

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "The best leaders are those most interested in surrounding themselves with assistants and associates smarter than they are. They are frank in admitting this and are willing to pay for such talents." — Antos Parrish



Political dead end

The MMM, the PMSD and other opposition parties are now reduced to pull their forces together in a nondescript alliance. The Labour Party remains prisoner of the delusions...

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**“Je n'ai jamais eu
une ambition
premier
ministérielle”**

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PRB Report

Both boon and burden

In his presentation of the PRB Report at the Vaghjee Hall yesterday afternoon, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth started by a brief overview of how the country had coped with the Covid pandemic since the lockdown of March 2020. Stating that the World Bank had ranked Mauritius 4th among the countries that had best managed the crisis, he said that the government had advanced the sum of nearly Rs 80 bn to prevent mass redundancy of workers and to support business enterprises, especially the tourism industry. He added that almost Rs 25 bn had gone into the payment of salaries in the wage assistance scheme. He thanked the civil servants who had worked hard to keep the administration running, and also the frontliners and other workers who had toiled with great dedication in the service of the population, acknowledging their collaboration during the difficult times that the country had been going through.

Coming to this 9th PRB report, he said that it had been prepared under difficult and constrained circumstances, and that despite the difficult financial situation that the country was facing, the Report had paid particular attention to those at the lower end of the scale. He gave as example the fact that the minimum wage for general workers had been upped to Rs 10250, which represented an improvement of the ratio between the highest salary of a PS to that of a worker from its earlier 1:7 to 1:6.2, thus reducing the gap.

He then outlined some of the recommendations contained in the Report, which he said had placed emphasis on efficiency and efficacy, and on continuity of training to ensure business continuity. In reply to questions, he also added that an Addendum would be published within nine months, and that it would incorporate any further recommendations made by the stakeholders post the Report, and that the PRB would also have considered any anomalies and omissions that would be raised by them.

While this buoyant mood and the goodies invoked are no doubt a boon for the eventual beneficiaries, some contrary opinions have already been flagged, for example that this announcement is meant to distract attention from other pressing issues that the country is facing, or that it is to sweeten the mouth in view of the forthcoming municipal elections.

However, the more critical underlying issue of concern is the financial load that the PRB adds to the country's finances, since it will cost approximately Rs 6.5 bn. Although the PM pointed out that with the opening of borders the economy is already picking up, the fact remains that recovery as in other economies around the world (except the bigger and more resilient ones) is definitely going to be slower than usual – in fact it is difficult if not impossible to pinpoint a timeline.

With Rs 80 bn already out of our reserves, the debt per inhabitant is surely going to increase some more. Government revenues come either from raising taxes or from loans taken locally or internationally, to finance its expenditures. Where do we stand as regards our public debt levels? And we must not forget that we have an ageing population that is increasing, and that the dependency ratio is not favourable, putting a further burden on the population. This means that the future of yet unborn generation is already being burdened with increasing debt. How is all this going to be sustained, to be reimbursed?

Thus, in the short term the PRB fallouts may look like a boon, but there is no gainsaying that going forward, it is more like a burden for the country.

The Conversation

Beyond GDP: here's a better way to measure people's prosperity

Over the coming decade a new study will put citizens and communities at the centre of efforts to reimagine prosperity and define what constitutes a good quality of life



When Nobel prize-winner Simon Kuznets declared in 1934 that “the welfare of a nation can scarcely be inferred from a measurement of national income”, he likely did not imagine that gross domestic product (GDP) would still be in use as shorthand for well-being and prosperity in the third decade of the 21st century.

Kuznets developed GDP as a means of measuring the impact of the great depression. It enabled governments to track any increase or decrease in their nation's wealth as represented by the value of goods and services produced, and became increasingly important as governments estimated the cost of waging the second world war.

Today, the inadequacy of GDP as a measure of prosperity is clear. Data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for the decade up to 2019 shows that the UK's annual growth in GDP averaged just below 2%. By comparison, income inequality increased by 2.2% over that ten-year period and the ONS' annual average ratings of life satisfaction, happiness and anxiety all deteriorated in the year ending March 2020. This trend of rising income inequality despite GDP growth reveals that not everyone is reaping the benefits of this growth, nor leading a prosperous life, demonstrating that GDP is a poor proxy for citizens' wellbeing.

With “levelling up” and regional prosperity now central to the UK government's thinking, the Institute for Global Prosperity (IGP) has been working with a team of citizen social-scientists and community orga-

nisations in east London to create a completely new definition of prosperity. Rather than the outmoded measures of growth, productivity and income, our research identified 15 headline indicators – a “Prosperity Index” – that reflect the actual experience of wellbeing and security for people in these places, and the things that constitute a good quality of life.

Redefining prosperity

In the neighbourhoods around the Royal Docks and the Olympic Park, we discovered that secure livelihoods, access to key public services, good quality and genuinely affordable homes, and a sense of inclusion in the economic and social life of the city are the foundations for a prosperous life. You don't get any of this from the targets for job creation and road building, which the government believes will lead to improved quality of life.

To build on this research we have begun a new ten-year study to observe how households in 12 post-industrial east London neighbourhoods report on their own prosperity over the coming decade.

The study is mainly focused on neighbourhoods that have been directly impacted by Olympic legacy regeneration. This initiative aimed to close the gap in prosperity and prospects between the poorest parts of east London and the wealthiest areas of the city.

Henrietta Moore,
Director & Founder of the Institute
for Global Prosperity, UCL

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Mrinal Roy

A well qualified, competent and talented opposition is a key element of a vibrant democracy. It acts as a counter weight to the government in power and keeps it on its toes through its incisive analysis and constructive criticisms of government policy initiatives and constant oversight of government actions. It also provides the people with the choice to vote on the basis of overall merit, ability, principles and ideals underpinning its programme for a better socio-economic order, an alternative team and government to run the affairs of the country.

This is the case in the best democracies of the world. This choice is made by the people on the basis of the policies proposed by each party to competently address their concerns, the quality of their leaders and the trust they have in the leaders to deliver on the promises made.

Stark reality

In Mauritius, the stark reality is that the opposition is in shambles. It is patently evident to all and sundry that the opposition parties led by leaders who have been repeatedly defeated at the polls are unable to connect with the people and rally the multitude to challenge the government and offer a credible choice to the people at the polls.

The MMM, the PMSD and other opposition parties are now reduced to pull their forces together in a nondescript alliance to counter the MSM-MMM dissenters government in power. The scale of the MMM and PMSD decline can be measured by the fact that the MSM was for years claimed by the opposition parties to represent only a paltry 10% of the electorate.

The Labour Party which played a key role in mobilizing the people and the workers of the sugar industry to fight for freedom from colonial rule and a better socio-economic and political order could have been a catalyst of necessary and salubrious political change in the country. It however remains prisoner of the delusions of

Political dead end

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“A change of leadership is an opportunity for the party to reinvent itself around a new ethos and broaden its political footprint. A new party leader who upholds democratic values, good governance, transparency, accountability and a commitment of altruistic service to the people and proposes an innovative new socio-economic and political order which rally the multitude can provide a new impetus to the prospects of the party and challenge the incumbent government at the polls...”

its repeatedly disavowed political masters.

No political leader can be more important than the paramount interests of the people and the country. His interests cannot supplant those of the people and the country.

Ups and downs

There are obviously ups and downs in the history of political parties in power. Their connect with the people and the trust their leaders enjoy among the people as well as the sovereign will of the people remain the final arbiter of the outcome of elections. This is evident from a survey of the recent political history of the best democracies of the world.

In the United States, the Democrats are back in power after the Trump presidency. In the UK, after some 13 years of Labour governments under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, the Tories are in power since 2010. In France, after the heyday of the François Mitterrand era, when he served as President of France from 1981 to 1995 for the longest time in office in the history of France, the Socialist Party (*Parti socialiste*) has had mixed fortunes under various leaders. At the 2017 French presidential elections, the PS finished 5th and polled a paltry 6.36% of the votes. This change of fortune and fall in popularity are very often related to the persona, values, leadership qualities of the party leader and the policies proposed by the party.

The political landscape is also defined by changing public opinion and the rise of new parties. People are more and more frustrated with the political establishment. People in Europe and various countries

are also increasingly more vocal against immigration and a dilution of national identity. This has led to the emergence of nationalist parties which obtained high scores in the European parliament and opinion polls in Hungary, Austria, Denmark and Belgium. In France, Eric Zemmour, a right-wing talk-show celebrity who challenges political correctness on subjects such as immigration and national identity is rising in popularity and risks upsetting the apple cart of candidates vying to obtain the centre-right ticket for next year's French presidential election.

However, in all these democracies, the defeat of a political leader, President or Prime Minister at the polls leads to his prompt replacement by a new leader. A change of leadership is an opportunity for the party to reinvent itself around a new ethos and broaden its political footprint. A new party leader who upholds democratic values, good governance, transparency, accountability and a commitment of altruistic service to the people and proposes an innovative new socio-economic and political order which rally the multitude can provide a new impetus to the prospects of the party and challenge the incumbent government at the polls.

Far cry

In contrast, the situation in Mauritius is a far cry from these fundamental democratic principles. Trapped in the web of dynastic and clan politics, the country has had two father and son Prime Ministers or only four elected PMs during the 53 years since independence. In comparison there have been ten PMs in the UK from

Labour's Harold Wilson to the current Conservative PM Boris Johnson during the same period. In India, the world's largest democracy, there have been 12 different Prime Ministers in that period.

To make matters worse, the government has a deeply rooted culture of overbearing control over the government Establishment, state institutions and companies as well as the national TV financed by public funds which is press-ganged for

daily partisan propaganda. Nepotism and the appointment of the coterie are the instruments of this control. Control does not mean efficient management. It breeds opacity, appalling governance and costly blunders.

As a result, there is a patent lack of transparency and accountability on every decision which risks showing the government in a bad light. This relates to government spending, costly blunders such as the heavy Betamax payout, emergency procurement tenders, the Safe City project, the state of the investigations into the many scandals involving alleged wrongdoings by government ministers or basic statistics such as the evolution of Covid-19 in the country or the number of tourist arrivals since the opening of our borders, etc.

Government finances are strapped as billions of Rupees have been spent to finance various support measures and bailout funds to distressed private sector companies amid reduced government income in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Government is therefore patently desperate to reboot the economy and in particular the tourism sector given its key importance in the national economy. The country must therefore take every precaution to ensure that the economic recovery of the country is a singular success. The country can no longer afford to make more costly blunders. This key responsibility cannot therefore be assigned to political appointees or the dilettante. It must be entrusted to seasoned and competent professionals with pointed skills and expertise in every field.

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The Pandora Papers – Pandora's Box is Hardly Opened

With so much money at stake, there is little incentive to change



Anil Madan

Some five and one-half years ago, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) released the Panama Papers, revealing offshore financial dealings of such scope as to shock the world. This past week the ICIJ has released the Pandora Papers, showing that when it comes to concealing assets in tax havens not much has changed. Or perhaps the only thing that has changed is that there are today more tax havens than there were five years ago.

What is staggering about the Pandora Papers is that they dwarf the revelations of the Panama Papers. Some 130 billionaires, 29,000 accounts, 90 countries, and more than 330 public officials are implicated. The amount of money said to be held in tax havens has been estimated to be as much as \$6 to \$36 trillion.

In other words, when it comes to parking money and concealing where and how it is parked, it is business as usual.

Obvious questions

The Pandora Papers are a collation of almost 12 million confidential documents leaked from 14 firms of lawyers, advisors and other professionals. These papers comprised about 100 million pages in total, said Gerard Ryle, the director of ICIJ in an appearance on the program 'On The Media' on WNYC, a New York City Public Radio station. In passing, he noted that the number of public officials involved may be double the above estimate.

The obvious question is, will these revelations amount to anything in the sense of bringing those engaged in corruption and crime to account? A secondary inquiry concerns the implications of this type of activity that drains resources from countries desperately in need of capital, and why this type of work by journalists is necessary, indeed critical. Another question is perhaps the simplest: why is this sort of thing allowed to happen at all?

The titillating headlines are well known. They implicate



“What are the impediments to change? The first issue of significance to note is that the use of offshore trusts and holding companies is not in and of itself illegal. Whereas one may raise legitimate questions about the source of the wealth, that sort of inquiry may or may not occur at an official level. Certainly, in the case of King Abdullah of Jordan, it is difficult to see Jordanian authorities questioning their monarch. Nor is Putin, perhaps closer to being an absolute dictator than even Xi Jinping, likely to be investigated...”

leaders who have condemned the offshore financial havens but now hypocritically are shown to be exploiting what they have referred to as loopholes. Foremost among these are Tony Blair, the former UK Prime Minister and his wife. Other big names include Jordan's King Abdullah who has reportedly bought properties worth over \$100 million in California and London, Dutch finance minister Wopke Hoekstra, the Czech Prime Minister, as well as celebrities like Shakira and Elton John. Then, of course, there is the salacious account of a woman said to have had a child by Vladimir Putin and ended up owning a rather expensive property in Monaco.

The Pandora Papers reveal in great detail how wealthy people, politicians and criminals, have pulled a veil over their financial assets by the use of trusts, middlemen, and anonymous entities holding undisclosed assets.

The ICIJ's website recites these facts: The Pandora Papers gathered information on more than 27,000 companies and 29,000 so-called ultimate beneficial owners from 11 of the providers, or more than twice the number of beneficial owners identified in the Panama Papers. The documents connected offshore activity to more than twice as many politicians and public officials as did the Panama Papers. 35 current or former country leaders are implicated.

Impenetrable secrecy

As has been explained in some of the articles discussing the strategies involved, one characteristic is that property or assets held in a trust exist in a state where ownership is unclear. The creator of the trust, known as the settlor, has given ownership of the property or asset to

the trustee of the trust. But the trustee does not own them for his or its (yes, a corporation such as a bank can be a trustee) own use, but rather, for the benefit of the beneficiaries of the trust designated by the settlor.

The beneficiary may be the settlor himself. And the settlor may or may not retain the power to revoke the trust. Meanwhile, at the outset, the beneficiary may not have received any of the benefit of the property. Ultimately, the structure allows the settlor, the trustee, and the beneficiary to disclaim responsibility. The trustee and beneficiary can also deny that they are in control of the asset even though the trustee is likely to follow the directions of a wealthy client.

An added benefit is that trusts can conceal the true ownership of assets and thereby create a veil of sometimes impenetrable secrecy. Of course, as the releases of the Panama Papers and now the Pandora Papers have shown, secrecy is not guaranteed. Trusts can own shell companies in tax havens and thus another layer of secrecy can be added to conceal ownership and, as well, to hide the true ownership of property from tax collectors, from the public and, as well from prosecutors and investigators looking to uncover criminal activity.

Public disclosure or registration of the identities of those who control such properties and assets is most often not required. Even less so is disclosure of beneficiaries.

Can we expect any reform or change? The problem is of colossal magnitude. A threshold observation is that the assets secreted could amount to about 10% of global GDP. As I have previously noted in an article about the proposed global minimum corporate tax, parking money offshore has allowed corporations to escape taxes on profits to the tune of \$245 billion to \$600 billion every year. Over a ten-year period, two and one-half to six trillion dollars are lost to nations desperate to deal with problems of infrastructure, poverty, healthcare, transportation, education, energy supply, food production and distribution, and mitigation and adaptation for the results of adverse weather events.

The estimate of total wealth held in tax havens is probably closer to the \$36 trillion estimate than the lower number. This follows from the sheer number of billionaires (130) that the ICIJ has identified. That number is a little over \$10 trillion short of the market capitalization of all stocks on US stock exchanges. The problem is that capital secreted away in tax havens is simply not available for investment in the country of the individual involved. So, King Abdullah's \$100 million, Putin's billions, or the millions and billions of politicians and oligarchs from Russia, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, do not benefit the local people.

One would think that the revelation that these staggering sums are lost to productive use would spur calls for immediate reform. Unfortunately, not so. Those who secrete assets away have incentive to maintain the status quo and, in many instances, they have the power to ensure that things do not change.

The desire for privacy

It is logical to assume that one of the primary motivations for setting up an offshore entity to hold one's assets is the desire for privacy. It is also logical to ask why the imperative for such privacy arises. Reports from the ICIJ investigation indicate that a surprising number of billionaires who have set up offshore holdings that were revealed in the Pandora Papers have faced questions about the sources of their wealth. Others have been accused of using their companies to engage in thefts of money or natural resources and some have been found to have deep connections to autocrats even to the point of becoming the subject of sanctions.

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Speaking of sanctions, we must pause to note that while the US has been at the forefront of decrying the use of tax havens, several US states including Delaware and South Dakota have become welcoming homes for trusts and corporations that are used to conceal ownership of assets. This highlights the idea that the term "offshore" no longer means a remote island but rather simply signifies assets held outside one's domicile.

Following on the release of the Pandora Papers, an article in *The New York Times* by Nicholas Shaxson, a staff writer for the Tax Justice Network, points out that London and Britain's "spider's web" of offshore satellites is ranked number one in its Financial Secrecy Index of tax havens.

Given that two of the world's major democracies profit immensely from these types of arrangements, there is little likelihood of change. And we have seen that since the release of the Panama Papers, this truth has been borne out.

What are the impediments to change? The first issue of significance to note is that the use of offshore trusts and holding companies is not in and of itself illegal. Whereas one may raise legitimate questions about the source of the wealth, that sort of inquiry may or may not occur at an official level. Certainly, in the case of King Abdullah of Jordan, it is difficult to see Jordanian authorities questioning their monarch. His spokespersons have already stated that as King he is not subject to taxes and so tax evasion is not an issue. Nevertheless, the question remains where did he get \$100 million to spend on homes that he is likely never to use?

Nor is Putin, perhaps closer to being an absolute dictator than even Xi Jinping, likely to be investigated. Indeed, the Brookings Institution has noted that Russia's response to the release of the Pandora Papers is to spread disinformation and conspiracy theories. The absence of Americans listed as holders of offshore assets is seen as a sign that an American plot is at work. They have even gone so far as to implicate George Soros as responsible for this attack on Russia.

Nevertheless, private individuals as distinguished from public figures and country leaders, may find themselves ensnared in legal proceedings. Reports indicate that an Israeli billionaire was accused of using shell companies to steal hundreds of millions of dollars from Congo. But the problem is also one of legal jurisdiction. Other than Congo, which country has jurisdiction to prosecute such a crime? A Venezuelan television tycoon used shell companies in what US prosecutors say was a \$1 billion bribery scheme. At least seven Russian oligarch billionaires under sanction by the United States have shell companies in the documents, too.

Safe haven

As noted, very few US-based billionaires show up in the records of the Pandora Papers. You will not find Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Warren Buffett, or Bill Gates. One reason may



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be that US billionaires pay so little in taxes compared to their counterparts in the world, that they don't need to hide assets through offshore intermediaries. More importantly, the US is considered a safe haven for holding assets to avoid expropriation, market risk and, as well, currency risk. There is little incentive for Americans to have massive holdings abroad where both security and currency risk counsel caution.

Nevertheless, there are no absolutes. American billionaire Robert Brockman was indicted on charges of hiding \$2 billion in income to avoid taxes by using a web of shell companies and offshore holdings. He has pleaded not guilty. In contrast, Robert F. Smith, another billionaire admitted that he had hidden profits in offshore companies and filed false tax returns for ten years. But he has worked out a deal to cooperate with investigators and have avoided charges.

Russian billionaires under sanctions are found in the Pandora Papers. In a striking plea, a Venezuelan treasurer pleaded guilty to receiving a bribe of \$1 billion from Raúl Gorrín Belisario, the owner of a television network. One can only imagine how much profit justified a bribe of \$1 billion.

An Israeli diamond trader, Beny Steinmetz was convicted in a Swiss court on charges that he paid a \$10 million bribe to obtain iron ore rights in Guinea.

In one audacious scheme, Dan Gertler an Israeli businessman is alleged to have amassed his fortune through hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of opaque and corrupt mining and oil deals in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Between 2010 and 2012 alone, the country reportedly lost more than \$1.3 billion from the underpricing of

mining assets, according to a US Treasury statement when sanctions were imposed. The records for some of Gertler's offshore companies appear in the documents obtained by the ICIJ as well.

Another example involves the Nigerian oil minister. London homes, worth \$3.8 million, \$5.1 million were bought by companies and a Seychelles company purchased a home for \$4.4 million, and a British Virgin Islands company bought another multimillion-dollar home. All four companies were turned over to the Nigerian oil minister Alison-Madueke. The first family of Azerbaijan owns \$700 million worth of luxury properties in London.

It should be emphasized that these are not prosecutions arising from the release of the Pandora Papers, they are antecedent charges.

Crimes against humanity

The journalists who have worked tirelessly to expose these abuses are to be commended. Their work must continue. To some extent, public figures, even monarchs and country leaders will have to answer to the public. In the case of King Abdullah or Vladimir Putin, there may be no accountability as such, but the fact that their spokespersons have responded, shows that the efforts of the journalists are not a total waste. The Czech Prime Minister who was already a billionaire appears to have lost his parliamentary election which followed the release of the Pandora Papers.

It is unlikely that unrelated jurisdictions will undertake prosecutions. These financial crimes are not on a par with crimes against humanity although one might well see them in that light.

Ultimately, this sort of thing is allowed to happen because of complacency and because the jurisdictions that facilitate such transactions make money from the fees the filings generate.

Professional firms of lawyers, accountants, tax advisors, and investment managers make enormous profits from such transactions. As the director of the ICIJ said, name the large bank, law firm or accounting firm, and you'll see them in the Pandora Papers. With so much money at stake, there is little incentive to change.

From the Panama Papers to the Pandora Papers with a Pandemic in-between, aside from a panegyric extolling the journalists who uncovered this, we can expect little by way of action.

Anil Madan



1956-2021



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As Japan battles Covid-19, child suicide rate highest in over 40 years: Report

Child suicides in Japan are the highest they have been in more than four decades, local media have reported, citing the country's education ministry. As the Covid-19 pandemic prompted school closings and disrupted classrooms last year, 415 children from elementary to high school age were recorded as having taken their own lives, according to the education ministry's survey.

The number is up by nearly 100 from last year, the highest since record-keeping began in 1974, the Asahi newspaper reported on Thursday.

Suicide has a long history in Japan as a way of avoiding perceived shame or dishonour, and its suicide rate has long topped the Group of Seven nations, but a national effort brought numbers down by



A boy and a girl wearing protective masks look through the fence of Aomi Urban Sports Park, hosting 3x3 basketball tournaments, a day after the official opening of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Pic - Reuters

roughly 40 percent over 15 years, including 10 straight years of decline from 2009, reports Reuters.

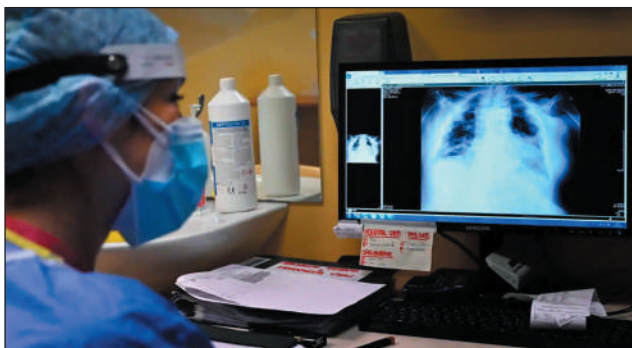
Amid the pandemic, suicides increased in 2020 after a decade of declines, with the number of women committing suicide surging amid the emotional and financial stress caused by the coronavirus pandemic, although fewer men took their own lives.

The education ministry said a record high of more than 196,127 school children were absent for 30 days or more, media reported.

The results showed that changes in school and household environments due to the pandemic have had a huge impact on children's behaviour, NHK quoted an education ministry official as saying.

'Last chance' to determine origins of Covid-19, says WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced the names proposed by it for a team of experts, which it described as the world's "last chance" to determine the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus which birthed the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). Making the announcement, the world health body said on Wednesday that it has proposed 26 names, out of 700 applications received by it, for the WHO Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO).



Our last chance' to find Covid origins, says WHO. Pic - Mint

The group, WHO noted, will advise it on the development of a global framework for studies into the origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2.

Taking to Twitter, WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus that the experts were chosen for their "world-class expertise" and experience cutting across disciplines. "The selection was on the basis of their geographic and gender diversity as well," he added.

The experts have been selected from across fields such as epidemiology, animal health, ecology, clinical medicine, virology, genomics, molecular epidemiology, molecular biology, biology, food safety, biosafety, biosecurity and public health, reports Hindustan Times.

In the context of SARS-CoV-2, the team will have the following responsibilities: to provide the WHO Secretariat with an independent evaluation of findings from all available studies on the origins of the virus, and to provide suggestions to the Secretariat with issues regarding the next series of researches on the origins of SARS-CoV-2.

Iraq, Syria militants 'actively' entering Afghanistan: Russia's Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that battle-hardened militants from Iraq and Syria are "actively" entering Afghanistan.

"The situation in Afghanistan is not easy," Putin said during a video conference with security service chiefs of ex-Soviet states.

"Militants from Iraq, Syria with experience in military operations are actively being drawn there," he said.

"It is possible that terrorists may try to destabilise the situation in neighbouring states," he added, warning that they could even try "direct expansion".

Putin has repeatedly warned about members of extremist groups exploiting political turmoil in Afghanistan to cross into neighbouring ex-Soviet countries as refugees, reports AFP.

While Moscow has been cautiously optimistic about the new Taliban leadership in Kabul, the Kremlin is concerned about instability spilling over into Central Asia where it houses military bases.

In the wake of the Taliban takeover, Russia held military drills with ex-Soviet Tajikistan -- where it operates a military base -- and in Uzbekistan. Both countries share a border with Afghanistan.



Tajikistan's national security chief, SaimuminYatimov, for his part told the video conference that he had registered an "intensification" of attempts to "smuggle drugs, weapons, ammunition" from Afghanistan into his country.

Afghanistan has long been the world's largest producer of opium and heroin, with profits from the illicit trade helping fund the Taliban.

While the Taliban has said it does not pose a threat to Central Asian countries, the ex-Soviet republics in the region have previously been targeted by attacks attributed to allies of Afghan Islamists.

Facebook expands "involuntary" public figure option to journalists, activists. What it means

Facebook has decided that it will now consider activists and journalists as "involuntary" public figures on its platform so as to increase protection against harassment and bullying targeted at these groups, Facebook's global safety chief said.

Although it allows critical commentary of public figures and private individuals on the platform, Facebook, which has 2.8 billion monthly active users, went ahead and revamped its approach on the harassment of journalists and "human rights defenders", who it said are in the public eye due to their work rather than their public personas.

The social media giant has already been under wide-ranging scrutiny from

global lawmakers and regulators for its content moderation practices and harms linked to its platforms, with internal documents leaked, forming the basis for a U.S. Senate hearing last week, reports Hindustan Times.

Facebook's "cross check" system has been in the spotlight lately after the Wall Street Journal reported that it has the effect of exempting some high-profile users from usual Facebook rules.

The difference between public figures and private individuals in terms of the protections it affords them around online discussion, Reuters reported, is that users are generally allowed to call for the death of a celebrity on the platform.

Facebook's Global Head of Safety Antigone Davis told Reuters that the company was expanding the types of attacks that would go against its policy for public figures on its platforms, in order to reduce any kind of violence disproportionately faced by women, people of color and the LGBTQ community.

Facebook will also no longer allow severe and unwanted sexualizing content, derogatory sexualized photo-shopped images, drawings or direct negative attacks on a person's appearance, for example, in comments on a public figure's profile, the report said.

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UN rights report warns of North Korea 'starvation risk'



Quintana said such restrictions should be eased to protect the country's most vulnerable in the face of a severe food shortage. Pic - s.france24.com

North Korea's most vulnerable are "at risk of starvation" with the economy worsening due to a self-imposed coronavirus blockade, and UN sanctions imposed over the country's nuclear programmes should be eased, a UN human rights expert said Wednesday.

The impoverished nation has been behind a rigid blockade since early last year to protect itself from the pandemic, with the economy suffering and trade with key partner

China dwindling to a trickle, reports AFP.

In June, state-run KCTV admitted North Korea was facing a "food crisis", sounding the alarm in a country with a moribund agricultural sector that has long struggled to feed the population.

The same month, leader Kim Jong Un said the food situation was "getting tense".

Ordinary North Koreans are "struggling on a daily basis... to live a life of dignity", and the worsening

humanitarian situation could "turn into a crisis", Tomas Ojea Quintana, UN special rapporteur on human rights, said in his latest report.

Pyongyang is under multiple sets of international sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, which have seen rapid progress under Kim.

Quintana said such restrictions should be eased to protect the country's most vulnerable in the face of a severe food shortage.

"The most vulnerable children and elderly are at risk of starvation," he said.

"Sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council should be reviewed and eased when necessary to both facilitate humanitarian and lifesaving assistance."

The report comes about three months after the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation said North Korea was facing a food shortage of around 860,000 tonnes this year, and could experience a "harsh lean period".

Pyongyang has stayed away from talks on its nuclear programme since the collapse of a second summit between Kim and then US president Donald Trump in Hanoi and has rebuffed South Korean efforts to revive dialogue.

Cybersecurity: India takes 'lead' on Joe Biden's initiative against ransomware

India, the UK, Germany and Australia have taken a "lead" role in helping the United States organise a global meeting on countering ransomware, which is a key cybersecurity initiative of US President Joe Biden. The two-day meet, which is taking place virtually, started on Wednesday.



Computers at the International Cybersecurity Forum (ICF) in Lille, northern France, on September 7, 2021. Pic - AFP

India is leading a session on resilience, Australia on disruption, the UK on virtual currency, and Germany on diplomacy.

Lt General Rajesh Pant, the national cybersecurity coordinator, is leading the Indian delegation at the event aimed at combating ransomware, reports Yashwant Raj of Hindustan Times.

In all, 30 countries are participating in the meet, including Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, South Korea, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the UAE. The EU is also taking part in the event.

The meet on tackling ransomware is a part of the Joe Biden administration's four-part strategy to counter the scourge of ransomware.

Colonial Pipeline, a major US oil distribution company, reportedly paid \$4.4 million to a cybercriminal group DarkSide earlier in the year to get back control of its pipelines. And Toshiba, the Japanese electronics giant, had said the same group had hit the networks of its European division in France at the same time.

The FBI, however, recovered \$2.3 million of the ransomware that was paid by Colonial in Bitcoins.

Ransomware attacks are a global menace. Ransomware payments reached over \$400 million globally in 2020, the White House said in fact-sheet and topped \$81 million in the first quarter of 2021, "illustrating the financially driven nature of these activities".

Disrupting ransomware infrastructure and actors as in the Colonial Pipeline case will be the first of the four-part strategy to be announced by the Biden administration. "We're bringing the full weight of US government capabilities to disrupt ransomware actors, networks, financial infrastructure, and other facilitators," the official said and went on to cite the Colonial case as an example.

Billionaire Alibaba founder Jack Ma reappears in Hong Kong



Jack Ma, billionaire founder of Alibaba Group. Pic - onecms-res.cloudinary.com

Alibaba Group founder Jack Ma, largely out of public view since a regulatory clampdown started on his business empire late last year, is currently in Hong Kong and has met business associates in recent days, two sources told Reuters.

The Chinese billionaire has been keeping a low profile since delivering a speech in October last year in Shanghai criticising China's financial regulators. That triggered a chain of events that resulted in the shelving of his Ant Group's mega IPO.

While Ma made a limited number of public appearances in mainland China after that, as speculation swirled about his whereabouts, one of the sources said the visit marked his first trip to the Asian financial hub since last October, reports Reuters.

Alibaba did not immediately respond to requests for comment outside of its regular business hours. Comments from Ma typically come via the company.

The sources declined to be identified due to confidentiality constraints.

Ma, once China's most famous and outspoken entrepreneur, met at

least "a few" business associates over meals last week, said the people.

Ma, who is mostly based in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, where his business empire is headquartered, owns at least one luxury house in the former British colony that also houses some of his companies' offshore business operations.

Alibaba is also listed in Hong Kong, besides New York.

The former English teacher disappeared from public view for three months before surfacing in January, speaking to a group of teachers by video. That eased concern about his unusual absence from the limelight and sent Alibaba shares surging.

In May, Ma made a rare visit to Alibaba's Hangzhou campus during the firm's annual "Ali Day" staff and family event, company sources have said.

On Sept. 1, photographs of Ma visiting several agricultural greenhouses in the eastern Zhejiang province, home to both Alibaba and its fintech affiliate Ant, went viral on Chinese social media.

The next day, Alibaba said it would

invest 100 billion yuan (\$15.5 billion) by 2025 in support of "common prosperity", becoming the latest corporate giant to pledge support for the wealth sharing initiative driven by President Xi Jinping.

Alibaba and its tech rivals have been the target of a wide-ranging regulatory crackdown on issues ranging from monopolistic behaviour to consumer rights. The e-commerce behemoth was fined a record \$2.75 billion in April over monopoly violations.

Earlier this year, regulators also imposed a sweeping restructuring on Ant, whose botched \$37 billion initial public offering in Hong Kong and on Shanghai's Nasdaq-style STAR Market would have been the world's largest.

Interview: Madan Dulloo

“Je n’ai jamais eu une ambition premier ministérielle”

Toute démocratie est vivante lorsqu’il existe à la fois un gouvernement et une opposition forte dans un pays. Tel n’est pas le cas à Maurice. On parle souvent de gouvernement du peuple, par le peuple et pour le peuple. Est-ce que les Mauriciens n’ont pas envoyé suffisamment de signaux aux partis politiques lors de chaque élection pour qu’ils se réinventent ? Le jeu des alliances des partis, basé sur des tactiques du passé, est couplé à une incapacité paralysante à gérer les difficultés internes. Ces partis qui comportent souvent des transfuges politiques sont-ils devenus trop boiteux et trop faibles ? Les stratégies d’antan devraient-elles disparaître avec l’ancienne garde au sein de chaque parti ? Madan Dulloo nous en parle.

Mauritius Times : Il y a, comme vous devriez le savoir, une grosse déception en ce qui concerne l’opposition, en particulier par rapport à L’Entente de l’Espoir. Vous faisiez partie de cette opposition-là jusqu’à récemment. Qu’est-ce qui, selon vous, explique cet état des choses ?

Madan Dulloo : Il y a eu malheureusement une incohérence entre les différents leaders politiques formant actuellement partie de l’Entente de l’Espoir. A plusieurs reprises, avant ma démission de ce parti, j’ai attiré l’attention des membres du Bureau politique du MMM sur ce fait. Par exemple, dès l’annonce du confinement dû à la Covid-19 et l’annonce des restrictions en mars dernier, j’ai été étonné et choqué de la réaction de certains dirigeants de cette Entente qui critiquaient le protocole et les mesures restrictives mis en place par le gouvernement.

A mon avis, il fallait au contraire faire un appel à la population de prendre les précautions nécessaires et de suivre les consignes sanitaires des autorités comme partout ailleurs dans le monde. Heureusement, du moins en ce qu’il s’agit du MMM, mes critiques exprimées au sein du MMM ont été écoutées, ce qui fait que ce parti était le premier à faire appel à la population pour suivre strictement les consignes du gouvernement et se faire vacciner au plus vite aussitôt que la campagne de vaccination allait être lancée.

Par la suite, fort heureusement, les autres dirigeants de l’Entente se sont plus au moins conformés à cette position tout en demeurant jusqu’à tout dernièrement très critiques, et ce, d’une façon acerbe vis-à-vis de certaines mesures.

C’est là qu’on m’a reproché de critiquer deux partis de l’Entente, notamment celui de M. Bodha et l’autre de M. Bhadain - deux anciens ministres, l’un celui des Affaires étrangères et l’autre de la Bonne gouvernance - alors qu’ils étaient en train de ternir l’image et la réputation de Maurice sur le plan international à un moment où le pays faisait face à cette situation inédite due à la pandémie et où il fallait relancer l’économie.

De plus, Maurice se trouvait sur la liste grise de l’Union européenne... C’est là que j’ai lancé un appel pour plus de retenue, surtout de la part de deux dirigeants de cette Entente, deux anciens ministres, dont les prises de position surtout par rapport à la situation dans le pays sur le plan démocratique allaient être entendues par les instances internationales.

* Vous voulez dire qu’il n’y avait que cela et l’inci-

dent à la régionale No. 15 (La Caverne-Phoenix) qui vous ont poussé vers la démission, et ce sans arrière-pensée politique ?

Personnellement, j’ai toujours respecté la discipline et la Constitution, que ce soit celle de mon pays ou de mon parti... tout en respectant les opinions de ceux qui avaient une opinion différente. C’est pourquoi je me suis toujours fait un devoir d’exprimer mes opinions dans les instances du parti.

Ce n’est que tout récemment, après une longue absence des médias - un choix personnel, je dois dire - suite à une requête d’une radio privée que j’ai parlé de ma carrière politique et de l’actualité poli-

“Xavier Duval était le porte-parole de l’Opposition au Parlement, et j’ai vu qu’il a bien fait son travail comme leader de l’Opposition quoique je pourrais ne pas être d’accord avec lui en ce qui concerne certaines de ses prises de position. Mais on s’entend bien, et je l’ai rencontré par respect pour le poste qu’il occupe au Parlement. Navin Ramgoolam n’était pas au pays, mais il est possible que je pourrais rencontrer Navin Ramgoolam et pourquoi pas d’autres dirigeants du pays, comme Pravind Jugnauth...”

tique sur les ondes. Cette démarche n’a pas été appréciée par le MMM en raison de la proximité, paraît-il, de cette même radio - ce dont j’ignorais - avec un certain M. Lee Shim qui serait très proche des dirigeants du gouvernement.

La décision a été ainsi prise : aucun membre du parti ne devait faire de déclarations à trois médias spécifiques, notamment *Wazaa FM*, *Inside News* et *Le Journal*. Faut-il toutefois souligner qu’aucun membre du Bureau Politique, y compris le leader, ne m’avait formulé quelque reproche à propos du contenu de mon interview.

Mais un des dirigeants avait proposé que toute la question concernant mes critiques contre MM Bodha et Bhadain devaient être débattues par la régionale de la circonscription n°15. Lorsque j’y étais, j’ai été choqué pas la façon dont on m’a traité et, alors, lors de la réunion du Bureau Politique suivant, j’ai annoncé ma déci-



sion de démissionner du MMM...

* Diriez-vous avec le recul que tout a été bien orchestré, et cela en vu de vous pousser vers la porte de sortie pour faire de la place...

Je ne saurais vous dire, mais ce qui est sûr, c’est que cela a été très bien orchestré - on ne m’a même pas donné l’occasion de parler. Pouvez-vous imaginer que des personnes, et de plus, des membres d’une régionale du parti et bien d’autres soi-disant membres du MMM présents à l’occasion, puissent me mettre au défi en me demandant même si je pouvais me mesurer ou valoir un Bodha ou un Bhadain ?

J’ai passé treize années de ma carrière politique au sein du MMM; Bérenger et moi-même, nous avons signé un accord pour le partage du *prime ministership* dans le cadre des élections de 2010, et je n’ai pas hésité un instant pour dissoudre mon parti, à la demande de Bérenger, afin d’intégrer le MMM. Ce qui fait que, en fin de compte, je me suis présenté aux élections de 2010 en tant que simple *backbencher*... alors que Bérenger et moi-même, en tant que leader d’un parti allié du MMM, aurions dû partager le *prime ministership* dans le cadre d’une formule à l’israélienne... Cela étant dit, moi, j’ai accepté mon sort...

● Suite en page 9

'Une alliance peut être un catalyseur extraordinaire, peu importe qui se trouve à la tête des différents partis'

• Suite de la page 8

*** Il semble quand même qu'il y aurait aussi le facteur Bodha qui aurait pu avoir une incidence sur votre démission du MMM. N'est-ce pas le cas? Il est évident que le blocage au niveau de l'opposition est aussi dû au fait qu'on n'a pu se mettre d'accord jusqu'ici sur un leader faisant l'unanimité...**

Nando Bodha s'est présenté dans les rangs de l'opposition lors de la manifestation de 13 février 2021. Mais nous savions déjà au sein du MMM depuis l'année dernière que sa démission du gouvernement était imminente, et qu'il allait être rejoint par d'autres personnes. Or, il s'est retrouvé seul pour soumettre sa démission. Mais passons.

Ensuite, il y a eu le lancement de son parti - le Rassemblement Mauricien -, et quelques temps après, il est venu parler de son programme et a aussi dit : 'S'il faut que je devienne Premier ministre pour le mettre en œuvre, je suis disposé à le faire », ce qui a eu un impact sur beaucoup de personnes, surtout des jeunes, qui ont cru qu'il allait être le candidat au poste de Premier ministre de l'Opposition.

C'est à ce moment-là que j'avais soulevé ce point au Bureau Politique du MMM. Paul Bérenger devait alors déclarer qu'il n'a jamais promis ce poste à Nando Bodha. Je m'en tiens à cela, mais j'attends qu'on soit franc et honnête, et qu'on nous dise la vérité...

Personnellement, je n'ai pas de problème avec l'ambition de M. Bodha, puisque comme je vous le disais auparavant, je ne me suis jamais battu pour avoir le poste de ministre ou de vice-Premier ministre. A maintes reprises, j'ai refusé le poste de ministre malgré le fait d'avoir été membre du Parlement durant bien des années.

Ce n'est qu'en 1986, dans le sillage de l'affaire Amsterdam, que j'ai consenti à être ministre des Affaires étrangères, cela sous certaines conditions, pour sauver et aider mon pays.

*** Comment se présente les perspectives de l'opposition actuellement, selon vous? Il doit être évident qu'il n'y a aucun espoir pour cette Opposition de remporter ni les municipales ni les élections générales sans le PTr. Bérenger et Duval, tous les deux, doivent en être conscients...**

Je pense que grâce à leur expérience électorale et politique, Bérenger et Duval savent très bien ce dont l'Opposition a besoin pour remporter les élections municipales dans un premier temps et éventuellement les élections générales: c'est une alliance avec le PTr. C'est cela qu'on est en train de faire actuellement, et même des 'coustics', pour y parvenir. Mais il y a le problème entre Paul Bérenger et Navin Ramgoolam qui perdure...

*** Une alliance entre les différents partis de l'Opposition, regroupant les vieux partis et les nouveaux-venus sur la place paraît être 'easier said than done', eu égard aux différents intérêts et autres susceptibilités qui habitent ces différentes formations et même L'Entente de l'Espoir...**

Je vous ai dit au début de cet entretien que j'ai beaucoup de respect pour les institutions du pays, et j'ai de la considération aussi pour les partis politiques, surtout ceux qui ont façonné une bonne partie de l'Histoire de notre pays.



“ La grande question qui se pose par rapport à 2014, c'est de savoir qui était 'Le Requin' et qui était 'L'hameçon'? Est-ce la proposition de nommer Paul Bérenger comme candidat au poste de Premier ministre pour cinq ans ou celle concernant Navin Ramgoolam, ce dernier devant être Président de la République pour sept ans qui a fait chavirer tous les navires de cette flotte? La question reste posée...”

Voilà la raison pour laquelle je me suis fait un devoir de ne jamais m'ingérer dans les affaires d'un parti politique ou de dicter ce qui doit être le leader de ce parti. Aussi, pour moi, il n'est pas question de faire des manigances pour qu'un autre membre de ce parti puisse usurper le leadership du parti à la place de l'actuel leader.

*** Vous pensez donc que la démarche de Paul Bérenger, c'est-à-dire faire pression sur Navin Ramgoolam pour qu'il parte était mal inspiré?**

Faire appel à Navin Ramgoolam pour qu'il parte, ça c'est une chose, mais s'ingérer publiquement et manigancer pour qu'un autre membre du parti usurpe le leadership et assume le contrôle du parti... je trouve cela inacceptable.

*** Toutefois, faut-il aussi reconnaître que la démarche de Bérenger portait sur celui qui allait être le porte-drapeau d'une éventuelle alliance de l'Opposition et le principal challenger du leader de l'alliance gouvernementale...**

A chaque fois et dépendant de la situation politique, sociale et économique du pays, une alliance peut être un catalyseur extraordinaire, peu importe qui se trouve à la tête des différents partis constituant cette alliance...

“ Je pense que grâce à leur expérience électorale et politique, Bérenger et Duval savent très bien ce dont l'Opposition a besoin pour remporter les élections municipales dans un premier temps et éventuellement les élections générales: c'est une alliance avec le PTr. C'est cela qu'on est en train de faire actuellement, et même des 'coustics' pour y parvenir. Mais il y a le problème entre Paul Bérenger et Navin Ramgoolam qui perdure...”

*** Le candidat Bérenger au poste de Premier ministre a été un élément repoussoir dans bien des cas, non?**

Nous avons eu l'alliance PTr-MMM de 2014 avec le résultat qu'on connaît. Il ne faut pas oublier que le MMM a subi trois défaites consécutives lors des élections générales - 2010, 2014 et 2019 - quand on avait présenté Paul Bérenger comme candidat au poste de Premier ministre pour un mandat de cinq ans.

Toutefois, la grande question qui se pose par rapport à 2014, c'est de savoir qui était 'Le Requin' et qui était 'L'hameçon'? Est-ce la proposition de nommer Paul Bérenger comme candidat au poste de Premier ministre pour cinq ans ou celle concernant Navin Ramgoolam, ce dernier devant être Président de la République pour sept ans qui a fait chavirer tous les navires de cette flotte? La question reste posée.

Paul Bérenger a déjà déclaré qu'il ne se portera pas comme candidat au poste de Premier ministre cette fois-ci, et qu'il est en train de chercher un parti qui pourrait présenter ce candidat-là tout en précisant qu'il ne veut pas que ce soit Navin Ramgoolam. Attendons voir.

*** Votre avis personnel sur cette question, M. Dulloo? Ramgoolam comme leader de l'alliance de l'opposition et son candidat au poste de Premier ministre... qu'en pensez-vous?**

Je ne voudrais pas spéculer, car il y a trop de 'si' dans cette question. Tout dépendra des partis qui constitueront une telle alliance, quel programme gouvernemental sera proposé, ce qui est pour moi très important...

*** Mais il faudra bien trouver un leader pour une éventuelle alliance de l'Opposition... une alliance de l'espoir, comme le préconisait Paul Bérenger?**

J'ai appris aussi au collège que l'espoir fait vivre les imbéciles. Pour le moment, nous sommes en présence de trois blocs: le MSM dirigeant l'alliance gouvernementale, le PTr s'associant à d'autres partenaires possibles, et l'Entente de l'Espoir...

*** Et votre avenir politique... y réfléchissez-vous?**

Je rencontre beaucoup de gens dans les quatre coins du pays, et je reste à l'écoute de certaines propositions qui vont dans le sens de la création d'un «network rural-urbain».

• Suite en page 10

'Bérenger et Duval savent très bien ce dont l'Opposition a besoin pour remporter les élections municipales et éventuellement les élections générales: c'est une alliance avec le PTr

• Suite de la page 9

Cela pourrait éventuellement prendre la forme d'une nouvelle force politique regroupant des intellectuels et des professionnels évoluant dans différents secteurs.

D'autres voix ont proposé qu'on relance notre parti, c'est-à-dire le Mouvement Militant Socialiste Mauricien (MMSM).

*** Qu'en est-il d'un retour au MSM?**

Il n'y a eu jusqu'ici aucune discussion dans cette direction, et je ne voudrais pas spéculer... Certains ont interprété d'une certaine façon ma rencontre avec Xavier Duval... Ma position vis-à-vis du leader du PMSD est clair. Ce parti faisait partie de l'Entente de l'Espoir, Xavier Duval était le porte-parole de l'Opposition au Parlement, et j'ai vu qu'il a bien fait son travail comme leader de l'Opposition quoique je pourrais ne pas être d'accord avec lui en ce qui concerne certaines de ses prises de position sur certains sujets de l'actualité.

Mais on s'entend bien, et je l'ai rencontré par respect pour le poste qu'il occupe au Parlement. Navin Ramgoolam n'était pas au pays, mais il est possible que je pourrais rencontrer Navin Ramgoolam et pourquoi pas d'autres dirigeants du pays, comme Pravind Jugnauth, etc.

*** Vous disiez à Week-end, dimanche dernier, que**

“ Je ne vais pas rencontrer Ramgoolam avec une possibilité d'intégrer le PTr, non! Mais c'est pas respect pour un dirigeant politique qui a été Premier ministre de mon pays... Peu importe les désaccords que nous avons eus dans le passé. Peu importe les désaccords que j'ai eus avec feu Anerood Jugnauth dans le passé, j'ai eu plusieurs rencontres avec lui l'année dernière et cette année-ci, avant qu'il ne nous quitte. Nous avons parlé du passé, du présent et de l'avenir, et nous nous étions bien compris...”



vous faisiez de l'ombre à Navin Ramgoolam en 2008 au niveau international de par vos contacts avec certains dirigeants africains. Pourquoi voudrait-il que cela recommence en 2024?

Je ne vais pas rencontrer Ramgoolam avec une possibilité d'intégrer le PTr, non ! Mais c'est pas respect pour un dirigeant politique qui a été Premier ministre de mon pays... Peu importe les désaccords que nous avons eus dans le passé.

Peu importe les désaccords que j'ai eus avec feu Anerood Jugnauth dans le passé, j'ai eu plusieurs ren-

contres avec lui l'année dernière et cette année-ci, avant qu'il ne nous quitte. Nous avons parlé du passé, du présent et de l'avenir, et nous nous étions bien compris.

*** Si on vous disait que c'est probablement votre ambition premier ministérielle qui vous a causé autant d'ennuis dans votre carrière politique. Gaëtan Duval lui s'était réconcilié avec lui-même et à l'idée qu'il ne pouvait être que le No. 2...**

Je n'ai jamais eu cette ambition. Ce n'est qu'après dix années passées comme parlementaire que j'ai accepté d'assumer le poste de ministre après l'affaire Amsterdam, quand la mafia de la drogue pouvait prendre le contrôle de mon pays...

MAURITIUS TIMES To Our Readers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Editorial Team

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Political dead end

• Cont. from page 3

Putting people first

Assuring the successful socio-economic recovery of the country also means reviewing and questioning the premises of our economic model assiduously promoted by every government. Its excessive dependence on the tourism industry and high-end real estate activities based on the sale of properties to wealthy foreigners have been exposed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a context where the difference in ideology is blurred, it is our value system which becomes an instrument of change. The key question to be asked by aspiring politicians and those who canvass the support of the people at the polls is: How can I improve the quality of life of the common man?

How can we stem drug trafficking, improve healthcare, the education system, social welfare, the law-and-order framework, bridge widening inequality, change our economic model or act to mitigate the dire fall-outs of climate change, etc., so that they competently address and respond to the fundamental concerns and expectations of people?

The economic recovery of the tourism sector is dependent on an efficiently managed and profitable Air Mauritius. Government has no competence to manage or define the commercial strategies of an airline company. The first government decision regarding Air Mauritius shows that it has not learnt from the lessons of costly past blunders which plumbed the finances of the airline.

At a time when so many ex-

perienced professionals of the commercial airline sector have been forced into inactivity, it would be simply daft not to headhunt and entrust the management of the national airline to experienced professionals of the commercial airline sector with a proven track record of achievements. It is equally important that the Board of Air Mauritius also comprises seasoned experts from the airline and tourism sector so as to build potent synergies between an innovative policy framework and commercial imperatives to assure sustained profitability.

What future for the young?

The political situation in the country has never been in a worse state than presently. The country is trapped in a political dead end. There is a legitimate and pervasive apprehension regarding the future of the young. The status quo is therefore untenable. The whole political class stand accused.

Mrinal Roy

Beyond GDP: here's a better way to measure people's prosperity

● Cont. from page 2

However, our decade-long study will be the first time people – rather than abstract metrics – have been used to evaluate the impact of regeneration.

Self-reporting will enable us to accurately assess the long-term effects of social, economic and physical change on individual and community prosperity, with the first findings due to be published ahead of the 10th anniversary of the London Olympics in 2022.

We believe the study will challenge the established view that individual prosperity increases in line with job creation and economic growth, and is the first in the UK to track households using the IGP's local Prosperity Index. Over ten years the study will produce local evidence about prosperity as it is felt and experienced by people, rather than centrally determined statistics about the number of houses built or jobs created.

Measuring the impact of regeneration

Although strategic urban regeneration programmes are designed with increasingly complex social and economic objectives in mind – such as tackling unemployment and enhancing economic inclusion – there is a lack of research evaluating the outcomes and impacts of regeneration.

This is partly due to the way the government measures prosperity. Because large infrastructure projects like HS2, the Olympic Park and Birmingham's Big City Plan increase



Pic - briflynews.com

GDP, the UK government can claim economic progress and wealth creation.

Our ten-year study takes a different approach by measuring prosperity based on the priorities of local communities and involving local people to answer three questions:

1. How are "prosperity gains" from regeneration distributed within and between neighbourhoods?
2. How is prosperity experienced by people from different backgrounds living in different neighbourhoods?
3. What are the local, short, medium and long-term issues that enable people to prosper?

New ways to level up

Early evidence suggests the UK government's approach to levelling up will once again heavily depend on the same tired approaches – like targets for house building and job creation that have failed in the past to resolve regional and local inequalities and address social and economic exclusion.

New levelling up requires a sharing of knowledge. Allowing citizens, local government, businesses and community organisations to collaborate, make decisions, trial radical new approaches and rapidly evaluate change. Shared knowledge creates the opportunity to identify innovative policy options and new pathways to prosperity that are more targeted and more effective at improving quality of life.

Involving local people in the process creates a new way to understand, conceptualise and measure prosperity, inform local decision-making and equip communities with the tools, evidence and confidence they need to monitor progress and hold decision makers to account.

I hope for the best from the imminent levelling-up white paper. But old habits die hard, and the graveyard of prosperity initiatives is already overflowing.

Henrietta Moore

Director & Founder of the Institute for Global Prosperity, UCL

Programme des Courses

27^e journée samedi
16 octobre 2021

1 THE ESPERANTO PLATE 1650 m - Valeur [0-15] - 12h30					
1 Barak Lavan	SN	8/5-5-3-8	61	K.Ghunowa	6 900
2 Sir Capers	P	6/6-7-5-3	61	N.Marday	10 900
3 Midnight Oracle	SPN	7-5-3-7-4	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	2 370
4 Starsky	CD	8-4-9-4-7	60	K.Kalychurun	8 1400
5 Newsman	RG	3-6-4-2-2	59.5(-4)	I.Taka	7 340
6 Lady's Knight	RM	9-8-6-8-6	59(-1.5)	E.Migale	4 1100
7 Nightingale Lane	CR	6-1-8-9/5	59(-3)	A.Roy	5 1200
8 Xanthus	PM	3-5-2-2-9	59	R.K.Chumun	3 650
9 Barking Irons	SN	8-4-4-7-9/	58.5	G.D.Aucharuz	9 800
10 Slightly Scottish	AS	8-8/7-1-9	56.5(-1.5)	B.Deenath	1 1100
2 THE CATMANDU PLATE 1400 m - Valeur [0-26] - 13h05					
1 Never Fear	CD	2-1-1/2-1/	61.5	D.Bheekary	6 1100
2 Crackon	SPN	0-0-0-0-9	61	R.Vaibhav	1 2000
3 Mr Hardy	CR	3-5/2-6-10	61	P.Mogun	5 750
4 The Bastille	AS	0-0-0-0-5	61	S.Rama	7 700
5 Why Wouldn't Yew	RM	7-5-4-4-4	61	P.C.Orffer	2 270
6 Global Glory	SM	0-2-9-R-A	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	3 450
7 Arnica Montana	SN	0-0-7-R-3	59	G.D.Aucharuz	4 260
3 THE LUCINIUS PLATE 1450 m - Valeur Benchmark 36 - 13h40					
1 Crimson God	SM	0-0-0-0-7	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	2 1000
2 Drageda	AS	0-0-5-10/9	60	S.Rama	8 5000
3 Good Buddy	JMH	4-1-3-6-2	60	J.Allyhosain	1 300
4 Anderson	SJ	0-0-8-7-6	59.5	B.Woodworth	4 2500
5 Itdawnedonme	SH	2-10-7-2-1	59.5	I.Santana	5 270
6 Memphis Mafia	RM	1-2-4-6-2	59	P.C.Orffer	6 700
7 Keiko	SJ	5-2-4-5/6	58.5	T.Juglall	7 1100
8 Crazy Charlie	GR	3-9-3-2-3	57	B.Sooful	3 330

4 THE PIPER PLATE 1400 m - Valeur [0-26] - 14h15					
1 Pin Drop	SPN	0-0-4-3-2	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	2 250
2 Talisman	VA	nouveau	60(-3)	A.Roy	4 650
3 Taranaki	GR	4-6/1-9-7	60	B.Sooful	7 450
4 Tyrian	PM	4-5-5-8-4	60	R.K.Chumun	6 1100
5 Zeno	SM	N-8/5-5-7	60	J.Allyhosain	3 2000
6 Ticket To Cairo	JMH	0-6-4-6-3	58.5	K.Ramsamy	1 350
7 Man From Seattle	RG	5-6-5-6-6	57.5	B.Bhaugerothee	5 650
5 THE JEROME TENNANT CUP 1650 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 - 14h50					
1 Take On Me	SPN	0-0-0-7-6	60	R.Vaibhav	4 5000
2 Inauguration	CR	4-2-3-3-5	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	1 400
3 Paddingtons Luck	GR	1-8-10-1-6	59	N.Teeha	3 600
4 Bestday Of Mylife	CD	3/2-6-3-2	58.5	D.Bheekary	7 600
5 Lickerio	AS	7-10-8-5-6	58.5	S.Rama	6 3000
6 Syds Liason	RG	3-4-8-5-3	58.5	J.Allyhosain	5 600
7 G I Joe	SM	3-1-3-2-2	58(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	2 260
8 Six Degrees	SN	0-4-1-2-2	57	G.D.Aucharuz	8 1000
6 THE YOU YOU CUP 2050 m - Valeur Benchmark 46 - 15h25					
1 Over The Odds	SJ	0-6-7-9-9	61	T.Juglall	4 2500
2 Absolutist	AS	6-4-1-2-4	60	S.Rama	7 430
3 Arlingtons Revenge	SJ	4-1-1-4-5	60	B.Woodworth	6 650
4 Liverpool Champ	GR	0-3-4-5-4	60	N.Teeha	8 900
5 Lunafacation	SM	0-0-0-6-1	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	5 450
6 Sir Bernadini	P	7-1/7-9-7	60	O.Sola	2 1000
7 Snowy Mountain	P	9-4-5-5-4	58.5	J.Allyhosain	3 430
8 All Aboard	GR	3-3-5/3-5	57	B.Sooful	1 400

7 THE RAMNARAIN RAJCOOMAR GUJADHUR CUP 1600 m - Valeur Benchmark 71 - 16h00					
1 Haylor	SJ	8-1-1-7-1	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	6 400
2 Wall Tag	VA	2-1-3-5-2	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	2 300
3 Dutch Alley	CD	0-0-0-7-4	54.5	K.Kalychurun	7 4000
4 Stopalltheclocks	CD	9-7-9-6-6	54.5(-3)	M.Sonaram	3 1400
5 Tsitsikamma Dance	RM	2-1-4-4-2	54	S.Rama	4 450
6 Hubble	SJ	5-2-6-5-1	53	B.Woodworth	1 300
7 Ottoman Empire	GR	0-0-0-0-7	53	B.Sooful	5 700
8 THE SPECIALIZE PLATE 1365 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 16h35					
1 Remus	SH	0-0-0-1-1	60	I.Santana	6 150
2 Straight	JMH	6-1-1-4-5	60	K.Ramsamy	2 1100
3 Poinciana	SJ	2-2-1-2/2	59.5	B.Woodworth	8 2500
4 Rock Manor	CR	5-3-4-3-3	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	7 3300
5 Stockbridge	SM	3/5-3-2-1	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	1 620
6 Matchless Captain	RG	0-0-5/7-4	58.5	T.Juglall	5 9000
7 Cloud Seeder	AS	7-10-2-3-1	58	S.Rama	4 650
8 Doublethink	RG	4-2-3-3-3	58	B.Sooful	3 1200
9 THE SHAKESPEARE STREET PLATE 990 m - Valeur [0-25] - 17h10					
1 Digital Fortress	SPN	0-0-0-8-8	60	T.Juglall	8 6000
2 Intothemystic	SN	0-0-10-6-A	60	R.Beeharry	6 6000
3 Lite Of My Life	RG	0-0-0-3-7	60	B.Sooful	3 450
4 Badawee	SJ	9-6-2-9-9	59.5	B.Woodworth	2 300
5 Coup For Lute	CD	0-4-5-3-7	59(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	4 600
6 New Abbey	SH	9-5-4/4-1	58.5	I.Santana	7 300
7 Trojan Quest	JMH	1/5-5-4-5	58.5	K.Ramsamy	5 800
8 Master Of Disguise	VA	0-8-6-10-6	58	J.Allyhosain	1 1000

Selections

1. Newsman, Midnight Oracle, Xanthus
2. Why Wouldn't Yew, Arnica Montana, Never Fear
3. Itdawnedonme, Good Buddy, Crazy Charlie
4. Pin Drop, Ticket To Cairo, Tyrian
5. G I Joe, Inauguration, Six Degrees
6. All Aboard, Absolutist, Lunafacation
7. Hubble, Wall Tag, Haylor
8. Remus, Stockbridge, Poinciana
9. Lite Of My Life, New Abbey, Badawee

The real reason you can't quit Facebook?

Maybe it's because you can judge your friends

Facebook recently announced that it now has over 2 billion monthly users. This makes its "population" larger than that of China, the US, Mexico and Japan combined. Its popularity, and with it the influence it has in society, is beyond dispute. But for many the experience of actually using the site fluctuates somewhere between the addictive and the annoying. Our new research shows that the reason for this is very simple. It's all to do with other people, and how we feel about them.

For Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and colleagues, the ethos behind the site is straightforward. It aims to "give people the power to build community and bring the world closer together". By offering individuals the chance to connect with friends and share meaningful content, it aims to strengthen relationships and community ties.

The fact that this is a rather idealistic picture of society hasn't prevented the site from flourishing. Yet, examining what people actually do on the site, how they interact with each other, and what they feel about the behaviour of friends and acquaintances, shows that the truth is rather more complex.

Silent watchers

We surveyed and selectively interviewed a network of over 100 Facebook users. Our findings show how we continue to use the site and remain connected to people through it even though they often annoy or offend us. But instead of challenging them or severing ties, we continue to use Facebook to silently watch them - and perhaps even take pleasure from judging them.

In other words, Facebook reflects the dynamics at the heart of all real human relationships. Just as in their offline life, people try to open up and bond with each other while simultaneously having to cope with the everyday frictions of friendship.

One of the most notable things we found in our research was the high number of people who said that they were frequently offended by what their friends posted. The sorts of things that caused offence ran the gamut from extremist or strongly-held political opinions (racism, homophobia, partisan political views) to oversharing of daily routines and acts of inadvertent self-promotion.

For example, one interviewee wrote of how she had "a particularly hard time with pro-gun posts":

I really, really wish guns were significantly less accessible and less glorified in American culture. Still, I don't think Facebook is really the place that people chose to listen to opposing views, so I usually ignore posts of that nature.



Navigating relationships. Pic - Shutterstock

At the other end of the spectrum was this interviewee:

I wrote to a friend about how my two-year-old was counting to 40 and was saying the alphabet in three languages. This made a Facebook contact write passive aggressively on her wall about overachieving parents who spend all their time bragging about their children. I felt the need to de-friend her after that incident.

Why do we put up with this?

The reason these reactions happened so often was due to various factors native to the sort of communications technology that Facebook represents. First, there's the specific type of diversity that exists among people's online networks. That is, the diversity created by people from different parts of your life being brought together in one space.

On Facebook, you write your message without knowing who precisely will read it, but in the knowledge that the likely audience will include people from various parts of your life who have a range of different values and beliefs. In face-to-face conversations you're likely to talk to you father-in-law, work colleagues or friends from primary school in separate contexts, using different styles of communication. Whereas on Facebook they'll all see the same side of you, as well as getting to see the opinions of those you associate with.

This means that people are engaging in personal conversations in a much more public space than they did before, and that the different value systems these diverse friends have can very easily come into conflict. But the nature of the ties people have on Facebook means that often they can't just break loose from people they find annoying or offensive in this way.

For example, if a work colleague or relative offends you, there are likely to be

reasons of duty or familial responsibility which mean you won't want to de-friend them. Instead, people make discreet changes in their settings on the site to limit the views they find offensive from showing up in their feed, without provoking outward shows of conflict with people.

As one interviewee explained:

I remember de-friending one person (friend of a friend) as she kept posting her political opinions that were the complete opposite of mine. It frustrated me as I didn't know her well enough to "bite" and reply to her posts, equally, I didn't want to voice it on a public forum.

None of the people in the study, however, said that they'd reduced their use of Facebook because of the frequent offence they experienced from using it. Instead, we can speculate, it's this opportunity to be

slightly judgemental about the behaviour of your acquaintances that proves one of the compelling draws of the site.

Similar to the "hate-watching" experience of viewing television programmes you don't like because you enjoy mocking them, this can be seen as a mild form of "hate-reading". Logging onto Facebook gives you the chance to be indignantly offended (or maybe just mildly piqued) by other people's ill-informed views and idiosyncratic behaviour. And there's a surprising amount of pleasure in that.

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Home





Motor car

car

Lorries

Appartement à louer - long terme



Appartement meublé de 3 c.a.c, climatisé, cuisine équipée, piscine et parking, sécurité (24/24) à Trou aux Biches - Complexe Fleury sur Mer
Tel: 57809413 - 57530881

To Rent

Fully furnished and air conditioned 3-bedroom apartment at Fleury sur Mer Complex, Trou aux Biches for long-term. Parking and 24 hour security, swimming pool
Tel: 57809413 - 57530881



Su Wong marries Lee Wong

Su Wong marries Lee Wong. The next year, the Wongs have a new baby.

The nurse brings them over a lovely, healthy, bouncy, but definitely Caucasian white baby boy!

"Congratulations," says the nurse to the new parents.

"Well, Mr Wong, what will you and Mrs Wong name the baby?"

The puzzled father looks at his new baby boy and says, "Well, two Wongs don't make a white, so I think we will name him... Sum Ting Wong!"

What it means to be British?

One of the British national daily newspapers was asking readers: "What it means to be British?"

Some of the emails were hilarious but this one from a man in Switzerland stated...

"Being British is about driving in a German car to an Irish pub for a Belgian beer, then travelling home, grabbing an Indian curry or a Turkish kebab on the way, to sit on a Swedish furniture and watch American shows on a Japanese TV. He buys a holiday home in Spain, skis in France, fancies Swedish birds and has a Romanian au-pair.

"And the most British thing of all? Suspicious of anything foreign."

20th dating anniversary

A woman awakes during the night to find that her husband is not in bed. She goes downstairs to look for him. She finds him sitting at the kitchen table. He appears to be in deep thought, just staring at the wall. She watches as he wipes a tear from his eye and takes a sip of his coffee.

"What's the matter, dear..." she whispers as she steps into the room, "Why are you down here at this time of night?"

The husband looks up from his coffee, 'It's the 20th anniversary of the day we met.'

She can't believe he has remembered and starts to tear up.

The husband continues, 'Do you remember 20 years ago when we started dating, I was 18 and you were only 16?' he says solemnly.

Once again, the wife is touched to tears. 'Yes, I do,' she replies.

The husband pauses. The words were not coming easily.

'Do you remember when your father caught us in the back seat of my car?'

'Yes, I remember,' said the wife, lowering herself into the chair beside him.

The husband continued: 'Do you remember when he shoved the shotgun in my face and said, "Either you marry my daughter or I will send you to prison for 20 years!"'

'I remember that, too,' she replied softly.

He wiped another tear from his cheek and said: 'I would have gotten out today.'

True story

Recently, in Hangzhou, Fujian province, a woman carrying a chopper went to a cinema fuming. The security



guard stopped her and asked her what she was doing there.

She replied angrily: 'My husband is inside the cinema hall with his girlfriend celebrating Lovers' Day. I am going to teach him a lesson.'

The security guard said: 'It's very dark inside. You will not be able to find him. Better wait outside the door and catch him on his way out.'

The woman agreed. Meanwhile security guard asked the operator to flash a message on the screen:

'Woman with chopper outside the cinema hall... Looking for husband watching movie with GF. You are advised to leave quietly via the side door.'

Half the audience left immediately. Only the men stayed back!

Life's Stories

Sometimes inspirational stories, poems, speeches and quotes are all you need to get back to your life filled with positive energies.

In the monotony of our lives, we lose ourselves. Our souls yearn for energy to cut us free from the burden of trying so hard without direction. Sometimes a good book or some nice inspirational stories will fill us with positive energies to move ahead in life. Inspiration awakens us to new possibilities by allowing us to surpass our boundaries. Here are a few inspirational short stories to awaken your soul and fill you with life or at least to make your heart smile.

Cutting down the tree to reap the fruit

Once there was a tall, verdant tree at a royal court. The tree was richly laden with ripe, lush fruits; however, the tree was very tall. One day a man came to this royal court. The king asked him, "This tree has wonderful fruits but all the branches are too high. Can you think of a way to get at the fruits?"

The man replied, "Although this tree is very tall, there is still a way to get at its delicious fruits." Then without more ado, the man took an axe and felled the tree. He expected it would be easy to pick the fruits once they became ripe. However, they waited and waited, but no fruits ever grew on the tree anymore. In fact, the tree had withered and died.

The precept tree of the Buddha grows wonderful fruits. If we want to eat the fruits, we must keep the precepts and practise good deeds. A person who breaks the precepts is like the man who chopped down the tree. When the tree is dead and the roots dried up, it would be impossible to restore its life.

The Elephant's Rope

Once a man was passing by some elephants, he suddenly stopped, dazzled by the fact that such mighty and strong creatures were tied only by weak and thin ropes on their legs. It was obvious that the strength of such mighty being could, at any time, break away from there. But, for some reasons, they did not.

He saw an elephant trainer nearby and asked why the elephants just stood there and made no attempts to break free. "Well", replied the elephant trainer, "when the elephants



were younger and less powerful, we used the same ropes to tie them. At that age, these ropes were enough to hold them. As the elephant grew up, they were conditioned to believe that they cannot break away. They believe that the ropes can still hold

them, so never try to break free."

The man was amazed by the trainer's answer. These powerful animals could any time free themselves from their restraints, but they are stuck right where they are because they believed they were incapable of doing so.

Like these elephants, many of us go through life holding onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before.

Failure is part of learning; we should never give up trying. Because, we might be just an attempt away from breaking free.

Shake it off and step up

Once a man and his donkey was walking pass a desolated path, suddenly, the donkey fell into a deep hole on the ground. Luckily the donkey was not hurt by the fall and cried for his master's help. His master tried hard to get it out, but all of his attempts failed. Envisioning the poor donkey's death by starvation on the deserted place. The man decided to give the donkey a less painful death by burying it alive.



The man started pouring soil into the pit with an intention of burying it alive. But as each spadeful of dirt from above hit the donkey, the donkey would shake it off and take a

step up on the growing mound of earth. With more soil poured in by the man, the donkey rose higher. Eventually, the mound grew high enough for him to jump out of the pit.

To the man's amazement, he saw his old donkey jump out of the pit and trot away!

In life, you may be thrown all kinds of dirt on you. But the trick is to shake it off and take a step up to rise to success. We can get out of the deepest pits, not by giving up on problems, but by learning from them. Just shake it off and take a step up.

14 Home Remedies: What works? What doesn't?

Does cinnamon help control blood sugar? Can a neti pot calm your allergies? And might sex actually cure that headache?

No matter what you've heard or how badly you want relief, talk with your doctor or pharmacist before trying any home remedy. This is even more important if you take prescription or over-the-counter medications, because some can affect how drugs work. And keep in mind that many don't have any research to back them up.

Peppermint: Mint has been used for hundreds of years as a health remedy. Peppermint oil might help with irritable bowel syndrome -- a long-term condition that can cause cramps, bloating, gas, diarrhea, and constipation -- and it may be good for headaches as well. More studies are needed to see how much it helps and why. People use the leaf for other conditions, too, but there's very little evidence it helps with any of them.

Honey

This natural sweetener may work just as well for a cough as over-the-counter medicines. That could be especially helpful for children who aren't old enough to take those. But don't give it to an infant or a toddler younger than 1. There's a small risk of a rare but serious kind of food poisoning that could be dangerous for them.

Turmeric

This spice has been hyped as being able to help with a variety of conditions from arthritis to fatty liver. There is some early research to support this. Other claims, such as healing ulcers and helping with skin rashes after radiation are lacking proof. If you try it, don't overdo it: High doses can cause digestive problems.

Ginger

It's been used for thousands of years in Asian medicine to treat stomach-aches, diarrhea, and nausea, and studies show that it works for nausea and vomiting.



There's some evidence that it might help with menstrual cramps, too. But it's not necessarily good for everyone. Some people get tummy trouble, heartburn, diarrhea, and gas because of it, and it may affect how some medications work. So, talk to your doctor, and use it with care.

Sex

No more, "Not tonight, Dear." It turns out that sex can help ease pain when you have certain kinds of headaches -- especially migraines. It's also been shown to improve heart health, ease stress, and boost mental alertness.

Green Tea

This comforting drink does more than keep you awake and alert. It's a great source of some powerful antioxidants that can protect your cells from damage and help you fight disease. It may even lower your odds of heart disease and certain kinds of cancers, like skin, breast, lung, and colon.

Garlic

Some studies show that people who eat more garlic are less likely to get certain types of cancer (garlic supplements don't seem to have the same effect). It also may lower blood cholesterol and blood pressure levels, but it doesn't seem to help that much.

Chicken Soup

Turns out, Grandma was right: Chicken soup can be good for a cold. Studies show it can ease symptoms and help you get rid of it sooner. It also curbs swelling and clears out nasal fluids.

Neti Pot

You put a salt and warm water mixture in something that looks like a little teapot. Then pour it through one nostril and let it drain out the other. You have to practise a little, but once you get the hang of it, it can ease allergy or cold symptoms and may even help you get rid of a cold quicker.

Just make sure you use distilled or cooled boiled water and keep your neti pot clean.

Cinnamon

You may have heard that it can help control blood sugar for people who have prediabetes or diabetes. If you plan to try it, be careful: Cinnamon extracts can be bad for your liver in large doses.

Hot bath

It's good for all kinds of things that affect your muscles, bones, and tendons (the tissues that connect your muscles to your bones), like arthritis, back pain, and joint pain. And warm water can help get blood flow to areas that need it, so gently stretch and work those areas while you're in there. But don't make it too hot, especially if you have a skin condition. The ideal temperature is between 33.3 - 37.7°Celsius

Ice pack

Use a bag of frozen peas or simply a plastic bag or wet towel with ice in the first 48 hours after an injury to help with pain and swelling. You also can use it on injuries that cause pain and swelling over and over again -- but only after physical activity, not before. Never use ice for more than 20 minutes, and take it off if your skin gets red.

Petroleum jelly

This is used for any number of things: It can help your skin keep its moisture and prevent chafing -- on the inside of your thighs when you run, for example. It also can help protect your baby's skin from diaper rash.

*Medically Reviewed
by Miness Khatri, MD*

Well-being & Health

Eating yoghurt and pickles daily can prevent serious diseases

Adding just a few basic fermented foods like yoghurt, fermented pickles, cottage cheese and kanji can help in prevention of several serious disease, says a recent research. Simple tweaks in diet can reduce inflammation and thus keep deadly diseases at bay.

Why fermented food is needed: A diet rich in fermented foods enhances the diversity of gut microbes and decreases molecular signs of inflammation, according to researchers at the Stanford School of Medicine. In a clinical trial, 36 healthy adults were randomly assigned to a 10-week diet that included either fermented or high-fibre foods. The two diets resulted in different effects on the gut microbiome and the immune system.

What to eat

Eating foods such as yogurt, kefir, fermented cottage

cheese, kimchi and other fermented vegetables, vegetable brine drinks, and kombucha tea led to an increase in overall microbial diversity, with stronger effects from larger servings. "This is a stunning finding," said Justin Sonnenburg, PhD, an associate professor of microbiology and immunology, reports Times of India. "It provides one of the first examples of how a simple change in diet can reproducibly remodel the microbiota across a cohort of healthy adults."

The response: In addition, four types of immune cells showed less activation in the fermented-food group. The levels of 19 inflammatory proteins measured in blood samples also decreased. One of these proteins, interleukin 6, has been linked to conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, Type 2 diabetes and chronic stress. By contrast, none of these 19 inflammatory proteins decreased in participants assigned to a high-fiber diet rich in legumes, seeds, whole grains, nuts, vegetables and fruits. On average, the diversity of their gut microbes also remained stable. "We expected high fiber to have a more universally beneficial effect and



increase microbiota diversity," said Erica Sonnenburg, PhD, a senior research scientist in basic life sciences, microbiology and immunology. "The data suggest that increased fiber intake alone over a short time period is insufficient to increase microbiota diversity."

Diet and microbiome

A wide body of evidence has demonstrated that diet shapes the gut microbiome, which can affect the immune system and overall health. According to Gardner, low microbiome diversity has been linked to obesity and diabetes. The researchers focused on fibre and fermented foods due to previous reports of their potential health benefits. While high-fibre diets have been associated with lower rates of mortality, the consumption of fermented foods can help with weight maintenance and may decrease the risk of diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease. The researchers analyzed blood and stool samples collected during a three-week pre-trial period, the 10 weeks of the diet, and a four-week period after the diet when the participants ate as they chose.

From Kajol to Mouni Roy - Here's how Bollywood divas celebrated Durga Ashtami



Wednesday marked the auspicious occasion of Durga Ashtami which is celebrated by devotees of Goddess Durga with much pomp and show. During the nine-day festivities of Navratri, the Durga Ashtami is observed on the eighth day. Many celebrities were seen sharing the Durga Ashtami greetings

with their followers on Instagram on Wednesday, reports News 18.

Bollywood actress Kajol shared her picture where she was seen dressed in a navy blue silk sari with an off-white blouse. The actress had applied a pastel pink shade of lip colour with black eye-liner framing her eyes. As she smiled for the

camera, Kajol wrote in the caption, "Day 2. Wishing everyone a very happy Durga Ashtami. Day two."

Celebrating the occasion of Durga Ashtami, actress Sayani Gupta also shared her look for the day. The 36-year-old actress took a mirror selfie as she wore a simple white cotton sari with a red border and a white blouse. The sari also featured delicate weaving of red cotton in intricate patterns. Completing the look, Sayani wore red lipstick and silver jewellery. In the caption, Sayani wrote, "Shubho Ashtami."

Actress Mouni Roy shared a few snapshots from her Durga Ashtami celebrations on Wednesday with her Instagram followers. The actress shared pictures from her visit to the Durga Puja Pandal with friends and family. Mouni was seen wearing a silver beige silk sari as she wore her hair in a traditional bun and accessorised her look with a long and a choker necklace. Mouni was also seen wearing a pair of jhumkas, completing her traditional look.

Setting a positive trend: 5 Bollywood stars who don't consume alcohol

Bollywood has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons. Ever since Sushant Singh Rajput's death, the Narcotics Control Bureau has been cracking down heavily on the entertainment industry. The news comes as a shock for many youngsters who look up to the stars for role models. More than professionalism, some Bollywood stars have chosen to abstain from drinking for their own health and fitness. So here are some of inspiring actors from the industry that have committed to being teetotalers as reported by Koimoi:



Akshay Kumar: The Bollywood star is synonymous with fitness discipline and flawless work ethic. Even though the superstar is in his early fifties, the *Sooryavanshi* actor looks much fitter than his contemporaries. Time and again he has proven that through his commitments to stunt work in action roles. He is a complete teetotaler!

Amitabh Bachchan: Following Akshay Kumar is Big B, the megastar of Bollywood. The legendary actor has played several roles including alcoholics throughout his career. One of them is 1984 film *Sharabi*, wherein he played the role of a drunkard Vicky Kapoor, but he never brought liquor back home. Amitabh Bachchan has also claimed that he never touched alcohol throughout his career and has refrained from smoking and eating meat.

John Abraham: The handsome hunk of Bollywood has come a long way from being a model to becoming an action star. However, there's one thing that



remained constant - never smoked or drank in his life. He hasn't been the type to rely on intoxicants of any kind to get by. Rather, he diverted all his energies on pumping iron in the gym.

Even though the actor is a teetotaler he broke his vow



once for professional reasons. He gulped down half-bottle of champagne for a long and emotional sequence for Sanjay Gupta's *Shootout At Wadala*. John also confirmed it in a conversation with Hindustan Times, "Usually I never drink, but it was an important scene and I wanted to get it absolutely right."

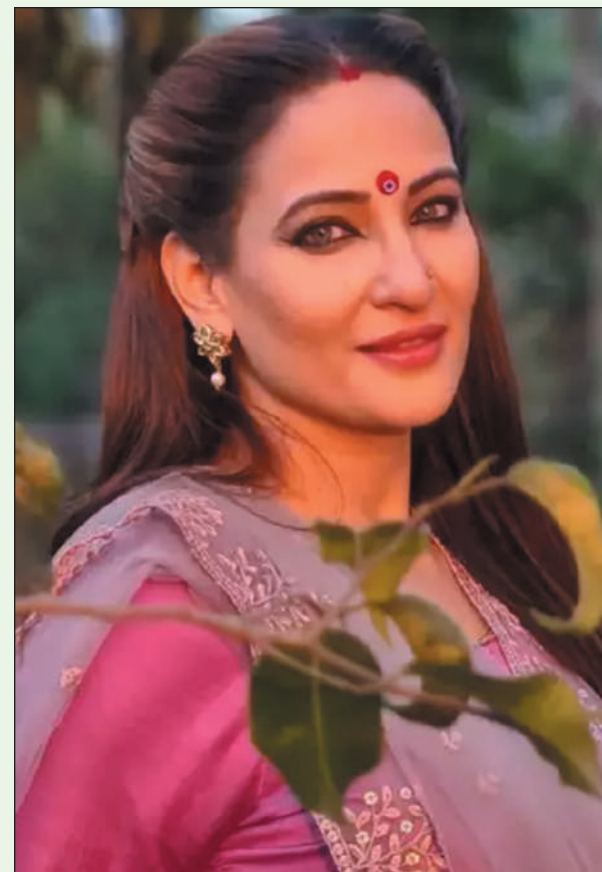
Abhishek Bachchan: Just like his father, Jr Bachchan is also a teetotaler. Not many know that the Bollywood actor was once offered a whopping Rs100 million to endorse a liquor brand, but he refused it. As reported by India TV, he also confirmed it by saying, "I personally don't believe that any revenue is good revenue. There has to be an endorser-brand fit that raises the product's equity. I need to personally believe in the brand before taking it up. I wouldn't endorse a product I don't use."

Sidharth Malhotra: Other than Akshay Kumar, *Shershaah* actor also revealed that has stayed far away from alcohol throughout his career. Back in 2014 following his initial success with *Student of the Year*, Sidharth Malhotra in an interview with GQ India said, "Drinking is a stress reliever for a lot of people (but) I just don't like alcohol."



TellyBytes

Rakshanda Khan on donning a royal avatar in upcoming show



Rakshanda Khan will be seen essaying the character of 'Jayalaxmi' in the upcoming show *'Tere Bina Jiya Jaye Na'*.

Talking about the show and her character, Rakshanda Khan revealed: "I am very excited about *'Tere Bina Jiya Jaye Na'* as it is starkly different from any show that I've been a part of till date. In fact, we've seen shows having a fairy tale ending, but our show starts with a fairy tale love story and what follows afterwards makes up the rest of the narrative. It has interesting twists and turns, and I am actually excited about playing such a royal character for the very first time. I hope everyone will enjoy seeing me in this imperial avatar."

The show revolves around *'Krisha Chaturvedi'* played by actress Anjali Tatrari. *'Krisha'* is a simple, young girl of humble means, who moves into a magnificent palace against the picturesque landscape of the princely state of Ambikapur with hopes of beginning her very own fairy tale with the love of her life, 'Devraj' (Avinash Rekhi). Just as she is striving to adapt to the various cultural nuances, and gain acceptance as 'Devraj's wife, she meets 'Jayalaxmi'.

'Jayalaxmi' or 'Jaya Maa' is the caretaker of the royal family of Ambikapur. She is a glamorous woman with a royal demeanour who loves to dress up articulately and socialise amongst her own.

"My character of Jaya Maa is very polished with a royal demeanour and someone who upholds the traditions of the royal family while having a brilliant business-oriented mind too. She has a lot of layers to her too, so it will be challenging yet fun, and I hope everyone keeps showering their love on me and our show," added the actress known for her roles in *'Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahin'*, *'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi'*,

Gurmeet Choudhary and Debina Bonnerjee remarry in secret temple wedding

One of the iconic and cutest couples of the telly town - Gurmeet Choudhary and Debina Bonnerjee have remarried. Pictures of them dressed as the traditional Bengali bride and groom were doing the rounds on social media and caught the eyes of the fans. Later, the couple took to their respective Instagram accounts and shared photos of them on social media with the caption, "Finally!"

For the unversed, Debina and Gurmeet featured together in the mythological show, *Ramayan* as Sita and Ram. They had a secret wedding in a temple 10 years ago and Debina always yearned to have a traditional Bengali wedding ceremony. Finally, that wish has been fulfilled and the power couple's fans and friends from the fraternity can't stop dropping congratulatory messages on their comment section, reports Times of India.

Gurmeet Choudhary, in an



Image instagrammed by guruchoudhary

earlier interview had shared that he and Debina eloped and tied the knot at a temple in Goregaon in 2006. He further said that they were very young and were looking out for work at that time.

It was on February 15, 2011, the *Ramayan* couple declared their marriage. They fell in love with each other before they start-

ed shooting for *Ramayan*. Gurmeet, Debina met at an acting workshop, and became acquaintances. For the unversed, Debina's roommate's boyfriend was Gurmeet Choudhary's friend, and that's how the two connected again, and realised they were meant for each other.

TellyBytes

If I start focusing on becoming thin then I will get frustrated: Divyanka



While actresses often transform themselves over the years, Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya is one person who looks almost the same since the time she joined the industry. But that doesn't mean the actress doesn't focus on her fitness. In her own way, she always has. She says, "I go through different phases in life. Right now, I am in my workout phase... I keep working out and follow a proper diet. Yes, there are times when I let go of things, especially when I am travelling or I am on a vacation. I am someone who cannot look a size zero. My body type is such that I am always like this. In fact, I tend to put on weight very quickly. So, I have to care for myself a lot."

She follows a particular form of workout because that is what works for her, reports Times of India. She says, "I don't focus on becoming thin but I focus on being fit. If I start focusing on becoming thin then I will get frustrated. It just doesn't work that way for me."

On the work front, she is looking to do something different and interesting. "Rather than being a part of a long continuous drama I am keener on web shows. I have read a few scripts too but those didn't interest me; a lot of television content is getting repeated there I feel. I want to do something else," shares Divyanka.

She adds, "I don't want to do a family drama. I have done a lot of family-oriented shows where I have been a *bahu*. I can be a *bahu* and *beti* because every woman is that. But I want to do more," signs off Divyanka.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Great amorous happiness: old couples will recover their passion and other lovers will form happy and beneficial projects for the future. Be always correct toward others but firm toward those who only harbour aggressive intentions.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 18, 19, 25, 26, 33

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

A very favourable week for lonely hearts for a deciding encounter. You'll have a complex and tiring work to do; but you can foresee an improvement for soon; neither energy nor chance will be lacking.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 14, 18, 19, 20

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Devote more of your time to your children, otherwise they'll become naughty. The circumstances will oblige you to make a temporary stop in your race to professional success; that won't be a bad thing; you'll get a salutary lesson out of it.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 10, 20, 25, 30

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You can sensibly develop and consolidate your financial situation. Very much motivated, you'll this time give priority to your professional life; ambitious and persevering, you should be able to make good progress; but remain vigilant.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 19, 21, 22, 26, 30

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

It will be necessary to calculate your expenses according to your money entries. Your love life is expected to be quite interesting. Don't count too much on the support of your friends.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 20, 24, 33, 36, 70

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You'll be enthusiastic and full of go, but family problems might perturb you. If you want to carry out an important stock market operation, it will be necessary to consult a specialist. You'll have great satisfactions heart wise.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 13, 16, 19, 21, 26

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

In love, beware of jealousy crises susceptible to destroy everything. You'll find yourself in an almost permanent state of fatigue and lack of energy; but you'll already feel a clear improvement if you see to the regularity of your meals.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 9, 17, 36, 40

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Make a small effort at being more sociable and open; you'll win in this way. Let your close ones act as they like, don't interfere with them. You'll like to go out with your friends; you'll meet new faces.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 14, 19, 20, 26, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

A week marked with unexpected or brutal reversals of situation. Dialogue with your family circle will be very difficult; others will reproach you for your silences; but such reproaches will only make you withdraw further into your shell.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 17, 20, 30, 37

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Home life might cause you some problems. By accepting changes, you'll increase your chances of success. Your work will be given top priority this time: it's in this field that you can work wonders.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 17, 20, 23, 33

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You'll obtain satisfactions in many fields, particularly in love and work. A trip or relations with foreigners will be enriching factors, morally as well as materially. Commercial exchanges, avant-garde methods, original techniques will be within your reach.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 18, 19, 20, 30

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You'll be very open to your entourage and will make the acquaintance of people from all walks of life. Important changes in your professional life will take root this time; seek advice.

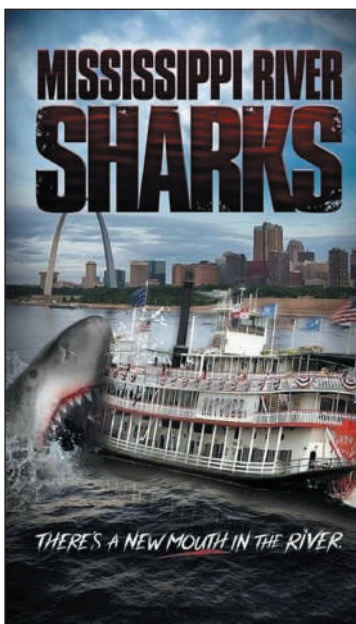
Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 18, 21, 22, 30

CINE 12

Vendredi 15 octobre - 21.15


mbc 1

Samedi 16 octobre - 21.20


CINE 12

Dimanche 17 octobre - 21.15


SERIAL

B TV

vendredi 15 octobre

MBC 1

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
09.00 Doc: The World's Biggest...
11.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.55 Local: Prod: Elle - No 36
13.45 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A...
14.54 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
15.06 D.Anime: Kulipari An Army..
15.29 D.Anime: Les Triples
15.40 D.Anime: Au Galop En Toute..
16.02 D.Anime: HTDT
17.15 Serial: Human Nature
17.45 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.15 Local: Come On Let's Dance
21.10 Serial: 19-2
23.25 Le Journal
23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
08.00 Educa Prog: Grade 3
10.15 Educa Prog: Grade 4
12.30 Film: Popat
15.05 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
15.23 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.49 Serial: Bava Maradallu
16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.28 Serial: Mera Maan Rakhna
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 (Urdu Serial)
20.46 Local: Anjuman
21.09 Local: Urdu Programme
22.07 DDI Live

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.26 Mag: Shift
06.38 Mag: Sur Measure
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: Iran Short Of Water
15.46 Doc: Gutenberg
16.42 Mag: Eco India
17.16 Mag: Shift
18.03 Doc: Raqqa - Hope Among...
18.43 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
21.43 Doc: Une Nuit, Orsay avec...
22.34 Doc: Les Dessins D'yves
23.29 Doc: Raqqa - Hope Among...

Cine 12

03.55 Film: Xtinction
05.21 Tele: Muneca Brava
05.59 Serial: English Series
06.41 Film: Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk
09.00 Serial: English Series
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.37 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Heroes Reborn
12.00 Film: Xtinction: Predator X
13.33 Tele: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: Billy Lynn's Long Half...
16.38 Serial: English Series
17.18 Serial: English Series
18.05 Tele: Teresa
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.34 Mag: Cinemag
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Powers
21.15 Tele: Muneca Brava
22.35 Film: Wolves

Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Kochadaiyaan
Rajinikanth, Deepika Padukone
11.30 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 20.11 - Chupke Chupke
12.30 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
13.00 / 21.09 - Agnipheera
14.00 / 21.24 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 21.46 - Chhanchhan
14.57 / 22.55 - Sethji
15.25 Film: Ra.one
Starring Shah Rukh Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Armaan Verma
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.52 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
19.14 Serial: Bhakharwadi
19.36 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak

samedi 16 octobre

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains
06.27 D.Anime: The Hive
07.00 D.Anime: Sissi
07.25 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda
07.50 D.Anime: Jil Jil Genie 3
08.56 D.Anime: Splash And Bubble
09.08 D.Anime: Garfield Originals
09.10 D.Anime: Where Waldo
09.35 Serial: Oh Yuck
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Teresa
15.03 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
15.38 D.Anime: Les Triples
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: Mississippi River Sharks
Avec: Cassie Steele, Jason London...

07.00 Film: Hera Pheri
09.36 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 Ainthu Pengalum
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
15.25 Film: Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam
Starring: Salman Khan, Ajay Devgan
18.22 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: Ek Thi Dayan
Stars: Emraan Hashmi, Huma Qureshi, Konkona Sen

06.00 Doc: Raqqa
06.42 Mag: Arts And Culture
06.55 Mag: Our Voices
07.50 Doc: Volcano Stories
09.08 Doc: Revolte Dans La Mode
10.00 Doc: Les Dessins D'yves...
10.52 Doc: Doc: Raqqa - Hope...
11.40 Mag: Arts And Culture
11.53 Mag: Our Voices
15.26 Student Support Prog...
18.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens
18.30 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
19.00 Doc: Zenith
19.30 Mag: Check In
20.30 Local: News (English)
21.00 Local: Thirumaal Thiruvurul
00.00 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
00.26 Doc: Zenith
00.52 Mag: Check In
01.42 Doc: Ghana
02.34 Doc: Amazing Gardens

01.44 Serial: Chicago Med
02.24 Film: Wolves
04.13 Serial: The Magicians
04.55 Serial: Falling Water
06.59 Serial: S.W.A.T
08.30 Serial: The Enemy Within
09.12 Serial: The Magicians
09.54 Serial: Falling Water
10.40 Film: Wolves
12.29 Serial: The Night Shift
13.30 Serial: Heroes Reborn
15.05 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.29 Mag: Cinemag
17.00 Serial: Imposters
17.45 Film: Archie Chien Robot 2
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Series: Powers
21.15 Film: Italian Race
Starring: Matilda De Angelis, Stefano Accorsi, Roberta Mattei
23.13 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
06.57 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
07.18 Siddhi Vinayak
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: Manmarziyaan
Star: Abhishek Bachchan, Taapsee Pannu, Vicky Kaushal
20.57 Serial: Namah

dimanche 17 octobre

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: Zafan 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: Oum Le Dauphin...
15.55 D.Anime: Spirit
17.17 Serial: Hi Opie!
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Local: Groov'in
21.15 Film: Ultraviolet
Starring: Milla Jovovich, Cameron Bright, Nick Chinlund

07.00 Film: Hai Apna Dil Toh...
10.00 Local Prod: MBC Prod
11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai
11.22 Serial: Santoshi Maa
12.00 Film: Khullam Khulla Pyar...
Stars: Govinda, Preity Zinta, Prem Chopra
14.33 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: Tita Tita Nu Avance
19.00 Live: Journal Kreol
20.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas Hai
20.48 Serial: CID
21.30 Serial: Naagin Season 2
22.17 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki

06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens
06.40 Doc: Zenith
07.16 Mag: Check In
07.42 Doc: Sky Heroes
08.11 Doc: Ghana
10.38 Doc: Deadly Bacteria
11.07 Doc: Amazing Gardens
11.59 Doc: Zenith
12.24 Mag: Check In
14.11 Doc: Taste Hunters
15.02 Doc: Invisibles: Clickworker
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)
20.52 Mag: Nouveau Look Pour...
22.02 Doc: Johnny Clegg
22.55 Doc: Back To Chernobyl
23.37 Mag: Magnifique
00.05 Doc: Builders Of The Future

01.35 Film: Italian Race
03.33 Serial: Midnight, Texas
04.14 Film: Mississippi River Shark
05.36 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.20 Serial: Imposters
06.57 Serial: Island Doctor
08.30 Serial: The Enemy Within
09.12 Film: Mississippi River Shark
10.48 Film: Archie Chien Robot 2
12.14 Serial: Midnight, Texas
13.30 Serial: Heros Reborn
14.49 Serial: Heroes Reborn
15.32 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.01 Serial: Imposters
17.45 Serial: Midnight, Texas
18.30 Serial: French Series
19.35 Mag: Cinemag
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Pure Genius
21.15 Film: Game Of Death
22.53 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir

00.35 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
02.21 Bhakharwadi
04.10 Chupke Chupke
05.49 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: Singh Saab The Great
Starring: Sunny Deol, Urvashi Rautela, Prakash Raj
21.01 Entertainment: Dance
21.50 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.38 Serial: Piya Albela

MBC 2

Samedi 16 octobre

- 21.00

Stars: Emraan Hashmi, Huma Qureshi, Konkona Sen

B TV

Dimanche 17 octobre

- 18.30

Stars: Sunny Deol, Urvashi Rautela, Prakash Raj



Newcastle United: buying a football club can still be lucrative - with the right business tactics

Running a successful club requires more than money. But the money certainly helps



Christina Philippou
Principal Lecturer, Accounting
and Financial Management,
University of Portsmouth

Many Newcastle United fans cheered the announcement on October 7 that their club had finally been sold for £305 million. The sale, to a consortium headed up by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, adds to a long list of clubs bought by the mega-rich, including Manchester City (owned by Sheikh Mansour), Arsenal (Stan Kroenke) and Chelsea (Roman Abramovich).

But why do wealthy people or states buy football clubs in the first place? What is it about owning a team in a volatile and generally loss-making industry where success on the pitch can never be guaranteed?

Certainly the more successful clubs are a safer financial bet than those further down the football pyramid, with the lower leagues regularly haemorrhaging money (the Championship notoriously spent an average of 107% of income on wages recently).

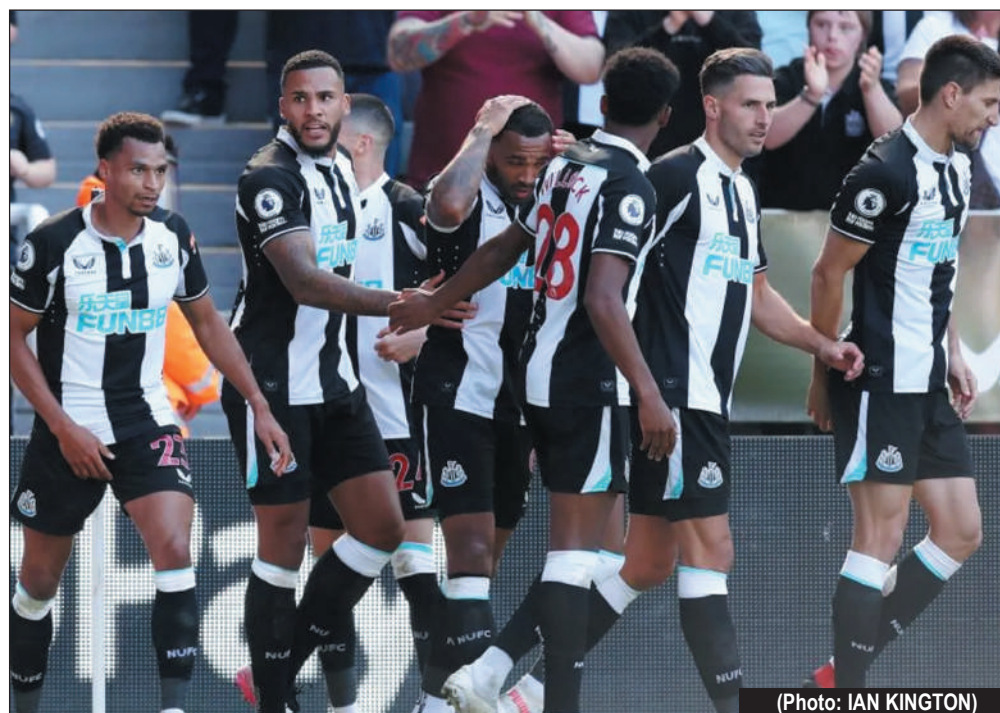
The Premier League meanwhile continues to flourish financially, with its clubs bringing in plenty of revenue. Collectively, they earned £4.5 billion in the 2019-20 season (the latest set of available accounts), and its members made up 12 of the top 30 clubs in the world by revenue.

Of those, the so-called "Big Six" Premier League clubs - Manchester City, Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool, and Tottenham Hotspur - are indeed the biggest six earners. Even the lowest earning among them, Arsenal, made 45% more than the next Premier League club on the list, Everton.

So maybe owning a big club is a way to make big money? Well, it's not quite as simple as that, and the old adage, that the quickest way to become a millionaire is by starting out as a billionaire and buying a football club, still holds some weight.

This is because revenue (money coming in) is not the same as profit (money that owners can add to their existing pile of money at the end of the season). So making a fortune is by no means a given, even in the Premier League.

Of course, there are other reasons for buying a football club, even a loss-making



(Photo: IAN KINGTON)

one. It may be fandom, ego, prestige or politics - indeed, the Saudi backed takeover of Newcastle has been labelled by opponents as "sportswashing", the use of sport as a means of seeking legitimacy or improving reputations. The new owners have strongly denied that this is the case.

The long game

The easiest motive to understand is the fan who buys the club they've always supported. Few of us get to choose which club we align ourselves to - the choice is instead often made for us by family, friends or locality.



Being a fan is similar to being locked into a monopoly - there is no other option. So the best way to ensure that your club is run the way you think it should be is to buy it yourself, like businessman Tony Bloom with Brighton & Hove Albion or the TV chef Delia Smith with Norwich City.

Then there are owners that see a potential investment to take a loss-making club and turn it into a profitable one (or at least profitable enough to sell on at a higher

price). You need to invest money to do this of course, but it is possible.

It is also possible to take a valuable club and make it less so. Mike Ashley may have bought Newcastle for £134 million in 2007 and just sold it for £305 million, but its relative value as a club compared to its competitors in the Premier League, fell over the period of his ownership.

And while there are many ways to improve a football club's fortunes, pretty much all of them involve heavy investment. Money for better players, money for better training facilities, money for better coaches and medical staff.

But aside from the significant costs, the benefits of owning a football club can be seen in the expertise, brand expansion and saved costs of sharing resources across a business empire, which again is particularly apparent in the Premier League.

In total, seven (that's roughly a third) of the current Premier League majority owners also own at least one other sports team, and three own other football clubs outside England. Arsenal owner Stan Kroenke has Colorado Rapids in the US. Brentford owner Matthew Benham has Football Club Midtjylland in Denmark. Manchester City owner Sheikh Mansour has many clubs worldwide within the City Group.

Some teams (Arsenal again, Leeds and Manchester United), have owners who also have American football teams (NFL) as part of their sporting business portfolio.

That is not a coincidence. From sharing backroom staff to developing specialist equipment to sharing ideas, there is much to be gained from crossover industries. So perhaps, for these people at least, owning a football club is a clever business tactic after all.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Daily Self-Care: Putting Yourself First

Putting yourself first means that it may be necessary to say no to someone else, in order to say yes to yourself.

We have all heard the instructions of an airline attendant reminding us to put on our own oxygen mask before we help anyone else with theirs. This advice is often cited as a metaphor for self-care because it so accurately expresses why it is important. It seems to say, ironically, that if you can't take care of yourself for yourself, do it for others. Few situations in our daily lives mimic the wake-up call of an airplane emergency, so it's easy to keep putting self-care off -- easy, that is, until we get sick, overwhelmed, or exhausted, and suddenly don't have the energy to care for the people who count on us. That's when we realize we haven't been getting the oxygen we need to sustain ourselves. We begin to understand that taking care of ourselves is neither selfish nor indulgent; it's just plain practical.

Putting yourself first means that it may be necessary to say no to someone else in order to say yes to yourself. For many of us, there is always something we feel we could be doing for someone else, and it helps to remember the oxygen metaphor. You can even encourage yourself by saying "I am caring for myself so that I am better able to care for others" or some other mantra that will encourage you. It also helps to remember that self-care doesn't have to be composed of massively time-consuming acts. In fact, the best prescription for taking care of yourself is probably small, daily rituals; for example, taking one half-hour for yourself at the beginning and end of the day to meditate, journal, or just be. You might also transform the occasional daily shower or bath into a half-hour self-pampering session.

Whatever you decide, making some small gesture where you put yourself first every day will pay off in spades for you and the ones you love. The oxygen you need is all around you; sometimes you just need to be reminded to breathe.