

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "It is time we recognised the huge contribution that migration has made to the economic growth of this country." -- Jeremy Corbyn

Matters of The Moment

COP26: The last ditch battle to save the planet

Why is government so rashly pursuing the pipe dream of a petroleum industry?

By Mrinal Roy  See Page 4

Propaganda



Weapons of mind and mass destruction

By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee  See Page 3

Interview: Chetan Ramchurn, Entrepreneur



"I do not believe that the power to liberate Mauritius is vested in any one individual"

 See Page 8-9

Offshore Petroleum Exploration

The Offshore Petroleum Bill was presented at the National Assembly by the Prime Minister, Hon Pravind Jugnauth, this week. This Bill repeals the Petroleum Act of 1970, and provides for the conduct of petroleum activities in the seabed and subsoil areas of the maritime zones of Mauritius, such as the prospection, exploration, retention and production of petroleum. It also paves the way for the creation of a regulatory body to regulate, monitor, oversee and facilitate petroleum activities, namely the Department for Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration, which in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, shall, on behalf of the Government, negotiate petroleum agreements with potential investors for exploration/retention/production licences. It will also formulate strategies and policies to minimise and manage the impacts of petroleum activities in the marine environment.

The Bill also details the conditions for application and grant of the titles, and the responsibilities of the title holder too. We thus learn from the provisions of the Bill that 'no person shall engage in petroleum activities in the maritime zones unless he/she is the holder of a title and no title shall be granted except with the approval of the Prime Minister' - which makes it clear that all the decisions relating to the prospection, exploration, retention and production of petroleum will ultimately come under the control and direction of one authority - the Prime Minister.

We are not aware at this stage if confidentiality clauses will be introduced in the titles between the Mauritian government and potential foreign investors, thereby shielding their terms and conditions from parliamentary scrutiny, but that should not come as a surprise in light of other experiences such as the Bank of Mauritius (MIC) disbursements to private sector companies or even, on commercially sensitive grounds. It is therefore doubtful whether this will meet the imperative for transparency and accountability in ocean governance, as flagged by the PM in his presentation of the Bill.

The timing of the introduction of the Bill comes at an inopportune time - on the eve of the opening of the COP26 summit in Glasgow - and its emergency push through Parliament are clearly not in sync with Government's declared commitment to transition to non-renewable sources of energy in the next decades. The agreement discretely signed 18 months ago with CGG and the undue haste to push this bill, raise questions whether the Government would be in presence of preliminary reports indicating economically profitable deposits of petroleum/oil/gas in the 2.3 million square kilometres of the EEZ of Mauritius, not in the immediate 200 mile exclusive economic zone, which forms part of the volcanic chain of Mascarene Islands. If so, this should be treated as a national asset, handled in all transparency, rather than left to the discretionary

powers of a single person, even if that person is the PM. However, as is its wont, it should unfortunately be expected that this Government will pay little attention to protests already being voiced by civil society and environmentalists against this Bill and the ambition of the current government in this area.

Over the past decade, exploration operations have multiplied across sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar with at least 90% of African countries now exploring for oil and gas. Invariably, African governments flag the potential of oil and gas finds to transform their economies and improve the lives and livelihoods of their populations. However, the economic, social and security benefits of oil and gas operations in some cases remain unclear. What is clear is where there have been large exploitable reserves of petroleum products, they have often been associated with immense graft and greed opportunities while the population has remained locked in backward conditions. The Congo, Nigeria, Angola and Madagascar are unfortunate reminders that wealth associated with such discoveries and their exploitation have been termed a "curse" on sub-Saharan Africa. This is not to say that development opportunities should be ignored; we cannot perhaps afford that luxury, so long as we avoid the too obvious traps and pitfalls, that may in the long run, add us to the list of countries reputed for fast bucks and oily deals.

On the greenhouse and carbon emission front, the New Zealand government announced in 2018 that it will not issue any new permits for offshore exploration for oil and gas deposits. Like Mauritius, New Zealand is a small player in global emissions of greenhouse gases, but it decided against exploring for more oil reserves so as to meet the Paris Agreement target of keeping global temperature rise this century well below two degrees above pre-industrial levels. 'Almost all of the already known reserves must stay in the ground, and there is no room to go exploring for more; our actions can carry symbolic weight on the world stage. We have as much responsibility as any country to reduce our emissions.'

With an abundance of solar, biomass, wind, wave and tidal energy, like New Zealand, Mauritius can also ambition to become an environmentally respectful country, aiming for zero-carbon footprint in the medium-term. But this will require more than perfunctory rhetoric or the signature of international treaties that may not be implemented. It will require understanding and adherence to those greenhouse effects and targets, as all island states remain particularly vulnerable to the sea-level rise that accompanies sea-warming, the meltdown of both Arctic poles and the unpredictable violence of cyclones or hurricanes. The haste with which legislative regulation and its inherent decision-making flaws is being pushed through does not bode well for the future.

The Conversation

Why Jacinda Ardern's 'clumsy' leadership response to Delta could still be the right approach

Dealing with what have been called 'wicked' and 'adaptive' problems is a huge challenge for political leaders. A 'clumsy' response can be inevitable - and even desirable



Jacinda Ardern visiting a drive-through vaccination centre in Hastings during a national tour to promote the government's campaign. Gettyimages

Leading people through the pandemic is clearly no easy task. But does the criticism directed at New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern reveal a major misstep on her part, or something deeper about the nature of leadership itself?

Ardern has previously won widespread praise for her Covid-19 response and crisis communication, topping Fortune magazine's "world's greatest leaders" list in 2021.

Focused on minimising harm to both lives and livelihoods, her pandemic leadership has comprised three main strands: reliance on expert advice, mobilising collective effort and cushioning the pandemic's disruptive effects.

These built the trust needed to secure high levels of voluntary compliance for measures designed to limit the spread of the virus.

Then came the Delta outbreak in mid-August, which sees Auckland still under lockdown measures nearly eight weeks later. Despite the efforts of many, elimination proved elusive - a daunting reality that Ardern and her cabinet colleagues appear to have accepted.

A strategic shift

This shift by Ardern, who engages deeply with the scientific evidence, has confused and angered many, even those who normally support her.

With vaccination rates climbing, in early October, Ardern announced the beginning of a "gradual transition" away from the established "zero Covid" strategy in favour of suppression of inevitable outbreaks.

This included a three-step "roadmap" to guide Auckland "carefully" towards reduced restrictions. What criteria will be used to trigger movement through those steps, however, have not been specified.

Both the strategic shift and the roadmap's ambiguity have become the source of heated debate. But beyond merely choosing sides, how can we make sense of Ardern's leadership at this point?

Suze Wilson, Massey University

● Cont. on page 11

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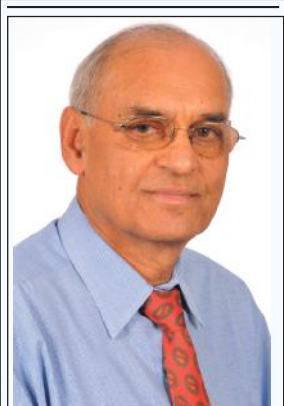
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Weapons of mind and mass destruction



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

*If you believe, you can lie
If you know, you can live.
— Anon*

With the advent and explosion of IT, it came to be said that 'knowledge is power.' Well may it indeed be, but the crucial issue is what use is made of this power. And here I like to cite an article that was written in *Le Monde Diplomatique* many years ago by late French geneticist Albert Jacquard, whose title was 'Les effets pervers de la science' ('The perverse effects of science').

Scientific knowledge is inherently neutral, so it would seem that science per se cannot generate perverse effects; rather, it's how we use that knowledge that can do so, in other words, the intention behind what is done. However, with the rapid advances that have been taking place in Artificial Intelligence and the success of devices like Deep Mind, scientists have been fearing that AI apps may develop a degree of autonomy, that is, escape from human control. They may then go wild and become destructive – to the point of one day destroying their inventors i.e. human beings. That is the one example which one can think of as being an actual perverse effect of science, in the category of unintended consequences.

That day may be far off, but in the meantime, IT with its array of related electronic devices and the software networks that have been created as a result have amply illustrated the potential for harm that they can inflict at all levels of society. Parents and governments are locked in a battle with tech giants to regulate content that are harming kids who are lured into becoming addicts of the tech platforms. Citizens are apprehensive about their governments leveraging these to snoop on their private lives and breach confidentiality, but more ominously to blackmail and control targeted individuals deemed to be adversaries or opponents.

These platforms have now added to the list of conventional means that have been used for propaganda purposes. In today's world, these are the tools and forces which try to influence minds, and of which one must beware:

- Official propaganda including spin-doctoring



Pic - Shutterstock.com

“Belief, because it is unreal, changes when it is exposed by fresh knowledge. Believers, alas, tend to cling to their old beliefs: perhaps that is why there is a whole new discipline about managing change. If you resist official propaganda, you are anti-government, even if you voted to put it there in the first place. If you puncture the façade of press propaganda, you are against ‘us’ and one of ‘them/the other.’ If you turn away from the billboards, you are not modern enough. If you challenge your teacher, you are trying to be a smart ass. And if you question a preacher, you are an infidel who deserves the damnation of hell if not elimination...”

- Agenda of the printed press
- Social media tech giants
- Advertisements
- The educational system
- Religion

Propaganda is effective because the masses prefer convenient beliefs to uncomfortable truths.

Truth is about knowledge; belief is about ignorance.

People were forced to believe, for example, at the cost of being spiked to death, that the sun went round the earth. Galileo paid the price, but he was steadfast in his knowledge that it was the earth that went round the sun. Truth, if it is real, remains the same over time: as it was yesterday, it is today and will be tomorrow. Belief, because it is unreal, changes when it is exposed by fresh knowledge. Believers, alas, tend to cling to their old beliefs: perhaps that is why there is a whole new discipline about managing change.

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All these forces conspire to prevent the individual from using his mind and finding out the truth for himself. In this respect, for scientists, it is religion which is the worst offender. Its unsubstantiated claims are not able to stand up to the scrutiny of logical reasoning or even pass

the test of plausibility, and scientific knowledge in particular has exploded several myths held to be sacrosanct by the religions which propound them.

For any system to be credible it must not contradict what human reason and experience uncover by observation and analysis. The classical example is that of the rotation of the sun and the earth given above. A more mundane example is the crooked appearance of a stick when it is put in water with part of it above the surface: nobody can dispute that the stick is in fact straight. Belief is like seeing the stick in water. Knowledge is like seeing the stick out of water.

Thus, belief is always overlaid with ignorance, whereas knowledge leads to the light of truth. Belief covers up. Knowledge lays bare. Hence, we speak of the naked truth. That is why spiritual insight is always preferred by scientists (such as Einstein) to religious belief, and propaganda is akin to the latter. When religion and propaganda mix, we have the recipe for a weapon of both mind and mass destruction – as has been seen this very recently in the killings that have taken place on minorities in Bangladesh, which the country's authorities have established as being a planned attack following a video that went viral, have identified the main culprit and have made arrests accordingly. Whether this intervention will put a stop to such acts or bring about peace is another matter.

Propaganda tools have become so ubiquitous that enormous energy has to be deployed to counter them, leading to a wastage of resources and time that could be more fruitfully used to address the more important problems that a country faces.

This is illustrated by the drug case that is making headlines in India and involves the son of Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan who was caught with friends on a cruise ship bound for Goa, whose reputation as a haven for rave and similar parties is legion. The thrust of the investigation being led by the Narcotics Control Board of India (NCB) is to get to the bottom of the drug menace that is ravaging Indian society and its youth, and unravel its ramifications which stretch from Mumbai to Punjab, Pakistan, Dubai and Afghanistan and cause similar social damage. Instead, the motivated propaganda machine fuelled with covert foreign support is, according to information coming through, busy trying to deflect attention by putting in doubt the NCB and publicly attacking its lead investigator by prying into his private life which has clearly nothing to do with the investigation. *That*, if anything, is a fine example of perversion -, in this context, of the course of justice.

Uncovering the truth is never easy; all manner of obstacles are put in the way. And the propagandists/obstructionists do not give a damn for all the harm that is done.

Bharatiya Seepoys - Smaran Diwas 2021

Remembrance Day
to mark the 211th Anniversary of the Shadeed of
Indian Soldiers

in the battle of the British troops against the French
which led to the capture of Mauritius in 1810.

The ceremony will be held on

Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 2.30 pm.
at Landing Point, Pointe aux Canonnières.

All are welcome.

Meda Ayuryog Peeth

COP26: The last ditch battle to save the planet

Why is government so rashly pursuing the pipe dream of a petroleum industry?



Mrinal Roy

The scientific evidence is overwhelming. The unchecked burning of fossil fuels over decades boosted by diverse human activities have significantly increased carbon emissions and the concentration of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere, thus warming the planet.

The latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report approved by 195 member governments and released in August are damning. It shows that despite the 2015 Paris Agreement by governments to limit global warming within the threshold of 1.5 degree Celsius by 2030, the world will probably reach or exceed that limit within the next two decades.

Under a high-emissions scenario, the world may warm by 4.4°C by 2100 with catastrophic results for planet Earth. There is a more than 50% chance that the 1.5°C target is reached or crossed between 2021 and 2040. Under a high-emissions scenario, the 1.5°C threshold could be reached even more quickly within the 2018-2037 timeline. This is basically tomorrow.

These findings are an indictment of governments across the world and in particular those in the worst polluting countries for their lack of decisive actions to stem and reverse the dire impact of climate change. The 2021 COP26 climate summit in Glasgow cannot therefore be a forum for rhetoric, hollow commitments and empty promises but for concrete and determinant actions to stem and reverse the dire impact of climate change on our homeland, planet Earth.

Compelling evidence

The evidence for urgent action to reverse the dire impact of climate change is compelling. The planet's average surface temperature has risen by 1.18°C since the late 19th century, owing largely to increased carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere and other human activities. The seven most recent years are the warmest with the years 2016 and 2020 tied for the warmest years on record. The number of times record high temperatures have been registered in the world have been increasing. Ocean temperature is constantly rising. It has registered a temperature rise of more than 0.33°C since 1969.

Data from NASA show that Greenland lost an average of 279 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2019 while



“The government fixation with fossil fuels is not only limited to petroleum. It also applies to coal. Government has undertaken to increase the production of electricity from renewable sources of energy through wind farms, solar energy, biomass, wave and waste-to-energy projects to 60% by 2030 and to eliminate coal by 2030. This basically means extending the lease of life of lucrative power plants using highly polluting coal by another 9 years”

Antarctica lost about 148 billion tons of ice per year. Glaciers are retreating almost everywhere around the world from the Alps to the Himalayas, Andes, Rockies, Alaska, and Africa. Satellite observations reveal that the amount of spring snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere has decreased over the past five decades and that the snow is melting earlier. Both the extent and thickness of Arctic Sea ice has declined rapidly over the recent decades.

Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the acidity of surface ocean waters has increased by about 30%. The Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) finds that global mean sea levels will most likely rise between 0.95 feet (0.29m) and 3.61 feet (1.1m) by the end of this century.

Frequent and intense drought, storms, torrential rains, heat waves, rising sea levels, melting glaciers and warming oceans affect life and biodiversity on the planet and wreak havoc on people's livelihoods and habitat. Climate scientists are observing changes in the Earth's climate in every region and across the whole climate system.

This is evidenced by the array of extreme weather events which have caused extensive damage and deaths in almost every corner of the world in 2021. Thus, record high temperatures attaining 49.6°C were registered in western Canada and US states of Washington and Oregon. It caused several hundred deaths. In mid-July western Europe was devastated by torrential rains and destructive floods which ravaged entire villages and left at least 209 people dead in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland. In July, heavy rainfall dumped a year's worth of rain in just three days on the central city of Zhengzhou, China causing the death of 33 persons and inundating drains, streets, road tunnels and the subway system.

In the United States, severe drought, dozens of wildfires and a deadly heat wave burned the Northwest in June. In August, back-to-back hurricanes Henri and Ida caused havoc in the Northeast and brought record rainfall. For the

first time, a majority of Americans now believe that the US is facing the consequences of a warming world, according to a new poll from the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

Other extreme weather events include deadly landslides in India and Nepal, wildfires in Greece, Spain, Italy and Tunisia, unbearable heat waves in the Pacific, record snow-fall in Spain, storms and hurricanes in Britain, Asia, Fiji and the US, torrential rainfalls in North Wales and North West England causing widespread flooding and the evacuation of residents from the affected areas. These extreme weather events are a jolting reminder that the world is already suffering the disastrous and deadly consequences of climate change.

No to coal and fossil fuels

According to IPCC report, many of the changes observed in the climate are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years. Some of the changes such as continued sea level rise are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years. However, strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change. However, 'it could take 20-30 years to see global temperatures stabilize'. The report finds that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting global warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach.

The message from the findings provided by climate scientists as well as the frequency and the damaging impact of extreme weather events on the planet is loud and clear. The world must drastically cut down carbon emissions by eliminating the use of highly polluting coal and rapidly phasing out the use of fossil fuels to keep global warming within a maximum of 1.5°C to avoid a climate change disaster. If all countries in the world and in particular the most polluting countries do not act now to stem and reverse the dire impact of climate change, it will be too late.

Bending the rules

A huge leak of documents consisting of more than 32,000 submissions made by governments, companies and other interested parties to the IPCC scientists shows how countries are trying to change the IPCC scientific report recommendations on how to tackle climate change. The leaked documents reveal how fossil fuel and meat producing countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Australia, Japan, Saudi Arabia and OPEC have pressed the UN to play down the need to move rapidly away from fossil fuels and water down UN recommendations for action just days before they will be asked at the COP26 summit to make significant commitments to slow down climate change and keep global warming to 1.5 degrees C. Powerful vested lobbies are at work.

Does insatiable greed have no limit? What is at stake is not the future of the generation who have been responsible for belching and choking the planet with carbon emissions but that of our children and future generations.

The Offshore Petroleum Bill: Pipe dream & double standards

It is equally flabbergasting that days before the opening of the COP26 summit, the government is hastily tabling in a fast-track mode the Offshore Petroleum Bill to establish a new regulatory regime 'for the conduct of petroleum activities in the seabed and subsoil areas of the maritime zones of Mauritius, such as the prospecting, exploration, retention and production of petroleum'.

• Cont. on page 12

Nine Months of President Biden - Taking Stock



Anil Madan

President Biden has just completed his ninth month in office. Some years ago, Robert Gates, who served as Secretary of Defense under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, wrote in his memoir that Biden had been wrong on nearly every single foreign policy and national security issue for four decades. Last week, Gates did not back away from his statement and, indeed sharply criticized Biden – and Trump as well – for botching the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Even if one is tempted to give Joe Biden an A grade for good intentions, it is difficult to justify more than a D based on the bulk of his performance. Certainly, there are bright spots such as the initial Covid-19 vaccine rollout and an economy that continued to boom, until it began to show signs of faltering amidst supply chain disruptions and inflation.

The fairest assessment of the Biden administration's performance to date is that it is a muddled mess. And that is a fair depiction of the country as a whole – a muddled mess.

Lurking in the shadows is the elephant in the room, Donald Trump. The gestation period of an elephant is 640-660 days. From Biden's inauguration, that would coincide quite neatly, for the Republicans that is, with the 2022 midterm elections. Trump's influence seemingly threatens to unleash a herd of little Republican elephants who could upend control of both the House and Senate and put Mitch McConnell and Kevin McCarthy as the leaders at the lecterns in those chambers of Congress.

Whether it is domestic policy or foreign policy, or hybrid domestic-foreign issues, Biden has little to celebrate. In fact, his percentage approval ratings in recent polls have sunk to the low 40s, lower than Barack Obama at a similar point in his presidency and, in some polls, even lower than Donald Trump. One is reluctant to look to Trump's supporters for analysis but Kelly Anne Conway, a former senior-level Trumpkin, put it aptly that Biden is not showing any ability to leverage his 47 years of Washington experience but is revealing that he is a product of that extended life in the Washington swamp.

Conway also noted that Vice President Harris has the highest disapproval rating of any vice president since tracking of that metric started. Commenting on whether this reflects racism and sexism – the default Democratic theme of dismissal for criticism of incompetence – she said, "It's called eyesight and hearing." The point is that both Biden and Harris are failing miserably among Independents. And



Pic Credit: via Reuters

“China's threat to Taiwan continues to take on ominous overtones. Just the other day, Biden blurted out a comment that the US is prepared to defend Taiwan against an attack by China. This conflicts with the official US policy that is known as "strategic ambiguity." US State Department officials were quick to walk back Biden's comments to suggest that there is no change in US policy. So, we now have a doctrine of strategic idiocy...”

tightening races for next month's elections suggest that Democrat governors are vulnerable.

A muddled mess

The US-Mexico border is a muddled mess. Lack of strategic thinking is the culprit. Whereas one may applaud the humanitarian instinct to welcome the desperate and oppressed to America, there is nevertheless, at least a tacit recognition, even within Biden's administration, that unfettered access into the country in violation of immigration laws is unacceptable. Nevertheless, the administration continues to send mixed signals, first seemingly inviting illegal immigrants to come as asylum seekers and then having Vice President Harris tell them not to come. Then there was the agglomeration of Haitian immigrants that again led to mixed messages. Some were allowed in, some were deported. When Biden declared that he would not turn hungry people away, the obvious question was why not send food to them in Mexico?

One has to wonder if sending a message that enforcement of immigration laws will be weak and inconsistent does not aggravate the problem rather than solve it by encouraging hundreds of thousands to flock to the border in the hope of being lucky enough to get into the US whether legally or illegally. The result is that the Customs and Border Patrol is overwhelmed, immigration courts are overwhelmed, and nobody is doing the nation's Governors a favour by sending unskilled immigrants to their states. The *Washington Post* reports that thousands of immigrants tired of waiting for action on their asylum claims have decided to march north to Mexico City, i.e., eventually on to the US.

Then there was the Iran nuclear deal. President Biden announced even before he was elected that he would "rejoin" the deal, seemingly forgetting that a contract requires the agreement of both sides. Quite predictably, the Iranians didn't show any excitement at America's reengagement overture. To the contrary, the Ayatollahs refused to negotiate directly with the American delegation, offering instead to go through European intermediaries. Astonishingly, the Biden administration agreed to this insulting condition. Now, news reports abound that the Iran nuclear deal is dead. But the Ayatollahs had already said that. One can understand that preventing Iran from getting

to a nuclear weapon was a priority, but basic negotiation skills elude this administration. To the extent that this was a challenge the Biden administration hoped to meet and surmount, it has failed miserably. One shudders to think that the Ayatollahs may be crazy enough to deploy a nuclear weapon against Israel or Saudi Arabia.

So also, in the case of North Korea, the Biden administration almost pleads for negotiations. Kim Jong Nuke goes beyond nukes and tests a hypersonic missile. Both Presidents Obama and Trump noted that the US could destroy North Korea if the Hermit Kingdom attacked American interests. Perhaps the Biden administration would do better to recognize that Kim Jong Nuke's missile and nuclear capabilities are as much a threat to China as to South Korea, Japan, and the US. Meanwhile, Kim Jong Nuke and his Sister Ms Nuke, refuse to negotiate. One wonders if they are getting their cues from Beijing.

The looming behemoth

Then there is the case of China, the looming behemoth. It started with the meeting in Anchorage where Secretary of State Antony Blinken began with a vituperative blast accusing China of being a threat to global stability and expressing "our deep concerns with actions by China, including in Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan, cyberattacks on the United States and economic coercion toward our allies." The Chinese representative Yang Jiechi, a senior member of the Chinese Politburo was having none of it and unleashed a 17-minute diatribe, excoriating the failed Democracy of the US, its own record of human rights violations particularly mentioning the Black Lives Matter movement, and ending with the observation that "the United States does not have the qualification to say that in front of China it speaks from a position of strength." Nevertheless, Blinken sat there and continued his meeting with the Chinese. Perhaps the Biden administration would have done better to walk out in a huff when so outmaneuvered.

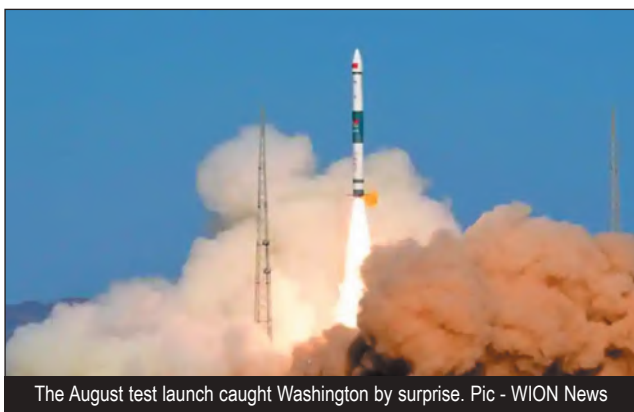
Biden's problems with China continue. The CCP continues its assault on Hong Kong and dismisses any contention that the US or anyone else has a right even to express concerns about China's burgeoning military takeover of the South China Sea, its denial of responsibility even to cooperate with investigations into the origins of the Covid pandemic, or its predatory actions around the world and with respect to theft of intellectual property. Its treatment of Uyghurs and threats to Taiwan are declared to be "internal" matters beyond the purview of the US or any other nation.

China's threat to Taiwan continues to take on ominous overtones. Just the other day, Biden blurted out a comment that the US is prepared to defend Taiwan against an attack by China. This conflicts with the official US policy that is known as "strategic ambiguity." US State Department officials were quick to walk back Biden's comments to suggest that there is no change in US policy. So, we now have a doctrine of strategic idiocy.

Meanwhile, the US remains dependent on China for much of what the American people buy on a daily basis. Taiwan is a major supplier of semiconductors and China knows just how dependent the US is on this source.

The one achievement touted as significant is the AUKUS deal, a trilateral agreement among Australia, Britain, and the US to supply nuclear submarines to Australia. In truth, the deployment of any such force is years off. And whether it was deliberate or not, the handling of the matter was bungled to the point that France felt slighted. China, of course, reacted with outrage to the announcement. It is some achievement when the same manoeuvre angers both the French and the Chinese.

● Cont. on page 12



The August test launch caught Washington by surprise. Pic - WION News

Chinese hypersonic test like a 'Sputnik moment': Top US general

The Pentagon's top general, Mark Milley, said Wednesday that China's recent test of an earth-circling hypersonic missile was akin to the Soviet Union's stunning launch of the world's first satellite, Sputnik, in 1957, which sparked the superpowers' space race. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, confirmed for the first time the Chinese test of a nuclear-capable missile that would be very difficult to defend against.

The US Department of Defense had previously declined to confirm the test, first reported by the Financial Times on October 16. The newspaper said the August test launch caught Washington by surprise, reports AFP.

The missile circled the Earth at a low altitude and a velocity of more than five times the speed of sound, although it missed its target by more than 30 kilometers (19 miles), according to the Financial Times.

China denied the report, saying it was a routine test of a reusable space vehicle.

Hypersonics are the new frontier in missile technology, because they fly lower and so are harder to detect than ballistic missiles, can reach targets more quickly, and are maneuverable. That makes them more dangerous, particularly if mounted with nuclear warheads.

The United States, Russia, China and North Korea have all tested hypersonics and several others are developing the technology. China in 2019 unveiled a hypersonic medium-range missile, the DF-17, which can travel around 2,000 kilometres and can carry nuclear warheads. The missile mentioned in the FT story is a different one, with a longer range. It can be launched into orbit before coming back into the atmosphere to hit its target.

Asked Wednesday about China's test, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby again declined to confirm it.

Saudi Arabia sends \$3 billion package to help out cash-strapped Pakistan

The Saudi Fund for Development said it is depositing \$3 billion in the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). It added that an official directive was issued to supply \$1.2 billion to finance Pakistan's oil products trade during the year. This comes as a respite for Pakistan, which is battling a deep economic crisis, reports ANI.

Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan had on Monday met Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the sidelines of the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) summit in Riyadh, which he was invited to attend at the crown prince's invitation.

Earlier, Saudi Arabia had provided a USD 6 billion financial package, including \$3 billion deposits into the State Bank of Pakistan and the remaining \$3 billion for oil facility on deferred payment on an annual basis.

Last year, the decade-long friendship between both countries took a sharp turn when Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's issued a blunt warning to Saudi Arabia after



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, right, greets Pakistan's prime minister Imran Khan, left, during the Green Initiative Summit in Riyadh, on Monday, Oct. 25. Pic - AP

the latter refused to act against India over the Kashmir issue.

On the first anniversary of the revocation of Article 370 by India, Qureshi took Saudi Arabia to task in a TV interview for not obliging Pakistan over the issue of 'organising' a meeting of the Council of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Foreign Ministers (CFM) on Kashmir in early February 2020.

Qureshi's remarks revived Riyadh's anger, who had forced Pakistan to pay back USD 1 billion prematurely.

Riyadh has helped Islamabad many times including helping in paying for Pakistan's first batch of F-16 fighter aircraft in the 1980s and providing USD 6 billion loans that helped Pakistan tide over its balance of payments crisis just two years ago.

Under Biden, US criticises Israel on settlements for first time in years

The United States on Tuesday forcefully criticised Israel for the first time in years on its settlements, with president Joe Biden's administration saying it "strongly" opposed new construction on the West Bank. The reaction comes after four years under Donald Trump in which the United States offered a green light to Israel's activity on occupied Palestinian land, with his secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, touring a settlement at the end of his tenure.

The State Department under Biden had repeatedly warned

against settlement construction and on Tuesday sharply criticized Israel after it moved ahead, reports AFP.

"We are deeply concerned about the Israeli government's plan to advance thousands of settlement units" on Wednesday as well as tenders published Sunday for more than 1,300 homes, State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

Price stopped short of saying the decision would jeopardize relations with Israel. But he said that the administration would "raise this issue

directly with senior Israeli officials in our private sessions."

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is a right-winger close to the settlement movement, although he leads a coalition with centrists who seek to preserve stable relations with the United States.

Housing Minister Zeev Elkin is part of the right-wing New Hope party and said the settlements were "essential to the Zionist vision" of strengthening Jewish presence in the West Bank.

China added 307 billionaires last year as new energy sector propels wealth

China added 307 billionaires in the past one year with the list of the country's richest persons now headed by its "bottled water king", followed by the founder of TikTok and then by the country's "battery king", the annual Hurun list of the wealthy revealed on Wednesday.

New energy propelled eight of the 10 fastest rising wealthy persons, while embattled property moguls and those facing regulatory scrutiny including the high-profile Jack Ma, who had once topped the Hurun list for three consecutive years, slipped down the ladder, the new rankings revealed, reports Hindustan Times.



Zhong Shanshan topped this year's Hurun China Rich List 2021 with his personal wealth pegged at of \$60.6 billion because of a surge in the value of his listed companies.

Pic - d1e00ek4ebabms.cloudfront.net

Zhong Shanshan topped this year's Hurun China Rich List 2021 with his personal wealth pegged at of \$60.6 billion because of a surge in the value of his listed companies, Nongfu Spring and Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise, which manufactures vaccines besides Covid-19 diagnostic kits.

Zhang Yiming, 38, founder of TikTok, banned in India in 2020 because of national security issues, tripled his wealth last year, and is now second on the list with \$52.8 billion in his kitty.

Battery king Zeng Yuqun, 53, of CATL, the world's number of battery-maker for EVs, tripled his wealth to take him to third

spot with \$47.4bn.

Tencent Holdings' Pony Ma, and Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba Group rounded out the top five.

The rich list is a ranking of the richest individuals in China, with a wealth cut-off of 2 billion yuan, equivalent to \$310 million.

New energy has had an amazing year, while real estate, home tutoring services, pork production and video gaming have had a bad year, Rupert Hoogewerf, Hurun Report's chairperson and chief researcher, said.

*Contd on page 7

Google growth marred by disappointing result in YouTube, cloud computing sectors

Google parent Alphabet Inc. reported quarterly sales that topped Wall Street estimates, reflecting robust advertiser spending, but disappointing results from its YouTube and cloud-computing divisions weighed on the stock.

Third-quarter revenue, excluding payments to distribution partners, was about \$53.6 billion, the company said Tuesday in a statement. Analysts projected \$52.6 billion, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. YouTube ad revenue and Google Cloud sales both fell short of analysts' estimates, driving the shares down about 1% in extended trading, reports Bloomberg.

Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai has tried to keep Alphabet's revenue engine chugging along by prioritising three areas: e-commerce, YouTube, and cloud



The brand logo of Alphabet Inc's Google is seen in this picture taken with a fisheye lens. Pic - Reuters

computing. That helped the internet giant rebound from a dour 2020 when some marketers pared their budgets as

they coped with the initial shock of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the most recent quarter, the retail, travel, and media and entertainment industries heavily advertised on Google's platforms, the company said.

Still, the company's fortunes remain highly dependent on macroeconomic factors, including supply-chain dolldrums that have plagued nearly every industry and could bite retailers and ad companies during the holiday shopping season. The Mountain View, California-based company also has been let down by its video platform YouTube and its cloud arm, both of which are meant to help it diversify away from the core search engine that brings in most of its revenue.

The shares fell as low as \$2,700 in extended trading after closing at \$2,786.17. The stock has jumped 59% this year.

Google recently launched its line of Pixel 6 smartphones, the company's latest effort to break into the competitive consumer-electronics market. But like other manufacturers, Google's hardware unit is dealing with difficulties getting enough supplies, Porat said.

World on track for 2.7°C temp rise this century, warns UN



Smoke rises from chimneys at the Suralaya coal power plant in Cilegon, Indonesia. Pic - AFP

The world is on track for an average temperature rise of 2.7°C this century if the only steps on climate action it takes are the commitments announced till now, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said on Tuesday, a fresh warning ahead of the Glasgow climate change conference (COP 26) later this month.

The 2.7°C breaches the Paris Agreement's target of 2°C and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been warning of catastrophic consequences if the planet is allowed to warm beyond an average temperature of 2°C compared to pre-industrial age levels, reports Jayashree Nandi of Hindustan Times.

According to the UNEP's 'Emissions Gap Report 2021: The Heat Is On', the updated nationally

determined contributions (NDCs) by various countries and other commitments made for action till 2030 will only reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 by 7.5% compared to the previous round of commitments in 2015. Reductions of 30% are needed to meet Paris Agreement's 2°C goal and 55% to keep global warming under 1.5°C, it added.

As of September 30, 120 countries, representing just over half of global greenhouse gas emissions, had communicated new or updated NDCs. UNEP has also considered announcements of new mitigation pledges for 2030 by China, Japan and the Republic of Korea which have not yet been submitted as NDCs for analysis in the report.

There is a 66% chance of hitting global warming of 2.7°C by end of the century with the present formal-

ly submitted and announced NDCs. "To stand a chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, we have eight years to take an additional 28 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent (GtCO2e) off annual emissions, over and above what is promised in the updated NDCs and other commitments - equivalent to almost halving current greenhouse gas emissions," the report warned.

"Today I have bad news. Less than one week before COP26 in Glasgow, we are still on track for climate catastrophe. The 2021 Emissions Gap Report shows that even with present Nationally Determined Contributions and other commitments of countries around the world, we are indeed on track for a catastrophic global temperature rise of around 2.7°C," UN secretary-general, Antonio Guterres said during the launch of the report.

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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“I do not believe that the power to liberate Mauritius is vested in any one individual”

Chetan Ramchurn shares his dispassionate thoughts about the current political situation and the impression of a status-quo in Opposition while the MSM presses on with activities designed to project the PM's image as "builder". Despite weekly press conferences, there is as yet no clear set of values and principles espoused by the Opposition, and this may create a sense of frustration or even a void propitious to "monsters". Mauritian apathy and the greed of those benefiting from government largesse, with policies targeting the two ends of the economic ladder, may, in that event, hold the nation hostage to the current disposition of power according to his analysis.

Mauritius Times: If what's being talked about and debated on social media may not clearly reflect the general mood in the country presently - in towns and villages, in the workplace and elsewhere, what then could the mood be like judging from your social and professional interactions?

Chetan Ramchurn: As your readers must have experienced firsthand, social media are a hotbed for attention seekers and moderate views are few and far between. These platforms are however an important cog in any democracy offering a vital space for people to express themselves. With the new Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Bill, these bastions of free expression will be curtailed.

Another facet that they might have come across is the overt obsequiousness in some of the views expressed. Servility and promoting government narratives, has existed under all regimes, but with "chat-waism", it has been elevated to an art form akin to tight rope walking. This marked absence of conviction and of truth (nihil veri) can create ridiculous situations whereby you find people denouncing the abomination of some of the ill-thought government expenditure or political nominations while simultaneously liking posts by the same nominees.

Liking two contradictory ideas is the zeitgeist. Macron's en même temps is a celebration of that pragmatic attitude however irreconcilable two views might be. It is now synonymous with an absence of clarity and sheer opportunism. This is in line with the mimetic tendencies described by late Bernard Stiegler in his work Automatic Society:

"These technologies of social networking are produced by what is called the network effect, which means that you are forced to go on Facebook, for example, because all your friends are on Facebook; it is a very mimetic technology. This technology is integrating several levels of automatic behavior. [...] And here the problem is that with digital technology, automated technology, it is possible to control the automatisms of everybody and to make them converge into the interest of the controller."

Through interactions with others, the perception that one can gather is that the population understands that billions are being poured in numerous infrastructural projects, many of which serve the narrative of Pravind Jugnauth as a builder. These,



“I am wary of the creation of a void, which as Gramsci avers could lead to the creation of monsters. Aristotle postulates that nature abhors a vacuum which is bound to be filled by someone or something. The collapse of the MMM and the MLP in 2014 gave rise to one such monster and I feel there could be a similar void which could give rise to a party with populist tendencies...”

as we are constantly reminded of, also serve as PR shticks for the Premier with ribbon cutting exercises offering a staple of news bulletins. Are all these projects really warranted? I would think not.

Actions since 2014 have focused on keeping two segments happy: people at the two ends of the socio-economic ladder. Hence, the minimum wage has been a boon for low-earning families while the oligarchs know that the Government serves them loyally and shall disburse the funds that they would need for a quick return to higher profitability (Smart City

Scheme, Illovo deal, MIC).

What of the lower and middle-middle class? They find themselves increasingly squeezed by several issues: price hikes, a total absence of meritocracy, law and order woes and wilting institutions.

What then could the mood in the country? There is resignation among many who feel that we are stuck with incompetents at the helm of the country. This pessimism stems from glaring malpractices.

*** The country's border has been reopened, economic activities are back to normal, Mauritius has been removed from the FATF 'grey list', the civil servants have had their slice of the PRB cake, and the public broadcaster is telling us every day about all the 'développements' taking place in the country. It's not known if the people are optimistic about the future, but it seems the feel-good factor is slowly getting back. What do you think?**

Clearly there are things to look forward to which have been massively overhyped by the servile press. Mauritians understand the importance of the return of tourists to our shores. Likewise, we should be happy that we are no longer part of the FATF grey list without however forgetting that we were placed on that list because of the frailty of our institutions.

Are these institutions now headed by

“The opposition offers a sorry sight and has yet to offer a substitute to the present way of governing. Will it be the same bending over for conglomerates and kowtowing to foreign powers? To come back to that search for an elusive leader, he or she can neither be based on the whims of an already maligned leader nor be determined by a surname. Now might be the time to pave the way for greater transparency and democracy within, to begin with, opposition parties themselves...”

competent individuals? Several of the nominees seem to have been handpicked for features other than their capabilities.

As for the Covid-19 pandemic, Minister Jagutpal's answer at the last sitting of the National Assembly is a clear reminder that we are not yet out of the clutches of the virus with a steep rise in cases and related deaths in the last months:

"from 01 October 2021 to 24 October 2021, my Ministry has effected 44,838 Rapid Antigen Tests, out of which 12,026 have been found positive." Can one really say that 'il y a une embellie' but what is the horizon?

On the other hand, a compelling question that we should be asking ourselves is: Do our leaders have a clear vision of how they want Mauritius to be in 10 years?

The seeds that are being sown at the moment seem to be focused on other aspects than the welfare of Mauritians. The new paradigm is one that focuses on enticing foreigners with the appealing tax rates. In the future, will the only safe havens be gated residences? Will our law enforcing agencies still be crippled by political interferences? Will the opacity surrounding emergency procurement and contracts continue to exist? Will proper planning be undertaken before embarking upon gargantuan projects? Will communal and casteist hatred continue to be stoked prior to elections for political gains?

*** Contd on page 9**

'The people hold the real power but unless they wake up to the real situation of the country, there is no rescuing Mauritius'

* Contd from page 8

* If there seems to be a clear political objective backed by resolute and sustained efforts by the governing alliance to show that it's delivering on its electoral promises, on the other side of the fence we find the opposition parties still trying to find their way -- and a leader. How do you react to that?

Indeed, the mainstream opposition parties seem to be stuck in a modus operandi that is dated with most of their efforts geared towards criticism and promoting their leaders' children and many of the niche factions seem to be led by individuals lacking in credibility. The most disturbing aspect is that the most bitter adversaries of the present regime are those that have been ousted from its ranks; advisors, MPs or Ministers now seemingly enlightened and finally waking up to the smells emanating from the many misses since 2014.

The opposition offers a sorry sight and has yet to offer a substitute to the present way of governing. Will it be the same bending over for conglomerates and kowtowing to foreign powers? To come back to that search for an elusive leader, he or she can neither be based on the whims of an already maligned leader nor be determined by a surname. Now might be the time to pave the way for greater transparency and democracy within, to begin with, opposition parties themselves.

* To be fair to the opposition parties, the Covid regulations had restricted their movements and the holding of rallies, leaving them with the only option of making their presence felt through weekly press conferences, jointly or separately. But it seems the general feeling, even amongst political observers, is that the opposition does not represent an alternative option so far. What's your take on that?

There is an arsenal of communication tools available to opposition factions that are yet to be exploited. The problem is not the platform they choose or dearth thereof but the message and philosophy they espouse. There is the absence of a narrative that would translate their vision for the country. What are the values that they are defending? Equal Opportunities? Integrity? Meritocracy? Truth be told, no one quite knows.

This is why many feel that another party coming to power will not fundamentally change their lives. They will keep pandering to the very rich and throw in some populist measures. The Mauritius Labour Party came with the brilliant idea of democratisation in 2005 and instead of implementing it in several key sectors, sent mixed signals to progressive voters.

This blurring of lines whereby there seems no clear difference between governing and opposing factions is further accentuated by the presence of former MSM members within opposition ranks. People need clarity in the choices that are being offered to them.

* Isn't it possible that the opposition front with its old parties and leaders is unable to keep up with the pace of the younger MSM party and its leadership? The problem could have more to do with generational differences than the absence of a consensual leader for the 'L'Entente de l'Espoir', and which therefore makes the case for the renewal of its leadership?

The MSM's renewal is cosmetic. In a previous interview, I interpreted this renewal of cadres as an endorsement of Tancredi's line in Visconti's *Le Guépard*, "Il faut que tout change pour que rien ne change" -- that is, "For things to remain the same, everything must change".

That is a formula that seems to have worked for them

“There have been public demonstrations that have been hugely successful. Not everyone is at ease with the present state of affairs. The crowd combined a hotchpotch of causes with no sense of direction and no leader, albeit improvised ones, which explain why once the public demonstrations were over, nothing would happen. The public outcry has led to some resignations which is hardly something that will appease protesters...”

at the last polls but if anyone gauges the level of most of these new MPs, it is alarmingly disappointing. This is nothing very new with the MSM, hardly anyone remembers their MPs from 1983, 1987 or 1991. Their mantra is a simple one: one highly polarising leader with the help of the financiers and the press ensures that other candidates in other constituencies can ride his coattails and get elected.

Having seen the performance of the new MPs and the derision that they have attracted, it would be difficult to imagine that they are the difference makers in the battle against the opposition. Hollow speeches to celebrate Jugnauth Junior with hardly any idea put forward seems to be their only legacy.

I feel that the image war is on and is clearly being dominated by Pravind Jugnauth. Clearly, if you put the opposition's stale press conferences next to multi-million or billion infrastructure, it is not difficult to judge who scores more points. The opposition parties are unable to fight against that, but they can still propose an alternative to the present society.

In Mauritius, the fight is always between the incumbent Prime Minister and the shadow one. There is no escaping that. Unless and until we have a credible shadow prime minister who emerges, we could have to put up with an MSM-led government for years to come. The opposition should work towards identifying, through primaries, the one with the best aptitudes to win.

* However there has not been a dearth of cases with the potential to cause tremendous political embarrassment to the government: Wakashio, the emergency procurements, the murder of Soopramanien Kistnen, etc. Many a government would have collapsed given those circumstances. The party in power has survived all of these and will possibly win the forthcoming electoral petitions as well. Why is that so?

Yes, there are damning cases against the present government. The apathy of Mauritians added to the greed of those benefiting from the system will ensure that this government does not collapse.

Let me add that there have been public demonstrations that have been hugely successful. Not everyone is at ease with the present state of affairs. The crowd combined a hotchpotch of causes with no sense of direction and no leader, albeit improvised ones, which explain why once the public demonstrations were over, nothing would happen. The public outcry has led to some resignations which is hardly something that will appease protesters.

Zizek tells us "Just think, don't act", and that we should



"not get caught in pseudo-activist pressure [of] doing something." Future actions, if tainted by communal leanings or fringe causes or driven by attention seeking figures, are unlikely to succeed and will only serve to bolster the Government.

The Opposition should go back to the drawing board and pen their vision of the society that they would like to create.

* Have we reached a point where the people do not care anymore so long as their financial needs are met and their old-age pensions will be taken care of?

That would be a dangerous stance. Certainly, people are more individualistic and Mauritians are not different from the global trend. I am reassured that despite all the carrots offered to the population, the last elections were won by an alliance with only 37.68% of the votes.

I tend to put its win more on the inability of the Opposition to muster a credible alternative be it in terms of ideas and personnel than on the apathy of Mauritians. Still, that these incentives have swayed voters makes no doubt. If these are the only considerations for future voters, we risk facing the perpetuation of a stale system.

* The next elections are three years away, and the government remains united against a divided opposition, and it's said that only the LP leader can untie the knot...

I do not believe that the power to liberate Mauritius is vested in any one individual. The leader of the Labour Party has his part to play and can be one of the voices to help topple this government.

I am wary of the creation of a void, which as Gramsci avers could lead to the creation of monsters. Aristotle postulates that nature abhors a vacuum which is bound to be filled by someone or something. The collapse of the MMM and the MLP in 2014 gave rise to one such monster and I feel there could be a similar void which could give rise to a party with populist tendencies.

I still believe that the people hold the real power but unless they wake up to the real situation of the country, there is no rescuing Mauritius from the clutches of the present tribe in power.

The Crisis of Leadership

People will have to find a Gandhi - and the world several more

to lead them out of the terrible mess we have created through the many false narratives which have been built to push narrow selfish agendas



Arvind Saxena

"The sign of a good leader is not how many followers you have, but how many leaders you create."

— Mahatma Gandhi

All the qualities of a good leader can be gleaned by studying the personalities of the leaders mentioned in my previous article, published in MT, 26 Oct 21. To start with they have vision, knowledge, integrity, ability to delegate, communication skills and gratitude. They believe in unity and universal human rights, are educated and well informed, have learning agility, empathy and respect of all. They are consensus builders and have a sense of history. They have the courage to take critical decisions and believe in team work rather than be obsessed with instant gratification and personal image building.

Good leadership is less about a strong or charismatic individual and more about a group of people working together to achieve results. The leader maximizes the efforts of others, for achieving a goal. He gives more credit to his team when things go right and takes more blame when things go wrong. He does not find fault but finds remedies.

Jim Rohn, the well-known American entrepreneur rightly said "the challenge of leadership is to be strong but not rude; be kind but not weak; be bold but not a bully; be humble but not timid and be proud but not arrogant."

These qualities appear to be fairly obvious, and most leaders will have some of these qualities, if not all. So why is the number of good contemporary leaders coming down, and consequently, why is democracy losing its appeal?

Everything appeared to be going well till the 1970s and countries elected sound leaders with vision, not only for their countries but also for the world as a whole. In a



Pic - indiatoday

"We now come to the need for another level of leadership, a 'Gandhian' kind of leadership to awaken the people, built around an unshakable faith in truth, honesty, non-violence, love, peace, oneness of all humanity and a deep respect for nature..."

democracy, where the government is theoretically formed by representatives of the people, it is supposed to act for the people. Strategic vision for the nation is defined by the peoples' representatives, who work in unison irrespective of their party affiliations.

National leaders, once they occupy high constitutional offices assume the mantle of statesmen and stand above the politics of their parties. They assume responsibility for the welfare of all citizens. So long as this happens everything is fine. Increasingly, however, what we started seeing across the world was the emergence of cult leaders and the subversion of democratic systems by 'big money'.

Simultaneously, political parties in many countries realised they could make up for their weaker popular support by spending large amounts of money for propaganda and influencing the election outcomes. They started seeking increasingly larger sums of money from the corporate sector, which in turn built leverage to influence the policies of the government.

A small set of oligarchs emerged who used their cosy ties with the government to enrich themselves while denying due rights to the working people, plundering the nation's wealth and ravaging the environment. They covertly become the real rulers, even though they were by no means representatives of the people.

Their vision was, however, short term and limited to consolidating individual

power. This is where things started going wrong and governments failed their people. Lying by governments became the norm and, quite wrongly, people started losing faith in democracy.

Nation building or setting global objectives presumes commitment over a considerably long period of time. Leaders who initiate such plans may not see the outcomes in their working lives, or even their entire lives. Such leaders, thus, perforce evolve into institution builders. They invest their time and energy to set up systems which will be abiding in nature and will have the strength and autonomy to keep moving ahead over long periods of time. The leader working with a strategic vision will endeavour to carry every member of his team with his objectives and will entrust responsibility to his team members.

The imperative lesson is that plans for nation building must have a wide consensus across the spectrum of all stakeholders, so that there is no discontinuity when regimes change. Delaying a good decision at the national level for lack of consensus, may have an opportunity cost, but bulldozing through a decision without consensus, or through subterfuge, can be devastating and can cause long term setbacks for the nation - the simple reason being that such decisions will not be carried forward with the same conviction and commitment after a new regime comes to power.

The time and wealth lost in such discontinuity is a huge burden on the nation. A

good leader will need to be open to new ideas and accept contrary viewpoints - even critical opinions. Above all he has to be a constant learner - as President John F. Kennedy said: "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."

What happens when large corporate houses get into positions to set the national agenda? As an illustration, if huge infrastructure companies of a powerful country want to build roads, railways, ports, airports, power, water, telecommunication and similar projects on a massive scale, they would need to destroy the existing infrastructure in another poor country, so that they can step in and corner the multi-billion-dollar projects, which will be funded by the people of the rich country or paid for by the natural resources of the devastated nation.

In either case the people will lose their wealth. "We the people" - the taxpayers of the country, whose intelligence agencies, at the behest of the corporate-guided political leadership, created the strife and war, were never consulted. The war was certainly not in their interest. Sounds familiar? The question here is - can the interest of a few corporate houses be called national interest?

The challenge is separation of political power from big money. Nations will prosper and people will enjoy better standards of living only if their elected representatives are systemically insulated from big money. Can laws help? Most certainly they can; but who will create those laws?

In most countries today political parties criticise each other's policies for the sake of coming to power. When it comes to transparency in running their own affairs, especially in matters of raising election and party funds, all of them come together to maintain the status quo. Expecting change to come from political parties is therefore a pipe dream. The change can come only through a peoples' awakening. People have to rise and say no to their exploitation and plunder of their nation's riches.

We now come to the need for another level of leadership, a 'Gandhian' kind of leadership to awaken the people, built around an unshakable faith in truth, honesty, non-violence, love, peace, oneness of all humanity and a deep respect for nature. Sounds like wishful thinking? Well Gandhi was real, isn't it?

People will have to find a Gandhi - and the world several more, to lead them out of the terrible mess we have created through the many false narratives which have been built to push narrow selfish agendas. All it needs is to educate the masses so that they can sift truth from falsehood. An informed and questioning people will always elect good leaders. Can we start making an effort to educate the people in small circles around us?

Arvind Saxena is a former Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in India.

Why Jacinda Ardern's 'clumsy' leadership response to Delta could still be the right approach



Pic - static.australianonlinenews.com.au

● Cont. from page 2

Wicked and adaptive problems

The pandemic presents a particular type of problem for political leaders, described as "wicked" or "adaptive" by leadership experts Keith Grint and Ronald Heifetz, respectively.

Basically, wicked or adaptive problems have complex and contentious causes, generating equally complex and contentious responses.

Their "wickedness" isn't fundamentally a question of morality, although they do typically entail making values-based choices. Rather, it refers to how difficult they are to

contend with. Poverty, the housing crisis and climate change are other good examples of these kinds of problems.

Wicked/adaptive problems don't have clear boundaries, nor are they static. They have multiple dynamic dimensions. Their effects typically spill out into many parts of our lives and organisations, creating confusion, harmful consequences and disruption to established routines.

"Clumsy" leadership

To make matters worse, there simply aren't tried and trusted solutions that can resolve or dissolve such problems. Instead, they require leaders to accustom people to uncomfortable and disruptive changes to established ways of thinking and acting.

Unsurprisingly, many leaders avoid facing up to such difficulties, requiring as it does the cobbling together of a range of imperfect responses to ever-changing circumstances. It requires constant engagement, mobilising people to help craft a way

forward. Leaders can't and don't have all the answers to such problems. Whatever answers they do have likely need to keep changing as things unfold. The best possible scenario is what Grint calls a "clumsy" solution – a patchwork of adaptive initiatives that blunt the problem's worst effects.

Only genuinely transformative change can truly overcome these wicked or adaptive problems in the long run.

Conflict and criticism are inevitable

In the meantime, "clumsy" leadership will typically trigger conflict between leaders and citizens (or employees in a work setting), and among those people too. There will be blame, recrimination, avoidance, denial, grief, "what ifs" and "if onlys", as people struggle to deal with the changes needed.

Indeed, all these very normal responses have characterised much of the commentary about the Ardern government's decision to change tack.

That criticism, however, doesn't mean she has failed in her leadership responsibilities. Instead, she has required the population to face up to an adaptive challenge. It's

unavoidably contentious and painful.

For all that we can debate whether different decisions could or should have been made, the difficulties involved in facing the new reality are unavoidable.

To help people navigate this, Ardern is seeking to "regulate distress", as Heifetz re-commends. She has repeatedly assured people a cautious approach remains in place and has appeared not to have been distracted by the criticism.

Instead, she has stayed focused on mobilising the individual and collective effort to follow the rules and get vaccinated.

Least-worst options

Wicked/adaptive problems are not amenable to resolution by way of quick, easy or elegant answers. They aren't fixed by recourse to command and control, although some top-down decisions are needed.

They entail ambiguity and uncertainty, a constant piecing together of efforts to outflank, mitigate or adapt, giving rise to inevitably imperfect or "clumsy" solutions.

Asking people to adjust to efforts to achieve the least-worst outcome possible from a range of unpalatable options may not be the easiest path to political popularity. But it is arguably what responsible leaders do.

By Suze Wilson, Massey University

Programme des Courses

29^e journée samedi 30 octobre 2021

1

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2 Big Smoke	AS	8/3-1-7-3	60(-4)	I.Taka	6	700
3 What A Kid	RG	3-6-4-8-3	60(-1.5)	M.Teetan	9	1500
4 Barak Lavan	SN	5-5-3-8-9	59.5	N.Marday	2	1100
5 Midnight Messenger	SPN	3-3-8-1-R	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	3	310
6 Sarah's Secret	CR	6-2-3-10-1	57	P.K.Horil	4	450
7 Northern Rebel	JMH	8-1-8-5-7	56.5	R.K.Chumun	5	2000
8 New Golden Age	P	4/8-5-6-2	55	K.Ramsamy	1	350
9 Special Force	SPN	3/4-8-10-2	54.5	R.Hoolash	8	1400

2

The JOHNNY B GOODE PLATE 990 m - Valeur [0-26] - 13h05

1 Almost Winter	P	0-0-0-0-9	60	O.Sola	1	2000
2 Carlo Collodi	SPN	0-0-0-0-6	60	R.Vaibhav	3	2500
3 Doublethink	RG	2-3-3-3-3	60	B.Sooful	7	650
4 Jack Tarr	RM	0-0-0-0-2	59.5	P.C.Orffer	2	250
5 Mauritius	SH	0-0-1-1-2	59.5	I.Santana	4	180
6 Mezuzah	SJ	0-0-5-4-4	59.5	B.Woodworth	5	800
7 Pin Drop	SPN	0-4-3-2-3	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	6	1100
8 Seventh Rule	SM	2-4-9-9-2	58.5	D.Bheekary	8	2000

3

The VOLNAY PLATE 1500 m - Valeur Benchmark 36 - 13h40

1 Lickerio	AS	10-8-5-6-7	61(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	8	2000
2 Protea Paradise	RG	5-5-8-8-9	61	B.Bhaugerothee	1	2000
3 Viking Trail	SJ	2-2-3-8-7	61	B.Woodworth	4	400
4 Ballantine Hall	G	9/5-2-1-4	60	K.Ramsamy	7	500
5 Itdawnedonme	SH	10-7-2-1-5	60	I.Santana	10	650
6 Flowerscape	RG	4-2-1-6-1	59.5	B.Sooful	6	450
7 Memphis Mafia	RM	2-4-6-2-3	59.5	P.C.Orffer	3	350
8 Candle Cove	SN	0-0-6-4-4	59	D.Bheekary	9	1500
9 Amandla	JMH	5-1-3-1-8	56.5	T.Juglall	2	900
10 Dreamforest	CD	2-5-4-6-4	53	P.K.Horil	5	3500

4

The CHATTURGOON HURCHUND MEMORIAL TROPHY 1450 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 - 14h15

1 Senatia	CR	8-3/4-4-5	61	P.Mogun	4	3000
2 Sockeroo	G	7-R-3-7-3	61	K.Ramsamy	2	800
3 Swagger Jagger	SM	7-1-4-5-5	61(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	7	600
4 Taking Silk	GR	0-3-2-7-7	59.5	N.Teeha	6	650
5 Times New Roman	AS	0-0-5-9-3	59.5	B.Sooful	3	650
6 Bold Phoenix	SJ	2-7-5-5-4	59	B.Woodworth	5	400
7 Cash Call	SH	5/8-5-4-7	59	I.Santana	1	240
8 Clouded Hill	JMH	7-5-6-9-7	56.5	D.Bheekary	8	5000

5

The GOLDEN GLOBE CUP 600 m - Valeur Benchmark 46 - 14h50

1 John Hancock	G	3/6-1-5-6	61.5	S.Bussunt	9	3000
2 Kaydens Pride	RM	1-1-2-2-2	61	P.C.Orffer	8	340
3 Charleston Hero	VA	R-5-3-10-3	60.5	N.Teeha	5	1000
4 Yorktown	RG	5-2-3-6-10	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	6	1200
5 Zo Lucky	SJ	0-R-5-5-8	60	B.Woodworth	4	5000
6 Lemon Drop Shot	AS	8/4-8-6-2	59.5	R.Joorawon	1	330
7 Hakeem	AS	5-5-2-4/8	59	P.K.Horil	7	3000
8 Liverpool Champ	GR	3-4-5-4-6	59	B.Sooful	2	1000
9 Desert Illusion	SN	4-1-7-1-1	57	D.Bheekary	11	600
10 Gunston	SH	7-9-5-5-1	57	I.Santana	3	350
11 The It Factor [EA]	SM	0-0-10-6-8	61.5	-----	1	-----

6

The SIR RADHAMOHUN GUJADHUR CUP 1600 m - Valeur Benchmark 56 - 15h25

1 Red Mars	SJ	2/5-3-1-4	60.5	B.Woodworth	6	800
2 Nourbese	RM	0-0-0-0-1	60	P.C.Orffer	5	170
3 Blackburn Roc	GR	1-1/2-1-4	59.5	N.Teeha	3	600
4 Hellofaride	G	0-0-0-0-7	59.5	B.Sooful	7	4000
5 Backpacker	VA	10-4-3-8-6	59	R.Joorawon	1	750
6 Battle Of Alesia	RG	5-3-5-6-2	58.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	9	600
7 Brilliant Disguise	CR	4-8-10-5-8	58	P.K.Horil	8	4000
8 Consul Of War	CD	2/4-6-1-6	57.5(-3)	M.Sonaram	4	1200
9 Royal Italian	SN	8-4-5-3-5	57	D.Bheekary	2	1100

7

The WHY WORRY PLATE 1400 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 16h00

1 Anderson	SJ	0-8-7-6-6	61.5	B.Woodworth	10	1500
2 Promissory	VA	4-4-5-7-5	61	R.Joorawon	4	800
3 Sand Path	CD	1-1-5-2-4	61	D.Bheekary	8	550
4 Unbelievable Lad	AS	7-9/7-6-6	60.5	K.Ramsamy	2	1200
5 Yankeedoodledandy	G	11-8/3-3-4	60.5	S.Bussunt	1	800
6 Jals Tiger	GR	2-4-1-2-5	60	B.Sooful	9	1200
7 Travelin Man	RM	2-4/3-4-2	60	P.C.Orffer	7	300
8 Al Jazeera	CR	0-0-4-1-7	59.5	P.K.Horil	6	1200
9 Jacalac	P	0-7-4-R-1	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	5	400
10 James Peter	SN	0-1-6-5-6	59.5	O.Sola	3	800

8

The VALLEE PITOT PLATE 1365 m - Valeur [0-25] - 16h35

1 After The Order	CR	8/4-4-1-9	60	P.K.Horil	5	1000
2 Rain Must Fall	P	0-0-0-5-10	60	O.Sola	9	3300
3 Digital Fortress	SPN	0-0-8-8-7	59.5	R.Vaibhav	2	3500
4 Global Glory	SM	2-9-R-A-2	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	1	260
5 Hardfallingrain	CD	0-8-6-7-2	59.5	D.Bheekary	7	370
6 Intothemystic	SN	0-10-6-A-6	59.5	R.Beeharry	4	1600
7 Ultimate Warrior	RG	0-2-3-5-4	59.5	B.Sooful	8	700
8 Spry	RM	0-0-0-2-3	58.5	P.C.Orffer	6	260
9 San Andreas [EA]	SJ	0-3-3-8-8	59	-----	3	----

Selections

1. New Golden Age, Midnight Messenger, Dunzie
2. Mauritius, Doublethink, Pin Drop
3. Memphis Mafia, Viking Trail, Flowerscape
4. Cash Call, Bold Phoenix, Sockeroo
5. Desert Illusion, Kaydens Pride, Charleston Hero
6. Nourbese, Battle Of Alesia, Blackburn Roc
7. Travelin Man, Jacalac, Yankeedoodledandy
8. Spry, Global Glory, Hardfallingrain,

COP26: The last ditch battle to save the planet

• Cont. from page 4

Is the government so cut off from the crying world and local climate change reality not to know that coal, petroleum and fossil fuels are foul words and are anathema to the multitude and in particular the young. No one wants the seabed and subsoil of our maritime zones to be rummaged and extensively dug for petroleum nor want it to be an elusive new pillar of the economy. Why is government so rashly pursuing the pipe dream of a petroleum industry when the cardinal message of climate change scientists and the IPCC is that the world must stop using highly polluting coal, petroleum and fossil fuels to produce electricity and an energy source if we want to save planet earth and humanity from an impending climate change disaster?

As a small island developing state, Mauritius is particularly vulnerable to the dire fallouts of climate change. It is already being adversely affected by coastal erosion, the bleaching of corals, rising sea level and temperature and their adverse impact on biodiversity. Rising sea level could also affect low coastal areas. Is it rational and credible to press the most polluting countries of the world to drastically cut down their carbon emissions in the atmosphere to stem the adverse impact of climate change on SIDS and our planet while in the same breath expedite the process to facilitate the prospection, exploration and production of petroleum in the pristine waters of the maritime zones of Mauritius? Has the government not yet cottoned on to the fact that coal, petroleum and fossil fuels are out? We risk being faulted by such double standards. Such mixed signals and questionable choices and rigour are detrimental to the image of Mauritius at a time when we are canvassing the support of the caucus of nations in our battle to fully exercise our sovereignty over

the Chagos Archipelago.

Lifeline

The government fixation with fossil fuels is not only limited to petroleum. It also applies to coal. Government has undertaken to increase the production of electricity from renewable sources of energy through wind farms, solar energy, biomass, wave and waste-to-energy projects to 60% by 2030 and to eliminate coal by 2030. This basically means extending the lifeline of lucrative power plants using highly polluting coal by another 9 years. The reality is that the share of renewable energy in 2020 is a paltry 13.3%, of which only 1% was obtained from solar energy. In contrast, 86.7% or the lion share of our energy requirements continue to be produced from fossil fuels, namely 30.7% from coal and 56% from petroleum products.

Battle for our children

COP26 is humanity's last ditch battle to save our planet from a climate change catastrophe for our children and future generations. Failure is not an option. This existential battle cannot be left to politicians. The people of the world and in particular the young must mobilize and have their say. Thus, despite the Covid-19 constraints and travel visa restrictions, a mass mobilization of some two million people spread across at least 20 countries will demonstrate on 6 November to pressure world leaders to urgently apply the recommendations of the IPCC report. The young of the country must leave their comfort zone to add their voice to the clamour of the people demanding governments to do what it takes to protect humanity and save planet earth from an impending climate change disaster. Come what may, the battle to safeguard our homeland must necessarily be won.

Mrinal Roy

Nine Months of President Biden - Taking Stock

• Cont. from page 5

The national scene

On the Covid-19 front the US has done relatively well with vaccine administration and penetration, even being strategically prepared to administer booster shots to most of the US population, at least those who are not vaccine resisters. Meanwhile, Biden has made commitments to ship hundreds of millions of vaccines around the world. Whereas he gets high marks here, the pandemic continues to plague America as well as the world.

The domestic policy agenda is also a muddle. The President's basic infrastructure bill garnered bipartisan support but in a curious manoeuvre, Democrats seemed unable to come together on a broader spending proposal. Biden gives the appearance of negotiating against himself as he pleads for support from two recalcitrant Democrat Senators.

The national scene in America is filled with rancour as Trump supporters continue to deny that Trump lost the election. The "Big Lie" is what the media call it. Trump's inner circle of advisors and supporters defy

Congressional subpoenas and Republican members of Congress argue against enforcing the subpoenas.

The State of Texas defies Supreme Court precedent on abortion rights but a right-leaning cadre of Supreme Court justices condones the Texas manoeuvre. The impression is that Biden is not in charge of anything.

The Federal Reserve continues to deny that inflation is inflation, and the Treasury Secretary supports this disinformation.

Climate change continues to befuddle America and the Biden administration. In a state of confusion, the Biden administration urges OPEC countries to increase production while damping down oil production at home. The Europeans too urge Putin to increase gas supplies while curbing exploration of their own.

So, as we see the effects of major weather events and as the world prepares for the Glasgow Conference, there is no cohesive understanding of what is going on, let alone a cohesive strategy among the nations of the world.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Programme des Courses

1 THE RAY SETCHES PLATE 1500 m - Valeur [0-15] - 12h30

1. MIDNIGHT ORACLE	SPN	5-3-7-4-1	62(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	3
2. MILLION DOLLAR MAN	CR	0-3-7-2-7	61.5(-1.5)	M.Teetan	6
3. JET PATH	VA	4-4-6-6-10	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	4
4. NEWSMAN	RG	6-4-2-2-2	59.5(-4)	I.Taka	8
5. VALERIN	CD	2-6-5-3-4	59.5(-3)	M.Sonaram	2
6. BARKING IRONS	SN	4-4-7-9/10	57.5	S.Bussunt	5
7. MINALOUSHE VENTURE	AS	7-10-8-9-7	57(-1.5)	B.Deenath	1
8. BYPASS	SPN	8/2-2-5-8	56.5	T.Juglall	7

2 THE JUNGLE SANDS PLATE 1850 m - Valeur [0-25] - 13h05

1. CITADEL	G	0-0-3-7-3	60	B.Sooful	4
2. MOUNTED WARRIOR	CD	0-0-5-6-3	60	R.Joorawon	6
3. OVERDOSE	AS	8-1-5-9-6	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	5
4. CAPTAIN SCABIOSA	SH	0-0-8-9-5	59.5	I.Santana	8
5. PERFECT PURSUIT	SN	6-5-5-10-5	59.5	O.Sola	1
6. EAGLES VISION	SPN	3-2-1-2-6	58.5	R.Vaibhav	2
7. THE TIME IS NOW	SPN	0-6-6-7-8	58.5	K.Ramsamy	3
8. ITALIAN WAY	VA	3-4-5-6-10	58(-3)	A.Roy	7
9. SIBERIAN HUSKY	CR	8-4-2-2-6	57	P.K.Horil	9

3 THE BAND MASTER PLATE 1365 m - Valeur Benchmark 36 - 13h40

1. ALAMEERY	SJ	4-2-1-2-4	61.5	B.Woodworth	5
2. TRIPOD	CR	3/5-7-4-8	61	P.K.Horil	1
3. SHORT CUT	CD	0-0-0-8-7	60.5(-3)	M.Sonaram	2
4. BOUND BY DUTY	RM	1-1/6-2-9	60	P.C.Orffer	6
5. SAVVY	SJ	7/9-6-7-4	60	T.Juglall	4
6. HARDWIRED	P	0-5-2/1-1	59.5	K.Kalychurun	7
7. COPENHAGEN	VA	6-1-3-6-6	59(-3)	A.Roy	3

30ème journée dimanche 31 octobre 2021

4 THE FRANTZ MERVEN CUP 1850 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 - 14h15

1. ROLL OF DRUMS	CD	7-6-5/9-8	60.5	P.K.Horil	6
2. DROP KICK	VA	2-9-4-11-3	60(-3)	A.Roy	4
3. GIGGIN	SM	5-5-6-6-1	59.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	7
4. SENOR'S GUEST	GR	7-3-1-1-6	59	B.Sooful	2
5. PFORZHEIM	SPN	2-R-5-1-1	58	R.Vaibhav	3
6. SIX DEGREES	SN	4-1-2-2-4	58	O.Sola	5
7. RED ROCK CANYON	SPN	0-10-10-8-8	53	T.Juglall	1

5 THE DISA LEADER CUP 1365 m - Valeur [50+] - 14h50

1. COUNT JACK	GR	0-6-6-7-3	61	N.Teetha	7
2. ALRAMZ	RM	9-1-4-7-6	60	P.C.Orffer	8
3. HORSE GUARDS	CD	5-1/4-2-4	58.5(-3)	M.Sonaram	4
4. ROB ROY	VA	3/2-1-2-1	57.5(-3)	A.Roy	5
5. TRIPLE FATE LINE	SH	R/1-1-3-1	57.5	I.Santana	3
6. MARAUDING	G	2-8-3-4-2	56.5	R.Joorawon	1
7. BERGERAC	AS	0-0-9-R-8	52	P.K.Horil	6
8. HUYSSTEEN	RG	1/1-3-5-6	52	T.Juglall	2

6 THE COLONEL DRAPER CUP 1500 m - Valeur G.2 - 15h25

1. UNDERCOVER AGENT	RM	3/5-1-1-1	61	P.C.Orffer	1
2. ALYAASAAT	GR	2/1-4-5-8	58	B.Sooful	3
3. BARITONE	CR	2-3/3-2-3	55.5	P.K.Horil	5
4. KAMADEVA	RG	1-2-2-9-1	53	R.Joorawon	2
5. FOOLS GOLD	RM	3/6-3-4-8	52	T.Juglall	4

7 THE CHERRY BITE PLATE 1500 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 16h00

1. NEVER FEAR	CD	1-1/2-1/1	60(-3)	M.Sonaram	2
2. POWER TOWER	RG	1-6-7-2-5	60	K.Ramsamy	8
3. SKIP THE RED	RM	4-5-6-2-1	60	P.C.Orffer	5
4. RUBY SPIRIT	AS	4-2-1-5-8	59.5	P.K.Horil	3
5. AL MADHAR	GR	0-4-4-7-1	59	N.Teetha	9
6. LADDER MAN	P	4-7/8-9-R	59	O.Sola	6
7. OPAGUE	G	2-1-9-4-1	59	R.Joorawon	7
8. THE JAZZ SINGER	SH	6-9/6-7-8	58.5	I.Santana	1
9. WELL CONNECTED	VA	9-6-1-10-3	58.5(-3)	A.Roy	4

8 THE ALLEE BRILLANT PLATE 1500 m - Valeur [0-25] - 16h35

1. CARLTON HEIGHTS	AS	3-3-7-5-9	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	5
2. MOON JUMPER	G	0-0-0-6-5	60	R.Joorawon	3
3. STONE CIRCLE	RM	0-0-8-R-7	60	P.C.Orffer	2
4. FOLLOW SUIT	CD	0-8-4-2-6	59.5(-3)	M.Sonaram	1
5. MIDDLE PATH	RG	7-7-2-4-8	59.5	B.Bhaugerothee	6
6. LEAD SINGER	P	9-7-7-7-2	59	O.Sola	7
7. SUPREME ORATOR	CR	9-6/C-7-2	59	P.K.Horil	8
8. ZENO	SM	8/5-5-7-7	59	R.K.Chumun	10
9. THE HITMAN	SH	nouveau	58.5	I.Santana	9
10. BETATHANTHEREST	SJ	6-7-8-8-4	58	B.Woodworth	4

Selections

1. NEWSMAN, MIDNIGHT ORACLE, VALERIN
2. CITADEL, EAGLES VISION, SIBERIAN HUSKY
3. HARDWIRED, ALAMEERY, SAVVY
4. SENOR'S GUEST, SIX DEGREES, PFORZHEIM
5. TRIPLE FATE LINE, ROB ROY, MARAUDING
6. UNDERCOVER AGENT, ALYAASAAT, BARITONE
7. NEVER FEAR, OPAGUE, SKIP THE RED
8. LEAD SINGER, FOLLOW SUIT, SUPREME ORATOR



Laughter
is the **BEST**
Medicine

An auditor at the synagogue

At the end of the tax year, the Tax Office sent an inspector to audit the books of a synagogue.

While he was checking the books he turned to the Rabbi and said, 'I notice you buy a lot of candles. What do you do with the candle drippings?'

'Good question,' noted the Rabbi. 'We save them up and send them back to the candle makers. Every now and then they send us a free box of candles.'

'Oh,' replied the auditor, somewhat disappointed that his unusual question had a practical answer.

But on he went, in his obnoxious way. 'What about all these biscuit purchases? What do you do with the crumbs?'

'Ah, yes,' replied the Rabbi, realizing that the inspector was trying to trap him with an unanswerable question.

'We collect them and send them back to the biscuit makers. Every now and then they send a free box of holy biscuits.'

'I see!' replied the auditor, thinking hard about how he could fluster the know-it-all Rabbi.

'Well, Rabbi,' he went on, 'What do you do with all the leftover foreskins from the circumcisions you perform?'

'Here too, we do not waste,' answered the Rabbi. 'What we do is save up all the foreskins and send them to the Tax Office. About once a year they send us a com-

plete prick.'

Russian Prime Minister Medvedev comes to President Putin and nervously tells him to abolish time zones.

"Why?" Putin asks

"I fly to another city, call home and everyone is asleep. I woke you up at 4am but I thought it was only evening. - I call Angela Merkel to congratulate her on her birthday and she tells me she had it yesterday. - I wish the Chinese President a Happy New Year, and he says it will be tomorrow."

"Indeed," Putin replies "but that's only minor stuff, remember when that Polish plane crashed with the president? I called them to express my condolences, but the plane hadn't taken off yet!!"

A wife is complaining about her husband spending all his time at the local tavern, so one night he takes her along with him.

"What'll you have?" he asks.

"Oh, I don't know. The same as you, I



An Old man had 8 hairs on his head. He went to a Barber shop. Barber angry and asked: Shall I cut or count? Old man smiled and said: "Colour it!" LIFE is to enjoy with whatever you have with you. 📱 Latest Pic SMS.com

suppose," she replies.

So, the husband orders a couple of Jack Daniels and gulps his down in one go.

His wife watches him, then takes a sip from her glass and immediately spits it out.

"Yuck! It tastes awful, worse than awful!" she splutters. "I don't know how you can drink this stuff!"

"Well, there you go!" cries the husband. "And you think I am out enjoying myself every night!"

"What'll you have?" he asks.

Perfect timing. You're just like Frank.

A man walks out to the street and catches a taxi just going by. He gets into the taxi, and the cabbie says, "Perfect timing. You're just like Frank."

Passenger: "Who?"

Cabbie: "Frank Feldman. He's a guy who did everything right all the time. Like my coming along when you needed a cab, things happened like that to Frank Feldman every single time."

Passenger: "There are always a few clouds over everybody."

Cabbie: "Not Frank Feldman. He was a terrific athlete. He could have won the Grand-Slam at tennis. He could golf with the pros. He sang like an opera baritone and danced like a Broadway star and you should have heard him play the piano. He was an amazing guy."

Passenger: "Sounds like he was really something special."

Cabbie: "There's more. He had a memory like a computer. He remembered everybody's birthday. He knew all about wine, which foods to order and which fork to eat them with. He could fix anything. Not like me. I change a fuse, and the

A very serious fight was going on between Husband and Wife...

Husband said (In anger):

"I resign from the post of your Husband..."

Wife:

"Okay but, You'll have to stay till I don't get any other alternative...!"



whole street blacks out. But Frank Feldman could do everything right." Passenger: "Wow, what a guy!"

Cabbie: "He always knew the quickest way to go in traffic and avoid traffic jams. Not like me, I always seem to get stuck in them. But Frank, he never made a mistake, and he really knew how to treat a woman and make her feel good. He would never answer her back even if she was in the wrong; and his clothing was always immaculate, shoes highly polished too. He was the perfect man! He never made a mistake. No one could ever measure up to Frank Feldman."

Passenger: "How did you meet him?"

Cabbie: "I never actually met Frank. He died and I married his wife."

I'm about to go to a funeral for the first time, and I still have no idea what to expect.

Remains to be seen.

Boss: This is the third time you've been late for work this week. Do you know what that means?

Me: That it's only Wednesday

I tell dad jokes all the time even though I'm not actually a dad

I'm a faux pa.

The Little Wave:



A little wave was bobbing along in the ocean and was having a grand old time. He was enjoying the wind and the fresh air as it travelled - until he noticed that all the other waves in front of him were crashing against the shore. "Oh My God, this terrible", The little wave thought. "Look what is happening to all the other waves and I will have to face the same fate!"

When the little wave was in the state of panic another wave came across and asked the little wave, "Why are you distressed my friend?"

The little wave said, "We are all going to crash against the shore and face our end! All of us waves are going to be nothing! Isn't it terrible?"

The second wave answered with a smile, "No, you don't understand. You're not just a wave, you are a part of the ocean."

Alltimeshortstories

Life's Lessons

Le principal

C'est la légende d'une femme pauvre avec un garçonnet dormant sur son dos. Passant devant une caverne, elle entendit une voix mystérieuse qui venait de l'intérieur lui dire:

"Entre et prends tout ce que tu désires, mais n'oublie pas le **principal**. Souviens-toi d'une chose: dès que tu seras sortie, la porte se refermera à tout jamais. Cependant, profite de l'opportunité, mais n'oublie pas le **principal**."

La femme entra dans la caverne et trouva beaucoup de richesses. Fascinée par l'or et les bijoux, elle dépose son enfant à terre et commence à amasser, anxieusement tout ce qu'elle pouvait déposer dans son tablier.

La voix mystérieuse lui rappela: " Tu as seulement huit minutes "

Les minutes épuisées, la femme chargée d'or et de pierres précieuses, courut hors de la caverne et la porte se referma. Elle se rappela alors que le garçonnet était resté à l'intérieur et la

porte était fermée à tout jamais.

La **richesse** dure peu, et le **désespoir** toujours.

La même chose parfois nous arrive.

Nous avons quelques 80 ans pour vivre en ce monde et toujours une voix nous rappelle "de ne pas oublier le **principal** ".

Le **principal**, ce sont les valeurs spirituelles, la foi, la vigilance, la famille, les amis, la vie, la **vérité**, l'**Amour**, le **don** de soi.

Mais l'appât du gain, la cupidité, la richesse et les plaisirs matériels nous fascinent tellement que le principal reste toujours de côté.

Ainsi nous épuisons tout notre temps ici-bas à nous occuper des choses peu importantes ; et nous laissons de côté l'essentiel: **les trésors de l'âme**.

Nous ne devons jamais oublier que la vie en ce monde passe rapidement et que la mort arrive de façon inattendue.

Et lorsque la porte de cette vie se fermera pour nous, comme sur ce garçonnet, les lamentations ne serviront à rien.

Relationships

Think twice before you give advice

Like so many great ideas, our solutions for others often become less perfect the more we learn about the problem

-- Leslie Becker-Phelps

If only we were as good at solving our own problems as we are at solving other people's. But like so many great ideas, our solutions for others often become less perfect the more we learn about the problem. So, it is important to listen more as others share, tempering the impulse to give advice.

Everyone's lives are complicated. So when people initially share their struggles with others, they shorten and simplify the story. Of course, as the listener, you don't know what's been left out, "reorganized" to fit their preferred narrative, or what parts of the story the person sharing simply does not know. Maybe John really did blow up when Karen asked a simple question. But she may have left out that she knew the question poked at a sensitive subject for him, or she may not have known that he had just gotten fired earlier that day and was a human pressure cooker destined to explode. Clearly, being aware of more details or context may have a huge impact on



your reaction and your advice.

As you may already know from personal experience, no one can fully know a relationship as well as the people in it. And even then, each of those people may have different perspectives and insights about it. For instance, Karen might have thought she was asking an innocent question about what John had been doing the previous night. So she was surprised when John got angry and defensive. However, for John, who was raised in a home where his mother was constantly upset about his father's philandering, he "knew" he was being accused of cheating. Given his past, he always promised himself that

he would remain faithful in relationships, and he was especially upset about her question.

While friends often ask each other for help with difficult situations, the advice they offer can differ based on how much they know and their biases. If you didn't know about John's past, you might believe him and doubt Karen's accusations. However, those who know John's past might realize that he's likely overreacting based on his childhood experiences and help him to at least question his reaction. Then again, some friends might have their own experiences and biases that affect the advice that they give -- which they may, or may not, even realize.

Personal struggles can be tricky; and when you add the dynamics of relationships, they can get downright complicated. So there are inherent traps in trying to offer advice to others. Yet if you are aware of this and humbly accept your limitations, you can offer guidance in providing advice. Remind yourself that you may be missing critical information or may not realize inherent biases (theirs or yours) that inform your opinions. Such caution can keep you from being too quick to judge and from making unintended suggestions. It can also make it easier for you to acknowledge and accept your own misperceptions and mistakes in judgment.

By remaining open to the possibility that you are misunderstanding a situation, you can offer advice humbly and with respect for the person you are trying to help. Your friend will likely feel accepted, supported, and respected, which will strengthen your relationship while also providing possibly helpful advice.

Dr Becker-Phelps is a licensed psychologist in NJ and NY. She is the author of 'Bouncing Back from Rejection' and 'Insecure in Love'

Healthy Living

Foods that raise your blood pressure

Think you're eating healthy by sipping tomato juice or heating up a can of soup? Think again -- those foods and others can all spike your BP.

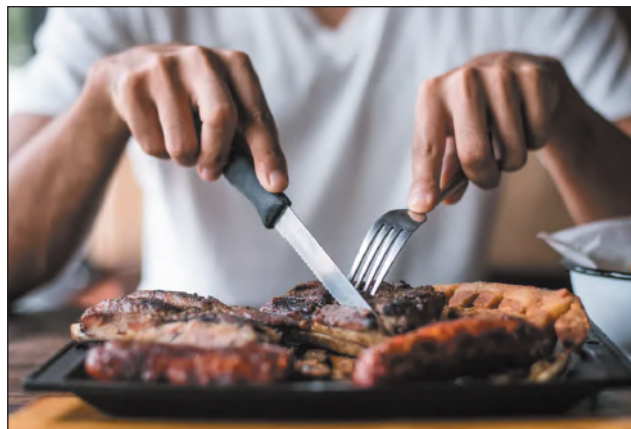
The shrimp fried rice at your favourite spot might be amazing, but it's likely full of sodium. Research suggests most of the sodium in diets comes from restaurant and packaged foods. Look for low-sodium menu options or ask the chef to make your meal without salt. Try other flavours instead, like lemon juice on fish and veggies. Most adults should eat no more than 2,300 milligrams of sodium a day. That's one teaspoon.

Frozen meals: They're fast and convenient. But they're also loaded with sodium, so it's best to avoid them. If you need something quick every once in a while, look for options with 600 milligrams of sodium or less.

Salty snacks: Most chips, crackers, and popcorn are high in sodium. For instance, a 1-ounce serving of plain potato chips has about 50-200 milligrams. Try low- or no-sodium nuts, seeds, chips, or pretzels when cravings hit. Or try fresh carrots or celery sticks for a satisfying crunch.

Pickled foods and their juices: Kimchi, sauerkraut, and other pickled or brined foods often pack plenty of sodium. Three ounces of pickle juice has about 900 milligrams, depending on the brand. Try to limit the amount of pickled foods you eat. And try marinades made from vinegar, pineapple juice, or citrus fruits like lemons, limes, and oranges. They add a tart flavour with less sodium.

Bread: It doesn't taste salty, but it's got plenty of it.



One slice of white bread has between 80 and 230 milligrams. The next time you make a sandwich, reach for whole-grain bread, an English muffin, or a tortilla to cut back on sodium. You can also eat your sandwich "open-faced" with just one slice.

Soup: It's delicious on a cold day, but it's often high in sodium. One cup (8 ounces) of tomato soup can have anywhere from 700 to 1,260 milligrams. Buy low-sodium versions of your favourites instead. Or make your own and flavour with herbs and spices.

Tomato juice and sauces: Three-quarters of a cup of canned tomato juice packs 660 milligrams of sodium. Look for low-sodium versions.

Processed meat: Lunch meat typically has about 750 milligrams or more of sodium per serving. That's about six thin slices. Other processed meats also high in sodium include hot dogs, corned beef, bacon, and sausage. Add salt pork, ham hocks, and spareribs to the list, too. Stick with fish, chicken, and lean cuts of meat.

Pizza: Whether it's frozen or from your favourite delivery spot, it's likely high in sodium. A 4-ounce slice of frozen cheese pizza has 370 to 730 milligrams. And a 4-ounce slice from a restaurant has even more, at 510-760 milligrams. To cut back, order a smaller pizza and ditch the stuffed crust. Opt for thin crust and veggies for

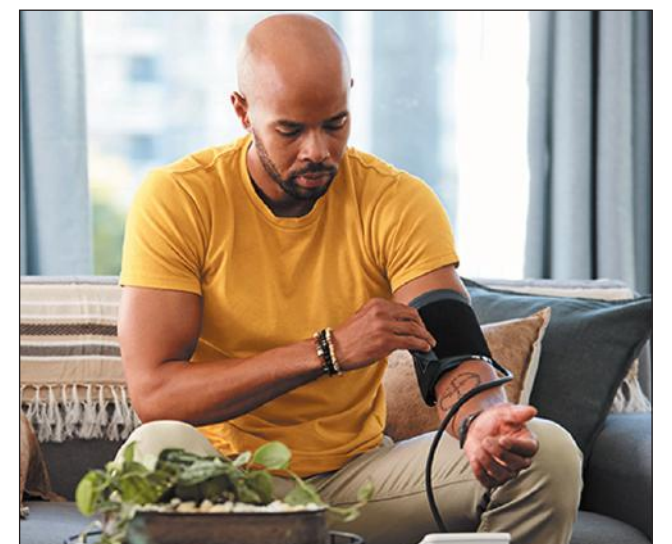
even more health benefits.

Beer, wine, and alcohol: Your chances of high blood pressure go up when you drink too much alcohol. Men should stick with no more than two drinks a day. Women should keep it at one. One drink looks like 12 ounces of beer, 4 ounces of wine, 1½ ounces of 80-proof spirits, or 1 ounce of 100-proof spirits. Red wine has been linked to heart health, but you should still limit the amount you drink.

Cheese: Some types are more likely to raise your blood pressure than others. Keep it down with cheeses that are naturally low in sodium, like Swiss, which has 75 milligrams per 1-ounce serving. Goat, ricotta, and fresh mozzarella are good, too. Processed and hard cheeses such as American and cottage cheese have more sodium. A half-cup of regular cottage cheese has 455 milligrams.

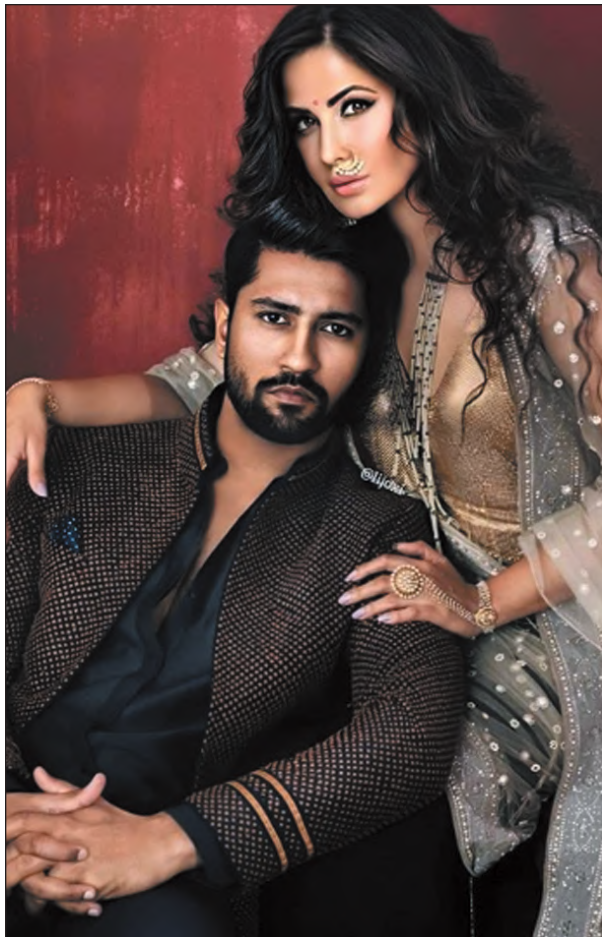
Condiments: Ketchup, soy sauce, and salad dressings are all high in sodium. Shop for low-sodium substitutes. Or try lemon juice and vinegar for added flavour.

Brunilda Nazario, MD, WebMD



BollyBytes

When Katrina Kaif said she would invite 'everyone in the world' to her wedding...



Rumour has it that Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal are planning a winter wedding. Although Katrina had a cryptic response to the rumours, Vicky is yet to react.

In an interview with Hindustan Times in 2015, Katrina was addressing rumours of her wedding at the time and said that the day she decides to get married, she would tell the whole world.

"When you decide to get married, and are prepared to tell the world that 'we are making a commitment', you become comfortable with people talking about it. I want everyone in the world to attend my wedding," she had said.

In the same interview, she added, "A private person [like me] doesn't like to talk about sensitive and delicate topics like relationship and love. And if that (being silent) is misconceived as arrogance, then it's the ignorance of that person [who forms such a perception about me]."

Katrina has been rumoured to be dating Vicky since 2019. A few months ago, reports claimed that Vicky and Katrina are engaged. However, Katrina's team had shot the claims down. Speaking to Zoom, Katrina's spokesperson said, "There has been no Roka ceremony. She is leaving for Tiger 3 shoot soon."

Vicky too downplayed the rumours. Speaking with radio host Siddharth Kannan, Vicky said, "To be honest, mere paas woh mental space *hi nahi tha* (I didn't have the mental space), because I was right in the middle of a shoot... Funnily enough, what happens is, these rumours start at 9 o'clock in the morning by the media and by 4.30, the media only negates the same rumours and says 'no, it's not true'. So, you don't have to do anything."

Randhir Kapoor reacts to Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's wedding rumours

Rumours are doing the rounds suggesting that Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt are preparing for a December wedding this year. Although the couple is yet to address these reports, Ranbir's uncle, actor Randhir Kapoor has said that he hasn't heard about a wedding, reports Hindustan Times.

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt have been dating for over three years now. Last year, Ranbir had said that he would have married his *Brahmastra* co-star had there been no Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking with Pinkvilla, Randhir said, "I don't know, and I haven't heard the news either. He will get married someday or the other, but I don't have any news on this."

Even Alia's mother, actor Soni Razdan said that she is waiting for information about Alia and Ranbir's wedding. "Even I don't know when it'll (the wedding) happen. Even I'm waiting for some information," she told BollywooodLife. When prodded, Soni added, "Well, there's a lot of time left. It'll happen sometime in the



future, and that's a long way off. Now, when it'll happen, I don't know."

Last year, speaking with former journalist Rajeev Masand, Ranbir had said that he wanted to 'seal' the deal. "I don't want to jinx it by saying anything. I want to tick mark that goal very soon in my life," he had added.

Alia and Ranbir have been busy

with their work commitments. While Alia has films such as *Darlings*, *RRR*, *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, and *Jee Le Zaraa* in the making, Ranbir has *Animal* and an untitled film with Luv Ranjan, starring Shraddha Kapoor. Alia and Ranbir also have their first film together, Ayan Mukerji's *Brahmastra*, waiting to release.

Divya Dutta bags Best Actor award for 'Sheer Qorma'



Divya Dutta is an exceptional actress, who can singlehandedly breathe life into her films. Her nuanced performances have won her loyal fans from the cinephile circle and beyond.

She holds her characters by their nerves to deliver knockout performances one after the other. Her works in films like '*Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*', '*Veer-Zaara*' and '*Badlapur*' among many others are a longstanding testimony to this fact.

The actress was recently feted with the Best Actor award for her short film '*Sheer Qorma*' at DFW South Asian Film Festival in Dallas, US. The film has been

travelling to film festivals across the globe for quite some time and has been winning accolades on the international canvas.

Helmed by Faraz Ansari, '*Sheer Qorma*' is one of the few films that represents the LGBTQ+ community with a heartwarming story at its core. The film also stars Shabana Azmi and Swara Bhasker.

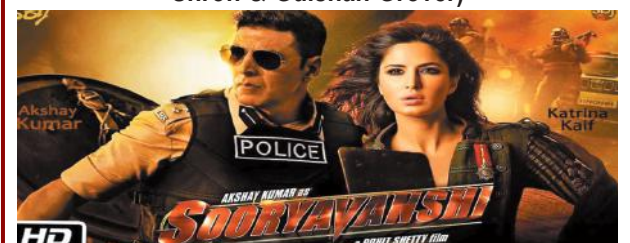
While in the United States, the actress also launched her book at another event. This is her second book after the much appreciated, '*Me and Ma*'. Titled '*The Stars In My Sky*', the book documents her memorable experience of working in the world's most prolific film industry; the Hindi film industry. It also speaks about her interactions with people, who have played a definitive role in her journey so far and have contributed to her success as an actor.

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SOORYAVANSHI

(featuring Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Jackie Shroff & Gulshan Grover)



Friday 5 Nov	- 13:15/20:15
Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 Nov	- 10:15/13:15/16:15/20:15
Monday 8 to Friday 19 Nov	- 10:15/13:15/20:15
Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 Nov	- 10:15/13:15/16:15/20:15

TellyBytes

Archana Puran Singh: 'I was my own driver, hair-makeup person, spotboy'

Safeguarding ourselves against Covid-19 is of importance, and Archana Puran Singh knows this well. When shoots first resumed after the first wave, the actor, who is a constant on *The Kapil Sharma Show*, wouldn't even allow anyone to come near her, she recalls.

"My protocol was so strong, that my producers used to say, 'Ma'am, everybody should do this but nobody does it, you are so strict'. Any guests who would come on the show, I wouldn't meet them, there was a special barricade put for me. I used to not take a chance, and some of them would get upset, 'What is this? She is not even coming to hug me'. But now I have changed. I have got both my vaccines, so I am much more at ease," says the 59-year-old.

Singh took things up a notch when it came to taking care earlier, reports Hindustan Times. Throughout the first wave, she used to drive her own car and no driver was allowed. "He (driver) would go to the set in another car, and get my vanity can sanitised. Then he would send me a video, only then I would enter the van. 20 minutes before I reached the van, they would open it so that the chemicals would get out. Nobody was allowed to physically step in," she tells us. Naturally hence, she would get ready on her own too.



She goes to say, "I used to do my own hair and makeup, I was my own driver, hairstylist, makeup person, spot boy, would make my own tea, wash my plates. I would also get my dress steam ironed from home and take it with me, so no dress man was allowed to come."

After double vaccination, Singh is worry-free, and open to meeting people again.

I played Sarla for 8 years in 'Kumkum Bhagya' and 4 years in 'Kundali Bhagya', needed to give it a break: Supriya Shukla

Supriya Shukla, who played the role of Sarla Arora for eight years in *Kumkum Bhagya* and later in *Kundali Bhagya*, has decided to take a break. The actress will no longer be a part of *Kundali Bhagya*.

When we spoke to Supriya, she said, "Sarla was an interesting role when I was offered *Kumkum Bhagya*, eight years ago. I enjoyed playing mother to Sriti Jha and Mrunal Thakur and the character had many layers. But after playing it for many years, I realised I didn't have much to contribute to the show. Luckily, the makers introduced Sarla's character in *Kundali Bhagya* and again I was playing mother to two daughters, but this time the story was equally interesting and I played the character for another four years. Later I was also cast in *Molkki*. So, in the past few years, and more recently due to the pandemic, I haven't stepped out with my family and now I want to do other things. Shooting for two shows - *Kundali Bhagya* and *Molkki* - at the same time was not giving me space to spend quality time with my family. Therefore, I decided to give Sarla a break."

Talking about her character Sarla and how she portrayed it, Supriya said, "I never use glycerine in my scenes and many times I had to cry and even after the scene was over, I used to keep crying. Emotionally, Sarla's character was quite draining and I have put in a lot over the years. But I also feel that every character should



have scope to contribute to the show. Maybe, in future, I might plan to come back on the show."

Meanwhile Supriya is happy with her role in *Molkki*. "It is a negative role. And not too often does an actress, playing mother's roles, get a chance to essay a character like Prakash Devi."

Supriya, who has so far done many TV shows and Bollywood films like *3 Idiots* and *Parineeta*, feels that she has been blessed to have got good work over the years. She said, "Whether it is working for Ekta Kapoor's production house, or other TV shows, or Bollywood films, I think I am blessed to have got good roles. Makers have always understood my duties as a wife and mother, too. I feel blessed that I have got a chance to take this break and focus my energies at home."

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Refrain from long business or pleasure trips. Success in your work and in society, but remain very modest. You'll be happy in love and will have the wild desire to depose the whole world at the feet of the beloved one; this will be reciprocal.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 19

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

You'll be more enterprising than ever; however, you'll know how to be diplomatic. Don't continue any longer to live above your means. Your life as a couple will be agitated, but these strong emotions won't displease you at all.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 4, 13, 16, 25, 33

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

You'll devote more of your time to your family and will make the happiness of your dear ones. Refrain from ruinous buyings and postpone decisions of investments. Love may fall on you like a powerful avalanche.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 19, 22, 24, 26, 31

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

The family ambience will be heavy by moments and your love life may begin to go through a morose phase. But you'll know beautiful successes in your work. Don't get worried about the machinations of an unscrupulous neighbour: he/she will back down!

Lucky Numbers: 25, 26, 31, 32, 33, 40

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

If your parents are aged, tensions may arise between you and them; show understanding. It will be folly on the love front: you'll know moments of intense passion but with the risk of your being more demanding than usual.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 14, 16, 21, 22, 25

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

At work, you'll adopt a very positive state of mind and will quickly solve any problem which occurs. In love, follow your intuition which will be very sure. Your material situation should be on the upswing; you'll have luck with money.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 14, 21, 22, 39

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Your great professional projects will begin to take form, but a sentimental problem will worry you, preventing you from being well at ease. There's nothing really serious, however, and you can easily control the situation and recover your serenity.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 17, 20, 25, 26, 31

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Don't be too demanding toward your close ones. It would be a pity not to seek to exploit all the resources that are within you. Luck with money will smile to you; and if you've had an unhappy experience, a bankruptcy for instance, you'll get out of it more daring and stronger than before.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 11, 18, 20, 33

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You'll lack realism and objectivity, which may cause you disappointments. Try to make some savings so as to be able to cope with unexpected events. Good surprises don't happen only to others: they'll happen to you in the sentimental field.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 19, 20, 28, 30, 36

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

At work, opportunities will be more rare and you'll have to redouble efforts in order to obtain correct results. Some small annoyances are to be foreseen, especially in everyday life: nothing will go as fast as you wish!

Lucky Numbers: 8, 9, 17, 20, 23, 26

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Success will be present in your professional life and also in your love affairs. If you do sport or gardening, don't force yourself. A small chance in gambling is probable. Disturbances in your home but recognize that you're responsible for the situation.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 12, 18, 19, 30, 31

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

It will please you to flirt around, but don't count too much on the indulgence of your mate. In your work, your efforts won't be vain and people of good counsel will come to help you. There'll be reason to fear a conflict or a contentious affair.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 14, 20, 23, 30, 36

CINE 12

Vendredi 29 octobre - 21.15



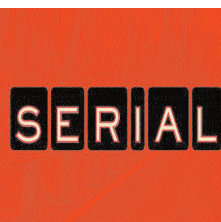
MBC 1

Samedi 30 octobre - 21.20



MBC 1

Dimanche 31 octobre - 21.15



MBC 1

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
09.00 Doc: Love Around The World
11.10 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.55 Local: Prod: Elle - No 38
13.50 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A...
14.40 D.Anime: Invention Story
14.53 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
15.16 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz And...
15.27 D.Anime: Les Triples
16.02 D.Anime: Astrology
17.15 Mag: Human Nature
17.45 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.30 Local Prod: Come On Let's...
21.25 Serial: 19-2
23.00 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: Sharato Lagu
Starring Malhar Thakar, Deeksha Joshi, Prashant Barot
15.05 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
15.26 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.46 Serial: Bava Maradallu
16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.31 Serial: Mera Maan Rakhna
16.51 Serial: Imtihaan
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.25 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.00 Serial: My Little Princes
18.30 Local: Abhay Charan
19.05 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.02 Serial: Aas
20.46 Local: Anjuman
21.09 Local: Urdu Programme

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.26 Mag: Shift
06.38 Mag: Border Crossing
07.04 Mag: Tomorrow Today
07.33 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
09.00 Educa Prog: Grade 5
11.30 Educa Prog: Grade 8
14.03 Doc: 360 GEO
14.55 Doc: Raymond Loewy...
15.47 Doc: Antoine De Saint-Exupery
17.30 Student Support Prog...
18.00 Live From Sanatan Vatika...
20.05 Doc: Volcano Stories
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.40 Doc: Le Rwanda Aux Femmes
21.34 Doc: Serguei Chitchoukine...
22.25 Doc: Iran Short Of Water
23.20 Doc: Legendary Hotels
00.02 Mag: Arts And Culture

Cine 12

03.43 Film: Mississippi River Shark
05.04 Tele: Muneca Brava
05.43 Serial: Reef Doctors
06.48 Film: Love Over Distance
08.22 Mag: Cinemag
09.00 Serial: When Calls The Heart
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.37 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Killjoys
12.00 Film: Mississippi River Shark
13.33 Tele: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: Love Over Distance
16.45 Serial: When Calls The Heart
17.28 Serial: Reef Doctors
18.10 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 Film: Jonathan
Avec Ansel Elgort, Patricia Clarkson

Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: U R My Jaan
Mikaal, Preeti, Himani
Shivpuri, Anil Dhawan.
11.28 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
12.07 / 21.00 - Chupke Chupke
12.37 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.16 / 22.00 - Agniphera
13.46 / 22.30 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.17 / 23.00 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.44 / 21.46 - Chhanchhan
15.14 / 22.20 - Sethji
15.25 Film: Utt Pataang
Vinay Pathak, Mahie Gill,
Saurabh Shukla, Mona Singh,
Sanjay Mishra
18.00 Live: Samacher
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi
20.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak

vendredi 29 octobre

samedi 30 octobre

dimanche 31 octobre

06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains
06.27 D.Anime: The Hive
07.00 D.Anime: Sissi
07.15 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda
07.37 D.Anime: Astrology
08.45 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana
08.52 D.Anime: Splash And Bubble
09.35 Serial: Oh Yuck
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Teresa
15.18 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
15.15 D.Anime: Astrology
15.45 Film: Halloween Island
17.10 Serial: Hi Opie!
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Entertainment: Dance
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs
21.20 Film: Norman: The Moderate
Rise And Tragic Fall Of ...
Avec: Richard Gere, Lior Ashkenazi

07.00 Film: Tell Me O Kkhudda
09.08 Mag: DDI Magazine
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.35 Serial: Bloody Romance
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare
12.27 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.44 Serial: High School
13.11 Annakodiyum Aintu Pengalum
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
15.25 Film: Bumm Bumm Bole
Starring: Darsheel Safary, Atul Kulkarni, Rituparna Sengupta...
17.29 DDI Magazine
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
20.28 Serial: Bitti Business Wali
21.01 Film: The Bobby
Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Emraan Hashmi

06.00 Doc: Legendary Hotels
06.42 Mag: Arts And Culture
06.55 Mag: Our Voices
07.50 Doc: Volcano Stories
09.08 Doc: Serguei Chitchoukine...
10.00 Doc: Iran Short Of Water
10.52 Doc: Legendary Hotels
11.42 Mag: Our Voices
12.11 Doc: Volcano Stories
13.29 Student Support Prog...
16.00 Live From Ollier Arya Mandir
18.15 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
18.41 Doc: Zenith
19.06 Mag: Check In
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.40 Doc: Beatbox
22.30 Doc: Tarzan, Aux Sources...
23.22 Doc: Amazing Gardens
23.45 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
00.11 Doc: Zenith
00.37 Mag: Check In
01.03 Doc: Le Monde Des Couleur

01.28 Film: Jonathan
03.09 Serial: Unforgotten
03.54 Serial: The Magicians
04.36 Serial: Falling Water
05.19 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.44 Serial: S.W.A.T
08.30 Serial: Reckoning
09.14 Serial: The Magicians
09.56 Serial: Falling Water
10.40 Film: Jonathan
12.21 Serial: Unforgotten
13.32 Serial: Heroes Reborn
15.05 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.29 Mag: Cinemag
17.00 Serial: Imposters
17.45 Film: Chair De Poule 2
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Series: Powers
21.15 Film: Let's Dance
Starring: Ladislav Chollat,
Joris Morio
22.56 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir

04.05 Radha Krishna
04.36 Chupke Chupke
04.48 Mere Sai -- Shraddha Aur...
05.45 Agniphera
06.15 Yeh Teri Galiyan
06.44 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
06.38 Chhanchhan
06.57 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
07.18 Siddhi Vinayak
08.02 Zindagi Ki Mehek
10.12 Motu Patlu
10.43 Siddhi Vinayak
12.01 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.19 Chupke Chupke
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: One Two Three
Star: Neetu Chandra, Esha Deol
and Vrajesh HirjeeVV
20.43 Serial: Namah
21.01 Serial: Naagin Season 3

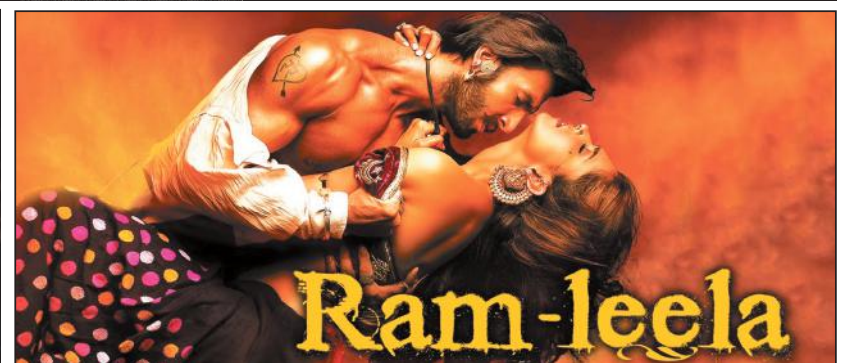
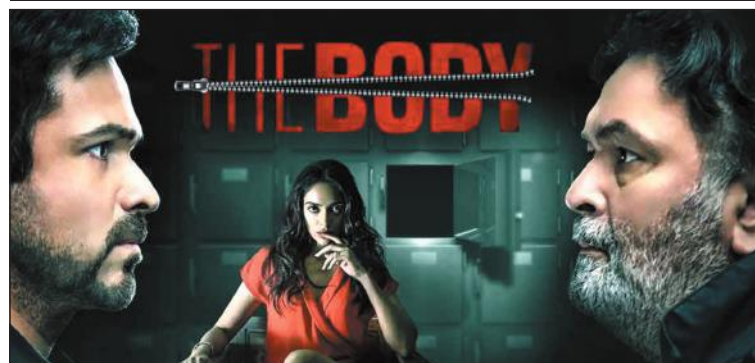
MBC 2

Samedi 23 octobre
- 21.00

Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Emraan Hashmi

Dimanche 31 octobre
- 18.30

Stars: Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone



Why Squid Game is actually a critique of meritocracy

Just like in real life, the idea that everyone in the game has a fair shot is quickly exposed as a fallacy



Matt Bennett
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Philosophy, University of Essex



Ali Abdul holds up Seong Gi-hun during the game of red light, green light. Netflix

Squid Game, Netflix's latest runaway success has set new records for views and generated a flurry of comment pieces, memes and moral panic about screen violence.

The programme follows 456 competitors through a series of lethal contests. At stake is a cash prize of billions of won, suspended over the contestants' dormitory in a giant perspex piggy bank. The people playing the games are destitute and laden with debt. Some are suffering from gambling addictions, others are caught up in gang violence and some face the threat of deportation. This desperation drives them to risk their lives to win the fortune dangling over their heads.

Squid Game no doubt functions as a satire of material inequality in South Korea. The problem has reached a point where relatively radical policies are being considered by candidates for the country's 2022 presidential election, including universal basic income and a comprehensive overhaul of the legal system.

But though Squid Game's social critique most obviously aims at extreme inequality, its satire is most effective when it targets a principle that has served to support, justify, and perpetuate such inequality. Squid Game is perhaps at its best when viewed as a critique of meritocracy.

Meritocracy's promise

Meritocracy is having something of a moment as a subject of debate. A significant number of recent critical studies by sociologists, economists, and philosophers have focused on the role meritocracy plays in legitimising the levels of inequality we face today.

We have been sold the idea that a meritocratic society would be a place where our material wellbeing is determined not by class, race or gender, but by a combination of our ability and effort. Meritocrats believe in fair social competition, a level playing field, and rewards for those talented and industrious enough to rise up the social ladder.

But in a competitive society, not everyone can win. The dark side of meritocracy is that it justifies inequality on the grounds that the better-off have earned their position, with the implication that the worse off also deserve their lot. And when people are convinced that their society is indeed meritocratic, political resistance to inequality is much more difficult to establish.

Political promises of meritocracy peaked in the 1980s and 1990s, and have diminished since the 2008 financial crisis, along with the economic optimism that helped to make meritocracy plausible. Meritocracy nonetheless continues to haunt contemporary politics. Just last year, for example, Kamala Harris's vice-presidential campaign included the assurance that everyone can "be on equal

footing and compete on equal footing". And some data indicates that a growing proportion of the public continues to believe that they live in a meritocracy.

The problem with past promises of meritocracy is that they have turned out to be either false, because we never really get meritocracy, or empty, because meritocracy doesn't really give us what we hope for. Squid Game exposes both sides of this unhappy either/or.

The unfairness of false meritocracy

At the heart of Squid Game's competition is a moral code that, according to the shadowy figure running the game, offers the contestants an opportunity unavailable outside of the game. In his (translated) words: "These people suffered from inequality and discrimination out in the world, and we offer them one last chance to fight on equal footing and win".

Unsurprisingly, the reality of Squid Game's competition falls short of its meritocratic ideal. The hope of a level playing field is undermined by the same social factors that corrupt competitive society outside of the game. Factions form; women are shunned; elderly players are abandoned.

The game's only player from outside of Korea, Ali Abdul, is patronised, betrayed, and exploited. In the first game, he literally holds up Seong Gi-hun, the programme's protagonist, in a stunning visual metaphor for the dependence of prosperity in developed countries on cheap foreign labour.

Not everyone has a fair chance of winning.

The violence of true meritocracy

But is the injustice in Squid Game really that the competition is unfair? Would the horror disappear if the competitors really were "on equal footing"?

Squid Game could be perfectly meritocratic and at the same time perfectly perverse. This is a winner-takes-all

competition, where only a tiny fraction of players will rise to fortune, and where negligible differences in performance can make the difference between success and failure, and with it the difference between life and death.

Compare this with the polarised labour markets of countries like the US, where middle-income jobs have been replaced by a small number of high-earning roles for winners, and increasingly poorly-paid jobs for those left behind. In reality, even societies that have embraced genuine meritocracy such as the US have nonetheless generated few opportunities to win, while losing leaves tens of millions in poverty.

Squid Game is also a competition in which society's poorest are forced into playing. Though the rules of the game allow players to opt-out at any time - they even allow for a democratic vote about whether to continue - the misery that awaits them outside of the game makes this no real choice at all.

Winner takes all, losers die, and participants have no choice but to play. Squid Game's radical meritocracy is a caricatured version of the inequalities that have emerged in competitive society. But it also reflects, in only an exaggerated form, the dangers of both the false and the true meritocracies that currently trap millions.

MAURITIUS WOMEN COOPERATIVE CREDIT UNION

(Reg no.1625).

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Mauritius Women Cooperative Credit Union on Saturday 13 November at 11 00hrs at the Shivala Hall, Sebastopol.

AGENDA:

- (1) Reading and approval of minutes of proceedings of last Annual General Meeting
- (2) Matters Arising
- (3) To consider:
 - (a) The internal controller's report,
 - (b) The audit report
- (4) Appointment of auditor
- (5) Appointment of Internal controller
- (6) Approval of the estimates of income and expenditure of the society.
- (7) Election of board of directors.
- (8) Approval of amendments to rules of the society
- (9) To elect delegates of the society.

Treasurer

Amla Devi Sewsum

CHILDREN FOUNDATION

The **Annual General Meeting of Children Foundation** will be held on Saturday 20 November 2021 at 10:00 hrs at 9, Britannia Park Vacoas.

AGENDA:

1. Reading and Approval of Last Minutes of Proceedings
2. President Report
3. Treasurer Report
4. Approval of Audited Annual Accounts 2020
5. Approval of Budget Estimate and Expenditure 2021/2022
6. Approval of Future Projects/Investment
7. AOB

Secretary

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN

The **Annual General Meeting of Alliance for Children** will be held on Saturday 20 November 2021 at 11:00 hrs at 9, Britannia Park Vacoas.

AGENDA:

1. Reading and Approval of Last Minutes of Proceedings
2. President Report
3. Treasurer Report
4. Approval of Audited Annual Accounts 2020
5. Approval of Budget Estimate and Expenditure 2021/2022
6. Approval of Future Projects/Investment
7. AOB

Secretary