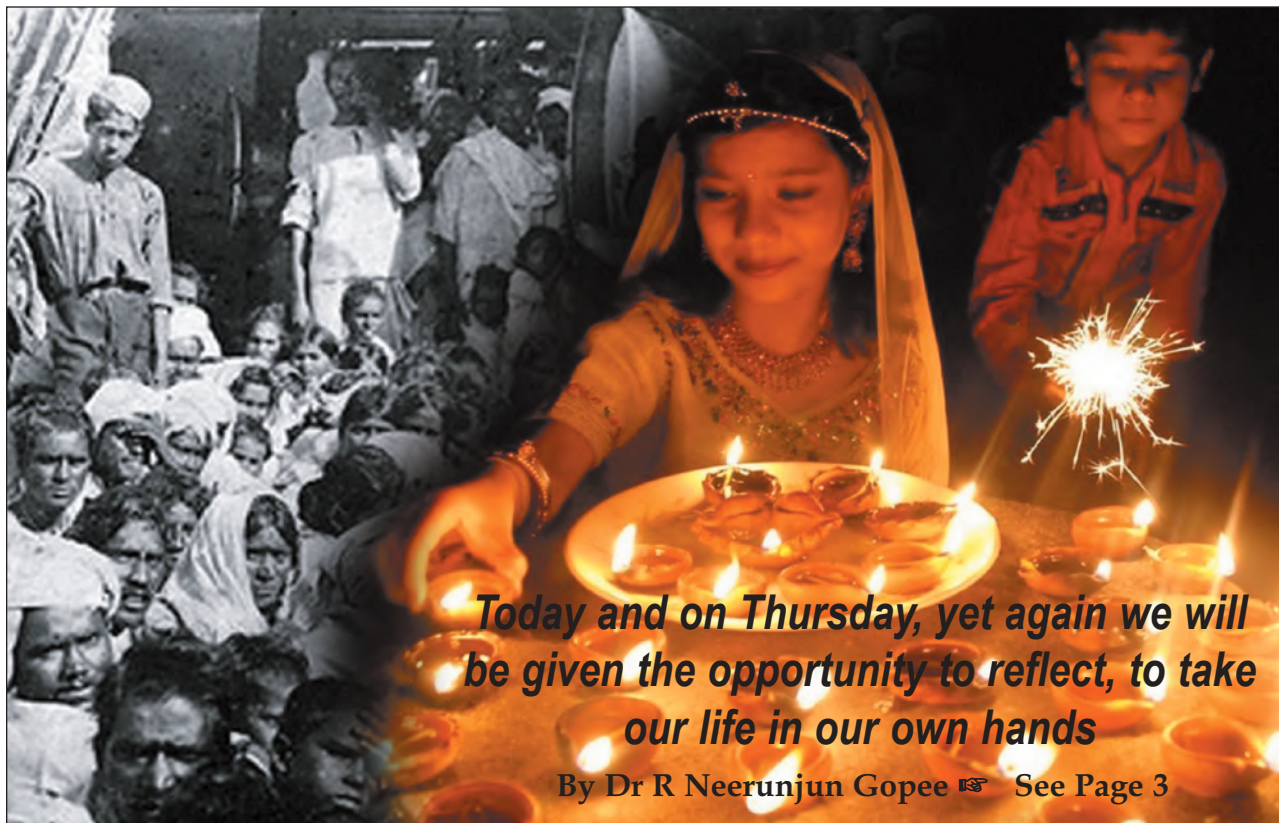


MAURITIUS TIMES

• "It's clear that many migrant families really support their children and appreciate the transforming power of education."-- Nicky Morgan

Aapravasi Ghat and Deepavali: Getting the Messages for Right Living



*Today and on Thursday, yet again we will
be given the opportunity to reflect, to take
our life in our own hands*

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The Indian Diaspora



Is India's Gift to the World a Loss for India?

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Aapravasi Day

It has been a long journey from the time the system of indentured labour began. When one thinks of the shiploads of workers who were shipped away in uncouth conditions as from 1834 to man the plantations in the various colonies, there is an awesome story to tell.

The beginnings were horrible. Many families in India lost their potential bread earners. Others were duped into making the voyage to distant lands in their quest for better livelihoods. If we were to tell the tale of misery that followed in its wake, it would be a lot about fortitude against the most inhumane conditions those immigrants had to go through over a long stretch of time.

2nd November is therefore a time for recollection of and reflection upon the woes of those who toiled and sacrificed to lay down the foundation of other generations to come. They had little to go by. But they gave whatever they had to found a better future for their successors. They endured the greatest hardships of life – whose outcome is what we are today. Through great perseverance and by overcoming serious barriers to entry, the descendants of the Indian indentured labourers gained access to education and went on to show their mettle in numerous areas that would have been considered out of bounds for them initially. After an enduring struggle, they gained access to the right to vote. They joined their forces together in the struggle for independence. In spite of the walls of prejudices erected against them, they proved to be capable of taking decisions in favour of all the components of the population once they managed to secure the levers of political power.

All vibrant diasporas across the world have their own stories of how they carved a place in the sun in the host societies in which they have settled. In the case of the Indian indentured labourers in this country, the determining factor has undoubtedly been the leadership provided by men of the greatest mettle – from non-Indians like Adolphe de Plevitz towards the end of the 1860s to Maurice Cure and others in later decades, Mahatma Gandhi (thanks to whose exhortation the Indians invested themselves in education and in the political process), the Bissoondoyal brothers, and Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and his comrades of the Mauritius Labour Party – men of courage and vision who pursued a just cause

with sincerity and a sense of purpose, ensuring that they would not lose sight of the bigger picture nor lose their way during the battles waged for the emancipation of the people.

It was the enlightened leadership of those stalwarts that allowed the descendants of Indian immigrants to gain their legitimate place in society and share in the economy. It was the thrust on education that underpinned both the political and the social emancipation. Education was the great leveller that cut across social classes, enabling them to participate fully and knowingly in the evolving democratic process. Giving added momentum to this dynamic were the mass movements of the other leaders, which were grounded in cultural awareness and an awakened sense of their dignity by the people. Without doubt it is such enabling factors that gave to Mauritius for a long time the kind of balanced political direction the country needed for its development.

As we commemorate the 187th anniversary of the arrival of indentured labourers to this island today, it's necessary that we ask ourselves about where matters stand now? Where are the role models? Why are they so absent, when there were so many of such leaders in the past when times were harder?

The fractures that have come within society among this group is testimony that all is not well. This is undoubtedly the best recipe to bring the superstructure crashing down some day. Rather than having to face up such a bleak condition, people build up on the acquired momentum. This is done by holding hands, not by cultivating fissiparous tendencies for private advantage. A lot of work has gone into making the diaspora what it is today. It has many achievements to its credit. Teamwork can but consolidate such achievements. All it requires is an unstinting focus on goals, the next levels to climb to, collective efforts to be made to keep rising.

While everyone has a role to play, undoubtedly the greatest responsibility lies with those who assume the reins of power and who are entrusted to guide the ship of state and the people towards a better future. At the cost of repetition, we cannot but reiterate that it is only through cooperation and collaboration rather than unhealthy competition that such a future can come about. This is the spirit that must prevail.

The Conversation

Glasgow COP26: climate finance pledges from rich nations are inadequate and time is running out

The make-or-break United Nations climate talks in Glasgow have begun. Much attention so far has rightly focused on the emissions reduction ambition each nation is taking to the negotiations. But another key goal of the talks is to dramatically scale up so-called "climate finance" for developing nations.

Climate finance is money paid by wealthy countries (which are responsible for most of the historic emissions) to developing countries to help them pay for emissions reduction measures and adaptation. Climate finance should be in addition to standard development aid.

At the 2009 Copenhagen climate talks, wealthy nations promised US\$100 billion a year in climate finance to developing nations by 2020. But that goal has not been met.

A new climate finance plan, developed by Germany and Canada, has been proposed. Reports suggest it will propose meeting the US\$100 billion annual target by taking an average of the finance provided from 2020 to 2025, instead of in single years.

The renewed focus on the plan is welcome. But it must be robust enough to tackle the mammoth task ahead, not just an exercise in shuffling figures. Time is running out – if developing nations can't afford to reduce emissions, we won't hit global climate goals and everyone will suffer.

Failing to commit enough climate finance puts us all at risk

At COP26, intense pressure will be applied to developed countries to provide adequate climate finance.

The promised US\$100 billion a year is not nearly enough. The IPCC estimates US\$2.4 trillion is needed annually for the energy sector alone until 2035 to limit global warming below 1.5° to prevent catastrophic consequences.

The cost for inaction is high and livelihoods are at stake. Crop failures, water shortages, and poor health out-



The cost for inaction on climate change is high and livelihoods are at stake. Shutterstock

comes due to pollution in major cities are all on the cards.

Wealthy nations such as Australia are also affected by such issues – but they often have a far greater capacity to prepare and respond than developing nations.

Australia's pledges lag behind others

Australia's current pledge for climate finance under the Paris agreement is A\$300 million a year by 2025. So far, there are no signs this will change.

Compared to many countries, Australia is lagging. Even New Zealand, with its much smaller economy, has increased its pledge to NZ\$1.3 billion over four years 2025.

The European Union is pledging an additional €4.7 billion until 2027 and the US is doubling its commitment to over US\$11 billion annually by 2024.

The EU remains a world leader in climate action and pledges commitments fully in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Its impressive set of actions includes:

- the "Green Deal" as a COVID recovery package
- the adoption of a European Climate law
- further reduced greenhouse gas emissions from 40% to at least 55% by 2030
- carbon neutrality by 2050
- a reformed emission trading scheme
- a carbon border adjustment mechanism.

Melanie Pill,
Australian National University

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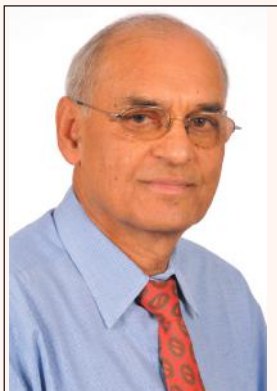
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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Late Dr S. Radhakrishnan, philosopher-President of India, in an article on the purpose of education, lamented the fact that the best and the brightest of minds were 'active in producing destructive and deadly weapons of war.' Along the same lines is a quotation by physicist Albert Einstein, who wrote, 'I do not know with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.' Presumably, by then mankind would have self-destructed into a nuclear winter, leaving us with sticks and stones only to fight for the meagre resources left.

Another philosopher bemoaned that the increase in mankind's knowledge and power was not accompanied by a corresponding increase in wisdom. And that is how the world continues to harbour democratically elected dictators and autocrats who hold their people hostage in horrible living conditions while they themselves live luxuriously, served by sycophants and compliant nominal heads of institutions. As Dr Radhakrishnan went on to say, 'this appalling condition of the contemporary world, this *failure of man* is not the decree of fate: it is the work of man. It is not destiny, but dastardly crime.' (Italics added)

The majority of people want to live in peace, caring for family, having some friends, doing some service to the extent of their capacity and then, come the time, return to whence they came and give a good account of themselves to their 'creator' whoever or whatever that may be in their view. But there are also many people around who live mainly to do harm to others. Previously this used to be more in a covert form: increasingly, it is done openly and with impunity – protection from 'on high'? This is the kind of society in which we are living these days, a society where the 'politics of power' allows the bad and the ugly to predominate to the detriment of the 'gentle and the principled who are marginalized.' Under

Aapravasi Ghat and Deepavali: Getting the Messages for Right Living

Today and on Thursday, yet again we will be given the opportunity to reflect, to take our life in our own hands



“We, their descendants, are today living in relative material comfort. We take for granted our situation and live our lives in ignorance of the values that gave our forefathers the strength to face their colonial masters and rise. We spend our time in endless sterile discussions where, often, it is the alcohol and not the mind that is doing the talking. Compared to our numbers, only a very few bother to get involved in improving the lot of others who are less fortunate. We allow those who manipulate, cringe and crawl only for their selfish interests to speak on our behalf. If we go on like this, it will not be long before there will be nothing left of either self-respect or dignity...”

such circumstances, we can only counter these harmful influences by falling back upon our own devices or resources.

It is here that the ideals which great thinkers like Radhakrishnan present before us become fundamental to our existence, and we can look up to those who have lived these ideals as examples and role models to emulate for our individual betterment as well as for the good of society in general. If every person strives to live a saner life, it goes without saying that this will lead to a general increase in saner living for all by a synergistic effect. It is a choice we can make, in doing which we take control rather than leave things to a nebulous 'destiny.'

Bhagavan Sri Ram faced unparalleled adversity and Sita Mata was put under such pressure from Ravana that they both could have easily cracked. And yet they did not. They had steadfastness and perseverance, and eventually they overcame the adversary and returned in triumph to their kingdom of Ayodhya, where thousands of rows – *avali* – of earthenware lamps gave out the light – *deep* – that shone to welcome them back. Their story of courage in the face of adversity, told and recited in the *baithkas* where our immigrant forefathers congregated after their arduous and long hours in the fields, gave the latter hope that someday they would also overcome their situation.

And so Aapravasi Ghat, where on

November 2, 1834 the first batch of recruits that would form part of the colonial 'Great Experiment' in Indenture from India climbed the steps to their life in a strange land to which they had been lured with promises of better working and living conditions. Their sufferings – beatings, poor living conditions, meagre rations, extreme punishments for minor matters, inadequate pay, restrictions which did not allow them to return after the termination of their contracts, and so on – have been detailed in several historical documents. Like the willow, they bent but did not break. It is thanks to their indomitable spirit that today we breathe the air of freedom.

We, their descendants, are today living in relative material comfort. We take for granted our situation and live our lives in ignorance of the values that gave our forefathers the strength to face their colonial masters and rise. We spend our time in endless sterile discussions where, often, it is the alcohol and not the mind that is doing the talking. Compared to our numbers, only a very few bother to get involved in improving the lot of others who are less fortunate. We allow those who manipulate, cringe and crawl only for their selfish interests to speak on our behalf. If we go on like this, it will not be long before there will be nothing left of either self-respect or dignity, the very values which gave our forefathers the determination to fight and improve their lot.

It is indeed a good coincidence that the Aapravasi Ghat day and Deepavali are to be celebrated within a day of each other – but it will be better still if we remind ourselves of the lessons and the messages that these two occasions convey and try to put them into practice in our daily life. In this way only can we forge a better future for our coming generations. As we light the *diyas* on Thursday next, let us take a pledge to brighten our collective future. And for this, the perennial values found in our scriptures show us the way. They are:

- Quest for peace, *Om Shanti Shanti*
- Pursuit of a cooperative way of life – *Om Sahanaau Bhavatu, Sahanaau Bhunaktu...*
- Acceptance of diversity of views – *Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti*
- Doing good to others – *Paropakaram Artham Idam Shareeram*
- Compassion for the poor and oppressed – *Je Ka Ranjale Garjale Tyasi Jo Man He Apule* (Tukaram)
- Love for and protection of nature
- Performance of one's duty selflessly
- Equanimity in the face of success or failure, happiness and sorrow
- Spirit of sacrifice for family and society
- Respect for parents and elders

Constantly and regularly, we are shown the light and the way. We have only ourselves to blame if we prefer the dark alleys to the lit paths.

Today and on Thursday, yet again we will be given the opportunity to reflect, to take our life in our own hands instead of leaving it to forces that are trying to exert external control and make us deviate from the good path, that of Dharma.

There is everything in the Indic values to build up our inner strength, all that is required is that willingness and that little effort to seek them out. Developing that inner strength should be our one resolve for, as Swami Jitatananda of the Ramakrishna Mission pointed out, translating the meaning of *Atmana Vindate Viryam* (*Kena Upanishad*), 'each human being contains within himself the potentiality of infinite knowledge, infinite strength, infinite joy and eternal life.'

Following in the footsteps of Bhagavan Sri Ram, Sita Mata and the first faltering ones of our valiant ancestors, we can start afresh on a new voyage of discovery of ourselves through our Vedic heritage. *Sahana Vavatu ...*

Deepavali Abhinandan.

Covid-19 resurgence with Delta variant?

We would better leave the medical and specialist community rather than politicians to guide the population

Jan Arden

Around early August this year I shared the following personal view in a piece sub-titled 'Get Vaccinated!' -- 'When the balance of personal freedoms is up against such an alarming national threat, the sense of collective good, backed by scientific fact rather than speculation, should prevail over personal concerns and beliefs.' That appeal was to get inoculated with the second dose and stick to the indispensable sanitary protocols all the while. We can feel relieved that the vaccination drive has proceeded apace and about 65% of the population have received a double dose of whichever vaccine had been purchased by the authorities and those figures should reach 80% at the earliest.

Caught in a deadly race to meet the target for opening of frontiers and the resumption of activities in the long-suffering tourism and hospitality sector, the authorities could neither be seen as sluggish in the vaccination drive nor as taking unnecessary risks or cutting corners in the responsible handling of the public health of the population. In the process, the health authorities, already under flak for a variety of reasons since early 2020, have faced further credibility tests for downplaying Covid infection rates by drastically reducing PCR tests and ignoring results of Rapid Antigen tests.

The massaging of sad Covid morbidity and mortality statistics, the variant spread information which has to be extracted like sore teeth, the state of the specialised ENT hospital and its facilities, the stretched and stressed frontline medical personnel, the lack of oxygen ventilators or support equipment, none have shone a better light on that critical interface for a disoriented population already fatigued by the pandemic.

Without yielding to an alarmist temptation and as laymen, many have felt that what should be certainly more worrying for the health authorities or the wider population is the rapid spread of the far more infectious Delta variant (and its possible derivatives). The far more infective and potent variant seems alarmingly prone to have debilitating effects on younger and healthier segments of the population than the vulnerable groups, that by the way, should continue to receive special attention.

We have read or heard stories of several deaths of persons below 40 and without co-morbidities. Quite a number of



Pic - static.toimg.com

“Mauritius has always claimed paying much if not exclusive heed to WHO recommendations and therefore why are we pressing with generalised administration of a third dose, while several proven drugs with proven effectiveness in therapeutic support of affected patients, seem still unavailable or late in order, is somewhat baffling. We recall that at an international level, WHO has also, besides medical reasons, queried the haste of some developed countries and Big Pharma companies to press for lucrative third shots, while many countries in the developing world are still struggling to get their first dose, still less their second...”

us may have known personally or heard of bewildering cases of doubly vaccinated friends, who found themselves suddenly under surveillance in Covid ICU units of regional hospitals and dreading to be driven to what sounds to them as the «mouroir», our flagship specialised ENT treatment centre.

But we have also heard of cases where an ordinary patient from a regional ICU centre upon reaching the ENT, was actually relieved by the level, quality of care and attention provided to him or her at the ENT by its knowledgeable inhouse medical specialists, health care nursing staff and assistants.

We will therefore abstain from comment but trust that the promised new initiatives announced by the Health Minister on Friday last do serve to improve those aspects, including dignified and less inhumane mortuary procedures, that need to be addressed. Whatever the case, in the patriotic spirit that has always characterised this paper, we continue to

advise everybody to ignore the tourists going about without masks and to continue limiting their outings to public spaces and gatherings, and where unavoidable, to adhere strictly with safe distancing, frequent sanitized hand wash and the constant wearing of masks.

Today, nobody can say, look I have no fever, no coughing and sneezing, no symptoms and therefore I am safe; treat everyone with adequate caution as a potential virus carrier who can give you, even if you are doubly vaccinated, the most traumatising moments of your life. Neither temple congregations, nor burial or wedding ceremonies, nor attendance at official inaugurations, or at sermons from the Mount, nor even joining in a political smala for a couple of hours is ever going to provide you or your close ones extra protection and they would most certainly qualify as anti-patriotic under current conditions.

Which brings us to the advisability and necessity of a booster jab that

extends the protection period, or a third shot of your vaccine as propounded by the Ministry of Health and even the Prime Minister himself. And we would have gone along with that recommendation heartily until we realised that this is still a matter being debated both inside WHO and in all developed countries.

In mid-September, a third dose was not actually being recommended by the WHO pandemic specialists and by mid-October, as in several developed countries (e.g. Canada, EU countries) the third dose should only be considered for those persons with weaker immune systems. 'At this time, people with a severely weakened immune system will need this one extra dose to help improve protection,' as expressed simply by the Scottish pandemic centre and that sums up the general medical consensus.

Mauritius has always claimed paying much if not exclusive heed to WHO recommendations and therefore why are we pressing with generalised administration of a third dose, while several proven drugs with proven effectiveness in therapeutic support of affected patients,

seem still unavailable or late in order, is somewhat baffling. We recall that at an international level, WHO has also, besides medical reasons, queried the haste of some developed countries and Big Pharma companies to press for lucrative third shots, while many countries in the developing world are still struggling to get their first dose, still less their second. None of us will be safe until we are collectively safe, they seem to suggest.

We would therefore prefer to leave the medical and specialist community rather than politicians to guide the population on this issue, since every shot or dose seems to carry also extra risks, even if those remain low compared to potential benefits. It might even be considered more patriotic to leave the medical and scientific community unfettered in their analysis of latest data and expert outside opinion and institutions so as to provide their informed opinion and advice.

The Indian Diaspora

Is India's Gift to the World a Loss for India?

There is nothing illusory about the impact that ethnic Indians have made around the world whether they remain in India or have immigrated to other countries



“Indians, at least the successful ones, seem to do quite well in India too. But, of course, with a population of 1.3 to 1.4 billion, it is to be expected that even if one million are outstanding, that leaves 1.2 to 1.3 billion seemingly unsuccessful. In contrast, even 100,000 highly successful persons of Indian origin out of a total of 18 million over a long span of time can suggest a disproportionate impact...”

The Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) released its report, *International Migration 2020 Highlights* last week, stating that 18 million persons of Indian ethnicity were scattered among the countries of the world. Almost half of that diaspora, the largest in the world, is concentrated in three countries: United Arab Emirates (3.5 million), the United States of America (2.7 million) and Saudi Arabia (2.5 million). The Indian diaspora dwarfs the diaspora populations of the next four largest emigrant ethnic groups: Mexico and Russia (11 million each), China (10 million) and Syria (8 million).

Considering that India's population is now somewhere between 1.3 and 1.4 billion, and in 1965 just butted up against the 500 million mark, that 18-million number is a paltry one. Oh, but what an impact it has had around the world.

As I write this article, I have in mind that I was asked to write about why Indians seem to do better outside India. My reaction was that Indians, at least the successful ones, seem to do quite well in India too. But, of course, with a population of 1.3 to 1.4 billion, it is to be expected that even if one million are outstanding, that leaves 1.2 to 1.3 billion seemingly unsuccessful.

In contrast, even 100,000 highly successful persons of Indian origin out of a total of 18 million over a long span of time can suggest a disproportionate impact.

But then there is nothing illusory about the impact that ethnic Indians have made around the world whether

they remain in India or have immigrated to other countries.

Why do many Indians tend to succeed when they leave India and establish themselves in other countries? The answer has some speculative content and there is what seems obvious but is ultimately anecdotal.

First, one must consider that it takes a considerable tolerance for risk and a spirit of adventure for a person to leave his or her country and venture overseas. Certainly, this was true of the Indians who went to East Africa a century ago and those who went to Middle East, particularly Gulf, nations in more recent times.

Second, one must consider that many Indians who have emigrated have been well educated and destined to succeed whether they were trained as doctors, engineers, management trainees, consultants or financial advisors.

Third, there is perseverance and risk-taking. Regardless of which country one looks to, there are examples of Indians who have established themselves as hard-working and entrepreneurial people, providing services or merchandise day in and day out.

Fourth, one must consider luck and the culture into which Indians have found themselves transplanted. Where the culture values and is accepting of talent regardless of the colour of one's skin, Indians have prospered.

The real world effects are eye-opening.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, and the Home Minister of the UK, Priti Patel, are both of Indian descent. That may be more remarkable than the fact that the Vice President of the US, a heartbeat away from the presidency, is a woman whose mother was a native of Tamil Nadu.

Here in Mauritius, distinguished Prime Ministers of Indian descent, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Dr Navin Ramgoolam, and Pravind Jugnauth, have served the nation well.

Evidence that the culture can value and accept talent is most markedly found in the US where CEOs of fifteen or more Fortune 500 companies are of Indian origin. Without denigrating any of the CEOs for lack of mention (the list is long) the most notable are Satya Nadella of Microsoft, Sundar Pichai of Google, Arvind Krishna of IBM, and Ajaypal Bhanga of Mastercard. One must not ignore an early leader of the pack, Indra Nooyi, former chairperson and chief executive officer of PepsiCo, a distinguished achievement for a woman.

In Britain, two of the Hinduja brothers are among the wealthiest in England as is Jasinder Singh of the Edwardian Hotels chain.

Anecdotal accounts of the impact that Indians have made in the US are staggering. It is estimated by some sources that the Patels own 80-90% of small motels across the nation. Similarly, Indians make up a large number of cab drivers in New York City and invariably end up staffing the news kiosks and convenience stores. Clearly, Indians gravitate to cash businesses.

In the US, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin estimates that about 80,000 physicians or 8.5% of all doctors in the US are of Indian origin.

The Surgeon General of the US, a mostly ceremonial post, is of Indian origin. Perhaps Sanjay Gupta, the CNN medical consultant is better known than Vivek Murthy or Ashish Jha who pontificates on the pandemic. But clearly, Indians are a presence.

“Regardless of which country one looks to, there are examples of Indians who have established themselves as hard-working and entrepreneurial people, providing services or merchandise day in and day out. One must also consider luck and the culture into which Indians have found themselves transplanted. Where the culture values and is accepting of talent regardless of the colour of one's skin, Indians have prospered...”

Aside from these examples, there are countless software engineers, financial advisors, nurses, lawyers, and business people of Indian origin who make an impact throughout the world. Whether it is in Singapore, Australia, the Gulf nations, Britain, Europe, Africa, or elsewhere, Indians have a marked impact on the world.

The 18 million around the world represent a tiny fraction of Indian talent.

One wonders what India might be if it could harness all this talent and put it to productive use.



Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech during a ceremony on the eve of the Paris International Contemporary Art Fair at the Elysee Presidential Palace in Paris. Pic - TOI

Macron says Australian PM lied to him over submarine deal; Morrison refutes

French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday said Australia's prime minister outright lied to him over a cancelled submarine deal, deepening an already fraught diplomatic crisis. "I don't think. I know," Macron said when asked by Australian media if Scott Morrison was untruthful in their private dealings.

Both leaders are attending the G20 in Rome and a major UN-backed climate summit in Glasgow, but the weeks-long spat continues to trail them.

In September, Australia's leader without warning tore up a decade-old multi-billion-dollar contract with France to build a new fleet of submarines, reports AFP. At the same time, Morrison revealed he had been in secret talks to acquire US or British nuclear subs. Furious, Paris denounced the decision as a "stab in the back" and recalled its ambassador.

Australian media asked Macron on the sidelines of the G20 summit whether he thought the Australian leader had been untruthful to him in private meetings. The French president left little doubt about his view, stressing the need for mutual "respect".

In Rome, the French leader seemed to have made more progress in clearing the air with US President Joe Biden.

On Friday, Biden admitted to his French counterpart that Washington had been "clumsy" in the way it handled the deal, and said, "We have no better ally than France."

'Global sea levels rose by a factor of two within 10 years': WMO

The global mean sea level rose by a factor of two within a period of 10 years, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said on Sunday.

On the eve of the World Leaders Summit at the Glasgow climate change conference (COP26), WMO's provisional State of Climate in 2021 report said the mean global sea level rise was 2.1mm per year between 1993 and 2002 and 4.4mm per year between 2013 and 2021.

This was mostly due to the loss of ice mass from glaciers and ice sheets. Arctic sea ice was below the 1981-2010 average at its maximum in March, reports Jayashree Nandi of Hindustan Times.

Sea ice extent then decreased rapidly in June and early July in the Laptev Sea and East Greenland Sea regions. As a result, the Arctic-wide sea ice extent was a record low in the first half of July, WMO said.

US warns China against any unilateral changes to status quo around Taiwan

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi locked horns over Taiwan on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit on Sunday, trading warnings against moves that could further escalate tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

In an hour-long meeting in Rome, Blinken made "crystal clear" that Washington opposes any unilateral changes by Beijing to the status quo around Taiwan, a senior State Department official said.

A recent increase in Chinese military exercises in Taiwan's air defence identification zone, including what Taipei said were eight such flights on Sunday, is part of what it views as stepped-up military harassment by Beijing, reports Reuters.

Wang expressed China's "solemn concern over various issues on which the US side has damaged China's legitimate rights and interests, and asked the US side to change its course and promote China-US relations back to the track of healthy development", China's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Wang said it was misleading of the United States to blame China for a change in the status quo on Taiwan, saying it is US "connivance" and "support" for pro-independence forces in Taiwan that are at fault, China's statement said.

China claims the island as part of



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rome, Italy. Pic - AFP

its own territory and views any foreign intervention over Taiwan as interference in its domestic affairs.

Blinken's meeting with Wang was their first in person since a fiery exchange in Alaska in March. Sunday's meeting in Rome was "exceptionally candid" but productive, and will help lay the groundwork for a virtual summit between US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year, the US official said.

While the United States, like most

countries, has no formal relations with Taiwan, Washington is the island's most important international supporter and main arms supplier, and is required by law to provide it with the means to defend itself.

Washington has long followed a policy of "strategic ambiguity" on whether it would intervene militarily to protect Taiwan in the event of a Chinese attack, though Biden said last week that it would come to Taiwan's defence if necessary.

Israel, US likely behind cyberattack on gas stations, Iran says

An Iranian general said Israel and the U.S. were probably behind an Oct. 26 cyberattack that paralyzed gasoline stations across Iran, state-run Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Initial investigations show "the U.S. and the Zionists" are likely to have been responsible for the "highly complicated" assault, General Gholamreza Jalali, head of Iran's passive defense organization, said in an interview to state TV on Saturday, reports Bloomberg.

A final identification will be determined after all assessments are completed, Jalali said, adding that investigators were also looking into whether any Iranian institutions were involved.

Jalali said the attack bore similarities to cyber strikes on Iran's rail network and the Shahid Rajaee port, a major trade terminal on the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf. Iranian officials also blamed the U.S. and Israel for those attacks.

Tuesday's cyberattack targeted software that controls an online payment system used by tens of millions of



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi speaks with gas station workers in Tehran, Iran. Pic - AP

drivers in Iran to buy state-subsidized fuel at gasoline stations. The strike came near the anniversary of widespread and violent protests against a hike in fuel prices in mid-November 2019.

*Contd on page 7

Global Covid-19 deaths top 5 million: Fatality rate and worst-hit regions



People gather to receive Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine at a mobile vaccination center in Krymsk, Krasnodar region on Friday. Pic - AP

In nearly two years, the coronavirus disease has claimed more than five million lives globally. Since the time the mysterious virus emerged in China, it quickly spread across the world, forcing billions inside their homes, paralysing the global economy and overwhelming hospital wards.

The spread of the infection has been

led by the numerous mutations the Sars-CoV-2 virus underwent, with the most virulent being the Delta strain. The unvaccinated people are particularly exposed to the Delta variant.

More than half of all global deaths reported on a seven-day average were in the United States, Russia, Brazil, Mexico and India.

But, the efforts different countries took to keep their population safe, slowed down the pace of the infection.

How the fatality rate has slowed down

The latest 1 million recorded deaths came slower than the previous two. It took more than 110 days to go from 4 million deaths to 5 million, compared to less than 90 days each to reach the 3- and 4-million marks.

Still, Covid is killing thousands of people every day. The United States alone accounted for 14% of the last million deaths - the highest share of any country.

However, the fatality numbers reported last week have once again raised concerns among the health experts. Reuters reported that an average of 8,000 deaths were reported daily across the world over the last week, or around five deaths every minute.

The worst places in terms of Covid infection spread

The United States surpassed the mark

of Covid 700,000 deaths on Friday. Russia, meanwhile, reported 887 coronavirus-related deaths on Friday, the largest single-day death toll it has recorded since the pandemic began.

The United Kingdom and Belgium are also recording a surge in infection despite high vaccination numbers.

As a region, South America has the highest death toll in the world accounting for 21% of all reported deaths, followed by North America and Eastern Europe contributing more than 14% of all fatalities each, according to Reuters.

The situation in India

India, which was also ravaged by the Delta variant, has gone from an average of 4,000 deaths a day to less than 300 as its inoculation campaign picks up pace and vaccination coverage is increased, reports Hindustan Times.

About 47% of India's eligible population has received a first shot, with officials administering around 7,896,950 doses per day over the past week.

Facebook rebranding: WhatsApp, Instagram now show 'from Meta' for beta users



Meta, the new name for the company formerly known as Facebook. Pic - ichef.bbc.co.uk

Facebook has begun its rebranding for all its platforms, including WhatsApp and Instagram, to reveal its new name -- Meta. The change has been spotted by beta users of Whatsapp and Instagram who have noticed the change on the starting page of the apps that now reads "from Meta".

A WhatsApp beta tracker on Twitter called WABetaInfo on Sunday announced, "WhatsApp from Meta is now available for beta testers". The tracker also shared a screenshot of the new splash screen that earlier used to read: "WhatsApp from Facebook".

Similarly, beta users of Instagram also shared that their landing page has been replaced with the new name and reads: "Instagram from Meta".

The new update is still not reflecting for all beta users and is expected to show up on all devices in the coming few days.

The Mark Zuckerberg-led social media giant last week announced that it will now be called 'Meta' in an effort to transform from the traditional social media format and encompass its virtual-reality vision for the future -- what Zuckerberg calls the "metaverse."

The announcement was made amid an array of heightened legislative and regulatory scrutiny Facebook had been facing in several parts of the world, as a consequence of the revelations in the Facebook Papers. However, Zuckerberg said that the name change was decided as 'Facebook' no longer justified everything the company does.

Notably, Facebook has monopolised the social media world to include popular platforms like Instagram, Messenger, its Quest VR headset, its Horizon VR platform and more.

US spy agencies say they may never be able to identify Covid-19 origins

US intelligence agencies said on Friday that they may never be able to identify the origins of Covid-19, as they released a new, more detailed version of their review of whether the coronavirus came from an animal-to-human transmission or leaked from a lab.

The Office of the US Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) said in a declassified report that a natural origin and a lab leak are both plausible hypotheses for how SARS-COV-2 first infected humans. But it said analysts disagree on which is more likely or whether any definitive assessment can be made at all, reports Reuters.

The report also dismissed suggestions that the coronavirus originated as a bioweapon, saying proponents of this theory "do not have direct access to the Wuhan Institute of Virology" and have been accused of spreading disinformation.

The report issued on Friday is an update of a 90-day review that President Joe Biden's administration released in August, amid intense political infighting over how much to blame China for the effects of the global pandemic rather than governments that may not have moved quickly enough to protect citizens.

China responded on Friday by criticizing the report.

"The US moves of relying on its intelligence apparatus instead of scientists to trace the origins of Covid-19 is a complete political farce," Liu Pengyu, a spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in Washington, said in an emailed statement.

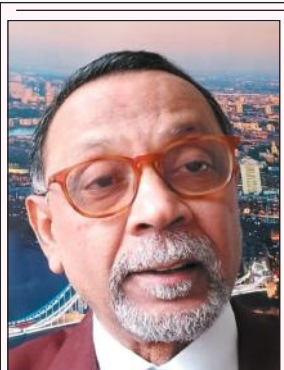


Security personnel keep watch outside the Wuhan Institute of Virology during the visit by the WHO team tasked with investigating the origins of the coronavirus disease. Pic - Reuters

Former Republican President Donald Trump - who lost his bid for re-election as the deadly pandemic ravaged the US economy - and many of his supporters referred to Covid-19 as the "China virus."

US spy agencies believe they will not be able to produce a more definitive explanation for the origin of Covid-19 without new information demonstrating that the virus took a specific pathway from animals to humans or that a Wuhan laboratory was handling the virus or a related virus before Covid-19 surfaced.

The report said US agencies and the global scientific community lacked "clinical samples or a complete understanding of epidemiological data from the earliest Covid-19 cases" and said it could revisit this inconclusive finding if more evidence surfaces.



Vijay I. Ram

1838 Calcutta Inquiry on Export of Indian Labourers

The Duffadari System - Kidnap, Inducement, Deceit!

"... that coolies and other natives were induced by misrepresentation and deceit practised by native crimps, styled Duffadars and Arkotties employed by Europeans and Anglo-Indians, undertakers and shippers, ... and who were most cognizant of these frauds and who received a considerable sum per head for every coolie exported."

It was in those damning words that Chairman T. Dickens Esq, a senior member of the Indian Judiciary, concluded the Royal Inquiry on Indian Labourers held in Calcutta in 1838. He presented his findings to the London government on the 16th October after having heard testimonies from returning Coolies, Planters, Shippers, Agents, the Police and other distinguished members of the civil society in Calcutta.

The painstaking inquiry which ran over two months of daily sittings scrutinised specific areas of complaints from a broad spectrum of public opinion, especially from the still very militant anti-slavery movement and the Protestant clergy both in India and England. The British government was in a significant way pressurized to review the indenture system that was meant to replace slavery which was on its way of being phased out as an economic system. But was it a more just system, or was it only a replacement of the previous mode of exploitation of labour, as would very much have preferred the colonial planters!

The Inquiry unearthed an evidence-based unscrupulous sub-economy where middlemen and intermediaries were found operating schemes on how to dispossess the little hard-earned money left in the pockets of the coolies. That system to further impoverish the immigrant community was carried out on board ships under the nose of European shippers and agents. Relics of that old economic architecture have survived two centuries, it would seem, and may still be felt today in the country's political and socio-cultural lives.

New demand

The abolition of slavery saw hundreds of thousands of workmen gradually disappearing from the cane fields; the plantocracy found itself suddenly with an acute deficit of labour and a consequent drop in production output. The shortage of sugar, the precious 'white gold', not only almost quadrupled the world price of sugar, but more importantly it started threatening the market, trade and investment, thus the entire colonial economic and financial systems.

Something had to happen, and had to happen quickly!

The Dutch-Spanish planters in the Americas and the West Indies, some of whom combined with British investments, those in Africa and India, and the French colonists in the Indian Ocean and Mauritius, were all demanding quick actions. The fields had to be manned!

The abolition of slavery only made it unlawful to engage in human trafficking, it did not suddenly demolish the organic structure and mechanics of the recruitment, shipment and trade of the evil practice. The Duffadari system was very much present and available for those in need of its customs.

The ducking and diving in terms of jurisdiction allegiance of the local Mauritian colonists after the French



"The findings of the Royal Inquiry on Indian Labourers also touched on other issues of significant importance: If the coolies were made aware that they were to go overseas and for five years, it was probable that not one of them would have agreed to go. There was inducement and deceit to bring people from their villages on the false pretence that they were to get public road work or as gardeners and porters in Calcutta. The local Police in Mauritius was not accessible to complaints from the coolies and that Magistrates in Mauritius were not disposed to enforce the terms of their contracts, especially on items like food and pay. The Regulations on sugar plantations in Mauritius closely resembled imprisonment within their boundaries..."

Revolution, the beginning of the Napoleonic era, the capitulation of Ile de France to British administration and the abolition of slavery made the coincidence of juridical transition and the regulating of Indian Indenture very difficult to manage politically.

The Duffadari system

Agents, middlemen and brokers have always existed in any business where a commission is guaranteed in the end, and this did not defy the rules in the trade of human trafficking. Slavery in India was at its most prominent during the Sultanates of the 12th and 13th centuries when the trade was mostly under the 'Vannias', traders and money lenders from the Paarsi regions of the Balouchi and Sindh. It is said they were very active during the Carnatic wars of the mid-eighteenth century and scattered through migration and stayed in the Arcot province of the south-east, after the French lost the last Carnatic war and thus some got to be known as Arkotties. In Assam, they were literally known as human traffickers.

Some later joined the British army as part-time soldiers to quash anti-independence rallies or would have served the Nawabs as tax collectors. And the less scrupulous ones were engaged by colonial planters as agent-recruiters of migrant labourers. Enjoying the respect of having worked for the state, they had the facility of trust from those in quest for a job. With the post-slavery shortage of labour in the Mauritian cane fields and the devastating effects left behind

in those Indian regions badly affected by recent droughts, there was a crying economics of supply and demand for the new 'main-d'oeuvre'.

Recruit-cum-kidnap

During the very beginning of the Indian Indenture labour period, as early as the 1820s, Arkotties were acting as the main agents of Duffadars and they would go to local Mofussils, Perwanahs and Zillas and 'recruit-cum-kidnap' people from very poor regions, especially those with very little education, among the Dhangars (Hill Coolies) of the Bhojpure region for example. The Duffadars were employed on commission by shippers and local planters from the colonies and would receive their rewards in Rupees per head.

The following are the exact words of the Chief of Police and Superintendent of Calcutta, Captain F.W. Birch testifying to the Inquiry:

"...I have heard of a Darogah (another low rank police) in Zillah Burdwan, on the high road, who gets one roupee per head for each coolie."

"They are told by the Duffadars that they will be well paid, well fed and that they would

not have to cross the ocean. I know of a woman who was made intoxicated, shut in a box and carried across the Esplanade. Kidnapping prevailed in a very great degree in the lower provinces of Bengal."

And on further questioning, the Police Chief stated he was aware that:

"This trade has been going on for well before the 1837 Act, I would say even before 1834, may well be I believe at least 15 years previously."

Poor people mostly from the United Provinces of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were induced, conned and deceived into leaving their homes and loved ones under the false pretence of 'a job in Calcutta'. There was overwhelming evidence among the first exported coolies clearly decrying their outrage when they got to know they had to cross the ocean. The fear of their firm and entrenched faith beliefs that they would somehow lose their caste, thus their religious status, would have deterred them from engaging.

Shri Dwarkanath Tagore, an esteemed industrialist of the Bengal region, told the Inquiry:

"...the lower classes could easily be influenced by village Gomasthas and Mundels, or any other notable and influential panchayat people, but they would only go as far as Calcutta. Never further down the river. They were too attached to their castes."

● Cont. on page 9

The Duffadari System - Kidnap, Inducement, Deceit!

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"The Dhangars have worked for me before, they would only accept to stay eight months, never longer as they would die to go back to their families. Knowing them, they would never sign a contract for five years," Shri Tagore emphasised.

The recent changes of the late 18th and early 19th centuries in agriculture, land, taxation and administration laws under the Cornwallis and Vernon reforms, made the migration (*pravasi*) of landless farmers an easy prey to Zamindars. Farmers were suddenly transformed into wage earners and it became fairly common for *pravasis* to leave home for work; they would travel thousands of miles to feed their families, but they would not go overseas!

"I've lost my caste, even my mother won't eat or drink from my hands anymore, Sahib. Even if I have to starve or beg, I won't go back to that country of slaves again," Bibi Zuhoorun from Bowaneepur told the Inquiry in tears.

Kedgerree, the melting pot

The banks of the Hoogly would have witnessed much of the traffic denounced earlier, but not more so than the old river port of Kedgerree which could be described as the melting pot of all sorts of dark businesses, a shadow economy. Kedgerree is situated some sixty miles further downstream from Calcutta at the river's estuary, where the Haldi and the Damodar meet between Diamond Harbour and the Sagar Island. That old port offered smugglers their last opportunity, before they set sail on the ocean proper, to embark unregistered or unlisted coolies.

There were tragic accounts of desperate natives throwing themselves overboard as soon as they realised their embarkments were now to start navigating the unknown ocean, or in their vain attempt of catching some drinking water while still on 'fresh' river waters.

Captain Edwards of The Christopher Rawson: **"I took 40 coolies off Kedgerree. They were brought by the clerks of Messrs Henley, Dawson and Bestel, the ship-pers. We waited until Kedgerree to fill water and we were provided by a Monsieur Rousseau who owned a private tank and made a small charge for it."**

To a question as to whether he was using salt water in food preparation, Cpt Edwards replied: "...the crews always mix salt water when boiling the rice. I believe it does the rice good." He also admitted of cutting all the coolies hair indistinctly of being a man or a woman: "Yes because of cleanliness, it was not healthy to have hair a yard long, not good for their health. Some protested on religious ground!"

"Apart from 40 men who boarded with me in Calcutta, all the other 250+ coolies were embarked at Kedgerree." Dr Abdullah Khan, the native doctor of the ship Captain Edward disclosed with clinical disapproval: "They had only one quart bottle each day, they drank half of it and filled the other half with salt water. The water was of poor quality and looked foamy like beer!"

John Hughes, one of the suppliers/shippers was probed to admit that "...we sometimes, when the ship has not made up her lot of coolies, have to make a stop at Diamond Harbour (opposite Kedgerree) and some more are added up by the Duffadars". Captain Garrioch Mackenzie of the Cavendish Bentick added that "100+ joined further away. We had 16 deaths among which 8 jumped overboard" on



“Coolies from those distant villages of some poor states of India did not all emigrate willingly. The conclusion of the Inquiry was unequivocal: there was an oppressive system involving unscrupulous people using a financial bait and other false promises to lure people into leaving their homes. The nominal advance cash allowance of Rs30 to the coolie “was a source of fraudulent and dishonest gain to all subordinate agents engaged in the export.” Intermediaries of all descriptions were engaged to rip off those poor labourers of that money; they would operate in those forlorn provinces of India as much as on-board sailing ships and on the plantations in Mauritius...”

its trip of October 1836. And that they even had to collect some more coolies at Fultah Harbour.

The poor medical facilities were also decried by witnesses. A native doctor who could obviously speak and understand the language of the coolies was told to step aside by the ship Captain who decided he was to dish out medicine himself. To save on medicine, they were only giving glisters enema to the sick, even to those suffering from dysentery and stomach cramps. There were numerous reports of people being given inadequate food and water, of being given excessive salt and tamarind intake to compensate proper food and people being whipped and sent under decks as a punishment.

A shadow economy

Duffadars, Arkotties and Chawkidars made themselves busy in quest of their quota of coolies inland; Topassies, Bhattearas, Farrangis and Serangs dealing in dark businesses on board ships; Overseers, Gardiens and Sirdars on plantations, they all combined to make up a class of intermediaries ready to cash in on the little money of the coolies.

The planters saw to it that prospective coolies could be lured into the contract by being given a cash advance in hand and they were to receive the equivalent of six months wages up front. That was seen as an attractive bait for middlemen to jump on and draw as much as they could from it. The labourers were kept in Calcutta and sometimes 'badged and bangled' in captivity for as long as six weeks to two months before embarkment. The Duffadars would charge for their upkeep and money would be deducted among other things from the advance money of the coolies.

Karoo Boodhoo from Arrah recalled: "I registered for a French gentleman whose clerk was Anundoo Mittre. I stayed another month at Beerbul in Bowaneepur and was told I must go to Mauritius. From my advance money they took Rs5 for dust-tooree, Rs5 for lota, thali, Rs10 for kapra and Rs7 for Duffadar's accommodation charge and they took other deduction and I was left with only Rs3."

Whatever little money left over after all the deductions would now be 'taken care' of by other actors of this emerging shadow economy. On board the ships a black market was overtly encouraged and a commerce of alcohol, drugs, prostitutes and gambling took place under the nose of the crew. Topassees, Farrangis and Bhattearas (later to be known as Batiaras) would provide for those desires of men having to cross an unknown ocean some-

times lasting as long as two months, and the little money they had would be all gone by the time they reached the shores of that foreign land.

"Several women were brought on board, and some of very bad character, ...some two or three Bhattearas were dealing in bhang and other articles and a woman of loose character in prostitution. There was commerce of parched rice, biscuits, sweetmeats and regular complaints of robbery", told Mr James Smart, the Master Pilot of the East India Company to a question of the Chairman.

On the plantations, coolies unanimously complained of their money being cut for sickness and on the pretence of keeping it for hospital cost and their return journey (*la monnaie bateau*).

"Mme Lachiche of Batassie only gave her coolies Rs3 and told them they would receive their full Rs5 after two years. She kept eight annas for ghee money," recounted Boodoo Khan, an ex-Sepoy who was initially recruited as Sirdar but ended up being offered work as a labourer. He refused and paid the price of having to go into confinement for two and a half months before being shipped back to Calcutta.

Apart from complaints of not being paid at all by some planters on pretexts of sickness, absenteeism and police/hospital costs, the overwhelming account was one of unregulated fraud bordering on theft. The Chairman Dickens commented on the so-called return passage in these words:

"At a rate of Rs1 per month, the owner is drawing a premium of Rs60 for an assurance risk of Rs10. The extra money is never returned to the coolies."

Findings and Recommendations

The Calcutta Inquiry found that the trade of Indian labourers to Mauritian sugar establishments had existed well before the end of slavery, even decades before 1834. There was a well-established system, involving unscrupulous traders, shippers and agents from Mauritius, the UK and India itself, to deny the coolies of their human rights, their dignity and in some case of their earned labour. They also found that the forms of recruitment, shipping, lodging, food provision and pay were far below what could be considered as humane. They condemned the legitimised form of appropriation of coolies' money through a form of check-off for hospital cost, the Police and return passage (that would survive decades in the form of *'la monnaie bateau'*).

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1838 Calcutta Inquiry on Export of Indian Labourers

• Cont. from page 9

As they were asked to state what would be the necessary or probable consequences of resumption of the coolie trade and to suggest the fitting measures to adopt in the event of re-opening that trade, the Commissioners had these recommendations to make:



1. There should be an inter-government convention to cease the right of other foreign powers to export labourers from India.
2. At least one third of immigrant labourers should be female.
3. To prohibit all other ports except a selected few.
4. Should be appointed at these ports: A Chief Superintendent and Purveyors and an Examiner to ensure the provision of food and other necessities before embarkment.
5. To prohibit all private vessels and for Doctors to be recruited only from the Royal Navy.
6. All regulations to be embodied in an Act of Parliament and by local legislatures.
7. To declare null and void all contracts preceding the new Act.
8. All agents of importers to be appointed by government.
9. Government services to decide when to declare immigration open and to inform the Zillahs, who should be involved in the recruitment procedures.
10. Stop all cash advances and planters to deposit a premium of Rs30 per head as a security to government.
11. Passage money back to India to be managed by government.

Fraudulent and dishonest

Coolies from those distant villages of some poor states of India did not all emigrate willingly. The conclusion of the Inquiry was unequivocal: **there was an oppressive system involving unscrupulous people using a financial bait and other false promises to lure people into leaving their homes.**

The nominal advance cash allowance of Rs30 to the coolie "was a source of fraudulent and dishonest gain to all subordinate agents engaged in the export." Intermediaries of all descriptions were engaged to rip off those poor labourers of that money; they would operate in those forlorn provinces of India as much as on-board sailing ships and on the plantations in Mauritius.

There were reported cases of kidnapping, inducement and imprisonment of coolies by ruthless people using that

small pecuniary 'incentive' as a coercive means no less than as a gun barrel to the throat!

Passes and registers were readily accommodated to satisfy the target figure and peoples' religious and cultural identities were singularly denied with utmost ease and complete impunity.

Protesters were sent below deck because they refused to be ill-treated or simply because they urged for more food or water, sometimes at the risk to their own lives. Some preferred to jump overboard rather than bear the humiliation!

The Inquiry was unambiguous on the cause as they saw it:

"Should that advance money be stopped, the end of the business would entail as it seems to be the mainstay of the trade!"

Shortfall of authorities

The findings of the Royal Inquiry on Indian Labourers also touched on other issues of significant importance:

- If the coolies were made aware that they were to go overseas and for five years, it was probable that not one of them would have agreed to go.
- There was inducement and deceit to bring people from their villages on the false pretence that they were to get public road work or as gardeners and porters in Calcutta.
- A big majority of the uneducated coolies were unable to understand the terms of the contracts they were to get into.
- Despite the good intervention of the Police, the coolies were led to believe that they would be liable to penal consequences if they expressed dissatisfaction at being sent on board ships.
- Money advances and charges were carried out without evidence of accounts being kept for inspection.
- The local Police in Mauritius was not accessible to complaints from the coolies and that Magistrates in Mauritius were not disposed to enforce the terms of their contracts, especially on items like food and pay.
- Regulations on sugar plantations in Mauritius closely resembled imprisonment within their boundaries.
- A lot of coolies exported from Pondicherry and other southern ports were still being sent to French colonies e.g. Bourbon Island where slavery still prevailed.
- The hardships and miseries endured on board pushed

“The Calcutta Inquiry found that the trade of Indian labourers to Mauritian sugar establishments had existed well before the end of slavery, even decades before 1834. There was a well-established system, involving unscrupulous traders, shippers and agents from Mauritius, the UK and India itself, to deny the coolies of their human rights, their dignity and in some case of their earned labour. They also found that the forms of recruitment, shipping, lodging, food provision and pay were far below what could be considered as humane...”

some coolies to jump overboard and the rate of deaths was estimated at 10%

Conclusion

We need to read the testimonies, findings and recommendations on the 1838 Inquiry with a progressive and constructive frame of mind. Armed today with the benefits of hindsight, we are surely in a more privileged position to weigh between the benefits and deficits of movements of peoples in general and the Indian Indenture in particular. While some of us will rightly acknowledge the massive social mobility of the descendants of indentured coolies, others will also meditate on the social and cultural 'what-ifs'; but the overwhelming truth remains that social change will follow the course and contours of its historical dialectic and to borrow the well-known motivational quote from the American civil rights activist, Maya Angelou so often cited by the late Nelson Mandela himself:

"If you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you are going!"

Vijay I Ram

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

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

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

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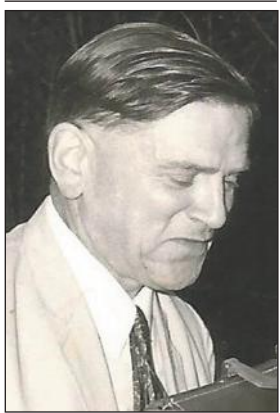
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MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 20 December 1957

• A revolution is as natural a growth as an oak. It comes out of the past. Its foundations are laid far back. -- Wendell Phillips

What will the Police Commission say?



Peter Ibbotson

The Commission of Enquiry on the Police has finished

its hearings, and we must sit back and await its report. In all the evidence given by members of the public to the Commissioners, the police have appeared not as friends of the public, not as men to be trusted, and not always as upholders of law and order. Too often, they have appeared as ogres, as the servants of one particular community, as oppressors who are concerned only with reconciling how to feather their own nests with, at the same time, how to get promotion by securing an adequate number of convictions.

One man who was giving evidence said: "*Chaque fois qui mo dimane licence la police dire moi chanté, mo pas connaît qui ça oulait dire chanter.*" This business of "chanter", that is of giving bribes to the police, is a very serious matter which cropped up more than once before the Commission. It has not been unknown for a constable, when he has caught a man riding a bicycle without a light, to bargain with that man as to what bribe he will accept to forget the incident. For such a trivial offence a couple of cigarettes appears to be the usual tariff.

Another serious matter concerning "gifts" to the police arises with regard to Chinese immigration. At present the laws on Chinese immigration into Mauritius are very tight, to prevent the infiltration of Communists. However, it is very difficult to control Chinese immigrants

(even if you know their place of birth) because they have a habit of adopting temporarily the names of dead Chinese. It sometimes happens that after being born in Mauritius, some Chinese leave the island for China or Hong-Kong, and stay there for a considerable period. When they are eager to come back to Mauritius, they need an entry permit which has to be obtained from the police. The police can at the beginning refuse permits to such immigrants; but when a "substantial gift" is offered, the permit is forthcoming. Chinese, particularly, know the channels through which to make confidential bribes.

Several witnesses spoke of the ineffectiveness of the police in tracking down offenders against the traffic laws. Typical of the reports of road accidents, which are a far too frequent item of news in the daily papers, is this one from *Le Cernéen* of November 20th: "*Lundi soir, en face du marché de la Butte, un cycliste a été renversé par une auto qui ne s'est pas arrêtée.*" Such cases, of a car or motorcycle not stopping after knocking down a pedestrian, are all too common; and also, all too often the police seem helpless to find the offender.

Typical of this is the case of the late Mr H.V. Orange who was killed at Belle Etoile on June 1st, 1950. He was riding a motorcycle with a friend on their way to Port-Louis. An unknown car hit them, they both fell on the

road, but the car did not stop. A person who saw them lying on the road tried to stop cars going in either direction with the view to having them taken to hospital. A motorist who was driving a black car hit the unconscious body of Mr H.V. Orange on the ground. This second car stopped and the man who was trying to get help told the driver what he had done. This time several other cars stopped, (a number of people were on their way to the theatre of Port Louis) and in the general brouhaha the driver -- whose name unfortunately no one had taken -- saw the time was opportune for him

to slip away; which he did. No one could recall his car number. When Mr H.V. Orange died as the result, presumably, of being hit a second time, the police took the case in hand but they never traced either of the cars involved in Mr Orange's death. To this day, the identity of the motorists responsible for his death remains unknown.

Also wrapped in mystery are the exact details of the Lionnet case, to which it was inevitable that Hon. Bissoondoyal would refer in his deposition.

"It is supremely important that men of integrity and enterprise should consider a police career sufficiently attractive to prefer it to others. And one has to remember that a great deal is asked of men who join the police. Every policeman lives, in a sense, a dedicated life -- that may sound pretentious, but I believe it to be true. He cannot merely perform certain routine duties during duty hours and consider that he has fulfilled his obligations. On the contrary, he is never free to behave irresponsibly at any time -- to get drunk, for instance, or indulge in the sort of escapades which most young men are attracted to occasionally, or to hang around with pals who, while being excellent company, may not be above a little dishonesty now and then. The policeman must remain circumspect at all time throughout his career for the simple reasons that if he has a guilty secret he is in a vulnerable position and is liable to be blackmailed by those who know of his lapse and obliged by them to connive at their own misdoings."

This paragraph is quoted from *Cloak without Dagger*, the autobiography of Sir Percy Sillitoe, who before becoming Director General of M.I.5. (the British Security Service) in 1945 had been Chief Constable successively of the police forces of Chesterfield, the East Riding of Yorkshire, Sheffield, Glasgow and Kent. Throughout his career as a chief constable, he always insisted that "the police force needs not exceptionally high standards of education, but very great integrity and strength of character, combined with the wisdom which comes to some -- though not all -- men when they have had wide and varied practical experience of human nature."

If all the people's complaints against the police are justified, or even if only a few of them are, there would seem to be room at the head of the police department for a man of Sir Percy Sillitoe's calibre. Although he has now retired from M.I.5., Sir Percy was offered a short-time job investigating illicit traffic in diamonds in South Africa on behalf of the De Beers Consolidated Mines and the Diamond Corporation. This job he accepted: to plan a campaign against the big shots of the international diamond smuggling racket. It is not impossible that Sir Percy, who had considerable experience in cleaning up large-scale graft in Glasgow, might be tempted to Mauritius to investigate and put into effect such reforms in the Police Department as the depositions before the Commission have indicated as, *in the public interest and the public view*, desirable. Should, of course, the Report of the Commissioners indicate the necessity of reform, then again Sir Percy Sillitoe (who is not yet 70) would be the best man to see them carried out.



Pic - vintagemauritius.org

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Tahir Wahab

Mauritius - Avoiding the Shades of Grey of the FATF



Mauritius exits FATF grey list. Pic - International Investment

The cloudy shades of grey have gone, much to the relief of all financial stakeholders in Mauritius. It is now time to reflect and use this nightmare as a lesson for the future.

Countries are placed in the grey list for increased monitoring to counter money laundering and funding of terrorist activities and to address strategic gaps in their systems.

The way forward should focus on three aspects

Mauritius and all stakeholders should by now understand that we all have a common destiny. be it the Government or all stakeholders within our financial services sector.

1 - Reputation building

First and foremost, the reputation of Mauritius is something everyone should protect. The government should by now understand the importance of communication; and appoint a PR-marketing firm possibly by setting up an 'International

Investment Bureau' to cater for and facilitate business and re-promote actively our jurisdictions as a transparent and well-regulated jurisdiction to attract investors. Equally, an international PR-marketing firm should be appointed to counterbalance any negative press coverage around the world, as we should expect that there will be release of other versions of Paradise Papers in the future.

2 - Monitoring Task Force

Secondly, we have experienced the rigorous process through which we had to go to ensure that we comply with all the recommendation of the FATF. Thus, we are already acquainted with the methodology used by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to assess compliance and non-compliant countries. The Government and monitoring agencies like the FSC, FIU and Bank of Mauritius should work together within a permanent committee to review all the recommendations on an ongoing basis and ensure technical compliance at all times including assessing the effectiveness of our AML/CFT regulations.

The Government should remain constantly alert and build on the momentum of recent legal initiatives to enhance the AML/CFT regime and ensure that our legal framework remains up to date with international best practices at all times.

3 - Implementation and effectiveness of AML/CFT

Technical compliance is one thing, but implementation and effectiveness is the crucial aspect. We should therefore as far as possible avoid scandalous episodes, such as the Sobrinho affair and others where lack of enhanced due diligence and proper risk-based approach can negatively impact on the image of Mauritius. We should not only be compliant but also seen to be compliant.

Therefore, stakeholders should not be complacent with compliance and ensure that every investor satisfies the set criteria. Here, the role of regulators is vital to ensure that sanctions and fines are imposed if ever there are deficiencies at this level.

Mauritius should properly identify, assess and understand its money laundering and terrorist financing risks, and co-ordinate domestically to put in place actions to mitigate these risks. This includes the involvement of competent authorities (described as role of supervisors by the FATF) and using a wide range of reliable information sources including risks assessment methodology as a basis for developing and prioritising AML/CFT policies and activities; and communicating and implementing those policies and activities

in a co-ordinated manner across appropriate channels as and when there is need to do it without being afraid of the approach.

All the above measures should ultimately achieve three objectives:

1. Policy, coordination and cooperation to mitigate the money laundering and financing of terrorism risks.
2. Proceeds of crime and funds in support of terrorism are prevented from entering the financial and other sectors or are detected and reported by these sectors.
3. Money laundering threats are detected and disrupted, and criminals are sanctioned and deprived of illicit proceeds. Terrorist financing threats are detected and disrupted, terrorists are deprived of resources, and those who finance terrorism are sanctioned, thereby contributing to the prevention of terrorist acts.

We should not lose sight that the ATF mutual evaluation cycles will be conducted five years after the publication of the mutual evaluation report (MER) which for Mauritius was in April 2018. The FATF will then conduct a follow-up assessment and look at the priority actions from the mutual evaluation report and the reforms the country has introduced to improve the effectiveness of its actions to protect the integrity of the financial system and its compliance with the FATF.

Tahir Wahab is a Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, Chartered Banker, and holds an MBA with Specialisation in Strategic Planning

Glasgow COP26: climate finance pledges from rich nations are inadequate and time is running out

● Cont. from page 2

Other sticking points

COP26 will also likely see "Article 6" of the Paris Agreement come into effect, and produce more detail on how this would work in practice.

This article establishes a market mechanism which would encourage emission reductions by means of carbon trading. It could mean companies have to buy allowances to continue emitting CO₂.

This carbon trading will provide a funding stream for climate finance. In an ideal world, it generates climate cash that poor countries can use to reduce emissions and adapt.

Another topic expected to be fiercely negotiated at COP26 is the so-called "third pillar" of climate change action: loss and damage

caused by human-induced climate change.

Loss and damage can be, for example, slow onset events such as sea level rise or prolonged droughts. It could be extreme weather events such as floods and cyclones.

Other impacts include economic damage to livelihoods and personal "non-economic losses" such as cultural heritage or loss of loved ones. Loss and damage goes beyond what we consider "normal weather".

Increased human migration and displacement also fall under "loss and damage" if caused by climate change impacts. Between 2008 and 2014 and average of 22.5 million people were displaced because of extreme weather and climate-related disasters. This figure does not include migration due to sea level rise, desertification or environmental degradation.

Loss and damage has been a highly sensitive topic in international negotiations. Wealthy countries fear being made liable and opening themselves up to compensation claims from poorer countries due to climate inaction, human rights violations because of forced migration or other issues related to climate injustices.

After several previous attempts to include loss and damage in convention text, it was finally recognised under Article 8 in the Paris Agreement in 2015.

However, the document's fine print ensured Article 8 does not provide any basis for liability or compensation. Finance to address loss and damage was also not identified.

The Alliance of Small Island Developing States, the Least Developed Countries and the Africa Group make up over half the world's nations and currently take

the brunt of climate damage. These groups have banded together and are expected to negotiate hard on loss and damage at COP26.

Failing on climate finance means failing the planet

The risk of legal consequences from climate inaction is increasing. Court cases against fossil fuel companies are on the rise.

Governments are no longer immune either. In 2015, an environmental group called the Urgenda Foundation joined with 900 citizens to sue the Dutch government for not doing enough to prevent climate change.

The law suit was successful. The court found the Dutch government's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions was insufficient.

In the US, 21 young Americans recently sued the government for

violating their constitutional rights by exacerbating climate change. While unsuccessful, the Biden administration agreed to symbolic settlement talks.

And just over a month ago, Vanuatu asked the International Court of Justice to weigh in on what rights current and future generations may have to be protected from climate change.

If developing countries do not receive financial assistance to reduce emissions, it is unlikely we will meet the commitment of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°

Clearly, helping developing nations pay for the expensive work of emissions reduction and adaptation benefits everyone on the planet.

*Melanie Pill,
Australian National University*

How leaders can focus on the big picture

It's not just about carving out the time

Elsbeth Johnson, HBR

Every leader knows that they shouldn't micromanage -- even if some of us still do. But while we understand the downsides of micromanaging and taken action to avoid it, we still haven't sufficiently embraced the upsides of *not* micromanaging.

Time and effort spent on macromanagement enables leaders to be as clear, decisive, and disciplined at the macro level -- on the big strategic questions the organization is facing -- as their managers are at the micro level, i.e., about how these decisions might be implemented.

So, what are these big strategic questions that leaders aren't spending enough time on or aren't answering in a sufficiently clear or disciplined way? They are questions about:

- why the organization exists and what its purpose is
- what it offers (and does *not* offer) its customers, and how and why this offer delivers value to these customers
- what this produces for the business and for share holders -- the critical outcome metrics by which the organization will be judged
- how the people within the organization will behave -- toward customers, other stakeholders, and each other

I don't know many leaders who would say they don't think these questions are important. But I know lots of leaders who don't spend enough time answering them, and even more who don't answer them with sufficient clarity so their people can then get on with delivering the answers.

Lack of time isn't the only reason leaders ignore these questions

A lack of time, too many so-called "priorities," and the gnawing presence of the urgent masquerading as the important are usually quoted as the main reasons why leaders' answers to these macro questions aren't clear enough.

But I suspect an even more fundamental reason is at play here. For the past 30 years, the literature on leadership and empowerment has advised leaders not to be too prescriptive about these questions, lest they undermine employee empowerment. We have been told that participative leadership, rather than prescriptive leadership, is what we should aim for; that organizations should be agile, with "change the only constant"; and that empowerment is critical for employee satisfaction and long-term value.

I agree with the third point: Empowerment is critical.



But, as my own research shows, in order to be meaningful, empowerment requires some boundaries, some rules that have been decided on within which empowerment can be exercised. Ironically, in order to truly empower employees, leaders need to be prescriptive, at least about certain things. And these things are precisely the macro questions of why the organization exists, what it will deliver, and how it will behave.

If leaders aren't providing clarity and certainty about these critical macro questions, then the best, most motivated employees flail in their so-called freedom because they can't be sure they are doing what leaders want or are using their time and resources in the best way possible. And because they want to do that, they find this lack of prescription stressful -- and a huge constraint on them acting in an empowered way. Equally, the less keen and the less motivated on the payroll take this lack of prescription by leaders as license to do what they want (and perhaps what they were already doing), which, of course, may be diametrically opposed to what the leaders had in mind.

Making time for such macro questions is not a luxury -- it is a necessity. And is it not something that can be delegated or outsourced. Nor is it something that leaders should do only once a year, at the strategy offsite or at the start of the strategic planning round. It needs to become part of their weekly routine.

OK, I made the time. now what?

Once you've set aside time on a regular basis to wrestle with these questions, how can you come up with the best possible answers -- and refine those answers? Here are some tips from those I've seen do it well:

Make choices in the negative. For everything you decide you want (a particular market positioning, an investment in a new product, a new capability or function),

calendar, you can prioritize what's important.

Having all of those calendar appointments also gives you a track record of what you've accomplished. You don't have to rely on your memory or keep a running list of crossed-off tasks. Instead, you can refer to when you need a concrete record of the projects you've completed.

This tip is adapted from "What's the #1 Productivity Tool? For Me, It's Timeboxing," by Neha Kirpalani - Harvard Business Review

Don't let your loyalty to your company compromise your ethics

Being dedicated to your organization is admirable. After all, loyalty has many benefits at work -- it helps build trust, commitment, and a sense of team. But be careful that you aren't so committed to your company that you compromise your ethics. You can guard against being blindly loyal

articulate what that means you *can't* do. This forces you to think through the consequences of choosing these options by thinking about what the trade-offs are for each choice you are making.

Pretend you have no money. When organizations are strapped for cash, they have to make hard choices about what to spend money on because they don't have enough. It's often during such times that leaders describe themselves as at their most strategic. But it's easy to diet if someone's padlocked the fridge -- what happens when you get the key back? All too frequently, when the cash starts to flow again, leaders start "choosing everything" again, and it's this oxymoron that sows the seeds of the next bout of underperformance. Having too many priorities means you don't really have any, which puts your organization's implementation capability under strain. It also compromises your own leadership bandwidth, reducing your ability to macromanage. So pretend you're cash-strapped -- it will act as the ultimate constraint on your desire to choose everything.

Talk to the unusual suspects. These could be inside or outside your organization, but whoever they are, choose them because they are likely to disagree with you, challenge you, or tell you something you don't know. To ensure you have a ready supply of such people, you may need to look again at your strategic network -- it may have gotten too stale to offer you such connections. If that's the case, weed out the deadwood and actively recruit people from different sectors, skill sets, and backgrounds who can help you test the quality of your macro answers. Questions to ask them include: "Why will this not work?" and "What do I have to believe for this not to turn out that way?" Being challenged and having new information may well change your answers; even if it does not, it will make your existing answers more robust.

Exist at the macro and micro-levels simultaneously. One of the CEOs I most admire can do this -- she goes from 10,000 feet to ground level in 30 seconds, linking her answers to the macro questions (this purpose, this brand positioning, this customer offer) to the micro operational implications for the business. But what she does really well is come back up. Because it is all too tempting, once you have gone micro, to stay there. But the main point of going micro is to test the validity of the macromanagement views you are coming to.

Of course, the prize for middle managers here is huge -- once leaders are sufficiently clear and prescriptive about these macro questions, middle managers can get on with implementing them. But the prize for leaders is arguably greater still: They might no longer be needed for the daily grind of managing the business and can instead use their time and effort for the true work of leadership. That is, they can think about the strategic rather than the tactical, focus on the future rather than the present. After all, isn't that why they wanted to become leaders in the first place?

by staying true to who you are.

First, if you see something unethical, say something. You may be concerned about "rocking the boat" at a place you care deeply about but remember that silence often enables wrongdoing to continue, which is ultimately bad for the organization. Don't compete with your colleagues. When workplaces get competitive, people start to lose sight of what is right and wrong. Instead, seek out ways to collaborate and build loyalty across teams.

Finally, shift your perspective. When you find yourself in a fraught situation where you are torn between what's best for the organization and what's best for you (say your manager is asking you to do something you feel is unethical, for example), try taking a step back and consider how someone who didn't feel so loyal to the company would act in your shoes.

This tip is adapted from "Are You Too Loyal to Your Organization?," by Zachariah Berry -Harvard Business Review

Work Smarter

It's time to give timeboxing a chance

Do you often find yourself perpetually putting off tasks that should be done today...then tomorrow...then the next day...then the day after that? And maybe a to-do list just isn't helping you get things done? Try timeboxing instead.

Translate your to-do list into blocks of time on your calendar, scheduling each task, and sticking to that schedule. This gives you a plan for not just what to do, but when to do. This technique has several benefits. For example, it removes the paradox of choice. We all have to make so many decisions every day, and timeboxing eliminates the need to choose between a multitude of tasks on a seemingly never-ending to-do list. It also helps with prioritization. Faced with a long list of tasks, we tend to pick ones that are easy or urgent. If you're putting the tasks on a

People love the billionaire, but hate the billionaires' club



Love the billionaire, hate the club. Pic - Credit: Austin Distel/Unsplash.

Americans may respect and admire how individual billionaires -- think Oprah Winfrey or Bill Gates -- made their billions, even as they rage against the "top 1%" as a group, new research finds.

In eight related studies, people tended to have fewer problems with hearing about the extreme wealth of a particular wealthy person, even as they thought it was unfair that billionaires in general controlled so much riches.

"When there's this group of people at the top, we think that's unfair and wonder how luck or the economic system may have played a role in how they made all the money," said Jesse Walker, co-author of the study and assistant professor of marketing at The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business.

"But when we look at one person

at the top, we tend to think that person is talented and hard-working and they're more deserving of all the money they made."

And this difference may have real-life implications: People are more likely to support wealth taxes on the super-rich when they think about a group like the top 1%, but less likely to support these taxes when they think about a specific rich person.

In one study, participants were shown a Forbes magazine cover. Half saw a cover adapted from an issue that highlighted the wealthiest people in the world. The cover was edited to remove five billionaires that most people were familiar with, such as Gates and Winfrey, in order to eliminate any positive or negative biases people might have toward them. It included only the seven billionaires that most people would

either know nothing about or not feel strongly about.

The other half were shown a cover with only one of the seven billionaires.

After reading a brief description of the person or persons on the cover, participants were asked to write a few sentences conveying how they felt about the person or persons, and rate how much the person or persons deserved their wealth and how they thought they earned those riches.

The comments of those who wrote about the individual were less angry than those who wrote about the group, and more likely to reflect the belief that the individual billionaire's success was due to talent and hard work.

And there was more. People who saw the seven billionaires pictured together were more in favour of an inheritance tax to close the gap between the wealthy and poor than were those who saw only one billionaire.

"How we think of the wealthiest people -- as a group or as individuals -- seems to affect even our policy preferences," he said.

The issue of how we think about policy regarding inequality is important, Walker said. Economic inequality has grown substantially over the past decades, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. One analysis suggests that US billionaires saw their wealth surge \$1.8 trillion (62%) during the pandemic.

Research has shown that countries with greater economic inequality tend to have higher homicide rates, greater infant mortality, lower well-being and lower commitment to democratic institutions.

Happiness in early adulthood may protect against dementia

While research has shown that poor cardiovascular health can damage blood flow to the brain increasing the risk for dementia, a new study led by UC San Francisco indicates that poor mental health may also take its toll on cognition.

The research adds to a body of evidence that links depression with dementia, but while most studies have pointed to its association in later life, the UCSF study shows that depression in early adulthood may lead to lower cognition 10 years later and to cognitive decline in old age.

The researchers used innovative statistical methods to predict average trajectories of depressive symptoms for approximately 15,000 participants ages 20 to 89, divided into three life stages: older, midlife and young adulthood. They then applied these predicted trajectories and found that in a group of approximately 6,000



older participants, the odds of cognitive impairment were 73 percent higher for those estimated to have elevated depressive symptoms in early adulthood, and 43 percent higher for those estimated to have elevated depressive symptoms in later life.

These results were adjusted for depressive symptoms in other life stages and for differences in age, sex, race, educational attainment, body mass index, history of diabetes and smoking status. For depressive symptoms in midlife, the researchers found an association with cognitive impairment, but this was discounted when they adjusted for depression in other life stages.



Why do elephants have tusks?



Elephant tusks are actually teeth. They are elongated incisors. We have incisors too - they're the teeth at the front of our mouths, which we use for biting food. In elephants, these incisors continue to grow throughout their lives, extending from deep within their upper jaw.

The tusks are one of the most noticeable features of elephants, along with their massive body size and long trunk (one of the most amazing and versatile appendages in the animal world - but that is another story). In African elephants both males and females have tusks, while in Asian elephants only the males do.

While our incisors are used only for biting food, elephants use theirs for a whole range of activities, from digging holes and stripping bark from trees to fighting. They'll even rest a weary trunk upon their tusks.

Generally speaking, male elephants use their impressive size to intimidate rivals and impress females. Size is so important in attracting mates that adult males have evolved to be twice as large as adult females, reaching a whopping seven metric tonnes. This is the weight of four family cars - with passengers. As part of the package, male elephant tusks are often five to seven times as large as those of adult females.

Some of the largest tusks ever recorded belonged to an old elephant called Ahmed, who lived in Kenya until the ripe old age of 65. His tusks were 3m in length and weighed 67kg each. That is 5kg more than the average weight of an adult human. Ahmed's tusks were so big that it was rumoured he had to walk backwards uphill - a great story, but unlikely to be true.

Thanks to protection from the president of Kenya at the time, Ahmed got to live out his life in full, dying of old age in 1974. Sadly this is not the case for many elephants.

The cost of ivory

Humans have long been attracted to the beautiful tusks of elephants. Ivory remains one of the most highly prized materials in the natural world. Unfortunately, this demand has led to the deaths of thousands of elephants across Africa, because the only way that humans can get hold of the elephant's tusks is by killing them. Those targeted are often the oldest and largest animals - because they have the biggest and therefore most valuable tusks.

This is not only tragic for individual animals, but also for the wider elephant population, as the oldest and wisest elephants play a key leadership role in elephant society. In fact, we conducted experiments showing that the oldest elephant matriarchs - the female leaders of the family groups - were much better than younger matriarchs at distinguishing more dangerous male lions from female lions using just the sound of their roars.

Graeme Shannon

Lecturer in Zoology, Bangor University

Health & Fitness

Fitness mistakes: Watch out for the pitfalls

Exercise can help your physical, mental, and emotional health, give you more energy, and even be a boost for your social and sex lives. But watch out for a few pitfalls that can make you do more harm than good. A report by WebMD...



You bail out: Experts recommend 30 minutes of exercise a day, 5 days a week. Skipping workouts "just because" can set you back, especially if you're on an exercise program. Not only does it make it harder for you to reach your goals, but you also can lose some of the progress you've made.

You have a meal right before: If you eat a meal within 2 hours before working out, your body will be digesting that food, and blood won't flow as well to your muscles. That can affect your post-workout recovery and lead to cramps and nausea. Instead, try a light snack like peanut butter and a banana, Greek yogurt and berries, oatmeal, or a handful of nuts or raisins.

You don't warm up: Starting your workout without warming up may save a few minutes, but it isn't a good idea. Your body needs the warmup to raise your body temperature and get your blood flowing, to help loosen up your muscles and give you more range of motion. It can be something as simple as light walking, jogging, or biking for 5 to 10 minutes. Be careful not to stretch before warming up.

You bounce when you stretch: You're more likely to hurt your muscles or make them tighter if you move around when you stretch. Hold each one steady for 20 to 30 seconds. There is a type called ballistic stretching that calls for bouncing, but you shouldn't try it without working with a professional trainer or coach first.

You don't have good posture: This can limit your progress and could lead to a fall or an injury. For example, be careful not to lean on equipment, like a treadmill, while you're using it. And if you're lifting weights, try to keep your back straight and your shoulders back and relaxed. Don't lock your knees, either.

You hold your breath: You might do this without even knowing it. But it's important to pay attention to your breathing. Holding your breath limits the amount of oxygen coming into your body. If you hold it too long, you might pass out. When you're lifting heavy weights, take a deep breath before you start a set, then gradually let it out as you go.

You slack on your form: This can keep you from targeting the right areas and limit your range of motion. It can actually make you weaker and damage your muscles. Use lighter weights and perfect your form before moving on to the heavier stuff.

You stray from your plan: If you're just starting out, you may be tempted to try too many things too quickly. You can get overwhelmed and do too much. Set goals and know which muscle groups you want to target before you start your workout.

You ignore your limitations: Don't try to lift more weight than you can handle. You can get hurt, and it can mess up your technique. When you do go for more weight, add only a little at a time and get comfortable with it before going further.

You're too competitive: It's natural to want to compare yourself with others, but don't change your workout, or try to lift too much to keep up with someone else. You don't know their experience or skill level, so it's best to stay within your limits and focus on your goals.

You socialize too much: While the gym is a good place to meet people, talking while you work out may not be a good idea. It's best to concentrate on what you're doing and keep chats between sets or between exercises short. There's plenty of time for that before or after the session.



You go heavy all the time: Even if you've set a goal of getting stronger, you should mix things up -- do more reps with lighter weight and fewer reps with moderate or heavy weight. Training with heavy weights every time you work out can actually keep you from adding muscle and raise your chance of injury. You might vary your workouts with moderate-, heavy-, and light-weight days.

You only do what you like: You may like some exercises better than others -- probably the ones you're best at -- but you need to work all muscle groups. Targeting the same ones all the time can make it hard for them to recover. Try to focus on different spots and develop each of them.

You don't take water breaks: Staying hydrated is important for cooling off your body and keeping your blood flowing. Drink water before your workout, then 6 to 8 ounces for every 15 minutes you're active, then some more once you're done.

You don't know when to stop: You may have heard the saying "No pain, no gain," but serious pain can mean you're using too much weight or it's time to stop. Pushing through can lead to injury. If you're starting out, it's normal to have some soreness for a day or so after working out. If it lasts longer, it probably means you should cut back.

You don't cool down: Once you finish, you should ease out with some mild stretching. This can help get your heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing back to normal levels. Stretching your muscles while they're warm and blood is flowing to them may also help them lengthen and stretch more easily.

Older men reveal what attracts them in a woman

It's no surprise that women are attracted to older men. But have people wondered what older men are really attracted to? After a certain age, looks is no longer one of the main priorities but a distant preference. Older men are all about love, trust and security. They hold very important regard for what the future entails for them and their partner. And so, here are 5 older men, who share accounts of what attracts them in a woman, as reported by Times of India.

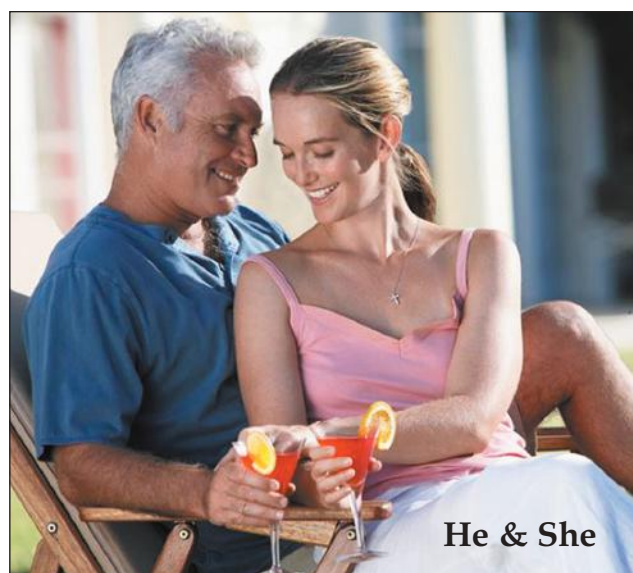
Playfulness

"I would love to be with someone who is a bit playful and lively. I will anyways be the grumpy one in the relationship; I don't need another one to be the same as me. I feel, if there's one person who is all cheery and joyful, the relationship will be blissful. There will be a perfect balance."

— M., 38 years old

A secure feeling

"Now that I have reached my early 40s, I want to look



He & She

for a wife who gives me a sense of security in a world that doesn't guarantee love. People constantly tell me that I have passed the age of marriage but I don't really believe it. Marriage is when you have found your person who helps you feel warm and safe."

— H., 41 years old

Good with kids

"I instantly get attracted to women who are incredibly good with kids. A woman who is naturally inclined towards spending time with children is very caring and supportive is a wonder to me! It just gives a very warm and homely vibe, that I specifically look within women."

— S., 49 years old

Mysterious personality

"A woman who is mysterious and intriguing gets me so hooked onto! I love it when women do not reveal everything about themselves but wait for us to chase them and know more. That's it. I love the chase. And such a woman is charming enough for me."

— M. 46 years old

Feeling young

"Dating a younger woman will remind you of the youthful years. And so, I always get instantly attracted to younger women. My wife is 11 years younger than me and that makes me happy. We don't have any communication problems because we honestly love each other. She liked older guys and I, younger. It has all worked out well!"

— V., 45 years old



Once upon a time in a village, a man appeared and announced to the villagers that he would buy monkeys for \$10 each...

The villagers, seeing that there were many monkeys around, went out to the forest and started catching them.

The man bought thousands at \$10 and as supply started to diminish, the villagers stopped their effort. He further announced that he would now buy at \$20. This renewed the efforts of the villagers and they started catching monkeys again.

Soon the supply diminished even further and people started going back to their farms. The offer increased to \$25 each and the supply of monkeys became so little that it was an effort to even see a monkey, let alone catch it!

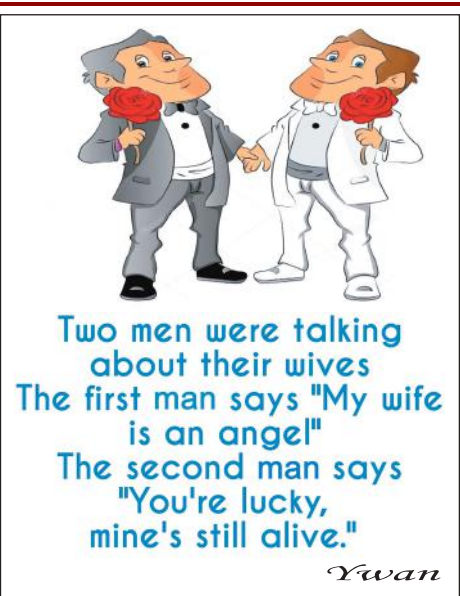
The man now announced that he would buy monkeys at \$50! However, since he had to go to the city on some business, his assistant would now buy on behalf of him.

In the absence of the man, the assistant told the villagers; "Look at all these monkeys in the big cage that the man has collected. I will sell them to you at \$35 and when the man returns from the city, you can sell them to him for \$50 each."

The villagers rounded up with all their savings and bought all the monkeys.

They never saw the man nor his assistant, only monkeys everywhere!

Now you have a better understanding of how the cryptocurrency market works.



In Jerusalem, a female journalist heard about a very old Jewish man who had been going to the Wailing Wall to pray, twice a day, every day, for a long, long time. So, she went to check it out.

She went to the Wailing Wall and there he was!

She watched him pray and after about 45 minutes, when he turned to leave, she approached him for an interview.

"Sir, how long have you been coming to the Wall and praying?"

"For about 60 years."

"60 years! That's amazing! What do you pray for?"

"I pray for peace. I pray for all the hatred to stop and I pray for all our children to grow up in safety and friendship."

"How do you feel after doing this for 60 years?"

"Like I'm talking to a wall!"

I opened my electric bill and my water bill at the same time.

I was shocked!!

An 88-year-old woman was interviewed by the local news after getting married for the fourth time...

The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation.

"He's a funeral director," she answered.

"Interesting," the newsman thought. He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living.

She told him she'd first married a banker when she was in her early 20s, then a circus ringmaster in her 40s, later on a preacher in her 60s, and now in her 80s, a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go."

What time does Donald Duck wake up?

At the quack of dawn.

"My father knew the exact time of the exact day of the exact year that he would die."

"Wow, what an evolved soul! How did it come to him?"

My project manager posted in LinkedIn 'When I die, I want my developers to carry my coffin so that they can put me down one last time.'

I commented on that post

"For the first time ,you have mentioned the requirements clearly."

A Chinese doctor can't find a job in a hospital in America, so he opens a clinic and puts a sign outside that reads "Get treatment for \$20 - if not cured get back \$100."

An American lawyer thinks this is a great opportunity to earn \$100 and goes to the clinic.

Lawyer: "I have lost my sense of taste."

Chinese: "Nurse, bring medicine from box No. 14 and put 3 drops in patient's mouth."

Lawyer: "Ugh. this is kerosene."

Chinese: "Congrats, your sense of taste is restored. Give me my \$20."

The annoyed lawyer goes back after a few days to try to recover his money.

Lawyer: "I have lost my memory. I can't remember anything."

Chinese: "Nurse, bring medicine from box no. 14 and put 3 drops in his mouth."

Lawyer (annoyed): "This is kerosene. You gave this to me last time for restoring my taste."

Chinese: "Congrats. You got your memory back. Give me \$20."

The fuming lawyer pays him, then comes back a week later determined to get back \$100.

Lawyer: "My eyesight has become very weak I cannot see at all."

Chinese: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that, so take this \$100."

Lawyer (staring at the note): "But this is \$20, not \$100!"

Chinese: "Congrats, your eyesight is restored. Give me \$20"

Life's Lessons

Drinking from My Saucer

Do you remember older generations drinking from their saucer? Grandpa always did and I thought it was because his coffee was too hot. Then today I came across this poem that made me feel there was symbolism to the coffee ritual.

Drinking from My Saucer
by John Paul Moore

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.

So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.

The Lie & the Truth

"The Lie said to the Truth, "Let's take a bath together, the well water is very nice."

The Truth, still suspicious, tested the water and found out it really was nice.

So, they got naked and bathed. But suddenly, the Lie leapt out of the water and fled, wearing the clothes of the Truth.

The Truth, furious, climbed out of the well to get her clothes back. But the World, upon seeing the naked Truth, looked away, with anger and contempt. Poor Truth returned to the well and disappeared forever, hiding her shame.

Since then, the Lie runs around the world, dressed as the Truth, and society is very happy...

Because the world has no desire to know the naked Truth."

Jean-Léon Gérôme, 1896

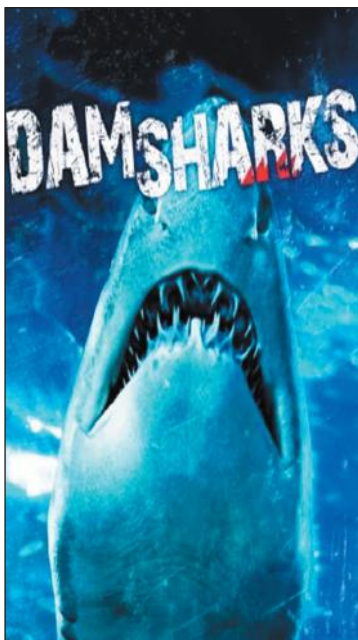
What is poison?

Someone asked Acharya Chanakya: What is poison?

He replied with a beautiful answer: Anything which is more than our necessity is Poison. It may be Power, Wealth, Hunger, Ego, Greed, Laziness, Love, Ambition, Hate or anything.

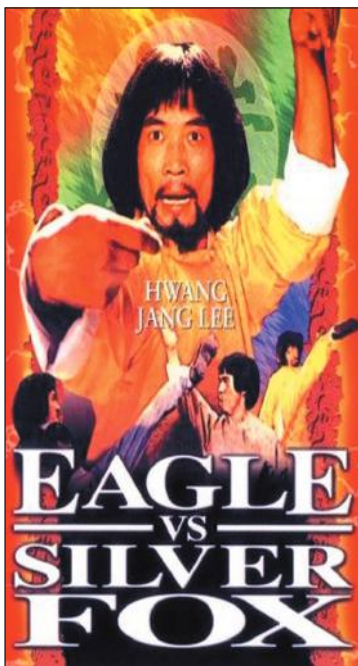
CINE 12

Mardi 26 octobre - 21.10



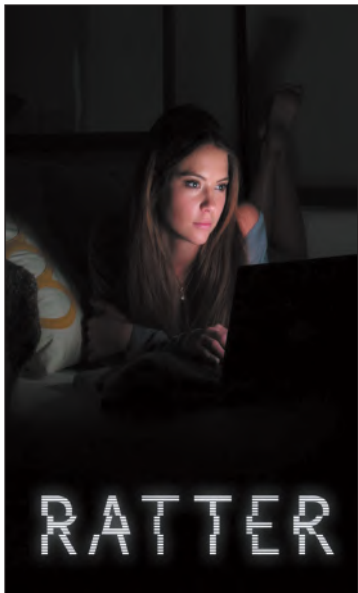
mubc 12

Mercredi 3 novembre - 21.15



mubc 12

Jeudi 4 novembre - 21.15



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
mardi 2 novembre 06.00 Local: Ça... C'est Maurice 09.30 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 11.10 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: Les Grands Noms... 12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Local: Come On Let's Dance 13.50 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A... 14.40 Local: Autour De L'immigra... 14.40 D.Anime: Invention Story 15.05 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz... 15.16 D.Anime: Les Triples 16.08 D.Anime: Astrology 16.50 D.Anime: Splash And Bubble 17.28 Mag: Human Nature 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 Local: Shubham Karoti? 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.20 Local: Priorite Sante 21.25 Film: Searching	mardi 2 novembre 07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: CID 10.45 Serial: Ye Vaada Raha 12.00 Film: Shubh Kaamna Star: Rakesh Roshan, Rati Agnihotri, Vinod Mehra, 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek 15.22 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Serial: Bava Maradallu 16.32 Serial: Mera Maan Rakhna 16.51 Serial: Imtihaan 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.30 Telugu - Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: My Little Princess 18.30 Local Prod: Abhay Charan 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.04 Local: Programme In Tamil Naathya Nigazhchi 20.30 Film: Zindagi Zindagi Star: Sunil Dutt, Deb Mukherjee, Waheeda Rehman	mardi 2 novembre 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 07.26 D.Anime: Booba 07.41 Film: Snow Queen 3 09.00 Doc: Tree Stories 10.52 Mag: Global 3000 13.08 Mag: World Stories 14.21 Doc: Comme Un Poisson... 15.12 Mag: Global 3000 16.04 Doc: Plague Island 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 18.30 Local: Divali 18.45 Mag: Red Carpet 19.00 Student Support Prog - G7 19.30 Mag: Made In Germany 20.30 Local Prod: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Children In Art 21.37 Doc: Tricky Memory 22.56 Local: Klip Seleksion 00.20 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 00.46 Mag: Healthy Living 00.59 Mag: Red Carpet	mardi 2 novembre 01.31 Serial: Island Doctor 02.57 Serial: Killjoys 03.39 Film: Heaven's Fall 05.27 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.04 Serial: S.W.A.T 09.00 Serial: French Series 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: Killjoys 11.46 Film: Heaven's Fall 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.12 Mag: Cinemag 14.45 Serial: Island Doctor 16.41 Serial: French Series 17.22 Serial: S.W.A.T 18.05 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: S.W.A.T 21.15 Film: Dam Sharks 22.36 Tele: Muneca Brava	mardi 2 novembre 07.38 Film: Agent Vinod 11.30 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna 11.59 / 20.57 - Chupke Chupke 12.30 / 21.27 - Mere Sai 13.09 / 22.07 - Agniphera 13.30 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.00 / 23.07 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.30 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan 15.00 Serial: Dil Hai Tumhara 14.53 / 22.25 - Sethji 15.25 Film: Saand Ki Aankh Star: Taapsee Pannu, Bhumi Pednekar, Prakash Jha, Vineet Kumar 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron... 19.30 Bhakharwadi
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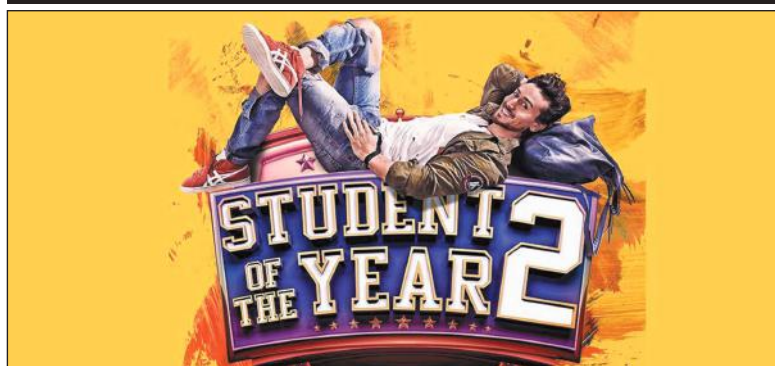
Jeudi 4 novembre - 15.30

Star: Tiger Shroff, Tara Sutaria, Ananya Panday



Jeudi 4 novembre - 20.30

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Sam Nagar, Riteish Deshmukh, Bobby Deol, Kriti Sanon, Pooja Hegde...



Your unvaccinated friend is roughly 20 times more likely to give you Covid

Unvaccinated people are ten times more likely to contract Covid, and more likely to pass it on than vaccinated people

As lockdowns ease in New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT, and people return to work and socialising, many of us will be mixing more with others, even though a section of the community is still unvaccinated.

Many vaccinated people are concerned about the prospect of mixing with unvaccinated people. This mixing might be travelling on trains or at the supermarket initially. But also at family gatherings, or, in NSW at least, at pubs and restaurants when restrictions ease further, slated for December 1.

Some people are wondering, why would a vaccinated person care about the vaccine status of another person?

Briefly, it's because vaccines reduce the probability of getting infected, which reduces the probability of a vaccinated person infecting someone else. And, despite vaccination providing excellent protection against severe disease, a small proportion of vaccinated people still require ICU care. Therefore some vaccinated people may have a strong preference to mix primarily with other vaccinated people.

But what exactly is the risk of catching Covid from someone who's unvaccinated?

What's the relative risk?

Recent reports from the Victorian Department of Health find that unvaccinated people are ten times more likely to contract Covid than vaccinated people.

We also know that vaccinated people are less likely to transmit the disease even if they become infected. The Doherty modelling from August puts the reduction at around 65%, although more recent research has suggested a lower estimate for AstraZeneca. Hence for this thought experiment, we'll take a lower value of 50%.

As the prevalence of COVID changes over time, it's hard to estimate an absolute risk of exposure. So instead, we need to think about risks in a relative sense.

If I were spending time with an unvaccinated person, then there's some probability they're infected and will infect me. However, if they were vaccinated, they're ten times less likely to be infected and half as likely to infect me, following the numbers above.

Hence we arrive at a 20-fold reduction in risk when hanging out with a vaccinated person compared to someone who's not vaccinated.

The exact number depends on a range of factors, including the type of vaccine and time since vaccination. But, in Australia we can expect a large risk reduction when mixing with fully vaccinated people.

The calculation holds true whether you yourself are vaccinated or not. But being vaccinated provides a ten-fold reduction for yourself, which is on top of the risk reduction that comes from people you're mixing with being vaccinated.



So, dining in an all-vaccinated restaurant and working in an all-vaccinated workplace presents a much lower infection risk to us as individuals, whether we are vaccinated or not. The risk reduction is around 20-fold, but as individuals, we need to consider whether that's meaningful for our own circumstances, and for the circumstances of those we visit.

There are also added complexities, in that there are three vaccine brands available, and eligibility is still limited to those aged 12 and older. Although, we do know kids are less susceptible and less likely to show symptoms.

However, as more information emerges, we can always update our estimates and think through the implications on the risk reduction.

What about people who can't be vaccinated?

Some people haven't been able to get vaccinated because they're either too young or they have a medical exemption. Other people are immunocompromised and won't get the same level of protection from two doses as the rest of the community.

Increasing our coverage across the board will help protect those who aren't fully protected by vaccination (whether that's by eligibility, medical reasons or choice).

Those at higher risk also enjoy the risk reduction if they're able to mix primarily with vaccinated people.

And other choices we make can help reduce the risk of transmission when vaccination is impossible, for example, wearing masks, washing hands carefully, and so on.

Do rapid antigen tests help?

Some people have proposed that frequent testing could be used to suppress Covid spread for those who are unwilling to be vaccinated.

Health minister Greg Hunt said Australians can buy rapid antigen tests from November 1, so they can test themselves at

home or before entering certain venues.

So how much does a rapid antigen test reduce risk to others?

To answer that question we need to consider test sensitivity.

Test sensitivity is the probability a rapid test will return a positive result, if the person is infected.

It's challenging to get an accurate estimate. But rapid antigen tests are about 80% as sensitive as a PCR test, which are the traditional Covid tests we do that get sent off to a lab. The PCR tests themselves are about 80% sensitive when it comes to identifying someone with Covid.

So, if you did a rapid antigen test at home, it's about 64% likely to pick up that you're positive, if you did have Covid.

Therefore, rapid antigen tests can find about two-thirds of cases. If you're going to a gathering where everyone has tested negative on a rapid antigen test, that's a three-fold reduction in risk.

Even though rapid tests provide a reduction in risk, they don't replace vaccines.

When used in conjunction with high levels of vaccination, rapid tests would provide improved protection for settings where we're particularly keen to stop disease spread, such as hospitals and aged care facilities.

Consequently, despite the high efficacy of Covid vaccines, there are still reasons a vaccinated person would prefer to mix with vaccinated people, and avoid mixing with unvaccinated people.

This is particularly true for those at higher risk of severe disease, whether due to age or disability. Their baseline risk will be higher, so a 20-fold reduction in risk is more meaningful.

Christopher Baker & Andrew Robinson
The University of Melbourne



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Hidden Treasure

Seeing the world from another perspective can introduce you to all sorts of hidden treasures.

The ocean can look very different, depending on whether you are standing at the shore, soaring above in a plane, or swimming beneath its waves. Likewise, a mountain can look very different relative to where you are standing. Each living thing sees the world from its unique vantage point. While from your window you may be seeing what looks like a huge shrub, a bird in its nest is getting an intimate view of that tree's leafy interior. Meanwhile, a beetle sees only a massive and never-ending tree trunk. Yet all three of you are looking at the same tree.

Just as a shadow that is concealed from one point of view is easily seen from another, it is possible to miss a fantastic view. That is, unless you are willing to see what's in front of you through different eyes. Seeing the world from another perspective, whether spatially or mentally, can introduce you to all sorts of hidden treasures. The root of the discovery process often lies in finding another way of looking at the world. The common human reaction to insects is one example. Spinning its web in a dark corner, a spider may seem drab, frightening, and mysterious. But seen up close weaving silver snowflakes between the branches of a tree, they can look like coloured jewels.

Sometimes, there are experiences in life that from your vantage point may seem confusing, alarming, or worrisome. Or there may be events that look insignificant from where you are standing right now. Try seeing them from another point of view. Bury your face in the grass and look at the world from a bug's vantage point. Explore your home as if you were a small child. Take a ride in a small aircraft and experience the world from a bird's eye view. Just as kneeling down sometimes helps you see more closely when you are looking for lost treasure, so can standing back help you appreciate the broader picture of what you are looking at. In doing so, you'll experience very different worlds.