

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide-open heart that thinks of others first." — George Matthew Adams

Qs & As

The Molnupiravir Controversy

'ICAC should not be seen sitting on this case for months or years'



See Page 7-8

The Omicron Threat



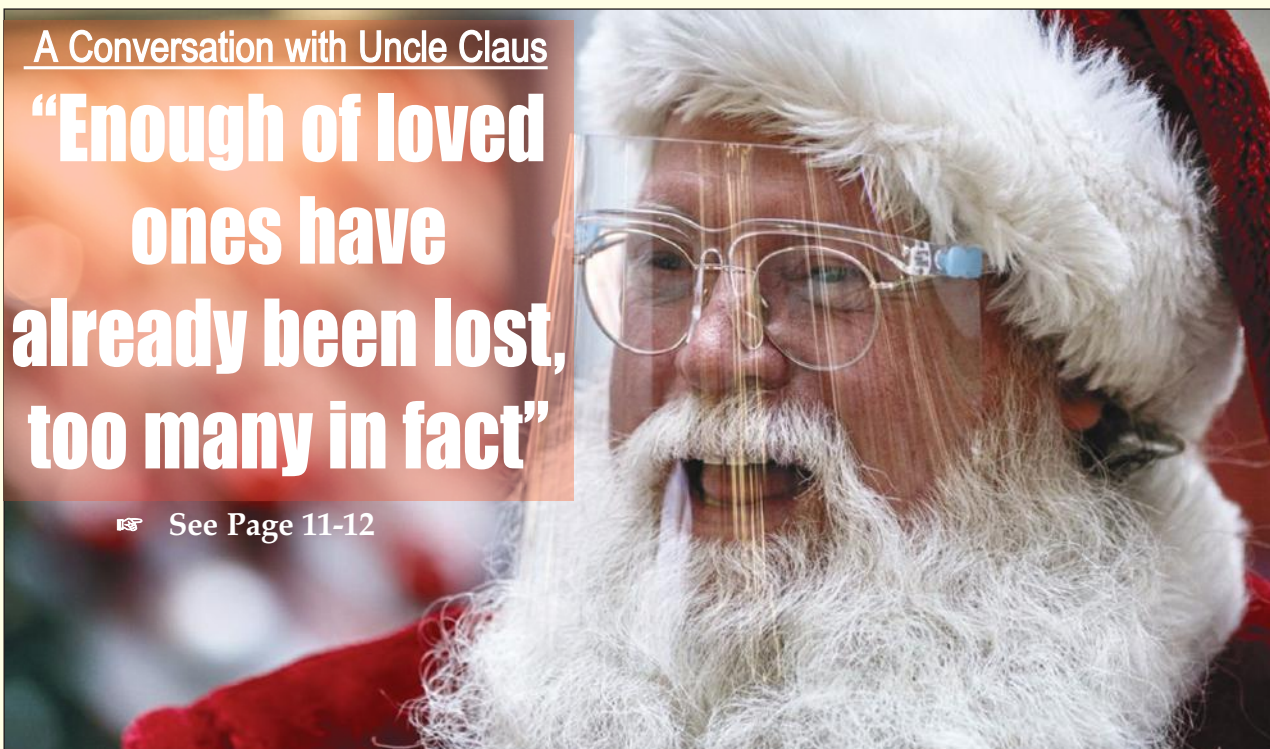
Economic recovery and a semblance of normality can be extremely tenuous. This should have a sobering effect on world leaders and the Government in Mauritius

By Mrinal Roy See Page 4

A Conversation with Uncle Claus

"Enough of loved ones have already been lost, too many in fact"

See Page 11-12



2021, like 2020, has flashed by!

Instead of merry Christmas, it is perhaps more in order to wish a prayerful Christmas, a prayer for peace and calm, for comfort and solace to those in great need of them

By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee See Page 3

Unlocking the System in 2022

2021 has been another year marked by a string of scandals, allegations of impropriety and corruption, mismanagement of the Covid-19 pandemic. But worse is what is widely perceived as a gradual slide towards an overbearing state intent on establishing and maintaining its control over all institutions, which in normal circumstances could put in jeopardy the political careers of those involved in the cases that have shocked public opinion – and even threaten the existence of the government itself. Opposition parties and other analysts have expressed concern about what is viewed as a descent towards an authoritarian state, and that what obtains today is but a semblance of democracy that fits the political agenda of the government of the day and reminiscent of the style of governance of MSM-led governments.

There are on the one hand infrastructural works transforming the 'look' of the country, as well as the determined and focused effort by the authorities to get the country out of the EU's grey list (which was but the authorities' doing) in which it was placed in the difficult circumstances of the ongoing pandemic. On the other hand, there seems to be a *laissez-faire* attitude in relation to emergency procurements of paraphernalia needed to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. Yet again, we are saddled with another highly controversial purchase, of Molnupiravir, an oral antiviral treatment for Covid-19 at the cost of Rs 80M when greater vigilance by the authorities was clearly warranted in light of last year's public outrage about the scandalous conditions and circumstances in which procurements were made – and which could have spared us this ugly episode.

ICAC has been tasked to investigate into this matter, but its track record so far has cast a dark shadow on its *modus operandi*. To its never-ending investigations into cases involving members of the government or those close to the political masters of the day, there is the inexplicable turnaround in the MedPoint case, as much as the long list of affairs where it is yet to be known where its inquiries stand - the Dufry scandal (2015); the Alvaro Sobrinho scandal (2018); the Sugar Insurance Fund Board's highly excessive overpayment of land v/s valuation scandal (2018); the Yerrigadoo/Bet 365 scandal (2018); the Glen Agliotti affair (2019), St Louis Redevelopment Project, etc. This is one institution that in the public perception appears unable or unwilling to fulfil its mandate as prescribed by the law. In the meantime, it's civil servants who are having to face the music with immediate suspensions, transfers and early retirement measures taken by the government - clearly in a bid to appease public outrage. Whether ICAC will go to the bottom of this matter in a comprehensive, objective, impartial and timely manner remains to be seen.

On the other hand, if Mauritius has made signifi-

cant economic progress despite its limited resources, it is in a large measure attributable to its adherence to the principles of good governance, rule of law, and to the separation of powers as embedded in its Constitution - unlike what obtains in some African countries which have for long been a battleground between democratic institutions and rule by the will of the 'big man'. Does this still seem to be the case? Are police inquiries conducted in a manner to convey the assurance to one and all that the rule of law will prevail at all times, and apply equally to all -- 'big' or 'small' man?

It bears repeating that the development of the country can only take place if there is law and order, and that is why all societies place a premium on this crucial aspect of their governance. But events and incidents that have been taking place and unfolding since last year have had the effect of creating a trust deficit between the government and the people. Remember the Kistnen murder, and the mysterious deaths of some officials who were directly or indirectly involved with the procurements of medical supplies of drugs and equipment. It took a judicial inquiry to demolish the initial conclusion of suicide by the police, and testimonies and findings unravelled during the judicial enquiry brought to light the inexplicable and implausible absence of images supposed to be captured by the ultra-sophisticated Safe City cameras, the controversy surrounding the forensic autopsy, etc. One would expect that all those directly or indirectly assigned with the responsibility of maintaining law and order will uphold the Constitution of the country, but we do not know to date where matters stand as regards the investigations into the Kistnen Papers relating to the electoral expenses in Constituency No. 8.

There is not much that the Director of Public Prosecutions, whose office is charged with the prosecution of criminal offences, can do if investigations into cases of crime/murder, corruption, money-laundering are not carried out in a comprehensive and impartial manner by the investigative authorities. The scope and liberty of Opposition parliamentarians to probe the Executive's acts and omissions are also limited in the face of an overbearing Speaker, who is perceived to be more intent to protect the government from embarrassment than allowing the public to get an insight into how public money is being spent. And with the public broadcaster's daily spins, the ground is set for a semblance of democracy in the country.

The governance system seems to be locked, institutional dysfunction rife – under such circumstances, in a democracy, the people look to up to the judiciary to clear the path. Can the country rise again? 2022 will be a crucial year...

The Conversation

Omicron: the final variant?

Omicron may not be the final variant, but it may be the final variant of concern



Pic - yahoo.com

It is controversial whether viruses are alive, but – like all living things – they do evolve. This fact has become abundantly clear during the pandemic, as new variants of concern have emerged every few months.

Some of these variants have been better at spreading from person to person, eventually becoming dominant as they out-compete slower versions of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This improved spreading ability has been ascribed to mutations in the spike protein – the mushroom-shaped projections on the surface of the virus – that allow it to bind more strongly to ACE2 receptors. ACE2 are receptors on the surface of our cells, such as those that line our airways, that the virus attaches to in order to gain entry and start replicating.

These mutations allowed the alpha variant, and then the delta variant, to become globally dominant. And scientists expect the same thing to happen with omicron.

The virus cannot, however, improve indefinitely. The laws of biochemistry mean that the virus will eventually evolve a spike protein that binds to ACE2 as strongly as possible. By that point, the ability of SARS-CoV-2 to spread between people will not be limited by how well the virus can stick to the outside of cells. Other factors will limit virus spread, such as how fast the genome can replicate, how quickly the virus can enter the cell via the protein TMPRSS2, and how much virus an infected human can shed. In principle, all of these should eventually evolve to peak performance.

Has omicron reached this peak? There is no good reason to assume that it has. So-called "gain-of-function" studies, which look at what mutations SARS-CoV-2 needs to spread more efficiently, have identified plenty of mutations that improve the spike protein's ability to bind to human cells that omicron doesn't have.

Ben Krishna - Postdoctoral Researcher, Immunology & Virology, University of Cambridge

● Cont. on page 14

Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah - Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah / Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee

This epaper has been produced with the assistance of

Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy

Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis

Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313



mtimes@intnet.mu



www.mauritiustimes.com



facebook.com/mauritius.times

2021, like 2020, has flashed by!



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Instead of merry Christmas, it is perhaps more in order to wish a prayerful Christmas, a prayer for peace and calm, for comfort and solace to those in great need of them



Pic - Wikimedia Commons

Embedded in 2021 is the imprint of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is the single overarching phenomenon of tsunamic proportions that has impacted the life of every single individual on this planet since its rapid-fire spread from Wuhan.

2021, like 2020, has flashed by! - I've heard this being said by so many people spanning the social spectrum and in the five languages that I routinely use - Bhojpuri, Hindi, Creole, French and English - that I am won't to pitch this expression to the level of a truism!

Embedded in it is the imprint of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is the single overarching phenomenon of tsunamic proportions that has impacted the life of every single individual on this planet, directly or indirectly, since its rapid-fire spread from Wuhan in Hubei province, China, beginning January 2020. The jury is still out as to whether it jumped from bats to pangolins to humans in a wet market there or whether it could have been an accidental lab leak from the prestigious Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Be that as it may, the hard reality remains that the original SARS-COV-2 virus with its succession of variants from the alpha to the latest Delta and Omicron has not only caused disease and death of millions (as of 22 December, 5,390,927 people have died so far from the coronavirus Covid-19 outbreak) - and still counting -- but because of its mode of transmission through the air and its contagiousness, it has radically disrupted every single aspect of our lives.

The social, economic, and political impacts have been earth-shaking, leading to changes in the modes of living - restrictions related to socializing, schooling, working, travelling, etc., along with mandatory compliance with the sanitary measures - that look like becoming quasi-permanent, or at the very least last several years.

“In the normal course of life, apart from the routine associated with work, what make us feel the passage of time are, mostly, the happy events that punctuate our lives, such as successes, birthdays and anniversaries, weddings, all of which are occasions for celebrations which are recorded and played back later. But lockdowns and restrictions, as well as in innumerable instances loss of livelihoods and lives that initially shook people up led to subdued responses...”

The big 'known unknown' now is the behavioural evolution of the Omicron variant. Because of its mildness, will it make SARS-COV-2 settle into endemicity like the influenza virus? Or, worse case scenario, because of its transmissibility at three times that of its Delta antecedent, and therefore exponential spread, will it so overwhelm health systems that a coming collapse is inevitable? This is what scientific models are projecting, and certain countries - among the richest and most abundantly resourced that include, for example, the US, Denmark, UK, France - are already beginning to feel the pressure.

The greatest tragedy is of course the number of deaths that have occurred on a mass scale with what that means in terms of disposal of the dead, and the enormous emotional suffering caused to families especially where more than one member has succumbed. Being in part-time practice and well past my prime I have been spared the burden and risks of being a frontliner, but have perforce had to listen to what all they have been going through. On the other hand, I have come across several Covid patients who have recovered, but who have needed to be advised about the possible sequelae (as are so far known) and what they must do to keep themselves healthy.

Confirming the fact that Covid is not only a disease of the lungs, I have seen a few post-Covid patients with symptoms in the muscles, joints and nerves of the limbs for which there has seemed to be no other explanation than that they could be related to the Covid.

Despite Covid, however, life has had to go on. One dimension which Covid has utterly failed to influence is devious human tendencies, and one wishes that it had! In this category, what is most galling is that all the human foibles and failings have continued to run amok, globally and locally. Shady business deals in relation to the procurement of medical supplies that have been exposed have exacerbated the feeling of people being let down by those they elect to defend their interests and that of

the country.

Conflicts, wars and provocations by certain countries against their neighbours have not stopped, in fact may have been stepped up. The resulting displacements of people and famines do not seem to unduly embarrass those who are responsible, who have little accountability and are indifferent to calls and appeals for restraint and humane consideration.

In the normal course of life, apart from the routine associated with work, what make us feel the passage of time are, mostly, the happy events that punctuate our lives, such as successes, birthdays and anniversaries, weddings, all of which are occasions for celebrations which are recorded and played back later. But lockdowns and restrictions, as well as in innumerable instances loss of livelihoods and lives that initially shook people up led to subdued responses.

Changes have thus not been felt in as lively a manner as is usually the case, and since we measure time by the pace and number of changes, the fact that both have reduced has given the impression that time has stood still. But paradoxically, that it has also flown past! Proof, if need be, that time is a psychological construct and not a physical quantity - despite the fact that we have invented a means of measuring it and that has allowed calculations to be made for practical purposes.

“With the approach of the end of year festive season, from various quarters there are calls and appeals that have emanated about foregoing the practice of exploding firecrackers, out of consideration and respect for the sad loss of lives that we have had to bear. All the more so as many have fallen in the line of duty while trying to save the lives of others. I think reasonable people would feel that that such appeals are more than justified, and if they were to be listened to, it would indeed be a great comfort to our fellow citizens, a gesture of solidarity that could not be expressed in person in many cases...”

With the approach of the end of year festive season, from various quarters there are calls and appeals that have emanated about foregoing the practice of exploding firecrackers, out of consideration and respect for the sad loss of lives that we have had to bear. All the more so as many have fallen in the line of duty while trying to save the lives of others. They went out of this world too early, leaving grieving children and families.

I think reasonable people would feel that that such appeals are more than justified, and if they were to be listened to, it would indeed be a great comfort to our fellow citizens, a gesture of solidarity that could not be expressed in person in many cases because of the precautionary restrictions that had to be followed.

This said, instead of merry Christmas, it is perhaps more in order to wish a prayerful Christmas, a prayer for peace and calm, for comfort and solace to those in great need of them.



Mrinal Roy

The Omicron Threat

Economic recovery and a semblance of normality can be extremely tenuous. This should have a sobering effect on world leaders and the Government in Mauritius

Just as many countries around the world were beginning to loosen or lift travel restrictions, Omicron, a new more transmissible coronavirus variant detected in South Africa, is spreading at an alarming rate and forcing countries across the world to reimpose border restrictions and quarantine rules to contain the Omicron surge. More and more countries are lifting their drawbridges and walling off to protect their population.

US Federal health officials said earlier this week that Omicron has raced ahead of other variants and is now the dominant variant of the coronavirus in the country and accounted for an estimated 73% of new infections last week. The US chief medical adviser has warned of 'mounting stress on the US hospital system and front liners'. There is also added pressure on nurses, medical staff and health care workers. The US government has therefore deployed 1000 military medical personnel in hospitals to help fight the Omicron surge. It has advised its citizens to refrain from travelling to France, Portugal, Liechtenstein, Andorra and Cyprus.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared this week that there is now consistent evidence that Omicron is spreading significantly faster than the Delta variant and is causing infections in people already vaccinated or who have recovered from the Covid-19 disease. About a month after the discovery of the Omicron variant in November, Omicron infections have been reported in some 89 countries and counting. The WHO added that 'even if Omicron does cause less severe disease, the surge of the highly transmissible Omicron variant and the sheer number of cases risk overwhelming unprepared health systems and health care services of affected countries'.

The rapid spread of Omicron also poses a serious threat to economic recovery. Earlier this month the IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva had warned that the Omicron variant could slow the global economic recovery, just as the Delta strain did. She had predicted that 'a new variant that spreads very rapidly can dent confidence and cause some downgrades of our October projections for global growth'. Global stock markets are lower. European stocks have fallen as Omicron worries intensify and investors fear that tighter restrictions to contain the Omicron surge hit economic recovery.

New restrictions

European leaders are reinstating coronavirus restrictions in a bid to curb the spread of the Omicron variant. Germany has tightened restrictions on travel from the UK, Denmark, France and Norway. Germany and Portugal have announced post-Christmas curbs and greater social distancing measures. France has banned non-essential travel with UK. The Netherlands has imposed a strict lockdown over Christmas. The EU countries have also been applying strict rules for persons who are travelling from Omicron-affected countries. The UK, Spain, Portugal and many countries have warned that they might have to tighten restrictions if the Omicron variant spreads.

Israeli voted this week to put the United States, Italy,



“Instead of chest thumping about the management of the Covid-19 pandemic despite the hiccups and costly blunders, is it not time to mobilize our best medical specialists and other experts in relevant fields to provide an informed appraisal of the latest scientific data and findings on the evolution of the pandemic, vaccines, variants, efficacy of new drugs and the state of infection in the countries which are our main sources of tourists so that all decisions are grounded on and guided by the soundest scientific information and data available?”

Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Morocco, Portugal, Canada, Switzerland and Turkey on the no-fly roster. Israel has become the first country to offer a fourth Covid-19 vaccine dose after the country's first Omicron death.

Quarantine rules are being reimposed on travellers. Thailand has reinstated mandatory quarantine for foreign visitors. New Zealand has reimposed quarantine rules and announced this week that it would delay its re-opening plans until the end of February fearing a rapid spread of the Omicron variant in the country.

Across the world travel restrictions are being imposed to contain the spread of the Omicron variant. All these travel restrictions and rules are undermining the prospects of the beleaguered travel and tourism and hospitality industries ahead of the crucial Christmas and New Year holiday season.

No one is safe until everyone is safe

The Covid-19 Omicron spread is also fuelled by the crying inequity in the distribution of coronavirus vaccines in the world. According to the WHO, low-income countries, most of which are in Africa, the origin of Omicron, have received only 0.6 percent of the nearly 8 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses that have been administered worldwide. World leaders must realize that there must be unwavering solidarity and sharing of vaccines across the world as no one is safe until everyone is safe.

The rapid spread of the Omicron variant in the world should also be an eye opener for all. It has shown that humanity and the world remains extremely vulnerable even two years after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and despite the fact that more than 4.48 billion people worldwide have received a dose of a Covid-19 vaccine, equal to about 58.4 percent of the world population. Economic recovery and a semblance of normality can also be extremely tenuous. This should have a sobering effect on world leaders and the Government in Mauritius. This enduring Covid-19 crisis warrants a drastically different approach.

Way forward

The Covid-19 pandemic has also exposed the high dependence of the Mauritian economy on the tourism industry and real estate activities whose viability depends on the sale of high-end properties to foreigners and unrestricted air travel. Mauritius is therefore at a key crossroads. It is more than ever imperative to brainstorm

viable and sustainable strategies going forward to recast the economic model so that it is grounded on higher value-added poles of activity and an upmarket services and product offer capable of significantly boosting growth, employment and standards of living and have a positive multiplier effect on the economy at large.

The surge of the Omicron variant also raises the question of the state of preparedness of the country to fight and stem the new potent Omicron threat. Instead of chest thumping about the management of the Covid-19 pandemic despite the hiccups and costly blunders, is it not time to mobilize our best medical specialists and other experts in relevant fields to provide an informed appraisal of the latest scientific data and findings on the evolution of the pandemic, vaccines, variants, efficacy of new drugs and the state of infection in the countries which are our main sources of tourists so that all decisions are grounded on and guided by the soundest scientific information and data available? These experts should also interface with a carefully chosen panel of world experts in the field to draw from their expertise and experience to guide our Covid-19 management strategy.

The strategy to contain and stem the pandemic has been predominantly Covid-19 'vaccine centric'. We must remember that the immunity provided by vaccines wane over time. It is therefore equally important for the panel to advise on the choice of proven treatment protocols and drugs required to provide the best treatment and cure to infected persons.

No other way

In a context where the unabated Covid-19 related death toll includes, according to the government data, many unvaccinated persons or persons with only one Covid-19 vaccine dose, shouldn't the authorities track unvaccinated and partially vaccinated persons to vaccinate them at the earliest, especially as a majority of adults are fully vaccinated?

This is not a time for partisan politics and petty politicking but for national unity and solidarity. The end of the Covid-19 pandemic seems very elusive. Instead of a rabid and partisan divide, is it not time for the nation, the government, all politicians and the civil society to come together and unite our efforts and good will to contain and stem the Omicron threat and the Covid-19 pandemic for country and people. There is no other way.

Bengali Cultural Exceptionalism

Jan Arden

Bangladesh must be one of the rare countries to celebrate their birth twice, once as **Independence Day** in March 26th to commemorate Sheik Mujibur Rahman's declaration of Independence on that day in 1971 when he and all Bengalis finally realised that the western "deep state" of the West Pakistan establishment and ruling classes had no intention to honor the results of democratic national elections held in 1970. What followed was a gruesome and merciless selective genocide conducted by those "west-wing" generals against Pakistan's own "east wing" population, as US Consul Blood described it in shocked telegrams to his bosses Nixon/Kissinger. For this, one may refer to *'The Blood Telegram: Nixon, Kissinger and a Forgotten Genocide'*, by Princeton professor Gary Bass which tells the story of Archer Blood, a Foreign Service officer who was consul general in Dhaka in 1971 and whose diplomatic career was thereafter laid waste.

As we rightly worry about the fate of Afghans under their new Taliban masters, nothing compares with that Bengal drama. Up to 10 million refugees fled across the borders into India placing an immense burden on the scanty resources of Indira Gandhi's government, while the Western powers (namely USA and the UK) looked away despite all her entreaties. Both even threatened India of military and economic reprisals, dispatching their nearby fleets in a throwback to gunboat deterrence and tried their best in the UN General Assembly and the Security Council to keep India as a powerless onlooker, even with the mounting evidence of carnage of students, intellectuals, Awami League (Bangladesh People's League) sympathizers and minorities. The rest is history and in a blistering 13-day war that shocked Asia and the Western powers, the Pakistani Army led by Lt-Gen Niazi Khan publicly capitulated and surrendered arms to Indian Lt Aurora in Dhaka on December 16th, which then marks the second day of joyful celebrations known as **Victory Day** in Bangladesh. The 93,000 POWs herded safely into India were later exchanged for the liberation of Sheik Mujib from Pakistani jails, who returned to a hero's welcome in Dhaka.

Undoubtedly geopolitics and intense diplomacy played an immense part behind that brief exposé, (more detailed narrative in <https://thewire.in/diplomacy/a-diplomatic-narrative-of-the-1971-war> with the Nixon-Kissinger tandem despising Indira Gandhi personally, seeing India only as a USSR stooge and trying hard to seduce China through Yahya Khan intermediation. In the face of the unfolding genocide, together with the UK government, the tandem chose to abandon moral leadership or simply humanistic values for cynical calculations. It was Indira Gandhi's stoic resolve, astute diplomacy and her move away from her father's long-cherished non-alignment philosophy to sign with Leonid Brezhnev the historic Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation in 1971. That was critically actuated to halt ominous Western fleets and nullify potential Chinese belligerence, and together with USSR vetos in the UN Security Council against the West and China that saved the day so those Victory celebrations can take place today.

Realpolitik and Cold War necessities may have forced her hand, but the seeds of a longstanding India-Russia trusted partnership find their roots in those years of dramatic antagonism by the Western powers, although much water has since flown under the bridge. Today, as then, even as alliances have evolved and inimical forces to world

peace and stability have changed faces or priorities, PM Modi's India remains on par for an unapologetic nationalistic sovereign stance within a foreign policy framework that acknowledges and builds onto the realities of a new multi-polar world. France, Russia, the Middle-East and the US or Japan and Israel are its allies and military suppliers today, but India seems intent on carefully balancing its act with a Make-in-India progression so as to retain full sovereignty of its strategic decision-making regarding its longer-term national security interests.

The other point of significance here is that the 1971 fight for freedom from oppression is a remarkable episode in recent political and military history when a battle has been fought and the final liberation secured far more on cultural grounds than on religious, economic or territorial reasons. As summed up by *Al Jazeera* in a December 2019 report, "The refusal to accept Bengali as a state language of Pakistan in the early years after Partition, economic disparity between the two parts, the hegemony of the West Pakistani ruling elite over Pakistan, martial laws, and a demeaning attitude towards Bengali culture and the Bengali population soured relations between the two parts."

"As reported in the *Business Standard*, at June 2021 Bangladesh GDP per capita had risen to \$2,227 while West Pakistan's per capita income, is \$1,543. In 1971, West Pakistan was 70% richer than East Pakistan; today, Bangladesh is 45% richer than (West) Pakistan. Exports and fiscal prudence have been key factors in the Bangladesh success story. It has maintained a public debt-to-GDP ratio between 30% and 40% while Mauritius, India or Pakistan will all emerge from the pandemic with public debt close to if not above 90% of GDP"

Indians need no reminding that Bengal has a fiery nationalism, a cultural exceptionalism of its own, as the BJP found out in last State Assembly elections losing against local chieftain Mamata Banerjee. Bangladesh still has its own post-liberation throes to overcome, most notably the vexed question of bringing to trial the Bengali collaborators of its genocide, a pacified sense of identity away from veiled attempts at fundamentalism, but it has made impressive economic progress in its 50-year history, despite being shunned by Western powers at birth. A country born amid famine, extreme poverty, bloody internal warfare and costly liberation against powerful Cold War American/UK interests and their local Pakistan agents, could only be destined to fail and that burden should be left to India to bear was Henry Kissinger's jaundiced view, shared across Western capitals.

History and the cultural ingenuity of Bangladeshis are deciding otherwise. As reported in the *Business Standard*, at June 2021 Bangladesh GDP per capita had risen to



Pic - Russia Beyond

"It was Indira Gandhi's stoic resolve, astute diplomacy and her move away from her father's long-cherished non-alignment philosophy to sign with Leonid Brezhnev the historic Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation in 1971. That was critically actuated to halt ominous Western fleets and nullify potential Chinese belligerence, and together with USSR vetos in the UN Security Council against the West and China that saved the day so those Victory celebrations can take place today..."

\$2,227 while West Pakistan's per capita income, is \$1,543. In 1971, West Pakistan was 70% richer than East Pakistan; today, Bangladesh is 45% richer than (West) Pakistan. Exports and fiscal prudence have been key factors in the Bangladesh success story. It has maintained a public debt-to-GDP ratio between 30% and 40% while Mauritius, India or Pakistan will all emerge from the pandemic with public debt close to if not above 90% of GDP.

Some will certainly add to that surprising resilience and exceptionalism, the cultural anomaly in a Muslim majority nation the fact that empowered women have been driving the country, and their unabashed focus has been on health, education and liberation of girls and women, combating child morbidity and malnutrition, releasing socio-economic development and entrepreneurial activities. After all, it was Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi social entrepreneur, banker, economist and civil society leader who founded the Grameen Bank and pioneered the concepts of microcredit and microfinance for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2006.

In many ways therefore Bangladesh remains an interesting economic and cultural experiment of remarkable success which holds lessons for some of its neighbours. But lest we belittle them, the problems of Bangladesh are as bad as elsewhere: "Bribery, rent-seeking and inappropriate use of government funds, excessive lobbying, long time delays in service performance, pilferage, irresponsible conduct from the government officials, bureaucratic intemperance have made public sector departments the most corrupt sectors of Bangladesh."

But at least they seem to have acted on that front. Under public pressure, the Government of Bangladesh and the Asian Development Bank called upon an external consulting firm to provide technical assistance to the country's limp Anti-Corruption Agency in 2007. As per their website, "an Adam Smith International team worked on a range of initiatives including structural and procedural redesign, strengthening of investigative and prosecutorial capacity... Our work was subsequently commended as "pioneering" by the Asian Development Bank for delivering results in a highly challenging and sensitive political environment."

Don't we wish some of that re-engineering assistance was sought and applied here too even if pushed for by international lenders and bankers?



Anil Madan

2021: Year of Catastrophes

In reality, 2021 was the year of Covid, Coup, Climate, Chaos, and of course, China. In short, C for Catastrophe

As New Year's Eve approaches, it is time to reflect on time lost, another year lost. With just a little more than a week remaining in 2021 one has to be wary; after all a week is plenty of time for 2021 to visit yet another catastrophe upon a world beset by one too many. But let us be optimistic

that we have weathered the worst of 2021 and for now, albeit with great reluctance to relive any of it, look back at 2021. Although one might be tempted to look ahead and venture a prediction or two, let us reserve that for another time.

The usual end-of-year summary of salient events would likely be boring and not worthwhile. After all, there are many, many publications with annual reviews and readers will undoubtedly be bombarded with articles to read. Such summary reviews might include dissections of disparate events such as pestilence as in the horrifying mouse plague in Australia or the lesser cicada invasion in the US; the prolonged volcanic eruption in Las Palmas; the floods in the US, India, Malaysia, Belgium, Germany, and Nepal; wildfires in California, Greece and Siberia; extreme heat in the US west and northwest, and Canada; extreme cold in Texas; tornadoes, hurricanes, cyclones and storms across the US, Japan, the Philippines, India and across Asian nations; coups and hostilities in Myanmar, Sudan, Ethiopia/Tigray, Belarus; threatened hostilities against Ukraine and Taiwan; and, of course, oppression and injustice seemingly everywhere.

The overriding theme of 2021 was, without question, Covid-19. This was the overwhelming and unfathomable story of 2021 as it was of 2020. Every attempt to deal with this menace from stringent lockdowns to lesser controls was doomed to fail. There are still no answers.

Let us leave it there. We don't need to relive those events. Instead, we would do well to focus on a thematic assessment of what we have learned, or should have learned, how little we know and control and how tenuous the ligaments and tendons that hold civil societies together are.

The Year of the Tiger

The Chinese Zodiac designates each year by reference to an animal. 2021 was the Chinese year of the Ox, and 2022 will be the year of the Tiger. In reality, 2021 was the year of Covid, Coup, Climate, Chaos, and of course, China. In short, C for Catastrophe. Perhaps the Chinese should have designated 2021, the year of Xi. One fears that more than one future year may be the year of Xi.

2021 will probably be marked as the year in which China began to view the US through the rear-view mirror as it tentatively played with the idea of being the most consequential nation in the world.

First, there was the contrast between the attempted coup by Donald Trump in January that eroded America's standing as the unbreachable Democracy of the world and the Chinese approach. The word "coup" is deliberately chosen. Trump faced impeachment for the assault on the Capitol on that awful day. But charges of incitement to insurrection were a stretch too far given the technicalities inherent in interpreting a criminal charge of incitement of imminent violence.



Pic - Sydney Morning Herald

“The US withdrawal from Afghanistan left America further diminished. Perhaps this retrenchment from its role as self-appointed policeman of the world was voluntary and too long in coming, but it too provided sharp contrast to China's assertion of an ever more aggressive presence around the world, such as in the South China Sea, as a repressive power at home particularly in Hong Kong, and a threatening power looming over Taiwan and South Asian nations...”

Nevertheless, it is abundantly clear, indeed beyond cavil, that Trump actively worked with others to try to have himself declared the winner of the election even though he had lost. We cannot know what the US Secret Service or the leadership of the US military establishment might have done if Trump had been successful, but the mere fact that it nearly came to that, left America diminished.

The Chinese approach was one of disregarding the norms and sensibilities of civilized society and intention to prove its assertion that a centrally controlled repressive government that brooks no opposition and has nothing but domination of the world, represents the most workable system for success.

Examples of Beijing's pressure on those who do not comply abound as we witnessed with the handling of trade between Australia and China and takeovers of ports and infrastructure projects around the world when poorer nations are unable to service debt owed to China for such projects. As the year winds down, we have Intel, an American company, apologizing for complying with US laws against importation of products made with forced labour and under conditions that the US government has labelled a genocide. Intel has 10,000 workers in China making its products. The allegiance of America's corporate executives to the bottom line is easy for Beijing to exploit as the slightest threat to that bottom line induces compliance.

Second, the US withdrawal from Afghanistan left America further diminished. Perhaps this retrenchment from its role as self-appointed policeman of the world was voluntary and too long in coming, but it too provided sharp contrast to China's assertion of an ever more aggressive presence around the world, such as in the South China Sea, as a repressive power at home particularly in Hong Kong, and a threatening power looming over Taiwan and South Asian nations. Nor was China deterred from displaying its bullying tactics against Australia or those countries that ran afoul of their debt obligations under the Belt and Roads initiative.

Beyond that, America's retrenchment underscored the unalterable truth that American involvement in Afghanistan left both countries the poorer for the experience. There are

no victors in unwinnable wars. This has actually been a truth about all modern wars. World War II left Germany, Japan, the Soviets, Britain, America, indeed the world, poorer. True, there were great recoveries of most of the economies but that war spilled over into the Cold War and the Korean war.

So it was with the war in Vietnam and the Iraq war, not to mention many other military interventions by the US. The first Gulf War ending with the liberation of Kuwait may be an exception. America came to a reckoning with the trillions of dollars that it has spent in futile adventures, money that might have been well spent in maintaining its own manufacturing capabilities and the welfare of its own citizens.

Transgression against humanity

On the Covid-19 front, significant in the year was that China has still not answered for its transgression against humanity. Whether the virus originated in a lab or was man-made is a subject for another day. But it is unconscionable that there is not even a rudimentary recognition of its obligation to humanity to explore the origins of the virus and what we might do to prevent future pandemics.

Great questions of vaccine inequity are being raised around the world. Whereas it is undoubtedly true that no one is safe until all are safe, it engenders little sympathy that countries that did not commit the resources to developing or producing vaccines should feel free to lament that the world owes them a free supply.

Recent events have shown that the Chinese, and Russian vaccines may not be very effective. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is likewise not preferred over mRNA vaccines. There seems to be a faint hope that the rapid spread of the Omicron variant with its lesser severity might lead to more effective natural or herd immunity.

The worldwide erosion of democracy as seen in America with state after state passing laws that will result in voter suppression, and in Belarus, Tigray, Sudan, Russia, Turkey, Hong Kong, Myanmar, and many other countries leave us wondering if Democracy was but a blip in the high-way of human history. Certainly, the world in 2021 exhibited not only the cruelty of Mother Nature but the ruthlessness of man against man and both seemed to work against Democracy.

Withal, the economies of the major nations seemed somewhat resilient despite breakdowns in supply chains and despite stresses in the travel and hospitality industries and despite a prolonged absence of workers from offices.

The erosion of democracy and economic pressures combined, as they always have, to create an immigration and refugee crisis for both the US and Europe. In Europe, the President of Belarus weaponized the refugee crisis against Poland and Lithuania. France and Britain came to loggerheads over control of immigrant and refugee flows across the English Channel. It is an extraordinary feature of modern life that the emergence of tyrants around the world is seen as cause for other nations to provide safe havens for their citizens. Nothing speaks more loudly to the inability of the world to deal with the underlying problem of the tyrant. Someday, will the world's nations feel obliged to accept a billion refugees from China?

As we look back on 2021, we may well conclude that world is the worse off for America's decline, China's ascendancy, and Nature's conquests over human folly.

Cheerz...
Bwana

The Molnupiravir Controversy

'ICAC should not be seen sitting on this case for months or years'

LEX

After the shocking revelations of "emergency" purchases during 2020, one might have expected far greater vigilance from the Health Ministry and the High-Level Committee meeting daily to oversee all aspects of pandemic management since then. In the current scandal, civil servants are already facing the music (early retirement, suspension or transfers) while ICAC has been tasked to probe and establish responsibilities for corrupt actions and any associated money-laundering. How far were those administrative officers acting of their own volition without referring to their political masters will be a real test for that agency to decipher. Lex delves on that nexus of shared responsibilities between senior administrators and their Ministers.

* In the context of the emergency procurements of the Ministry of Health, we are now saddled with yet another highly controversial purchase: Molnupiravir, an oral antiviral treatment for Covid-19. We know that the second order was quoted at least eight times higher than the first one submitted the previous day, despite which the order was confirmed. That looks very fishy. What should an investigation determined to get to the bottom of this matter be looking at?

The first thing an investigator should do is to question the members of the High-Powered Committee (chaired by the Prime Minister) to determine whether that Committee gave the green light to purchase that large quantity of the drug and at that high price. Everything should start from there.

* The Senior Chief Executive, Mrs D. Allagapen, and the Government Chief Pharmacist, H.K. Bucktowar have left the Government on an early retirement basis; whether they have been forced to leave or not is not known. The Permanent Secretary, P. Mawah, and the Principal Pharmacist, B. Naeck have been suspended; Ms Z.B. Uladin-Auckbarally and S. Meejane have apparently been transferred to other ministries in the aftermath of this affair in a bid, it seems, to appease public outrage and without any investigation conducted to establish any wrongdoing and the responsible parties. Doesn't this go against the principles of natural justice?

Whether a civil servant retires or is made to retire or whether s/he is suspended or transferred, the core issue is whether civil servants acted on the instructions of the High-Powered Committee or those of the minister, or whether they took it upon themselves to strike the deals.



“A minister should take the blame for the shortcomings of his officials. The shortcomings may be due to a genuine mistake, in which case the minister would be expected to make a statement in Parliament. But if it's a gross mistake or a clear case of impropriety by the civil servant, the minister is expected to resign leaving it to the Public Service Commission to sanction the civil servant...”

Let's put a speculative question: Is it possible that civil servants would have taken the decision to purchase the drug of their volition and without the knowledge of the politicians most concerned?

At this stage there is no issue of natural justice involved, what matters is that the ICAC conducts its investigation in an objective, impartial and timely manner; the rules of fairness and objectivity must prevail over politics or political patronage. It also behoves the civil servants to talk and tell us what really happened. It's not in their interest to adhere to the law of the omerta...

* In fact, ICAC has been tasked by the Prime Minister, according to Minister Lesjongard, to conduct an inquiry into this matter. One would expect that it would diligently do so in a comprehensive, objective, impartial and timely manner. Would that be too much asking?

We know what's the public perception of ICAC, but let's give it the benefit of the doubt. We would therefore wish to see ICAC really going down to the bottom of the case, starting with the questioning of members of the High-Powered Committee, which should in normal circumstances be aware of all decisions that are being taken to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. Will ICAC dare to do that?

The sceptical will refer to ICAC's handling of the Angus Road case and the cancellation of the Mutual Legal Assistance Request to the UK in relation to that case. They may hopefully be proved wrong. It is also to be hoped that the referral of this case to ICAC is not a political ploy to prevent questions in Parliament, the more so now that Parliament has been adjourned and is now taking a three-month vacation. More importantly, the ICAC should not be seen sitting on this case for months or years.

* In the aftermath of this affair, Opposition parties have called for the resignation of the Minister of Health. This raises the issue of ministerial responsibility.

ty. What does this principle entail?

A minister is responsible for his department. He should be able to rely on the integrity and honesty of his officials. Just as he should act on the sound advice of his officials, the latter are also bound to give the minister proper and objective advice. But if the civil servant has committed a mistake or has acted with impropriety, it's the minister who is answerable to Parliament, notwithstanding the fact that a culpable civil servant may be sanctioned.

* We understand that this 'principle is considered essential, as it is seen to guarantee that an elected official is answerable for every single government decision'. How it works in practice is a different matter, but aren't ministers' responsibility limited to formulate policies and implementation resides with civil servants?

A minister's responsibility is not limited to devising policies only.

Implementation resides with officials; they have a crucial role to play here, but it is expected that in the execution of policies set by the political masters, they will not blindly adhere to what the minister has decided. It is their duty to alert the minister to any impropriety in the execution of the policy.

Of course, the minister may just ignore the advice and instruct the civil servant to go in a desired direction. There is not much that the civil servant can do about this in such circumstances, but it is in her/his interest to place on record whatever verbal instructions s/he has obtained from the minister with a view to protecting her/himself.

But if the civil servant takes the selfish view of considering that s/he could or would draw any material benefit from the implementation of a given policy, then s/he would be venturing together with the minister into the world of corruption.

● Cont. on page 8

'What matters is that the ICAC conducts its investigation in an objective, impartial and timely manner; the rules of fairness and objectivity must prevail over politics'

• Cont. from page 7

* It's said that wherever there is ministerial responsibility, the accountable minister is expected to take the blame and ultimately resign. This means that if waste, corruption, or any other misbehaviour is found to have occurred within a ministry, the minister is responsible even if the s/he had no knowledge of the actions, nor been a party to such actions. How does this make sense?

A minister should take the blame for the shortcomings of his officials. The shortcomings may be due to a genuine mistake, in which case the minister would be expected to make a statement in Parliament. But if it's a gross mistake or a clear case of impropriety by the civil servant, the minister is expected to resign leaving it to the Public Service Commission to sanction the civil servant.

* Notwithstanding constitutional conventions in governments using the Westminster system, our own Constitution (Section 68) states that 'where any Minister has been charged with responsibility for the administration of any department of Government, he shall exercise general direction and control over that department and, subject to such direction and control, any department in the charge of a Minister (...) shall be under the supervision of a Permanent Secretary or of some other supervising officer...' Doesn't that clearly demarcate the areas of responsibility of those tasked to run the government?

Of course, there is a clear demarcation, but we all know what prevails in Mauritius. And with a number of spineless officials and advisers - certainly not all of them - around to do the bidding of the politicians, it's very often a case of: 'Yes, Minister', rather than 'No, Minister'.

* In the UK, in 1983, when 38 IRA prisoners broke

“The core issue is whether civil servants acted on the instructions of the High-Powered Committee or those of the minister, or whether they took it upon themselves to strike the deals. Let's put a speculative question: Is it possible that civil servants would have taken the decision to purchase the drug of their volition and without the knowledge of the politicians most concerned?”



“The sceptical will refer to ICAC's handling of the Angus Road case and the cancellation of the Mutual Legal Assistance Request to the UK in relation to that case. They may hopefully be proved wrong. It is also to be hoped that the referral of this case to ICAC is not a political ploy to prevent questions in Parliament, the more so now that Parliament has been adjourned and is now taking a three-month vacation. More importantly, the ICAC should not be seen sitting on this case for months or years...”

out of the Maze prison, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, James Prior, did not resign, explaining that the break-out was not caused by any policy initiative originating from him. This latter position seems to have become the norm in British politics. Doesn't this sound reasonable?

Not necessarily. There have been occasions when ministers have resigned for a number of reasons, namely failure to properly direct their respective departments or disagreement with government policy.

Robin Cook, who was Foreign Secretary in the government of Tony Blair, resigned over the Iraq war issue.

In 1954, the Crichton Down affair resulted in the resignation of a senior minister of the British Cabinet. It has been said that in 'the history of modern parliament, the Crichton Down affair takes on momentous significance, and has been described as a 'political bombshell'.

The public inquiry into the Crichton Down events revealed a catalogue of ineptitude and maladministration and resulted directly in the resignation of the Secretary of State for Agriculture Sir Thomas Dugdale, then a senior cabinet position, and was the first case of ministerial resignation since 1917.

* One impediment to civil servants standing up to ministers' instructions that may go against the public interest relates to the constitutional amendment that facilitates their removal from office in the public interest. Can't this constitutional provision be challenged in court?

This is true. In 1982, following the massive victory of

the MMM-PSM at the general elections, the government formed and led by Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Harish Boodhoo and Paul Berenger, the top brass of our civil service was simply decapitated and the Permanent Secretaries who had served the country since Independence loyally and had helped to forge the destiny of Mauritius, were simply sacked for purely political motives. That was the start of the downfall of the Mauritian Civil Service with ministers becoming the overlords of Service and partisan politics gradually creeping into the system.

MAURITIUS TIMES To Our Readers

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

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

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

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

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

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

Readers having any difficulty to access the Google Form for Subscription, may please contact us on:
Tel: 5 2929 301 / 212 13 13 or
send an email to mtimes@intnet.mu

The Editorial Team

CLICK BELOW TO SUBSCRIBE

SUBSCRIBE NOW

'We must end Covid-19 in 2022', says WHO chief; explains how

The Omicron variant of coronavirus has once again brought fears to the hearts of people around the world heading for the holiday season. This is the second consecutive year that Christmas holidays will be held in the shadow of the coronavirus disease.

But the World Health Organization (WHO) said the governments across the world should work towards ending the pandemic. "2022 must be the year we end the pandemic," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a media briefing on Tuesday.

"If we are to end the pandemic in the coming year, we must end inequity, by ensuring 70 per cent of the population of every country is vaccinated by the middle of next year," he added.

"Last week, WHO issued Emergency Use Listing for a ninth vaccine, produced by the Serum Institute of India under license from Novavax. This new vaccine is part of the COVAX portfolio, and we hope that it will play an important role in achieving our global vaccination targets," the WHO chief added further.

Tedros, however, painted a grim picture saying that a pall of gloom has descended on the world because of Covid-19, reports Hindustan Times.



WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus arrives for a press conference on December 20. Pic - AFP

He said that more than 3.3 million people have lost their lives to the pandemic this year - more deaths than from HIV, malaria and tuberculosis combined in 2020, and still continues to claim around 50,000 lives every week.

The ferocity with which Covid-19 is spreading once again has been attributed to the Omicron variant, which was first detected in South Africa on November 24 and has spread to more than 100 countries since then.

"There is now consistent evidence that Omicron is spreading significantly faster than the Delta variant. And it is more likely that people who have been vaccinated or have recovered from Covid-19 could be infected or reinfected," said Tedros.

Omicron: Doctor reveals 'telltale sign at night' to confirm presence of variant

The Omicron variant of coronavirus has left the world on tenterhooks, rapidly spreading across the globe and starting the surge on Covid-19 infections. The variant is highly mutated and believed to show a higher resistance to vaccines.

So far, the results have shown that this new strain causes less severe Covid-19 symptoms, compared to early variants of the virus. Two more studies from Britain published on Wednesday showed that Covid infections with Omicron are less likely to result in hospitalisation compared to the Delta variant.



Passengers wait to board a Eurostar train at St Pancras International station in London.(AFP File Photo)

But a doctor in the United Kingdom has revealed a new Covid-19 symptom caused by the Omicron variant - really bad night sweats, reports Amit Chaturvedi of Hindustan Times.

Dr Amir Khan, a physician with the UK's National Health Service, told The Sun last week about the "telltale sign" - the sweats which are "those kind of drenching night sweats where you might have to get up and change your clothes".

This is apart from scratchy throat, mild muscle aches, extreme tiredness and dry cough reported earlier to be associated with the Omicron variant.

Data coming out from South Africa, where the Omicron was first detected, shows that lower back pain could be another symptom.

Dr Ryan Noach, the CEO of South Africa-based Discovery Health, recently said that the most common early sign was a scratchy throat and most of these symptoms are mild.

The Omicron variant has been wreaking havoc in the United Kingdom, which reported 100,000 new daily cases for the first time on Wednesday. The United States is also battered by the fresh wave of infection, triggered by Omicron.

*Contd on page 10

AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine booster shot effective against Omicron: Oxford lab study

A three-dose course of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine is effective against the Omicron coronavirus variant, the pharmaceutical company said on Thursday, citing data from an Oxford University lab study.

The study, yet to be published in a peer-reviewed medical journal, showed antibody levels against Omicron after the booster shot were higher than antibodies in people who had been infected with and recovered



naturally from Covid-19, reports Reuters.

After a three-dose course of the vaccine, neutralising levels against Omicron were similar to those against the virus's Delta variant after two doses, the company added.

The Anglo-Swedish drugmaker said researchers at Oxford University who carried out the study were independent from those who worked on the vaccine, Vaxzevria, with AstraZeneca.

China's Xian locks down its 13 million residents as Covid cases mount

The city of Xian in northwest China's Shaanxi province with some 13 million residents went into a lockdown on Thursday following the detection of 234 Covid-19 cases since December 9.

All residents have been ordered to stay indoors, communities have been put under "closed management", and outgoing transport including trains and flights have been cancelled, health authorities said on Thursday as the city started the third round of nucleic acid testing for all residents.

Thousands of contacts have been moved to centralised quarantine and put under observation.

Starting Thursday, only one family

member of each household is allowed to leave the house to purchase daily necessities every two days, city health authorities said.

The city, known for the Terracotta Army historical site, has suspended long-distance bus services and banned taxis and cars hired on ride-hailing platforms for trips out of town.

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases at 234 is low for a big city but given China's "zero-Covid" policy, the lockdown is likely to be strictly implemented.

City authorities directed movie theatres to suspend operations and prohibited dining in at restaurants; large-scale events have been banned and schools have either shut or



moved classes online.

Yang Zhanqiu, a deputy director of the pathogen biology department at Wuhan University, told the tabloid Global Times the key reason for the lockdown "lies in the scale of community transmission in Xian and unclear epidemiological routes - the outbreak has demonstrated at least three transmission chains".

Madagascar's police chief swims 12 hours to shore after copter crash in ocean

Madagascar's police minister and an air force mechanic succeeded in swimming for 12 hours to safety after their helicopter crashed in the Indian Ocean.

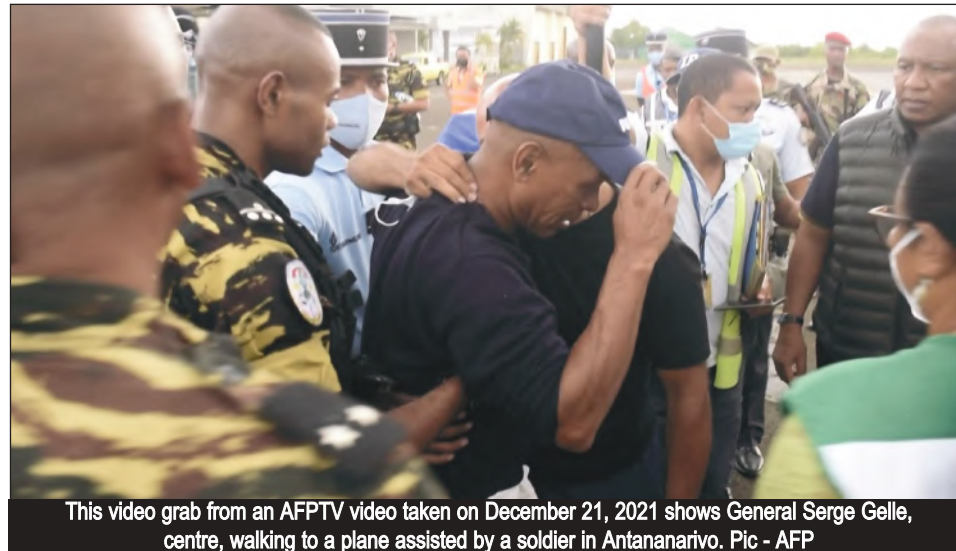
Gen. Serge Gellé, 57, the Secretary of State for the Gendarmerie, was discovered in the water by a fisherman in a canoe who brought him to shore, according to officials.

Another passenger, Chief Warrant Officer Jimmy Laitsara, also swam to the beach at Mahambo.

"My turn to die has not yet come, thank God. I'm well. I'm just cold," said Gelle in a video posted to Twitter by Madagascar's defense ministry. "But I'm sad because I don't know if my friends are alive."

Gelle appeared on a lounge chair, still in his military camouflage, his hands pale and wrinkled by the water and the cold.

"There were four of us in the aircraft. I was seated behind the pilot," he said of the



This video grab from an AFPTV video taken on December 21, 2021 shows General Serge Gelle, centre, walking to a plane assisted by a soldier in Antananarivo. Pic - AFP

crash on Monday evening.

"Not having a life jacket, I unfastened the seat and used it as a buoy. I stayed calm and took off anything heavy I was

carrying like my boots and belt. I did everything to stay alive," he said. Gelle said he expected to be back at work in 24 hours and said that he lost his cell phone in the

crash, reports AP.

Many in Madagascar applauded Gelle's feat, calling him a "hero" an "extraordinary athlete," and "an example to follow" on social media.

The cause of the helicopter crash "remains undetermined," authorities said. Gelle said that gusts of wind had destabilized the aircraft. The helicopter pilot and another passenger are still missing.

The helicopter was one of two flying a government delegation to view the site where a boat, the Francia, sank, drowning at least 64 people on board.

On Wednesday 25 bodies were recovered off the island of Sainte-Marie, in the northeast of the country, according to officials.

The small cargo ship sank Monday while it was illegally transporting 138 people, according to a statement Wednesday by the Maritime and River Port Agency.

US secret service says nearly \$100 billion stolen from Covid-19 relief funds

Nearly \$100 billion at minimum has been stolen from Covid-19 relief programmes set up to help businesses and people who lost their jobs due to the pandemic, the US Secret Service said on Tuesday.

The estimate is based on Secret Service cases and data from the Labor Department and the Small Business Administration, said Roy Dotson, the agency's national pandemic fraud recovery coordinator, in an interview.

The Secret Service didn't include Covid-19 fraud cases prosecuted by the Justice Department.

\$87 billion in unemployment benefits could have been paid improperly, with a significant portion attributable to fraud, reports AP.

The Secret Service said it has seized more than \$1.2 billion while investigating unemployment insurance and loan fraud and has returned more than \$2.3 billion of fraudulently obtained funds by working with financial partners and states to reverse transactions.

The Secret Service says it has more than 900 active criminal investigations into pandemic fraud, with cases in every state, and 100 people have been arrested so far.

The Justice Department said last week that its fraud section had prosecuted over 150 defendants in more than 95 criminal cases and had seized over \$75 million in cash proceeds derived from fraudulently obtained Paycheck Protection Programme funds, as well as numerous real estate properties and luxury items purchased with the proceeds.

One of the best-known programmes created through the March 2020 CARES Act, PPP offered low-interest, forgivable loans to small businesses struggling to meet payroll and other expenses during pandemic-related shutdowns.

Law enforcement early in the pandemic focused on fraud related to personal protective equipment, the Secret Service said. Authorities have now prioritised the exploitation of pandemic-related relief because the federal funding through the CARES Act attracted the attention of individuals and organised criminal networks worldwide.



Unemployment-insurance applications were given out in Hialeah, Fla., last year. Pic - images.wsj.net

While roughly 3% of the \$3.4 trillion dispersed, the amount stolen from pandemic benefits programmes shows "the sheer size of the pot is enticing to the criminals," Dotson said.

Most of that figure comes from unemployment fraud.

The Labor Department reported about

Eternal Gandhi Museum in Houston gets grant of USD 457,000 from Fort Bend County

The Eternal Gandhi Museum Houston (EGMH) has received a grant of USD 475,000 from the Fort Bend County under the American Rescue Plan, which would go a long way in completing the construction of the first museum in the US dedicated to preserve and promote Mahatma Gandhi's legacy and ideals.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the museum was conducted on July 3 this year, with Congressman Al Green being the chief guest, with a host of other dignitaries and members of Houston's local community also being present for the event.



Representative image. Pic - AP

The museum is expected to open sometime in 2023, reports PTI.

The grant was announced during a press conference on Wednesday evening by Fort Bend County judge of Indian-origin KP George along with the county commissioners.

"Indian-American Fort Bend County judge KP George has offered unflinching support to the activities of EGMH from day one, when he was invited to the memorial service for Mahatma Gandhi in February

2019 at the Unity of Houston. This grant will go a long way in bringing to life the first-ever museum in the US dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi," Kothari explained.

EGMH has acquired 3 acres of land in southwest Houston to house the museum. The proposed budget for construction is USD 6.5 million.

The proceeds from the capital campaign have touched USD 2.9 million, with the board of trustees committing another USD 1.1 million. The trust has also secured another USD 0.8 million from private donor commitments. Recently, the Houston Endowment Foundation also awarded a capital grant of USD 500,000.

A concerted fundraising campaign is currently underway through foundations, corporations and private donors to raise the remaining amount.

The museum will also include exhibits and interpretations that highlight the mission and vision of Mahatma Gandhi.

The EGMH will be an interactive museum divided into three sections: 'His Journey' (Mahatma Gandhi's Life), 'Our Journey' (Impact of Mahatma Gandhi's legacy of nonviolent conflict resolution in the world featuring, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Nelson Mandela and others around the world, and finally 'My Journey' where each visitor will be asked to make a commitment to make the community a better place to live in," Kothari said.

A Conversation with Uncle Claus

"Enough of loved ones have already been lost, too many in fact"

'Best thing is for people to take their own precautions because others are more concerned about business and the economy'



This year again, braving all risks, Uncle Claus decided to come down to our tiny island to make the children happy. We took the opportunity to bounce some questions with him about the Covid situation and its exploitation by persons with venal intent. As usual, he gave us his pithy answers which should make all of us, from those who are in charge of the country to the concerned parties and stakeholders, open our eyes...

*** Hi Uncle Claus! Am sure glad to see you again, though I wasn't expecting you!**

Why? Because of the Omicron variant that is sweeping across Europe? I did tell you when I was leaving last time that I'll be here again this year too, whatever the bug does. So here I am my friend!

*** You came knowing very well how everything got disrupted here - the economy, livelihoods, almost everything. And the kids have been facing a rough time with school closures and reopening, missing their friends, some even contracted Covid...**

Yes, I know, but you realise that things are pretty much the same all over, in all countries. Why, even those which achieved good control have had new bursts of Covid infection, despite quite good levels of vaccination. That's true of Europe for sure.

*** In fact, lots of kids were asking if Uncle Claus would still be visiting their homes this year because of travel restrictions.**

That's it, you see, all the more reason for me to come! They sure need cheering up. Haven't they been confined at home for long periods doing online learning, and thus missing meeting their friends in person? That's why I thought that I must absolutely come to bring some smiles to their faces. And also get myself some sunshine. Cold up there at the north pole you know. There's still a good amount of snow despite the snow-cap receding because of global warming. But there will come a time when the snows will have melted completely. And that will be a pro-

blem for my image - no snow, so no sledge, my trademark.

*** That's serious Uncle, what will you do?**

Oh, we'll cross the bridge when we come to it! It may happen literally for all you know because the seas will rise. Or I may have to travel by boat, ho ho... that will be fun!

*** Well, I am in awe of your positive outlook. No wonder so many parents go to great lengths to protect their child's belief in you...**

Well, children often live in a make-believe world, so one more belief is no big deal for their imagination.

*** I hear that some parents even fake footsteps in the middle of the night to convince their kids that Uncle Claus is placing presents under the tree.**

Anything to keep these little guys happy!

*** Still, kids are smart enough to deserve not being lied to about some things, Uncle.**

“ I come down the chimney, remember? Like some of your folks do to enter your Parliament, through the *l'imposte* - that's what you say here no? Difference is that I bring presents, empty my pockets. Your guys do just the opposite: fill their pockets. They claim they are doing it for the public good... the national interest in their jargon... ”

Quite so. In fact, there are many kids who have admitted to sneaking and finding out it's their parents and not Santa who lay the gifts around the Xmas tree. But kids are not only smart, these days they are smarter! They keep the secret for themselves so as to maintain the magic live, especially if they have younger siblings. They don't want to spoil the party as it were!

*** Uncle, aren't you concerned about being in the highest risk group for Covid?**

Not really, because I am virtual, isn't it! So, Mr Covid cannot do anything to me!

*** But I guess that when landed here, they must have asked you to do the Covid test, right, to make sure you deliver your presents safely?**

But you forget that I don't follow the usual route. Or what you have been talking about down here regarding the stuff you need to treat Covid, the usual procedure. I come down the chimney, remember? Like some of your folks do to enter your Parliament, through the *l'imposte* (transom window) - that's what you say here no? Difference is that I bring presents, empty my pockets. Your guys do just the opposite: fill their pockets. They claim they are doing it for the public good... the national interest in their jargon.

*** Wow, you seem to be quite up to date on happenings down below!**

Well, shouldn't I? I should, isn't it so that I can be careful and not get across the wrong paths. Otherwise, I may mysteriously disappear from view and only my remains found in some field! That would leave the children without their gifts and I don't want this to happen.

*** But this is happening almost everywhere. Much like the Covid waves the pandemic has also led to a wave of corruption-related activities... Millions have gone into the pockets of cronies, you know. What a shame!**

You could say that again! A French writer (Alexandre Dumas Fils) said: 'Les affaires? C'est bien simple, c'est l'argent des autres.' Looks like some people are taking it literally here!

*** It reminds us of what the Mahatma said about man's need and greed...**

Yes, that the Earth has everything for man's needs but not for his greed. So true. Greed has no limits, and some are even prepared to kill for it.

*** Shame is a good thing because it's said to help promote social cohesion, but what if people start losing the capacity to feel shame? That's what seems to be happening nowadays!**

Indeed, many things are done with impunity, and are shamelessly repeated. Ironically, those who engage themselves in these activities show no remorse whatsoever, and find convenient excuses to justify their evil deeds.

● Cont. on page 12



“Best thing is for people to take their own precautions because others are more concerned about business and the economy. Important no doubt, but now it's a question of life and death. Better to be safe than sorry I should say, you don't need another wave. Enough of loved ones have already been lost, too many in fact...”

● Cont. from page 11

Or refuse to give any answers when these are solicited in the proper forums.

* On another note, we are all pretty much worried about this bug not going away despite the vaccines and the booster shots. Aren't you also worried, Uncle?

You bet I am! What I find alarming is that despite being vaccinated many people are getting infected by the bug's descendants, and then they say you need booster shots and repeat booster shots. But how often and for how long? Lifelong? Sometimes I wonder if it's all about making money by Big Pharma!

* Most people you'll meet here or elsewhere will tell you that they have close friends or family who have died of Covid.

Yes, that's right. And I've learnt that you have had a big surge in cases after people crowded into public places, malls and beaches in the first week of November bridging over the three public holidays that you had. And that your health services couldn't cope and many people have died, ranking you among the highest in the world. That's really bad.

* Now we are having more holidays coming, and borders opened whereas other countries are tightening down restrictions because of the Omicron. What are we to do?

I agree, it's a big conundrum. Best thing is for people to take their own precautions because others are more concerned about business and the economy. Important no doubt, but now it's a question of life and death.

'The Earth has everything for man's needs but not for his greed.'

So true. Greed has no limits, and some are even prepared to kill for it'

Better to be safe than sorry I should say, you don't need another wave. Enough of loved ones have already been lost, too many in fact. So the rest of you should take better care of yourselves. Don't take undue risks I would advise.

* When you come to think of it, all that because of some lab experiments in Wuhan, or so we are told, but we may never get down to the bottom of this matter.

Ask that guy Dr Anthony Fauci who is now advising President Joe Biden. Some groups in the US have been asking for him to be sacked for misguiding the country. He may hold the clue to this sordid story.

* Where do you think, all this will lead to? Do you foresee and end soon to this pandemic?

Honestly, I do not know and had better not speculate. But I sure wish that the sooner it does the better, especially for the children.

They really need to be back to school safely and make up for all that they have lost in terms of learning but also as regards their emotional development. They

“I do not know and had better not speculate.

But I sure wish that the sooner it does the better, especially for the children. They really need to be back to school safely and make up for all that they have lost in terms of learning but also as regards their emotional development. They do need to be with their friends, that's the way for them to grow and develop properly...”

do need to be with their friends, that's the way for them to grow and develop properly.

I think we are all agreed on that. So, you guys must really work hard towards making schools a safe place for them, get them away from these screens. It's been too much! They need the real world.

* So, I assume you will definitely be coming again next year?

Of course, I will! Now let me go back to enjoy the dwindling snow before it's too late! See you next Christmas my friend! And enjoy yourself too!



COMMUNIQUE

FILING AND PAYMENT OF CPS STATEMENT OF INCOME BY SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

The Mauritius Revenue Authority hereby informs self-employed individuals that the due date for the submission of CPS Statement and payment of tax for quarter ended 30 September 2021 is **Wednesday 29 December 2021**.

Exceptionally, where a self-employed individuals has been unable to submit the Statement and pay the tax payable by **29 December 2021**, no penalty for late submission or late payment will be applied provided the Statement is submitted and the tax due is paid by **Monday 31 January 2022**. The necessary facility is available on MRA website www.mra.mu.

It may be recalled that CPS Statement of Income should be submitted by every self-employed individual deriving business income (including income from profession, vocation or occupation) and rental income where:

- (i) the gross income falling under CPS for the income year ended 30 June 2021 exceeded Rs 4 million; and
- (ii) the tax payable on the chargeable income exceeds Rs 500.

For further information, self-employed individuals may visit MRA's website: www.mra.mu or phone the MRA helpdesk on 207 6000 during office hours.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

22 December 2021

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius
T: +230 207 6000 | F: +230 207 6048 | M: headoffice@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu



From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 180

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 17 January, 1958

• *Few mortals are so insensible that their affections cannot be gained by mildness, their confidence by sincerity, their hatred by scorn or neglect.* — Johann Georg Ritter von Zimmermann



Satcam Boolell

The approach to Karachi by air is an eyesore. A bleak desert dotted here and there with clusters of flat-topped buildings is the only sight that greets the newcomer. Not until you have left the airport and driven eight to ten miles in the interior that Karachi assumes its character of a capital city.

We landed in Karachi in a burning heat. Even before the passengers stepped down the plane they were already taking off their coats. Decorum was flung aside and the risk of looking undignified to our Pakistani hosts did not seem to matter.

Two members of the Pakistani National Assembly, one of whom was a lady elegantly clad in a green sari, greeted us with courteous smiles. They were accompanied by a host of young officers from the Secretariat. These young men who were to be our Liaison Officers and our constant companions for the duration of our stay in Pakistan were the most interesting and amiable people I came across during my whole tour.

The customs formalities being over, we were whisked off in twos and threes in shiny American cars to the Metropal Hotel, some ten miles away from the airport.

Before Partition Karachi was reputed to be one of the cleanliest and most beautiful cities of India. Built on the fringe of a desert it has a very dry climate with a long spell of hot weather. But the winter which lasts for three months, November to January, is very bracing. Our hosts were at pains to account for the heat in November. "Winter this year is very late; it is most unusual," was the explanation. Rain never falls in Karachi although I was told that there was a heavy rain once after twelve years. To have a green patch in one's yard in very costly. Even the tall trees have to be watered and water is not a cheap commodity. A large part of the

Looking back on Karachi



Karachi in the 1950s - Pic - Dawn

city is supplied with water during certain hours of the day only. When I was told about this plight and the repeated promises by political parties on the eve of municipal elections to improve the supply, I thought of Port-Louis and the municipal elections. The scarcity of water hits mostly the poor areas.

After Partition, when Karachi was chosen as the Capital of Pakistan, there has been a large influx of population which went up from 5 lakhs to three and a half million. The majority of the newcomers are refugees and the government's housing programme could not keep pace with the increase in population. As refugees kept coming in for a few years after Partition, they could not all be settled. Most of them turned squatters and built tiny hovels with petrol tins and hard boards on the open spaces of the municipal lands. These hovels which run for miles on some of the main approaches to the heart of the city have completely spoiled whatever beauty Karachi had. As the refugees moved in with their buffaloes and goats the backyards of the hovels began to be occupied by buffaloes and the front yards by goats.

In spite of the heat, the city was bustling with life. The tall hefty Pathans in their baggy trousers and flowing shirts were briskly moving on the hot pavements to attend to their business. The cycle rickshaw boy was pedalling as fast as he could to catch up with the fast-moving Cadillacs. The

street barber had installed himself on the kerb in front of the haberdasher's shop to give a shave to his Punjabi customer firmly seated on a mat. There was a constant going in and coming out of the fashionable shops and cafes. Nobody looked indolent or tired.

The lay-out of Karachi suggests that it is a planned city. The streets are wide and the buildings are of modern architecture. There are beautiful gardens and parks, the most famous of which in the heart of the City is the Gandhi Zoological Garden, named after the Mahatma. But life in the City is a constant competition between the old ways and the new. The camel and donkey carts engage in a desperate struggle for survival against the diesel fitted lorries, the cycle rickshaws and the

horse buggies race frantically in the main thoroughfares with the latest Cadillacs in a bid to prove their usefulness in a world of speed.

As every big City Karachi is cosmopolitan. Practically every race is represented. Indians are very few but Americans are conspicuous everywhere. I even met a few Mauritians most of whom work as clerks at the office of *Air France*. They earn good money but they cannot fit themselves into the Karachi social life. Not that they want to keep aloof but rather because they are so different in so many respects from the Pakistanis. Yet the latter are a warm-hearted and hospitable people. After a few days I discovered that there were a few things with which I could not put up. For instance, I could not understand why the local people were so unmindful of the dust and the flies. There is no limit to the number of passengers in the train and buses.

College girls would never venture out in the streets unveiled. There are exceptions but they are few and, curiously enough, belong to the upper class. Riding bicycle without light does not seem to be an offence in Karachi.



COMMUNIQUE

RENEWAL OF LICENCES FOR THE SALE OF BEER, LIQUOR & ALCOHOLIC PRODUCTS

- (1) Holders of licences (including licence holders in Rodrigues) for wholesale/retail sale of **Beer & Alcoholic Beverages** and **Liquor & Alcoholic Products** issued under Part III of the Excise Act, are hereby informed that renewal of the above licences for Year 2022 may now be effected electronically through MRA website: www.mra.mu.
- (2) Dealers in **Liquor and Alcoholic Products (Wholesale)** must ensure that they have furnished to the MRA a security by means of a bond, prior to availing themselves of the online renewal facility.
- (3) The MRA requests licence holders to avail themselves of the Direct Debit facility for payment of appropriate licence fee. Appropriate instructions and procedures for online renewal of the above licences are also available on MRA website.
- (4) Any licence renewed after 14 January 2022 will attract a surcharge of 50%.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

21 December 2021

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius
T: +230 207 6000 | F: +230 211 8099 | M: headoffice@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu



Omicron: the final variant?



Pic - yahoo.com

● Cont. from page 2

Besides this, improvements could be made to other aspects of the virus life cycle, such as genome replication, as I mentioned above.

But let's assume for a second that omicron is the variant with maximised spreading ability. Perhaps omicron won't get any better because it is limited by genetic probability. In the same way that zebras haven't evolved eyes at the back of their heads to avoid predators, it's plausible that SARS-CoV-2 can't pick up the mutations required to reach a theoretical maximum as those mutations need to occur all at once, and that is just too unlikely to emerge. Even in a scenario where omicron is the best variant at spreading between humans, new variants will emerge to handle the human immune system.

After infection with any virus, the immune system adapts by making antibodies that stick to the virus to neutralise it, and killer T-cells that destroy infected cells. Antibodies are pieces of protein that stick to the specific molecular shape of the virus, and killer T-cells recognise infected cells via molecular shape as well. SARS-CoV-2 can therefore evade the immune system by mutating sufficiently that its molecular shape changes beyond the immune system's recognition.

This is why omicron is so apparently successful at infecting people with previous immunity, either from vaccines or infections with other variants – the mutations that allow the spike to bind to ACE2 more strongly also reduce the ability of antibodies to bind to the virus and neutralise it. Pfizer's data suggests that T-cells should respond similarly to omicron as to previous variants, which aligns with the observation that omicron has a lower fatality rate in South Africa, where most people have immunity.

Importantly for humanity, past exposure still seems to protect against severe disease and death, leaving us with a "compromise" where the virus can repli-

cate and reinfect, but we do not get as severely sick as the first time.

Probable future

Herein lies the most probable future for this virus. Even if it behaves like a professional gamer and eventually maxes out all its stats, there is no reason to think that it won't be controlled and cleared by the immune system. The mutations that improve its spreading ability do not greatly increase deaths. This maxed-out virus would then simply mutate randomly, changing enough over time to become unrecognisable to the immune system's adapted defences, allowing waves of reinfection.

We might have Covid season each

winter in the same way we have flu season now. Influenza viruses can also have a similar pattern of mutation over time, known as "antigenic drift", leading to reinfections. Each year's new flu viruses are not necessarily better than last year's, just sufficiently different. Perhaps the best evidence for this eventuality for SARS-CoV-2 is that 229E, a coronavirus that causes the common cold, does this already.

Omicron will therefore not be the final variant, but it may be the final variant of concern. If we are lucky, and the course of this pandemic is hard to predict, SARS-

CoV-2 will probably become an endemic virus that slowly mutates over time.

The disease might very likely be mild as some past exposure creates immunity that reduces the likelihood of hospitalisation and death. Most people will get infected the first time as a child, which could occur before or after a vaccine, and subsequent reinfections will barely be noticed. Only a small group of scientists will track SARS-CoV-2's genetic changes over time, and the variants of concern will become a thing of the past – at least until the next virus jumps the species barrier.

Ben Krishna - Postdoctoral Researcher, Immunology & Virology, University of Cambridge



1956-2021



भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

LIC Centre, 1st Floor,
John Kennedy Street,
Port Louis

208 1458, Ext 24 (Port Louis)
467 4960 (Quatre Bornes)

marketing@licmauritius.intnet.mu

licmauritius.mu

*LIC understands your dreams and aspirations. We will help you to realise them.
Thank you for your support and patronage.*



COMMUNIQUE

FILING OF CORPORATE TAX RETURN & PAYMENT OF INCOME TAX

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) informs all companies having accounting period ended in June 2021 that the deadline for the submission of their annual income tax return and payment of the tax is **29 December 2021**. The necessary facility is available on the MRA website www.mra.mu.

Where there is no tax payable, the due date for the submission of the annual income tax return is **17 January 2022**.

Companies that are required to submit their annual income tax return on the basis of audited accounts and have been unable to have their accounts audited, may, exceptionally, submit, by the due date, their annual income tax return on the basis of unaudited accounts. In case they need to file an amended return after the audit is completed, no penalties for late submission of return or penalty/interest for late payment of tax will be applied, provided the amended return is filed on or before **31 March 2022**.

For any additional information, taxpayers may visit MRA website: www.mra.mu or phone MRA helpdesk on: **207 6000**.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

23 December 2021

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius
T: +230 207 6000 | F: +230 207 6048 | M: headoffice@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu





Kohinoor Bookshop

Central Flacq Tel: 413 2745

*Merry Christmas & Happy
New Year... & a Prosperous Sankranti*

Books on

Astrology, Palmistry, Yoga, Spirituality, Philosophy,
Medicine, Self Improvement, Occult Science, Sai Baba,
Acupressure, Acupuncture, Meditation, Positive
Thinking, Robin Sharma, Shiv Khera, Horoscope 2022,
Diary 2022, Chars and a lot more!

*Students need roots to grow and wings to fly
Kohinoor Bookshop provides both!!*

SUNRAY & SUNLIT HALLS

Royal Road Coromandel - Tel 233 4777

Ideally situated and Perfect Venue
for

Weddings, Birthday Parties,
Xmas & New Year Parties,
Receptions, Wedding package
(Mehendi, Haldi, & Chawtari)

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year*

B. Ramanjooloo & Co Ltd

Importer and Wholesaler of books since 1987

Exclusive Distributor of

Web, S'Pore Asian, Fairfield,
Shinglee, Learners, Edukids, Mecron

PUBLICATIONS

Available in all famous bookshops

Tel : 425 6656 Fax : 424 6656

email: rusheil@bow.intnet.mu

Wishes all

Rectors, Head Masters / Mistress,

Teachers, Students & Parents

A Merry X-Mas,

A Prosperous New Year

*& an enriching and
successful academic year 2022*

K.SUNASSEE
Port Louis ☎ 212 2934 • Belle Rose ☎ 454 9408
Email : sunassee@intnet.mu

A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

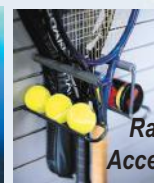
**Sport & Loisir sous
un seul toit!**



World flag &
Banners



Mares



Rackets &
Accessories



Best Wishes From
BOMBAY SWEETS MART

7, Remy Ollier Street
Port Louis - Tel: 212 1628

*The most popular mithai
specialist in Mauritius*



Sirsa & Co. Ltd

697 1613, 686 7356, 5 911 9396

Email: sirsa28@yahoo.com

Cinema Sirsa, Hardware Shop Sirsa, Hall Sirsa

All under one roof
Construction Materials Available

*Hall Sirsa for Concerts, Anniversaries,
Weddings, Corporate Events, Reception*

Season's Greetings

DASAUTO CO LTD

Tel nos: 248 3693 / 5850 1922 /
/ 5256 4837

Best Wishes From



**BMW SPECIALIST
GARAGE**

Servicing & General Repairs
Mechanical & Electrical Problems
Diagnosis & Coding & Programming
Engine Overhaul/Oil &
Water Leakages/Suspension

Sanlam Central Agency Ltd

Accredited Agency

For

Motor, Fire & Allied Perils
(Residential & Commercial),
Public Liability, Employers Liability,
Travel etc...

Contact: Mrs V. Gopal

1st floor, ARC Building, c/r SSR &
Sir William Newton Streets, Port Louis
Tel: 208 0289 / 5782 5678 - Fax: 213 0961

Email: centralagency@intnet.mu

*Wishes all its Customers and
Well Wishes a Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year*

**Safe
guard**
HAND SANITIZER GEL

**Mo Hand Sanitizer.
Mo Safeguard.**



**STAY SAFE
ANYTIME.
ANYWHERE.**

POCKET SIZE
50ml



5 Life Lessons from Leena Nair, Chanel's new Indian-origin global CEO

Leena Nair credits her impressive career trajectory to the fact that she never said no to "grassroot roles"

Top Unilever executive Leena Nair will be joining French luxury group Chanel as its new global chief executive. With this appointment, Leena Nair has joined the ranks of Indian-origin executives like Sundar Pichai, Parag Agrawal and Satya Nadella who are the helm of top global companies. Ms Nair, 52, was the first female and youngest-ever Chief Human Resources Officer of Unilever. In a statement, Unilever CEO Alan Jope thanked her for her "outstanding contribution over the last three decades" at the company and praised her as a "pioneer throughout her career."

On Instagram, Ms Nair has shared several lessons she learned over the three decades she spent at Unilever and, before that, at one of the top B-schools India - the Xavier School of Management Jamshedpur. These posts, hashtagged #LeenaLifeLessons, contain invaluable career advice from a woman who carved a niche for herself in the world of business.

Here is a look at five life lessons from Chanel's new global CEO Leena Nair:

Invest your time and energy wisely

"Don't waste your energy on something you're not passionate about or things that aren't moving you towards your goals," says Ms Nair. In an Instagram post, she shared the example of a friend who kept starting creative side projects.

"Then, one day, she realised these were all just fun distractions. They weren't taking her closer to her dream of becoming a screenwriter. The more side projects she did, the less time she had to write scripts," she wrote. With this in mind, Ms Nair's friend began focusing her energy into



Leena Nair will join Chanel as its global chief executive. Pic - CanIndia News

scriptwriting - and today she has an agent and two scripts in development.

Find your purpose in life

Back in October, Ms Nair wrote about one of the best pieces of advice she ever received - a college professor told her she would make a "lousy engineer" but had a flair for management. "So I went away and did my MBA in HR and then I joined Hindustan Unilever's management training," Leena Nair said.

"A sense of purpose means I will always have a guiding star...And when you know and understand what really makes you tick, what really gets you up in the morning, what feels authentic to you, you can achieve great things," she explained.

Every experience is critical

Leena Nair credits her impressive career trajectory to the fact that she never

said no to "grassroot roles." She was the first woman to work at a factory in Hindustan Unilever and the first woman to work a night shift there. In the factory, she learned many things from production processes to shop-floor ecosystem, but the most important thing she learned was resilience.

"I was willing to go to places where few of my colleagues would go," she said. Her advice to others? "If you have an opportunity to learn how growth happens in your business, this may be the break that could make the difference in advancing your career," she says.

Every voice matters

Ms Nair believes that everyone's voice matters, no matter what level they are at. In an Instagram video, she explained that inclusion is at the heart of everything she does. "In fact, I would not be standing

where I am today if I had not questioned and challenged hierarchy and social norms!" she wrote, encouraging other managers and bosses to listen to their team members and treat everyone as equals.

It's clear that she practices what she preaches. Working towards her goal of being inclusive, Ms Nair includes a footnote at the end of most of her posts. This footnote, which begins with the words "ID", describes the content of her photographs in a bid to make them more accessible to visually-challenged Instagram users.

Feedback is a gift

An important piece of advice from Ms Nair is to accept feedback and learn from it. In an Instagram post from August, the Chanel CEO said she used to dread reading critical things about herself until she realised that feedback is a gift. "We need to embrace feedback and learn from it as much as we can," she said.

"If people give feedback, it's because they care and because you've made an impact on them, one way or another. If they didn't care, they wouldn't bother to tell you anything at all," Ms Nair added.

"So this is my advice to you; treat comments and feedback as a gift. Embrace it. Don't be afraid. Don't see it as criticism," she concluded.

According to news agency PTI, Ms Nair, an alumna of XLRI Jamshedpur, had joined HUL, Unilever's Indian subsidiary in 1992 and worked for 30 years. In her new role as global chief executive of Chanel, she will be based out of London.

Sanya Jain, NDTV

Work Smarter

Looking for a gift for your colleague?

At this time of year, many of us are looking for ways to express gratitude to our colleagues. Writing a heartfelt note or simply saying thank you to a coworker who has made your life easier and better is enough. But if you're looking for a gift idea, keep anything you buy small and meaningful. It doesn't take a lot to show your work buddies that you appreciate them. Here are a few ideas:

- A personalized pen or notebook stationery — it might have their name on it, or the nickname of your team, or even an inside joke.
- A daily planner, calendar, or journal for 2022.
- A little succulent in a ceramic pot — they're super easy to take care of and won't die when your colleague goes on vacation.
- An insulated coffee tumbler or mug they can keep on their desk (works for tea, too!). You might include some fancy coffee or teas as well.
- If your coworker is an animal lover, you could even get some treats or toys for their pets.

This tip is adapted from "12 Clever Gifts Ideas for Your Colleagues," by Ascend Editors - Harvard Business Review

* * *

Lead with Compassion

Some people might think that they have to make a difficult, binary choice between being a good person or a tough, effective leader. This is a false dichotomy. Humane leadership is not only necessary in today's world -- it will actually help you develop the wisdom you need to succeed in business. Here are four ways to infuse compassion into your leadership:

- Remember the Golden Rule: Treat others the way you want to be treated. While this may sound like a cliché, it's the root of compassionate leadership.
- Listen intently. If you can hear your employees with an open mind and a willingness to learn, not only will you become wiser, you'll also become better equipped to help them.
- Be prepared to serve. Whenever you're about to engage with someone on your team, take a moment to reflect on what might be going on with them. Then ask yourself: What support might they need? Be prepared to offer help.
- Stretch people to see their potential. When some

one's already doing well, you might fear that pushing them to do more could be discouraging or demotivating. Instead of shying away from these uncomfortable conversations, reframe them as an indication of true care. Challenging people to grow is ultimately an act of kindness.

This tip is adapted from "Becoming a More Humane Leader," by Rasmus Hougaard and Jacqueline Carter, Harvard Business Review

Appartement à louer - long terme



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



Why do we believe in Santa?

Having kids believe there's a jolly man in a red suit who visits on Christmas Eve isn't detrimental, although some parents can feel they're outright lying to their children, according to a new analysis by Serge Larivée.

"When they learn the truth, children accept the rules of the game and even go along with their parents in having younger children believe in Santa," says Larivée, a psycho-edu-

cation professor at the Université de Montréal. "It becomes a rite of passage in that they know they are no longer babies."

Larivée, along with colleague Carole Sénéchal from the University of Ottawa, examined a study from 1896 involving 1,500 children aged 7 to 13, which was repeated in 1979. More than 46 percent of children in 1896 and 44 percent in 1979 gradually found out on their own that Santa didn't exist.

The studies also analyzed the reaction of the children once they discovered the jolly old elf wasn't real. More than 22 percent in the 1896 study admitted to being disappointed compared with 39 percent in the 1979 study. But only 2 percent and 6 percent, respectively, felt betrayed.

"The constant outcome of the two studies was that children generally discovered through their own observations and experiences that Santa doesn't exist," Larivée noted. "And their parents confirmed their discovery."

"Children ask their parents, for example, how Santa gets in the house if there's no chimney," he says. "And even if the parents say they leave the door unlocked, the child will figure out that Santa can't be everywhere at the same time and that reindeer can't be that fast."

Close to 25 percent of children in the 1896 study learned the truth about Santa from their parents, compared with 40 per cent in 1979. Those who didn't find out from their parents learned the truth from other children.

Larivée says belief in Santa diminishes as children approach the age of reason. "But cognitive maturity and level of thought that would allow a 7-year-old to differentiate between the imaginary and reality are insufficient to let go of the myth," he adds, pointing out that half of children of that age in a 1980 study still believed.

In 1896, 54 percent of parents said they perpetuated the myth of Santa since it made their children happy; compared with 73 percent in 1979 and 80 percent in 2000.

Larivée and Sénéchal now want to explore a deeper question: If children attribute the same supernatural powers to Santa as they do to God, why do they stop believing in Santa, but continue their belief in God?

Heart-related deaths spike at Christmas

Hearth-related deaths spike during Christmas, but the effect may have nothing to do with the cold winter season, according to new research in 'Journal of the American Heart Association', the Open Access Journal of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

"Spikes in deaths from natural causes during Christmas and New Year's Day has been previously established in the United States. However, the Christmas holiday period (December 25th to January 7th) in the U.S. falls within the coldest period of the year when death rates are already seasonally high due to low temperatures and influenza," said Josh Knight, B.Sc., study author and research fellow at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

In this study, researchers analyzed trends in deaths in New Zealand, where Christmas occurs during the summer season when

death rates are usually at a seasonal low -- allowing researchers to separate any winter effect from a holiday effect.

During a 25-year period (1988-2013), there were a total of 738,409 deaths (197,109 were noted as cardiac deaths).

Researchers found:

A 4.2% increase in heart-related deaths occurring away from a hospital from December 25 -- January 7.

The average age of cardiac death was 76.2 years during the Christmas period, compared with 77.1 years during other times of the year.

There are a range of theories that may explain the spike in deaths during the holiday season, including the emotional stress associated with the holidays, changes in diet and alcohol consumption, less staff at medical facilities, and changes in the physical environment (for example visiting relatives). However,

there have been few attempts to replicate prior studies.

Although more research is needed to explain the spike in deaths, researchers suggest one possibility may be that patients hold back in seeking medical care during the holiday season.

Another explanation may have to do with a terminally ill patients' will to live and hold off death for a day that is important to them.

"The ability of individuals to modify their date of death based on dates of significance has been both confirmed and refuted in other studies, however it remains a possible explanation for this holiday effect," Knight said.

However, researchers note that the study did not track daily temperatures and New Zealand has an island climate, which almost eliminates the extremes of temperature that have been associated with heart-related death rates in previous studies.

When fish get thirsty do they drink sea water?



Fish that live in the sea have found amazing ways to control the amount of water and salt in their bodies, and stay hydrated.

This is a great question, Torben, thanks very much for sending it in.

The short answer is yes, some fish do drink seawater – but not all of them. Fish are amazing animals, and have some very cool solutions to living in water. Naturally, different types of fish have evolved different solutions.

The bony kinds of fish that live in the sea – such as cod, herring, tuna and so on – have a few ways of getting water in and out of the body. As well as swallowing and peeing, like humans do, these fish can pass it through their skin and gills.

To understand how this works, you first need to know that bony fish have a different concentration of salt in their bodies to their environment. This means they're more or less salty than the water they swim in.

The bodies of marine fish (which live in the sea) are less salty than the water they swim in, while the bodies of freshwater fish (which live in rivers and lakes) are more salty than the water they swim in.

Both marine and freshwater fish have to control the amount of water and salt in their bodies, to stay healthy and hydrated.

Hard to stay hydrated

Bony marine fish are constantly losing water from their body, through a process called "osmosis". During osmosis, water moves through a membrane (like skin), from areas of lower concentration to areas of higher concentration.

Remember, the body of a marine fish is less salty than the seawater it swims in – which means it has a lower concentration of salt. So these fish actually lose water through osmosis: it passes from their body, through their skin and gills, out into the sea.

Since they're constantly losing water this way, these fish have to drink a lot of seawater to stay hydrated.

You might be interested to know that the opposite happens in freshwater fish. Water flows into their body through osmosis, instead of out. This means they don't generally need to drink – but they do have to pee a lot.

We all know that too much salt is bad for us. So of course, an animal that drinks seawater must have a way to get rid of excess salt.

Marine fish have kidneys, which pump excess salt into their pee so they can get it out of their bodies. They also have special cells in their gills that pump excess salt out into the sea. Together, these two systems mean that marine fish can stay hydrated.

Salty sharks

Sharks have evolved a completely different system. Their bodies have a slightly higher concentration of salt than seawater. This means they don't have the problem that bony fish have, of losing water through their skin all the time.

Sharks have high levels of waste chemicals – called urea and trimethylamine N-oxide – in their body, which other animals would usually get rid of. Sharks keep them in their body, which keeps them "salty".

Sharks take in small amounts of water through their gills (by osmosis – because they are slightly saltier than the sea) which means they don't directly have to drink.

Sharks also have a salt gland (in their rectum) to get rid of any excess salt they may have.

The problem of drinking seawater isn't just for fish. Some seabirds – albatrosses, for example – have to drink seawater too. Like sharks, these seabirds have a salt gland to get rid of excess salt. But on an albatross it is found at the top of the bird's beak.



Italian Mama

Mrs Ravioli comes to visit her son Anthony for dinner. He lives with a female roommate, Maria. During the evening, his mother couldn't help but notice how pretty Anthony's roommate is.

While watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between Anthony and his roommate than met the eye. Reading his mum's thoughts, Anthony volunteered, "I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Maria and I are just roommates."

About a week later, Maria came to Anthony saying, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the silver sugar bowl. You don't suppose she took it, do you?"

"Well, I doubt it, but I'll email her, just to be sure." So he sat down and wrote an email:

Dear Mama,

I'm not saying that you "did" take the sugar bowl from my house; I'm not saying that you "did not" take it. But the fact remains that it has been missing ever since you were here for dinner.

Your Loving Son

Anthony

Several days later, Anthony received a response email from his Mama which

read:

Dear son,

I'm not saying that you "do" sleep with Maria, and I'm not saying that you "do not" sleep with her. But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her OWN bed, she would have found the sugar bowl by now.

Your Loving Mama

Moral: Never Bulla Shita your Mama!

When your teacher wants you to fail

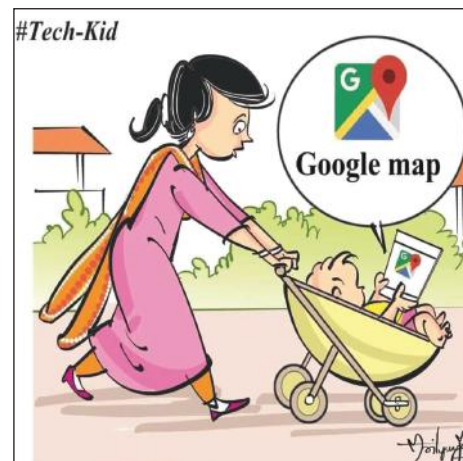
Examination Council of Zambia - Special paper 6

Time: 15 minutes

Answer all questions. Do not turn this paper until you are told to do so. Each question carries 10 marks.

1. Black is a colour and white is also a colour, but black and white television is not a colour television. Discuss, 10 marks.

2. If soap and water makes the body clean, then what makes the towel dirty after a bath? Discuss, 10 marks.



3. Can you trust a nurse whose husband sells coffins?

Discuss, 10 marks.

You are free to use a calculator.

I hate when doctors ask questions like...

Are you sexually active?

Depends on what you mean by "active".

There are plenty of "active" volcanoes that haven't gone off in over 50 years.

A brilliant Idea!

On a routine patrol, a police car parked outside a local neighbourhood bar. The officer noticed a man leaving the bar so intoxicated that he could barely walk.

The man stumbled around the parking lot for a few minutes with the officer quietly observing.

After what seemed an eternity and trying his keys on five different vehicles, the man managed to find his own car which he fell into.

He stayed there for a few minutes as a number of other patrons left the bar and drove off.

Finally, he started the car, switched the wipers on and off (it was a dry night), flicked the hazard flasher on and off, tooted the horn, and then switched on the lights.

He moved the vehicle forward a few inches, reversed a little, and then remained stationary for a few more minutes as more patrons left in their vehicles.

At last, when almost everyone had left, he pulled out of the parking lot and started to drive slowly down the street.

The police officer, having patiently waited all this time, now started up his patrol car, put on the flashing lights, promptly pulled the man over and carried out a breathalyser test.

To his amazement, the breathalyzer indicated no evidence of the man having consumed alcohol at all!

Dumbfounded, the officer said, "I'll have to ask you to accompany me to the police station. This breathalyser equipment must be broken."

"I doubt it," said the man,

"Tonight, I'm the designated decoy. They all got away!"

Another brilliant Idea!

Put the politicians on minimum wage and watch how fast things change.

All Time Short Stories

The Secret to Success

Once a young man asked the wise man, Socrates, the secret to success. Socrates patiently listened to the man's question and told him to meet him near the river the next morning for the answer. The

next morning Socrates asked the young man to walk with him towards the river. As they went in the river the water got up to their neck. But to the young man's surprise Socrates ducked him into the water.

The young man struggled to get out of the water, but Socrates was strong and kept him there until the boy started turning blue. Socrates pulled the man's head out of the water. The young man gasped and took a deep breath of air. Socrates asked, "What did you want the most when your head was in the water?"

The young man replied, "Air." Socrates said, "That is the secret to success. When you want success as badly as you wanted the air while you were in the water, then you will get it. There is no other secret."

Moral of the short story: A burning desire is the starting point of all accomplishment. Just like a small fire cannot give much heat, a weak desire cannot produce great results.

A Strong passion for any object will ensure success, for the desire of the end will point out the means.

- Henry Hazlitt

Monkeys rescue the moon

High in the beautiful mountains, a family of monkeys was playing in the trees. While they were playing, one of them looked down into the well and saw the moon at the bottom of a well.

He called all his monkey friends to show the moon in the well. Very concerned, all the monkeys investigated the moon in the well. An older monkey ran over, looked into the well and said, "Goodness me! The moon is really in the water!"

"The moon is supposed to be in the sky, not inside a well..." thought the monkeys. "The moon must have fallen into the well. We need to get the moon out of the well!" they decided, so they found a bucket and formed a long chain holding onto each other's tails to reach down into the well.

The oldest monkey hanged on the tree upside down, with his feet on the branch. And he pulled the next monkey's feet with his hands. All the other monkeys followed

his suit, and they joined each other one by one down to the moon in the well.

Just as the last monkey could almost scoop the moon into her bucket, the one at the top felt his grip slipping. Suddenly, all



the monkeys tumbled into the well, their bucket flying into the air. As they looked up from the bottom, they saw the moon glistening in the sky.

"A job well done," they congratulated each other. "Now how do we get out of the well?"

The monkeys had not realized that the moon in the well was the mere reflection of the moon in the sky.

Dating trends to look out for in 2022

Dating and relationships have seen a huge shift ever since the pandemic changed our lives completely. Online dating turned up a notch, people started exploring open relationships due to the monotonous lifestyle back at home, and old-school dates took a back seat for now. The dating game has come a long way. Many singles are forever on the hunt to find 'the one' while some are happy being on their own.

In 2021, marriages and relationships saw a lot of arguments, issues and fights but also hearty tears and make ups. The coming year, 2022 will see a change in the dating dynamics. People will be up for more opportunities and they are now, ready more than ever to embrace new aspects of life and relationships. Let's have a look at the dating trends that all of us might get to see, in 2022. A Times of India feature...

Privacy in relationships

In an era where social media rules our lives, many people are looking to protect their privacy more than ever. After being locked down for months with the family, privacy has become a luxury that people are now valuing more than ever. Not necessarily because they are doing something forbidden, but simply because in an era where everybody interferes into each other's businesses through social media, the privacy of doing something and keeping it private has become more and more important, especially when it comes to something as sensitive and personal as dating.

Hobby dates

A large number of people have shown interest in sharing their hobbies and passion with their partners on dating websites. In fact, according to the dating app



He & She

Bumble, in India 52% of the users on the platform are planning their dates around their new hobbies. This is an easy way to get back into dating post-lockdown by doing something you already love and it's a great way to connect over shared interests!

Consciously Single

2021 has taught us that it's completely alright to be alone for a while. So, settling for just anyone shouldn't be a concern anymore. 2022 will be all about finding that 'special someone' not just anyone. According to a survey shared with us by Bumble, "people are consciously making a decision to be single, with the majority of single people are being more mindful and intentional in how, when and who they date."

Resetting the button back to one

People are now more than okay with resetting rela-

tionships back to square one. With a lot of changes during the pandemic, people have learnt to give others more than one chance. Lots of people on Bumble are ready to hit the reset button on their dating journey in the new year. Many want to look for a partner who's emotionally available and who can take care of them, in the darkest times.

Friendships on dating apps

Setting aside dating and relationships, people are tuning into dating apps to find friendships. Friendships are somewhere in between casual and serious dating and this gives immense opportunity for singles to chat, interact and build healthy relationships while not actually dating. This trend might see a surge in 2022!

Virtual dating will always remain significant

The pandemic has kept people closely-knit with the help of social media and online websites where people look to connect with each other. As per Quack Quack, a dating platform, nearly 73% per cent of single people will always see virtual dating as a low-pressure way to sow seeds of love for someone when compared to dating traditionally. While 75% per cent say that it can be a real stress-buster, approximately 61% per cent feel that it is much easier to make connections online, thereby boosting relationships.

Online dating basically solves a problem of loneliness that happens to be compounded, especially now more than ever due to the lethal variants of the Covid-19 virus. It wouldn't be wrong to state that dating platforms are significant tools for building relationships in times of crisis.

Being Mum & Dad

Parenting Trends to Embrace in 2022

The past two years of the pandemic struck everybody really hard. The world stopped going round for a while as all of us were locked down inside our homes. Even though industries, economy and education was affected severely, the home became another battleground for children and parents alike. Most children were cut off from their regular outdoor environment and were confined to home. This confinement not only restricted their physical movement but also mental navigation as interpersonal interaction with peers came to a standstill. In such challenging times, parenting became a tedious job and even though 2021 fared much better for parents and children than 2020, 2022 is sure to be better with new parenting practices that are easy to adopt and practise and leave out the bad ones. Here are the Do's and Don'ts of good parenting for the upcoming year(s), as suggested by the Times of India...

Do: Talking about trauma

In 2022, schools and homes should lay special emphasis on rebuilding a sense of friendship, community and providing children with the consistency and support that they had been lacking so far. Social emotional health and mental health should be the central topics of conversation for children in 2022.

Do: Experience over things

Gifting things that have monetary value or are 'valuable' is always a good idea. However, children value an experience much more than pricey things and have



little sense about money and other material possessions. Gifting them an experience will always remind them of you and the time that you spent together in curating a great

experience for them.

Do: Gender neutral attitude

No more pink for girls and blue for boys, tears for girls and brawn for boys. It is imperative for parents to understand that if they cast their children into boxes, it will make them susceptible targets for society in the future. Giving them freedom of choice, opinion and expression will turn them into groomed individuals who would be aware of their worth.

Don't: Poor listening

A child has a curious mind which is always on the go. Your child would often come to you and ask questions, tell you opinions and ideas and share the most banal experiences with you. No matter how busy you are, making time for your children and listening to them properly is extremely important. If you listen to your child poorly, it will induce feelings of being ignored and can harm the self esteem of the child. It also, obviously, affects the relationship that you and your child share.

Don'ts: Virtual support

Even though all of us could survive last year because of the boons of technology and virtual appointments, meetings and interaction apps, it is high time that we stop the virtual connections and focus on real life experiences that build stronger connections. Parents offering support to their children through online activities and games should focus on personal engagement and quality time to offer support organically.



To be 40 plus and not have a 26-inch waist... can be challenging: Rupali Ganguly

While she has been a part of many successful shows in the past, all that Rupali Ganguly craved was recognition as a versatile actress. So, she is understandably elated about finally getting her due with the TV show, *Anupamaa*, in which she plays the title role. The family drama marked her return to the small screen seven years after she took a break to embrace motherhood, reports Neha Maheshwri of TNN.

She says, "After I quit *Parvarrish* due to my pregnancy, I was busy with my home and my child (Rudransh). I enjoyed every moment of it. However, when Rajan Shahi approached me for this show, the actor in me got greedy. What further piqued my interest was the fact that the concept of the show was in the zone of my father's (Anil Ganguly) films, like *Kora Kagaz*, *Humkadam*, and *Tapasya*. The women in these films were strong and empowered, just like *Anupamaa*. When I spoke to my husband (Ashwin Verma) about it, he told me that I hadn't got my due as an artiste and said, 'You should take it up and make us proud'. He took a break from his work so that I could get back to acting. In short, he gave me the wings to fly."

The show with a protagonist in her 40s has struck a chord with the audience. Rupali says, "To be 40 plus and not have a 26-inch waist when you're playing the lead can be challenging at times. I always wondered if it would work. You can't predict the fate of a show. I still can't believe it's happening to me and hope the bubble doesn't burst."

Rupali further adds, "I feel blessed and am filled with gratitude for this opportunity to return to TV after seven years with a role like this and getting a chance to prove myself. I have been part of some fantastic shows and played great characters, including a double role in *Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahi* and a negative one in *Sanjivani* because I was bored of playing positive characters. Then I was inundated with negative characters, but I didn't want to repeat myself. Every artiste vies for that one role, which takes her a level up, where people start recognising your work and acknowledging the fact that you are a good actor."

Talking about the way her career has shaped up over the years, she shares, "There were some people who thought that I was just a fluke. But with *Anupamaa*, they sat up, took notice, and admitted that there is somebody called Rupali Ganguly, who

acts well. While Monisha in *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai* got me noticed, *Anupamaa* has given me the platform I've always craved. I am glad that I have left a mark. My epitaph will perhaps read — here lies Monisha Sarabhai and Anupamaa. Despite not being conventionally good-looking, I have finally been recognised for my talent."

Rupali married businessman Ashwin K Verma in 2013. Rudransh, was born in 2015.

Rupali wants her son to be a farmer

Rupali said in a statement to Indo-Asian News Service in 2018: "Rudransh is too young to decide what he wants to be when he grows up. I would love it if my son becomes a farmer in today's day and age. Everyone wants to reach corporate high points and make a mark in showbiz via sports or films... The glamour is definitely enticing, but I really want him to be a farmer - 'farmers nahi honge toh khayengekya' (if we don't have farmers how will we get food to eat)".

"Even the farmers' new generations today don't want to carry on farming, but that is my thought. His father wants him to become a military man like his grandfather... that is his wish. And my little Rudransh wants to become a jeep driver at the moment," she added.

Cinema Sirsa

Castel – Tel Nos – 6867356 / 6971613 / 59119396 / 57069330

MOVIE '83' - Featuring Ranveer Singh & Deepika Padukone

Friday 24 to Saturday 25 Dec	- 13:15/20:15
Sunday 26 Dec	- 13:15/16:15/20:15
Monday 27 to Thursday 30 Dec	- 13:15/20:15

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Your home life may be in danger if you don't succeed rapidly in getting rid of the hold of your mother or of another person of your own family, especially if he/she acts incorrectly and behaves in your home as in his/her conquered land. Protect your vital space.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 14, 20, 26, 29, 30

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

The astral climate of the week won't be fantastically favourable to you. Your contacts with others will be difficult; much nervousness in the air. Don't allow anybody to mingle with your personal affairs; for this, don't talk too much, remain discreet.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 5, 14, 20, 33, 39

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

You'll know sentimental difficulties. With time, things will calm down and you won't have to complain any more. You'll work hard in order to achieve your professional objectives rapidly.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 16, 32, 39, 40

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Luck will support you in an insolent manner, allowing you to increase your gains sensibly with a minimum of efforts. However, it'll be necessary to avoid letting yourself be intoxicated with success, falling into the trap of an easy life.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 12, 18, 20, 33, 36

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Financially, you'll be no doubt more at ease because you can carry out some good business deals. Confident in your rich experience of life, you won't hesitate to give your close ones and friends counsels full of common sense.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 10, 18, 21, 30

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

A great many natives of the sign might know problems in their home: possible conflicts with the parents or children for all kinds of reasons, difficulties to conciliate private life and work, etc. Cope with these difficulties calmly.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 17, 19, 20, 25

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You'll be inclined to ask the impossible from your mate and will be surprised if he/she can't satisfy you; try to be more reasonable. You can distinguish yourself in your career; your notoriousness and prestige will be on the upswing.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 13, 16, 21, 30

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You'll need to be the target of much attention and solicitude. At times, however, the persons whom you trust will let you down and you'll feel profoundly bitter about this. The help of your close ones will be very useful, if not indispensable, to recover your serenity.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 8, 19, 23, 27

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Show gentleness in your sentimental relationships; any brutal reaction, even though it's justified or understandable, might turn against you. It will be in your interest to react by becoming conscious of your beautiful qualities.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 16, 17, 21, 23

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

If the negotiations you're conducting now drag on, make the necessary concessions so as to bring them to success. Your hectic life cannot but lead to nervous fatigue which you must take into account; you'll be compelled to rest and relax.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 11, 20, 23, 26, 19

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Expect radical upheavals in your affective life: love at first sight, sentimental tornado, possibility of a drastic change. Certain natives will make an encounter which will open everything to question; others will make a sudden decision which might be a lasting engagement.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 19, 25, 30, 32

Scorpio: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You'll have the possibility to conclude a very important business deal or to give the finishing touch to a project which has cost you much time and effort. On the whole, you'll harvest the fruits of what you will have sown.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 18, 20, 21, 27, 30

7 Top Upcoming Bollywood Films 2022

A variety of wonderful upcoming Bollywood films will entice viewers across the world in 2022. From a production point of view, Yash Rash Films will dominate the Hindi film scene. Top stars will once again come into the limelight. These upcoming Bollywood films will make their way not just in cinemas but also digitally. We take a closer look at the best upcoming Bollywood films that are a must-watch.



Gangubai Kathiawadi

Director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali

Cast: Alia Bhatt, Shantanu Maheshwari, Vijay Raaz, Indira Tiwari, Seema Pahwa

Gangubai Kathiawadi is a Hindi crime drama biopic under the direction of super filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

Alia Bhatt headlines the film, portraying the main character of Gangubai Kathiawadi with Shantanu Maheshwari playing her on-screen boyfriend, Ramnik Lal.

Vijay Raaz, Indira Tiwari and Seema Pahwa also play key roles in the film. Additionally, Ajay Devgn, Emraan Hashmi and Huma Qureshi have slightly longer guest appearances.

The film takes inspiration from the book, *Mafia Queen of Mumbai* (2011) by Hussain Zaidi.

The story follows a young gang who in a very short time stamps her authority as Gangubai. From being a prostitute, she rises to become the madam of Kamathipura's red-light area.

Alia went on Instagram to acknowledge the filmmaker and her voyage with this film: "Being directed by sir has been a dream all my life, but I don't think anything would have prepared me for the journey I was on for these two years..."

The official trailer of the film came out on February 24, 2021.

Prithviraj

Director: Chandraprakash Dwivedi

Cast: Akshay Kumar, Manushi Chhillar, Sanjay Dutt, Sonu Sood, Ashutosh Rana, Manav Vij

Prithviraj is an epic action drama with a historical perspective. Chandraprakash Dwivedi of *Pinjar* (2007) fame is the director, with it being a Yash Raj Films production.

The movie revolves around the life of Prithviraj Chauhan, a Rajput King, and Prithviraj Raso, a grand western Hindi language poem.

Akshay Kumar plays the lead character of Prithviraj Chauhan. Manushi Chhillar portrays the role of Sanyogita, making her debut in a Hindi film.

The official trailer of the film became available via YouTube on November 15, 2021.

Despite many criticising Akshay, social worker Adeya Chowdhury came to his rescue, posting on YouTube:

"I'm waiting for this movie for almost 3 years and being a fan of both Akshay Kumar and great Indian ruler

Prithviraj Chauhan can't miss it..."

The makers of the film have gone on to sign an exclusive deal with Amazon Prime India for global streaming rights.

Jayeshbhai Jordaar

Director: Divyang Thakkar

Cast: Ranveer Singh, Shalini Pandey, Boman Irani, Ratna Pathak Shah

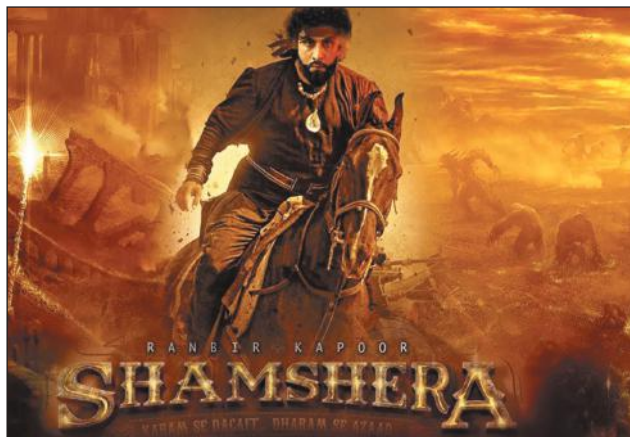
Jayeshbhai Jordaar is Hindi comedy film with a social message to it.

Divyang Thakkar who has a proven track record in Gujarati cinema is the director of the film. The movie is also a Yash Raj Films production.

Ranveer Singh plays the lead titular character of Jayesh Parekh/Jayeshbhai Jordaar. He is a Gujarati individual who promotes gender equality in society.

Making her Hindi film debut is Shalini Pandey as Kinjal Ajmera. Key supporting acts come from Boman Irani (Mithilesh Parekh) and Ratna Pathak Shah (Jalpa Parekh).

They are playing the respective parents of Jayesh. The shooting of the film has taken place in Mumbai and Gujarat.



Shamsher

Director: Karan Malhotra

Cast: Ranbir Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, Vaani Kapoor

Shamsher is a Hindi historical drama, with Karan Malhotra taking the director's chair. Ranbir Kapoor, Vaani Kapoor and Sanjay Dutt star in this mega-action entertaining spectacle.

Ranbir has a double role as the title character and his son Bali. Vaani portrays the role of Bali's younger sister, Mrignayani.

Sanjay also has a pivotal role as Shuddh Singh, the main negative character of the film.

Vaani had taken her role very professionally and seriously by taking kathak classes. She earlier told the media:

"Since *Shamsher* is set in a particular time, the dance sequences require me to have a very Indian, very classical body language, which is why I started taking kathak classes to learn the nuances and the grace.

"Karan specifically wanted me to adapt to a more traditional Indian dance form and break from the Western style to do justice to the choreography that is being set for me."

Lal Singh Chaddha

Director: Advait Chandan

Cast: Aamir Khan, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Mona Singh

Lal Singh Chaddha is one of the most awaited upcoming Bollywood films of 2022.

The official remake of the American movie, *Forrest*

Gump (1994), *Lal Singh Chaddha* is a comedy film.

Advait Chandan who became popular after directing *Secret Superstar* (2017) is the director of the film. Atul Kulkarni, an Indian actor is a debutant writer for this film.

Aamir Khan features in the title role, with Kareena Kapoor portraying his on-screen wife, Maneela Sodhi.

Mona Singh takes on the character of Chaddha's younger sister, Pinky Kaur. Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan will also have cameo appearances in the film.

The shooting took place in more than 100 locations, including Chandigarh and Delhi, along with Turkey.

Madaan

Director: Amit Ravindernath Sharma

Cast: Ajay Devgn, Priyamani, Gajraj Rao

Madaan is a sports biographical movie, which has been directed by *Badhaai Ho* (2018) national-winning director Amit Ravindernath Sharma.

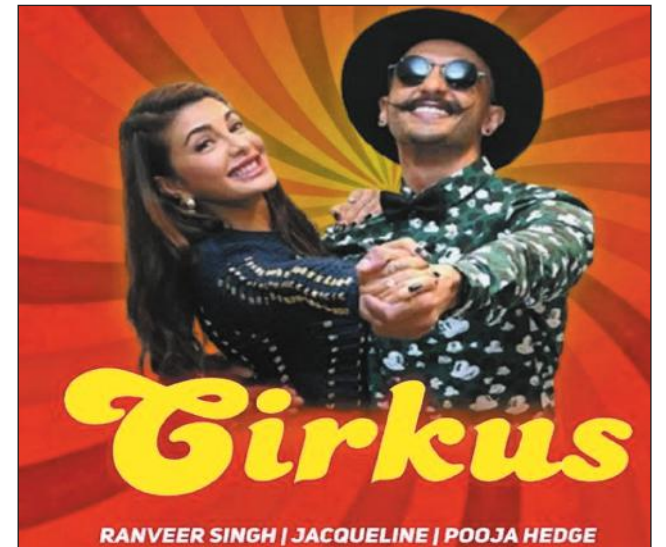
The film is a production of Zee Studios and Bayview Projects, as well as contributions from Akash Chawla, Boney Kapoor and Arunava Joy Sengupta.

The film takes inspiration from the golden era of Indian football, particularly former coach Syed Abdul Rahim, who had a big impact in popularising football in India.

The film follows the era between the early 50s and 60s. Ajay Devgn (Syed Abdul Rahim) features in the film as the famous manager.

Priyamani and Gajraj Rao, also have significant roles in *Madaan*. Ajay went on Twitter to share a few pictures of the film, showing the actor with a football and the players.

Football lovers will enjoy this film, as well as Ajay Devgn fans.



Cirkus

Director: Rohit Shetty

Cast: Ranveer Singh, Pooja Hedge, Jacqueline Fernandez

Cirkus is a comedy film in the Hindi language, helmed by Rohit Shetty. It is a production involving Reliance Entertainment, T-Series and Rohit Shetty Pictures.

For the first-ever time, Ranveer Singh plays a double part in the film. The female leads in the film include Pooja Hedge and Jacqueline Fernandez.

Ajay Devgn and Deepika Padukone have cameo appearances in the film too. The film shooting has taken place in Mumbai and Ooty. The film will be similar to *Angoor* (1982).

There are some other interesting films, releasing in 2022. These include *Bachchan Pandey*, *Runway 34* and *Doctor G*.

CINE 2

vendredi 24 décembre - 21.15

Almost
CHRISTMAS

Oh, the joy of family.



samedi 25 décembre - 21.00



CINE 2

dimanche 26 décembre - 21.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 24 décembre

MBC 1

07.00 D.Anime: The Hive
09.00 Film: Elf Day
10.11 D.Anime: Dragons: Gift Of...
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
13.00 Local: Sur Un Air De Noël
14.30 Serial: Harvey Girls Forever!
14.52 D.Anime: Booba
13.05 Local: Enn Nwel Larc En Ciel
15.22 Film: An Elf's Story
15.50 Film: Trollie
17.20 Serial: My Perfect Landing
17.45 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Surya Puran
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa
Vaishnodevi
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.29 Local: Sur Un Air De Noël
21.30 Serial: 19-2
23.00 Le Journal

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Bisaat-E-Dil
11.01 Tawaan
12.00 Film: Kaatru Veliyidai
Starring: Karthi, Aditi Rao Hydari
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.42 Serial: Bava Maradallu
16.07 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.25 Serial: Juda Na Hona
16.47 Serial: Imtihaan
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.25 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
19.05 Zournal Kreol
19.26 Serial: Radha Krishna
19.58 Serial: AAS (URDU Serial)
20.46 Local: Anjuman
21.11 Local: Urdu Programme

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today
07.52 Doc: Snapshots
09.00 Educa Prog: Grade 5
11.30 Educa Prog: Grade 8
14.03 Doc: Comme Une Envie De...
14.53 Doc: The Maras
15.36 Doc: Crash
17.30 Mag: Shift
17.42 Mag: Sur Mesure
18.00 Island Of White Antelopes
18.45 Mag: World Stories
19.30 Mag: Euromaxx
20.05 Doc: Volcano Stories
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: Wedding The French...
21.39 Doc: Innovation On Board
22.06 Doc: Dying For Gold
22.48 Doc: Science Ou Fiction
23.38 Doc: Island Of White Ante...
00.20 Mag: World Stories

Cine 12

01.28 Film: Signed, Sealed...
02.51 Serial: S.W.A.T
03.33 Film: La Fille Du Père Noël
05.01 Tele: Muneca Brava
05.40 Serial: Elementary
06.48 Film: Signed, Sealed...
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T
12.00 Film: La Fille Du Père Noël
13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: Signed, Sealed...
16.35 Serial: The Good Doctor
17.21 Serial: Elementary
18.10 Tele: Teresa
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.34 Mag: Cinemag
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Timeless
21.15 Film: Almost Christmas
Avec: Kimberly Elise, Danny Glover...

Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Hote Hote Pyar Ho
Gaya
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Kajol
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.33 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.00 / 22.30 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 23.00 - Chhanchhan
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Hum Hain Rahi
Pyaar Ke
Starring: Aamir Khan, Juhi
Chawla
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi

samedi 25 décembre

06.04 D.Anime: Invention Story
06.29 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
06.53 D.Anime: Booba
07.12 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...
07.45 D.Anime: The Hive
08.10 Film: The Star
09.34 Film: An Elf's Story
10.00 Mag: Human Nature
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Teresa
14.45 Serial: Les Copains Carlins
15.20 D.Anime: How To Train Your
15.45 Film: Nicolas Noël
17.05 Serial: Hank Zipzer
17.35 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous
18.00 Samachar
18.35 Magazine
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.25 Local: Sur Un Air De Noël
20.30 Message De La Noël Du
President De La Republique
22.30 Film: A Cowgirl??S Story

07.00 Film: Victoria No 203
09.29 Mag: DDI Magazine
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.03 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare
12.17 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.45 Serial: High School
13.02 Annakodiyum Ainthu
Pengalum
13.27 Anu Pallavi
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: Shortcut Safari
Starring: Jimmy Sheirgill, Aashi
Rawal, Sharvil Patel
18.10 DDI Magazine
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki
Rahasya Gatha
20.28 Serial: Bitti Business
21.00 Film: Game Over
22.39 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Island Of White Ante...
06.42 Mag: World Stories
06.55 Mag: Our Voices
07.50 Doc: Volcano Stories
09.08 Doc: Innovation On Board
10.22 Doc: Science Ou Fiction
11.15 Doc: Island Of White Ante...
12.10 Mag: Our Voices
13.31 Doc: Wedding The French...
15.00 Student Support Prog...
18.33 Mag: In Good Shape
19.04 Magazine: Trend Book
19.34 Mag: Check In
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 The True Story Of Santa...
22.10 Love Around The World
22.53 Doc: Frozen Requiem
23.35 Mag: Future Mag
00.05 Mag: In Good Shape
00.30 Mag: Trend Book
00.55 Mag: Check In
01.21 Mag: Sky Eye

01.32 Film: Almost Christmas
03.23 Serial: Seal Team
04.04 Serial: The Magicians
05.28 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.09 Serial: Timeless
06.51 Serial: Blacklist
08.30 Serial: Macgyver
09.17 Serial: The Magicians
09.59 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
10.40 Film: It's Christmas Eve
13.00 Serial: Seal Team
13.41 Serial: S.W.A.T
15.13 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.39 Film: Spider-Man:
Homecoming
18.49 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
19.34 Mag: Cinemag
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Series: Timeless
21.15 Film: Un Hotel Pour Deux A
Noel
Starring: Jonna Walsh, Jesse Hutch...

04.05 Radha Krishna
04.36 Anupamaa
05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur...
05.33 Agnihera
06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan
06.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
06.38 Chhanchhan
06.57 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
07.18 Siddhi Vinayak
08.02 Yeh Teri Galiyan
10.01 Motu Patlu
10.12 Siddhi Vinayak
12.01 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.00 Anupamaa
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Aabra Ka Daabra
Star: Karan, Shweta Tiwari
21.05 Serial: Namah
21.26 Serial: Naagin Season 3

dimanche 26 décembre

06.00 D.Anime: Invention Story
06.29 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
06.53 D.Anime: Booba
07.00 D.Anime: Rev & Roll
09.30 Local: Saver Kiltirel
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
11.00 Local: Sur Un Air De Noël
12.00 Le Journal
12.40 Tele: Teresa
13.50 Local: Elle - No 169
15.20 D.Anime: The Adventures of
Puss In Boots
15.45 Film: The Christmas Trade
17.20 Serial: Hank Zipzer
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Local: Varietes Avec Robert...
21.25 Film: Flawless
Starring: Demi Moore, Michael
Caine, Lambert Wilson

07.00 Film: Aaj Ka M.L.A Ram
Avtar
10.00 Local Prod
11.00 Serial: Azhagu
11.22 Jag Jaanani Maa
Vaishnodevi
12.10 Film: Sanju
Stars: Ranbir Kapoor, Paresh
Rawal, Manisha Koirala
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
15.45 Serial: He Mann Baware
16.12 Serial: Sondha Bandham
17.21 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
18.00 DDI Magazine
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
20.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...
20.48 Serial: CID
21.33 Serial: Naagin Season 2
22.19 Serial: Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki

06.00 Mag: Future Mag
06.55 Magazine: Trend Book
07.21 Mag: Check In
08.57 Les Montagnes Du Monde
09.39 Doc: Love Around The World
10.21 Doc: Frozen Requiem
11.37 Mag: In Good Shape
12.03 Magazine: Trend Book
12.37 Mag: Check In
13.21 The True Story Of Santa
14.46 Love Around The World
18.33 Mag: Future Mag
19.00 Magazine: The Inside Story
19.33 Doc: Comme Une Envie...
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.45 Japan From Above
21.37 The Language Of Whales
22.19 Doc: India's Nomads
23.02 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail
23.44 Mag: Magnifique
00.10 Mag: Future Mag

01.33 Film: Un Hotel Pour Deux A
Noel
03.40 Film: A Cowgirl??S
05.02 Tele: Tanto Amor
05.44 Serial: Timeless
06.40 Film: Signed, Sealed...
08.30 Serial: Macgyver
09.19 Film: Love For Christmas
10.42 Film: Spider-Man:
Homecoming
12.57 Serial: Dynasty 2
13.27 Serial: S.W.A.T
15.40 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.55 Serial: Last Resort
17.02 Serial: Timeless
17.42 Serial: Dynasty 2
18.30 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Les Proies
21.15 Film: Christmas Jars
Avec: Jeni Ross, Markian Tarasiuk

01.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
02.38 Bhakharwadi
04.31 Anupamaa
06.15 Pavitra Rishta
08.00 Motu Patlu
08.11 Ikyawann
10.00 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
12.00 Piya Albela
14.00 Agnihera
16.29 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Film: Jabariya Jodi
Starring: Sidharth
Malhotra, Parineeti Chopra,
Javed Jaffrey
20.45 Naagin Season 3
21.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.11 Serial: Piya Albela

lundi 27 décembre

06.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
06.27 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
06.50 Local: Retrovizer
07.12 D.Anime: The Hive
09.05 Film: Toys & Pets
10.45 Serial: Superstore
11.05 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
14.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
14.30 D.Anime: Harvey Girls For...
15.20 D.Anime: Astrology
15.22 D.Anime: The Adventure Of...
17.20 Serial: My Perfect Landing
17.45 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Namah
19.30 Le Journal
20.40 MBC Production
21.10 Film: The Magical Christmas
Star: Erin Karpluk, Damon Runyan

09.00 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi
09.22 Serial: Tik Tak Tail
09.29 Serial: Inspector Chingum
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
12.10 Film: Samadhi
Stars: Dharmendra, Asha
Parekh, Jaya Bhaduri
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.52 Serial: Bommarillu
16.15 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.34 Serial: Juda Na Hona
16.56 Serial: Imtihaan
17.34 Serial: Vandhal Sridevi
18.03 Serial: Colourful Bone
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.31 Film: Tenali Ramakrishna
Starring: Sundeep Kishan,
Hansika Motwani, Varalaxmi
22.35 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Magnifique
06.55 Magazine: The Inside Story
07.21 Mag: Comme Une Envie...
09.00 The Language Of Whales
11.19 Mag: Magnifique
13.36 Doc: Japan From Above
14.28 The Language Of Whales
15.53 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail
16.38 Mag: Magnifique
17.05 Mag: Future Mag
18.03 Mag: Eco@Africa
18.30 Mag: Destination Culture
19.00 Mag: Africa 54
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
20.01 Local: Encounter
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.45 Doc: Les Artisans Du Rebut
Global
21.37 Mag: Washington Forum
22.01 Documentary
00.07 Mag: Eco@Africa

01.31 Film: Christmas Jars
03.40 Film: The Christmas Trade
05.16 Tele: Muneca Brava
05.53 Serial: Les Proies
06.34 Film: Christmas Jars
09.00 Serial: The Good Doctor
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.39 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T
11.54 Film: The Chritmas Trade
13.30 Serial: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: The Christmas Trade
16.45 Serial: The Good Doctor
17.26 Serial: Les Proies
18.08 Tele: Teresa
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Blacklist
21.15 Film: King Solomon's Mines
Avec: Patrick Swayze, Alison
Doody, Roy Marsden

08.00 Film: Vir: The Robot Boy
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.33 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.00 / 22.30 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.12 Film: Haan Maine Bhi
Pyaar Kiya
Starring: Akshay Kumar,
Abhishek Bachchan, Karisma
Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi

mbc:1
mardi 28 décembre - 21.10



mbc:1
mercredi 29 décembre - 21.15



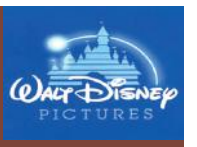
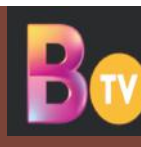
mbc:2
jeudi 30 décembre - 21.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
mardi 28 décembre 06.00 Local: Rodrig - Akoustic 07.00 D.Anime: The Hive 07.21 D.Anime: Splash And Bubble 09.00 Film: Ogre 10.40 Serial: Superstore 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Local: Come On Let's Dance 14.30 D.Anime: Harvey Girls... 14.50 D.Anime: Booba 15.22 D.Anime: The Adventures.. 15.50 Film: A Dog And Pony Show 17.24 Serial: My Perfect Landing 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.15 Local: Priorite Sante 21.10 Film: Slumdog Millionaire Starring: Dev Patel, Freida Pinto	mardi 28 décembre 07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: CID 12.00 Film: Aap Aye Bahaar Ayee Starring Rajendra Kumar, Sadhana, Prem Chopra 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Bommarillu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.25 Juda Na Hona 16.49 Serial: Imtihaan 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Pyaar Diwana Starring Kishore Kumar, Mumtaz	mardi 28 décembre 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.26 Mag: Destination Culture 07.47 Doc: Les Artisans Du Rebut 09.00 Documentary 11.38 Mag: Destination Culture 13.50 Mag: Washington Forum 16.25 Mag: Eco@Africa 16.50 Mag: Destination Culture 18.26 Mag: Healthy Living 19.00 Mag: Check In 19.30 Mag: Made In Germany 20.30 Local Prod: News (English) 20.45 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 21.11 Mag: Close Up 21.39 Local: Klip Seleksion 22.21 Documentary 23.45 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 00.11 Mag: Healthy Living 00.26 Mag: Red Carpet 00.41 Mag: Check In	mardi 28 décembre 01.28 Film: King Solomon's Mines 02.55 Serial: S.W.A.T 03.36 Film: Trollie 05.01 Tele: Muneca Brava 05.47 Serial: Blacklist 06.53 Film: King Solomon's Mines 09.00 Serial: The Good Doctor 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T 12.00 Film: Trollie 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.17 Mag: Cinemag 14.45 Film: King Solomon's Mines 16.41 Serial: The Good Doctor 17.22 Serial: Blacklist 18.05 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 21.15 Film: Les Douze Coups De Minuit	mardi 28 décembre 07.01 Film: Haan Maine Bhi Pyaar Kiya Cast: Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Karisma Kapoor 11.30 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna 11.59 / 20.57 - Anupamaa 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 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 14.53 / 22.25 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.25 Film: Jajantaram Mamantaram Star: Jaaved Jaffrey, Gulshan Grover 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
mercredi 29 décembre 06.30 Local: Priorite Sante 07.00 D.Anime: The Hive 07.18 D.Anime: The Twisted... 07.55 D.Anime: Gummibar & Friends 09.00 Film: 00K9 - Double O.K Nine 10.40 Serial: Superstore 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Local: Elle - Special Chris... 14.00 Local: Priorite Sante 14.30 D.Anime: Harvey Girls... 14.54 D.Anime: Booba 15.20 D.Anime: The Adventure... 15.50 Film: Sissi - The Young... 17.20 Serial: My Perfect Landing 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.15 Local: Retrospective 2021 21.10 Film: Bleeding Steel	mercredi 29 décembre 07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha... 12.00 Film: Gunahon Ka Devta Starring Jeetendra, Rajshree 14.00 DDI Magazine 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.26 Aamhi Doghi 15.46 Bommarillu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.25 Juda Na Hona 16.49 Serial: Imtihaan 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Kulvadh 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Programme In Marathi 20.30 Film: Golden Ninja Warrior Chinese film 22.13 DDI Live	mercredi 29 décembre 06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto... 06.26 Mag: Healthy Living 07.25 Mag: Made In Germany 07.51 Magazine 09.13 Local: Klip Seleksion 11.48 Mag: Healthy Living 14.33 Local: Klip Seleksion 15.19 Documentary 16.43 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 17.24 Mag: Check In 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 19.00 Mag: Arts.21 19.30 Mag: The Inside Story 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Olivia's Garden 21.11 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.03 Documentary 23.27 Mag: Motorweek 23.53 Mag: Vous Et Nous 00.20 Mag: Arts.21 00.46 Mag: The Inside Story 01.12 Mag: Trend Book	mercredi 29 décembre 01.28 Film: Les Douze Coups De... 03.08 Serial: S.W.A.T 03.51 Film: A Cowgirl??S Story 05.22 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.04 Serial: Blacklist 06.49 Film: Les Douze Coups De... 09.10 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T 12.00 Film: A Cowgirl??S Story 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.46 Film: Les Douze Coups De... 16.40 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 17.20 Serial: Blacklist 18.08 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: Elementary 21.15 Film: Split 22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.54 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami	mercredi 29 décembre 07.00 Film: Jajantaram Mamantaram Star: Jaaved Jaffrey, Gulshan Grover 11.31 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna 11.51 / 20.26 - Anupamaa 12.23 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad.. 12.47 / 20.46 - Agniphera 13.29 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.51 / 21.50 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 14.47 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.25 Film: Aamdani Atthanni Kharcha Rupaiya 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ishaaroon Ishaaron... 19.30 Bhakharwadi 20.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
jeudi 30 décembre 06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.40 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin 07.15 D. Anime: The Twisted... 09.00 Film: The Emoji Movie 10.45 Serial: Superstore 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 14.00 Local: Les Papilles En Fete 14.33 D.Anime: Harvey Girls... 15.20 D.Anime: Astrology 15.50 Film: Holiday Joy 17.20 Serial: My Perfect Landing 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 20.15 Film: Khaali Peeli Cast : Ananya Panday, Ishaan Khatter, Jaideep Ahlawat 23.00 Le Journal	jeudi 30 décembre 07.00 DDI Live 09.00 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi 10.10 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 12.00 Film: Aanchal 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Serial: Bommarillu 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.27 Serial: Juda Na Hona 16.48 Serial: Imtihaan 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.30 Local: Amrit Vaani 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da... 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.33 Magazine 21.27 Film: Blade Runner 2049 Star: Ryan Gosling, Harrison Ford, Ana de Armas, Sylvia Hoeks, Robin Wright	jeudi 30 décembre 06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous 07.19 Mag: The Inside Story 07.49 Doc: Trend Book 09.00 Mag: Focus On Europe 09.31 Doc: Nepal - Children Of... 13.44 Mag: Initiative Africa 15.21 Doc: Hunting In The Arctic 16.17 Mag: Motorweek 16.43 Mag: Vous Et Nous 18.00 Mag: Eco India 19.00 Mag: Border Crossing 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Comme Un Envie De Jardins 21.36 Doc: Extreme Tourism 22.18 Doc: Riding The Rails... 23.01 Doc: Nollywood 00.09 Mag: Eco India 00.35 Mag: Shift	jeudi 30 décembre 00.20 Serial: Elementary 04.00 Film: Jonathan 05.37 Tele: Muneca Brava 06.19 Serial: Elementary 07.00 Film: Flawless 09.00 Serial: Pure Genius 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T 12.00 Film: Jonathan 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: Flawless 16.34 Serial: Pure Genius 17.21 Serial: Elementary 18.05 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages... 20.30 Serial: Elementary 21.15 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man 22.23 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.02 Serial: Pure Genius	jeudi 30 décembre 07.30 Film: Aamdani Atthanni Kharcha Rupaiya 12.20 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna 13.01 / 20.11 - Anupamaa 13.28 / 20.32 - Mere Sai 14.04 / 21.09 - Agniphera 14.34 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.55 / 21.50 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.21 Film: Genius Starring: Utkarsh Sharma, Ishitha Chauhan, Mithun Chakraborty 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.29 Bhakharwadi

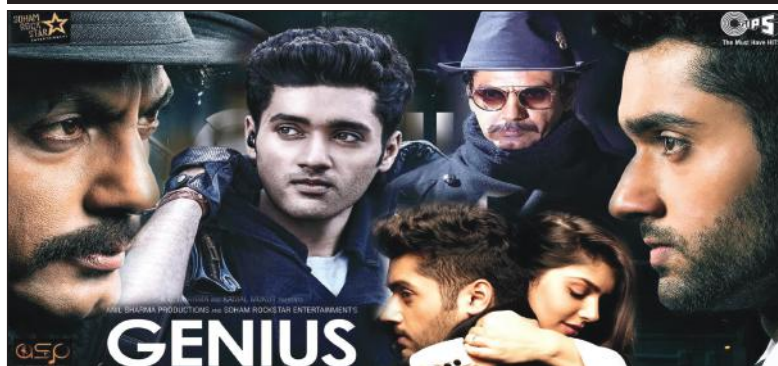


Jeudi 30 décembre -
15.30

Star: Rishi Kapoor, Sridevi, Suresh Oberoi, Mohnish Bahl



Jeudi 30 décembre - Stars: Ananya Panday, Ishaan Khatter, Jaideep Ahlawat
20.35



What capitalism can learn from the religions of the world

When the corporate culture can so often seem rotten from the head down, faiths are there to remind us that businesses can be so much more



Atul K. Shah
Professor, Accounting and
Finance, City,
University of London

It may be the season for peace on Earth and goodwill to all men, but you don't have to look very far in the financial pages to find stories about businesses doing exactly the opposite. NatWest, for example, has just agreed to pay US\$35 million (£26 million) to the US authorities after pleading guilty to fraudulent activities in the financial markets.

KPMG, one of the largest professional services firms in the world, has temporarily resigned from bidding for UK government contracts. It is under pressure from the authorities to reform after being fined £13 million by an industry tribunal for serious misconduct relating to the collapse of bedmaker Silentnight, and an investigation by the Financial Reporting Council that has found that KPMG partners provided false and misleading information during routine audit inspections.



come to light: a change of the rules here, a fine there, a temporary ban on bidding for contracts somewhere else.

Unfortunately something deeper is required. Here there are similarities to the huge debate about how to move to net zero emissions. Most of the emphasis is on moving to net zero technologies like wind farms or electric vehicles, rather than addressing the underlying problem of the corporation's fundamental relationship with nature.

Whether we are talking about carbon emissions or corporate executives acting ethically, the issue is the same: economics and business have become a chainsaw on

practices, and Christmas is intended to be a time for charity and generosity. It teaches us to control our greed, to experience interdependence and the joy of giving.

The Dharmic traditions of India - Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and my own tradition, Jainism - have never treated animals and nature as separate from humanity. It was under the Bodhi tree that the Buddha attained enlightenment. Trees provide safe havens to birds without charging them for parking, and offer them the choicest fruits without trying to turn themselves into restaurants.

Trees stand firm even on hot days, freely giving shade to those who come under their embrace. The interdependence of sun, soil and rain is understood by the tree. The silent actions of trees give us a timeless science of non-violence (ahimsa), non-possession (aparigraha) and humility (namrata).

At root, money has always been a medium of exchange, a fiction which we humans have created to help us deal with everyday needs. Its value derives from the trust that we give to each other. The more we turn money into a factual, materialistic and overarching reality, the more insecure and selfish we become as a society.

Financial institutions and professions have forgotten these basic truths about the nature and limits of money. They have distanced themselves from the trust, relationships and conscience which ought to be central to how it is handled. Too often they have become the vehicles for spreading distrust and inequality, by using their political and economic power to benefit themselves at the expense of nature and society.

India invented the zero, and it also has thousands of saints who even today live

with zero wealth. These people are devoted to exploring the possibilities of inner security and freedom that lies beyond material existence.

In a similar way, the corporate world and finance education needs to go back to the fundamentals of money and its social roots to renew its culture. We have heard a lot about the need to transition to net zero emissions, but we also need to try and bring about a contented and sharing culture. Business needs to live in harmony with animals and nature, help support the weak and enable everyone to survive, not just a chosen few.

Poem

The Nightmare Before Christmas

Christmas is more than a day in
December

It is all those things we love to
remember

It is a special time for families as they
plan parties and get together

This year things will be different

Hugs and kisses replaced by zoom
and phone calls

No bells ringing or Christmas
carols singing

Mesmerising varieties of decorations
will go unnoticed

From wreaths to bows, tinsels
and stockings

No crowds to admire festive lights
and decorations

Festivities suspended due to
Covid restrictions

Restrictions impacting upon our
daily lives

With measuring social distance
as a rule

We live in fear of hugging and sitting
next to each other

It's a virus of uncertainty and fear
Reading 'It was the night before
Christmas

A visit from St Nicholas'

Parents will tell kids forget the cookies

Leave Santa a mask and
sanitiser instead

And what about the reindeer they said

But let us not forget

It's the season to be jolly

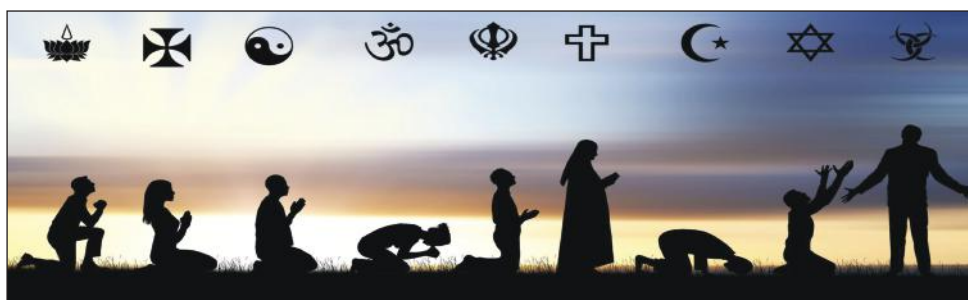
Don't be gloomy

It's the season for warmth, laughter
and good cheer

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas

And Happy New Year

Sonakshi Seetohul



Meanwhile, chief executives and other corporate insiders have offloaded a record US\$69 million in shares in 2021. Much of this is through a legitimate type of insider trading in the US, where executives use a system known as 10b5-1 plans to sell shares even when they have material information about the business which has not been publicly disclosed. This has prompted hasty new proposals from the US authorities to clamp down on how such sales can be carried out.

All these activities fly in the face of the high standards of integrity and protection of the public interest that are supposed to exist among banks, listed companies and consultancies. It's tempting to think that there is a simple solution when such things

the very fabric of our interconnected world. We cannot escape a fundamental re-examination of our beliefs about money, markets, and a transactional, individualist and competitive society.

Learning from religion

Fortunately for us, faiths have been reflecting on the nature and limits of money for hundreds of years. They see business as a servant of society, never its master. Ancient traditions give us a caring and respectful attitude to planet Earth, where human greed is restrained, and kindness and compassion towards all living beings encouraged.

In Christianity, caring for the weak and the poor has always been central to its