

# MAURITIUS **TIMES**

• *“Tough times never last but we should not lose our hopes and one day the dream will come true.” -- Ram Bahadur Ghale*

Interview - Lindsay Rivière

**“Tous ceux qui agitent le fantasme d'une alliance MSM-PTr ne savent pas de quoi ils parlent”**

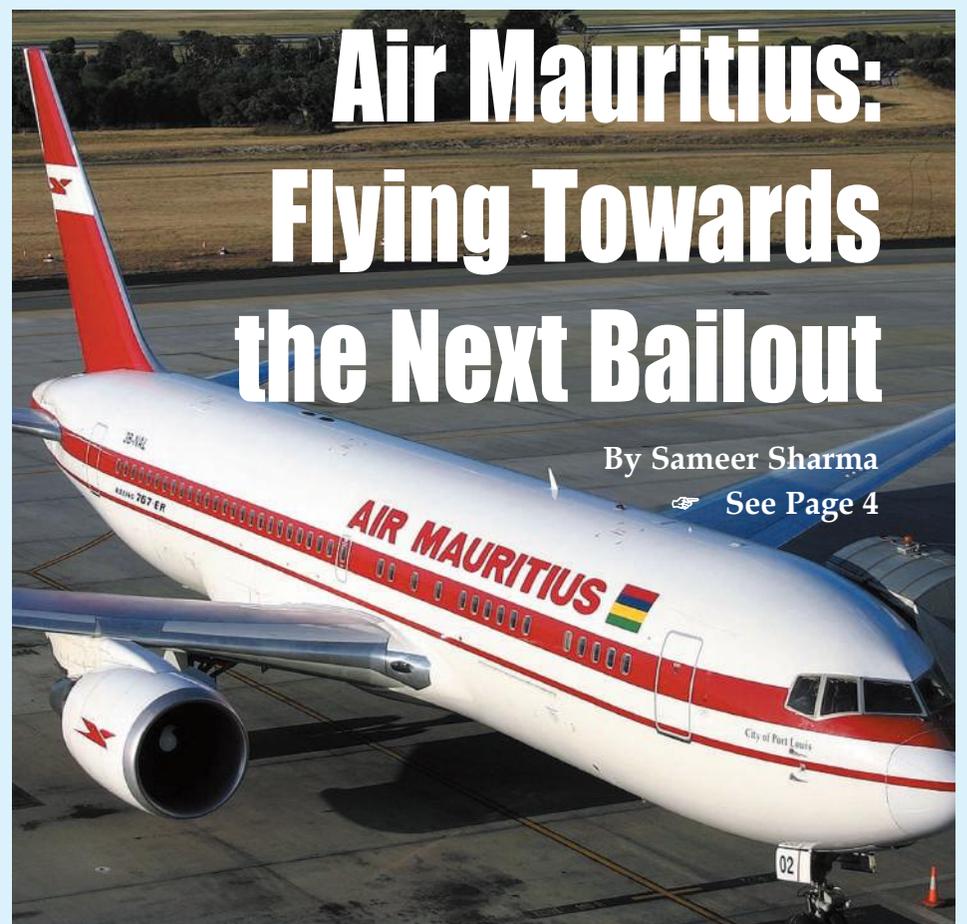
‘Je serais extrêmement étonné que Ramgoolam accepte que le PTr soit un ‘Junior Partner’ dans un gouvernement de coalition MSM-PTr-PMSD’

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**Strong public institutions - an elusive dream?**



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**Air Mauritius: Flying Towards the Next Bailout**

By Sameer Sharma

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## Illegal Political Financing The French Example

It is generally assumed that political financing by the corporate sector has been taking place since long. What is difficult to ascertain are the exact amounts offered to political parties, but the sheer scale of spending that we see during the local political campaigns point to the invisible presence of wealthy financiers funding their preferred party while also placing heavy bets on what they perceive to be winning horses.

Several high-profile politicians from different countries have had their insider dealings with the different financiers uncovered. Few of them have been successfully indicted when in power for having taken political bribes in exchange for favours, which would be corruption. It is always difficult to prove the link between the financing received and the favourable policy or administrative decisions taken in the context of the so-called "business-friendly" environment. Thus, there are not a lot of resounding cases involving such horse-trading which could be considered as abuse of office.

What may prove even more difficult to ascertain is the nexus between politics and the world of crime, including drug trafficking. Although nothing has been proved so far on the strength of compelling evidence that such a nexus does exist locally, we have had some snippets from the report of the commission of inquiry chaired by former Judge Lam Shang Leen.

As far as the regulation of political financing is concerned, it was reported during the mandate of the previous Lepep government that instead of the comprehensive electoral reform that opposition parties in particular were expecting, the government would come up with proposals for the financing by the State of political parties. To that effect, the Prime Minister stated in Parliament on 24 July 2018 that the Financing of Political Parties Bill was under preparation at the Attorney General's Office. Not much has been heard since, but the subject of electoral financing and especially their legal limits in constituencies resurfaced in the context of the judicial inquiry into the murder of political activist Soopramanien Kistnen. It was then announced that the police had started an investigation into the allegations of breach of electoral laws in light of the details of electoral expenses in Constituency No. 8 as contained in what are called the 'Kistnen Papers'. If the genuineness and authenticity of those documents are established, these might point to a breach of electoral expenditure ceilings in a constituency where there is already a judicial challenge based on allegations hinging on electoral promises for votes.

In a comment on the oversight of the electoral process in Mauritius, Lex had stated in this paper (August 17, 2021): 'The Electoral Commissioner or the Electoral Supervisory Commission is not empowered by law to investigate any offences in relation to election expenses. One cannot expect the Electoral Commissioner or the Electoral Supervisory Commission to don the garb of investigators. That would place them in an

invidious position. Their mandate is to see to it that elections are held in accordance with existing rules and regulations. In so doing they must be scrupulously independent. Whether the police will initiate an investigation into the various allegations levelled by opposition candidates and within what delay remains to be seen.' Everything therefore hinges on a serious police investigation for the successful prosecution of offenders, if any, in this particular case. But, as stated by Lex, that remains to be seen and is clearly not very reassuring in light of the trend of investigations by the authorities involving members of the government or their followers.

It is difficult to conjecture whether government intends to bring forward a legislative proposal to regulate campaign financing and possibly review the mandate of the Electoral Supervisory Commission or the Representation of the People's Act, all of which might go towards a clean-up and consolidation of our democratic processes. The case has sometimes been made for State financing that would obviate the need for shady backroom and illicit flows of unregulated funds from unknown sources. The French system we believe, allows candidates and parties to fund their campaign from own funds and claim-back State reimbursement so long as the set criteria, in particular, expenditure ceilings, are strictly adhered to.

In the recent case of former French President Nicolas Sarkozy, he is being sued for the financing of his 2012 election campaign far in excess of authorised limits. From press agencies, we learn that Nicolas Sarkozy was accused of having spent about €20 million — above the maximum legal amount for his 2012 re-election campaign and that this was deliberately hidden by a system of "fausses factures". 'Prosecutors believe Sarkozy knew weeks before the ballot that his expenses, which are strictly limited under French law, were getting close to the legal maximum. They accused him of having ignored two notes from his accountants warning about the money issue. He is not accused of being part of the system of false invoices at the heart of the fraud, but prosecutors argued Sarkozy is "the only person responsible for his campaign financing" and that he chose to exceed the limit by organising many rallies, including giant ones.' He was eventually sentenced, end September, to a jail term of one year, though the Paris high court made allowance for an electronic bracelet rather than jail time. His lawyer has confirmed that he will appeal the sentence.

There is not necessarily an appetite for State — i.e. taxpayer — financing either of political parties functionings or their regional and national electoral campaigns. But in view of the shenanigans and explosive level of expenditures, mostly occult, plaguing our electoral processes, are there any alternatives? More importantly, will a governing party that may have benefited from the current state of affairs, entertain and bring to Parliament the radical legislative transformations that are clearly needed in our democratic space?

### The Conversation

## The next Pandora Papers exposé is inevitable

unless governments do more on two key reforms

Juicy stories of political leaders stashing loot overseas make good headlines. But the real story is the need for systemic solutions, especially on property rights and transparency



Pic - theelephant.info

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) is in the process of working through another mountain of documents showing how the rich and powerful use the global financial system to hide their wealth and avoid taxes.

Those 11.9 million records, dubbed the Pandora Papers, follows similar leaks in 2017 (the Paradise Papers), in 2016 (the Panama Papers) and in 2014 (the Luxembourg Leaks, or LuxLeaks).

Commenting on the 13 million financial and tax documents comprising the Paradise Papers in 2017, we wrote that "governments have not learnt their lesson and taken action".

Four years later here we are again. Some progress has been made on the critical reforms needed - in particular, eliminating the secrecy that shrouds tax havens - but there's still more to do.

### Systemic issues

In sorting through these new documents, journalists have quite reasonably tended to focus on the "easy connections" and "known individuals". This work has identified at least 956 companies with more than 336 beneficiaries who are "high-level politicians and public officials".

This includes Vladimir Putin's mistress allegedly having assets worth US\$100 million, Jordan's King Abdullah II using offshore companies to buy three Malibu mansions for US\$70 million, and the 11-year-old son of Azerbaijani president Ilham Aliyev owning nine waterfront mansions in Dubai worth US\$44 million.

Also, on the list of 35 current and former national leaders, including Czech prime minister Andrej Babiš, Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky and former British prime minister Tony Blair.

Roman Lanis & Peter Wells  
 University of Technology Sydney

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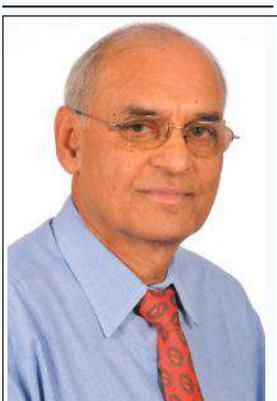


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# Strong public institutions – an elusive dream?

*It is only by putting the right people in the right place that a country can have the strong institutions. That this does not always happen is evident from the many examples that have brought dishonour to certain institutions*



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

**T**he outcry for strong public institutions has grown louder and louder during the past several years. All countries need them – because public institutions are the first recourse, and the last resort, of the common man.

The wealthy and those who wield influence and power can always attempt to tweak the system in their favour, often with apparent success – until they get exposed, numerous examples of which abound from all over the world, and not sparing our own little island either. Or they can bypass the system and go private where this is possible, especially in countries where such options are encouraged as a matter of state policy. Not infrequently, in these situations there is what I read some years ago, an observation by Columbia University Prof Tim Wu, what he called the ‘terrifying political union between public and private power’ that can considerably disadvantage the population at large.

And in all countries with a properly functioning democratic set-up comprising legislature, executive and judiciary, by far it is the judiciary that must be the most robust of the institutions: it is the bulwark of the checks and balances mechanism that can ensure a measure of justice when public (state) or private power is used to suppress or oppress.

In principle, the state entrusts the government to set up public institutions and arrange for their autonomous and smooth functioning through regulatory frameworks tailored to the specificities of the respective institutions. However, institutions whether public or private are not abstractions: they are made up of people, and at the end of the day the robustness of any institution can only be a reflection of the strength and qualities – competence, character, behaviour – of the people who form part of it. Therefore, efficiency of performance goes hand in hand with the image of the institution, and it is these two aspects taken together that determine the credibility of an institution.

It can thus be seen that it is only by putting the right people in the right place that a country can have the strong institutions that its population deserves. That this does not always happen is evident from the many examples that have brought dishonour to certain institutions in



**“Not infrequently it is politicians themselves who by peddling influence do a disservice to the institution. There are so many examples that can be cited, but one or two will illustrate the point. In times gone by, a rector of one of the most reputable colleges had preferred to resign instead of yielding to political pressure to promote an undeserving student to the next level. It is not given to all people in positions of responsibility to be able to take such a drastic step, in which case the officer is punished by means of a transfer...”**

our own country in recent times. Sadly, this has involved the country’s apex institution (the presidency), in what came to be known as the Sobrinho affair, besides that of prominent personalities during the sittings of the Lam Shang Leen Drug Enquiry Commission, and others since the beginning of this year with the ongoing investigations under way.

This contrasts with the concern of a late judge that I experienced many years ago. We were a threesome who used to trek in the woods on Sundays, and it so happened that on one such outing it was already mid-afternoon and extremely hot. We were exhausted and thought of taking a bus back to Curepipe. However, our judge friend said that given his status it would not be proper, in terms of his own and the image of the institution he represented, if ever he was spotted by a member of the public, given the shabby state that we were in, and proposed that we take a taxi which he would pay for. Finally, it was a friend who ferried us back, but this episode just shows the critical sense of responsibility of worthy people at all times and under all circumstances.

It is this kind of attitude that should prevail across all our institutions, in particular those which provide services that are used on a day-to-day basis by the bulk of the people, such as health, education, social services, law and order and so on. At all levels – from the point of first contact to the ‘processing’ through the institution – it is the appropriate conduct and competence of the its officers that will maintain not only its good name but also ensure that the users obtain satisfaction in terms of efficiency and quality of service. But it takes two hands to make a clap, and users must also comply with the rules and regulations in place which are vital for the smooth running of any institution. If these conditions are demonstrably met, then no citizen must feel that unless s/he has a ‘connection’ things will not happen.

Unfortunately, not infrequently it is politicians themselves who by peddling influence do a disservice to the institution. There are so many examples that can be cited,

but one or two will illustrate the point. In times gone by, a rector of one of the most reputable colleges had preferred to resign instead of yielding to political pressure to promote an undeserving student to the next level. It is not given to all people in positions of responsibility to be able to take such a drastic step, in which case the officer is punished by means of a transfer. This happened to a teacher who admonished a misbehaving student whose parent happened to be a minister.

Similarly, public hospitals are somehow more prone to misuse and abuse, as when people with influence or ‘connections’ try to undergo investigations, such as MRI scans, or operations ahead of patients who are already on the waiting list. Hospital staff who abet these practices thus deprive more deserving patients of their due, and it is primarily their responsibility to see to it that this does not happen.

On the other hand, the public too have a role to play in the upkeep of what are after all ‘their’ institutions, and this is unfortunately not always the case. Within months of the new Jeetoo Hospital being opened, for example, the walls leading to several wards were soiled by visitors who while waiting to enter found nothing better than to rest their feet against the newly painted walls, which bore the brunt of the dirt carried by shoes.

Such unacceptable actions and practices on the part of the public or of members of any incumbent regime, or those who feel they can exploit their proximity to it, not only weaken the institution but the regime as well, with consequences that are felt at the next election.

These few examples show if need be that the soundness of public institutions is the joint responsibility of the government and the public – of the latter to give consideration to a public good which they themselves pay for (though taxes) although they may not realise it, and of the former to provide the wherewithal for the promotion of continuing professional and skills development. These, along with other sector specific measures, will contribute towards the strengthening of institutions, not forgetting either the important ethical dimension that must be part of any training.

Further, minor incidents that take place – as they do in the private spheres too – must not be blown out of proportion with the objective of discrediting the public institutions and induce people to ‘go private’ and burden themselves with debts in so doing. If again we take the example of the health services, perhaps the most vital sector when it comes to our survival, the National Health Accounts (NHA) carried out as part of a WHO exercise, have shown that private health expenditure exceeds public health expenditure. And yet, the public health sector deals with practically 75% of the health workload of the country – this means that the majority of the people in the country depend on the public health sector for their needs.

What would happen to the common man if, together – the government, the public comprising users, NGOs, civil society, the media, etc. – failed to contribute in a positive way to develop the public health services so as to deliver a continuously improving service?

This same logic applies to all our public institutions: it is our joint responsibility to ensure and oversee their soundness and strength, which is in the larger national interest, that is, at the end of the day, our own.



Sameer Sharma

# Air Mauritius Flying Towards the Next Bailout

*Air Mauritius was already in the Intensive Care Unit when Covid hit. Covid would have probably killed it anyway, but it was not Covid which took it to the ICU*

The Mauritian government has finally decided to inject some USD 283 Million into Air Mauritius in the form of a shareholders loan in order to allow the airline to exit voluntary administration. The bulk of the funds, some USD 226 Million will be used to repay creditors with steep haircuts on outstanding debt and liabilities ranging from 40% to 65% of their outstanding amounts.

While such haircuts are steep, they are typical for distressed debt situations. Besides, the alternative would have likely been worse for creditors.

The remainder of funds will likely partly be used to finance working capital needs as the airline focuses on meeting expected pent-up demand for leisure travel in the coming months. The airline will also be using government funds to meet the USD 65 Million shortfall in defined benefits liabilities.

Beyond the announced haircuts and aircraft bargain garage sales, the airline is planning to save some EUR 25 Million annually from cost saving measures including a revision of staff expenses which would account for close to half of these total savings.

From a solvency perspective, the reality is that Air Mauritius has been near the brink from a balance sheet strength perspective for almost two decades. As the chart below showcases, the adjusted Altman Z score, a measure of the likelihood of bankruptcy, has been in the high-risk zone for as long as data exists on Bloomberg's database. Over that same period, the return on capital



“Air Mauritius operates in a highly competitive and unforgiving industry. Given the context, when coupled with having a small fleet of aircraft, the balance sheet was always going to come under significant stress due to any external shock. In such businesses, putting the right people in the right places is key but, in a country, where the government -- be it via the civil service or via public majority owned companies -- is the biggest employer, patronage politics mixed in with some vote banking has always trumped merit at varying degrees...”

employed of the listed company barely ever went above its weighted average cost of capital. Stock price performance was hence abysmal.

Air Mauritius operates in a highly competitive and unforgiving industry. Given the context, when coupled with having a small fleet of aircraft, the balance sheet was always going to come under significant stress due to any external shock. In such businesses, putting the right people in the right places is key but, in a country, where the government -- be it via the civil service or via public majority owned companies -- is the biggest employer, patronage politics mixed in with some vote banking has always trumped merit at varying degrees.

There is technically nothing wrong with an airline company which has a clearly defined hedging policy to enter into forwards or swap contracts with global investment banks in order to hedge against oil price volatility, but it is something else to enter into a long-term derivatives contract when the oil price futures curve enters into a contango from a backwardation. As can be seen from the chart, the Z score which was already in the high-risk category had deteriorated further following the hedging fiasco and due to lower demand emanating from the onset of the last Great Financial Crisis in 2008. While continued state support, the global economic recovery and then lower oil prices allowed Air Mauritius to gradually recover, politicians and their loyal nominees then thought it wise to go on a shopping spree with a planned addition of a whopping 6 new planes, two of which were leased to the South Africans.

While governments may come and go, old

habits tend to linger on when it comes to political control. Strategies and grand plans however tend to change faster than an airline company can optimize its fleet of aircraft to respond efficiently for. The Asia-Africa grand idea was born then and as the ordered planes were delivered, costs increased, losses, especially on those half-filled routes mounted and the Z score began to drop quickly towards zero. By April 2020, just one month into the closure of borders, Air Mauritius was forced to enter voluntary administration.

Air Mauritius was already in the Intensive Care Unit when Covid hit. Covid would have probably killed it anyway, but it was not Covid which took it to the ICU.

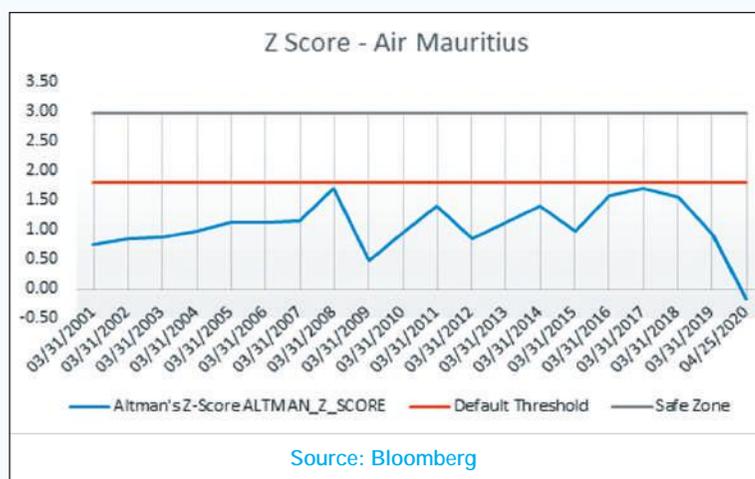
Looking ahead, airline travel is only expected to recover as from 2024 onwards. Structurally, business class travel which has tended to be a cash cow for many airlines will take much longer to recover. The focus will hence be on leisure travel in the short- to medium-term. Globally, airlines are looking at tweaking business class offerings and increasing premium economy seat capacity, when possible, in order to adapt to demand. IT budgets which have historically averaged around 5% of revenues in the industry are also likely to increase as airlines attempt to capture greater revenue share via increased digitization. Airlines are also cautiously responding to profit from higher freight rates.

Unconventional monetary policy at a global scale has pushed commodity prices higher which will complicate cost management even when assuming the implementation of a responsible and well-designed hedging program (it will be tricky to find counter-parties abroad post haircuts though). Whether the Air Mauritius fleet and the airline itself will have the budget to adjust is questionable given the size of the bailout. More importantly, when it comes to strategy, Air Mauritius will likely need to pick 1-2 key destinations in Europe, especially Paris, the region, India and East Asia. It will likely need to rationalize its direct flight points to around 6-7 destinations at best but whether its fleet of aircraft is optimized for a mix of short and mid haul travel vs. longer haul travel is questionable. Optimizing the fleet especially when taking profitable high demand routes, the accompanying strategy, aircraft types and fuel efficiency into account will likely require further capital expenditure the airline simply does not have. Approaching international and even local credit markets may prove to be quite expensive for a while given the fact that the company just pushed haircuts on creditors.

What Air Mauritius really needed was to combine sadly painful cost cuts including the inevitable staff cost cuts and debt haircuts with a combination of equity and quasi equity infusion in order to better optimize the capital structure of the firm. The quantum of the bailout would likely have needed to be higher as well to include the direct equity cash infusion.

Obtaining a strategic partner in the form of another global or regional airline or a private equity player would likely not be possible at this stage of the restructuring process without more sacrifices. It is also doubtful if many private equity players would find it easy to deal with a highly politicized company.

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## US watchdog to inspect if Ashraf Ghani fled Afghanistan with money from country

John Sopko, the U.S. special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, said on Wednesday his office would look into allegations that former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani took millions of dollars with him when he left the country.



Former Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani. Pic - www.jkchrome.com

Ghani has said he left Kabul to prevent bloodshed and denied reports he took large sums of money with him. But speculation has persisted, and Congress asked Sopko's team to get to the bottom of it, reports Reuters.

Ghani has been bitterly criticized for fleeing as the militant Islamist Taliban reached the outskirts of Kabul in August.

Sopko's Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) has long been investigating fraud, waste and abuse during America's massive state-building effort, which came to an ignoble end after 20 years with the Taliban takeover.

Sopko suggested to the House Foreign Affairs Committee subcommittee that oversees development aid that the failure of the U.S. project shouldn't have been a surprise, given rampant corruption and mismanagement.

## Covid-19 cases fall globally except in Europe; Africa records largest decline

The number of newly reported cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) worldwide fell last week, indicating a steady downward trend, the WHO informed on Wednesday.

According to the WHO's latest assessment, there were a total of 3.1 million new Covid-19 cases last week and about 54,000 deaths, registering a fall of 9% in fresh infection cases. The fatalities were roughly similar to the weekly death toll in the previous week.

The WHO also noted that all the regions across the world reported a decline in cases except Europe, where the numbers of cases this week were almost similar to the corresponding previous week, reports Hindustan Times.

According to the data, the largest decline in cases was in the African region, where the infection fell by about 43%. Middle East and Southeast Asia logged a dip in their Covid-19 cases by about 20%. In the Americas and the Western Pacific there was nearly decline of 12% in the cases of infections.

Countries around the world reported a surge in daily Covid-19 cases earlier this year. During the surge, daily cases soared above record levels as the surge was mainly led by the Delta variant of Covid-19, a highly contagious mutation of the virus.

## 'Historic day': WHO go-ahead for broad use of first-ever malaria vaccine for children in Africa

The first vaccine for malaria, the mosquito-borne disease that kills about 400,000 people each year, is set to be deployed more widely after more than three decades of work and about \$1 billion in investment.

The vaccine developed by GlaxoSmithKline Plc and its partners won a recommendation from the WHO on Wednesday for use in children in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions with moderate to high transmission. It marks a turning point in a battle against the parasite that causes malaria.

The shot prevented only about four in 10 malaria cases among children who received four doses in a large study, but the injection, along with other measures, could still save hundreds of thousands of lives. Now the focus will shift to getting it to more people following a pilot program in Africa that began in 2019, reports Agencies.

The WHO said its decision was based on results from ongoing



The malaria vaccine could save hundreds of thousands of lives. Pic - AP

research in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi that has tracked more than 800,000 children since 2019.

Many vaccines exist against viruses and bacteria but this was the first time that the WHO recommended for broad use a vaccine against a

human parasite.

GSK, which has developed the shot with non-profit organisation PATH, committed to donating as many as 10 million doses for the ongoing pilot, and to supply as many as 15 million doses annually.



In the Americas and the Western Pacific there was nearly decline of 12% in the cases of infections. Pic - Reuters

## Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine remains 'highly effective' for 6 months, study shows

The Pfizer vaccine against the coronavirus disease is highly effective (nearly 90 per cent) at preventing hospitalisations from infections of all variants - including Delta - for at least six months after a person has been administered two doses of the said shot, according to a recent study published in *The Lancet* journal.

Researchers found that only the effectiveness of the Pfizer vaccine did not decline significantly over the study period, as opposed to that of other vaccines which declined against all SARS-CoV-2 variants within one month of the two doses being administered. The effectiveness of the Pfizer (BNT162b2) vaccine against hospitalisations remained at 90 per cent overall for all variants, they said.

The study underscores the importance of improving the Covid-19 vaccination rates worldwide and monitoring vaccine effectiveness to determine which populations should be prioritised to receive booster shots, the researchers said, reports PTI.

The study found that vaccine effectiveness against Delta variant infections at one month after two doses of Pfizer was 93 per cent and fell to 53 per cent after four months.

Effectiveness against other variants at one month after receiving two doses was 97 per cent and declined to 67 per cent after four months, the researchers said.

Effectiveness against Delta-related hospitalisations remained high (93 per cent) for the duration of the study period, they said. Researchers did not observe a difference in waning between SARS-CoV-2 variant types.

## Whistle-blower fallout: Facebook spotlights tools that detect hate speech



Former Facebook employee Frances Haugen charged that the social media giant ignored internal research findings that Facebook and Instagram were harmful for children and public safety. Pic- cdn.abcotvs.com

As the fallout of the US Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection hearing following a whistle-blower's complaints continues to be felt, social media giant Facebook has issued a statement in an attempt to clarify certain issues which former employee

Frances Haugen raised in the complaint filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Facebook's statement seeks to set the record straight on certain points raised in the whistleblower's complaint, including the handling of hate speech, language classifiers or

the lack of them and how hate speech against certain communities or religions continues to be the focus of enforcement as well as content policy updates, reports Vishal Mathu.

"We prohibit hate speech and content that incites violence. Over the years, we've invested significantly in technology that proactively detects hate speech, even before people report it to us," said a Facebook spokesperson.

According to internal documents submitted with Haugen's complaint, it is believed that only 0.2% of the reported hate speech is taken down by automated checks which are in place to monitor content on the social media platform.

The whistle-blower's complaints also raised the issue of language classifiers, which should be able to check for translations as well. Classifiers are automated systems and algorithms that are designed to detect hate speech in content in social media posts on Facebook.

Facebook denied any laxity in enforcing guidelines to protect any religion or marginalised groups against hate speech.

## Pope Francis 'ashamed' over French abuse scandal

Pope Francis has expressed "shame" for himself and the Roman Catholic Church at the scale of child sexual abuse within France.

Speaking during his regular audience at the Vatican, Pope Francis acknowledged failures in putting the needs of victims first.

A 2,500-page report released this week estimated that 216,000 French children were victims of clerical and religious abuse since 1950.

The study also found that 330,000 children were victims of sex abuse when non-religious people involved in the church were taken into account.

"There is, unfortunately, a considerable number," the Pope said on Wednesday, repeating the word "shame" several times.

"I would like to express to the victims my sadness and pain for the trauma that they suffered," he added.

"It is also my shame, our shame, my shame, for the incapacity of the church for too long to put them at the centre of its concerns."

Pope Francis also called on all bishops and religious superiors to



Pope Francis listens to speeches during his weekly general audience in the Pope Paul VI hall at the Vatican. Pic - AP

take all actions necessary "so similar dramas are not repeated".

The pope said that French Catholics must ensure that the church remains "a safe house for all".

Tuesday's report was the first damning account of paedocriminality in the Catholic Church in France.

The president of the independent

commission that issued the findings, Jean-Marc Sauvé said that Catholic authorities had covered up the abuse spanning 70 years in a "systematic manner".

The commission urged the church to take strong action, denouncing its "faults" and "silence" and help compensate victims.

## Japan, Singapore have most powerful passports

The global gap in travel freedom is at its widest point ever and continues to expand due to the entry barriers in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to residence and citizenship planning firm Henley & Partners. The firm's Henley Passport Index has ranked all passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. The index, however, doesn't take into account the temporary travel restrictions imposed by the countries due to Covid-19, reports Hindustan Times.

Japan and Singapore are at the top of the Henley Passport Index with both countries having a visa-free score of 192, which means holders of passports of these two countries can travel to 192 countries without a prior visa. Passports of Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan and Yemen are among the least powerful.

### Here's the top 10 ranking of world's most powerful passports:



Japan and Singapore are at the top of the Henley Passport Index with both countries having a visa-free score of 192. Pic - CNN

1. Japan, Singapore (visa-free score - 192)
2. Germany, South Korea (visa-free score - 190)
3. Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain (visa-free score - 189)
4. Austria, Denmark (visa-free score - 188)
5. France, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden (visa-free score - 187)
6. Belgium, New Zealand, Switzerland (visa-free score - 186)
7. Czech Republic, Greece, Malta, Norway, United Kingdom, United States (visa-free score - 185)
8. Australia, Canada (visa-free score - 184)
9. Hungary (visa-free score - 183)
10. Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia (visa-free score - 182)

### Here's the top 10 countries of least powerful passports:

1. Afghanistan (visa-free score - 26)
2. Iraq (visa-free score - 28)
3. Syria (visa-free score - 29)
4. Pakistan (visa-free score - 31)
5. Yemen (visa-free score - 33)
6. Somalia (visa-free score - 34)
7. Nepal, Palestinian territory (visa-free score - 37)
8. North Korea (visa-free score - 39)
9. Bangladesh (visa-free score - 40)
10. Iran, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Sudan (visa-free score - 41)

The ranking is based on the analysis of exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Henley & Partners' global mobility report suggests that many countries in the global south have relaxed border restrictions to revive their economies but countries in the global north, with some of the most stringent inbound travel restrictions, haven't reciprocated in the same manner.

Lindsay Rivière



# “Tous ceux qui agitent le fantasme d'une alliance MSM-PTr ne savent pas de quoi ils parlent”

*‘Je serais extrêmement étonné que Ramgoolam accepte que le PTr soit un ‘Junior Partner’ dans un gouvernement de coalition MSM-PTr-PMSD’*

Navin Ramgoolam rentre au pays dimanche après son traitement en Inde contre la Covid-19. Qu'est-ce qui pourrait changer sur l'échiquier politique, en particulier au rapport de forces après son retour au pays? 'On ne peut pas, dès à présent, prédire ce qui changera sur l'échiquier politique,' soutient Lindsay Rivière dans l'interview qui suit, puisque 'personne ne revient tout à fait intact - médicalement, psychologiquement et émotionnellement - après avoir frôlé la mort.' Cependant, il est d'avis qu'au vu de sa réaction face aux demandes de son retrait que formulent les autres partis de l'Opposition, Ramgoolam va faire exactement le contraire de ce qu'attend l'opinion publique: demeurer à la tête du PTr et insister pour diriger l'Alliance de L'Espoir non seulement pour les municipales mais aussi pour les prochaines élections générales en 2024. 'Il faut bien cerner le personnage de Ramgoolam avant de porter des jugements sur lui. Navin Ramgoolam est toujours en poste. Je crois, moi, qu'il va rester et combattre Pravind Jugnauth et non brader le PTr dans une coalition PTr-MSM. Mais on verra bien...'

**Mauritius Times:** Navin Ramgoolam a annoncé récemment que son retour à Maurice est prévu pour bientôt, dépendant de la disponibilité d'un vol de l'Inde. Il se porte «bien mieux», dit-il, après son traitement contre la Covid à New Delhi. Qu'est-ce qui pourrait changer sur l'échiquier politique, en particulier au rapport de forces après son retour au pays, selon vous?

**Lindsay Rivière:** La question la plus importante du moment - et qui va en déterminer bien d'autres - c'est de découvrir quel sera l'état d'esprit de Navin Ramgoolam, à son retour, vis-à-vis de la vie politique en général et vis-à-vis de ses opposants. Après cette expérience inédite et traumatisante de la Covid-19, une maladie qui peut laisser son empreinte, Navin Ramgoolam aura-t-il beaucoup changé, un peu ou pas du tout? Sera-t-il plus apaisé ou toujours aussi agressif, travaillant sans relâche à sa revanche? Aura-t-il conservé sa combativité ou déposera-t-il les armes, débloquent la situation à la fois dans l'Opposition et au sein de l'Alliance de l'Espoir? C'est tout cela qu'il faudra analyser dans les jours suivant son retour.

Personne ne revient tout à fait intact - médicalement, psychologiquement et émotionnellement - après avoir frôlé la mort. Tous ceux qui ont été confrontés à la perspective de la mort subitement savent qu'on peut en revenir secoué, ébranlé, traumatisé, meilleur ou pire, désormais plus conscient de sa mortalité et de sa fragilité, ou alors plus défiant et amer. On ne peut donc pas, dès à présent, prédire ce qui changera sur l'échiquier politique lorsque Navin Ramgoolam rentrera au pays.

Peut-être en aura-t-il assez de la politique et souhaitera-t-il une retraite paisible et, dans ce cas, un tel développement majeur ouvrira plusieurs nouvelles pistes pour L'Espoir, pour le PTr et pour Arvin Boolell et Damry, son nouveau poulain, et pour ceux qui souhaitent un renouvellement en profondeur du PTr.

Ou alors peut-être reviendra-t-il requinqué, recherchant plus que jamais sa vengeance contre Pravind Jugnauth et ceux qui l'ont totalement humilié depuis 2014. Attendons voir...

\* Ramgoolam garde le contrôle sur le Parti travail-

liste, et il est demeuré incontesté jusqu'ici. Mais certains sont d'avis qu'après cette maladie, même brève, «he is not going to be the same man again». C'est fort improbable, n'est-ce pas, puisque l'homme a démontré une certaine combativité en particulier depuis janvier 2015?

Je ne souhaite pas trop anticiper, mais si je connais bien Navin Ramgoolam et au vu de sa réaction face aux demandes de son retrait que formulent les autres partis de l'Opposition, je pense qu'il va faire exactement le contraire de ce qu'attend l'opinion publique: demeurer à la tête du PTr et insister pour diriger l'Alliance de L'Espoir non seulement pour les municipales mais aussi pour les prochaines élections générales en 2024, si Dieu lui prête vie.

Il faut bien cerner le personnage de Ramgoolam avant de porter des jugements sur lui. J'ai toujours dit dans vos colonnes que Navin Ramgoolam ne partira qu'au moment où il l'aura décidé lui-même et non quand Paul Bérenger, Xavier Duval ou les autres le voudront. Les événements de ces derniers mois m'ont donné raison. Navin Ramgoolam est toujours en poste. Je crois, moi, qu'il va rester et combattre Pravind Jugnauth et non brader le PTr dans une coalition PTr-MSM. Mais on verra bien.

Navin Ramgoolam est un être fier et susceptible, qui ne baisse pas facilement le genou. Il est rancunier, il n'oublie aucune offense, il ne pardonne aucune humiliation. Il est de la race de ce qu'on appelle familièrement les

“Le Premier ministre travaille donc à sa victoire de 2024 avec en ligne de mire, l'objectif de battre Navin Ramgoolam dans le 'Hindu Belt' une troisième fois; il va s'entourer de technocrates et de professionnels venus de la classe moyenne hindoue, il va attirer le PMSD et conserver les Ganoo/Obeegadoo/Ramano, etc., en visant non pas une majorité des suffrages mais toujours une majorité de sièges parlementaires... L'ironie de la situation, c'est que le PTr s'en inspire également aujourd'hui...”

«seigneurs» de la guerre.

A mon avis, il veut prioritairement se venger et, sans doute, faire subir l'humiliation qui a été la sienne pendant six ans à Pravind Jugnauth: la prison à Moka, la chemise déchirée de la rue Desforges, les innombrables procès, l'incapacité de quitter le pays, son passeport et ses dizaines de millions saisis, etc. Je serais extrêmement étonné qu'il fasse alliance avec le MSM et Pravind Jugnauth, qu'il accepte que le PTr soit un 'Junior Partner' dans un gouvernement de coalition MSM-PTr-PMSD, et - encore plus - qu'il serve sous Jugnauth ou aille cueillir des fleurs au Réduit.

Tous ceux qui agitent le fantasme d'une alliance MSM-PTr après une photo des deux hommes engageant une conversation lors d'une réception organisée par l'ambassade de l'Inde ne savent pas de quoi ils parlent. On évoque 2010. Mais on oublie, qu'en 2010, c'est Navin Ramgoolam qui dirigeait le gouvernement et que Pravind Jugnauth était son ministre, qu'il a d'ailleurs révoqué sans manières. Vaut-il voir l'inverse se produire cette fois? Le PTr servant les ambitions du MSM? J'en doute fort.

\* On sait que Navin Ramgoolam a rencontré Narendra Modi en Inde, ce qui a donné lieu à beaucoup de commentaires à Maurice. Pensez-vous que les échanges du leader du PTr avec le Premier ministre indien pourraient avoir une incidence sur la politique à Maurice dans les prochains mois?

D'abord, que Navin Ramgoolam remercie le PM Modi est un devoir de civilité absolument normal, compte-tenu de l'accueil très poli et de la solidarité active que lui a réservé le PM indien.

La question qu'on peut se poser est celle-ci : avec l'enjeu Agaléga et le rapprochement sensible de Maurice avec l'Inde (devenue notre principal partenaire commercial et notre principal bailleur de fonds international), l'Inde travaille-t-elle, comme en 2010, à réunir le MSM et le PTr dans un grand front de la Majorité qui renforcerait son influence à Maurice? Peut-être en a-t-elle le désir politique secret, mais y parviendra-t-elle?

● Suite en page 8

# 'L'Opposition est dans une situation impossible.



● Suite de la page 7

N'oubliez pas que, historiquement, le PTR est beaucoup plus proche du Congress des Gandhi que du BJP de Modi. D'abord, ce dernier privilégie ouvertement les Jugnauth depuis des années. Ensuite, Navin Ramgoolam a toujours voulu que Maurice garde des liens étroits non seulement avec l'Inde mais aussi avec la Chine. Peut-être donc cette rencontre Ramgoolam/Modi n'ira-t-elle pas au-delà des civilités d'usage, en termes de résultats concrets et de réalignement d'alliances.

Enfin, l'Inde a toujours souhaité avoir une certaine influence à Maurice quels que soient les dirigeants (et ce, même avec Paul Bérenger comme Premier ministre en 2003-2005). Peut-être certains à New Delhi s'interrogent-ils tout simplement: Et si Ramgoolam revenait un jour au pouvoir? En diplomatie, il ne faut jamais brûler tous les ponts!

**\* Sur le plan politique à Maurice, les choses restent bloquées. Il y a une grosse déception en ce qui concerne l'opposition qui n'est pas parvenue jusqu'ici à se présenter comme une alternative crédible et forte face au gouvernement de Pravind Jugnauth. Quelle analyse faites-vous de cette situation?**

L'Opposition désunie actuelle est, en effet, une énorme déception. Ce n'est pas tant le Gouvernement qui a le vent en poupe (bien au contraire) mais l'Opposition qui est faible, sans réelle vision alternative.

Avec le recul, aujourd'hui, on voit bien combien irréflective et mal pensée a été la tentative de forcer le retrait de Ramgoolam comme PM éventuel plus de trois ans avant les prochaines élections (autant dire une éternité en politique!). Cette maladresse a cassé le front commun de l'Opposition mais quel en est le résultat?

On vient de voir comment le facteur Ramgoolam a failli disparaître, il y a quelques semaines. On voit bien aujourd'hui que le Front de l'Espoir n'a pas de chef véritable, reconnu comme tel par tous. L'Opposition est dans une situation impossible. Le PTR occupe une position centrale. Sans le PTR et dans une lutte à trois ou quatre (PTR, Espoir, MSM, Linion de Laurette), toutes les cartes sont redistribuées et l'Espoir n'est pas du tout sûr de gagner de manière décisive.

L'Opposition est en panne. Et ce n'est pas une con-

## Sans le PTR et dans une lutte à trois ou quatre, l'Espoir n'est pas du tout sûr de gagner de manière décisive'

férence de presse hebdomadaire qui la redynamisera!

**\* La déception par rapport à l'opposition est encore plus grande en ce qui concerne le MMM. Après la démission des membres du Comité régional de Goodlands, Madun Dulloo est parti lui aussi. Certains militants de longue date, aujourd'hui déçus, disent que le parti est en total déphasage et que son leadership est emprisonné dans un vieux schéma... Le pensez-vous également?**

Le MMM est en train de devenir l'ombre de lui-même. Il subit une hémorragie constante et son implantation rurale s'effrite d'élection en élection, ce qui décourage ses soutiens ruraux et incite à la défection.

“Le PTR (s'il reste hors de l'Espoir), en permanence, va vouloir attirer à ses côtés son vieux partenaire, le PMSD. Bodha et Bhadain ne suffisent pas, de leur côté, pour que le MMM puisse rebondir en milieu rural car leur base est essentiellement urbaine. Comme Madun Dulloo, beaucoup de militants pourraient ne pas vouloir de Bodha comme Premier ministre éventuel. L'Espoir risque de devenir, au fil du temps, une véritable 'Tour de Babel'...”

Deux ans après sa troisième défaite électorale consécutive, le MMM ne s'est pas encore repensé, n'a pas changé de leader non plus. Au contraire, il a perdu depuis 2018 trois de ses chefs potentiels: Alan Ganoo, Steven Obeegadoo et Kavi Ramano. Il perd maintenant Dulloo, qui un temps était premier ministrable. Que se passe-t-il dans ce parti? Il est celui qui cristallise le plus les rancœurs; tous ses ténors l'abandonnent et, après 25 ou 40 ans de bons et loyaux services, ils n'ont droit à leur départ qu'à un sonore et choquant «Bon débarras!». Le MMM se distingue par une forme d'ingratitude surprenante. Qui ne voit pas que Dulloo s'en va parce que Bodha arrive! Qui ne sent pas que Bérenger mise désormais tout sur Bodha alors que ce dernier n'est même pas du MMM et est en train de rater son entrée?

**\* Ce qui vient compliquer les choses pour le MMM, c'est que la jeune génération de dirigeants du parti n'inspire pas confiance non plus parmi bon nombre de militants. Celle-ci est considérée comme étant «trop bourgeoise», paraît-il. Est-ce injuste, selon vous?**

Il ne faut pas être injuste envers les jeunes. Ils s'impliquent en politique, donnent de leur temps, et ce, souvent avec passion. Les jeunes du MMM croient sincèrement en Bérenger et le défendent bec et ongles. Or, c'est bien là le problème. Ils n'assument pas leur place, ils ont intériorisé la toute-puissance du leadership, ils ne travaillent pas assez sur le terrain et au sein des instances, ils ne s'imposent pas comme des figures nationales...

Autrefois, le MMM avait 10 ou 20 figures nationales reconnues comme telles (outre Paul Bérenger, les Cassam Uteem, Jayen Cuttaree, Jean-Claude de L'Estrac, Ramdath Jaddoo, Swaley Kasenally et autres Prem Nababsing). Aujourd'hui, le parti compte certainement des politiciens sincères mais il n'y a plus de grandes figures.

Voyez Joanna Bérenger : un bon élément, une personnalité sympathique, une ambition saine. Mais elle est en train de devenir la députée d'un seul thème: l'écologie. Il lui faut dépasser ce terrain, aller vers la politique

nationale, l'économie, renforcer sa carapace, aller au combat. Dans la jungle sans pitié qu'est la politique mauricienne, où les coups volent bas, où toutes les ruses sont permises, où se battent sauvagement de grands fauves aux mille cicatrices, «being a nice girl is not good enough!»

**\* Par ailleurs, comment se porte l'Entente de l'Espoir, de votre point de vue, avec l'apport de Nando Bodha et de Roshi Bhadain, et quel va être son impact en tant que force politique dans les prochaines années?**

L'Alliance de l'Espoir est une coalition disparate que seul cimente la volonté de faire partir Pravind Jugnauth et le MSM. C'est un «Anybody but Jugnauth...!», un 'patchwork' d'intérêts divers. Tiendra-t-elle la distance, sans chef incontesté?

Je crois que Navin Ramgoolam est prêt à tout saborder s'il ne dirige pas personnellement cette coalition. Avec un fort apport musulman renforçant sa bonne base hindoue dans les villes, le PTR peut objectivement faire mieux que L'Espoir MMM-PMSD-Bodha-Bhadain aux prochaines municipales; et c'est là toute la stratégie de Ramgoolam: forcer le ralliement de tout ce qui n'est pas MSM autour de lui. Autrement, il provoque la défaite de tout le monde.

Nando Bodha ne s'est pas encore imposé et, en refusant de provoquer une élection partielle dans la foulée de sa démission du Gouvernement pour revenir en force, il a un peu raté son entrée dans l'Opposition. Quant à Roshi Bhadain, il est efficace et éloquent mais il est très vulnérable car beaucoup d'électeurs de l'Opposition n'oublient pas son passé.

Xavier Duval fait un bon Leader de l'Opposition et un rassembleur de celle-ci. Mais son parti est plus proche du PTR que du MMM et, en plus, les sirènes du MSM chantent constamment dans les oreilles des partisans PMSD, leur rappelant qu'il fut un temps où le PMSD au pouvoir pouvait leur procurer emplois, privilèges et avantages alors qu'aujourd'hui...

“Nando Bodha ne s'est pas encore imposé et, en refusant de provoquer une élection partielle dans la foulée de sa démission du Gouvernement pour revenir en force, il a un peu raté son entrée dans l'Opposition. Quant à Roshi Bhadain, il est efficace et éloquent mais il est très vulnérable car beaucoup d'électeurs de l'Opposition n'oublient pas son passé...”

L'Alliance de l'Espoir doit donc d'urgence se souder, se définir comme une force de propositions et clarifier rapidement ses positions face au PTR avant de repartir à la conquête de l'électorat.

**\* Toutefois, il est évident - et les leaders du MMM et du PMSD respectivement en sont sans doute conscients - que gagner les élections, sans l'apport du PTR, pourrait s'avérer hors de leur portée. Il faudra donc se mettre d'accord sur la question du leadership de l'Entente, tôt ou tard?**

Je ne pense pas que le PMSD et le MMM aillent au-delà d'une entente tactique et limitée dans le temps.

● Suite en page 9

# 'La situation politique mauricienne est absolument bloquée et elle ne pourra pas se débloquer tant que Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Béranger restent en poste'

● Suite de la page 8

Ces deux partis sont devenus essentiellement des partis urbains et, avec Bruno Laurette entre leurs pattes désormais, ils se disputent un électorat particulier. Or, non seulement ceci affaiblit-il objectivement ces partis en les divisant mais une telle union Duval/Béranger/Laurette fait le jeu de Pravind Jugnauth en milieu hindou : il agitera l'image toujours infecte d'une 'menace', appelant au rassemblement.

La situation de L'Espoir est donc extrêmement compliquée. Le PTR (s'il reste hors de l'Espoir), en permanence, va vouloir attirer à ses côtés son vieux partenaire, le PMSD. Bodha et Bhadain ne suffisent pas, de leur côté, pour que le MMM puisse rebondir en milieu rural car leur base est essentiellement urbaine. Comme Madun Dulloo, beaucoup de militants pourraient ne pas vouloir de Bodha comme Premier ministre éventuel. L'Espoir risque de devenir, au fil du temps, une véritable 'Tour de Babel'.

**\* Le gouvernement s'est attelé, ces derniers 18 mois, à combattre la Covid-19 tant sur le plan médical qu'économique. On ne sait pas si l'action gouvernementale est dictée par les sondages, mais toutes ses initiatives semblent être bien réfléchies et surtout dictées par des considérations politiques, ce qui ira en s'accroissant à l'approche des prochaines élections législatives. Quelle lecture faites-vous de la stratégie du MSM et de son leader?**

Même s'il est très sévèrement critiqué, le Gouvernement a, à son crédit, de nombreuses initiatives réussies et porteuses à long terme.

Ce qu'il faut bien comprendre pour cerner le personnage et la stratégie de Pravind Jugnauth, c'est qu'il est - par nature - très différent de Sir Anerood et il exerce le pouvoir de manière fort différente.

D'abord, SAJ réagissait souvent avec beaucoup d'émotion et de précipitation. Pravind Jugnauth est plus silencieux et cérébral ; il affiche moins ses sentiments et ses plans, il écoute mais n'entend pas vraiment au fond ce que lui disent ses interlocuteurs et il change rarement d'idées.

Pravind pense et respire la politique matin et soir. Davantage que son père, il est toujours dans le 'management of public opinion'. Il évalue presque tout en termes de gains et de pertes politiques et il agit en conséquence. Il privilégie en permanence les amis du MSM et ne se soucie pas trop de ce que pensent ses ennemis ou ceux qui ne votent pas pour lui.

Dans sa définition de stratégies politiques, Pravind Jugnauth est aussi très différent de SAJ. Sir Anerood, sachant autrefois que le MSM était plus faible que le MMM et le PTR, préparait ou faisait souvent de grandes coalitions en se ménageant un ou plusieurs alliés forts. Mais il gardait le contrôle absolu du gouvernement de par sa position de Premier ministre: le PTR en 1983 et en 1987 ; le MMM en 1991, en 2000 et en 2005 ; le PMSD en 1983, en 1987 et en 2014.

Pravind Jugnauth, lui, en 2019, a fait en sorte que le MSM devienne le premier parti du pays et il a gagné le pouvoir sans grand parti comme son allié. Sa stratégie a été de gagner seul et à tout prix le 'Hindu Belt' (les circonscriptions 5 à 13), et ce, en grappillant des sièges d'alliés régionaux forts dans d'autres circonscriptions (Alan Ganoo à Rivière Noire, Steven Obeegadoo à Curepipe, Kavi Ramano à Quatre-Bornes, Ivan Collendavelloo à Rose-Hill, etc).

Sa victoire de 2019, dans ce scénario d'un seul grand parti gagnant une élection (la première depuis 1959), a



**“Tous ses ténors l'abandonnent et, après 25 ou 40 ans de bons et loyaux services, ils n'ont droit à leur départ qu'à un sonore et choquant «Bon débarras!». Le MMM se distingue par une forme d'ingratitude surprenante. Qui ne voit pas que Dulloo s'en va parce que Bodha arrive! Qui ne sent pas que Béranger mise désormais tout sur Bodha alors que ce dernier n'est même pas du MMM et est en train de rater son entrée?”**

changé la donne, prouvant qu'il est possible de gagner sans grand allié à ses côtés. Pravind Jugnauth veut rééditer le coup en 2024, sachant que ni le PTR ni le MMM ne voudront s'engager dans une coalition avec lui.

Le Premier ministre travaille donc à sa victoire de 2024 avec en ligne de mire, l'objectif de battre Navin Ramgoolam dans le 'Hindu Belt' une troisième fois; il va s'entourer de technocrates et de professionnels venus de la classe moyenne hindoue, il va attirer le PMSD et conserver les Ganoo/Obeegadoo/Ramano, etc., en visant non pas une majorité des suffrages mais toujours une majorité de sièges parlementaires et, enfin, il va laisser le MMM se dissoudre dans la plaine au fil du temps. Jusqu'ici cette tactique a été politiquement payante.

L'ironie de la situation, c'est que le PTR s'en inspire également aujourd'hui. Au cas où une grande coalition de l'Opposition ne se concrétiserait pas, Navin Ramgoolam songe lui aussi à ramener à ses côtés le PMSD, à devenir le challenger direct du MSM dans le 'Hindu Belt' et à grappiller quelques sièges dans les villes grâce à la contribution de leaders régionaux musulmans, quitte à prendre le risque de diviser les voix.

On dira qu'il resterait au MSM de s'allier au MMM. Mais voit-on vraiment le MMM sauter dans la galère MSM avec l'impopularité du Gouvernement, ce qui risque de se prolonger avec la poursuite de la Covid et la crise économique qu'elle provoque dans son sillage?

**\* Pourquoi le PTR et le MMM ne peuvent-ils pas s'entendre pour proposer une vraie alternative?**

Pour la même raison qu'en 2019! Le PTR ne veut plus s'alourdir et trainer avec lui le MMM et Béranger. Cela ferait le jeu de Pravind Jugnauth dans le 'Hindu Belt'. Les partisans MMM accepteraient à la limite un PTR boolelliste

mais ne veulent plus de Ramgoolam qui, depuis 1995, ne fait que les rouler dans la farine. C'est extrêmement compliqué.

**\* Faut-il conclure que la situation politique est donc irrémédiablement bloquée?**

La situation politique mauricienne est absolument bloquée et elle ne pourra pas se débloquer tant que Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Béranger restent en poste. Or, non seulement restent-ils en place deux ans après les élections mais rien, ni personne ne peut les obliger à partir. Cela aussi, je l'ai toujours dit: Ramgoolam et Béranger partiront seulement quand ils le voudront et pas sous pression. Plus on leur dira de partir, plus ils resteront.

Ces deux leaders sont d'un orgueil incommensurable, à peine croyable. Ils détestent la contradiction et sont rancuniers à l'extrême. Ceux qui ne comprennent pas cela ne comprennent rien du tout à la politique mauricienne. Nous sommes définitivement dans l'impasse!

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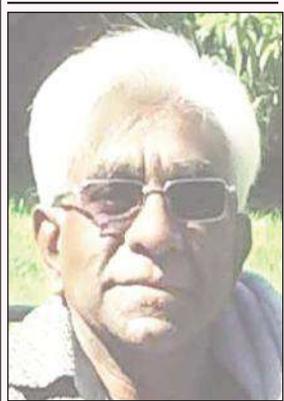
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Dr Rajagopal Soondron

# Hero of That Memorable Night



Pic - Vintage Mauritius

**I**t all happened after sunset, before the closure of the Chinese shop at 7 pm. That night reserved for us children an exceptional surprise; now more than 60 years later, as grown-ups, we can only compare notes to concoct as near a true story about what transpired that weekend.

There were about 10 to 15 of us in a joint family living under the same roof. The ladies were still busy at the back, in the kitchen, while we children, having dropped our school bags with utmost relief in a corner of some room 12 hours earlier, were all tuned to the jovial family atmosphere of that day, which only a 1950s Saturday night could gratify us with. There was an air of bonhomie, of complete relaxation for one and all at our colonial styled house.

## The Unexpected

But suddenly the semblance of peace prevailing at 8 Pasteur Street, Beau Bassin, was shattered by a commotion under the verandah. Not that our house was a quiet place, but a commotion it was, completely out of tune with our relaxed mood. It turned out that some of the girls would have been the target of one of the juveniles of the joint family - whom nowadays we would have classified as a hyperactive kid.

The story is that he would have teased some of his elders to tears, and vocal retaliation stirred a hornet's nest under our verandah - with pandemonium about to break loose.

All that shook the head of the family out of his stupor, forcing him to be aroused from the effect of his long tiresome day's work. And he acted swiftly to bring peace in his mansion - by punishing the young boy whose hyperactivity, most conspicuous, gave him away. Still, to this day, none of us can remember clearly how it all started and what the truth was. But surprisingly things moved

very fast and our sixth sense warned us that something unexpected was about to happen.

## The Night Trip

We were astonished to see our father gathering the weeping, crying junior in his arms - the very one he just administered some juicy one with a cane; none of us had memory of such displays of affection and attention by Dad. Was it love or pity? Unlike the ladies in the family, we never saw Dad so demonstrative in his feelings.

And the best was yet to come, for we were dumbfounded to see him heading towards the road with the child. We trotted along hesitatingly behind the him as he made his way south, leaving us children confused and with undefined expectations. Did he utter that melodious soothing refrain - "Let's go to the shop"? Most probably not; it was never like him to reveal his hand prematurely.

Difficult to say what was simmering in our children's brains at that time, for we were witnessing a completely out-of-the-ordinary event in our lives. It was as if Dad, totally transformed, was under a stage limelight - and we children were his audience - in a sort of limbo, giving him a half standing ovation on that dark, moonless, starry night. So, we sheepishly trotted along.

Overjoyed, we soon found ourselves at Papa Amoy's shop at the crossroads between Pasteur Street and Colonel Maingard Road.

In those days the shopkeepers liked to stay on the right side of the law - and pull down the shutters by 7 pm; no question of

breaking the law and risking the revocation of their license. But it was Saturday, the only day of the week the people could look forward to for complete relaxation. We could hear the glee and good humour in the vociferous small crowd in the shop; some calling out to Papa Amoy's elder son, Markou, to attend to their requests for rice, match boxes, Tomato Pilchard cans or 5 cents of "poison salé". Everyone was in a hurry to go back to their close ones.

For us children it was almost a fairy tale unfolding in front of us -- there was the joy of shopping at night and watching Dad around carrying our crying, tear-stained face, apprehensive Junior. Suddenly our astonishment knew no bounds as our mouths started to water as we noticed Dad pointing to one of those wonderful baked biscuits packets behind the glass partition. We children gazed at each other with pleasurable expectation. Was it not the very

same sweetmeat that a well-wisher at home would gift us on some rare visits?

Oh yes, that was a night of many firsts: Dad could not have surpassed himself, and to top it all Sunday was round the corner, when our psyche was most receptive to such surprises -- and our memory bank was ready to store those unexpected paternal feats.

However, to be fair to our old man we must say that he himself had had a very tough childhood; starting to work in the cane fields at a tender age he realized that life was not a bed of roses; so, going shopping to humour the kids with some biscuits was never part of his agenda - more so as he had a family of 9 to care for in the 50s.

## Extrapolating

Up to now we have kept a certain special blurred view of that night -- for some of us have a feeling that on that dark night Dad went out without his usual long khaki trousers; so, what was he wearing? Shorts or his 'Lamoresse' covered by a long shirt? As women were never seen on the road at night in those days so maybe he was less careful of his sartorial outfit. This along with his recent honourable actions could have been possible on that occasion only if he was far from sober. Had he been he would have surely sent us all to our school homework; the junior would have missed a hard lesson in his tender years and this present narrative would have been lost to posterity.

Maybe he was back from work early after a few drinks with his buddies; and after dinner - when still under the soporific, mellowing effect of Bacchus - he was faced by a mischievous little boy. So, fate, the magician scenarist of that night, plotted the scene to tickle our children's fairy mind to the extreme.

Oh, we remember little of our trip back home. And the funny thing was that none of us has any recollection of any biscuit feast at home. Dad's unexpected performance had by itself outshone and overruled that gustatory memory that should have been more wonderful by itself.

From that day on, we would still be smiling when throwing our mind back, thinking of that tragicomic night tinged with unalloyed fun. Many of us chatted about it for weeks and wished secretly and sadistically that our Junior could have similar corporal misadventures every now and then so as to elicit similar benevolent reactions from the head of the family.

Regretfully we have to admit that it was wishful thinking; it was too optimistic on our part to expect our father to fall for the same scenario a second time. May be on his side he had some secret misgivings about his yester night's softness - so foreign to his disciplined family agenda.

To this day, we have lived happily with that memorable night of the 50s. But there still lingers the regret that we were never gratified by another such Saturday Night Fever.





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# The next Pandora Papers exposé is inevitable

● Cont. from page 2

But as juicy as these stories are, we should not be distracted from the systemic issues that lead to the wealthy using offshore legal entities and accounts. It's not always nefarious or illicit.

## Protecting assets

In the Pandora Papers are arrangements that, with incomplete information, may appear suspect but may be quite legitimate.

An example might be the 81 trust structures established in the US state of South Dakota and at least 100 more in various other US states where trust disclosures, especially about beneficial ownership, are not mandatory. To properly assess these transactions, we really need more information.

The use of complex business structures, involving countries with high levels of secrecy, may be done to facilitate tax avoidance. But it might also be "asset protection".

## Weak property rights

In countries with weak property rights and unreliable judicial systems, even those who accrue wealth legitimately can fear losing it.



Pic - yahoo.com

Consider, for example, the case of China's billionaire actress and singer Zhao Wei, who in August was "erased from history", or Jack Ma, China's richest man until he criticised financial regulators last year.

This creates a demand for assets held in other countries (preferably secretly) and a legal system that protects ownership of those assets. It also likely explains why 3.3 million of the 6.9 million documents in this latest leak relate to offices located in Hong Kong.

An analysis of these documents recognising the relative strength of property rights in the countries where individuals, or their businesses, are based would be interesting - and not just as an "academic" exercise.

In many countries, particularly developing countries, weak property rights contribute to lack of capital for economic development by creating incentives for the legitimately wealthy to use offshore accounts and assets.

This suggests a critical need to enhance property rights in these countries.

Weak legal systems also facilitate wealth accumulation through corruption or exploitation.

## Unfinished business

Five years ago, when discussing the revelations from the Panama Papers, we suggested the first thing the global community needed to do was require the public disclosure of country-by-country reporting of company tax affairs by all tax authorities. This idea (known as CbCR) emerged from OECD and G20 recommendations made about the time of the Luxembourg Leaks in 2014.

About 100 countries have adopted the CbCR policy, at least in part. The problem is that in too many cases - such as Australia and the US - the disclosures are only to the

tax authority, not to the public.

In 2017 we also recommended all countries have public registers of beneficial ownership of all entities.

There has also been some progress on this. Significant pressure has been applied to tax havens or secrecy jurisdictions such as the Bahamas and Switzerland. But more is needed.

In Australia, for example, the Paradise Papers led to the government floating the idea of a public register of beneficial ownership, but this was shut down soon after. In the US, states such as Delaware and South Dakota are still "secrecy jurisdictions".

Some progress has been made in making tax havens and secrecy jurisdictions more transparent. But many would say the progress has been mainly benefited wealthy countries, helping them increase tax revenue and to be seen to be doing something to fight corruption, while still allowing corruption to flourish in poorer nations.

Until countries such as the US and Australia embrace the reforms that have been on the table since LuxLeaks, expect further document leaks with similar results in the next five years.

**Roman Lanis & Peter Wells**  
University of Technology Sydney

## Programme des Courses

### 26è journée samedi 9 octobre 2021

1 THE STOCK MARKET PLATE 1400 m - Valeur [0-15] - 12h30					
1 What A Kid	RG	6-3-6-4-8	60.5	J.Allyhosain	4 650
2 Midnight Messenger	SPN	6/3-3-8-1	59.5	G.D.Aucharuz	3 400
3 Arctic Flyer	SPN	3-5-7-8-3	58.5	R.Vaibhav	5 1200
4 Hit The Green	RM	6-7-4-3-10	57	P.C.Orffer	8 550
5 Northern Rebel	JMH	3-8-1-8-5	57	B.Sooful	6 2500
6 Greatfiveeight	CD	4-9-2-1-10	56	S.Rama	2 500
7 New Golden Age	P	9-4/8-5-6	55	K.Ramsamy	7 800
8 Sarah's Secret	CR	5/6-2-3-10	55	P.K.Horil	1 400
2 THE BESSIE SURTEES PLATE 1650 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 13h05					
1 Star Of Zeus	PM	3-5-4-3-2	60(-3)	A.Roy	6 600
2 Romanus	G	3-5/3-4-5	59.5	S.Bussunt	1 1000
3 Stageworld	P	0-0-6-2-1	59.5	G.D.Aucharuz	4 400
4 Eurotec	RM	0-1-8-3-1	59	P.C.Orffer	8 550
5 Free To Win	SH	0-4-4-1-2	59	I.Santana	3 240
6 Grand Vision	G	0-1-7-3-3	59	B.Sooful	7 700
7 Quest For Good	P	0-0-0-6-9	58	K.Ramsamy	2 1000
8 Overdose	AS	2-8-1-5-9	57.5	S.Rama	5 4000
3 THE VERDOT PLATE 990 m - Valeur Benchmark 46 - 13h40					
1 Henry Tudor	CD	6-9/9-6-1	61.5(-3)	M.Sonaram	6 400
2 Juniper Lane	SM	0-2-2-1-5	61	J.Allyhosain	4 470
3 Captainofthesea	RG	3-5-5-5/4	60	K.Ramsamy	1 800
4 Mac 'N Scar	SH	8/3-1-3-2	60	I.Santana	8 400
5 Gang Leader	AS	0-0-0-8-6	59	S.Rama	10 1600
6 Senatla	CR	3-8-3/4-4	59	P.Mogun	2 8000
7 Nevil Mu	GR	0-0-0-10-4	58.5	N.Teeha	3 2000
8 Go Jewel	VA	1-1-1-1-2	56.5	B.Sooful	9 330
9 Ninotto	RG	2-5/3-5-5	56.5(-3)	A.Roy	7 1300
10 Waimea	JMH	0-7-7-7-6	54.5	R.K.Chumun	5 5000

4 THE PERFECT WARRIOR PLATE 1650 m - Valeur Benchmark 51 - 14h15					
1 Colour My Fate	AS	0-2-2-1-2	61	S.Rama	3 190
2 Arabian Air	CR	6-4/5-6-8	60.5	P.K.Horil	5 3300
3 Double The Fun	G	0-0-0-0-9	60.5	K.Ramsamy	1 4000
4 Sea Dance	CD	4/4-1-5-1	60(-3)	M.Sonaram	9 800
5 Culture Trip	SN	0-1-1-7-7	59.5	D.Bheekary	7 900
6 Cyber Special	GR	3-1/1-2-2	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	6 700
7 Duke's Domain	RG	3-2/5-1-2	59.5	B.Sooful	4 330
8 Rock The Night	SM	0-0-0-6-6	59	J.Allyhosain	8 2500
9 Lemon Drop Shot	P	4-8/4-8-6	57	G.D.Aucharuz	2 1800
5 THE MAXIME BOULLE CUP 1365 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 - 14h50					
1 Captain Garrett	GR	1-1-2-2-1	60	B.Sooful	2 250
2 Alaskan Night	AS	0-0-0-0-7	59.5	S.Rama	1 900
3 Bless My Path	CD	0-0-0-6-2	59.5	D.Bheekary	4 220
4 Jays Dancer	SM	0-0-0-0-7	59.5	P.K.Horil	7 1600
5 Soul Connection	SPN	0-6-7-5-8	59.5	R.Vaibhav	6 2500
6 Bold Phoenix	SJ	4-2-7-5-5	58.5(-3)	A.Roy	3 550
7 Clouded Hill	JMH	8-7-5-6-9	57	K.Ramsamy	5 2500
6 THE NORBERT POUPARD CUP 1450 m - Valeur Benchmark 56 - 15h25					
1 Ideal Secret	RM	1/3-6-8-6	61	P.C.Orffer	5 1000
2 Tower Of Wisdom	GR	6/4-3-2-3	60.5(-3)	A.Roy	4 550
3 Noir's Boy	SJ	0-0-0-8-8	60	N.Teeha	6 1600
4 Seattle Kid	CD	6-3-1-2-3	60	S.Rama	9 800
5 Your Pace Or Mine	SN	nouveau	60	D.Bheekary	2 900
6 Wave	G	A-7-A/4-6	59.5	S.Bussunt	8 3500
7 Pop Icon	SPN	7-R-10-6-9	57.5	R.Vaibhav	1 2700
8 Walls Of Dubrovnik	SH	0-1-1-1-1	57.5	I.Santana	7 160
9 The It Factor	SM	0-0-0-10-6	56.5	B.Sooful	3 3000

7 THE RAM RUHEE OBE MEMORIAL TROPHY 990 m - Valeur [50+] - 16h00					
1 Horse Guards	CD	6/5-1/4-2	61(-3)	S.Rama	4 600
2 Marauding	G	6/2-8-3-4	58.5	N.Teeha	2 400
3 Rob Roy	VA	1-3/2-1-2	57.5	A.Roy	3 210
4 Var And Away	SN	0-0-8-8-2	54	B.Sooful	6 650
5 We Light The Fire	CR	0-0-7-4-8	53	P.C.Orffer	1 2000
6 Al Bragga	G	0-0-0-3-2	52	R.Vaibhav	7 500
7 Creation	SPN	0-9-7-5-10	52	I.Santana	5 3500
8 THE OLD TRAFFORD PLATE 1365 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 - 16h35					
1 Jet Stream	AS	7/1-10-6-8	60.5	S.Rama	4 3000
2 Steak And Ale	GR	4-6/2-7-6	60.5	N.Teeha	2 900
3 Alameery	SJ	8-4-2-1-2	59(-3)	A.Roy	3 700
4 Thomas Henry	G	2-1/1-3-1	59	B.Sooful	6 400
5 Dark Force	RM	1/8-3-8-3	58.5	P.C.Orffer	1 700
6 Captains Fort	SPN	0-0-0-3-7	58	R.Vaibhav	7 3000
7 Emblem of Hope	SH	0-0-0-1-1	56	I.Santana	5 170
9 THE MR BROCK PLATE 1650 m - Valeur [0-25] - 17h10					
1 Middle Path	RG	5/7-7-2-4	60	J.Allyhosain	5 500
2 Al Madhar	GR	0-0-4-4-7	59.5	N.Teeha	9 1100
3 Gontravelin	CR	0-2-3-2-4	59.5	P.K.Horil	2 400
4 Italian Way	VA	5-3-4-5-6	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	7 700
5 Silver Song	CD	2-1/5-5-11	59.5	S.Rama	8 1600
6 Aissakhra	G	4/3-8-3-5	59	K.Ramsamy	11 2000
7 Eagles Vision	SPN	6-3-2-1-2	59	R.Vaibhav	1 400
8 Supreme Elevation	JMH	0-7-9-6-9	59	B.Sooful	6 5000
9 Bethanthherest	SJ	0-6-7-8-8	58.5	T.Juglall	3 2000
10 Brooklyn's Choice	SH	0-0-8-7-10	58.5	I.Santana	4 600
11 Arnica Montana[EA]	SN	0-0-7-R-3	58.5	-----	10 -----

## Selections

- Sarah's Secret, Midnight Messenger, Greatfiveeight
- Free To Win, Eurotec, Grand Vision
- Go Jewel, Mac 'N Scar, Juniper Lane
- Colour My Fate, Cyber Special, Duke's Domain
- Bless My Path, Captain Garrett, Bold Phoenix
- Walls Of Dubrovnik, Tower Of Wisdom, Seattle Kid
- Rob Roy, Marauding, Horse Guards
- Emblem of Hope, Thomas Henry, Alameery
- Eagles Vision, Gontravelin, Italian Way

# When will I need my Covid vaccine booster shot?

*And can I switch to a different brand?*

**W**e need to get two doses of vaccine into as many adults as possible — firstly because that helps reduce severity of illness and infection, but also because reaching vaccination targets is likely to bring some new freedoms.

The COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca) continue to be highly effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalisation and death, even against the Delta variant.

But as soon as we finish one vaccine rollout we may need to begin the next rollout of booster doses.

## When will I need my booster shot?

First, we need to differentiate between a booster dose and a third dose as part of the initial round of vaccinations. They are two very different things.

Some people who are immunosuppressed might need a third dose as part of their primary Covid-19 vaccination schedule. In other words, their third dose comes not long after their second dose and is given to improve their initial protection.

A booster shot is given much later after the initial two dose round of shots. A good example is the way we give tetanus and whooping cough booster vaccines.

There's a great explainer on who might need a third dose as part of their primary vaccination schedule over here.

For the rest of us, we don't know for sure when you will need a booster shot. You'll read lots of different figures on this — six months, eight months, more — and that's because the research is ongoing. We don't yet have a definite answer to the best timing for a booster dose.

Pfizer recently announced its research had shown a booster dose resulted an increase in antibodies against the initial virus as well as against the highly infectious Delta variant. These results are awaiting publication and the safety of the booster dose needs to be known. The European regulator (known as the European Medicines Agency) has also started to evaluate an application for the use of a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

We know that there is a decline in antibodies after the primary course and some evidence of waning protection against infection.

In a recent letter to 'The New England Journal of Medicine', published online earlier this month, doctors and public health experts at University of California San Diego said their data suggested vaccine effectiveness against any symptomatic disease may wane over time since vaccination:

*'Vaccine effectiveness exceeded 90% from March through June but fell to 65.5% [...] in July.'*

Over time, data will emerge on immune



AAP/DANIEL POCKETT

responses and safety after a booster dose.

It may be that booster doses are particularly needed for certain groups in our community — for example, older people or frontline workers. There is also discussion of whether severely immunosuppressed people should get a booster dose from around six months after their third primary dose.

The US is planning to make COVID booster shots widely available to Americans from September onwards, starting eight months after people's second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

The US booster plan is dependent on the Food and Drug Administration determining that a third dose of the two-dose vaccines is safe and effective, and following advice from the Centers for Disease Control.

Israel's booster rollout has begun, with people there becoming eligible for a booster five months after their second dose.

The European Centre for Disease

Prevention and Control recently said that there is

*no urgent need for the administration of booster doses of vaccines to fully vaccinated individuals in the general population.*

## Can we mix and match, by getting a different brand of vaccine for the booster?

We don't yet know for sure.

There may be benefits to getting a different vaccine to the one you first got as a booster. We also know that new vaccines designed specifically to target novel variants are in development and it may be better to receive a booster of a variant-specific vaccine.

It will be worth keeping a close eye on a key trial by the UK-based COV-BOOST group, which is aiming to find out which vaccines against COVID-19 are most effective as a booster vaccination, depending on which vaccine was used to provide the initial primary vaccine course.

This study will give us good information

on whether it will be better to get a booster shot that is the same brand as your primary dose, or whether to switch to another.

For example, should a person who initially got Pfizer for their first two doses get an AstraZeneca shot for their booster? Or vice versa? Or should they get a booster of a new variant vaccine?

A trial is underway in the US looking at the safety and immune responses of using a different booster vaccine to the first two doses, but also includes a Beta (B.1.351) variant vaccine.

It's possible mixing and matching different vaccines might broaden your protection — but the research is ongoing, and it's too early to say.

## For now, the priority is getting the two doses into arms

Monitoring of the effectiveness of the Covid vaccines will continue, particularly against the delta variant and any new variants that emerge.

Trials are also underway of the safety and immune responses to a variety of different booster vaccines, including the next generation variant vaccines.

*The World Health Organization said in August: 'In the context of ongoing global vaccine supply constraints, administration of booster doses will exacerbate inequities by driving up demand and consuming scarce supply while priority populations in some countries, or subnational settings, have not yet received a primary vaccination series.'*

*The focus for the time being remains on increasing global vaccination coverage with the primary series.*

Claire Madigan & Henrietta Graham,  
Loughborough University

## Air Mauritius: Flying Towards the Next Bailout

● Cont. from page 4

Privatization at this stage would in any event be a premature mistake which would come at a steep discount. It is also unlikely that approaching the local equity market for equity funding would yield positive results given the performance history of the stock. Only the government or the MIC could at this stage be in a position to properly recapitalize the company and provide it with enough financial strength in order to restructure itself. If the MIC can bail out the private sector while banks remain profitable and well capitalized with poorly structured convertible bonds (and overpriced land purchases of companies which have been known to be in the red for ages) taking on the bulk of the credit risk with little to near zero dilution potential for majority shareholders,

then there is a much stronger case to be made for the bailing out of the national airline company.

It also appears like the government will be creating a holding company which will own various entities such as Air Mauritius and the Airport of Mauritius Ltd. Cross subsidies may bring some additional funds to Air Mauritius but Mauritius is no Dubai and no Singapore. While many have focused on the recent nomination of the CEO of the holding, the reality is that control rests firmly within the hands of the Prime Minister and his inside circle. The debate on competence is secondary.

Past Prime Ministers have always maintained a degree of control over key institutions in a country where job alternatives are few and far between and where

patronage politics thrives but over centralization of decision making at the expense of technocracy has been especially pronounced over the past few years. For Air Mauritius to have a fighting chance, we should put the best brains we have behind it, put more equity funding, let the brains formulate, debate and finalize a government approved strategy, establish key performance indicators with the approval of the Board and for the rest, keep politicians out of the running of the company.

Doing what we usually do in Mauritius will only lead to more bailouts. The question is, where will the money for the next bailout come from?

Sameer Sharma



Laughter  
is  
the **BEST**  
Medicine

## Four Annas

In the late fifties the first Italian restaurant was opened in Bombay. The waitresses were handpicked for their beauty. Many men flocked to this restaurant not because for the food but to ogle the beautiful waitresses.

On the opening day a rich but a miser drove up in his posh car. He picked a table served by one of the prettiest girls. She served him a full course dinner and was looking forward to a good tip.

However, the guy put just four Annas (it was the days of Rupees, Annas and Paise) in the plate as tip.

She was furious and picking up the tip told him with the four Annas she could tell him something about him.

She said: "The first Anna tells me you are a rich man."

He said: "Fairly rich."

"The second Anna tells me you are fond of good food."

He said, "Yes, you are right; that was the reason I came to this restaurant."

She then said: "The third Anna tells me you are a bachelor."

He said: "You guessed right. What

does the fourth Anna tell you?"

She said: "The fourth Anna tells me that your father was a bachelor too."

\*\*\*

When I phoned my employee to find out why she hadn't come to the office, I expected to hear a sob story about how sick she was, blah, blah, blah.

Instead, her excuse was pretty plausible.

"When I was driving to work, I took a wrong turn," she explained. "And then I just decided to keep going."

\*\*\*

I've heard every excuse from co-workers for missing a day of work. But this one actually sounded legit.

"What's wrong?" I asked a woman who called in.

"Are you sick?" "No," she said. "I can't find a cute pair of shoes to wear."

\*\*\*

Asked about the kind of job he wanted, an applicant at our tax management com-



pany stated, "I seek full authority but limited responsibility."

\*\*\*

"What starting salary are you looking for?" the head of human resources asks the newly graduated engineer at the end of a job interview.

Going for it, the guy says, "Well, sir, I was thinking about \$125,000, depending on the benefits package."

"Okay," the HR director says. "How about five weeks' vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, 100% company match for your 401(k) and a Porsche for your company car?"

The engineer gasps and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" "Yeah," he replies. "But you started it."

### Les subtilités de la langue française

Une vieille demoiselle se présente chez un notaire pour enregistrer l'acte de l'achat de sa maison récemment acquise. Le notaire l'invite à s'installer, appelle son clerc et lui demande textuellement :

"Veuillez, s'il vous plait, ouvrir la chemise de mademoiselle, examiner son affaire, et si les règles ne s'y opposent pas, faite une décharge pour qu'elle entre en jouissance immédiate."

On a toujours pas rattrapé la vieille fille.

\*\*\*

### You're going to die!

A wife accompanies her poorly husband to see the doctor. After the check up



the doctor asks to have a quiet word with the wife. He tells her that her husband is in a really poor way and unless she does the following her husband will surely die...

"Firstly, you must make him a healthy breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Try to be pleasant and make sure he stays in a good mood. Don't ask him to do chores around the house. Allow him to relax in front of the TV with a glass of his favourite brew each day. Make love to him daily and satisfy his every whim. If you follow these instructions carefully for 2 to 3 months your husband should make a full recovery."

Back in the car on the way home, the husband asks what it was that the doctor said to his wife.

"Oh", she replies "You're going to die".

## Life's Lessons

# A Serious Warning for Air Travellers

If you travel by air a lot, beware of over friendly chatty seat neighbours.

The older lady comes and sits next to me inside the plane. She asked me to help her put her bag in the overhead luggage compartment. But a gentleman sitting across quickly came through.

Immediately she sits down she strikes up a conversation. She was very pleasant and well spoken. So we chatted all through the flight to Dubai.

Suddenly, when the pilot announced that we were now proceeding to begin our descent into Dubai International Airport (DXB), my good friend 'developed' stomach pains. Me with my good heart, I called for the stewardess; I told her my seat mate was not feeling well. And this lady, she suddenly began to address me as 'my daughter'. The stewardess told me that there was nothing they could do except give her some painkillers and wait until we landed. The pilot announced that we had a medical emergency on board and advised us all to stay calm. My new friend was crying and sweating like crazy. And she refused to let go of my hand... everyone assumed we knew each other.

So we landed at DXB and the same gentleman who helped put up her luggage in the overhead compartment removed her luggage. But as he removed the luggage, he advised me to distance myself from this lady and make it clear to the cabin crew that we were NOT travelling

together. He was a godsend!

So indeed, the cabin crew came and asked me if we were related, I categorically told them we had met on the plane. I didn't know her at all. So we began to deplane and as I said goodbye she kept begging me to carry her handbag. I was so torn... but the gentleman looked me in the eye and emphatically shook his head. He passed me a note telling me to let the cabin crew handle her.

So I exit the aircraft and leave my 'new friend' to wait for the wheelchair and be handled by the cabin crew feeling very guilty.

As we waited for our luggage to come through, I heard this commotion. My 'new friend' was running, trying to escape the cabin crew, having gotten out of the wheelchair! She left the stewardess with her handbag and just ran towards the exit with the rest of her hand luggage! Luckily the airport police were faster than her. They got hold of her and brought her back in handcuffs.

This lady starts calling out to me, my daughter, my daughter! how could you do this to me, that's when I caught on. She was carrying drugs and she was trying to implicate me!

Luckily for me, the gentleman who had helped her with her luggage came forward and told the airport police that me and her had just met on the plane. The police took my passport and asked her to reveal my full names if it was true we were travelling together. By God's grace, I had not even told her my first name! I was still asked to follow the police to a little room where I was questioned extensively. Where did I meet her? Where did I board? Etc... And my luggage was extensively searched and dusted for fingerprints.

They dusted all her luggage and my fingerprints were

not found anywhere on her luggage or on her handbag!

I was let go with advice never ever to touch anyone's luggage either in flight or at the airport.

So from that day, your luggage is your problem...that has become my policy. And if you can't reach the overhead compartment, and I am the nearest person, please call the cabin crew because all I will do is give you a blank stare and then look away!





## Relationships

# Signs Your Partner Is Cheating

**C**heating, also known as infidelity, is when a person in a monogamous romantic relationship has an emotional or sexual relationship with someone else without their partner's consent.

Infidelity doesn't have a one-size-fits-all definition. What one couple would consider cheating might be a healthy part of another couple's relationship. For example, is an emotional connection with someone without physical intimacy cheating? What about an online relationship? What if a couple practises ethical nonmonogamy? Couples need to define for themselves what constitutes infidelity in the context of their relationship.

While there's no clinical diagnosis that can uncover whether or not your partner is cheating, there are several signs, as suggested by WebMD, that could mean infidelity is there.

### Protectiveness with electronic devices

Partners engaged in infidelity often cheat over the internet, either on their computer or phone. If your partner is overly protective of their electronic devices or defensive about spending time on them, that might mean they don't want you to know who they're talking to.

### Periods of unreachability

There might be times when your partner simply disappears and you have no clue where they are. That might mean that they are with someone they don't want to tell you about.

### Different levels of sexual interaction

While you might think that a person who is cheating would have less time for sex with their partner, this isn't necessarily true. For some people, cheating actually causes them to feel sexually energized and suddenly start to seek out more frequent or different kinds of sex with the person they're cheating on.

### Inconsistent explanations

Lying is much harder than many people understand, especially constant lying to a committed partner. While liars will do their best to repeat the same story each time they lie, they usually start to give inconsistent information when under stress or if asked the same questions in a way they're not used to.

### Suggested

If your partner gives conflicting explanations for where they are, what they're doing, or how well they know someone who you suspect they're cheating with, this could be because they're having difficulty keeping their lies consistent.

### Altered schedule

If working late is suddenly a new normal even though your partner's job doesn't really require it, they may not be telling the truth about where they are.

### Uncomfortable friends

The friends of the cheating partner usually know about it before you do. If their attitudes and behaviour change towards you, and you have no explanation as to why, it could be because they know what's really going on.

### Inconsistent expenses

Sudden changes in spending habits can be a sign that there might be something else going on with your partner. A big red flag, for example, is unexplained large cash withdrawals.

### False accusations of cheating

Projection happens when a person who has done something wrong starts to accuse others of the same bad behaviour and/or imagine everybody else is doing it, too. While mental health professionals disagree about how projection works, they do agree it exists. Projection is what makes a cheating partner more likely to accuse you or someone else of cheating.

It's also possible for your partner to falsely accuse you of cheating because they're just feeling jealous or insecure and not projecting. Unfortunately, that's still a bad sign, because this kind of jealousy and insecurity is common in people who cheat. In interviews, some people reported cheating on their partners as revenge, because they believed their partners had cheated first.

### Hypercriticism

Cognitive dissonance is what happens when someone believes two or more things that can't be true at the same time. In the case of someone cheating on their partner, those mutually exclusive beliefs are that cheating hurts their partners and that they are kind people who wouldn't hurt their partners.

People have a natural urge to fix their cognitive dissonance by rationalizing their opposing beliefs. This process is called dissonance reduction.

### Suggested

A person who is cheating on their partner will sometimes try to practise dissonance reduction by telling them-

selves their partner is not worthy of honesty or faithfulness. In order to prove to themselves that their partner isn't worthy, they may begin to criticize or demean their partner on a regular basis.

### You think they're cheating but don't know why

A large number of people who discover their partners are cheating on them are already suspicious for reasons they can't quite explain. Some studies show that people can reliably detect lies unconsciously, even if they're unable to discuss or consciously identify those lies.

If you have an uncomfortable feeling or a suspicion you can't seem to justify, that might be your subconscious telling you that your partner is lying about something.

### Dealing with cheating

Finding out your partner cheated can bring up an array of emotions. You may feel angry, sad, guilty, betrayed, and more. It is usually difficult to think clearly immediately after you've found out about infidelity. You should consider the following:

### Don't rush a decision

This is a volatile and sensitive period, and it's okay to feel anger and sadness. Seek professional help immediately if you think you might hurt yourself or someone else, or destroy property.

You should not keep your emotions bottled up inside. Try to find a release valve for that pressure. Share your feelings and what you're going through with trusted friends and loved ones.

### Be accountable

If you were the partner who cheated, an essential first step towards reconciliation is to take responsibility for your actions. Accountability is a non-negotiable part of the healing process.

### Respectful communication

Communicating respectfully is important - even if you and your partner don't stay together. This is especially important if there are children involved. Parents should respectfully negotiate a custody agreement to avoid harming their relationship with their children. Married couples should focus on responsible communication to help aid the divorce process.

If you hope to reconcile, your partner may request that you end all contact with the person you cheated with.

## Appartement à louer - long terme



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

### To Rent

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

## BollyBytes

## Aryan Khan, Ananya Panday, Navya Naveli Nanda: Star kids who like to party

**B**ollywood celebs love to live it up in style and the lives of their kids are also quite happening. From going on exotic vacations to partying like there's no tomorrow--they sure know how to let their hair down. Although most of them keep their personal lives private, pictures of their parties and outings often make their way to social media, and go viral in no time, reports Times of India.

**Aryan Khan:** Aryan Khan made headlines when the pictures of him with a mystery female friend from a party went viral on social media. In the photos, Aryan is seen looking dapper as ever in an all-black outfit as he strikes a pose with a girl. According to a report in Mumbai Mirror, Aryan was dating a London-based blogger, and he even introduced his reported girlfriend to his mother Gauri Khan, who approved of her.

**Suhana Khan:** Suhana Khan has always been a head turner. The star kid is often seen sharing pictures and videos of herself partying and hanging out with her girl gang in the US and Mumbai. Her open tresses and red pumps compliment her overall gorgeous look.

Ananya Panday, who grew up with Suhana Khan and Shanaya Kapoor, is often seen hanging out and partying with them, along with others.

**Navya Naveli Nanda:** Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter Navya Naveli Nanda has made it pretty clear that she has no aspirations to be a part of showbiz. She will be helping her father in their family business. However, that does not mean the star diva believes in all work and no fun. She is often seen hanging out with other star kids like Aryan and Suhana Khan, Ananya Panday, Khushi Kapoor among others.

**Janhvi Kapoor:** Janhvi Kapoor is also known to have fun and make the most of her breaks.



## Sonakshi says star kid lose out on films but 'nobody goes around crying'



**T**aking a dig at the never-ending nepotism debate in the industry, Sonakshi Sinha during an interview with an entertainment portal called losing out on film 'a part and parcel of the job'. Asserting that star kids too get replaced in films like outsiders, and yet don't go around crying about it as it happens to every actor, reports Times of India.

Calling it life, she urged everyone to deal with it and said that 'there's no point talking about spilt milk'. Taking an example of her father who wasn't a star kid like her, Sonakshi further added that he too has lost out on projects and said the practice isn't new in the industry. "You move on with your life, work hard and keep at it," she concluded.

The actress will next be seen in 'Kakuda', a horror-comedy, alongside Riteish Deshmukh and Saquib Salem.

## Adah Sharma ready to explore new genres

**A**dah Sharma believes that female-centric action films will be the next big thing in the industry. "Times have changed today. All kinds of subjects and stories are being adapted into films. And thankfully, action as a genre is being re-explored with newer nuances, much like Hollywood. Action films are now being specially designed for girls too. This is going to be a big transformation," says the 1920 and Commando actor.

Trained in Silambam, a weapon-based Indian martial art and Mallakhamb, Sharma says she is ready for more action roles coming her way, reports Hindustan Times.

"I have been prepping and training since I was a child. My fitness levels have always been good as I am into a lot of training. Also, I am doing a couple of action films, including an international project, where more action workshops will be held as per the scripts."

Sharma feels she is comfortable in all kinds of genres and wants to explore more. "I started with a horror movie which is an unusual way to start for a newcomer. But I was never in two minds because I was auditioning for work and knew I had to begin somewhere. Initially, I had to say no to many roles and also faced rejection. But, I think, that is a part of the game and finally, 1920 came my way and here I am today. Till date, I have dabbled with several subjects like horror, action, emotional drama and I think now it's time for some romantic comedy, be it in Hindi or Telugu," adds the actor.

Sharma has wrapped four projects including Hindi film *Aisa Waisa Pyar*, *Commando 4* and web series *The Holiday 2*.



## Anil Kapoor, Vidya Balan, Abhishek Bachchan: Bollywood actors whose debut films were shelved



casting, creative clashes, technical reasons, and many more. Here are such actors, whose films were shelved, as reported by Times of India.

**Preity Zinta:** The actress made her acting debut in the 1998 Bollywood film 'Dil Se'. However, prior to that she was offered a film by director Shekhar Kapoor, titled *Tara Rum Pum Pum*. The film ultimately got shelved and was never made.

**Anil Kapoor:** Not many know Anil Kapoor's first film in a lead role was M.S. Sathyu's 'Kahan Kahan Se Guzar Gaye'. The film completed its shooting in 1981 but was later shelved for almost 5 years. In that time period, he made his debut with the 1983 Bollywood film *Rachna* and soon started off with his home production 'Woh 7 Din'. *Kahan Kahan Se Guzar Gaye* later released in 1986.

**Vidya Balan:** One of the finest actresses in modern and contemporary Indian cinema, Vidya Balan's first film was supposed to be a Malayali film called *Chakram*, opposite South Indian star Mohanlal. However, the film never took off, and the actress made her debut with the critically acclaimed Bengali film 'Bhalo Theko'.

**W**hile a lot of blood, sweat and tears go into making a project, sometimes the end result might not be something expected. More often than not, when films and projects are announced and discussed, their fate often changes owing to several factors like budget,

## Barun Sobti says he was 'horrible' in debut show: 'I took the whole boat down'



**B**arun Sobti, who made his small screen debut with *Shraddha* in 2009, called his performance in the show 'horrible'. He declared it his worst project to date. It went off the air in just three-and-a-half months.

an appearance on Zoom's *By Invite Only*, Barun was asked to name his worst film or show, according to him. "Quite a few, I have. But I think the first show that I did for Star Plus, it was called *Shraddha*. I think I took the whole boat down by my own self. I was the worst thing in the show. It came out for two-three months and I was horrible," he said.

Post *Shraddha*, Barun was seen in a cameo role in *Dill Mill Gayye*. He shot to fame with *Iss Pyaar Ko Kya*

*Naam Doon*, in which he was cast opposite Sanaya Irani. The show was remade in Kannada and Bengali.

Barun returned in the third season, *Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon 3*, which featured Shivani Tomar opposite him. However, it was not as popular as the original one and was cancelled after just 70 episodes.

In 2014, Barun made his film debut with *Main Aur Mr Riight*. His filmography also includes *Tu Hai Mera Sunday* and *Halahal*. In an interview with *Hindustan Times* earlier this year, he talked about his not-so-easy transition to films.

"I won't say I am a victim of the industry. It is a difficult industry to make it in. So, if anyone is cribbing about anything, then it means that person didn't do their homework," he said, adding, "Unfortunately, in this industry, you have to dig your own well every day. Yes, it wasn't easy for me and yes, I expected it to be difficult. In fact, today I have a lot of work but it is still not easy. Just that today my set of problems are different - like making the right choices, date issues. etc., which are good kind of problems."

## Sanaya Irani says she once heard a family saying she 'looks like a monkey'

**S**anaya Irani said that when she was in school, she got a lot of mean comments about her appearance. Once, she even heard a family say in Gujarati that she looked like a monkey.

During an appearance on Zoom's *By Invite Only*, Sanaya said, "When I was in a boarding school in Ooty... I am really fair, if everybody has noticed, and I was ten times fairer then. I was looked at differently in that school. People looked at me and said 'white cockroach' or 'lizard'."

"I heard a Gujarati family once say, 'She looks like a monkey'. They were saying it in Gujarati but I knew Gujarati, they didn't know that. We were in school, eating ice cream and they were like 'look at her' because I had red cheeks, red nose, all of that. They were like, 'She looks like a monkey.' So, for me, when people looked at me, I always connected it to 'they are going to say something weird about me'," she added.

Sanaya said that she 'always stood out' when she was younger, because of her appearance, and did not like that. She added that she wanted to blend in with everyone else.

In 2007, Sanaya made her television debut with *Left Right Left*. She then played the reclusive and studious Gunjan Bhushan in *Miley Jab Hum Tum*, where she fell in love with television actor Mohit Sehgal. They tied the knot in 2016. In 2017, they participated in *Nach Baliye 8*, where they were adjudged the second runners-up.

From 2011-12, Sanaya starred in *Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon* opposite Barun Sobti. In June, they celebrated 10 years of its launch.



### YOUR STARS

#### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Avoid to condone all the whims of your children; if you lack firmness toward them, they'll be the first to suffer from it. Heartwise, beware of temptations, redouble vigilance! Try to make peace with an unscrupulous neighbour.

**Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 15, 21, 26, 32**

#### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

An ideal week for presenting requests, soliciting supports. A small dispute will oppose you to one of your neighbours; try to solve the problem amicably. At work, you'll make excellent decisions and you'll brilliantly manage your business.

**Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21**

#### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Good understanding in your home; a great joy of living will reign over it. At work, don't recoil before the importance of the tasks to be accomplished; supports won't be lacking. You'll make encounters which will prove profitable to you.

**Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 13, 17, 25, 30**

#### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

The moment will be favourable to get your relationships into play in favour of your children. Luck will smile to you in your transactions. You'll decide to tackle the management of the family finances and you'll find speedy solutions to your problems.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 8, 10, 15, 23**

#### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Good transactions will allow you to fill your pockets. Difficult relationships with your family circle because of your exigency. Concerning your future, don't be either pessimistic or fatalistic; have confidence in your good star and in your capacities.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 18, 20, 26, 33, 37**

#### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Your dispute with your beloved one is not going to fade away soon. Why not try to forget it? This climate may incite you to impulsive and ruinous expenses for things which you'll get tired of quickly. Go and visit your aged parents.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 17, 20, 30, 36**

#### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

If you want to have a little more happiness, communicate more with others. A difficult week for your work; take patience. Be on the lookout for good business deals; you can also carry out fruitful long-term investments.

**Lucky Numbers: 8, 9, 17, 20, 21, 37**

#### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Beautiful opportunities to make money enter: special bonuses, allowances, pensions, etc. Don't let your close relatives mingle with your private life. It's a good thing to have ambitions but on condition they remain moderate. Take better care of your physical appearance.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 7, 14, 19, 30**

#### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

At work, you'll get rather easily out of an extremely difficult situation. However, your generosity will make you lost if you continue to distribute your money without discernment; don't let your friends abuse your largesse.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 14, 19, 23, 30, 39**

#### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Beware of your passions, for your affective questions are often tightly mingled with money, which is very bad; for your greatest good, install an impenetrable barrier between love and business.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 11, 18, 20, 30**

#### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Luck will accompany you in your various undertakings. Old grievances concerning your mate will surface; take the bull by the horns: be honest and liquidate this conflictual situation once and for all.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 15, 30, 32, 36**

#### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You'll cope with your problems frontally and solve them with determination. You'll have strong desires to change your job; but things will straighten themselves out to your advantage.

**Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 23, 29, 31, 36**



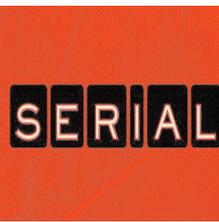
Vendredi 8 octobre - 21.15



Samedi 9 octobre - 21.20



Dimanche 10 octobre - 21.15



vendredi 8 octobre

**MBC 1**

- 07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 09.00 Doc: Big Pharma
- 11.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
- 12.55 Local: Prod: Elle - No 35
- 13.45 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A...
- 14.54 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
- 15.06 D.Anime: Baby Boss
- 15.29 D.Anime: Wishfart
- 15.40 D.Anime: Au Galop En Toute..
- 16.02 D.Anime: HTDT
- 17.15 Serial: Mustangs FC
- 17.40 Serial: Magic Mania
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.30 Local Prod: Tou Korek
- 21.55 Serial: 19-2
- 23.25 Le Journal
- 00.00 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: Thiruvilayadal
- 15.05 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 15.23 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
- 15.49 Serial: Bava Maradallu
- 16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
- 16.28 Serial: Aatish
- 16.48 Serial: Imtihaan
- 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
- 17.25 Serial: Chhanchhan
- 18.00 Serial: My Little Princes
- 18.30 Local: Abhay Charan
- 19.05 Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 20.02 Serial: Aas
- 20.46 Local: Anjuman
- 21.09 Local: Urdu Programme
- 22.07 DDI Live

**MBC 3**

- 06.00 Mag: Eco India
- 06.26 Mag: Shift
- 06.38 Mag: Sur Mesure
- 06.52 Mag: Border Crossing
- 07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 09.00 Educa Prog: Grade 5
- 10.42 Educa Prog: Grade 8
- 14.03 Doc: 80's Blockbusters
- 15.46 Doc: The Neanderthals
- 17.15 Mag: Eco India
- 17.41 Mag: Shift
- 18.03 Doc: Manufacturing Igno...
- 18.43 Mag: Art And Culture
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 19.33 Mag: Euromaxx
- 20.05 Doc: Volcano Stories
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.53 Soss Animaux En Darger
- 21.43 Doc: Une Nuit, Orsay avec...
- 22.34 Doc: Fungal Empire
- 23.16 Doc: Love Around The...

**Cine 12**

- 04.25 Film: Terminator 3
- 06.10 Tele: Muneca Brava
- 06.47 Serial: French Series
- 07.29 Film: A Day Late And A Dollar Short
- 09.00 Serial: When Calls The Heart
- 09.45 Tele: Teresa
- 10.37 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
- 11.00 Serial: French Series
- 12.00 Film: Terminator 3
- 13.33 Tele: Muneca Brava
- 14.45 Film: A Day Late And A Dollar Short
- 16.41 Serial: When Calls The Heart
- 17.18 Serial: French Series
- 18.05 Tele: Teresa
- 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
- 19.34 Mag: Cinemag
- 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
- 20.30 Serial: Powers
- 21.15 Film: Matriarch

**Bollywood TV**

- 08.00 Film: Karlo Time Pass Yaar
- Tiku Talsaniya, Ketaki Dave and Piyush Der
- 12.08 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna
- 12.31 / 20.11 - Chupke Chupke
- 12.50 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
- 13.12 / 21.09 - Agniphera
- 13.27 / 21.24 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 13.50 / 21.46 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 14.17 / 22.20 - Maharakshak
- 14.57 / 22.55 - Sethji
- 15.25 Film: Toonpur Ka Superhero
- Starring Ajay Devgn, Kajol
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 18.52 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
- 19.14 Serial: Bhakharwadi
- 19.36 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak

samedi 9 octobre

- 06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains
- 06.27 D.Anime: The Hive
- 07.00 D.Anime: Sissi
- 07.11 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda
- 07.43 D.Anime: Sabrina
- 07.55 D.Anime: Jil Jil Genie 2
- 09.01 D.Anime: Splash And Bubble
- 09.13 D.Anime: Garfield Originals
- 09.35 Serial: Oh Yuck
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Tele: Teresa
- 15.20 D.Anime: Baby Boss
- 15.38 D.Anime: Les Triples
- 16.40 D.Anime: Trollhunters
- 17.05 Serial: Hi Opie!
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Entertainment: Dance
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.15 Local: Autour Des Valeurs
- 21.20 Film: Evolution
- Avec: David Duchovny, Orlando Jones, Julianne Moore

- 07.00 Film: Purani Jeans
- 09.08 Mag: DDI Magazine
- 10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 11.35 Serial: Bloody Romance
- 12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare
- 12.24 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
- 12.44 Serial: High School
- 13.11 Annakodiyum Ainthu Pengalum
- 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 15.25 Film: Super Nani
- Starring: Rekha, Sharman Joshi, Randhir Kapoor
- 18.03 DDI Magazine
- 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
- 20.28 Serial: Bitti Business Wali
- 21.01 Film: Mission Kashmir
- Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Hrithik Roshan, Preity Zinta, Sonali Kulkarni

- 06.00 Doc: Manufacturing Ign...
- 06.42 Mag: Arts And Culture
- 06.55 Mag: Our Voices
- 07.50 Doc: Volcano Stories
- 09.08 Doc: Une Nuit, Orsay...
- 10.00 Doc: Fungal Empire
- 10.52 Doc: Love Around The World...
- 11.26 Doc: Manufacturing Ign...
- 12.22 Mag: Our Voices
- 15.00 Student Support Prog...
- 17.30 Doc: Amazing Gardens
- 18.13 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
- 18.39 Doc: Zenith
- 19.30 Doc: Le Monde Des Couleur
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 21.00 Local: Thirumaal Thiruvurul
- 00.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens
- 00.26 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
- 00.52 Doc: Zenith
- 01.18 Mag: Check In
- 01.44 Doc: Le Monde Des Couleur

- 01.24 Film: Matriarch
- 02.52 Serial: The Night Shift
- 04.54 Tele: Tanto Amor
- 05.36 Serial: Imposters
- 06.15 Serial: S.W.A.T
- 08.30 Serial: The Enemy Within
- 09.11 Serial: The Magicians
- 09.54 Serial: Falling Water
- 10.40 Film: Matriarch
- 12.15 Serial: The Night Shift
- 13.30 Serial: Chicago Med
- 15.05 Tele: Muneca Brava
- 16.29 Mag: Cinemag
- 17.00 Serial: Imposters
- 17.45 Film: Nyc: Tornado Terror
- 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
- 20.30 Series: Powers
- 21.15 Film: All Is True
- Starring: Kenneth Branagh, Judi Dench, Ian McKellen
- 22.51 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir

- 04.05 Radha Krishna
- 04.26 Chupke Chupke
- 04.48 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur...
- 05.11 Agniphera
- 05.34 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 06.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 06.16 Sethji
- 06.38 Chhanchhan
- 06.57 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
- 07.18 Siddhi Vinayak
- 08.02 Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 10.00 Motu Patlu
- 10.12 Siddhi Vinayak
- 12.01 Serial: Bhakharwadi
- 14.00 Chupke Chupke
- 16.00 Pavitra Rishita
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Film: Shirin Farhad Ki Toh Nikal Padi
- Star: Farah Khan, Boman Irani, Kavin Dave
- 20.30 Serial: Namah

dimanche 10 octobre

- 06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains
- 06.27 D.Anime: The Hive
- 06.42 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute
- 07.00 D.Anime: Sissi
- 09.30 Serial: Oh Yuck
- 10.00 Local: Zanafan Nou Zil
- 10.30 Serial: Backstage
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.40 Tele: Teresa
- 14.10 Local: Elle
- 15.05 D.Anime: Invention Story
- 15.18 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
- 15.55 D.Anime: Spirit
- 17.17 Serial: Hi Opie!
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Local Prod: Jagjit Singh?
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.20 Local: Groov'in
- 21.15 Film: A Wish Come True
- Starring: Megan Park, Benjamin Hollingsworth, Anthony Lemke

- 07.00 Film: Parinda
- 10.00 Local Prod: MBC Prod
- 11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai
- 11.22 Serial: Santoshi Maa
- 12.00 Film: Phir Hera Pheri
- Stars: A. Kumar, Sunil Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Bipasha Basu
- 14.33 DDI Magazine
- 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
- 15.22 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
- 15.45 Serial: He Mann Baware
- 16.12 Apoorva Raagangal
- 17.05 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
- 18.00 DDI Magazine
- 18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
- 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
- 20.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas Hai
- 20.48 Serial: CID
- 21.30 Serial: Naagin Season 2
- 22.17 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki

- 06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens
- 06.40 Doc: Zenith
- 07.07 Mag: Check In
- 07.46 Doc: Le Monde Des Couleur
- 08.28 Doc: Taste Hunters
- 10.42 Doc: Treasures In The Sand
- 11.13 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
- 12.20 Doc: Zenith
- 12.48 Mag: Check In
- 14.09 Doc: Taste Unters
- 15.02 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor...
- 18.02 Mag: Magnifique
- 18.30 Doc: Builders Of The Future
- 18.59 Doc: Garden Party
- 19.33 Doc: Comme Une Envie...
- 20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
- 20.45 Mag: Nouveau Look Pour...
- 22.01 Doc: Charles Pathé & Léon
- 22.53 Doc: Bhutan
- 23.36 Mag: Magnifique
- 00.05 Doc: Builders Of The Future

- 01.20 Film: All Is True
- 02.56 Serial: Midnight, Texas
- 03.37 Film: City Of Ghosts
- 05.33 Tele: Tanto Amor
- 06.17 Serial: Imposters
- 06.57 Serial: Island Doctor
- 08.30 Serial: The Enemy Within
- 09.12 Film: Evolution
- 10.48 Film: NYC: Tornado Terror
- 12.14 Serial: Midnight, Texas
- 13.30 Serial: Chicago Med
- 14.49 Serial: Heroes Reborn
- 15.32 Tele: Muneca Brava
- 17.01 Serial: Imposters
- 17.45 Serial: Midnight, Texas
- 18.30 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
- 19.35 Mag: Hollywood On Set
- 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
- 20.30 Serial: Pure Genius
- 21.15 Film: Berlin Falling
- 22.42 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir

- 00.35 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
- 02.21 Bhakharwadi
- 04.10 Chupke Chupke
- 05.49 Pavitra Rishita
- 08.00 Motu Patlu
- 08.11 Ikyawann
- 10.00 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
- 12.00 Piya Albel
- 14.00 Agniphera
- 16.29 Punar Vivaah
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Film: Devdas
- Starring: Shahrugh Khan, Madhuri Dixit, Aishwariya Rai
- 21.26 Entertainment: Dance
- 22.11 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 00.00 Serial: Piya Albel

**MBC 2**

Samedi 9 octobre

- 21.00

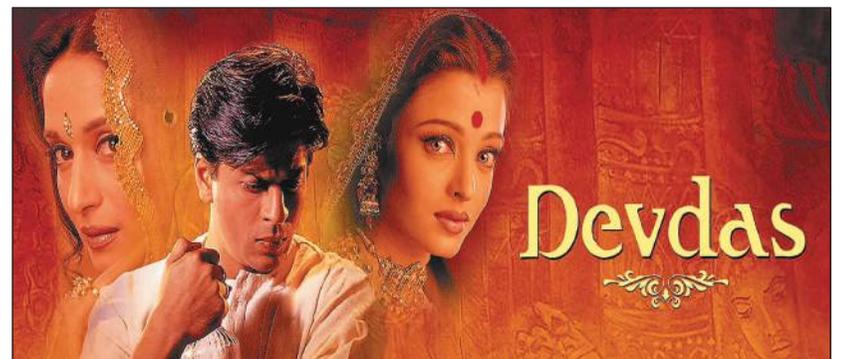
Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Hrithik Roshan, Preity Zinta, Sonali Kulkarni



Dimanche 10 octobre

- 18.30

Stars: Shahrugh Khan, Madhuri Dixit, Aishwariya



## Trial of 100-year-old man in Germany

# Why Nazi war crimes take so long to prosecute

*The complex history of prosecuting Nazi war crimes means elderly men and women are on trial for crimes committed decades ago*

A 100-year-old man is on trial in Germany this month. The man, who has not been named due to German privacy laws, is charged with "knowingly and willingly" assisting in the murder of 3,518 people as a former SS guard at Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

He is far from the only elderly defendant to face trial now for crimes committed during the Nazi period. The trial of Irmgard Furchner, 96, a former secretary at Stutthof concentration camp, was to begin last month, but was briefly delayed after Furchner fled from her care home.

Among other recent cases are John Demjanjuk, 89, in 2009; Oscar Gröning, 93, the so-called "accountant of Auschwitz", in 2015; Johann Rehbogen, 93, in 2018 (his case was later dropped because he was deemed "permanently unfit for trial"); and Bruno Dey, 93, in 2019. Some, like Furchner, are tried in juvenile courts given their young age at the time of the alleged crimes.

The history of prosecution of Nazi crimes is long and complex. Despite the crimes having occurred decades ago, it is still important to bring these cases to trial today.

### 1940s: Allied planning and control

In their Declaration of St. James's Palace of January 13 1942, allied governments declared it as one of their principal war aims to punish all those guilty of or responsible for war crimes "through the channel of organised justice".

The founding of the United Nations War Crimes Commission and the Moscow Declaration on German Atrocities, both in 1943, confirmed these intentions. However, they only covered crimes committed against their own nationals, and none referred to the systematic murder of the Jews.

After the defeat of the Nazi regime, in addition to setting up the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, the allies conducted a number of trials for crimes committed against prisoners incarcerated at specific concentration camps on German soil, including Bergen-Belsen, Dachau, Ravensbrück, Sachsenhausen and others. These trials involved SS camp commandants, medical doctors, guards and other staff. Again, the emphasis was on atrocities committed against allied nationals.

In December 1945, the Allied Control Council gave German courts the legal authority to prosecute Nazi crimes committed against German citizens, but they had to follow allied provisions. It was only after the establishment of the two German states in 1949 that German courts were freed of allied supervision.



John Demjanjuk, then 89, was taken into court on a stretcher in 2009. He was convicted of acting as an accessory to the murder of nearly 28,000 Jews at Sobibór extermination camp. dpa picture alliance archive / Alamy Stock Photo

Eschewing the legal category of crimes against humanity, set by the Nuremberg Trials, they could now apply ordinary German criminal law, which was ill-equipped to deal with state-organised mass murder.

### 1950s: halfhearted efforts

In West Germany especially, the 1950s were characterised by a sharp decline in Nazi war crimes investigations and trials. Instead, there were campaigns for amnesties and reductions of earlier sentences, many led by former high-level Nazis and supported tacitly by conservative politicians.

Prosecutions lacked any serious or systematic effort, and in both German states the emphasis was more on integration and rehabilitation, with the aim of stabilising their war-torn societies, rather than rigorous investigation of Nazi crimes and atrocities. There was widespread silence about the involvement of "ordinary" Germans.

This began to change in West Germany following scandals about former Nazis in prominent positions. As the 50s wore on, several new trials spotlighted the horrors and scale of Nazi atrocities. In October 1958, the Central Office for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes of Violence was set up by state justice ministers, leading to a rapid increase in investigations.

### 1960s and beyond: more vigorous investigation

The 1961 trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem, which was televised and broadcast around the world, and the Auschwitz Trials in Frankfurt (1963-1965) brought the Holocaust back into broad

public consciousness. The rebellious young generation in West Germany began to question how Germany had dealt with its past.

However, under German law, even murder had a 20-year statute of limitations, meaning prosecutions could not be brought against culprits if 20 or more years had passed since their crime. This was extended to 30 years in 1969, and abolished altogether in 1979 but even then, the exemption only applied to murder, rather than any other crimes. Courts required prosecutors to present evidence that suspects were directly involved in a specific killing.

This meant that many "ordinary" SS guards, male and female, whose names and whereabouts were known, could not be charged because there was not sufficient evidence for their direct involvement.

Then, during the 2011 trial of John Demjanjuk, a former guard at Sobibór, prosecutors argued that working as a guard at a camp whose only purpose was the extermination of its prisoners, was sufficient for a conviction for accessory to murder.

To the surprise of many, the court agreed, setting an important legal precedent - now, anyone who played a part in running the machinery of murder could be put on trial. The principle, later extended to cover concentration camps as well, is much more appropriate for the way crimes were committed at Nazi death camps, where it is often all but impossible to pinpoint direct involvement in the killings to a specific person. If it had been applied earlier, many more concentration camp guards could have been prosecuted.

Prosecutors rushed to try and bring

people to justice. However, despite the headlines that each case created, few have actually stood trial since Demjanjuk. This is not surprising, given the fact that the crimes were committed almost 80 years ago, and only very few of those involved in any way are still alive.

### Serving justice

Lawyers for the victims and their descendants argue that justice must be served, no matter how late. But it is questionable how much justice is done when nonagenarians get prison sentences which they do not have to serve because of ill health.

However, these trials provide a different kind of justice, beyond attributing responsibility. As the allies hoped with Nuremberg, these trials can educate the public about the nature and reach of the Nazi regime. This is particularly important at a time when antisemitism is rising and the number of Holocaust survivors is getting ever smaller.

For many, the atrocities the Nazis committed seem long ago and unrelated to their daily reality. The trials remind everyone that these atrocities did happen, that they happened within living memory, and not just at Auschwitz but at a multitude of locations across Europe.

Former concentration camp guard Bruno Dey said at his 2020 trial:

*I want to forget and not go over that again.*

This feeling is no doubt shared by many Germans. Recent surveys indicate that about one in five Germans believe that the Holocaust gets too much attention, and around 75% of supporters of the right-wing populist party Alternative for Germany think Germans should stop "obsessing over Nazi crimes".

These late trials force everyone, not just the actual perpetrators but also bystanders and younger generations, to "go over that again" - to listen to what victims and their descendants experienced, no matter how patchy their memories might have become. While uncomfortable, this is vital for Germany's democratic political culture.

The greatest justice to all victims of Nazi persecution that these trials can provide is to trouble and disturb all of us and prevent these crimes from being denied, trivialised or fading into insignificance.

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