25, 26, 28, 30

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

This sentimental climate will be very romantic but not devoid of passion; lonely hearts will meet their sister soul. Eat more dried vegetables which contain a lot of proteins and cost much less than meat. Think to develop your artistic talents.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 20, 24, 19, 27, 39

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Don't let your social life encroach too much upon your family life. In your work, take unexpected hitches into account, don't try to force things. If you intend to stop smoking, you'll have sufficient will to succeed.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 15, 16, 28, 38

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Your physical and mental balance will need good quality melodies. You'll be right to smile to life. You'll be romantic, sentimental, tender, expressing your love for the dear one with ease and delicacy; your feelings will be particularly intense and profound.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 19, 24, 26, 28, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Very Think to be more open-hearted with others, to take the first steps in case of dispute or disagreement; don't stick to your positions, otherwise possibilities of dialogue would be more and more reduced.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 11, 13, 17, 20, 23

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

In your work, your patience will be put to test. Beware of certain of your friends who try to draw you into ruinous adventures. If you've had a dispute with your relatives, the moment will be propitious to a reconciliation.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 7, 9, 14, 20

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Surprising encounters will take place and will make you see love under beautiful colours. This time more than ever, refrain from having business deals with unknown people; rather try to achieve a project of which you've been speaking in your family since a long time.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 15, 20, 29, 30, 32

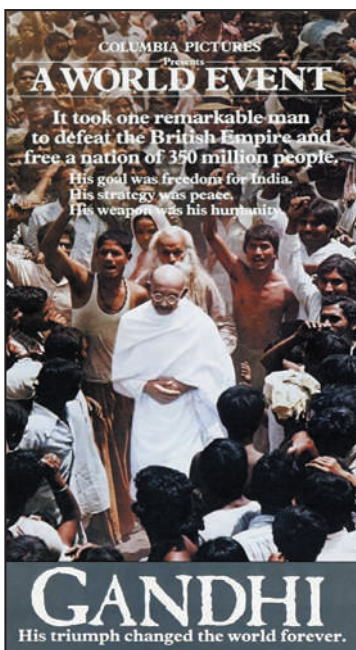
Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You'll pave the way to success in many fields. Beware of possible financial complications. If your present union proves to be unbearable, don't hesitate to envisage a rupture; thus, you'll remove the cancer and will be available for a new love.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 16, 20, 31, 36

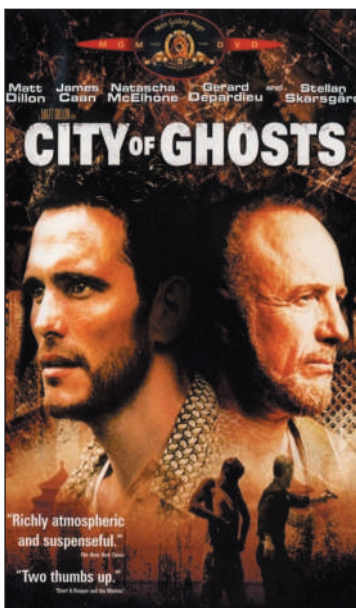
CINE 12

Vendredi 1 octobre - 21.15



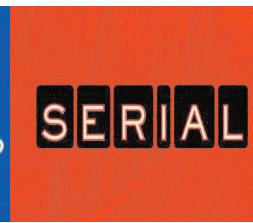
MBC 1

Samedi 2 octobre - 21.20



MBC 1

Dimanche 3 octobre - 21.10



vendredi 1 octobre		samedi 2 octobre		dimanche 3 octobre	
MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV	
07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 09.00 Doc: Fungal Empire 11.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Local: Prod: Elle - No 34 13.50 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A... 14.48 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little... 14.59 D.Anime: Baby Boss 15.22 D.Anime: Wishfart 15.23 D.Anime: Wishfart 15.35 D.Anime: Au Galop En Toute... 17.15 Serial: Mustangs FC 17.40 Serial: Magic Mania 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.15 Local: International Day... 21.05 Serial: 19-2 23.55 Le Journal 00.30 Mag: Eye On SADC	07.00 DDI Live 08.00 Educa Prog: Grade 3 10.15 Educa Prog: Grade 4 12.30 Film: Fidaa 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: My Little Princes 18.30 Local: Abhay Charan 19.05 Journal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.02 Serial: Aas 20.46 Local: Anjuman 21.09 Local: Urdu Programe 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 Doc: Car Wars 15.46 Doc: Chernobyl, Fukushima 17.07 Mag: Eco India 17.33 Mag: Shift 18.03 Doc: Screen Generation 18.45 Mag: Art And Culture 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 21.32 Doc: La Turbulence Robin 23.16 Doc: Screen Generation 23.59 Mag: Arts And Culture	03.37 Serial: Chicago Med 04.17 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En 05.28 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.25 Serial: Unforgotten 07.10 Film: November Criminals 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: Mes Enfants Pris En Otago 13.33 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: November Criminals 16.36 Serial: When Calls The Heart 17.18 Serial: Unforgotten 18.05 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.34 Mag: Close Up 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: Powers 21.15 Film: Gandhi	08.00 Film: R... Rajkumar Shahid Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha, Sonu Sood 12.08 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna 12.31 / 20.11 - Chupke Chupke 12.50 / 20.32 - Mere Sai 13.12 / 21.09 - Agnipheera 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: 1942: A Love Story Starring Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff and Manisha Koirala 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.52 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.14 Serial: Bhakharwadi 19.36 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak	
06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains 06.27 D.Anime: The Hive 07.00 D.Anime: Sissi 07.21 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda 07.43 D.Anime: Sabrina 08.05 D.Anime: Jil Jil Genie 1 09.11 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Défenseur 09.35 Serial: Oh Yuck 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Teresa 15.20 D.Anime: Baby Boss 15.38 D.Anime: Wishfart 16.40 D.Anime: Trollhunters 17.05 Serial: Hi Opie! 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Entertainment: Dance 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.15 Local: Autour Des Valeurs 21.20 Film: City Of Ghosts Avec: Matt Dillon, James Caan, Natascha McElhone	07.00 Film: Alaap 09.11 Mag: DDI Magazine 10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 11.35 Serial: Bloody Romance 12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare 12.24 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 12.44 Serial: High School 13.11 Annakodiyum Aintu Pengalum 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek 15.25 Film: Kambakkht Ishq Starring: Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor, Aftab Shivdasani... 18.03 DDI Magazine 19.00 Live: Journal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 20.28 Serial: Bitti Business Wali 21.01 Film: Astitva Stars: Tabu, Sachin Khedekar, Mohnish Bahl, Ravindra Mankani	06.00 Doc: Screen Generation 06.42 Mag: Arts And Culture 06.55 Mag: Our Voices 07.50 Doc: Volcano Stories 09.08 Doc: Nom De Code 10.00 Doc: La Turbulence Rodin 10.52 Doc: Japan 2020 11.55 Mag: Our Voices 13.01 Doc: Soss Animaux Danger 15.00 Student Support Prog... 17.30 Doc: Amazing Gardens 17.53 Doc: Rainforest Radio 18.19 Doc: Zenith 19.30 Doc: Le Volcan Qui A... 20.30 Local: News (English) 21.00 Local: Thirumaal Thiruvavul 00.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens 00.26 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 00.52 Doc: Zenith 01.18 Mag: Check In 01.44 Doc: Le Volcan Qui A Ébranlé Le Monde	01.47 Serial: Chicago Fire 02.27 Film: Gandhi 05.37 Tele: Tanto Amor 06.20 Serial: Imposters 07.04 Serial: S.W.A.T 08.30 Serial: The Enemy Within 09.10 Serial: The Magicians 09.54 Serial: Falling Water 10.40 Film: Gandhi 12.15 Serial: The Night Shift 14.30 Serial: Chicago Med 15.05 Tele: Amanda 15.54 Tele: Muneca Brava 17.00 Serial: Imposters 17.45 Film: Super Eruption 19.35 Mag: Hollywood On Set 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Series: Powers 21.15 Film: Awake 22.47 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir	04.05 Radha Krishna 04.26 Chupke Chupke 04.48 Mere Sai -- Shraddha Aur... 05.11 Agnipheera 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: Angrezi Medium Star: Irrfan Khan, Radhika Madan, Deepak Dobriyal, Kareena Kapoor Khan 21.18 Serial: Naagin S3	
06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains 06.27 D.Anime: The Hive 06.42 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute 07.00 D.Anime: Sissi 09.30 Serial: Oh Yuck 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 10.30 Serial: Backstage 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Tele: Teresa 14.10 Local: Elle 15.05 D.Anime: Invention Story 15.18 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little... 15.51 D.Anime: Spirit 17.10 Serial: Hi Opie! 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local Prod: The Nightingale Of India? 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Local: Concert De Guitare... 21.15 Film: Les Guerriers De L'Empire Céleste	07.00 Film: Jaane Jigar 10.00 Local Prod: MBC Prod 11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai 11.22 Serial: Santoshi Maa 12.00 Film: Partner Stars: Salman Khan, Govinda, Lara Dutta 14.26 DDI Magazine 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek 15.22 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 15.45 Serial: He Mann Baware 16.12 Apoorva Raagangal 17.05 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 18.00 DDI Magazine 18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance 19.00 Live: Journal Kreol 20.05 Serial: Finals: Gata Rahe Mera Dil 20.58 Serial: CID 21.30 Serial: Naagin Season 2 22.13 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki	06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens 06.40 Doc: Zenith 07.07 Mag: Check In 07.36 Doc: Le Volcan Qui A... 08.28 Doc: Taste Hunters 10.48 Doc: Amazing Gardens 11.13 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 11.39 Doc: Zenith 12.00 Doc: Le Volcan Qui A... 13.56 En Direct De L'Eglise Ste Croix 18.02 Mag: Magnifique 18.30 Doc: Builders Of The Future 18.59 Doc: Garden Party 19.33 Doc: Comme Une Envie... 20.30 Local Prod: News (English) 20.45 Mag: Nouveau Look Pour... 21.50 Doc: Dream Babies 22.42 Doc: Margherita S, La Femme Qui Inventa Mussolini	01.33 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En Otago 03.01 Serial: Midnight, Texas 03.43 Film: Awake 05.15 Tele: Tanto Amor 06.10 Serial: Imposters 06.46 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En... 08.30 Serial: The Enemy Within 09.12 Film: 12 Dogs Of Christmas 2 10.56 Film: Super Eruption 12.25 Serial: Midnight, Texas 13.34 Serial: Chicago Med 15.33 Tele: Amanda 16.16 Tele: Muneca Brava 17.01 Serial: Imposters 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: The Delphi Effect	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 Agnipheera 16.29 Punar Vivaah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Film: Welcome Starring: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Nana Patekar, Anil Kapoor, Feroz Khan 20.51 Entertainment: Dance 21.43 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 23.31 Serial: Piya Albela	

MBC 2

Samedi 2 octobre

- 18.30

Stars: Tabu, Sachin Khedekar,
Mohnish Bahl, Ravindra Mankani

Dimanche 3 octobre

- 18.30

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif,
Nana Patekar, Anil Kapoor, Feroz Khan

How contagious is Delta? How long are you infectious? Is it more deadly?

Delta is more contagious and appears to be more deadly. And it's more likely to land those infected in hospital and intensive care. Here's what the latest evidence says about the dominant variant

Delta was recognised as a SARS-Cov-2 variant of concern in May 2021 and has proved extremely difficult to control in unvaccinated populations.

Delta has managed to out-compete other variants, including Alpha. Variants are classified as "of concern" because they're either more contagious than the original, cause more hospitalisations and deaths, or are better at evading vaccines and therapies. Or all of the above.

So how does Delta fare on these measures? And what have we learnt since Delta was first listed as a variant of concern?

How contagious is Delta?

The R0 tells us how many other people, on average, one infected person will pass the virus on to.

Delta has an R0 of 5-8, meaning one infected person passes it onto five to eight others, on average.

This compares with an R0 of 1.5-3 for the original strain.

So Delta is twice to five times as contagious as the virus that circulated in 2020.

What happens when you're exposed to Delta?

SARS-Cov-2 is the virus that causes Covid-19. SARS-Cov-2 is transmitted through droplets an infected person releases when they breathe, cough or sneeze.

In some circumstances, transmission also occurs when a person touches a contaminated object, then touches their face.

Once SARS-Cov-2 enters your body - usually through your nose or mouth - it starts to replicate.

The period from exposure to the virus being detectable by a PCR test is called the latent period. For Delta, one study suggests this is an average of four days (with a range of three to five days).

That's two days faster than the original strain, which took roughly six days (with a range of five to eight days).

The virus then continues to replicate. Although often there are no symptoms yet, the person has become infectious.

People with Covid-19 appear to be most infectious two days before to three days after symptoms start, though it's unclear whether this differs with Delta.

The time from virus exposure to symptoms is called the incubation period. But there is often a gap between when a person becomes infectious to others to when they show symptoms.

As the virus replicates, the viral load increases. For Delta, the viral load is up to roughly 1,200 times higher than the original strain.

With faster replication and higher viral



loads it is easy to see why Delta is challenging contact tracers and spreading so rapidly.

What are the possible complications?

Like the original strain, the Delta variant can affect many of the body's organs including the lungs, heart and kidneys.

Complications include blood clots, which at their most severe can result in strokes or heart attacks.

Around 10-30% of people with Covid-19 will experience prolonged symptoms, known as long Covid, which can last for months and cause significant impairment, including in people who were previously well.

Longer-lasting symptoms can include fatigue, shortness of breath, chest pain, heart palpitations, headaches, brain fog, muscle aches, sleep disturbance, depression and the loss of smell and taste.

Is it more deadly?

Evidence the Delta variant makes people sicker than the original virus is growing.

Preliminary studies from Canada and Singapore found people infected with Delta were more likely to require hospitalisation and were at greater risk of dying than those with the original virus.

In the Canadian study, Delta resulted in a 6.1% chance of hospitalisation and a 1.6% chance of ICU admission. This compared with other variants of concern which landed 5.4% of people in hospital and 1.2% in intensive care.

In the Singapore study, patients with Delta had a 49% chance of developing pneumonia and a 28% chance of needing extra oxygen. This compared with a 38% chance of developing pneumonia and 11% needing oxygen with the original strain.

Similarly, a published study from Scotland found Delta doubled the risk of hospitalisation compared to the Alpha vari-

ant.

How do the vaccines stack up against Delta?

So far, the data show a complete course of the Pfizer, AstraZeneca or Moderna vaccine reduces your chance of severe disease (requiring hospitalisation) by more than 85%.

While protection is lower for Delta than the original strain, studies show good coverage for all vaccines after two doses.

Can you still get Covid after being vaccinated?

Yes. Breakthrough infection occurs when a vaccinated person tests positive for SARS-Cov-2, regardless of whether they have symptoms.

Breakthrough infection appears more common with Delta than the original strains.

Most symptoms of breakthrough infection are mild and don't last as long.

It's also possible to get Covid twice, though this isn't common.

How likely are you to die from Covid-19?

In Australia, over the life of the pandemic, 1.4% of people with Covid-19 have died from it, compared with 1.6% in the United States and 1.8% in the United Kingdom.

Data from the United States shows people who were vaccinated were ten times less likely than those who weren't to die from the virus.

The Delta variant is currently proving to be a challenge to control on a global scale, but with full vaccination and maintaining our social distancing practices, we reduce the spread.

Lara Herrero

Research Leader in Virology and Infectious Disease, Griffith University



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Timing Can Be Everything

Every person fulfills their purpose when the time is right

Since human timetables quite often do not correspond with universal timetables, it's common for people to feel that life is progressing too slowly or too quickly. We draft carefully composed plans only to find that they fall into place when we least expect. Or, conversely, we are thrust into roles we believe we are not prepared for and wonder how we will survive the demands imposed upon us by unfamiliar circumstances. When delays in our progress kindle pangs of disappointment within us or the pace of life seems overwhelming, peace can be found in the simple fact that we are exactly where we need to be at this moment.

Every person fulfills their purpose when the time is right. If you have fast-tracked to success, you may become deeply frustrated if you discover you can no longer satisfy your desires as quickly as you might like. Yet the delays that disappoint you may be laying the foundation for future accomplishments that you have not yet conceived. Or the universe may have plans for you that differ from the worldly aspirations you have pursued up until this point. What you deem a postponement of progress may actually represent an auspicious opportunity to prepare for what is yet to come. If, however, you feel as though the universe is pushing you forward at too fast a clip, you may be unwittingly resisting your destiny. Your unease regarding the speed of your progress could be a sign that you need to cultivate awareness within yourself and learn to move with the flow of fate rather than against it.

The universe puts nothing in your path that you are incapable of handling, so you can rest assured that you are ready to grow into your new situation.

You may feel compelled to judge your personal success using your age, your professional position, your level of education, or the accomplishments of your peers as a yardstick. Yet we all enjoy the major milestones in our lives at the appropriate time -- some realize their dreams as youngsters while others flourish only in old age. If you take pride in your many accomplishments and make the most of every circumstance in which you find yourself, your time will come.