

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." — Marie Curie

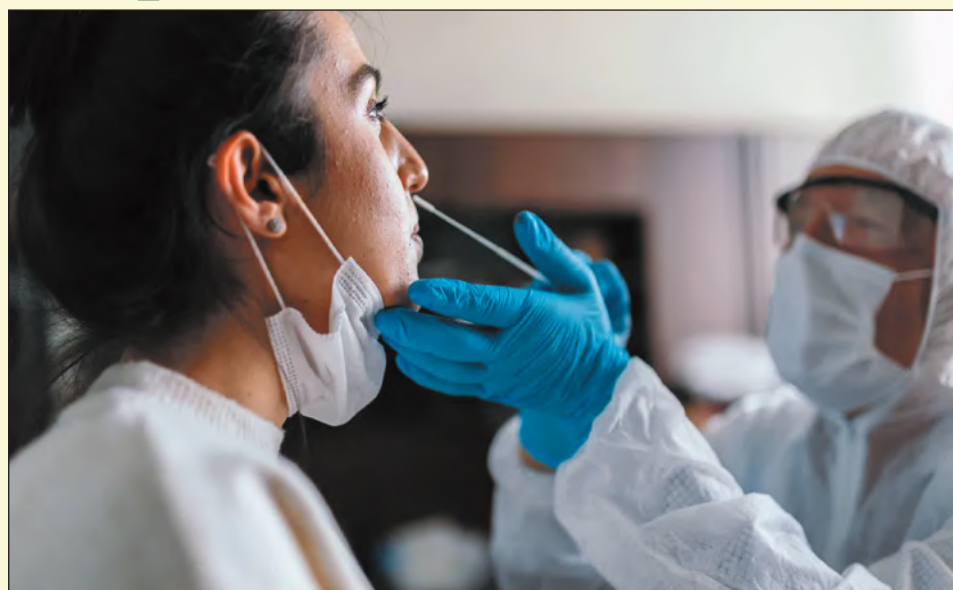
Interview: Yvan Martial, Journaliste

«Nous avons le gouvernement et la classe politique que nous méritons»

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When will the Covid pandemic end?



There is much for us to learn from the Indian experience. India can 'show the world how to tackle endemic Covid-19.' What are we waiting for?

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COP26's Unfinished Business



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What and Who next?

Since the Parliament has resumed its activities – debates would be an overstatement – after the usual break, the Opposition as is expected of it has come up with PNQs and PQs about the Covid situation regularly. In view of its aggravation and in the absence of sufficient information from official sources about various aspects of the pandemic, PQs are the only way to probe and seek answers to the numerous questions that are troubling the people. It is therefore right and proper that their elected representatives should seek use the parliamentary forum to get the necessary clarifications. This is what Parliament is for.

Even then, though, it's generally felt that the replies being provided do not reveal the complete picture, and no greater clarity has emerged about, for example, various drugs needed, in stock or on order and other pharmacological necessities that are required for treatment. There is unexplained opacity about medical protocols governing home self-isolation as opposed to regional hospital admission or even about the exact numbers of people tested or affected, and the Covid-related mortality statistics.

On a more constructive side there have been many concrete suggestions from Opposition and civil society voices, ranging from converting unused buildings or infrastructure into emergency Covid treatment centres, through closure of schools, to pre-ordering of pills that are looking like promising candidates for Covid treatment. These have been ignored, dismissed or ridiculed. Treating those who question and propose their ideas as anti-patriots is neither helpful nor does not cut any ice when there is a growing feeling that officialdom has been far from clean, frank and honest with the population all along.

On the other hand, a number of other issues have been raised at regular intervals. For example, voting rights at age 16, Offshore Petroleum Bill, Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Bill, and a buzz going round about the setting up of a Press Council. This

throws doubt in the mind of citizens as to whether there is an attempt here to distract attention from the extremely grave consequences of the pandemic, especially the rising number of deaths, inasmuch as some of the legislations being brought to the fore are loaded with contradictions and controversies.

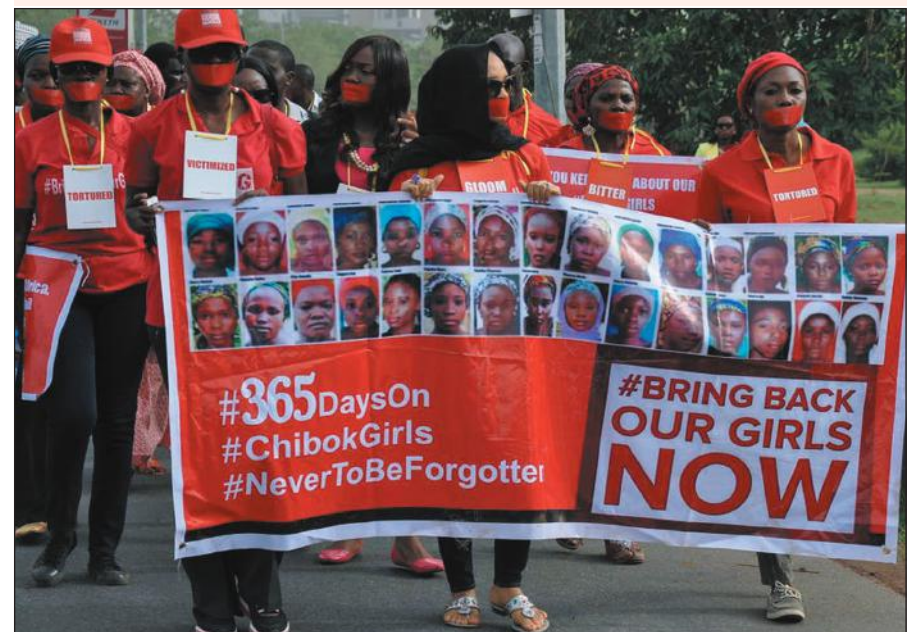
For example, in the context of the COP26 conference on the environment and climate change that the Prime Minister attended, does it make sense vis-a-vis our international partners to discuss about the exploration for oil, which is what the Offshore Petroleum Bill is all about? And why the Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Bill, without any consultation undertaken similar to the earlier exercise carried out with regard to the similar though separate ICTA Bill and views sought at national level? At the very minimum, would it not have been a supreme example of transparency and good governance if a compilation followed by an analysis of views received and presented to the population? There might then have emerged a rationale for the framing of such legislation. Similarly for the Press Council. Is there an urgency? Or a Recreational Council to advise the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sports and Recreation. Really? Not, to our mind in any of these matters.

On the contrary, it is the decimation of our population and worryingly the younger segment that is uppermost in every Mauritian's mind. There is not a single citizen who isn't living in fear of Covid, anticipating that any moment news will come of someone known directly or indirectly who has either been found to be Covid positive, is in self-isolation or has been admitted, or has become the umpteenth victim. Who is next? Or what other piece of legislation is about to be pushed upfront? We are in deep, deep trouble, that's for sure, and our concern right now is about what concrete actions are being envisaged to stop the spread of the pandemic. That's what the government should be telling us.

The Conversation

Democracy under threat: how to keep civic spaces open

The focus on building democracy should be on more intermediary outcomes, which can serve as building blocks for longer term democratic renewal



The Bring Back our Girls Movement in Nigeria brought to the fore the power of women in mobilising around sexual harassment. EFE-EPA/Stringer

Across the world citizens are grappling with the pressing questions of how to defend and renew democracy in the midst of rising authoritarianism globally. They're also battling with how to protect the civic spaces "within which people express views, assemble, associate and engage in dialogue with one another and with authorities" in the face of this challenge.

Efforts are underway to mobilise governments to make commitments for democratic renewal and reform. The world also expects greater transparency and accountability from those same governments that made pledges at COP26 in Glasgow to protect the future of the planet.

For the last five years, the Action for Empowerment and Accountability Research Programme has been exploring the question of what forms of action strengthen citizen empowerment and democratic accountability in increasingly hostile environments. The project is a collaborative international research programme based at the Institute of Development Studies in the UK.

The project drew on research from 22 countries. Our research focused largely on Mozambique, Myanmar,

Nigeria and Pakistan. All have legacies of conflict, military rule and authoritarianism.

Working with partners in each country, we used multiple qualitative and quantitative research methods to understand how relatively marginalised groups perceived authorities and mobilised to express their claims. This included making use of innovative 'governance diaries' to record when and how these groups interacted with authorities and on which issues.

With over 200 publications, the research programme provides a unique citizen-eye view on pressing governance issues. Five key findings are particularly important for policy-makers and those working towards protecting democratic space and improving accountability.

The findings

First, closing civic space is a critical issue, threatening basic democratic rights. Our work on Navigating civic space shows that the trend towards closing civic space has accelerated under COVID-19.

John Gaventa,
Institute of Development Studies

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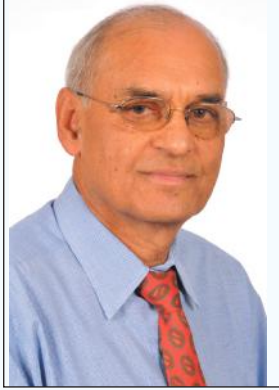
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When will the Covid pandemic end?

There is much for us to learn from the Indian experience. India can 'show the world how to tackle endemic Covid-19.' What are we waiting for?



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

In his address at the COP26 meeting on climate change in Glasgow, President Obama expressed his feeling of 'a certain bleakness about the future.' Although he was referring to climate change and the environment, one could say the same about the current Covid situation locally – there is a prevailing sense of foreboding about the future with the seemingly uncontrollable rising number of infected cases and the mounting daily deaths. Families are grieving the loss of loved ones, in some of them more than one having fallen victim to the virus. Hospitals are overburdened with cases that keep arriving, and hospital staff have not only been infected but equally are suffering from exhaustion and burnout, both physically and mentally.

With the Delta variant having entered the country, the medical profession had anticipated that local circumstances would favour the spread of the virus and that we should expect a surge. Thus, in an interview to this paper earlier, Specialist Physician Dr P. Chitson had already seen this coming, when he said that, 'The surge in the UK came with the opening of schools and I suspect that's what happened in Mauritius, plus the declining immunity due to passage of time, and the Delta virus. *The three public holidays in one week will make matters worse soon.* Some form of public restrictions must be put back.' (*italics added*)

In fact, a new set of restrictions were framed, which many felt were perhaps too little too late, and in the meantime the epidemic continues its deadly march. And the question that is gnawing everybody is 'When will the Covid pandemic end?'

In an article titled 'Post-Corona: Back to basics and...' in March 2020, I had written, 'Like other pandemics that came before it, the current Covid-19 episode will also come to pass. When, not even the best experts can say at the moment, but based on the past experience of the evolution of disease patterns over time,



Pic -media.news24online.com

“There is a prevailing sense of foreboding about the future with the seemingly uncontrollable rising number of infected cases and the mounting daily deaths. Families are grieving the loss of loved ones, in some of them more than one having fallen victim to the virus. Hospitals are overburdened with cases that keep arriving, and hospital staff have not only been infected but equally are suffering from exhaustion and burnout, both physically and mentally. With the Delta variant having entered the country, the medical profession had anticipated that local circumstances would favour the spread of the virus and that we should expect a surge...”

the most reasonable estimate is that it will be a few months at least.' Alas, this overblown optimism was misplaced: it was too early days to entertain such a hope, in light of what soon started to emerge, namely that we were being attacked by an 'unknown unknown' as far as the epidemiology of the SARS-COV-2 was concerned.

Much more time was required before the timing of any outcome about the future course could be reliably made, except in generalities, to wit that 'In course of time, viruses circulate among the population as a normal phenomenon, and produce disease when the conditions are conducive – like the influenza virus which attacks during the cold weather, and then we talk about the 'flu season... This may happen with Covid-19 too, and by then a majority of people would have developed a degree of immunity to it. If a large enough segment of the population, about 75-80%, acquires such immunity, then the rest of the population is also protected, a phenomenon known as herd immunity.' That's when the virus transitions from epidemic to endemic, and short of being eliminated altogether, this was the best hoped for scenario as regards Covid-19.

Has any country reached that stage? Yes, India is the first to have done so, as Dr T Jacob John, former Professor of Clinical Virology, CMC, Vellore and Dr MS Seshadri Medical Director, Thirumalai Mission Hospital write in *The Indian Express* of 15 November: 'Currently, India is the only country in the world to have reached a

sustained endemic state while in other nations, the pandemic is still raging. This is a historic opportunity for us to show the world how to tackle endemic Covid-19.'

They started with the pertinent question: Are we out of the woods yet? Then went on, 'After the first wave abated, we entered a 10-week endemic phase, only to be interrupted by the second wave. The Delta variant of the second wave had far higher transmission efficiency than the first wave variant (Wuhan-G614D). The recent AY.4.2 variant remains below 0.1%, showing low transmission efficiency that cannot overtake Delta transmission. India has thus become the world's first country to reach endemic prevalence.'

As they explain, 'Epidemic means daily numbers of Covid cases rise to a crescendo and decline until a steady state with low numbers (endemic prevalence) is reached.' With the surge that is raging – and likely to last until at least mid-December- and our capacities being stretched, it is clear that we are very far from such a steady state. To arrive there, we must be prepared to learn from those who have more experience than us by virtue of resources available, capacities and sheer scale,

all of which are exemplified by India.

The authors of that article posed two questions: What determined the transition? What changes in strategy should India adopt to mitigate the ill-effects of endemic Covid?

They then proceed to give a fairly technical account in answer to these questions, in an outline of the measures which have allowed India to attain the remarkable control it has achieved over the pandemic. People are now moving about freely, except in a few areas in only a few states.

There is much for us to learn from the Indian experience. India can 'show the world how to tackle endemic Covid-19.' What are we waiting for?

NOTICE FOR PERMISSION FOR LAND USE

Take notice that I, **Mega Pro Ltd Represented by Mr Ashishtranum Kumar Dhunnoo** will apply to the District Council of Moka for a Building and Land Use permit for a proposed **WAREHOUSE** at Royal Road, Valetta.

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

Date: 19.11.2021

COP26's Unfinished Business



Mrinal Roy

Civil society, climate scientists and activists and people must remain mobilized and continue to press governments of the worst polluting countries to drastically cut down their emissions of greenhouse gases, urgently end their use of coal and fossil fuels

After two weeks of intense negotiations to reach agreement on 14 November, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson hailed the final COP26 agreement as 'the beginning of the end for coal power'.

Aptly summarising the arcane dynamics of difficult international negotiations, Boris Johnson pointedly stated after the conclusion of COP 26:

'Those for whom climate change is already a matter of life and death, who can only stand by as their islands are submerged, their farmland turned to desert, their homes battered by storms, they demanded a high level of ambition from this summit.

'While many of us were willing to go there, that wasn't true of everybody. Sadly that's the nature of diplomacy. We can lobby, we can cajole, we can encourage, but we cannot force sovereign nations to do what they do not wish to do.'

The reality is that the agreement was disappointingly short of the drastic reductions in carbon emissions required by climate scientists, people across the world enduring the dire impact of climate change and the young to save our planet from a climate change catastrophe. Too many polluting countries are still dragging their feet to buy time to safeguard the parochial interests of their economy highly dependent on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels and coal despite the fact that their actions are choking and throttling our homeland, planet Earth.

The world's three largest emitters of greenhouse gases are China, the United States and the European Union on an absolute basis. The United States and Russia have the highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions.

Insidious lobbies

Despite their carbon footprint and the enormous amount of greenhouse gases generated by their presence, some 40,000 delegates from 197 countries attended the COP26 summit on climate change in Glasgow. The stakes for the producers and exporters of fossil fuels and coal are so high that 503 persons linked to the fossil fuel industry were also present in Glasgow to insidiously lobby and tweak the outcome of the COP26 to safeguard their vested interests. Such lobbies are also active in Mauritius to safeguard and extend the lifespan of lucrative power plants principally using highly polluting coal.

In spite of some positive decisions, efforts to drastically cut down carbon emissions to limit global warming within the threshold of 1.5 degree Celsius fell far short. Many countries adversely affected by the dire impact of climate change stated during the closing sessions of the climate summit that the COP 26 agreement did not go far enough.



Youth climate activists protesting against the presence of representatives of the fossil fuel industry inside the venue during COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland, November 11, 2021. Pic - AP

increasing as necessary their greenhouse gas cuts. In the meantime, all countries need to honour their commitments and translate them urgently into concrete and robust actions.

The disappointing reality in the wake of COP26 is that experts and Climate Action Tracker estimate that even if all pledges made before and during COP26 are met, the planet is on track to warm by 2.1? – 2.4?

On climate finance, the agreed text commits developed countries to double the collective share of adaptation finance within the \$100 billion annual target for 2021-2025 and to reach the \$100 billion goal

Culpable delay

What is particularly disappointing is that six years after the COP21 Paris agreement, the actions taken and commitments made in particular by the most polluting countries, world leaders and governments have not been able to match up with the requirements of the climate change crisis faced by the world. They have culpably delayed the required actions needed to accelerate the decarbonisation of the global economy, end the use of highly polluting coal and fossil fuels and shift to renewable and green energy production and use.

In accordance with the COP26 accord, all countries have therefore agreed to meet again next year at a conference in Egypt and re-examine their commitments to cut down their carbon emissions in 2022, with a view to

as soon as possible.

At the end of the COP26 climate summit, the burning question in the minds of people across the world and the young was: Have the governments present in Glasgow had the courage to rise to the scale of the challenge? Antonio Guterres, the UN secretary-general, sobering comment summarizes the world's state of mind: 'Further urgent work was needed. Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread. We are still knocking on the door of a climate catastrophe. It is time to go into emergency mode' to stem and prevent the impending climate disaster.

Must win battle

The upshot is that the world is courting disaster.

Important unfinished business therefore remains to be done in the wake of COP26. Civil society, climate scientists and activists and people from across the world must remain mobilized and continue to press governments of countries which are the worst polluters and prime users of highly polluting coal and fossil fuels to drastically cut down their emissions of greenhouse gases, urgently end their use of coal and fossil fuels to replace them with renewable and green energy.

The world is facing an unprecedented crisis which requires bold and urgent actions. It is therefore high time to put a stop to the irresponsible greed of those who have thrived and want to continue to prosper through the use of highly polluting coal and fossil fuels or industries and activities which emit large quantities of carbon emissions in the atmosphere despite the impending threat of a climate change disaster. What is at stake is the safeguard and sustainability of our homeland, planet Earth as well as the future of humanity and the young. More than ever before in the chequered history of mankind, this is a must-win battle.

“Despite their carbon footprint and the enormous amount of greenhouse gases generated by their presence, some 40,000 delegates from 197 countries attended the COP26 summit on climate change in Glasgow. The stakes for the producers and exporters of fossil fuels and coal are so high that 503 persons linked to the fossil fuel industry were also present in Glasgow to insidiously lobby and tweak the outcome of the COP26 to safeguard their vested interests. Such lobbies are also active in Mauritius to safeguard and extend the lifespan of lucrative power plants principally using highly polluting coal...”

Maldives rejects 'India Out' campaign, describes India as 'closest ally'



The Maldives government on Wednesday said the strong relationship between the Maldives and India is based on shared historical and cultural ties and matched by dynamic people-to-people contacts. Pic - AFP

The Maldives government on Wednesday rejected what it said were attempts to spread "false information" through social media using the "India Out" slogan, and described India as the country's "closest ally and trusted neighbour".

The government in Male issued a statement in response to a fresh campaign in the media and social media that alleged cooperation between the governments of the two countries is undermining the national security and sovereignty of the Maldives.

The statement said the strong relationship between the Maldives and India is based on shared historical and cultural ties and matched by dynamic people-to-people contacts. "India has always been the Maldives' closest ally and trusted neighbour, extending constant and consistent support to the people of Maldives on all fronts," it said.

Though the statement did not name anybody, it is believed opposition parties and a section of the media in the Maldives have been engaged in renewed efforts to whip up anti-India sentiments. The "India Out" slogan was first used on social media platforms last year.

Recent media reports, especially in *Dhiyares* and its sister newspaper *The Maldives Journal*, have sought to create an impression that India is seeking to establish a military presence in the Maldives through ongoing security cooperation.

The Maldives government's statement coincided with the new Indian high commissioner, Munu Mahawar, presenting his credentials to President Ibrahim Solih at an official ceremony. Solih "highlighted that the Maldives and India share a special relationship and that no third nation can take India's place", according to a readout from the president's office, reports Rezaul H Laskar of Hindustan Times.

Solih and the Indian envoy spoke about strengthening bilateral relations, especially in security cooperation, socio-economic development and climate change.

The Maldives government's statement said cooperation and support provided by India, specifically on issues of maritime security, is "aimed at strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries and to ensure the safety and stability of the Indian Ocean region".

It added: "Support provided by India, on areas such as search and rescue capabilities, casualty evacuation, coastal surveillance, and maritime reconnaissance, directly benefit the Maldivian people. The Government of Maldives has also established partnerships with other countries in similar areas of cooperation, to enhance technical and strategic capacities."

Maldives defence minister Mariya Didi recently told Raajje TV that none of the Indian military personnel present on Maldivian soil "carry weapons" and their presence poses no risk to national sovereignty.



Troop training and battle preparedness have been bolstered across the board. Pic - Council of Foreign Relations

China says military preparing for 'next stage'

The Chinese military has conducted "major operations related to border defence" and strengthened training under combat conditions to build a modern armed force, the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) has said in a key resolution released on Tuesday.

The resolution, only the third such one to be adopted in 100 years, on the CPC's "achievements and historical experiences" also admitted that the party's leadership over the military was "obviously lacking" for a period of time but has "made a fundamental turn for the better".

The resolution was passed at the end of a four-day, closed-door meeting of the CPC's central committee held in Beijing last week, reports Hindustan Times.

In what could be interpreted as a message to adversaries, the resolution said: "Devoting intense focus to combat effectiveness as the sole criterion that matters most and to their fundamental purpose of being able to fight and win, the people's armed forces have strengthened their strategic forces and new-domain forces with new combat capabilities, and they have improved command systems and capacity for joint operations."

Defence mobilisation has been improved and "greater unity" has been cultivated between the mili-

tary and the government and between the military and civilians, it said.

The strong support for the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) transformation in the key document comes in the backdrop of the ongoing standoff with the Indian military along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

The document didn't mention India but gave an indication of the PLA's preparation for wars along its land and maritime borders.

"They (the military) have conducted major operations related to border defence, protecting China's maritime rights, countering terrorism and maintaining stability, disaster rescue and relief, fighting Covid-19, peacekeeping and escort services, humanitarian assistance, and international military cooperation," the document said.

China currently has land border disputes with India and Bhutan and maritime disputes with several neighbours over conflicting claims in the South China Sea and with Japan in the East China Sea.

Troop training and battle preparedness have been bolstered across the board, the document said, adding that the military has accelerated efforts to modernise "...military theory, organisation, personnel, and weaponry and equipment and to integrate mechanisation with the application of information and smart technologies within the military".

The CPC under the presidency of Xi Jinping, who is also chairperson of the Central Military Commission (CMC), has reversed the trend of the CPC's weakening control of China's vast armed forces, the resolution indicated.

"For a period of time, the party's leadership over the military was obviously lacking. If this problem had not been completely solved, it would not only have diminished the military's combat capacity, but also undermined the key political principle that the party commands the gun."

After West criticism, Russia says anti-satellite missile test poses 'no threat'

After drawing criticism over the anti-satellite missile test, Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu said that the fragments generated from it "do not pose any threat to space activities". US, Britain and Nato had said that the debris field in low-Earth orbit generated by the anti-missile test was dangerous for orbiting spacecraft and would pose a hazard to space activities for years.

"The fragments that formed do not pose any threat to space activities," Shoigu said, as quoted by Russian news agencies.

The anti-satellite missile test destroyed Russian spacecraft 'Tselina-D' which had been in the orbit since 1982, according to the Russian defence ministry. Shoigu said that the test used a "promising" system that "accurately" hit its target. Russia cited Washington's move to establish a space force in 2020 as a reason to beef up its defence capabilities in space.

"The Russian Ministry of Defence successfully conducted a test on Nov. 15 that hit the non-operational Russian spacecraft Tselina-D, which had been

in orbit since 1982," said the defence ministry.

The test drew ire from the West, with Nato secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg calling it a "reckless" and "concerning" act. At a meeting with EU defence ministers, Stoltenberg said the anti-satellite missile test "demonstrates that Russia is now developing new weapon systems that can shoot down satellites."

France labelled Russia as "space vandals" for producing dangerous amounts of debris, reports Hindustan Times.

US secretary of state Antony Blinken said that the debris would continue to threaten satellites and activities on the International Space Station which currently has seven crew members on board.

The space station has faced frequent issues in recent times, including the smoke alarm incident in the Russian module of the ISS in September. Russia has indicated to leave the space station after 2025 and launch its own orbital station given the frequent issues with the ISS.

US imposes entry ban on Nicaraguan president, officials

The United States on Tuesday imposed an entry ban on Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, his vice-president wife and his government, after elections that were internationally dismissed as illegitimate.

Before the November 7 vote, Nicaraguan authorities detained nearly 40 opposition figures, including seven would-be presidential challengers, assuring victory for long-time ruler Ortega and his wife Rosario Murillo, reports AFP.

"The repressive and abusive acts of the Ortega government and those who support it compel the United States to act," President Joe Biden said in a proclamation.



Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega and his wife Vice-President Rosario Murillo pictured the day after November 7 election victory Cesar PEREZ Nicaraguan Presidency/AFP Pic - s.france24.com

"The Ortega government's undemocratic, authoritarian actions have crippled the electoral process and stripped away the right of Nicaraguan citizens to choose their leaders in free and fair elections."

On Monday, the United States announced separate financial sanctions against Nicaraguan officials, describing the recent election as a "sham."

Britain and Canada also announced new sanctions against prominent Nicaraguans.

"The physical and psychological abuse of political prisoners at the hands of police and prison authorities is intolerable and cannot stand," Biden said, accusing Ortega of overseeing corrupt courts, police and security services.

A firebrand Marxist in his youth, Ortega ruled Nicaragua from 1979 to 1990, after leading a guerrilla army that ousted US-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Returning to power in 2007, he has won re-election four times, becoming increasingly dictatorial and quashing presidential term limits.

US expresses 'concern' over S-400 deliveries to India



The S-400 'Triumph' surface-to-air missile system after its deployment at a military base outside the town of Gvardeysk near Kaliningrad, Russia. Pic - Reuters

The US defence department has reiterated "concern" over reports of India receiving the first supplies of the Russian S-400 missile defence system but there were no indications yet that the Biden administration was moving towards sanctions under a US law that seeks to punish Russia.

"I think we've been very clear with our Indian partners about our concern over this system," Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said to reporters in response to a question about India receiving the first supplies of

the Russian weapon system.

Kirby referred to defence secretary Lloyd Austin's visit to India in March in which he had reiterated US concerns with India acquiring the missile defence. "We certainly have concerns over that system, but I don't have any updates for you," Kirby added.

Dmitry Shugayev, the head of the Russian military cooperation agency, announced the start of the deliveries on Sunday. "The first supplies have already been started," Russian news agency Interfax cited Shugayev as saying on Sunday at an aerospace trade

show in Dubai.

The United States had pressed India to call off the deal arguing, among other things, the Russian system will impede ongoing efforts to increase interoperability between Indian and US militaries and had offered the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAD) and Patriot Advance Capability (PAC-3) systems instead, reports Hindustan Times.

A 2017 US law that seeks to punish Russia - Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) - requires the administration to impose secondary sanctions on countries that make substantial defence purchases from Russia. China was the first country sanctioned under this law in 2018; followed by Turkey, a Nato ally, in 2020; both over S-400.

Trump administration official, specially then defence secretary James Mattis had argued for waiver for India and New Delhi has since, and because of other indications, believed its purchase of S-400 will be exempted from sanctions.



Siblings who arrived from Afghanistan with their families are seen at their makeshift tents as they take refuge near a railway station in Chaman, Pakistan September 1, 2021. Pic - vid.alarabiya.net

Russia says ready to deliver humanitarian aid to Afghanistan

Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia said that Moscow will deliver humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, including food and medicine, in the near future.

"The top priority at the moment is providing Afghanistan with urgent humanitarian assistance," Nebenzia said on Wednesday during the UN Security Council meeting on Afghanistan, reports ANI.

Emphasising that Russian supports the role of the UN, Nebenzia said that Moscow is ready to make its contribution towards assistance.

"We support the coordinating role of the United Nations in consolidating international efforts in the area of humanitarian assistance," Sputnik quoted the representative as saying.

"We're prepared to make our contribution to this overall aim."

He also emphasised that in the coming times Moscow will deliver food, medicine and basic goods supplies to Afghanistan.

United Nations Security Council has convened the meeting on the Afghanistan situation on Wednesday (local time). Representatives from various countries took part in the meeting.

• Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Interview: Yvan Martial, Journaliste

“Nous avons le gouvernement et la classe politique que nous méritons”



Mauritius Times: Trois 'Private Notice Questions' successives ces dernières semaines, pour faire le point sur la situation de la Covid-19 dans le pays, et qui nous informent que la propagation du virus est loin d'être endiguée. Fixer ou atteindre l'objectif de "zéro cas" ne parait pas réalisable, il faudra vivre avec le virus pendant un bon bout de temps, selon les spécialistes, à condition que notre système de santé publique - notre défense de première ligne - parvienne à tenir le coup. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Yvan Martial: Il nous faut en effet continuer à vivre avec la Covid-19 jusqu'à ce que le corps médical mondial trouve le moyen absolument efficace, soit d'immuniser durablement la population planétaire, ou de mettre au point un remède pouvant lutter efficacement contre les méfaits de ce virus, et ce, en attendant le prochain fléau qui pourrait être plus redoutable encore.

Programme pessimiste pour certains. Programme empreint d'une sage sérénité pour d'autres. Le tout est de savoir si l'on veut se situer parmi les insensés voulant à n'importe quel prix expérimenter sur terre un bonheur parfait, forcément incessant; nous sommes tous incapables de le construire car, dès le jour de notre naissance, nous sommes condamnés à mourir et à céder la place à d'autres, y compris nos descendants.

Notre ridicule révolte contre la Covid-19 faisant dépasser un pourcentage heureusement infime de Terriens, y compris les contaminés, remplace seulement d'an-

La pandémie emporte des victimes tous les jours et la foule pour faire la troisième dose de vaccin grossit localement. La crainte d'attraper le coronavirus gagne les esprits et chacun souhaite utiliser un filet de protection magique même si ce dernier est inexistant à l'heure actuelle... Mais la masse fera tout pour retrouver son petit train-train quotidien sans avoir à se plaindre de tous les fléaux sociaux qui tuent pourtant plus que la Covid. Entretemps, le Gouvernement continue sa route en utilisant les stratégies de son choix pour gagner du temps, et aussi des électeurs. Yvan Martial, journaliste, nous en parle...

ciennes révoltes contre le cancer, le sida, la polio, la peste, le choléra, la variole...

Curieuse humanité que la nôtre, qui se révolte contre une Covid-19 que l'OMS peine tant à éradiquer mais qui demeure tellement silencieuse, pour ne pas dire complice, devant la drogue qui tue d'abord mentalement des jeunes, la frénésie de la vitesse qui exécute de jeunes motocyclistes aux petites heures du matin (que faisaient-ils dans cette galère matutinale?)

Ridicule révolte contre la Covid-19 et ses inconvénients dérangeant notre confort tellement égoïste quand des menaces terroristes et génocides désespèrent des dizaines de millions d'êtres humains dans des pays aussi martyrs que l'Afghanistan et le Soudan. Les candidats à l'immigration sont en nombre croissant

“Ceux et celles qui sont à la retraite n'ont aucunement le droit moral de critiquer leurs successeurs, nous invitant même à les prendre pour des charlatans car leurs successeurs ont été formés par ces grands *conne-tout* et ils appliquent ce que leurs prédécesseurs leur ont enseigné dans la pratique et en théorie. Tout maître est, pour beaucoup, dans l'échec de son ou ses disciple(s)..."

dans des continents aussi paganisés que l'Europe ou l'Amérique du Nord, là où la Sagesse, forcément divine, doit céder la première place à l'Argent, au Profit démesuré aux dépens de ceux et celles qu'ils paupérisent et désespèrent chaque jour davantage...

Pouvons-nous imaginer Mère Teresa ou le Mahatma Gandhi désespérant parce que la Covid-19 les dérange? Ils ne cessent de nous apprendre à vivre, non pas pour nous-mêmes, mais pour rendre les autres plus heureux en vérité!

Y échapper par n'importe quel moyen, surtout privilégié, car réservé à certains mais pas disponible pour tous? Cela ne saurait être la vocation d'un être humain sachant qu'il doit son existence, son intelligence, le meilleur de lui-même à un Dieu-Créateur. Celui qui nous donne tout pour que nous acceptions librement de partager éternellement auprès de Lui notre vie au-delà de notre mort où nous serons enfin libérés des contraintes du Temps et de l'Espace pour devenir partie prenante d'une Vérité salvatrice transcendante...

La Covid-19 peut certes nous frapper à n'importe quel moment plus ou moins gravement. Mais nous devons

ressentir chacun de nos réveils matinaux comme un jour de bonheur terrestre de plus, une victoire de la Lumière du Jour sur les ténèbres de la nuit et de notre vie, une source incommensurable d'Espérance et de foi en votre vocation d'enfant de Dieu; l'occasion de témoigner notre reconnaissance en nous efforçant de servir les autres comme Lui nous aime miséricordieusement...

*** Pensez-vous que le gouvernement serait en train de dissimuler les vrais chiffres par rapport à la Covid-19 et que les mesures de restriction introduites la semaine dernière ne sont pas suffisantes par rapport à la gravité de la situation, comme le soutient le leader de l'opposition? Pour le ministre de la Santé, on serait en train de créer "une fausse perception" à l'effet que "nos services de santé seraient débordés et que les traitements proposés ne seraient pas efficaces"...**

Il n'est jamais sage de prêter des intentions à autrui y compris au gouvernement du jour. Pareille accusation et d'une telle gravité suppose que je dispose de preuves irréfutables de ce que j'allègue. Tel n'est pas le cas.

En revanche, je peux deviner ce gouvernement, pour ne pas dire son ministre de la Santé, en présence de mille et une données tant locales qu'internationales, tant officielles qu'officieuses. Ne pouvant les citer toutes sans créer une dangereuse confusion, ni encore moins nous offrir une synthèse forcément subjective, il lui reste à faire rapidement un choix lui paraissant le plus judicieux pour nous indiquer comment il voit la situation au jour le jour. Il faut dire qu'elle est diaboliquement évolutive, permettant aux données d'aujourd'hui de ridiculiser celles d'hier en attendant leur possible réhabilitation dans les jours à venir.

La sagesse nous commande de comprendre que nous sommes en présence d'une menace virale que nous connaissons mal. Les meilleurs services de santé au monde ne peuvent présentement qu'offrir des propositions de solution leur paraissant pour l'instant les plus judicieuses. Ils se savent faillibles mais ne peuvent pas attendre l'arrivée de certitudes incontestables non plus puisque des personnes souffrent de troubles respiratoires pouvant être mortels. En pareil cas, l'humilité la plus grande est de mise et toute arrogance des *conne-tout* se contredisant allègrement est à proscrire.

La modestie du décisionnaire aide grandement la population - qu'il doit servir au mieux de ses capacités - à lui réitérer sa confiance et à lui prêter une obéissance, gage d'une discipline nationale qui fait la grandeur des populations les plus sages.

● Suite en page 8

'Nous sommes peut-être la population la plus mouton-de-Panurge au monde. Nous tolérons l'intolérable mieux que quiconque'

• Suite de la page 7

Jamais plus perdue qu'aujourd'hui car recevant des messages les plus contradictoires - mais voulant à n'importe quel prix s'imposer à tous-, cette population, comme la nôtre, attend au moins un minimum de consensus de la part de notre corps médical et soignant. Sa mission première est de nous rassurer mais jamais de nous affoler davantage.

Ceux et celles qui sont à la retraite n'ont aucunement le droit moral de critiquer leurs successeurs, nous invitant même à les prendre pour des charlatans car leurs successeurs ont été formés par ces grands *conne-tout* et ils appliquent ce que leurs prédécesseurs leur ont enseigné dans la pratique et en théorie. Tout maître est, pour beaucoup, dans l'échec de son ou ses disciple(s).

*** Il y a toujours une tentation de la part de l'opposition de faire de la récupération ou de la basse politique sur des sujets brûlants du moment - ce que soutient le gouvernement -, alors que de l'autre côté, ce même gouvernement peut bien ne pas nous dire toute la vérité - ce qui certes n'est pas la même chose que mentir - afin de ne pas créer une situation de panique. Mais comment faire avancer le débat dans de telles circonstances?**

Ce n'est pas aujourd'hui qu'on se débarrassera de la politique de bas-étage consistant à profiter d'un moment de crise planétaire dans le vil espoir de promouvoir ses intérêts les plus égoïstes, les plus mesquins.

Quelqu'un a dit : Nous sommes en guerre ! D'accord mais contre qui? Contre le gouvernement en place plébiscité par notre électoralat le 7 novembre 2019? Certes non. Mais contre une Covid-19, ennemi d'autant redoutable qu'il est invisible sans indiquer qui il va attaquer, à quel moment et de quelle manière.

Si nous croyons être en guerre, notre devoir est d'offrir nos services, surtout nos compétences, mais en toute sincérité, à ceux qui ont présentement la mission de diriger, de gouverner, notre population, en vertu du plébiscite précité.

En pareille situation tellement préoccupante, il y a, à mon humble avis, un débat qui devrait retenir l'attention du plus grand nombre, à commencer par les parents d'enfants mineurs. Notre système éducatif fait relâche. Nos écoles, nos collèges et nos universités doivent fermer leurs portes. Catastrophe pour certains. Aubaine inestimable pour d'autres, malheureusement infiniment moins nombreux.

Le moment n'est-il pas venu de remettre radicalement en cause l'école d'aujourd'hui mais qui est encore celle d'hier car elle fonctionne encore beaucoup trop suivant un schéma ne connaissant ni télévision, ni internet, ni réseaux sociaux. C'est quelqu'un qui refuse aujourd'hui de recourir à un portable qui vous parle pourtant.

Mes petits-enfants ont des années-lumière d'avance sur moi car ils n'ont pas dix ans mais ils jonglent déjà avec aisance dans un univers virtuel qui m'est totalement inconnu mais qui leur offre des myriades de possibilités d'en-

“ Dans cet énième débat sur le *Press Council*, on omet de dire que La Sentinelle a courageusement tenté l'expérience d'un *Ombudperson* pour défendre plus rapidement que nos cours de justice de toujours possibles méfaits journalistiques. On n'entend plus parler de cela pour la simple raison que ce cher *Ombudperson* n'avait pas assez de doléances, pensons-nous, à se mettre sous la dent...”

“ Tout gouvernement faisant de la critique de ses adversaires sa priorité du jour est indigne de notre confiance. Pour être intelligent, tout gouvernement doit publiquement ignorer ses adversaires sans leur faire de la publicité surtout. Etes-vous ministres et députés de la majorité parlementaire ou des agents politiques de l'opposition même extraparlamentaire?”



richissement intellectuel et culturel dont je ne peux même pas rêver.

J'espère seulement pour eux qu'à la fin de leur vie, ils seront aussi heureux que moi, homme du 20e siècle en marche vers le 19e, de tout ce que j'ai appris sur mon pays, sur les générations qui m'ont précédé sur ce sol mauricien tellement sacré à mes yeux. Cela, ce n'est malheureusement pas l'école que j'ai subie, dans les années 1950, qui me l'a appris. Mais c'est mon seul désir découvrir ce que je suis avide d'apprendre même si je dois pour cela défricher de modestes journaux locaux des derniers trois quarts de siècle écoulé.

L'école sans l'école-simple-bâtiment-en-béton possède de multiples avantages à commencer par la diminution des déplacements et des bâtiments scolaires, les meilleurs professeurs disponibles pour tous les élèves avec une égalité de chances sans précédent. Elle comporte aussi des inconvénients particulièrement préoccupants. Elle assure mal le besoin de sociabilité de tout être humain. Combien plus pauvre serait présentement mon existence si je n'avais pas la possibilité d'évoquer à mon aise tous mes condisciples d'école et de collège?

Cela dit, je confirme que nous avons présentement l'urgent besoin de réinventer l'école la mieux adaptée, la plus épanouissante à offrir avant demain aux enfants de nos enfants. N'attendons surtout pas à ce que notre ministre de l'Education se mette d'accord avec le reste du conseil des ministres pour nous mettre à réfléchir - seul ou à plusieurs - sur ce qu'il convient d'inventer et d'expérimenter pour que l'écolier devienne plus tard un citoyen planétaire beaucoup plus utile que nous! Elèves de l'école sans internet, essayons d'être pour ceux qui nous entourent et qui nous font confiance...

Le premier document fort utile à verser à ce dossier hyper urgent est sans conteste la précieuse lettre de l'éminent Suren Bissoondoyal concernant les cours par correspondance (via des aérogrammes à 35 sous l'envoi) des années 1950 et suivantes qui ont permis à tant de Mauriciens à s'élever dans l'échelon social (Voir *L'Express*

du 17 novembre 2021, page 7). Qui n'a pas lu cet envoi n'a pas le droit de se considérer pédagogue.

*** Pour revenir à la communication du gouvernement, il paraît que la tolérance du public face aux mensonges politiques est assez élevée à Maurice, mais la pandémie de la Covid-19 nous amène à nous poser la question suivante: les dirigeants du pays doivent-ils dire toute la vérité?**

Nous sommes peut-être la population la plus mouton-de-Panurge au monde. Nous tolérons l'intolérable mieux que quiconque. Nous possédons une stupéfiante capacité de supporter l'insupportable, y compris les interminables sermons vespéraux télévisés de Pravind Kumar devant d'accommodantes mais ô combien indésirables caméras de notre perpétuelle MBC (*Ministers Broadcasting Corporation?*)

Cela dit, je demeure incontestablement fier d'appartenir à une population pouvant revendiquer une succession

continue depuis 1885, à deux malheureuses exceptions près, de 25 élections législatives plus ou moins quinquennales jamais à ce jour contestées globalement, à n'avoir aucun coup d'Etat ni de révolution, pas même de palais, sur la conscience, à pouvoir se prévaloir d'une coexistence pacifique ayant pourtant surmonté heureusement quelques tempêtes plus ou moins menaçantes.

Tout n'y va pas pourtant pour le mieux comme dans le meilleur des mondes. Nous rencontrons des problèmes préoccupants sans éprouver heureusement le besoin d'aller bloquer stupidement des ronds-points majeurs pour freiner la circulation automobile sinon l'économie d'un pays ou d'une région. Nous respectons encore nos institutions même si elles sont de plus en plus gérées à nouveau de la manière la plus oligarchique qui soit.

Cela dit, tout gouvernement se voulant intelligent, pour ne pas dire excellemment serviable, doit comprendre qu'il est de son intérêt premier

(i) d'accepter avec gratitude les critiques même injustes ou inappropriées pouvant lui être adressées, et

(ii) de dire la vérité, toute la vérité, rien que la vérité à la population qu'il prétend vouloir servir au mieux de ses capacités.

J'ajouterais que tout gouvernement qui perd son temps, comme le nôtre, en critiquant des adversaires à terre car dans l'opposition tellement paralysante, pareille attitude nous démontre seulement un Pouvoir faible, désorienté, incapable de nous diriger harmonieusement, car n'ayant pas confiance en lui, en ses ressources surtout humaines.

Tout gouvernement faisant de la critique de ses adversaires sa priorité du jour est indigne de notre confiance. Il n'est même pas assez intelligent pour comprendre que perdre son temps à critiquer ses détracteurs leur donne une popularité, une force morale, un pouvoir que les urnes électorales n'ont pas été capables démocratiquement de leur offrir précédemment.

• Suite en page 9

'Les meilleurs services de santé au monde ne peuvent présentement qu'offrir des propositions de solution leur paraissant pour l'instant les plus judicieuses'

• Suite de la page 8

Pour être intelligent, tout gouvernement doit publiquement ignorer ses adversaires sans leur faire de la publicité surtout. Etes-vous ministres et députés de la majorité parlementaire ou des agents politiques de l'opposition même extraparlamentaire?

* Par ailleurs, avec un peu de chance, nos services de santé vont pouvoir contenir la pandémie dans les prochaines semaines, probablement vers la mi-décembre, et le Gouvernement trouvera bien alors un autre "sujet brûlant" pour occuper les esprits des citoyens, mais aussi de l'opposition et de la presse... puisque c'est bien l'alliance gouvernementale, pas l'Opposition, qui est en train de 'set the agenda' jusqu'ici, non?

J'ose espérer que le gouvernement que nous avons plébiscité le 7 novembre 2019 ait d'autres priorités que d'inventer des sujets brûlants pour seulement occuper nos esprits citoyens...

Toutefois, il y a une grosse lacune sur laquelle je n'entends souffler aucun vent de révolte démocratique. On nous a laissé entendre l'infime possibilité de la tenue d'élections municipales avant la fin de l'année. J'ai bien peur qu'il ne s'agisse encore et toujours que de promesse ministérielle mensongère, sinon de calendes grecques. Que ce déni de démocratie régionale, sinon au ras des pâquerettes, arrange providentiellement les candidatures d'une opposition, toujours en quête d'unité même de façade, ne diminue en rien l'irréremédiable irritation des vrais démocrates mauriciens qui tiennent pour sacrées les dates de nos élections de tous poils y compris villageoises.

Pour ne pas changer, on nous prétextera les précautions sanitaires à respecter en pleine pandémie Delta. Ne soyons pas dupes. Si nous avons le droit légal et policier de nous entasser à 60 dans un autobus hermétiquement clos, pour cause d'air-con, et embouteillé jusqu'au cou dans les méandres de nos perpétuels engorgements de trafic automobile pour, entre autres raisons, l'aménagement d'une voie ferrée pour Sa Majesté le Métro Express, je vois mal ce qui pourrait nous empêcher de pénétrer les uns après les autres dans un bureau de vote pour désigner la demi-douzaine ou davantage de candidats que nous jugerons les plus aptes à administrer nos rares municipalités pendant le lustre à venir.

Les Etats-Unis d'Amérique ont pu, au début de novembre 2020, en pleine vague de Covid-19, élire un Joe Biden pour nous débarrasser enfin de l'ultraconservateur Donald Trump. Covid-19 ou pas, les Français décideront, en avril et mai prochains, qui sera le prochain locataire, homme ou femme, du palais de l'Élysée pour, de nouveau, le prochain lustre.

Bien malin qui peut aujourd'hui dire s'il y aura des élections municipales avant l'échéance législative heureusement obligatoire de 2024. Nous devons ce nouvel attrapenigaud à notre classe politique, opposition autant que Gouvernement. Elle ne se soucie aucunement du respect dû à nos échéances électorales. Et dire que nos ancêtres se sont battus parfois au péril de leur vie pour conquérir ce droit de choisir librement nos députés, nos conseillers municipaux et villageois.

La structure oligarchique strictement familiale et dynastique de ce qui reste de nos partis politiques n'ac-

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corde aucune considération au droit des citoyens de se rendre aux urnes à dates fixes, programmées de longue date et ne souffrant aucun changement. Dans la main de nos Jupiters de pacotille doivent tenir tous les éléments, les seuls sacrés, de leur bon plaisir. Pauvre population mauricienne. Nous avons le gouvernement et la classe politique que nous méritons.

* Vous avez aussi sans doute remarqué que c'est le gouvernement qui nous sort de temps à autre un "sujet brûlant" susceptible de provoquer les passions pendant quelques semaines : droit de vote à 16 ans, 'Offshore Petroleum Bill', 'Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Bill...', et là, on parle ces jours-ci de son intention de mettre sur pied un 'Press Council'. Est-ce fait pour qu'on oublie l'essentiel?

“ Tout n'y va pas pourtant pour le mieux comme dans le meilleur des mondes. Nous rencontrons des problèmes préoccupants sans éprouver heureusement le besoin d'aller bloquer stupidement des ronds-points majeurs pour freiner la circulation automobile sinon l'économie d'un pays ou d'une région. Nous respectons encore nos institutions même si elles sont de plus en plus gérées à nouveau de la manière la plus oligarchique qui soit...”

Je n'ai pas la compétence technique pour ergoter sur l'*Offshore Petroleum Bill*. En ce qui concerne la *Cybersecurity Bill*, je dirai seulement que j'entends dans les médias internationaux, les rumeurs les plus inquiétantes au sujet des bambins de moins de cinq ans et déjà assez accrocs aux réseaux sociaux pour passer des journées et des nuits entières devant un écran audiovisuel pour le plus grand danger de leur cerveau encore en formation.

A la baudruche de l'énième projet de Press Council, on accroche celui du *Cybercrime*. Rien de nouveau donc sous le soleil mauricien et jugnauthien. Le Parti Travailiste de Seewoosagur Ramgoolam nous a imposé, à la requête du PMSD de Duval, une censure policière de la presse entre décembre 1972 et la mi-1976 (Merci à l'OUA qui nous avait débarrassés de ce monstre arbitraire).

Il n'a jamais eu l'intelligence de comprendre que cette censure initialement politique et anti-MMM devenait au fil



du temps une censure surtout policière, voulant à tout prix que les incartades de flics en flagrant délire demeurent inconnues de la population. Voilà pourquoi les Mauriciens n'ont jamais su médiatiquement que des gabelous ont sadiquement matraqué leurs filles et garçons au pont de la GRNO et dans les ruelles rosehilliennes, lors de l'événement de Mai 1975.

Je prendrai au sérieux la menace d'un énième projet de *Press Council* quand seront désignés les mercenaires acceptants, comme ceux de 1973 à 1976, de juger leurs confrères et consœurs en train d'accomplir leur mission sacrée d'être au service du droit de la population mauricienne à connaître la vérité, toute la vérité, rien que la vérité.

Quid des toujours possibles abus de pouvoir de brebis galeuses déguisées en journalistes dûment agréés. Il existe déjà toutes les lois requises pour condamner tout journaliste coupable de s'enfermer dans une diffamation la plus calomnieuse. La MBCTV, voulant ternir la réputation de notre presse écrite qui a encore le mérite d'exister sans dépenser un sou des fonds publics, confirme cela en revenant en long et en large sur un propriétaire de clinique ayant obtenu la condamnation juridique d'un de nos quotidiens, coupable de l'avoir diffamé.

Si nos lois anti-diffamation, devant normalement s'appliquer aussi aux méfaits de ce genre commis sur les réseaux sociaux, ne sont pas assez sévères, faites le nécessaire, Messieurs et Mesdames les honorables législateurs, mais ne venez pas nous fatiguer les oreilles avec ce vieux disque usé de la nécessité d'un *Press Council* pour soigner vos oignons en souffrance. Il pourrait en être autrement quand notre population aura moins confiance en notre presse écrite avant qu'elle ne disparaisse pour de bon, faute de nouveaux Rémy Ollier, Beekrumsing Ramlallah et autres Philippe Forget.

Les seuls Mauriciens qui trouvent à redire à des journalistes de notre bienheureuse presse écrite sont nos politiciens surtout quand ils se goinfrent au milieu du gruyère gouvernemental. Ils sont l'infime exception confirmant une règle multipliant les bienfaits depuis 1773.

Dans cet énième débat sur le *Press Council*, on omet de dire que La Sentinelle a courageusement tenté l'expérience d'un *Ombudperson* pour défendre plus rapidement que nos cours de justice de toujours possibles méfaits journalistiques. On n'entend plus parler de cela pour la simple raison que ce cher *Ombudperson* n'avait pas assez de doléances, pensons-nous, à se mettre sous la dent. Fermons le ban!

Mauritius remains an unknown country for most Koreans and Japanese

I am a Korean living and working as a pastor at the Mauritius Presbyterian Church. I have lived in South Africa and Japan, and I wish to share some thoughts about the country's tourism industry.

In 2019, I was helping a friend of mine, who was showing Chinese tourists around, especially in Stellenbosch, South Africa. My friend, who majored in tourism, was looking at the possibility of diversifying the tourism industry, dependent on Europe for the past 30 years. He saw China as a vast potential tourism market for South Africa.

However, during one of the tours, I ventured to ask the Chinese tourists a very simple and direct question: 'Would you like to visit South Africa again?' Sadly, most of them answered unequivocally that South Africa has amazing tourism resources, but they had no plans to come back again. Given the prevailing culture in Far East Asia, where it is considered rude to disappoint your interlocutor directly, such an answer was quite unusual, and I wanted to know the reasons. Luckily, the Chinese tourists were forthcoming and mentioned three reasons.

First, the unstable security situation in South Africa was a major cause of concern for tourists from Asia, where security is relatively stable. This was difficult for British tourists in South Africa to understand.

Second, South Africa's cuisine. For the Chinese tourists, South African food, though not tasteless, lacked variety, and they found it rather disappointing to be eating the same food in any city in South Africa.



Third, the distance. Given the absence of a direct flight from China, the flight to South Africa excluding stopover took more than 24 hours, that is more than twice the time it usually takes to fly to the United States.

South Africa's tourism industry remains highly dependent on European tourists and shows no signs of changing in the future. However, the situation in Mauritius is a little different.

Personal security in Mauritius is incomparably better than what obtains in South Africa. One can also find good Chinese restaurants wherever you go around the island, and Mauritius is relatively closer to Asia.

Although the tourism industry here is still heavily dependent on Europe and South Africa, we find more and more honeymooners from China and Korea coming over and enjoying a pleasant time at luxury resorts. However, the

number of family tourists from Asia is relatively small, but there is scope for bringing in more tourists.

First, there's need for more direct flights from Asia. The favourite tourist destinations for Koreans can be reached by direct flights; on the other hand, it takes 48 hours, including transit time, to get to Mauritius from Korea. This is too long compared to the 6 hours it takes to fly to the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Second, convenience facilities for family tourists and backpackers should be created. Most European family tourists rent a car at the local airport. For foreigners, it is very difficult to move around the island. City sightseeing (like in Cape Town) on the double decker hop-on-hop-off buses, and day tours around the island (again, just like those to Cape Point and the Wine Country in South Africa) will surely interest tourists here.

Last, tourism info for Asian tourists should be updated. Mauritius remains an unknown country for most Koreans and Japanese; even the Internet is not of much help. A Korean broadcaster should be approached to advertise the Mauritius destination, and tourism brochures and other relevant documents in Japanese and Korean should be made available.

Mauritius is like a shining pearl of the Indian Ocean. I wish my friends in Asia could enjoy this pearl more.

Rev Inkyu Choi
Mauritius Presbyterian Church

Straight jacket

Growing up as a teenager in Mauritius I met some housebound ladies in the villages who told me that they have never set eyes on the ocean - and this on an island barely forty miles long.

Strangely I never considered myself confined in space although a brief overview of the island and its dependencies will show that I actually was. Briefly, Mauritius is the main island in an archipelago comprising Rodrigues, Diego Garcia, Agalega, Tromelin, and others which we will disregard for the purpose of this writeup. Still, one has to bear in mind that there is vast unexplored potential in their fishing and maritime resources.

Aside from Rodrigues I have never been to any of these places: Diego Garcia was ceded to the USA by the British and is out of bounds even to its native inhabitants due to secretive military infrastructure; Agalega is distant and, I believe, at first the British and now the present government dissuaded visitors. Although officially denied, it is believed that India is building a naval base there to extend its naval reach.

Thus it is readily seen that most Mauritians are *de facto* unable to visit other parts of their island dependencies. Not so apparent but nonetheless true is the fact that most Mauritians live in a narrow strip adjoining the main arterial roadways crisscrossing the island. The vast outlying land areas used to belong to the sugar estates and were practically out of bounds and patrolled by armed security guards or cowboys. This situation has changed somewhat nowadays but I suspect, not much.

In my own case I did not travel to these unfamiliar or off-limits places due to other factors such as, for example, lack of means or lack of ambition...much like the aforementioned old ladies who had never set eyes on the sea.

Lastly, I cannot but help thinking that most Mauritians have a certain passiveness in their DNA... similar to those born in slavery and among those brought in as indentured labour, earlier pejoratively referred to as "coolies". All capitalist systems use the modern equivalent of slaves or coolies, such as in the NHS and in the Bandagleshi garment factories, but differing only in degree.

Hopefully we will have a more vocal and assertive populace that can exert pressure on the government to open up public access throughout the archipelago. I cannot claim to fully comprehend the complexities of the situation, but I believe such access should be a topic for national debate.

Farook Hossenbux

*A retired physician living in Ottawa,
Ontario Canada*

* * *

Summer by the sea

It's so beautiful to stop and see
Watching children smiling so bright
Having fun in the warm summer sunlight
Feeling the warmth
On my face
Mauritius is such a beautiful warm
sunny place
Tasting the sweetest fruits
Watching butterflies flow
Oh how I love the summer days
Smiling so bright

Kissing my beautiful wife
All the songs we sung
Beautiful and bright
In the warm summer sunlight
It's truly beautiful
To see the little birds singing
To me it's summer time
I'll remember this summer's day
All my memories will never fade away
Oh how I love summer time in Mauritius
every day.

David P Carroll
UK

* * *

Jawaharhal Nehru

I thought that this 14 November, organizations that are lovers of India would organise a Nehru Jayanti event. Nehru, as all politicians, has his admirers and critics but he stands out as a giant among world leaders and his contributions have helped his country gain a status commensurate with its size.

Nehru inculcated democratic habits among his fellow citizens and saw to it that democratic values are enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Consequently, a plural India was meant to give security to its various components. Whenever Indians feel that their rights are trampled upon, they take to the streets... the latest example is the Kisaan movement. Being referred to as the biggest democracy of the world gives the Indians a priceless pride in their country.

Promotion of secularism is another achievement of Nehru and that has served India well by maintaining its unity. India can serve as a model to nations which are increasingly becoming multi-racial and multi-

religious. There are two Sudans but only one India.

The most durable legacy of Nehru to the world, according to me would be the creation of the Non- Aligned Movement, NAM, with the inputs of stalwarts like Nasser, Sukarno, Tito and Kwame Nkrumah. NAM tried hard to stay away from the bipolar world divide and hastened the decolonisation of Asia and Africa. The NAM has played a fundamental role in the preservation of world peace and security, has opposed apartheid and other forms of racism, foreign occupation and domination, been pro-disarmament and in favour of restructuring of the international economic system. With NAM, the geography of the world has definitely changed for the better.

It gives an uneasiness when attempts at demonizing Nehru take vile forms, like dropping him from textbooks and only highlighting his weaknesses and failures, thus justifying in Shakespeare's words: "the evil that men do lives after them...the good is oft interred with their bones".

I leave historian Srinath Raghavan's remarks as my conclusion: "Decisions by leaders are made in real time, and not by scholars in retrospect. One must visualize the circumstances in which Nehru was placed. The luxury of simplified hindsight, as we often use it, blinds us. The lessons of history are useful only if they help us overcome that visual incapacity and understand not only those aspects on which a blinding bright light tends to shine typically but also the rest of the picture that exists in the shadows."

Dawood Auleear
Triolet

Democracy under threat: how to keep civic spaces open

• Cont. from page 2

Commitments to open governance are important. But they don't go very far if citizens don't have the basic freedoms to speak truth to power without fear of reprisal. This means also actively protecting democratic space. That includes joining forces with those defending the rights of those speaking out against corruption and abuses of power.

Second, even in increasingly hostile and authoritarian settings, a rich repertoire of citizen actions are taking place. But, not through the normal, established channels which many have come to expect. Sometimes these claims are expressed in cultural forms rather than engaging directly to authorities. One example is the use of political rap lyrics in Mozambique.

Other times, they are made through informal channels, through networks or intermediaries, as our work using 'governance diaries' with marginalised groups found. And, sometimes protests may arise from a sense of collective moral outrage of citizens who, no matter how vulnerable, have just had enough.

We found this for example in struggles for security and against violence, or against sexual harassment, or for access to energy.

Donors and governments seeking to support movements for democratic reform

need to start with looking for where these sources of civic energy are actually emerging. This, instead of the more traditional channels where they are often thought they ought to be.

Third, women are often leading the way. Our work found women were often in the front lines of protecting civic space and demanding reforms. This is despite patriarchal social norms, threats of violence, or biases of authorities and political parties who do not recognise women as legitimate claim makers.

We saw, for instance, the power of women's leadership in the Bring Back our Girls Movement against the abduction of girls in Nigeria, or in widespread mobilising against sexual harassment. We also saw this in struggles for women's rights in Pakistan.

Commitments to action for protecting or expanding democratic space must include commitments to support women as leaders and champions of reform.

Fourth, small steps matter. In fragile, closed and authoritarian settings, donors and other actors need to re-calibrate their definitions and measures of success. Measuring success through examples of full-blown democratic accountability or well-established democratic institutions is perhaps an unrealistic goal when faced with limited civic space, weak institutional

channels for engagement and repressive leadership.

The focus instead should be on more intermediary outcomes, which can serve as building blocks for longer term democratic renewal. In our work, these included:

- increased visibility of previously excluded issues and voices;
- improved access to higher levels of authority by local groups;
- a strengthened sense of rights and citizenship among the citizenry;
- greater responsiveness from authorities on certain concrete issues;
- changing norms, including gender norms, increased expectations and cultures of accountability;
- greater trust between people and public authorities, as well strengthened solidarity between groups.

Outcomes such as these will go a long way to creating the conditions that are possible for larger, more institutionalised democratic reforms.

Finally, our research shows that citizens across the world see access to energy as more than a necessity for cooking, transport, communications and livelihoods. They also see it as a fundamental right. This has led to widespread protests

to try and get their voices heard when it is denied.

Linking democratic renewal and climate change

Yet those who consume the least yet need the most are not being listened to. Little attention is made to how to make energy policy more accountable or inclusive, especially in repressive and often resource-rich settings.

Building on our research on civic space and the politics of energy, a new project with African partners will explore the the spaces for inclusive deliberation on what a just transition would look like for the citizens of oil and gas producing regions in sub-Saharan Africa.

So far, our research points to the need to carry the grassroots demands for inclusion on energy policy – which we saw on the streets of Glasgow during the COP26 as well as many countries around the world – into upcoming summits on democracy and open governance.

When the space is created for citizens to truly have a say on their energy futures, especially in often resource-rich but repressive regimes, then perhaps we can perhaps also say that democracy is being renewed.

*John Gaventa,
Institute of Development Studies*

PROGRAMME DES COURSES

1 THE SERAPHOS PLATE 1500 m - Valeur [0-20] - 12h30

1 Heart Of Darkness	SN	6-8-4-6-2	60	O.Sola	9	700
2 Man From Seattle	RG	6-5-6-6-4	60(-4)	I.Taka	1	400
3 Million Dollar Man	CR	3-7-2-7-1	60	K.Ramsamy	2	310
4 Secret Idea	CD	1/5-8-4-4	60(-3)	M.Sonaram	3	520
5 The Time Is Now	SPN	6-6-7-8-7	60	R.Hoolash	4	3000
6 Italian Way	VA	4-5-6-10-8	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	6	650
7 Celestial Magma	SM	7-10-4-7-6	58.5	R.K.Chumun	8	2000
8 Midnight Oracle	SPN	3-7-4-1-3	58.5	G.D.Aucharuz	5	900
9 Rochester	JMH	8-5-R-5-5	57	R.Beeharry	7	3000

2 THE ALTATURK PLATE 990 m- Valeur [0-25] - 13h05

1 Doublethink	RG	3-3-3-3-3	61.5	D.Bheekary	5	650
2 Jack Tarr	RM	0-0-0-2-2	61	P.C.Orffer	6	320
3 Rain Must Fall	P	0-0-5-10-6	60.5	G.D.Aucharuz	7	3000
4 Fort Mchenry	SPN	8-3-R-7-8	60	R.Vaibhav	4	3000
5 New Abbey	SH	5-4/4-1-3	59.5	I.Santana	1	240
6 Trojan Quest	JMH	5-4-5-2-3	59.5	B.Sooful	3	800
7 Badawee	SJ	6-2-9-9-8	59	B.Woodworth	2	520

3 THE PROUD APPEAL PLATE 1400 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 - 13h40

1 Gang Leader	AS	0-8-6-R-8	61	S.Rama	3	3300
2 Go Jewel	VA	1-1-2-1-3	61	D.Bheekary	11	800
3 Liquid	RM	0-0-0-0-5	61	P.C.Orffer	5	1100
4 Trip To The Sky	SJ	2-2-4-2-4	61	B.Woodworth	6	570
5 Liverpool Champ	GR	4-5-4-6-7	60.5	B.Sooful	7	3000
6 Nevil Mu	SM	0-0-10-4-6	60.5	R.K.Chumun	10	5000
7 Steak And Ale	GR	6/2-7-6-5	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	2	1000
8 Syds Liason	RG	4-8-5-3-3	59.5	K.Ramsamy	1	600
9 Thomas Henry	G	1/1-3-1-2	59	R.Joorawon	9	340
10 Hardwired	P	5-2/1-1-3	57	G.D.Aucharuz	4	600
11 Senor Don [EA]	P	0-0-0-4-8	57	-----	8	----

33è journée samedi 20 novembre 2021

4 MUNICIPALITY OF P. LOUIS 125TH ANNIVERSARY CUP 1850 m - Valeur Benchmark 46 - 14h15

1 John Hancock	G	6-1-5-6-5	60	S.Bussunt	9	5500
2 Rock The Night	SM	0-0-6-6-9	60	K.Ramsamy	5	900
3 Absolutist	AS	4-1-2-4-2	59	S.Rama	4	330
4 Arlingtons Revenge	SJ	1-1-4-5-3	59	B.Woodworth	8	550
5 Over The Odds	SJ	6-7-9-9-7	59	D.Bheekary	3	2500
6 Victor Lazlo	G	0-0-0-9-10	59	R.Joorawon	7	6500
7 Charleston Hero	VA	5-3-10-3-8	58.5(-3)	A.Roy	10	2500
8 Paddingtons Luck	GR	8-10-1-6-1	58.5	B.Sooful	6	1300
9 Pforzheim	SH	R-5-1-1-1	57	I.Santana	1	220
10 Snowy Mountain	P	4-5-5-4-4	57	G.D.Aucharuz	2	1100

5 THE VEEJAY KUMAR BEEHAREE MEMORIAL CUP 990 m - Valeur Benchmark 51 - 14h50

1 Al Bragga	G	0-0-3-2-3	61.5	B.Sooful	6	650
2 Wave	G	7-A/4-6-6	61.5	S.Bussunt	4	1000
3 Shadowing	AS	1-2-3/1-5	61	S.Rama	1	900
4 Emerald Band	VA	4-1-2-3-7	60.5	D.Bheekary	5	360
5 Henry Tudor	CD	9/9-6-1-9	59(-3)	M.Sonaram	3	600
6 Captainofthesea	RG	5-5/4-3-4	57.5	K.Ramsamy	7	1400
7 Bye Bye Rocket	SH	1-3/7-8/1	55.5	I.Santana	8	570
8 Ninotto	RG	3-5-5-2-2	54	R.Beeharry	2	450

6 THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL CUP 1450 m - Valeur [50+] - 15h25

1 Black Cat Back	G	1/5-4-3-7	61	R.Joorawon	2	225
2 Rule The Night	GR	5-2/C-5-5	60.5	D.Bheekary	1	1000
3 Horse Guards	CD	1/4-2-4-R	57(-3)	M.Sonaram	5	750
4 Haylor	SJ	1-1-7-1-4	56.5(-3)	A.Roy	6	450
5 Iditarod Trail	GR	10-5-4-5-6	54.5	B.Sooful	3	500
6 Bergerac	AS	0-9-R-8-7	52	S.Rama	4	2200

7 THE SUDDEN DRAW PLATE 1650 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 16h00

1 Bellagio King	SH	0-2-7-4-2	60	I.Santana	1	270
2 Imperial Rage	SJ	3-5-5-4-1	60	B.Woodworth	7	700
3 Black Indy	PM	2/4-6-5-5	59.5	R.K.Chumun	2	2500
4 Clouded Hill	JMH	6-9-7-6-9	59	D.Bheekary	8	6500
5 Eurotec	RM	1-8-3-1-2	59	P.C.Orffer	4	280
6 Power Tower	RG	6-7-2-5-5	59	K.Ramsamy	9	3000
7 Al Madhar	GR	4-4-7-1-4	58.5	B.Sooful	6	1100
8 High Key	SN	6-2-8-1-4	58.5	S.Bussunt	5	1600
9 Moonrise Sensation	AS	6-5-7-3-8	58.5	S.Rama	3	1500
10 Opague	G	1-9-4-1-2	58.5	R.Joorawon	10	900

8 THE BRIAN ELDER PLATE 1400 m - Valeur [0-26] - 16h35

1 Duke Of Abercorn	SPN	0-0-8-8-9	61.5	O.Sola	1	3500
2 Massimo	SM	0-0-0-5-3	61.5	D.Bheekary	2	370
3 Talisman	VA	0-0-0-0-2	61	A.Roy	4	350
4 Xenon	RM	R-2-3-3-5	60.5	P.C.Orffer	5	370
5 Instinctive Power	CR	0-0-0-0-R	59(-3)	S.Bussunt	3	1600
6 Intothemystic	SN	10-6-A-6-7	57.5	R.Beeharry	6	3500
7 Lasair	JMH	5-7-8-8-3	55.5	K.Ramsamy	7	700
8 Moroccan Retreat	SH	7-5-9-8-4	54	I.Santana	8	650

Selections

1. Man From Seattle, Million Dollar Man, Midnight Oracle
2. New Abbey, Jack Tarr, Doublethink
3. Thomas Henry, Trip To The Sky
4. Pforzheim, Absolutist, Rock The Night
5. Emerald Band, Ninotto, Henry Tudor
6. Black Cat Back, Haylor, Iditarod Trail
7. Bellagio King, Eurotec, Opague
8. Talisman, Xenon, Massimo

What's the difference between a PCR and antigen Covid-19 test?

The two types of tests – antigen and PCR – work in very different ways, which is why one is fast but less accurate and the other is slow and precise

At this point in the pandemic, you or someone you know has probably received at least one Covid-19 test. But do you know which kind of test you got and the strengths and weaknesses of these different tests?

I'm a molecular biologist, and since April 2020 I've been part of a team working on a National Institutes of Health-funded program called RADx that is helping innovators develop rapid tests to detect when a person is infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

Two major types of tests are used to diagnose infection with SARS-CoV-2: molecular tests – better known as PCR tests – and antigen tests. Each detects a different part of the virus, and how it works influences the test's speed and relative accuracy. So what are the differences between these types of tests?

Looking for genetic evidence

The first step for either kind of test is to get a sample from the patient. This can be a nasal swab or a bit of saliva.

For PCR tests, the next step is amplification of genetic material so that even a small amount of coronavirus genes in the patient's sample can be detected. This is done using a technique called a polymerase chain reaction. A health care worker takes the sample and treats it with an enzyme that converts RNA into double-stranded DNA. Then, the DNA is mixed with a solution containing an enzyme called a polymerase and heated, causing the DNA to separate into two single-stranded DNA pieces. The temperature is lowered, and polymerase, with the help of a small piece of guide DNA called a primer, binds to the single-stranded DNA and copies it. The primers ensure that only coronavirus DNA is amplified. You've now created two copies of coronavirus DNA from the original one piece of RNA.

Laboratory machines repeat these heating and cooling cycles 30 to 40 times, doubling the DNA until there are a billion copies of the original piece. The amplified sequence contains fluorescent dye that is read by a machine.

The amplifying property of PCR allows the test to successfully detect even the smallest amount of coronavirus genetic material in a sample. This makes it a highly sensitive and accurate test. With accuracy that approaches 100%, it is the gold standard for diagnosing SARS-CoV-2.

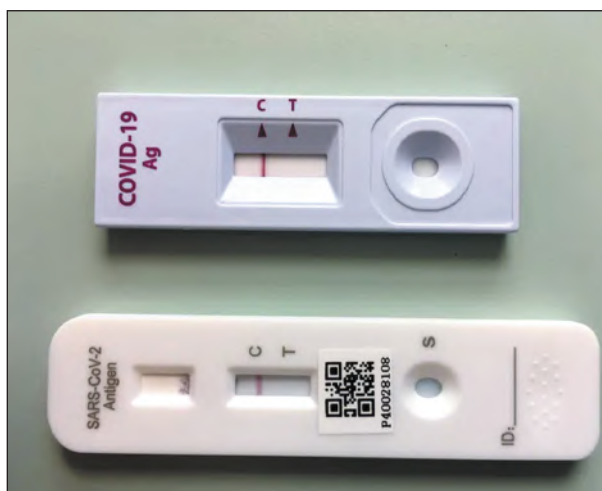
However, PCR tests have some weaknesses too. They require a skilled laboratory technician and special equipment to run them, and the amplification process can take an hour or more from start to finish. Usually only large, centralized



All COVID-19 tests start with a sample, but the scientific process goes very differently after that. Morsa Images/Digital Vision via Getty Images

testing facilities – like hospital labs – can conduct many PCR tests at a time. Between sample collection, transportation, amplification, detection and reporting, it can take from 12 hours to five days for a person to get results back. And

Antigens are substances that cause the body to produce an immune response – they trigger the generation of antibodies. These tests use lab-made antibodies to search for antigens from the SARS-CoV-2 virus.



Rapid antigen tests – like the two seen here showing negative results – are much faster and easier to perform but are less sensitive than PCR tests. Lennardylee via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA

finally, they aren't cheap at \$100 or more per test.

Antigen tests

Rapid, accurate tests are essential to contain a highly contagious virus like SARS-CoV-2. PCR tests are accurate but can take a long time to produce results. Antigen tests, the other major type of coronavirus test, while much faster, are less accurate.

To run an antigen test, you first treat a sample with a liquid containing salt and soap that breaks apart cells and other particles. Then you apply this liquid to a test strip that has antibodies specific to SARS-CoV-2 painted on it in a thin line.

Just like antibodies in your body, the ones on the test strip will bind to any antigen in the sample. If the antibodies bind to coronavirus antigens, a colored line appears on the test strip indicating the presence of SARS-CoV-2.

Antigen tests have a number of strengths. First, they are so easy to use that people with no special training can perform them and interpret the results – even at home. They also produce results quickly, typically in less than 15 minutes. Another benefit is that these tests can be relatively inexpensive at around \$10-\$15 per test.

Antigen tests do have some drawbacks. Depending on the situation, they can be less accurate than PCR tests. When a person is symptomatic or has a lot of virus in their system, antigen tests

are very accurate. However, unlike molecular PCR tests, antigen tests don't amplify the thing they are looking for. This means there needs to be enough viral antigen in the sample for the antibodies on the test strip to generate a signal. When a person is in the early stages of infection, not a lot of virus is in the nose and throat, from which the samples are taken. So, antigen tests can miss early cases of Covid-19. It's also during this stage that a person has no symptoms, so they are more likely to be unaware they're infected.

More tests, better knowledge

A few antigen tests are already available over the counter, and on Oct. 4, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration granted emergency use authorization to another at-home antigen test. The U.S. government is also pushing to make these tests more available to the public.

At RADx, the project I am a part of, we are currently conducting clinical studies to get a better understanding of how antigen tests perform at various stages of infection. The more data scientists have on how accuracy changes over time, the more effectively these tests can be used.

Understanding the strengths and limitations of both PCR and antigen tests, and when to use them, can help to bring the Covid-19 pandemic under control. So the next time you get a Covid-19 test, choose the one that is right for you.

Nathaniel Hafer

Assistant Professor, Program in Molecular Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School

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Laughter
is the **BEST**
Medicine

An Ad to Encourage Men to wear Masks

Dear family and friends,

Despite the fall in Covid cases and even if you are fully vaccinated, please continue wearing a mask. It saves life!

A friend of mine recently went out with his girlfriend and on the way his wife passed by him but she fortunately could not recognise him.

The mask really saved his life.

An elderly couple wander into a fast-food restaurant. As a young guy look on, the old man walks up to the counter, orders a meal and then pays. Taking a seat next to his wife, he slowly unwraps the plain burger and cuts it in two pieces in front of his wife. Then he carefully divides the fries into two equal piles, one for him, one for her.

As the man takes a few bites of the cheeseburger, the young guy turns restless - all they can afford is a single meal. The young fellow wanders over and offers to buy another meal.

"We're just fine, thanks," says the old guy, "after 50 years we are used to share everything."

Then the young guy notices that the old lady hasn't eaten a bite of her portion. Instead, while her Husband wolfs down his share, she sits and occasionally sips the drink.

"Ma'am, why are you not eating? Your Husband says you share everything, what are waiting for?" questions the young chap.

Over her glasses, she looks back at him, and says: "The teeth!"

Once a bright and intelligent young man went for an IAS (Indian Civil Service) interview.

He was asked -

*** When did India get Independence?**

He answered: The efforts started long back, but could succeed in 1947.

*** Who were the persons who played an important role in this fight for Independence?**

Answer: There are many people, who were involved. If I give a name, it will be injustice to others.

Q 3. Do you think corruption is the greatest enemy of the country?

Answer: A committee is investigating this matter. I can give a correct reply to this only after seeing the report.

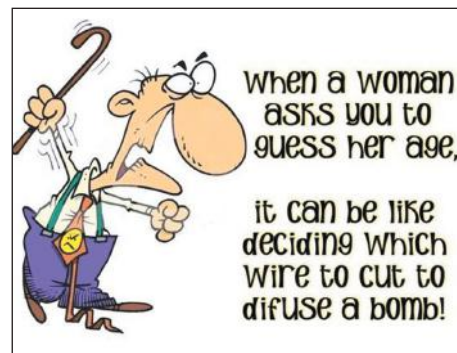
The interview board was impressed by his original ideas. They asked him to wait outside; but also advised him not to reveal the questions, as they may ask the same questions to other candidates also.

When the young man went out of the room, Sardar inquired about the questions asked. The young man said that he had promised the interview board not to disclose the questions.

But Sardar found a way out. "Tell me the answers you gave."

The young man thought it to be okay, as he was not going back on his words of "not disclosing the questions". So he gave him the three answers which Sardar quickly learnt by heart.

When Sardar went in for interview, this is what happened.



*** When were you born?**

Sardar: The efforts started long back, but could succeed in 1947.

Interviewers got confused... they asked next question.

*** What is your father's name?**

Sardar: There are many people, who were involved. If I give a name, it will be injustice to others.

The board members were shocked at the reply. They said -

*** Are you mad?**

Sardar: A committee is investigating this matter. I can give a correct reply to this only after seeing the report.

Signboards

Outside Heaven: "Lying naked with somebody in bed and screaming 'Oh God...Oh God'... will not be considered as prayers."

Outside a prayer hall: "Please do not leave your bags, wallets, cell phones unattended. Others might think those are the answers to their prayers."

Outside a brothel: "Married men are not allowed. We serve the needy, not the greedy."

Outside a bar: "Those of you who are drinking to forget, please do pay in advance"

Outside a driving school: "If your wife wants to learn to drive, don't stand in her way."

Outside a library: "Statutory warning... while reading Kama Sutra, please hold the book with both hands."

Life's Lessons

My brain and heart divorced a decade ago

... over who was to blame about how big of a mess I have become! Eventually, they couldn't be in the same room with each other...now my head and heart share custody of me.

I stay with my brain during the week and my heart gets me during weekends.

They never speak to one another; instead, they give me the same note to pass to each other every week.

The notes they send to one another always says the same thing: 'This is all your fault.'

On Sundays my heart complains about how my head has let me down in the past... and on Wednesday my head lists all of the times my heart has screwed things up for me in the future!

They blame each other for the state of my life. There's been a lot of yelling and crying. So, lately, I've been spending a lot of time with my gut, who serves as my unofficial therapist.

Most nights, I sneak out of the window in my ribcage and slide down my spine, and collapse on my gut's plush leather chair that's always open for me and I just sit until the sun comes up.

Last evening, my gut asked me if I was having a hard time, being caught between my heart and my head...

I nodded. I said I didn't know if I could

live with either of them anymore!! "My heart is always sad about something that happened yesterday while my head is always worried about something that may happen tomorrow," I lamented.

My gut squeezed my hand.

"I just can't live with my mistakes of the past or my anxiety about the future," I sighed.

My gut smiled and said: "In that case, you should go stay with your lungs for a while."

I was confused. The look on my face gave it away...

"If you are exhausted about your heart's obsession with the fixed past and your mind's focus on the uncertain future, your lungs are the perfect place for you!

There is no yesterday in your lungs...There is no tomorrow there either!

There is only now.

There is only inhale.

There is only exhale.

There is only this moment.

There is only breath and, in that breath, you can rest while your heart and head work their relationship out."

This morning, while my brain was busy reading tea leaves and while my heart was staring at old photographs, I packed a little bag and walked to the door of my lungs. Before I could even knock, she opened the door with a smile and as a gust of air embraced me, she said, "What took you so long?"

John Roedel

Life's Stories

Two Neighbours

A wise and successful man bought a beautiful house with a huge orchard. But not all were happy for him. An envious man lived in an old house next to him. He constantly tried to make his fellow neighbour's stay in the beautiful house as miserable as possible. He threw garbage under his gate and made other nasty things.

One fine day the wise man woke up in a good mood and went into the porch to notice buckets of garbage thrown there. The man took a bucket, cleaned his porch. He carried a bucket and went to knock his envious neighbour's door.

The envious neighbour heard a knock at his door and gleefully thought, "I finally got him!" He answered his door ready to quarrel with his successful neighbour.

However, the wise man gave him a bucket of freshly picked apples saying, "The one who is rich in something, shares it with others."

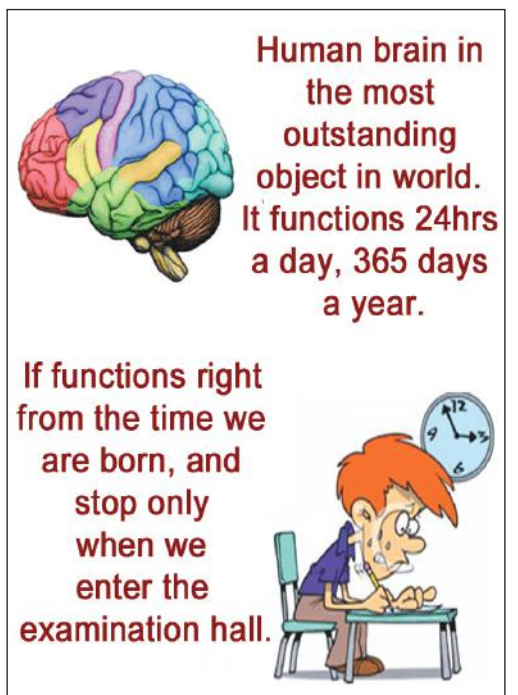
A boat for all feelings

Once there was an island where all the feelings and emotions lived together.

One day a big storm from the sea

was about to drown the island. Every emotion on the island was scared, but Love made a boat to escape. All the feelings jumped in the boat except for one feeling.

Love got down to see who it was. It was Ego! Love tried its best to bring ego to the boat, but Ego didn't move. Everyone asked Love to leave Ego and come in the boat, but Love was meant to Love. It remained with Ego. All other feelings were left alive but Love died because of Ego!



If functions right from the time we are born, and stop only when we enter the examination hall.

Health & Balance

12 surprising health issues that can cause anger

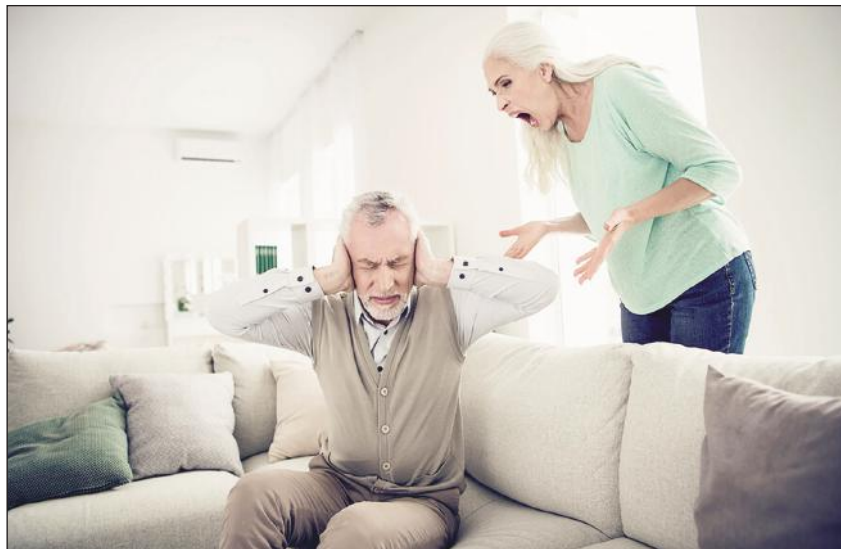
What's making you angry? Strangely enough, it could be a health condition, such as diabetes or liver failure, writes Carol DerSarkissian, MD.

Stroke: Your mood can be hard to manage after you've had a stroke, especially if you had damage to the part of your brain that helps regulate your emotions. It's typical to feel frustrated, anxious, sad, and angry.

Alzheimer's disease: Mood and personality changes can be an early sign of this. Often these changes show up as irritability or getting easily upset, especially when you're out of your comfort zone. It's worth taking note if, in addition to being angry, you become forgetful, confused, or you start struggling for words.

Autism: When you have autism, an unplanned change can be harder to handle. A simple disruption in your schedule may be enough to set you off. Aggression, overreaction to loud sounds or noises, and even hurting yourself can all be symptoms of autism.

Depression: Feeling irritated at everyone and everything? Agitated and restless and you don't know why? Depression often comes with a side of anger, which can make you frustrated for what seems like no reason. You can also be prone to angry outbursts.



Diabetes: A big dip in your blood sugar can bring a big change your behaviour. You may find yourself angry, crying, or confused. If you've had diabetes for a while, you may not have the milder symptoms of low blood sugar and skip right to these more serious symptoms.

Epilepsy: It's rare, but a certain type of epileptic seizure called a simple partial seizure (one you have while you're awake that affects only one side of the brain) can mess with your emotions and cause feelings of anger and rage.

Liver failure: your liver isn't able to filter toxins out of your body like it should, they can build up and affect your brain. That can cause serious side effects, which can include mood and personality changes and irritability.

PMDD: Irritability and anger are normal when you have premenstrual syndrome (PMS). But if you find yourself in out-of-control rages and serious mood swings 1-2 weeks before your period, you could be dealing with a more severe condition called premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD).

Menopause: Anger is more likely to happen during the months and years leading up to menopause than after

you've reached menopause itself. The shifts in your hormones as your body moves toward having fewer -- and then no more -- periods can cause many symptoms, including mood changes.

Overactive thyroid: If your thyroid works overtime, that can make you nervous, restless, anxious, and irritable. But you'll likely have other symptoms, too, like weight changes or bowel issues.

Wilson's disease: This is a genetic disorder that keeps your body from getting rid of extra copper. It has serious effects, including mental changes. It's common for your mood, personality, and behavior to all change as a result.

Medication: If you're taking medicine called statins to lower your cholesterol, it's important to know that they can make a psychiatric problem or behavior change more likely for you. For some people, these drugs can cause aggressive, angry, and violent behavior.

How to spot an anger problem: Anger is a normal emotion, but if you find you're flying off the handle frequently or sense your feelings simmering below the surface enough that it's affecting your everyday life, it's time to take stock.

You might have a problem if your anger is often intense, you hold on to it for a long time, and have gotten verbally or physically abusive because of it.

Ways to ease your anger: Even if you have a medical reason for your anger, you can still work to control it. Exercise, deep breathing, visualization, and muscle relaxation can help with your body's response. You can also work to avoid triggers for your anger, and learn ways to adjust your thinking to create different reactions. Your doctor can get you started.

WebMD

Being Mum & Dad

Parents, you need to avoid these negative punishment examples

From a parenting perspective, a negative punishment entails taking away something that your kids enjoy, which discontinues them from showing bad behaviour/-habit.

But is it okay for parents to use negative punishment? Are you as parents using negative punishment effectively?

What is negative punishment?

Negative punishment is the concept in behavioural psychologist B.F. Skinner's "theory of operant conditioning", studied in the year 1930. Rats and pigeons were used as a subject for the study and thus it's not the best idea to apply the findings to the emotional dynamics of a parent-child relationship.

As per experts, punishment carries unhelpful overtones as parents think about modifying their child's behaviour. Labelling consequences as punishments attaches a negative connotation and offsets the learning objective you are trying to teach the child.

There is a difference between taking something away from your kid in an attempt to change their behaviour and



taking something away from them because you want to get back at them on some level.

Negative punishments examples parents should avoid using

Restricting a privilege means that the kids should not get access to it through other means, otherwise, the original consequences will lose their meaning. All the family members should be on the same page when it's about setting the limit. One must try to identify and remove the trigger that leads to a child's negative behaviour. You must empathise with the child and provide support even while trying to apply consequences.

For example, the consequences should be related to behaviour. If you are trying to limit your kid's screen time,

taking away a cell phone or tablet makes a lot more sense than taking away their favourite toy or barring them from doing any social activity.

Do not surely take away the things that help the kid manage their emotion such as stress toys, colouring or drawing. Holding them back from attending any rare party or occasions like a graduation party or birthday celebration that they cannot re-experience is also not right. This can cause your child to harbour hard feelings towards you.

How can parents use negative consequences effectively

The consequence you choose needs to be realistic, logical and should be defined to a specific period that matches up to the gravity of the negative behaviour you are trying to correct.

Grounding your child for a month for the first time they break curfew can be too much. This kind of over-reach can feel retributive and adversarial, not putting them in a great place to learn from their mistakes.

Consequences that are too long in length can introduce the danger of the child getting distracted from the goal and not caring about the consequences at all eventually.

Effective discipline requires a clarity of thought that can be difficult to grasp in the heat of the moment. If it's too much, there is no shame in giving yourself time out when things get intense. It's better to give yourself time and space so that you can make a wise decision rather than impulsivity to guide your discipline.

Rajkummar Rao weds his 'everything' - Patralekhaa

The bride's wedding veil has a romantic declaration of her love for the groom

Rajkummar Rao and Patralekhaa tied the knot at the Oberoi Sukhvilas Spa Resort in Chandigarh on Monday after being in a relationship for over a decade. Patralekhaa wore a saree with an embroidered veil, containing a declaration of her love for Rajkummar. It was inscribed with a Bengali verse: "Amar poran bhora bhalobasha aami tomay somorpon korilam (I give to you my soul filled with love)."

The official Instagram page of designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee wrote, "Congratulations Patralekhaa Paul and Rajkummar Rao! Classic and beautiful with personalised details to make it her own, the bride @patralekhaa wears a red tulle embroidered buti sari paired with an embroidered veil, that is inscribed with a Bengali verse penned by Sabyasachi for the couple to mark their special day." She also wore jewellery from his collection.

Rajkummar posted a couple of pictures from his wedding with Patralekhaa on Monday and called her his 'everything' -



soulmate, best friend and family. She also shared photos from the nuptials with a similar message.

Congratulatory messages poured in from a host of their industry colleagues, including actors Priyanka Chopra, Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Sonam Kapoor.

After the wedding, Rajkummar and Patralekhaa had a small wedding reception, which was attended by Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar, among others.

Last month, during an appearance on The Kapil Sharma Show, Rajkummar said that when they first met, Patralekhaa thought he was a 'neech aadmi (cheap man)', just like his character in *Love Sex Aur Dhokha*. He also revealed that before he met her, he watched an advertisement of hers and thought to himself, "*Kitni pyaari ladki hai, isse toh shaadi karni chahiye* (She is so adorable, she is marriage material)."

Alia Bhatt to Hrithik Roshan: Bollywood actors who are all set to star in major Hollywood projects

Gone are those days when Bollywood celebrities would restrict themselves just to one industry. In the last couple of years, we have seen B-town actors enhancing their skills by featuring in international movies. Celebrities like Anupam Kher, Anil Kapoor, Irrfan Khan, Ali Fazal, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and more Bollywood actors have upped their game in the West.

While the aforementioned actors have created a niche for themselves in Hollywood, a new bunch of actors are all set to star in mega Hollywood projects. The list of such actors includes Hrithik Roshan, Kubbra Sait, Alia Bhatt, Sikander Kher and more.

Alia Bhatt: Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt, who made her acting debut with Karan Johar's *Student of The Year*, has apparently signed a deal with William Morris Endeavour. The same agency represents Hollywood actors like Gal Gadot and Charlize Theron. In the Hindi film industry, the actress has delivered successful films like *Highway*, *Raazi*, *Gully Boy*, and more movies.

Hrithik Roshan: Not just Alia Bhatt, the Greek God of Bollywood, Hrithik Roshan, is reportedly thinking of making his acting debut in Hollywood. Buzz is that the actor will be stepping foot in the West with an American spy thriller. While there's no confirmation from Hrithik's team, reports suggest Hrithik will be seen as a



parallel lead in the movie.

Kubbra Sait: Actress Kubbra Sait is best known for playing the role of a transgender woman in Saif Ali Khan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui-starrer *Sacred Games*. There are no speculations around her Hollywood debut as the actress has already made her international debut with Apple TV's sci-fi series, *Foundation*.

Sikandar Kher: Anupam Kher and Kirron Kher's son, Sikandar Kher, will be making his Hollywood debut with director Dev Patel's film, *Monkey Man*. Dev Patel is infamous for playing a crucial role in *Slumdog Millionaire*.

Dhanush: Actor Dhanush has predominantly worked in the South, however, he has a few good Bollywood movies to his credit. The actor is still remembered for his role in *Raanjhanaa*, which featured Abhay Deol and Sonam Kapoor Ahuja. Talking about his big Hollywood debut, the actor will be seen in *The Gray Man*, which is being helmed by Anthony and Joe Russo.

Sanjay Dutt's daughter Trishala, talking about wedding plans, says 'dating is a disaster'

Sanjay Dutt's daughter Trishala Dutt hosted an Ask Me Anything session on Sunday night on Instagram and replied to questions ranging from her wedding to Bollywood and her parents to mental health.

One of her curious followers asked Trishala if she's planning on getting married anytime soon. The 33-year-old confessed that dating at this age and day is 'a disaster'. However, she said that she will get married when she finds a 'proper gentleman.'

"Dating in this age is a disaster. An utmost disaster. There's always someone thinking they can do better lol. I'll get married whenever I find a proper gentleman that treats me with respect, love, and appreciation that I deserve. And of course, vice-versa. Happy wife - happy life," she said.

In the past, Trishala has spoken about how she was in a toxic relationship several years ago, in which her boyfriend treated her 'like trash'. Trishala had also mourned her other boyfriend - whose name she never revealed, who died in July 2019.

Unlike Sanjay, Trishala chose to pursue a career outside the acting industry. She currently works as a psychotherapist in the US. However, a fan asked her if she would be interested in entering 'film industry to carry on Sanjay Sir's legacy.' Trishala replied, "No (smiley face) I'm busy building



on leaving my own legacy behind."

She was also asked how she was when her mother, Richa Sharma, died. "I was 8 years old. And this December 2021 will be 25 years since she's been gone," she said.

Although living in the US, Trishala has often been seen bonding with her father, Sanjay and her stepmother Maanayata Dutt. Trishala and Maanayata often drop messages on each other's posts and wish each other on special occasions on social media.

Social media's an influencing factor but not the sole reason to cast actors



gives you a better insight towards your fans and followers.

Aly Goni

Earlier people used to know an actor by their character names, but now because of social media people know the actors better. While there's nothing wrong for the producers to want to cast someone, who is known by the millions, but I feel this criterion should be given the least preference as social media following doesn't guarantee good acting.

Social media popularity has nothing to do with an actor's skill. There are so many good actors who have a few followers or are away from social media. I don't think it's important to have more huge following to get good roles.



Hiten Tejwani

I have heard that producers and creative do check your social media to check what's happening in your life and see how many followers you have and cross check. I don't think social media followers affect chances. If an actor, fits the role, then you are cast and having a huge following, doesn't ensure a good role.



Aada Khan

Of late, social media has been quite an in thing, not all but few producers do take your social media fan following into consideration. It does improve the chances of being cast. Though casting directors don't necessarily choose actors based on the number of followers on social media but they do gauge the popularity and visibility of the actor.

In case of travel collaborations and even regular collaboration, your social media is looked upon. Even for music videos, the casting agencies take your popularity into consideration. A million followers is not a compulsion to get a good role on TV, if you have the talent and you fit the part, you will get the role. Social media is one of the influencing factors but not the sole factor.

TV stars discuss the importance of social media following in an actor's life, from influencing casting directors to affecting appeal, they say it has become important, but don't deny that talent, too, matters, reports Kavita Awaasthi of Hindustan Times.

Sharad Malhotra

To an extent, it does matter as people form an opinion based on your social media following. Fortunately, or unfortunately, such is the power and impact that many a times, casting for a project is also dependent and even influenced based on your social media popularity.

Brands prefer to collaborate with those who have a high number and good engagement ratio. If you have a million or more followers, the money too gets better. With some talent and a million followers, you might grab an opportunity of a lifetime.

Unfortunately, talent gets overshadowed and someone much more deserving could lose out on work, just because he/she might be less popular on social media compared to his contemporaries. Especially with the influx of digital shows casting agencies/directors/producers keep an eye on who's popular and influencing the social media space.



Dheeraj Dhoopar

Your work of art as an actor is of primary essence but having followers will definitely give an additional push. I won't be surprised if someday that becomes the most important factor for casting an actor.

I don't know if one should have more than millions of followers just to get good roles on TV but it is a good way to judge how popular one is. It also

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Think to organize your succession as of now in order to simplify things for your inheritors. Very favourable ambience for peaceful love affairs. A friendship will evolve toward a more tender relation.

Lucky Numbers: 6 - 11 - 17 - 18 - 36 - 40

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

In love, you're going to vibrate in a climate of very sensual fusion with your mate. Progressive improvement on the material plane. It would be a good thing that you be less strict and demanding with your collaborators.

Lucky Numbers: 9 - 10 - 11 - 13 - 28 - 35

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

In your work, you'll be in a position to reach the objectives which you've set for yourself. Use your spare time to instruct yourself, to explore what's unknown to you, to learn what you don't understand.

Lucky Numbers: 9 - 12 - 18 - 19 - 24 - 37

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

No regret for your new conquest who has fled you so rapidly: another very charming person will already be on your way! Despite your habitual prudence, you'll hardly be able to resist your present desires for spending.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 15, 16, 20, 21, 30

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Your financial situation will evolve in a very favourable manner. You won't remain insensitive to the charm of the person recently met. Don't show yourself too categorical toward your close ones in order to avoid clashes.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 4, 11, 16, 20, 34

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You'll be favoured by fortune in different fields. You'll strengthen your social position; a brilliant feat is possible. In love, be accommodating instead of indulging in jealousy. In your work, everything will go like clockwork.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 13, 14, 20, 23

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

In your work, try to adopt a well-defined line of behaviour. Your affairs of the heart won't fare very well; don't indulge in illusions, don't commit yourself lightly. Risks of tensions in your family life.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 18, 20, 23, 24, 30

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Heartwise, your affairs will have all chances to turn out well. Your finances will fare badly; it will be time to face reality squarely. Be firm if your child begins to smoke or drink.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 6, 14, 18, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You can achieve a great success in your work. It would be suicidal to live above your means. Many choices and decisions will be of your responsibility for you'll be very much solicited by your entourage.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 11, 20, 22, 30

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Whatever you'll undertake or sign, take the maximum of guarantees. You'll accept to make some concessions so as to improve your relations with your family circle. You'll strengthen your complicity ties with your beloved one.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 9, 14, 20, 26

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

At work, all your undertakings will be favoured and you'll be right to be ambitious. Difficult dialogue with your family circle. Your material situation should develop from now on; you can make medium-term investments.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 15, 20, 26, 30, 36

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Your home will be the theatre of profound changes; it will be necessary to handle them with much cool-headedness. You'll probably make an encounter which may upset your present union.

Lucky Numbers: 19, 21, 22, 25, 30, 31



Vendredi 19 novembre - 21.15



Samedi 20 novembre - 21.20

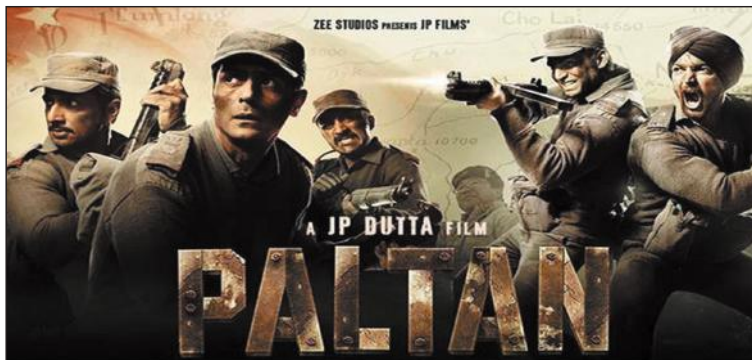


Dimanche 21 novembre - 21.15

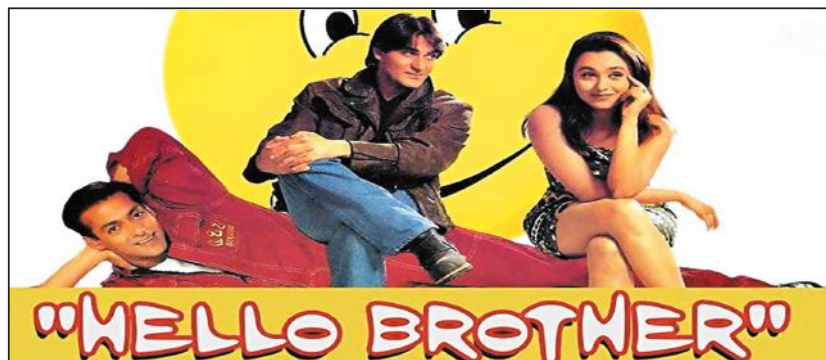


	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 19 novembre	07.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains 08.57 Mag: Happy Tales 11.10 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Local: Prod: Elle - No 41 13.45 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A... 14.40 D.Anime: Invention Story 15.20 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin... 15.32 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz And... 15.43 D.Anime: Les Triples 16.19 D.Anime: Kid Lucky 17.20 Mag: Human Nature 17.50 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous? 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.29 Local Prod: Come On Let's... 21.24 Serial: 19-2 23.25 Le Journal 23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Bisaat-E-Dil 11.01 Tawaan 12.00 Film: Zuluk Ek Mohak Sparsh Starring Aishwarya Narkar, Girish Oak, Shreyas Talpade 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.26 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.46 Serial: Bava Maradallu 16.07 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.31 Serial: Mera Maan Rakhna 16.47 Serial: Imtihaan 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.25 Serial: Chhanchhan 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag 19.05 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.02 Serial: Aas 20.46 Local: Anjuman	06.00 Mag: Eco India 06.26 Mag: Shift 06.51 Mag: Border Crossing 07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today 07.46 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 09.00 Educa Prog: Grade 5 11.30 Educa Prog: Grade 8 14.03 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 14.55 Doc: Dying For Gold 15.36 Doc: The Fall Of The Ussr 17.23 Mag: Border Crossing 18.00 Doc: The Miracle Of Hearing 18.42 Mag: Arts And Culture 19.30 Mag: Euromaxx 20.05 Doc: Volcano Stories 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.40 Doc: Wedding The French... 21.39 Doc: Innovation On Board 22.03 Doc: Iran From Above 22.45 Doc: Sri Lanka - The Dark... 23.28 Doc: The Miracle Of Hearing	01.28 Serial: Mad Dogs 03.09 Serial: Power 03.55 Film: An Emma Fielding... 05.18 Tele: Muneca Brava 05.55 Serial: Reef Doctors 06.38 Film: Sniper Special OPS 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Powers 12.00 Film: An Emma Fielding... 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: Sniper Special OPS 16.38 Serial: The Good Doctor 17.20 Serial: Reef Doctors 18.10 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.34 Mag: Cinemag 20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 20.30 Serial: Reef Doctors 21.15 Film: The Book Of Henry	07.00 Film: All Rounder Starring: Kumar Gaurav, Rati Agnihotri 11.20 / 20.30 - Anupamaa 11.52 / 21.00 - Mere Sai 12.22 / 21.30 - Agniphera 12.52 / 22.00 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.20 / 22.30 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 13.48 / 23.00 - Chhanchhan 14.18 / 21.46 - Sethji 15.25 Film: Bhabhi Starring: Govinda, Bhanupriya, Juhi Chawla 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi 20.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
samedi 20 novembre	06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains 06.34 D.Anime: The Hive 06.42 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute 06.56 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill 07.12 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda 07.35 Film: Ethel & Ernest 09.35 Mag: Human Nature 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 10.30 Serial: Backstage 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Teresa 14.45 Mag: Sur Mesure 15.20 D.Anime: Invention Story 16.03 D.Anime: Les Triples 16.20 D.Anime: Volttron... 17.20 Serial: Hi Opie! 17.40 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous? 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Entertainment: Dance 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs 21.20 Film: Monster Island	07.00 Film: Virodhi 09.14 Mag: DDI Magazine 10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 11.03 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare 12.17 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 12.40 Serial: High School 13.02 Annakodiyum Ainthu Pengalum 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman Starring: Shahrukh Khan, Juhi Chawla, Nana Patekar 17.49 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: Paltan Stars: J.Shroff, A.Rampal...	06.00 Doc: The Miracle Of Hearing 06.42 Mag: Arts And Culture 06.55 Mag: Our Voices 07.50 Doc: Volcano Stories 09.08 Doc: Innovation On Board 10.20 Doc: Sri Lanka - The Dark... 11.00 Doc: The Miracle Of Hearing 11.42 Mag: Our Voices 13.00 Doc: Wedding The French... 15.13 Student Support Prog... 18.14 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 18.40 Doc: Zenith 19.31 Doc: Japanese Festival 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.40 Doc: Les Montagnes Du... 22.20 Guardians Of The Desert 23.02 Mag: Future Mag 23.31 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 23.57 Doc: Zenith 00.23 Mag: Check In 00.49 Doc: Japanese Festival	01.27 Film: The Book Of Henry 03.09 Serial: Unforgotten 03.53 Serial: The Magicians 04.35 Serial: Hawaii Five-0 05.15 Tele: Tanto Amor 05.57 Serial: Last Resort 06.38 Serial: Absentia 09.15 Serial: The Magicians 09.56 Serial: Hawaii Five-0 10.40 Film: The Book Of Henry 12.15 Serial: Unforgotten 13.32 Serial: Powers 15.05 Tele: Muneca Brava 16.29 Mag: Cinemag 17.00 Serial: Last Resort 17.45 Film: Maison A Vendre... 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Series: Last Resort 21.15 Film: The Hurt Locker Starring: Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty	04.05 Radha Krishna 04.36 Anupamaa 05.03 Mere Sai -- Shraddha Aur... 05.33 Agniphera 06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan 06.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 06.38 Chhanchhan 06.57 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 07.18 Siddhi Vinayak 08.02 Yeh Teri Galiyan 10.12 Motu Patlu 10.01 Siddhi Vinayak 11.54 Serial: Bhakharwadi 14.00 Chupke Chupke 14.14 Anupamaa 16.00 Pavitra Rishta 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Pagalpanti Star: Anil Kapoor, John Abraham, Ileana D'Cruz 20.57 Serial: Namah 22.00 Yeh Payaar Nahi Toh Kya
dimanche 21 novembre	06.00 D.Anime: Robot Trains 06.27 D.Anime: The Hive 06.41 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute 07.00 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill 09.30 Mag: Human Nature 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Tele: Teresa 14.10 Local: Elle - No 167 15.20 D.Anime: The Hive 15.27 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin... 15.39 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz and... 17.17 Serial: Hi Opie! 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Prod Inden: The Mic Africa... 21.25 Film: Thirteen Days Starring: Kevin Costner, Bruce Greenwood, Shawn Driscoll	07.00 Film: Mangalsutra 10.00 MBC Prod 11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai 11.22 Mag: Azadu Ka Amrit... 12.00 Film: Deewangee Stars: Ajay Devgn, Akshaye Khanna, Urmila Matondkar 14.35 DDI Magazine 15.20 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 15.45 Serial: He Mann Baware 16.12 Serial: Sondha Bandham 17.05 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 17.40 Kisna 18.00 DDI Magazine 18.30 Local: Tiba Tiba Nu Avance 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 20.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas... 20.48 Serial: CID 21.33 Serial: Naagin Season 2 22.19 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki	06.00 Mag: Future Mag 06.51 Doc: Zenith 07.16 Mag: Check In 07.46 Doc: Japanese Festival 08.43 Doc: Les Montagnes Du... 10.20 Doc: Guardians Of The... 11.32 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 11.58 Doc: Zenith 12.24 Mag: Check In 12.53 Doc: Japanese Festival 14.30 Doc: La Ville Passe Au Vert 18.02 Mag: Magnifique 18.30 Doc: Garden Party 19.33 Doc: Comme Une Envie... 20.30 Local Prod: News (English) 20.45 Mag: Nouveau Look Pour... 21.55 Doc: La Vie Révée 22.46 Doc: Extreme Tourism 23.30 Mag: Magnifique 23.58 Mag: Future Mag 00.27 Doc: Garden Party	01.01 Film: Monster Island 02.30 Serial: Midnight, Texas 03.11 Film: The Hurt Locker 05.16 Tele: Tanto Amor 05.59 Serial: Last Resort 06.41 Film: Monster Island 08.30 Serial: Reckoning 09.12 Film: SOX: A Family's Best... 11.36 Film: Maison A Vendre... 12.15 Serial: Midnight, Texas 13.30 Serial: Powers 15.38 Tele: Muneca Brava 17.01 Serial: Last Resort 17.45 Serial: Midnight, Texas 18.30 Film: SOX: A Family's Best... 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: Bite Club 21.15 Film: The Challenger Avec: Kent Moran, Michael Clarke Duncan... 22.50 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir	00.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak 02.38 Bhakharwadi 04.31 Anupamaa 06.34 Pavitra Rishta 08.00 Motu Patlu 08.11 Ikyawann 10.00 Jaana Na Dil Se Door 12.00 Piya Albela 14.00 Agniphera 16.29 Punar Vivaah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Film: Hello Brother Starring: Salman Khan, Arbaaz Khan, Rani Mukerji 20.40 Entertainment: Dance 21.21 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 23.24 Serial: Piya Albela

MBC 2 Samedi 20 novembre - 21.00 Stars: Jackie Shroff, Arjun Rampal, Sonu Sood



BTV Dimanche 21 novembre - 18.30 Stars: Salman Khan, Arbaaz Khan, Rani Mukerji



What happens when children don't go to school

School closures have immediate and long-term effects on students, both emotionally and economically. They will also have a ripple effect on a country and on income inequality

The covid-19 pandemic has disrupted schools and universities across the world. UNESCO figures state that the worldwide average time lost due to covid-19 related school closures has been two thirds of an academic year.

This situation has been the most acute in Latin America and the Caribbean, where five months have been lost and three out of five children lost an entire school year. In Africa there have also been long school closures. In Uganda, for example, schools have been kept closed for almost two years.

There were different scenarios at work when schools closed: some went digital, many students didn't learn because they lacked access to the necessary technology, examinations were run virtually if not cancelled altogether. Learning was lost because, quite simply, home environments are often not designed to support learning the way that schools are.

I've done research on international education and I also have direct experience, as a Head of School, into understanding how disruptions affect learners. I know how important it is to keep the rhythm of learning apace, and I'm concerned that students have not been able to ensure progress and consolidate their learning due to the gaps that Covid has caused. These gaps will linger.

Almost a century ago, the Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget explained what happens when gaps appear in learning: the way we learn is by assimilating new information to old information. When information is lost, or is incorrect, it creates fossilised errors or gaps, and students try to bolt new knowledge on to that. It's like a house being built without foundations.

In addition, school closures have immediate and long-term effects on students, both emotionally and economically. They also have a ripple effect on a country and on income inequality.

Costs of this education deficit

One of the greatest costs to a person who misses out on an education is economic. It is well established that there is a positive correlation between education and economic growth, not just in terms of degree eligibility for employment but also in terms of the intrinsic worth of cognitive growth as a predictor of social renewal and economic health.

In line with this, there will be a material cost caused by several months out of school. The exact economic cost of gaps in education is not easy to calculate, as it is based on projections and conjecture, but forecasts are bleak. A

2020 paper by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) states that:

students in grades 1 to 12 affected by the closures might expect some 3% lower income over their entire lifetimes. For nations, the lower long-term growth related to such losses might yield an average of 1.5% lower annual GDP for the remainder of the century.

Other studies argue that school closures related to Covid-19 are likely to lead to a 0.8% drop in global economic growth. This is because a loss of learning makes future job candidates less competitive, reducing future earnings.

Psychological effects

But economic fallout is not the only consequence of Covid-19.

The psychological effects of school closure are significant. Research from the UK shows that behavioural incidents (for example antisocial conduct, hyperactivity, expressions of negative emotions) spiked after pandemic-related school closures. This behaviour can be explained by the lack of access young people had to age-like peers and the effects of stay-at-home claustrophobia.

Studies run by universities in the US also showed evidence of psychological effects. There was a palpable worsening of mental health in children due to school lockdowns and closures, due to numerous intertwined factors including social isolation, increase of abuse at home, anxiety and disorientation.

Hence, we are reminded that the role of school is not just education in the narrow sense of information transmission and skills development. It holds society together by giving young people a space to socialise, to feel a sense of belonging and to connect with other human beings.

Increased inequality

School closures will also increase inequality, within a country and across borders.

Not surprisingly, studies show that the children who have been affected the most by school closures have been those from socioeconomically deprived backgrounds.

As is so often the case in education and, as I've pointed out in my study *Education and Elitism*, a cruel and unfair reality is that household wealth predicts academic success or lack thereof. When deficits occur, it is the poorest who pay the heaviest price. This means that they have fallen – and may continue to fall – even further behind.

Alongside this, a small elite in well-equipped schools with access to powerful technologies and high performing, innovative pedagogies, are propelled further even more, racing into the position of future leaders.

Future prospects

However, while Covid has created educational deficits, it has unearthed a number of salient questions about learning, and many of these might well be keys to the future of learning organisations and how to keep children learning.

Accelerated use of technology for learning has morphed the educational landscape considerably, making blended and hybrid learning approaches mainstream. One simple way that this can improve learning is by increasing access, since students are able to attend lessons remotely. At my school, an online philosophy course I run is open, for free, to any student in the world. If they attend and pass a course assessment, they receive high school credit.

Another example, at university level, is the University of the People, an online university that is opening access to higher education to tens of thousands of students from across the world.

As such, the cost of Covid is heavy, but there are also opportunities to advance learning in new and innovative ways that will increase access and reduce inequity.

The collapse of examination systems has brought increased attention to alternative assessments, celebrating student achievement in a more holistic manner than high stakes testing. An example of an alternative testing system that can address educational deficits is the Learner Passport, a system we are developing at the International School of Geneva with a strong team of counsellors and instructors. The passport is designed to recognise many forms of student achievement, such as sports, arts or work affecting the community positively.

The cost of closing schools is major, for the individual, for the group and for society at large. Ultimately, the cost of Covid will best be measured in the way humans pick themselves up from the pandemic to build a new tomorrow, perhaps no longer looking at education in terms of material investment, financial prospects and economic growth (or loss), but the development of more ecological, humane and creative approaches to the major challenges facing the planet.

Conrad Hughes,
Université de Genève

Obituary

Amritlall Prem Burton, CSK (1938-2021)

Teacher extraordinaire, Mentor
and Former President of English
Speaking Union

It is with great sadness that friends and colleagues at English Speaking Union-Mauritius have heard of the passing, on 16 November 2021, of yet another ESU stalwart and beacon of light, Prem Burton, not long after the demises of former ESU Presidents, Sanjit Teelock and Sir Victor Glover. Mr Burton became a member of the ESU in 1996 and worked tirelessly as its dedicated President from 2013 to 2016. Until recently, he remained on the Executive Committee in spite of his illness. Throughout his ESU career, Mr Burton was vigilant, rigorous, forward-looking, and never short of innovative ideas.



For the last five years, he has been ESU's Mentor, happy to be consulted, willing to listen to others' opinions, and ready to lend sound advice. For his immense contribution, ESU will be eternally grateful. Humility was one of Mr Burton's shining qualities; when addressed by me as "Mr Burton" – for he had been my venerated English Teacher in the 1960s at RCC, appointed by the Rector, Mr Bullen, "to serve them all his days" – he would correct me by gently whispering: "Call me Prem!" And I did and he became my friend and advisor at ESU, as Plato was to Socrates. It brought him great joy to host our ESU sub-committee meetings at his home; those were gleesome and fruitful gatherings when we were subtly shown the way ahead by a wise, yet polite and gentle man with an unimpeachable knowledge of English Language and Literature. During such meetings, our charming hosts, Mr and Mrs Burton would proudly show us their resplendent and lovingly-tendered garden – "Nature to advantage dressed" (Alexander Pope). We shall all miss such occasions.

For his numerous students who drank from the fountain of knowledge over the years, his passing will be an equally great loss. He was born to teach and light up a spark in learners' minds; in this dark hour, shortly after members of the English Speaking Union received news of his passing, we his friends and colleagues, former and present students could only recall the good times and Prem's benevolence and goodwill towards others. Above all, Prem Burton will be remembered as a man who, through ESU, and his teaching career, "mobilized the English Language" to promote genuine fellowship, and high standards, among his fellow countrymen, just as Winston Churchill, an early Chairman of ESU International, had done from 1921 to 1925.

To Mrs Madhur Burton and her entire family, all Members of English Speaking Union-Mauritius would like to express their deepest condolences.

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember [him]." (Laurence Binyon)

Professor Marc Serge Rivière
President ESU-Mauritius