

# MAURITIUS TIMES

- "It's the details and the human element that makes 'Recount' entertaining. Even though we know how the election ends, it plays like a thriller. It's also funny." -- Kevin Spacey

Interview : Jean Claude de l'Estrac

**« Si les élections devaient se tenir ce dimanche, le MSM les remporterait.**

Mais elles vont se tenir dans trois ans. On verra si Pravind Jugnauth est un marathonien»

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## Opinion

**Sanctity of The Vote**



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## Breakfast With Bwana

**Why does Trump continue to hold sway over his gullible followers?**



By Anil Madan 📖 See Page 7-8



## Corruption Index & Freedom of Information

**M**auritius takes the 49th place on the latest Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. The country progresses by one point and falls below the bar of the 50 least corrupt countries in the world. Mauritius moves up to 4th in Africa with an index of 54, doing better than Rwanda. Even though money laundering is not among the crimes taken into account by the Index, Transparency Mauritius maintains that the measures taken by Mauritius to get out of the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has undoubtedly had a positive, albeit marginal, effect on the country's ranking.

This is not really cause for rejoicing since ground realities here and the present government's track record of fighting corrupt and fraudulent practices tell a different story. The perversion of Public Procurement procedures through various means by marauding top echelons in major purchasing Ministries as evidenced by the most recent Emergency Procurements of drugs and medical equipment, the CEB corruption scandal highlighted by the ADB are now on record. So too were the shenanigans around useless Pack & Blister oxygen ventilators during the 2020 period of the pandemic or the wheelings and dealings at the STC. Set against such glaring evidences of financial misdemeanours, the record of ICAC to fearlessly track and tackle wrongdoers, leaves much to be desired.

We need not also recall either the absence of concrete results in many major cases where no inquiry has even been felt necessary (high-risk loans at the State Bank of Mauritius or the earlier high-voltage financial losses of the national carrier) and the general absence of any prosecutions, still less sanctions, in all the aired high-profile cases of white-collar crimes. One wonders whether the inquiry into the St Louis case, what appears to be a clear-cut case of massive corruption involving a "conplot" at our administrative levels to thwart the public procurement process, will prove to be yet another pointless and utter waste of time, or whether this matter is not being politically instrumentalised to keep on a tight leash one former minister and an opposition leader whose names have allegedly been mentioned in the never disclosed ADB report.

As for its sister agencies, the CCID and MCIT, charged with investigating fraud or other criminal activity, their track record in what has become the tragic and cold-blooded murder of an MSM activist who threatened in frustration, it seems, to spill the beans on corrupt practices to which he was party, the Kistnen saga, has seen the summum of unknown unknowns

despite the DPP-ordered judicial enquiry.

True it is that the inclination towards corruption, or the perception thereof, has been apparent since a few decades. State lands have been given to selected cronies. Contracts have repeatedly been awarded to certain specific beneficiaries for public works, sometimes by splitting them in order not to fall under the scrutiny of the central procurement agency. In other cases, favours have been granted to specific persons or groups, to the detriment of all, influencing public bodies to do so, enhancing benefits or reducing costs in favour of the targeted few. Emergency conditions around the pandemic have allowed a thorough by-pass of public procurement checks and balances enabling many well-heeled individuals and companies to enrich themselves fabulously and without any qualms.

It is the power politicians and bureaucrats give themselves that facilitates acts of corruption. The more loosely rules and regulations and laws are liable to be interpreted, the more the abuse by means of corruption, especially in the world's most morally decrepit countries. Often, citizens have seen our politicians ride high (especially during electoral campaigns) to proclaim their so-called attachment to a corruption-free state. It's time that they walked the talk. For example, why don't they demonstrate their commitment by enacting and effectively enforcing a well-balanced Freedom of information Act? A call for such a legislation has been made since decades now and is also on this government's manifesto, and we are still waiting! Does that not reek of cynicism and taking the people for a ride? The same also goes for the Political Financing Bill, which the best brains on the matter are convinced that it was so crafted as to be doomed from the word go. By the way, why should the Declaration of Assets by body politic and high mandarins be state secrets if we are aiming for transparency as a normative parameter of public life?

The present government has still enough time to move in the direction of allowing a retrospective scrutiny of accretion of wealth by its members, nominees and other high office holders. Getting this done within reasonable parameters of disclosure and appropriate legal oversight, it would not only salvage at least part of the country's reputation, but also its own too. There's more to gain both for the country and politically by taking such eminently actionable measures promptly as a demonstration of the government's seriousness and concern over financial misdemeanours that have engulfed the country under the law of omerta.

### The Conversation

## Voters value honesty in their politicians above all else

*Boris Johnson continues to insist the public cares more that he 'gets on with the job' than what happened in Downing Street over lockdown. But he may be wrong*



Pic - deccanherald.com

**A**s pressure mounts on the UK prime minister, Boris Johnson, members of his party are considering their options. Should they topple him or keep him? Those who want him out fear that the public will not forgive the string of alleged social events held in Downing Street while the rest of the country lived under strict Covid lockdowns. Their anger may cost the Conservatives dearly at the next election. Those who are hesitating do so because Johnson had been such an electoral success story before this scandal.

We at the UCL Constitution Unit are conducting a major study of public attitudes to democracy in the UK that sheds new light on what matters most to voters. Our latest findings from a large-scale survey of the UK population conducted last summer suggest Conservative MPs are right to be concerned about the fallout of "partygate". Integrity is extremely important to voters. It is in fact valued above all other traits in a politician.

When we asked about a range of characteristics that politicians should have, "being honest" came top. This was followed by "owning up when they make mistakes". "Getting things done" and "being inspiring" were far behind.

Johnson has a trademark tactic – seen repeatedly at Prime Minister's Questions – of batting away critics by saying he is focused on delivering the people's priorities. When asked about any potentially questionable behaviour or incidents, he insists that members of the public care more about "getting Brexit done" than it does about anything else.

*Alan Renwick, Professor of Democratic Politics, University College London*

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### Mauritius Times

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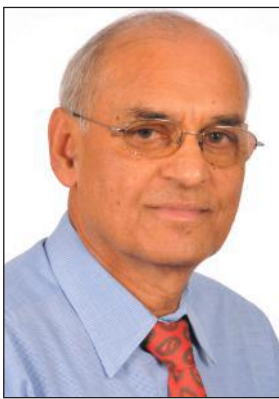
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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Touching Lives

*Writing is an intangible way of reaching out to people, of 'giving' unknowingly. But life offers all of us opportunities to bestow other precious, indeed invaluable gifts*



I had never thought that I would receive this call that was such a surprise, coming as it did out of the blues as the saying goes. It was from someone who had 'known' me much before I met him. He was a teacher of English and English literature in a private secondary school. Unbeknown to me, he was a regular reader of the *Mauritius Times*, and of my articles as I was to learn from him afterwards. This was the first 'connect,' at the intellectual level if I may call it so. Subsequently, if my memory serves me right, we met through common friends, though perhaps only a couple of times, but enough to discover that we had a shared interest in literary and philosophical matters.

This goes back over twenty years ago. I had written an article in the *MT* on the great sage of India, Mahayogi Sri Aurobindo. Michael, for that is his name, had a close friend who was a lawyer, Hervé (who has since passed) who was an adept of Sri Aurobindo. He too had read the article, and while discussing it with Michael, the latter told him that he knew me. Hervé expressed the wish to meet me and discuss further about Sri Aurobindo. I was delighted when Michael called to share with me his conversation with Hervé, and I invited them for lunch at my place on a Sunday shortly after.

We spent some very pleasant moments together. Hervé had a more thorough knowledge of Sri Aurobindo than me, for I had only recently begun to read about him and to initiate myself into some of his writings. Herve was far ahead, and was already initiated into the yogic practices advocated by Sri Aurobindo, and it is from him that I first heard about the concept and practice of '*nirvikalpa samadhi*' that Sri Aurobindo had elaborated upon.

For recall, Sri Aurobindo was one of the first thinkers to come up with the idea of India's independence from British rule. He was accused of exploding a bomb in which a high British official was killed in

Kolkata and put in jail by the British. Released after a trial one year later, he was being persecuted by the British for sedition, and in 1910 he escaped to Pondicherry which was under French jurisdiction. He devoted the rest of his life to the practice of 'Integral Yoga' in the ashram which he founded there until his death in 1950, when his disciple Mirra Richard, known as the 'Mother of Pondicherry' took over to carry on his activities. She went on to found Auroville, and she herself passed in 1972.

The call from Michael was totally unexpected, inasmuch as we had hardly met again, except when he came to gift me a copy of a book of his poems. Earlier, he had given me his copy of 'The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations' (1953) which he felt would be more useful to me because of my writing and in any case, he would be retiring in a few years. It had a soft cover, and I got it bound in hard cover, and it keeps coming in handy.

It was two days ago that Michael had called, and I was pained to hear his changed voice, as well as his manner of speech which was slow, and the articulation was not clear. He apologized for that, and for this reason he kept the call short. But he felt so deeply about my article 'The Gift of Life' in last week's issue of *MT* that he thought he must absolutely ring me to express his feelings and appreciation. I was amazed that despite retiring as a teacher, and probably with a medical pro-

blem that is affecting his speech, he has nevertheless kept up with reading the *Mauritius Times*, and was so touched by my article that he rang me to say so.

Similarly, to Michael, over the years I have come across several other persons who too have told me about their 'connect' with me through my articles, belonging to diverse walks of life and age groups. I have met them face-to-face in different settings, but a number of times I have received calls from perfect strangers telling me they have read such and such article and giving their own views on the subject matter that I had dealt with. One of the most heart-warming calls I had was from someone who told me that he was a secondary school physics teacher, and had made a

collection of cuttings of my articles. I have never met him.

It is always gratifying to learn that one is somehow touching the lives of others in a positive way, something that happens purely unintentionally because for me writing is a way of sharing my thoughts, what I read or know a little about, for I believe in the saying that knowledge is not knowledge until it is shared. In this way, writing is akin to my core profession of medicine where I deliberately and directly impact on the lives of the patients whom I treat. Both callings are about touching the lives of people and I hope to be able to do so as long as my faculties permit.

Unlike medicine, though, writing is an intangible way of reaching out to people, of 'giving' unknowingly. But life offers all of us opportunities to bestow other precious, indeed invaluable gifts. A teacher friend of mine put that beautifully - what you can give that has no cost and yet is priceless:

- To your father: deference
- To your mother: conduct that will make her proud of you
- To your spouse: unconditional love
- To your child: a sense of duty
- To your friend: sincerity
- To your teacher: gratitude
- To all people: humanity
- To your opponent: tolerance
- To your enemy: forgiveness
- To your country: patriotism
- To yourself: self-respect

If exchanges of objects help the smooth running of humanity, the above list represents the very foundation of our humanity, because we do not have to wait for any special occasion to give these gifts. A little reflection will show how deeply they can touch the lives of those for whom they are meant...



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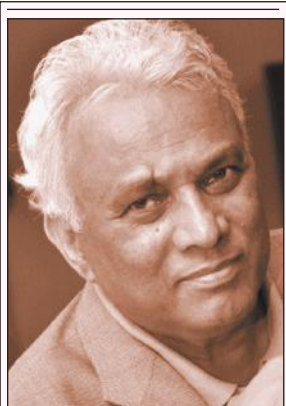
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# Building the Mauritius We Want

*This is not the time for reckless adventurism. There is only one way forward*



Mrinal Roy

**T**he country faces daunting socio-economic challenges in the wake of the dire fallouts of the Covid-19 pandemic in a context of growing public indebtedness, strapped public finances and worsening economic fundamentals. This grim situation has been compounded by appalling governance, questionable and costly misuse of public funds as well as a patent absence of accountability

and transparency.

Thus, a galling opacity shrouds costly projects such as the Rs 19 billion Safe City project whose deliverable benefits remain elusive or the Rs 5 billion Cote d'Or Multi-Sports Complex, the allocation of tens of billions of Rupees of Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC) funds blithely drawn from the country's foreign exchange reserves to bail out distressed conglomerates and other companies, emergency procurement tenders and infrastructure projects generally, etc. This is in the teeth of the government glib rhetoric about accountability, transparency and good governance.

## Parochial agendas

What on earth is the rationale of extending the metro line to Ebene and the Reduit campus from Rose Hill entailing the construction of a costly bridge instead of building a branch line from St Jean in relatively open ground to Ebene and Reduit? Have all options been carefully gauged to determine the least costly and disruptive option? It is also imperative to judiciously determine the choice of any further extension of the metro network on the basis of a rigorous and transparent cost-benefit exercise instead of rashly embarking on costly ad hoc extensions driven by narrow parochial agendas at public expense.

Covid-19 has also exposed the fundamental weaknesses of an economic model highly dependent on the tourism industry and real estate activities and projects whose viability depends on the sale of high-end properties to foreigners and unrestricted air travel. With a whopping banking debt of some Rs 55 billion and billions of Rupees obtained from the MIC, the hospitality sector remains extremely vulnerable especially as only some 179,000 passengers travelled to Mauritius in the last quarter of 2021 after our borders were opened on 1 October 2021.

This raises the question of the number of passengers who actually stayed in hotels as a certain proportion of tourists opt to stay in private accommodation. The economic actors of the sector and government are therefore desperate for the tourism and hospitality sector to pick up momentum as quickly as possible. This will require a well-honed promotional and marketing strategy which offers a safe, competitive, enriching and unique holiday experience to tourists in the country.

In a bid to boost the beleaguered travel industry, various countries are lifting all restrictions on international travel. England and Scotland announced this week that people arriving from abroad as from 11 February will no longer have to take Covid tests if they are fully vaccinated. Travel to France is now permissible to fully-vaccinated British travellers. This is expected to encourage skiing trips and visits to Disneyland Paris in the coming weeks and during February half-term as around 17 million UK citizens visit



**“The Covid-19 pandemic require exceptional price control and currency stabilizing measures to protect consumers. Instead of alleviating the cost of groceries of households, the government's Rs 500 million support measure basically subsidizes the profits of retailers and supermarkets. The economic policies of the government cannot be driven by a fixation with VAT earnings to shore strapped government revenue at the expense of consumers...”**

France in a normal year.

## Spending largesse

What makes matters worse is that instead of promoting productive economic activities, the government continues to grant freebies the country can ill afford (presumably to obtain political mileage) to all and sundry from public funds. Despite massive investments from the budget allocation for a National Flood Management Programme of Rs 11.7 billion for the construction and upgrading of some 1500 drain projects across the island over the next three years to prevent flooding in flood prone areas and localities, flooding in these areas after each heavy rainfall remains unabated. The recent torrential rains have again showcased the distress caused to people in diverse localities through recurrent flooding.

## Consumer outcry

The government also seems blind to the distress and inability of more than 47% of employees earning up to Rs 15,000 per month to meet their essential existential needs in a context where the prices of consumer goods fuelled by the unchecked depreciation of the Rupee are rising almost every week. Consumers are legitimately up in arms at the inability of government to stem such greedy profiteering.

The unprecedented circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic require exceptional price control and currency stabilizing measures to protect consumers. Instead of alleviating the cost of groceries of households, the government's Rs 500 million support measure basically subsidizes the profits of retailers and supermarkets. The economic policies of the government cannot be driven by a fixation with VAT earnings to shore strapped government revenue at the expense of consumers.

In the larger world context, the IMF has cut its world economic growth forecast to 4.4% for 2022, down from an estimate of 4.9% in October, as the Covid-19 pandemic enters its third year, based on weaker prospects for the US and China, the world's two largest economies. This will affect economic recovery prospects.

## Clamour for a new political culture

At a time when the country needs a paradigm shift in governance and a sea change in political culture and government policy framework, the main opposition parties are blithely hammering out a deal on the modalities of a hotch-potch political alliance to challenge the incumbent government with essentially the same leaders and protagonists

who have been repeatedly rejected by the electorate at the last two elections. As before, the negotiations are based on the principle that nothing is agreed until the full shopping list of each party's demands is agreed. This disconcerting situation begs so many burning questions.

## Ideals instead of deals

Is it not blatantly clear to the political class and everyone that what the people clamour for is a fundamentally changed political culture based on ideals, principles and an ethos distanced from power-sharing deals which provoked the 2014 electoral debacle? Do the leaders of the Labour Party-led coalition and the MMM, which registered one of their worst electoral defeats in 2019 with 14 and 8 elected MPs only, seriously think that they represent a credible alternative which can rally the multitude to their cause? The stakes are high. Defeat is not an option. The MMM must realize that dissent within its ranks has dented and eroded its electoral base.

This is not therefore the time to cut deals behind the back of the people but to champion ideals. The political class must realize that the people want a new dawn which reboots politics with the seminal ideals, principles and ethos the independence of the country was fought on. Makeshift arrangements on interim Prime Ministers or widely decried mentors to soothe the hurt egos of defeated leaders are anathema to the people.

The people also want an end to political interference and high-handedness as well as nepotism, cronyism and the decried policy of nominating the party faithful to cushy key governments posts at the head of state institutions and state-owned companies. They want meritocracy and competence to prevail at all echelons of state institutions, companies and the government Establishment.

The people want talented and competent new leaders with a track record of achievements and a new political class which commits to principles of meritocracy at all levels, transparency and accountability, good governance and a commitment to promote the independence and efficiency of state institutions and the government Establishment as well as the highest standards of propriety in the management of the affairs of the State.

The people want to reinstate a vibrant democracy where the interests of people and the continuous improvement of their welfare remain at the centre of government actions. They want an independent and fair Speaker and the allegiance of elected MPs to first and foremost promote the interests of the people and to uphold public interest at all times.

## New dawn

People therefore want a new start with an innovative blueprint for the future which recast the economic model, brings about important reforms, overhaul all levels of the education system on the best benchmarks prevailing in the countries with the best education systems in the world and significantly improve the prospects and standard of living of the young. They want government to robustly address the threats of climate change, end coal use and urgently boost green and renewable energy production.

Mauritius is therefore at a key crossroads. If we want to build the Mauritius we want, the pathway to obtain the endorsement of the people and success at the polls is well defined. Political parties, the political class and all those who adhere to the ideals and values of a new dawn for people and country must adapt accordingly or perish. This is not the time for reckless adventurism. There is only one way forward.



# Sanctity of The Vote

*Restoring the institutions' credibility and regaining the trust of the population require shying away from complacency*

Jan Arden

**T**he richest and most powerful federal Presidential democracy in the world has, as we know, been locked in the most hilarious narrative peddled by Trumpists that the election he himself and many states under Republican control supervised, had been rigged and his undoubted victory stolen from him. The only acceptable results should have declared him the winner, through whatever means, including the January 6 organized riotous insurrection to pressure Washington lawmakers and the Vice President Mike Pence to hand him victory against the nation's majority votes.

None of the 60 or more legal challenges brought by Trumpists to courts disclosed any evidence of wrongdoing at any material scale, as his own outgoing Dept of Justice had concluded, but amazingly, more than 35% of ordinary Americans believe that stolen "Big Lie" peddled by right-wing extremists and associated media. The sanctity of the vote in the US federal structure, electoral colleges, and the mechanisms for electoral oversight in that peculiar set-up, never before challenged, is now a raging internal political debate, although the US peculiarities make it difficult to extrapolate anything of interest for parliamentary democracies.

On the other side of the world, the process for general (Lok Sabha) election spanning such a federation of states as India, the world's largest constitutional and parliamentary democracy with over 600 million of voters spread out to remotest vil-



**“How, we are entitled to ask, have our own traditionally respected Electoral Supervisory Commission and Electoral Commission, operating at scales of a minor Indian district, succeeded to plunge the 2019 general elections into such controversies, largely commented in the press and on political platforms? How come the petition processes have been allowed to drift from one delay to another (including temporary Covid lockdowns) for two full years...”**

lages, is not a simple affair. Either at scheduling, security, and personnel levels, at voting and counting stages, it is a gigantic exercise yet independent Bharat has had quite a few since independence, without even considering the hundreds of state and local elections, under the supervision of its constitutionally independent Electoral Commission of India (ECI).

The ECI recognizes that there are constant references made to the unhealthy role of money power, muscle power and mafia power, to abuse of the electoral process through criminalisation, corruption, communalism and casteism or media disfunctionings. Rather than burying its head in

the sand and leaving matters in the hands of politicians (a vested interest group, if any...) and legislators, it is praiseworthy to observe that the ECI periodically sifts through the mountains of data or accumulated experience to produce highly topical reports for public consultations and review that covers major identified discrepancies along with recommendations for legislators.

Selection of representatives of the people through universal adult franchise through free, fair, and credible elections is for them as for the Republic's Founding Fathers, an act of faith. The ECI has over time and with such a proactive attitude

done its best to live up to that ideal, improving constantly its own formidable track record of integrity, transparency and professionalism despite the immense challenges related to India's context and complexities. It can certainly celebrate the Indian 12th National Voter Day on this January 25th with some satisfaction while looking forward to continuous improvement.

How then, we are entitled to ask, have our own traditionally respected Electoral Supervisory Commission and Electoral Commission, operating at scales of a minor Indian district, succeeded to plunge the 2019 general elections into such controversies, largely commented in the press and on political platforms?

How come the petition processes have been allowed to drift from one delay to another (including temporary Covid lockdowns) for two full years for even such a simple request as recounting in constituencies where margins between returned and unreturned candidates is so minimal?

Why did the EC/ESC protest so steadfastly, clinging to an "all voting and counting was above board and went without any hiccups", until the evidence of sums not adding up became "glaring" according to the Supreme Court in constituency No19?

Whatever the outcome of the SC-ordered recount, should they not at the very least, for the sake of "free, fair and credible" elections, apologise to the nation and, in the same breath of "transparency", petition the Supreme Court themselves, if necessary, for a Court-supervised recount wherever petitions have been filed (and in one case, No14, disregarded) and where margins are less than some percentage?

Restoring the institutions' credibility and regaining the trust of the population, we dare say, require shying away from complacency. This said without in any way prejudicing the recount results from ballot papers which have been stored in SMF premises for two years.

**W**hen the term 'frontliners' is mentioned, almost all of us associate it with the bravery and dedication of our health personnel and support people in public and private health centres as they helped contain or mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic under stressful and pressure conditions. They were our sentinels, soldiers guarding our frontiers and, when those were breached, keeping watch over our assailed bodies and minds, when thousands of ordinary Mauritians were in intense sufferings and some with unavoidable and tragic terminal outcome.

Ambulance men, SAMU and sadly, even burial or cremation services became overstretched. In the midst of all the personal risks and family exposures, they all had little rest or respite, but credit to them, all soldiered on, many without the usual end of year festivities around family or social gatherings.

They would have watched as their UK counterparts and the rest of the Brits, in some disgusted amazement, how the Boris Johnson establishment, in weekly new revelations, were engaged in merrymaking and social

gatherings and parties when the rest of the country was under strict confinement. No doubt they would not have missed either the viral clips of their own Minister partying privately when the talk of the town was about derelict emergency procurement procedures for various drugs and with some of his key staffers under investigation.

An international podcast brings to mind that there have been during this pandemic other less visible soldiers of fortune called to attend other important frontlines for any country. The Police or Fire and Rescue Services may indeed be seen as the necessary, impartial, equitable and comprehending force people relied upon during the pandemic difficulties, their role essential as other frontliners, soldiers maintaining peace, justice, liberty and civil quiescence.

These are often recognizable but what about the other frontliners, less visible but equally important to our

survival during the pandemic, asked the author of the podcast. Where were the frontliners of elections where any were being held, he asks, and were they not soldiers of our democratic processes, frontliners fighting for our hard-earned voting rights and our civic freedoms? The population will make its own judgement on that.

Who were the frontliners when the MV Wakashio was allowed to enter our national waters, ram into our coral reefs and wallow there for twelve days or more, spilling its black muck that ordinary citizens rushed to stem with unlimited enthusiasm and artisanal means?

What about the frontliners safeguarding our public procurement processes during emergency, were they dispensed of the same levels of dedication and professionalism we expect from health personnel?

Can investigative agencies and officers pick up the notorious slack in their efforts so as to be effective frontliners for cleaner government, unmasking corruption that seems to sully the atmosphere and restore our beliefs in a sputtering democracy?

Jan Arden

## Frontliners

## Electoral Petitions &amp; Recount

# “If the Recapitulation of Votes form had not been made public, nobody would have been apprised of the glaring discrepancies”

LEX

**T**he case law for ordering recounts is clear that there must be some solid *prima facie* grounds justifying such a prayer to be accepted. In the Adebire case at No. 19, there were such “glaring discrepancies” according to the two Supreme Court Justices and accepted by legal counsel of all parties, including those of the Electoral Commissioner and the Electoral Supervisory Commission, that the outcome of a court-supervised recount became unavoidable. That such obvious anomalies and discrepancies in a vote tally summary form kept for unknown reasons confidential, went undetected is quite shocking. Lex comments on the legal aspects and consequences of this landmark judgment.

\* We learn from the judgement delivered by Justices Aruna Narain and Denis Mootoo in the case *Adebire O.J. v Collendavelloo I.L. & Ors* that it was Mr Mulloo, former Chief Electoral Officer and now Adviser to the Electoral Commissioner, who brought to the attention of the Court the “discrepancies” noted in the Recapitulation of Votes form. The Electoral Commissioner Irfan Rahman, in a statement thereafter, said he had “instructed his legal advisers not to oppose the prayer for recount of all valid ballot papers... in the light of the discrepancies noted”. Neither Mr Mulloo nor Mr Rahman stated when the discrepancies were discovered. That these discrepancies are now revealed, two years after the elections, suggests that there is something amiss here, isn’t it?

Of course. Not amiss, but very serious. How come that it is two years after Ms Adebire filed her petition that the irregularities are surfacing. According to the procedure on ballot count, the votes are called aloud and inscribed on what is called a Recapitulation Vote Form. How come these mistakes were not found earlier. This is very disturbing.

\* We also learn from the same judgement that the Senior Counsel for the Electoral Supervisory Commission also made a statement to the effect that the Commission “was not aware earlier of the “*apparent mistake*” in the Recapitulation of Votes form”. How is it possible that that Commission which, under the Constitution, has “general responsibility for and shall supervise, the registration of electors... and the conduct of elections” was not made aware of these discrepancies the more so since the election in No. 19 was being challenged?

Easy to explain. Apparently, the Recapitulation of Votes Form is a confidential document which is handed over to the Electoral Commissioner by the Returning Officer after the results are finally proclaimed. If the Electoral Commissioner and the members of the Electoral Commission had done their job properly and perused that particular Form, they would have been bound to see the discrepancies.

\* Why should such an important document in the conduct of the counting process and the proclamation of elected candidates be kept confidential? What



could be the importance of confidentiality in this particular matter?

God knows, but it’s certainly an aberration that such a Form, which records the number of votes obtained by all candidates, should be kept confidential. Had a copy been handed over to all candidates, the discrepancies would surely have been found much before 2022.

\* The alleged opacity surrounding the operation of Computer Rooms at Counting Centres should be good reason for the Recapitulation of Votes form to be made available to election candidates or their representatives, don’t you think?

Absolutely, the more so given the total opacity surrounding the computer rooms. One wonders who had that bright idea to have recourse to computers for the counting process behind the back of candidates without the latter being informed accordingly in advance of that measure. Worse still the candidates were denied access to the computer rooms.

It’s unfortunate however that in the earlier petition lodged by Erza Jhuboo the Supreme court did not find anything irregular in that decision.

\* Our understanding is that Justices Narain and Mootoo have ordered a recount in view of “the glaring and unexplained discrepancies in the Recapitulation of Votes form that are on record and point *prima facie* to mistakes in the counting process”, and also because none of the respondents in this case, that is Mr Ivan Collendavelloo, the Electoral Commissioner, the Electoral Supervisory Commission, and the Returning Officer, objected to a recount. Without the Recapitulation of Votes form made available to the Court and the admission of discrepancies, the case might have taken a different turn, isn’t it?

Exactly. If the Form had not been made public, nobody would have been apprised of the glaring discrepancies and everything would have been deemed to be regular in the

“God knows, but it’s certainly an aberration that the Recapitulation of Votes form, which records the number of votes obtained by all candidates, should be kept confidential. Had a copy been handed over to all candidates, the discrepancies would surely have been found much before 2022...”

eyes of concerned parties including the Electoral Commissioner, the Electoral Commission, and their lawyers.

\* This begs the question: What could have prompted the Electoral Commission to reveal at this point in time, that is on 13 January 2022 when the case (lodged on 28 November 2019) came up for hearing, the discrepancies noted in the Recapitulation of Votes form?

‘One wonders who had that bright idea to have recourse to computers for the counting process behind the back of candidates’

Only the Electoral Commissioner and the Electoral Commission alone can answer this question. They might have taken things for granted and did not indeed realise that there were discrepancies in the counting of votes. I dare not say that they kept quiet even if they had seen the irregularities.

\* What could be the reason/s for Justices Narain and Mootoo to order that the recount be taken by the Acting Master and Registrar of the Supreme Court, not the Electoral Commission? Is that in the normal scheme of things?

Since the recount has been ordered by the Court, the count which is still under judicial scrutiny must be supervised by a court official.

\* To suggest that this case and the judgement delivered by Justices Narain and Mootoo will have an impact on the other pending electoral petitions may be farfetched, isn’t it? One should not jump the gun at this stage - unless similar discrepancies would have been noted in those constituencies and the Electoral Commission chooses to bite the bullet and state the facts as they are, right?

A recount is not granted for the mere asking. The case law is clear on this. There must be solid grounds for a recount to be ordered even if the different parties consent to such a recount.

If no prayer for a recount is made in electoral petitions, the Court will not allow the petitions to be amended to insert that particular averment. The Adebire judgment has made this clear. This is what the judges stated: “...we hold that a recount may exceptionally be ordered in this case on grounds not averred in the election petition. Our order in these very exceptional circumstances should not in any way however be construed as a licence for aggrieved candidates to enter election petitions within the prescribed delay and to later seek as a matter of course to aver or rely on new grounds outside delay.”

\* Let’s assume that Ivan Collendavelloo and the other candidates whose election have been contested by way of electoral petitions are disqualified as elected candidates following recounts ordered by the Supreme Court; they might still go to the Privy Council for a final determination of the issue, right? We would then have reached the eve of the next general elections...

Any decision may be appealed to the Privy Council with the leave of the Supreme Court. However, it is difficult to see what grounds of appeal can be raised in that and the other cases.



# Why does Trump continue to hold sway over his gullible followers?

*There has to be something more to this than just blaming social media or cable TV outlets for why ordinary people gravitate to falsehoods and conspiracy theories*



Anil Madan

**F**or almost fifteen months since he lost to Joe Biden, Donald Trump has lived off the myth that the election was stolen from him. That Trump propagates such an outlandish falsehood is no surprise. It was to be expected.

Way back in the 2016 campaign, at the very first Republican presidential debate, Trump was the only candidate who refused to commit to supporting his party's eventual nominee if he did not prevail. Later, he refused to commit to accepting the election result should Hillary Clinton prevail. In 2020, even before a single vote was cast, he set the stage for the lament that should he lose, it would be due to fraudulent votes—all this without a shred of evidentiary support.

Christopher Krebs, nominated by Trump and confirmed by a unanimous Senate vote as head of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency declared the 2020 election was "the most secure in American history." Trump's Attorney General William Barr who, gratuitously and without evidentiary support, had opined that mail-in balloting is susceptible to fraud, also said there was no evidence of fraud in the election. As well, Mitch McConnell, the Republican Senate Majority Leader, declared that Biden had won the election. These three staunch Republicans earned Trump's scorn for their disloyal failure to subscribe to his lies.

Trump was impeached twice but escaped conviction both times because the Democrats did not have the votes to convict by a two-thirds majority. After the second trial by the Senate, Mitch McConnell said: "There is no question, none, that President Trump is practically and morally responsible for provoking the events of the day." He also noted that Trump watched the events unfold on television and took no action. "A mob was assaulting the Capitol in his name," he said. "These criminals were carrying his banners, hanging his flags and screaming their loyalty to him."

The day after the events of January 6, McConnell's wife Elaine Chao who served in Trump's cabinet as Secretary of Transportation resigned. She characterized the assault on the Capitol as a traumatic and entirely avoidable event that "has deeply troubled me in a way I cannot set aside." One cannot imagine that she did not run all this by McConnell. Yet, notwithstanding this and his own words, McConnell refused to vote to convict Trump.

## A race-bating xenophobic religious bigot

During the 2016 presidential campaign, Lindsey Graham the Republican Senator from South Carolina called Trump "a kook," "crazy" and "unfit for office" and added for good measure that Trump is "a race-bating xenophobic religious bigot." He had also said: "You know how you make America great again? Tell Donald Trump to go to hell."

After the January 6 assault on the Capitol, Graham declared: "Count me out. Enough is enough." And he



**“Way back in the 2016 campaign, at the very first Republican presidential debate, Trump was the only candidate who refused to commit to supporting his party's eventual nominee if he did not prevail. Later, he refused to commit to accepting the election result should Hillary Clinton prevail...”**

backed the election results conceding that Biden is the legitimate President of the United States, and "Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are lawfully elected." But Graham also did not vote to convict Trump. Since then, he seems to have changed his position once again after he spent a weekend playing golf with Trump earlier this month, calling him a "damn good President" and having forgiven Trump and claimed that independent voters too would forgive Trump if he ran again.

In March 2016, as Donald Trump was contending to be the Republican Party's nominee for President, Mitt Romney the 2012 Republican nominee who eventually lost to Barack Obama, gave a speech in which he expressed his conviction that America is poised to lead the world for another century. He rattled off some of the major challenges facing the nation but optimistically projected that if we make the right choices, America's future would be even better than its past and better than its present. He concluded that Donald Trump was the wrong choice saying: "Let me put it plainly, if we Republicans choose Donald Trump as our nominee, the prospects for a safe and prosperous future are greatly diminished."

Romney concluded his speech with these words:

"Here's what I know. Donald Trump is a phony, a fraud."

**“The question is why do people seem to accept his falsehoods and continue to endorse a proven liar and loser? Indeed, we might ask what is it that causes people around the world to snuggle up to authoritarian dictators, abusers and lowlifes like Putin, Xi Jinping, Kim Jong Un, Bashar al Assad, Recep Tayyeb Erdogan, Trump, and any number of others who have filled the pages of history?”**

His promises are as worthless as a degree from Trump University. He's playing the American public for suckers: He gets a free ride to the White House and all we get is a lousy hat.

"His domestic policies would lead to recession. His foreign policies would make America and the world less safe. He has neither the temperament nor the judgment to be president. And his personal qualities would mean that America would cease to be a shining city on a hill."

Romney's follow-on performance was mixed. After he won the 2016 election, President-elect Trump allowed rumours to float that he was considering Romney for the position of Secretary of State. And much to the surprise of political observers, Romney travelled to New York and then to Trump's golf club in New Jersey for exploratory meetings with Trump. Romney, all but panting for the appointment, praised Trump and said he had "increasing hope" that Trump could lead the nation to a better future. Trump never offered Romney the position and it is clear that Romney was being played for a fool. The question is why did Romney subject himself to humiliation? Eventually, Romney voted to convict Trump at the impeachment trials.

## Why do people continue to endorse a proven liar and loser?

These are three examples of successful leaders who did not need to kowtow to Trump. The question is why do people seem to accept his falsehoods and continue to endorse a proven liar and loser? Indeed, we might ask what is it that causes people around the world to snuggle up to authoritarian dictators, abusers and lowlifes like Putin, Xi Jinping, Kim Jong Un, Bashar al Assad, Recep Tayyeb Erdogan, Trump, and any number of others who have filled the pages of history?

● Cont. on page 8



# Why does Trump continue to hold sway over his gullible followers?

● Cont. from page 7

It is somewhat easier to understand that in countries where communication is tightly controlled, the Internet is not always available, and communications can be censored, the opportunity to engage in organized resistance is limited. We have seen how ruthless oppression in Hong Kong, Russia, Turkey, Myanmar, and North Korea makes resistance well nigh impossible. In a country such as the United States, this excuse is not available.

Of course, even in the United States, communication is often channelled in subtle ways so that falsehoods and misinformation are amplified. But there has to be something more to this than just blaming social media or cable TV outlets for why ordinary people gravitate to falsehoods and conspiracy theories.

Why do almost 40% of Americans believe that the election was stolen and why did almost two-thirds of Republican responders to a recent NPR/Ipsos say that they believe the verifiably false and debunked claims that voter fraud helped Biden beat Trump?

It has been the hallmark of American democracy that the loser in an election accepts defeat after all lawful challenges are exhausted. Lawful challenges include demands for recounts were allowed by applicable state laws and rules and challenges filed with courts of appropriate jurisdiction. Donald Trump is the first American president who not only alleged that the election was stolen from him but tried to subvert the administration of the electoral process in order to have himself declared the winner.

Trump and his campaign, as well as surrogates and supporters filed some 63 lawsuits challenging the election results. They lost all but one and that one involved a minor procedural victory that did not change the result. But Trump's efforts were more sinister. Not only did his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani orchestrate an effort to issue to the National Archives fraudulent certifications of electors purporting to have been duly elected, but Trump himself pressured the Georgia Secretary of State to "find" him the votes necessary to win that state's election.

Part of this may be explained by the fact that people simply don't want to admit that they have backed a loser. But there are other forces, some more subtle and some not so subtle.

If we go back to Trump's first campaign, one has to acknowledge that he displayed a certain genius for putting his finger on hot button issues. Americans have for long resented the loss of their jobs to China. Never mind that America's corporate CEOs have been complicit in the transfer of American jobs and technology to China. But when Trump accused China of unfair trade practices, theft of American technology, and promised to put a stop to it, he won the hearts and minds of a significant number of Americans. When Trump played on Americans' fears of illegal immigrants committing violent crimes, rapes, and selling drugs, he played upon racist fears that the country was slowly evolving from a majority white nation to one more mixed and more brown.



Pic -i0.wp.com/thebiznews.org

When Trump derided the Iran nuclear deal, he played on the fears of evangelicals that the US was abandoning Israel. And when he lamented the failure of NATO's members to pay their fair share of defense costs, he played upon more fears of Americans that the Europeans were taking advantage.

Trump played on the exhaustion of a nation fatigued by seemingly endless wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It was difficult for Trump supporters to see how Biden, who expressed no concern about any of these issues, could prevail. And for good measure, Trump's Make America Great Again slogan had the necessary tinge of patriotism.

## Theory of stupidity

Now all this is about to come apart at the seams. The Congressional Committee investigating the events of January 6, 2021 has won a significant victory when the Supreme Court ruled against Trump's claims of Executive Privilege to shield White House documents from the committee's subpoena. So far, documents reveal that Trump went so far as to draft an Executive Order directing the Secretary of Defense to seize voting machines around the country. Such an order in the opinion of experts would be patently unlawful and perhaps the military would never have carried it out. On the other hand, the National Guard units in states loyal to Trump may well have heeded such orders.

We have no clear answers as to why Americans with unlimited access to information succumbed to the lies and distortions of Trump.

Trump eventually chose Rex Tillerson, the CEO of ExxonMobil to be his Secretary of State. Tillerson did not last long, but it is telling that he was willing to give up his

**“In countries where communication is tightly controlled, the Internet is not always available, and communications can be censored, the opportunity to engage in organized resistance is limited. We have seen how ruthless oppression in Hong Kong, Russia, Turkey, Myanmar, and North Korea makes resistance well nigh impossible. In a country such as the United States, this excuse is not available...”**

position at the helm of one of the world's largest companies for an ephemeral stint under a man he was later to call a “f—king moron.”

Just today, a friend sent me a write up on Dietrich Boenhoffer's theory of stupidity which essentially states that stupidity is a more dangerous enemy of the good than evil. He wrote:

“Against stupidity we have no defense. Neither protests nor force can touch it. Reasoning is of no use. Facts that contradict personal prejudices can simply be disbelieved — indeed, the fool can counter by criticizing them, and if they are undeniable, they can just be pushed aside as trivial exceptions. So, the fool, as distinct from the scoundrel, is completely self-satisfied. In fact, they can easily become dangerous, as it does not take much to make them aggressive. For that reason, greater caution is called for than with a malicious one. Never again will we try to persuade the stupid person with reasons, for it is senseless and dangerous.”

Maybe it is just that simple. Stupidity.

Cheerz...  
Bwana

## MAURITIUS TIMES To Our Readers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Editorial Team

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# Ukraine crisis updates: What to know as tensions rise

Russia has placed more than 100,000 troops near Ukraine's border and ratcheted up war games in the region.

Moscow denies it is planning an assault, but the United States and its NATO allies fear that Russia is planning for war — and are making preparations of their own, reports AP.

Here are things to know about the international tensions over Ukraine, a crisis reminiscent of the Cold War.

## THE U.S. says NO

The U.S. has made no concessions to the main Russian demands over Ukraine and NATO in a long-awaited written response delivered to Russia on Wednesday in Moscow, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

Blinken said the U.S. response, delivered to the Russian Foreign Ministry by U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan, gave up no ground on "core principles" such as NATO's open-door membership policy and the alliance's military presence in Eastern Europe.

Blinken said the document made clear that the U.S. is standing by its oft-stated positions. "There is no change, there will be no change," he said. But, he said the written response to Russia also contains "serious" offers for a diplomatic path to de-escalate soaring tensions over Ukraine by addressing Russian concerns on other matters.

Russia has demanded guarantees that NATO never admit Ukraine and other ex-Soviet nations as members



A serviceman stands holding his machine-gun in a trench on the territory controlled by pro-Russian militants at the frontline with Ukrainian government forces in Slaviansk, eastern Ukraine. Pic - AP

and that the alliance roll back troop deployments in former Soviet bloc countries, a region Moscow still views as its sphere of interest

## What do Ukrainian leaders say?

Ukrainian officials have sought to calm nerves as tensions escalate.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said

Wednesday that while the concentration of Russian troops near Ukraine poses a threat, "their number is now insufficient for a large-scale offensive."

"They are still missing some key military elements and systems to mount a big, full-scale offensive," Kuleba told reporters.

He also noted that causing alarm could be an end in itself. Russia, he said, hopes to destabilize Ukraine by "spreading panic, raising pressure on Ukraine's financial system and launching cyberattacks."

## What is the mood on Ukraine's front line?

Soldiers and civilians in eastern Ukraine are waiting with helpless anticipation to see if war comes.

They understand that their fate is being decided by politicians in distant capitals. Even politicians in their own capital, Kyiv, have found themselves on the sidelines of several rounds of high-stakes diplomacy that so far have not yielded a breakthrough.

The battle-weary region has been fighting pro-Russia separatist fighters since 2014. It is an area close to where Russia has massed tens of thousands of soldiers in a troop buildup that U.S. President Joe Biden says could mount the largest invasion since World War II.

## What is happening on the diplomatic front?

Envoys from Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany met Wednesday for more than eight hours in Paris to discuss the separatist conflict in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland. Although there was no breakthrough, they promised to meet for new talks in two weeks in Berlin.

## The 'Partygate' scandal: Where matters stand



Britain's prime minister Boris Johnson (File Photo / AFP)

Boris Johnson's future as UK prime minister hangs in the balance as he grapples with two investigations — including one by the police — into alleged rule-breaking parties in government buildings while the country was in lockdown.

The so-called 'partygate' controversy has gripped the country for weeks, escalating on Tuesday after police began a formal probe. That followed news of — among others — a "bring your own booze" party in Downing Street at the height of coronavirus restrictions in 2020, as well as a birthday party for Johnson.

The scandal was already being investigated by senior civil servant Sue Gray, and her report is seen as central to whether members of Johnson's Conservatives

would continue to back him as a leader. That review could come within days after police raised no objection to its publication, according to reports in local media, reports Bloomberg.

Meanwhile, the police probe is another damaging development for the prime minister, who is already facing calls to resign, even from within his own party, and slumping poll numbers.

Among the key issues are whether any of the events breached coronavirus rules, when Johnson learned of the May 2020 BYOB party, and whether he ignored concerns from some within his office about it. Johnson has also been accused of misleading Parliament, which would customarily be a resigning matter.

## Working 'closely' with India to handle border problem, US should not interfere: China

China on Thursday said it will work "closely" with India to properly handle the ongoing border tension and strongly criticised the US for saying it was concerned by Beijing's attempts to coerce its neighbours including India.

The Chinese defence ministry added that the border problem is a bilateral matter and both China and India oppose interference from a third party, reports Hindustan Times.

Defence ministry spokesperson, Wu Qian said "...China neither 'coerces' nor is 'coerced' by others, and strongly opposes the US forcing 'coercive diplomacy' on other countries, Wu said on Thursday.

Wu was referring to comments made by the White House press secretary, Jen Psaki ahead of the 14th round of military talks between India and China on January 12 to resolve the ongoing border tension between the two countries along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. "We've been pretty clear how we view Beijing's behaviour in the region and around the world. We believe it can be destabilising. And we're concerned by the People's Republic of China's attempt to intimidate its neighbours," Psaki said.

Referring to the China-India border issue, Wu stressed that the Chinese side believed that the last round of talks were positive and constructive. "...China will work closely with the Indian side to pro-



Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel celebrate the 73rd Republic Day at 15,000 feet in minus (-) 35 degree celsius temperature, at the icy Ladakh borders, on Wednesday. Pic - PTI

perly handle the border issue through negotiation and consultation," Wu was quoted as saying by the official China Military Online website.

Indian and Chinese border troops have been locked in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh since May 2020, when a violent clash in Pangong lake area led to both sides gradually deploying tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry along the border.

India has repeatedly and consistently rejected China's allegations that Indian troops crossed over to the Chinese side of the LAC in eastern Ladakh, asserting that New Delhi has always taken a responsible approach towards border management and maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

\*Contd on page 10



## Omicron survives over 21 hours on skin, more than 8 days on plastic

A study conducted by the researchers from the Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine in Japan has now claimed that the Omicron variant of coronavirus can remain alive on skin and plastic more than the earlier variants of the virus like Alpha, Beta, Delta and Gamma. The study is yet to be peer-reviewed and has been posted recently on BioRxiv. According to the findings, Omicron can remain alive on the skin for over 21 hours and more than eight days on any plastic surface. This might be the reason why Omicron is spreading faster compared to other strains, the study said.

For the study, the researchers compared the survival time of the other variants and concluded that the Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta variants could remain alive on plastic surfaces for 56 hours, 191.3 hours, 156.6 hours, 59.3 hours, and 114 hours, respectively.



A health worker inoculates a child in Peru's Lima. Pic- AFP

Omicron, on the other hand, can survive on a plastic surface for 193.5 hours, more than 8 days, reports Hindustan Times.

On skin samples, the average virus survival times were 8.6 hours for the original version, 19.6 hours for Alpha, 19.1 hours for Beta, 11 hours for Gamma, 16.8 hours for Delta and 21.1 hours for Omicron, the study claimed.

The findings also include the effectiveness of ethanol on all variants. Although Alpha, Beta, Delta, and Omicron variants showed a slight increase in ethanol resistance in response to increased environmental stability, all VOCs on the skin surface were completely inactivated by 15-second exposure to 35 per cent ethanol, it said, asserting that sanitising hands frequently is highly recommended.

Omicron is the latest variant of SARS-CoV-2, which was first identified in South Africa on November 24, 2021. Since then, the variant has been spreading at an unprecedented spread replacing Delta, and led to a fresh surge of the pandemic across the world.

## Researchers find 2 paths to 'super immunity' against Covid-19, no correlation with age



A health worker administers a Covid-19 vaccine to a teenager in Gurugram. Pic - PTI

There are two paths towards "super immunity" against coronavirus disease and both provide roughly equal levels of enhanced immune protection, according to a new study. Researchers at Oregon Health & Science University studied the quantity, quality and breadth of humoral immune response from and without natural infection in addition to vaccination against Covid-19. They found that the additional antigen exposure from Covid-19 substantially boosts immunity regardless of whether it occurs before or after vaccination.

"It makes no difference whether you get infected and then vaccinated, or if you get vaccinated and then a breakthrough infection," said Fikadu Tafess, co-author of the study. "In either case, you will get a really, really robust immune response — amazingly high."

The Covid-19 vaccines approved by the World Health Organization significantly reduce overall mortality and severe illness from the infection. Several studies have shown that people with hybrid immunity — induced through vaccination after recovering from coronavirus infection

— have enhanced immune responses as compared with the vaccinated peers with no prior infection. But the effects of post-vaccination breakthrough infections on humoral immune response was yet to be determined, reports Kunal Gaurav of Hindustan Times.

The OHSU researchers measured neutralizing antibody responses from 104 vaccinated individuals, including those with breakthrough infections, hybrid immunity, and no infection history. The participants, vaccinated with the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine, were divided into three groups: 42 with no infection, 31 who were vaccinated after an infection, and 31 who had breakthrough infections following vaccination.

"We find that human immune sera following breakthrough infection and vaccination following natural infection, broadly neutralize SARS-CoV-2 variants to a similar degree," the authors said in the study published in the journal Science Immunology.

While age negatively correlates with antibody response after vaccination alone, the researchers concluded that there was no correlation with age in breakthrough or hybrid immune groups.

## Covid-19: 'Flurona' isn't real, people can get co-infection, say researchers

Some posts on social media talked about one such infection named 'flurona' in Israel, which the users said is a double infection of Covid-19 and influenza.

But healthcare experts have now dismissed this, saying it's not a different thing.

"The contractions like 'flurona,' I think they're very misleading to people. It presents the idea two viruses have somehow merged into one, which is not at all the case," Dr Ellen Foxman, an immunologist at the Yale School of Medicine, told NBC News. "Somebody got a co-infection, reports Amit Chaturvedi, Hindustan Times.

People get co-infections all the time."

Other researchers too agree with Dr Foxman. Dr Guy Boivin, a clinical virologist in Quebec, explained that co-infection can result in three outcomes: Little or no symptoms, severe illness due to virus attacks at the same time or one infection could block another.

According to reports, the first case



Medical staff carry out tests for Covid-19 at a drive-through site in Jerusalem, Israel. Pic - Reuters

of 'flurona' was recorded late in December in a pregnant woman who was admitted to the Rabin Medical Centre in Petah Tikva to give birth. Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth reported that the young woman was not vaccinated.

At that time, Dr Nahla Abdel Wahab, a doctor at Cairo University Hospital, had told Israeli media that 'flurona' may indicate a major breakdown of the immunity system as two viruses are entering the human body at the same time.

Israel is administering a fourth vaccine shot against Covid-19 to indi-

viduals with a compromised immune system. It is mulling expanding the coverage to younger population as well.

Last week, the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) said that the Omicron variant is in the community transmission stage in India and has become dominant in multiple metros.

It also said BA.2 lineage, an infectious sub-variant of Omicron, has been found in a substantial fraction in the country.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah



Interview : Jean Claude de l'Estrac

# “Si les élections devaient se tenir ce dimanche, le MSM les remporterait.

*Mais elles vont se tenir dans trois ans. On verra si Pravind Jugnauth est un marathonien”*



**R**etour sur la démocratie à Maurice. Malgré toutes les tentatives de l'opposition avec un parti ou plusieurs partis réunis, il semble qu'elle soit dans une incapacité de déloger le gouvernement du jour. Pourtant les scandales et autres incompétences ne manquent pas... Mais laissons la parole à Jean Claude de l'Estrac, qui connaît parfaitement le terrain politique et ses rouages.

même pas la récente décision de la Cour d'autoriser un 'recount' au No 19, ce qui avait suscité un certain enthousiasme au départ?

Nous verrons si le *recount* à Rose Hill-Stanley modifie le résultat. Mais on sait déjà qu'il ne changera pas la donne. Dans le système électoral, un *recount* n'a rien de dramatique. Il part de l'idée que des erreurs humaines sont possibles et corrigibles. L'histoire des pétitions sollicitant des *recounts* dans notre pays remonte à 1891, c'est la pétition Hitié v/s sir Virgile Naz qui sera rejetée.

Depuis, nous avons vu près d'une dizaine de pétitions ou de motions réclamant un *recount*. La plus spectaculaire est celle du

du MMM. Il semble toutefois qu'il y ait toujours des obstacles à franchir avant qu'on ne puisse parler d'alliance. Mais rien ne presse, non?

Non seulement rien ne presse, mais on est en droit de poser la question de savoir si les dirigeants de l'opposition ont bien mesuré la portée politique et l'effectivité électorale de cette alliance. Il n'est pas interdit de penser qu'elle pourrait se révéler électoralement contre-productive: un Bérenger aux côtés de Ramgoolam pourrait renforcer Jugnauth au sein de l'électorat rural; un Ramgoolam avec Bérenger pourrait affaiblir le MMM en milieu urbain.

C'est ce dilemme qui avait poussé Ramgoolam et Bérenger à mener, chacun de son côté en 2014, une campagne de neutralisation réciproque, ce qui a donné le résultat calamiteux que l'on connaît. Malheureusement, le débat de fond n'a pas eu lieu; pourtant, la question d'un rééquilibrage des pouvoirs entre un Président de la République - garant de l'indépendance des institutions - et un Premier ministre gestionnaire, mérite d'être posée.

\* On apprend ces jours-ci que le PTr exigerait les postes de Leader de l'opposition et de 'Whip'. C'est tout ou rien : cela semble être la stratégie adoptée par les Travaillistes pour se tailler la part du lion. C'est évidemment une guerre de nerfs qui a été engagée par les Travaillistes, stratégie payante jusqu'ici, mais faut-il que Bérenger ne perde pas la face...

Si c'est bien là une exigence des Travaillistes, Bérenger cédera. Après avoir longtemps considéré que Ramgoolam était un poids lourd aujourd'hui, il prétend être maintenant convaincu que le Parti Travailliste ne vaut rien sans Ramgoolam. Je gage que cette distribution de postes est le cadet des soucis des électeurs.

\* Si Bérenger n'est plus en position d'imposer les termes d'une alliance avec le PTr, même si ce dernier se trouve, comme lui, dans l'opposition, c'est tout dire du poids que pèse son parti sur l'échiquier présentement. Est-ce aussi faible que cela?

La question est plus large. Que pèse aujourd'hui chacun des trois partis qui constitueront probablement l'alliance de l'opposition? Seront-ils en mesure de mobiliser les 40% à 50% des suffrages qui seront nécessaires pour battre le MSM de Jugnauth?

« Le vent, ces temps-ci, est dans les voiles du pouvoir. Le navire de l'opposition n'arrête pas de tanguer. Il est en quête d'un capitaine au long cours. C'est cela, un capitaine au long cours! Un capitaine capable de tenir la barre pendant une longue durée d'au moins dix ans! »

**Mauritius Times:** Il semble que l'opposition a encore un long chemin à parcourir avant qu'un changement majeur n'intervienne sur l'échiquier politique. Ni la rue et encore moins l'opposition n'ont pu avoir un impact pouvant faire basculer le pouvoir. Est-ce aussi votre avis ?

Nous sommes en démocratie, seules des élections générales sont propres à faire «basculer» le pouvoir pour reprendre vos termes. Nous avons la garantie constitutionnelle que le pays sera appelé aux urnes dans trois ans au plus. Entretemps, les oppositions peuvent bien tempêter contre le pouvoir et la presse libre, exercer son rôle de vigilance, mais elles n'ont pas de légitimité à faire basculer le pouvoir autrement que par des moyens constitutionnels.

\* Toutefois, rien n'indique, à ce stade, que les pétitions électorales puissent modifier la donne –

Commissaire électoral lui-même qui loge une motion en Cour suprême contre un *Returning Officer* lorsqu'une grosse anomalie dans le décompte des voix, lors d'une élection villageoise à Lalmatie en 2012, est découverte, après coup.

L'officier électoral était Mme Carol Green Johhoo, aujourd'hui juge de la Cour suprême. C'est elle-même, à son honneur, qui signale l'erreur au Commissaire électoral mais après l'annonce officielle des résultats. La Cour suprême ordonne un *recount*.

Il convient, toutefois, de distinguer une demande de *recount* qui s'appuie sur le risque d'erreur humaine et une demande d'annulation d'un scrutin sur fond d'allégations de tricherie, de «bribery», dit la loi.

\* En attendant, il y a les négociations sur les modalités d'une alliance qui seraient arrivées à un stade avancé car impliquant les dirigeants du PTr et



# 'Un Bérenger aux côtés de Ramgoolam pourrait renforcer Jugnauth dans l'électorat rural ; un Ramgoolam avec Bérenger pourrait affaiblir le MMM en milieu urbain'

☞ Suite de la page 11

Arithmétiquement, cela paraît aujourd'hui difficile mais nous sommes à trois ans des prochaines élections, à défaut d'un basculement, un bouleversement n'est pas impossible, une recomposition rajeunie, par exemple, ou même une reconfiguration aujourd'hui inimaginable.

**\* A bien voir, on se demande si Ramgoolam, celui qui au départ avait lancé l'idée d'un rassemblement des forces de l'opposition, croit toujours dans la capacité d'une alliance PTr-Entente de l'Espoir de remporter les prochaines législatives. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

Je suis bien incapable de vous le dire; Ramgoolam, comme d'habitude, joue très près de ses cartes. Mais le raisonnement que je vous tiens sur les contradictions de cette Entente n'a peut-être pas échappé à Ramgoolam et à ses conseillers. C'est une vraie question qui mérite approfondissement.

« J'ai connu, moi, personnellement, une Inde qui soutenait le MMM de Jugnauth-Bérenger contre le Parti Travailleiste de sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. Il faudra que je raconte un jour mon entretien à Delhi avec Indira Gandhi, à la veille des élections de 1982, dans la crainte d'une offensive militaire américaine contre un éventuel gouvernement MMM... »

**\* Bérenger à Réduit, il semble que cela ne l'intéresse toujours pas?**

L'on ne va pas repasser ce vieux film en interchangeant les rôles, personne ne veut le revoir... C'était pourtant un bon scénario mais les acteurs étaient franchement mauvais.

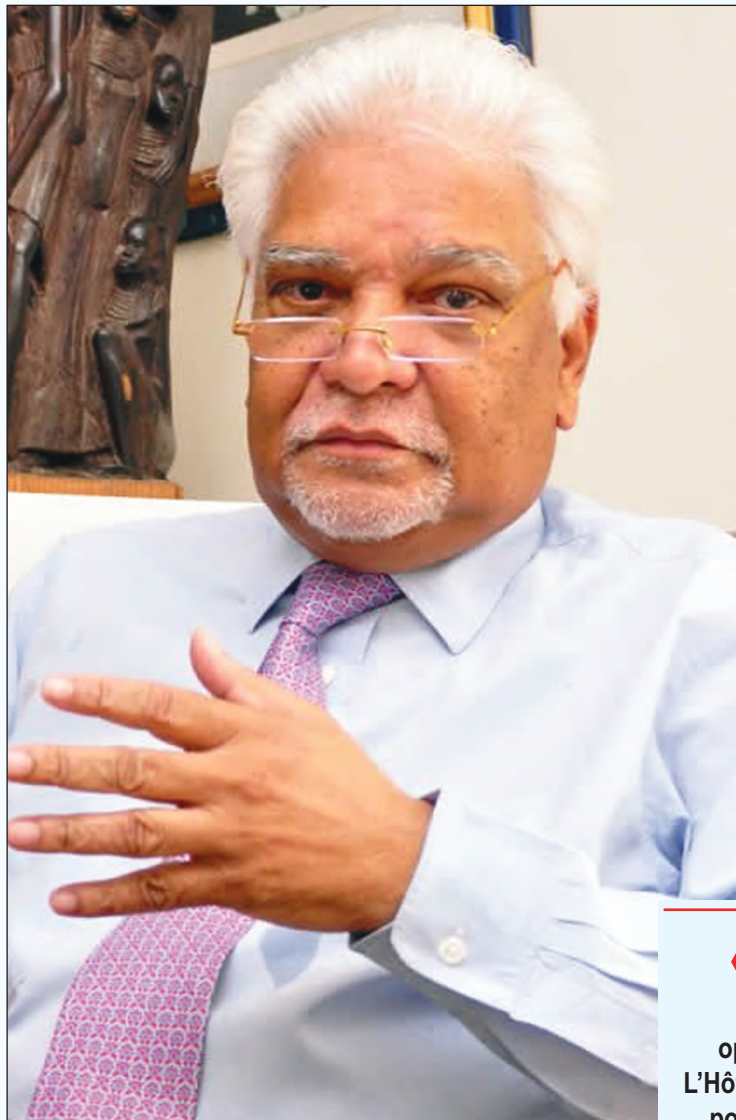
**\* Ni Ramgoolam, non plus, même avec des pouvoirs accrus pour le Président de la République, paraît-il. C'est l'Hôtel du gouvernement qui l'intéresse... pour une question d'honneur?**

Oui, pour les électeurs aussi! Le symbole de la grande majorité des électeurs, c'est l'Hôtel du gouvernement. Mais ces électeurs sont souvent aussi opportunistes et vénaux que les politiciens.

L'Hôtel du gouvernement une question d'honneur pour les politiques? Peut-être! Souvent aussi le lieu de leur déshonneur... Mais la question des «pouvoirs accrus» au Président mérite un débat dépassionné et déconnecté des personnalités.

**\* Si cette proposition de 'Premier ministre de transition' est à même de satisfaire les attentes du MMM, on se demande si l'électorat rural — d'habitude très frileux en ce qui concerne la question de 'prime ministership' tant en ce qui concerne la durée d'un tel mandat que le titulaire — soutiendra une telle démarche. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

Je pense que tout ce qui apparaîtra comme de petits arrangements bricolés entre politiciens rêvant de revenir



au pouvoir risquent de braquer l'électorat, en particulier, et vous avez raison, tout ce qui touche aux pouvoirs du Premier ministre. Je suis estomaqué de lire, selon les dires de Bérenger, que la priorité de l'Alliance de l'Espoir, c'est la distribution des postes...

**\* La bataille pour l'Hôtel du gouvernement est gagnée ou perdue dans les circonscriptions no. 5 à 14 — et rien n'est gagné d'avance du moins à ce stade en face d'un MSM qui disposerait de moyens énormes en termes de ressources financières et d'outils de propagande, entre autres la MBC-TV. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

« Nous verrons si le recount à Rose Hill-Stanley modifie le résultat. Mais on sait déjà qu'il ne changera pas la donne. Dans le système électoral, un recount n'a rien de dramatique. Il part de l'idée que des erreurs humaines sont possibles et corrigibles. L'histoire des pétitions sollicitant des recounts dans notre pays remonte à 1891, c'est la pétition Hitié v/s sir Virgile Naz qui sera rejetée... »

Si les élections devaient se tenir ce dimanche, le MSM les remporterait. Mais elles vont se tenir dans trois ans. On verra si Pravind Jugnauth est un marathonien. La MBC-TV est en effet un facteur déterminant mais dans un double sens. Elle est effectivement une machine de propagande redoutable mais j'estime que Jugnauth est proche de la surexposition négative.

**\* Le MSM dispose aussi, croit-on, d'amis puissants dans des capitales étrangères en particulier ceux qui ont des intérêts stratégiques dans cette partie du monde et qui souhaiteraient maintenir une continuité dans les rapports et les accords avec Port Louis. Un atout non-négligeable pour le MSM, paraît-il ?**

Aucun pays étranger n'a une quelconque influence ici si ce n'est l'Inde de Modi qui a retrouvé un rôle qu'elle n'avait plus. J'ai connu, moi, personnellement, une Inde qui soutenait le MMM de Jugnauth-Bérenger contre le Parti Travailleiste de sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. Il faudra que je raconte un jour mon entretien à Delhi avec Indira Gandhi, à la veille des élections de 1982, dans la crainte d'une offensive militaire américaine contre un éventuel gouvernement MMM.

« Le symbole de la grande majorité des électeurs, c'est l'Hôtel du gouvernement. Mais ces électeurs sont souvent aussi opportunistes et vénaux que les politiciens. L'Hôtel du gouvernement une question d'honneur pour les politiques? Peut-être! Souvent aussi le lieu de leur déshonneur... »

Le même gouvernement indien était prêt, quelques mois plus tard, à faire débarquer son armée ici pour protéger Anerood Jugnauth contre le risque d'une prise de pouvoir par Bérenger en 1983. *Lal Dora*, — cette opération militaire indienne avortée, n'a pas été suffisamment analysée ici. Il y a là des enseignements notamment sur le rôle des services de renseignements indiens à Maurice.

**\* On avait l'impression à un certain moment que le vent était en train de tourner, mais il paraît que le rapport de forces serait toujours en faveur de l'alliance gouvernementale, malgré d'incessants scandales de corruption alléguée et des projets de loi très controversables. Qu'est-ce qui pourrait casser cet élan?**

Le vent, ces temps-ci, est dans les voiles du pouvoir. Le navire de l'opposition n'arrête pas de tanguer. Il est en quête d'un capitaine au long cours. C'est cela, un capitaine au long cours! Un capitaine capable de tenir la barre pendant une longue durée d'au moins dix ans!



- *Un monde gouverné en fonction du plaisir des heureux et non de la délivrance de ceux qui souffrent injustement est voué nécessairement à la haine. -- Abbé Pierre*

# The Education Code - A Reappraisal

By Doojendranath Napal

Who is responsible for education in Mauritius, the Director of Education or the Minister of Education and Institutions? It is clear on reading the Education Ordinance recently published that the Director wields powers he ought not to have under a ministerial system. For example, it is the Director who "shall determine the qualifications and conditions for admission to the Teachers' Training College". Only those primary schools will be entitled to grants in aid which will comply to conditions (enumerated in the Ordinance) to the "satisfaction of the Director".

It is again the Director of Education who shall determine who are qualified to teach in the secondary schools. Be it noted that in certain sections of the Ordinance we read of the Director empowered to do things "with the concurrence of the Minister"; we owe this addition to Hon. Chadien, who tabled a motion to that effect when the Bill was debated in Council on the 6th December. We all know that the grant of scholarships is a matter of great importance. Yet the Director of Education is given sole authority to decide on the schedule of studies of the scholarship examination as the following testifies: "Clause 22, section 3: The schedule of studies for each of the scholarship examinations mentioned in regulations 19 and 20 of these regulations shall be such as the Director shall from time to time approve." In these circumstances, what is the role of our Education Minister?

What is more strange is that the Education Ordinance leaves scope for a state within a state in the Education Department. We mean the Education Authorities governing aided primary and secondary schools. The Director cannot appoint in an aided school a teacher "unacceptable to the Education Authority concerned." Promotions also in aided primary schools shall be made by the Education Authorities when the aided primary school are run by grants-in-aid from the general revenues of the colony, why should government not exert more control upon them? And the teachers who receive the same training and do the same work as the teachers of government schools are subject to the whims of the Education Authority in so far as promotions and transfers are concerned. Favouritism and nepotism reign supreme. And the Education Ordinance makes provisions for their rule. For how long, we do not know. The expectations of thinking people that this archaic system would be swept away by the Education Ordinance have fallen flat.

## Primary Scholarships

Many a time we have protested in the columns of the *MT* against the injustice inherent in our primary scholarship system. Other contributors have done so. The *MT* has consecrated many editorials to this question. But all to no purpose. The Education Ordinance does not provide anything to allow children of rural areas to attend scholarship classes which are the monopoly of some schools in towns. We advocated the creation of central schools in the country districts affording facilities to potential scholars in rural areas.



The Education Ordinance ought to have revised the whole system of the grant of junior scholarships and not leave the village pupil with great disadvantages while competing with his fellows in the town. This is a serious omission. This is sheer squandering of public money on children of well-to-do families who can well afford secondary and even university education for their sons and daughters. The use of French as a compulsory language in the 6th Standard and the Junior Scholarship examinations is another glaring injustice with regard to the child whose mother tongue is an Oriental language and who on his first day to a primary school does not know even Creole. Only seven years later such a child is given to answer a compulsory French paper just as the child of the French speaking parents. What injustices are not committed in this island in the name of French!

## Teaching Medium

In clause 43 of the Education Ordinance, we read:

"1. In the lower classes of Government and Aided Primary School up to and including Standard III, any one language may be employed as the medium of instruction, being a language which in the opinion of the Director is most suitable for the pupils". (italics ours)

"2. In Standard IV, V and VI of the Government and Aided Primary schools the medium of instruction shall be English and conversation between teacher and pupils shall be carried on in English: provided that lessons in any other language taught in the school shall be carried on through the medium of that language."

On paper the above clause appears to be an excellent solution to the language problem, apart from the fact that the Director is vested with absolute authority to decide on a question of which he may be quite in the dark. The Education Ordinance has been put into force since the 28th of December. The classes for 1958 have been resumed. Has the Director given his opinion on the medium of instruction?

We are led to believe that the medium of instruction is still French in all the primary schools in the island. Is it the opinion of the Director that the Indo-Mauritian child, dwelling say at Creve Coeur or Petit Raffray, knows

French enough for him to consider it as a medium of instruction? But the unfortunate child does not know a word of Creole in many instances. To him French is as foreign as English. If it is impracticable to make his mother tongue (Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Telugu or Marathi) the medium of instruction, let him learn English right from Standard I. There are two strong reasons for doing so. The child will be better able to cope with the situation in Standard IV, V and VI when he will have to converse with his teacher in English. And it will be the furtherance of the objective of the Education Department to ensure "the more effective teaching of English and the spread of the English language in the Colony". As matters stand the child

on reaching Standard IV will be more conversant with French than with English. It will be a big handicap for him suddenly to switch over to English as a medium of instruction.

## Oriental Language Schools

In Part I of the Education Ordinance, School means: "any assembly of not less than ten pupils for the purpose of receiving regular full-time or part-time instruction and includes vernacular schools and night schools." It follows that all *baithkas* and *maktabs* fall within the denomination of 'schools'. Many of these are in poor conditions. They have for years, in some cases for almost half a century, been the only places where rural children have been able to learn their mother tongue, be it Hindi, Tamil, Urdu or any other Oriental language. These schools are run thanks to the tireless and voluntary efforts of generous individuals or organizations — of people who take pride in their culture and their mother tongue. Language is the life-blood of a culture and yet Government has shown very little interest in the teaching of Oriental languages.

Now these schools are threatened to be closed "if the school premises constitute a dangerous building, or are structurally unsuitable to contain a school or are insufficiently protected against the risk of fire," and if "the qualifications and experiences of the proposed teachers are not adequate to ensure the efficient conduct of the school and if the proposed school premises or equipment will not allow of efficient tuition in the subjects to be taught in the school" (vide Education Ordinance Clause 10 and 11). The threat of closing these schools is no less than adding insult to injury.

The solution to the problem is not closing down the vernacular schools and night schools but to help them to develop on healthier lines. It is a policy of setting the clock back. The irony of it is that we have an Education Minister who happens to be an Indo-Mauritian and under whose guidance the revised Education Code has been enacted.

All people of Asiatic descent should strongly protest against the insertion of that clause in the revised Education Code.



# Voters value honesty in their politicians above all else



Our survey of the UK population suggested that 71% value honesty from the prime minister, and that power may be concentrated in too few hands. EPA

## ● Cont. from page 2

However, our findings suggest otherwise. When we asked respondents to "imagine that a future prime minister has to choose between acting honestly and delivering the policy that most people want", 71% chose honesty and only 16% delivery. When we asked whether respondents agreed more that "healthy democracy requires that politicians always act within the rules" or that "healthy democracy means getting things done, even if that sometimes requires politicians to break the rules", 75% chose the former and just 6% the latter.

It is worth repeating that these findings come from the summer – before the Owen Paterson affair and "partygate". They are not knee-jerk reactions to short-term headlines. The vast majority of voters expect politicians to act honestly and follow the rules.

## Limiting power at the very top

Another less obvious but equally important pattern emerged from our findings. Voters do not want power to be unduly concentrated in the hands of the prime minister and their government. Many favour at least somewhat greater powers for parliament – 45% think MPs should decide what the House of Commons debates, against 30% who think the prime minister or government should do so.

Even more clearly, and perhaps surprisingly, most want judges to constrain ministers too. We asked respondents to "imagine there is a dispute over whether the government has the legal authority to decide a particular matter on its own or whether it needs parliament's approval", and to consider how the dispute should be settled. Most (51%) said it should be settled by judges and only 27% chose government ministers or politicians in parliament. We also asked about whether judges should play a role in resolving whether a new law violates rights. Depending on the rights that we asked about, between 65% and 77% of respon-

dents said that the courts should have their current powers under the Human Rights Act or even be given stronger powers to strike down laws directly.

A large majority also said that civil servants should be "neutral and permanent government employees" rather than "appointed by the government of the day". And most respondents thought that someone who had previously said the BBC should be neutral in its reporting could be a suitable candidate for BBC chair, but that someone who had said the BBC should be less critical of government could not.

The reason for these answers appears clear: most people don't trust politicians, and they trust the politicians closest to power least. They therefore welcome limits on what those in power can do.

Our study is investigating public attitudes to democracy not only through surveys, but also through a citizens' assembly, which shows whether people think the same or differently once they have thought and learnt about the issues in depth. We will publish full results of the Citizens' Assembly on Democracy in the UK in the spring. But initial findings fit the survey responses closely. Assembly members said "we feel dissatisfied with how democracy is working in the UK today because there is a lack of honesty and integrity in politics". By large majorities, they favoured greater powers for parliament and the courts vis-à-vis the executive.

However, the current ructions in the Conservative Party pan out in the coming weeks, those in power should be clear: people in the UK expect their leaders to act with integrity – and they expect a system of checks and balances on executive power to be maintained. A leader who violates these principles harms him or herself and damages confidence in democracy.

*Alan Renwick, Professor of Democratic Politics, University College London*

## Opinion

# Ces points de bascule fatidiques

Lorsque nous nous disputons sur la manière de réduire l'impact négatif de la Covid-19 sur notre vécu, par exemple, il s'agit très souvent de nos habitudes et de nos certitudes que nous sommes prêts à céder pour atteindre notre objectif commun. Cette situation peut également être décrite comme un bras de fer entre le degré de notre tolérance aux mesures qui limitent notre liberté et le degré de notre participation individuelle et collective à des comportements visant à contenir la transmission de la Covid-19.



Samad Ramoly

Comme dans toutes les autres circonstances, la justesse de notre jugement détermine si, tôt ou tard, à travers nos comportements, nous atteignons collectivement un équilibre propice à un résultat positif. La part relative de notre quête de l'intérêt personnel et celle du bien commun varie dans nos réactions. Des contextes différents déclenchent évidemment des réactions globales différentes.

La synergie souhaitée pour avancer dépend de l'efficacité avec laquelle nos réactions convergent. La durée pendant laquelle cette synergie peut être maintenue dépend de la durée pendant laquelle une masse critique au sein du groupe ou de la communauté est prête à collaborer.

En revanche, cette collaboration ne peut pas se manifester dans un vide. Il est essentiel d'instaurer une confiance raisonnable entre les institutions (à travers leurs chefs au sein de l'État, du gouvernement, de l'entreprise, de l'école, de la famille, des médias, notamment) et les individus.

Si nous percevons que l'effort que nous consentons est récompensé de manière adéquate, non seulement en termes financiers, mais également en termes de reconnaissance de notre valeur et de nos besoins ou ambitions, la plupart d'entre nous seraient inspirés à participer activement à tout projet ou aventure.

Par contre, ce cycle vertueux n'est pas envisageable lorsque l'ascenseur – pour passer du statut de recalé défavorisé au statut d'initié privilégié – semble être en panne, ou semble être fonctionnel uniquement avec le recours à des démarches louches.

Lorsqu'une méfiance réciproque per-

siste et que le désespoir nous envahit au-delà d'un certain temps, ceux qui sont privés de capacités suffisantes en termes de compétences et de force mentale, ceux qui subissent un déclassement social, sont entraînés dans une spirale de survie avec des défis énormes à surmonter. En fin de compte, ceux qui sont épargnés par une désillusion et des carences similaires finissent par

en ressentir également les impacts, même si ce n'est pas avec la même intensité, car nous sommes tous liés les uns aux autres d'une manière ou d'une autre.

Le monde réel existe dans un nombre infini de couleurs. Paradoxalement, lorsque les influences externes sont ambiguës, ce monde est réduit aux apparences en noir et blanc. La «réalité» d'aujourd'hui est de plus en plus façonnée par l'intelligence artificielle et les algorithmes. Les nuances sont filtrées instantanément, sans forcément solliciter notre consentement.

Plus que jamais, les signaux contradictoires de toutes sortes ont tendance à nous distraire et à nous submerger. Discerner si cette «réalité» est compatible avec nos aspirations profondes est primordial pour susciter l'éveil. Le besoin de recul et de vision cohérente n'a jamais été aussi déterminant, tout comme une démarche moins universelle, mais plus plurielle et résolument articulée autour de notre véritable ressenti.

Si ce sont la partisanerie et les idéologies aveuglantes qui dictent nos orientations, il est très probable que nous restions coincés dans une bulle. Un tel revers a tendance à alimenter un repli, voire une affirmation identitaire des recalés aussi bien que des initiés du «système». Et le point de bascule vers un résultat positif restera inimaginable sans un leadership capable de mettre en œuvre des stratégies pertinentes qui incitent la plupart d'entre nous à regarder systématiquement dans une même direction salutaire et à agir ensemble en conséquence.

Pour les partisans du statu quo, les binômes gauche-droite ou individuel-collectif demeurent des outils d'instrumentalisation potentiels. Ne faisons donc pas de l'esprit collaboratif un autre slogan maintenant.



## 2022 Chinese Horoscope - The Year of the Tiger

Chinese New Year 2022 is set to take place on Tuesday 1 February. Every new year introduces another animal from the Chinese zodiac and its attributes. This zodiac system has been going for an estimated 2000 years and remains central to Chinese culture. Many people in China use it to determine their fortune for the year and even who they should marry.

2022 will be the year of the tiger. It means people born this year will share the tiger's characteristics, namely vigour and ambition; daring and courage; enthusiasm and generosity; self-confidence; and a sense of justice and a commitment to help others for the greater good.

Here's everything you need to know about the "Year of the Tiger," as reported by [chinahighlights.com](http://chinahighlights.com), and which Chinese animal you are and how the Year of the Tiger will affect your life.



**Love:** Rats have little luck in love in 2022. Married Rats will encounter family relationship problems. Even though busy with work, Rats are suggested to spend more time on family. Having dinners or traveling together with loved ones will make you feel more comfortable.

**Career:** Rats will probably be busier in 2022 than in 2021. Good luck in their careers is waiting, which is helpful for business cooperation and project progress. 2022 is not a good year for Rats to change job.

**Wealth:** Rats have little chance to receive help from other reputable persons. Mostly Rats, you need to rely on yourself. Rats could consider investing money in fixed assets like real estate or purchasing gold. Those who own their own businesses should be prepared to outsource and regulate the flow of work.

### Lucky colours: red and blue

For those born in the year of the Rat, wearing clothes and ornaments in red and/or blue will help ward off bad luck and bring good luck in your career.



boyfriend or get married.

**Career:** There will be some good work opportunities for Oxes in 2022. Being down-to-earth and making great efforts in the workplace will help Oxes get more appreciation from leaders and colleagues. Oxes, if feeling exhausted in your current work, you may consider changing to another team in the same company.

**Wealth:** Oxes can expect good help from other people. In 2022, Oxes' wealth is mainly likely to increase as a result of good relationships with others. When dealing with big businesses, Oxes should pay much attention to relationship building and establishing cooperation.

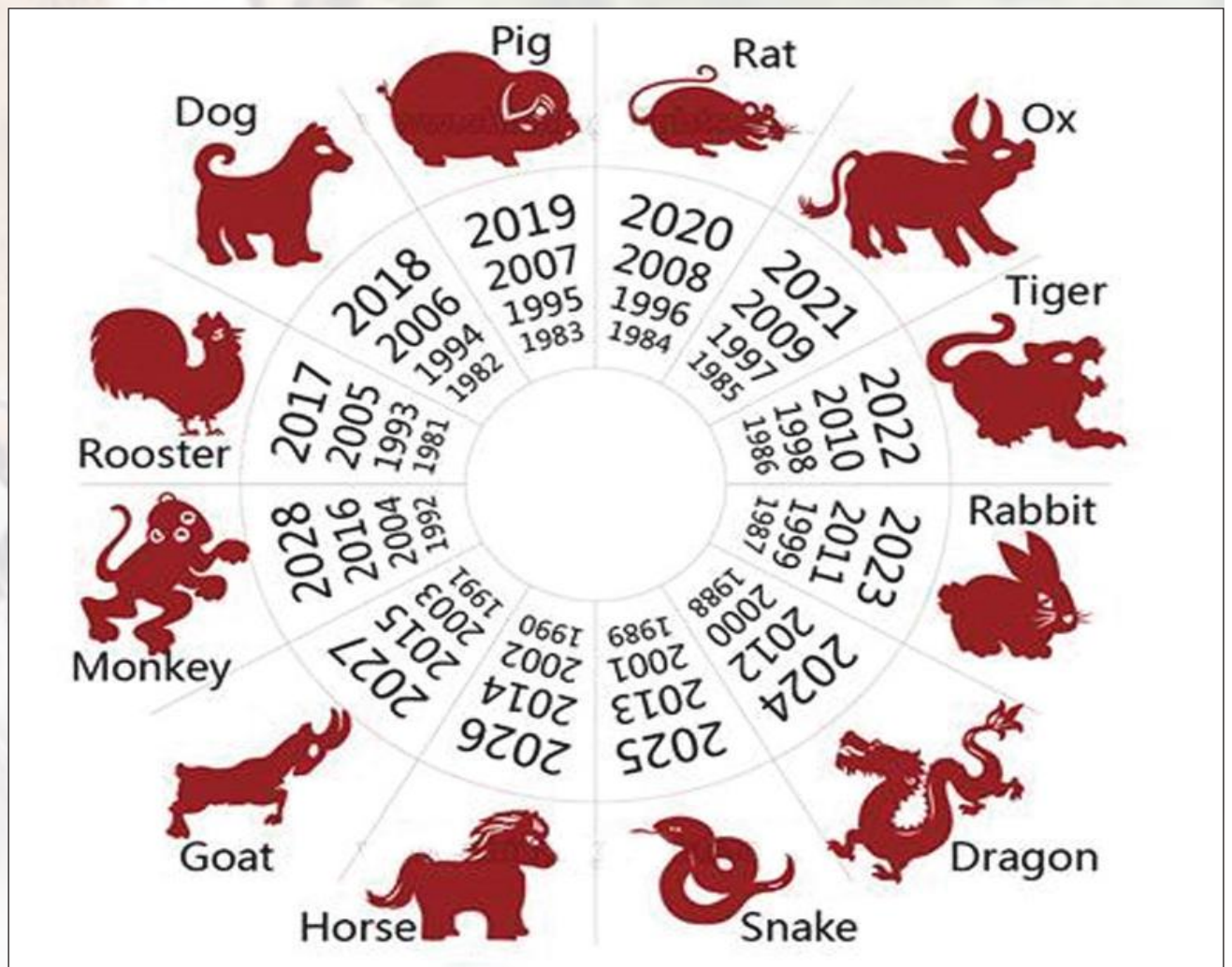
### Lucky colours: red and yellow

Red will help with better achievement in Oxes' careers. Yellow will bring good luck to the Ox in the area of love. The single Ox can have more chances to be in a close relationship by wearing yellow clothes.



**Love:** 2022 is a good year for Tigers to get married. Tigers at the age of 24 or 36 need to pay more attention to managing relationships as their luck in love will fluctuate in 2022.

**Career:** Tigers will have opportunities to get promoted in 2022. After working hard for many years, Tigers will finally get approval from their leaders. Tigers, don't be too high-profile, otherwise you may incur trouble and jealousy from petty colleagues.





## 2022 Chinese Horoscope - The Year of the Tiger



**Love:** Male Snakes will have good luck in love. Female Snakes will become very sensitive emotionally in 2022. They might become very picky with their spouse. In order not to create serious problems, female

Snakes need to be more peaceful and keep open minded.

**Career:** Snakes will have a high possibility of receiving support from others in order to get promoted. However, Snakes need to be careful of being hurt by petty persons. Treat colleagues politely and sincerely. Don't gossip behind others' backs.

**Wealth:** Snakes' luck with money is not too good or too bad in 2022, but they will receive helpful support from others. Snakes, don't expect to get rich overnight. Take double the time considering your options before making any big decisions.

**Lucky colours:** tangerine, cyan, and silver

Wearing tangerine ornaments will help single Snakes find a boyfriend/girlfriend. To achieve more success in 2022, the color cyan will lend you a hand. Silver will bring financial luck to the Snake.



**Love:** Unmarried Horses will have a high possibility of remaining single. Married Horses will probably spend more time on work than on family. When work is not so busy, Horses are suggested to spend some time in

watching a movie and having dinner together with their spouses.

**Career:** Horses will have good luck in their careers in 2022. Projects will progress smoothly with big financial benefits. Horses should consider changing jobs, if they can receive better company benefits.

**Wealth:** After going through a troubled 2021, Horses will have better financial luck in 2022. There will be a high possibility of getting promoted resulting in a better income. Horses who are business owners, you can also consider expanding your business overseas.

**Lucky colours:** green, blue and red

Green is good for Horses' careers. Blue is good for health. Red will help sweep away bad luck.



**Love:** If a Sheep gets married in 2021, he/she will have a high possibility of having a baby in 2022. Single Sheeps will have a good chance to find a boyfriend/girlfriend.

**Career:** 2022 is a bright year for Sheeps. They will lead a group to achieve good results and receive appreciation from leaders and colleagues. Sheeps might want to change job in 2022, but this is not suggested this year.

**Wealth:** If a salesperson, a Sheep will have outstanding achievements in income and relationships. Avoiding investing blindly and Sheep, you will enjoy good wealth appreciation in 2022.

**Lucky colours:** bright yellow

Bright yellow will make the Sheep more popular with the opposite gender and is good for a Sheep's love life.



**Love:** The love life of Monkeys is not stable in these two years (2021 and 2022). It's easy for them to get disturbed by unnecessary quarrels. Try to communicate peacefully when opinions differ.

**Career:** Monkeys will have good luck in their careers and be very busy in 2022. They could make use of their talents and make progress in a business project. There is also a possibility of a near miss, however, so Monkeys should pay much attention to their work details.

**Wealth:** 2022 is a good year for Monkeys to start or expand an overseas business. Monkeys, don't spend much money on financial products or stocks. Alternatively, investing in fixed assets like real estate will have more chance of earning money.

**Lucky colours:** white and baby blue

Being close to white will make the Monkey get more opportunities for promotion. Baby blue will bring more luck in love for the Monkey. Monkeys, if you're single, try to wear clothes or ornaments in baby blue more often.



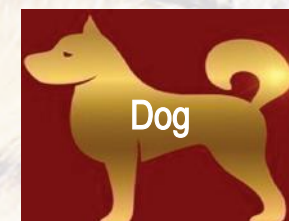
**Love:** Most Roosters will be busy with work, leaving little time for building relationships with loved ones or intentions to get married. Single Roosters also don't have much desire to have a boyfriend/girlfriend.

**Career:** Roosters' careers will be very smooth this year. They will receive helpful support from others when needed. Roosters should make more effort in work and embrace an opportunity when it comes. This will optimize a chance to get promoted.

**Wealth:** With the help of some reputable people, Roosters will have more clients in business, generating more income. For those who have their own businesses, fortunes will fluctuate, and it's better to keep some current funds just in case. Avoid purchasing unnecessary luxuries.

**Lucky colours:** yellow

Yellow will help raise Roosters' wealth prospects. Wearing yellow clothes or decorating your office/table with yellow will bring good luck.



**Love:** Most married Dogs will be busy with work leaving little time for building relationships with loved ones. Spending more time on family will make their love lives go more smoothly.

**Career:** For those Dogs who do business, there will be a high possibility of losing clients or partners because of the unpleasant marketing situation. Those Dogs who do creative work, like design and music, will receive leaders' and colleagues' approval, enabling them to earn more money or get promoted.

**Wealth:** Good luck regarding money is waiting for those Dogs who do creative work, like design and

music. However, Dogs in business should be very careful of investments in stocks or funds. Starting a new company/business with other people is also not suggested in 2022.

**Lucky colours:** yellow, black and grey

Yellow and black will bring luck in raising the Dog's salary and a high possibility that they will have an expected personal gain. Grey is good for a Dog's love life in 2022.



**Love:** Married Pigs will often quarrel with their spouses in 2022. There is a high possibility of a love triangle forming. Pigs, talking peacefully and communicating with your



























































spouse will help avoid this trouble. For Pigs who are in love, 2022 is a good year to get married.

**Career:** 2022 is a good time for Pigs to improve themselves. Pigs, taking exams and getting certification will bring good luck for your career path. Many Pigs will consider changing jobs. Before making a decision, it is best to investigate all new companies' information in detail.

**Wealth:** Pigs will have a chance to increase their income in 2022, however, there is little possibility of earning big money. If Pigs want to invest in new business, it is better to put a small amount of money in at the beginning and increase it gradually when the business goes smoothly.

**Lucky colours:** yellow, green and black

Yellow is Pigs' lucky color for love/marriage life. Green and black will bring the Pig good fortune in his/her career and money matters.

 28 janvier 1960	 15 février 1972	 2 février 1984	 19 février 1996	 7 février 2008
 15 février 1961	 3 février 1973	 20 février 1985	 7 février 1997	 26 janvier 2009
 5 février 1962	 23 janvier 1974	 9 février 1986	 28 janvier 1998	 24 février 2010
 25 janvier 1963	 11 février 1975	 29 janvier 1987	 15 février 1999	 3 février 2011
 13 février 1964	 31 janvier 1976	 17 février 1988	 4 février 2000	 23 janvier 2012
 2 février 1965	 18 février 1977	 6 février 1989	 24 janvier 2001	 10 février 2013
 21 janvier 1966	 7 février 1978	 27 janvier 1990	 12 février 2002	 31 janvier 2014
 9 février 1967	 28 janvier 1979	 15 février 1991	 1 février 2003	 19 février 2015
 30 janvier 1968	 16 février 1980	 4 février 1992	 22 janvier 2004	 8 février 2016
 17 février 1969	 5 février 1981	 23 janvier 1993	 9 février 2005	 28 janvier 2017
 6 février 1970	 25 janvier 1982	 10 février 1994	 29 janvier 2006	 16 février 2018
 27 janvier 1971	 13 février 1983	 31 janvier 1995	 18 février 2007	 5 février 2019



## Which personality traits can be improved without personal motivation?

Could a company train an employee to become more conscientious, even if the worker isn't invested in improving that trait? A new study suggests yes. But improving someone's emotional stability without that person's commitment is not likely to happen, says Southern Methodist University psychology professor Nathan Hudson.

The goal of his recent research published in the 'Journal of Research in Personality' was to test two theories; that successful personality intervention may require that participants chose which traits they change, and that they be actively invested in changing the target traits.

He found that conscientiousness -- the ability to be responsible, hard-working and organized -- could be improved even if participants were not motivated to change. Completing a series of tasks over a regulated period was found to change habits and therefore improve conscientiousness.

But emotional stability was a different matter: Study participants only got better at handling difficult situations if



they chose to work on their emotional stability. Otherwise, tasks they were given over four weeks proved to be ineffective.

"This provides promising evidence that schools, companies, or other organizations could ask people to make relatively minor changes that could help improve their lives by making them more organized and responsible over time," Hudson said. "In contrast, it appears that emotional stability might require a bit more investment from the people who partake in an intervention."

Hudson stressed that this research isn't about trying to control people.

"The idea of personality trait change - especially other people trying to change an individual's personality - can sound scary. But whether we recognize it or not, society is filled with interventions designed to try to change our personality traits," he said. "For instance, elementary school

is a giant intervention designed to help children become more intelligent, yes, but also kinder and more sociable, responsible and hardworking."

Previous research by Hudson and other psychologists has shown that people who actively worked to change aspects of their personality were, in many cases, successful in achieving the results they desired.

But before now, it wasn't clear if a person could have successful results if they didn't choose which personality trait they were looking to change and weren't invested in making that change.

### Why is emotional stability different from conscientiousness?

Hudson suspects that the reason people must be motivated to change emotional stability is that this trait deals with negative emotions.

"For many people, it can be difficult to 'just stop feeling angry' or 'just stop being stressed,'" he said. "My hunch is that indirect strategies for changing someone's emotions, such as writing in a journal or thinking about positive things, can only really work when people want to use those techniques to change their emotions."

Conscientiousness, on the other hand, can be easily faked and increased over time through mechanical acts, like cleaning your room or using a calendar.

"Motivation is largely irrelevant to interventions targeting conscientiousness, as long as participants adhere to the intervention," Hudson said.

## Prescribing the abortion pill without restrictions is safe and effective

Abortion remains safe after Canada removed restrictions on the medical abortion pill mifepristone in November 2017. That's one of the key findings from a UBC-led study published today in the 'New England Journal of Medicine'.

The study used comprehensive government health data to examine 315,000 abortions in Ontario between 2012 and 2020. An analysis showed no increase in abortion-related health complications following the removal of restrictions on Mifepristone, which is considered the "gold standard" drug for medical abortion globally.

"Complications were already very rare,

and we found that abortion continued to be safe and effective when Mifepristone was prescribed without restrictions," said Dr Laura Schummers, the study's lead author. "This is the strongest evidence yet that it is safe to provide the abortion pill like most other prescriptions -- meaning any doctor or nurse practitioner can prescribe, any pharmacist can dispense, and patients can take the pills if, when and where they choose."

Canada was the first country in the world to remove all supplemental restrictions on the dispensing and administration of Mifepristone.

The previous rules, which went into



place when the drug was first approved in July 2015, included a requirement that physicians observe patients taking the medication. Additionally, the drug could only be dispensed to patients by specially trained physicians who registered with the manufacturer, and not by pharmacists.

Many of the restrictions that Canada

removed are still mandated by countries around the world, including the U.S.

"Our study is a signal to other countries that restrictions are not necessary to ensure patient safety," says Professor Wendy Norman, the study's senior author and professor in UBC's department of family practice. "There is no scientific justification for Mifepristone restrictions, which only make it harder for people to access the care they need."

The findings revealed that the uptake of medical abortion -- those performed using medication, rather than surgically -- was rapid following the change in policy. Before Mifepristone became available, 2.2 per cent of abortions were provided using medication. That percentage rose to 31.4 per cent two years after the drug became available as a normal prescription.

## What is the smallest animal ever?

Scientists have identified the world's smallest animal - for now. It could be possible smaller creatures exist that have not yet been discovered

The biggest animal in the world is easy to see, if you know where to look. Living in every ocean except the Arctic, the blue whale is the largest animal on Earth -- weighing as much as 200 tons with a heartbeat that can be heard up to two miles away.

But the smallest animal in the world? Even if you knew where to look, could you see it? To track down the tiniest creature, scientists had to first decide what they were looking for and then, where they might find it. The first question -- "What is an animal?" -- is something that scientists have debated for centuries.

### What is an animal?

In the language of science, an animal is an organism made of multiple cells. Cells are the building blocks of all living

things -- a human body, for example, is made up of trillions of cells. Some organisms, like bacteria, are made of just one cell. They are not considered animals.

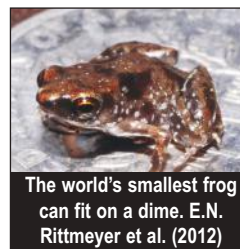
The simplest single-celled creatures -- including bacteria -- are called prokaryotes. They don't contain a nucleus, the feature that acts like the main control center for a cell. More complex cells have an enclosed nucleus. They are called eukaryotes. Anything from an earthworm to a zebra or you are all eukaryotes and all are considered animals.

### If it can't be seen, does that count?

Based on this definition, an animal can be something so small that it's not possible to see without a microscope. This is definitely not something that you would probably call an "animal." A recent discovery is an organism that is invisible to the eye, a parasitic jellyfish called Myxozoa. They are very small and reaching barely 20 micrometers. Stretched out end to end, it would take more than 1,000 of these creatures to equal 1 inch.

Probably the smallest of these parasitic jellyfish is Myxobolus shekel, which is no more than 8.5 micrometers when fully grown.

This species was described in 2011, so is pretty new. So is



The world's smallest frog can fit on a dime. E.N. Rittmeyer et al. (2012)

the decision that Myxozoa are related to jellyfish, which scientists agreed on in 2015. The discovery of these types of jellyfish occur once in a while, so it is possible that a new and even smaller animal will be discovered in the future.

### The process of elimination

Let's assume that you're looking for the smallest "animal" that is visible to the human eye. Some invertebrates, or animals without a backbone, and

other smaller organisms are not visible to the human eye. What is left are vertebrates, animals with backbones that include mammals such as a dog, a whale or you, reptiles such as snakes or crocodiles, birds, fishes and amphibians. Most amphibians, like frogs, are born in water and breathe with gills until they mature, when they develop lungs and an ability to live on land.

In this group of animals, it is the amphibians that win the prize for the smallest animal known, for the moment.

Scientists traveled to New Guinea, the second largest island in the world, to study the island's wildlife. This is where they found the smallest known type of frog called Paedophryne amauensis. The body length of an average adult is reported at less than 8 mm, about the size of a pea. When it was discovered in 2009, it was immediately awarded the title of "world's smallest vertebrate."





## LAUGHTER is the best medicine Novak Djokovic

I am mystified that people are so angry about Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic being an anti-vaxxer and his recent visa troubles with the Australian government. I know that it is his personal choice. But his parents must have known something way back then as they named him...

"No Vac...

Now... that's a Djok.

Serb him right!

And all because of Kovic!"

\*\*\*

The three Rottweilers were in the waiting room at the vet's surgery and after a while they got talking.

"I was out walking with my master when a thug attacked him, so I chased the guy caught him by the throat and savaged him to death, that's why I am here to be put down," says the first one.

"I was in the house when a burglar broke to steal the TV, so I pinned him to the floor, bit his arm off and now I'm here to be put down," says the second one.

The third Rottweiler started his story. "I was patrolling the house when I wandered into the bathroom to find my master's wife naked, bending over the tub, so I leapt up to massage her from behind."

"Are you being put down for that?"

"Oh, no, I'm just here to get my claws clipped."

\*\*\*

The foreman of a local firm is somewhat startled when his secretary bursts into his office and wants to file a case of sexual harassment against a man who works in the same department.

"What on earth did he do?" asks the man.

"It's not what he did, it's what he said," she shrieks, "he said my hair smells nice."

"And what's wrong with him telling you that?" asks the foreman confused.

"He is a midget," says the woman.

\*\*\*

I have a girlfriend who is a police officer.

When she misses me, she just comes to my house in uniform and arrests me in the presence of my wife and takes me to her home till the next day.

Then she brings me back and tells my wife: "We are not done with the investigations yet. I shall pick him up anytime we want more from him...!"

And my innocent wife will always say: "Madam Officer, God Bless you for handling my husband's case with care, and I will make sure he is always available anytime you need him...!"

**Moral of the story:** Gift a police officer's uniform to your girlfriend.

\*\*\*

### A notice from the Psychiatric Association

'Dear citizens

'During the Quarantine time, it is considered normal to talk to your walls, plants and pots. Kindly contact us only if they reply.'

\*\*\*

### What did the Pope say?

A woman was at her hairdresser's getting her hair styled for a trip to Rome with her husband. She mentioned the trip to the hairdresser, who responded: "Rome? Why would anyone want to go there? It's crowd-

ed and dirty. You're crazy to go to Rome. So, how are you getting there?"

"We're taking Easyjet," was the reply. "We got a great rate!"

"Easyjet?" exclaimed the hairdresser. "That's a terrible airline. Their planes are old, their flight attendants are ugly, and they're always late. So, where are you staying in Rome?"

"We'll be at this exclusive little place over on Rome's Tiber River called Teste."

"Don't go any further. I know that place. Everybody thinks it's gonna be something special and exclusive, but it's really a dump."

"We're going to go to see the Vatican and maybe get to see the Pope."

"That's rich," laughed the hairdresser. "You and a million other people trying to see him. He'll look the size of an ant. Boy, good luck on this lousy trip of yours. You're going to need it."

A month later, the woman again came in for a hairdo. The hairdresser asked her about her trip to Rome.

"It was wonderful," explained the woman, "not only were we on time in one of Easyjet's brand new planes, but it was overbooked, and they bumped us up to first class. The food and wine were wonderful, and I had a handsome 28-year-old steward who waited on me hand and foot. And the hotel was great! They'd just finished a £5 million remodelling job, and now it's a jewel, the finest hotel in the city. They, too, were overbooked, so they apologised and gave us their owner's suite at no extra charge!"

"Well," muttered the hairdresser, "that's all well and good, but I know you didn't get to see the Pope."

"Actually, we were quite lucky, because as we toured the Vatican, a Swiss Guard tapped me on the shoulder, and explained that the Pope likes to meet some of the visitors, and if I'd be so kind as to step into his private room and wait, the Pope would personally greet me. Sure enough, five minutes later, the Pope walked through the door and shook my hand! I knelt down and he spoke a few words to me."

"Oh, really! What'd he say?"

He said: "Who the f\*\*k did your hair?"

\*\*\*

Le français, c'est une langue magnifique.

J'ai appelé un ami et je lui ai demandé ce qu'il faisait. Il m'a répondu qu'il travaillait sur 'le traitement aquathermique des céramiques, du verre, de l'aluminium et de l'acier sous un environnement contraint'.

J'ai été très impressionné... mais pour mieux comprendre, je lui ai demandé des précisions et il m'a déclaré qu'en fait il faisait la vaisselle à l'eau chaude... sous la surveillance de sa femme!

\*\*\*

### The Parsis and their names

*This hilarious piece from Cyrus Broacha, courtesy of East African Circle group.*

While most surnames in India reflect caste and lineage, the Parsis had a delightfully modern streak — having landed without caste, history and context, they created identities through professions and urban streets.

Our family moved to Bombay (now Mumbai) from Rawalpindi in 1947. We came as refugees but the family soon settled and by 1953, my father had restarted playing golf at the Willingdon Club. I was eight years old and would walk 18 holes with him every Saturday and Sunday.

The three Parsi gentlemen who made up his regular four-ball were uncles Poonawala, Coorlawala and Colabawala. Very soon they had rechristened my father Pindiwala.

Uncle Colabawala did not live in Colaba but in a pent-

## BEWARE OF GOOD HUSBAND



CAN YOU IMAGINE?

**WOMAN :** I've been happily married for 20 years only to find out last week that my husband has another wife outside for the past 18 years, but he's been a wonderful husband. Please help me!

**COUNSELLOR :** You don't need any help. The outside wife is the reason you've been happily married that long & why your husband has been so wonderful to you. When business is booming you open other branches. That's what your husband did. 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

house on Malabar Hill. Maybe his ancestors had lived in Colaba.

I used to spend hours searching the telephone directory to find Parsi surnames and stories around their families.

There was prohibition in Bombay those days. So to get liquor you had to find Mr Dalal, who would introduce you to Mr Daruwala, who in turn would get bottles delivered to your home by Mr Batliwala who would be accompanied by Mr Sodawaterbottleopenerwalla (the longest Parsi surname I have come across).

Other surnames whose ancestors were in the beverages trade were:

Mr Fountainwala, Mr Ginwala, Mr Rumwala, Mr Sodawala and Mr Jaamwala. We used to have two delightful Siamese kittens in our flat and these were gifted to my mother by her friend, Mrs Billimoria. My mother spent hours knitting cardigans for them, with wool she bought from the Unwala family.

My uncle ran the airforce canteen in Cotton Green and his partner, yes, you guessed it, was Mr Canteenwala. They had this fantastic cook, Mr Bhajiwala.

Their mild and meek manager, Mr Jeejeebhoy, nodded his head and agreed with everything everybody said.

My grandfather was the Sheriff of Bombay. I think he was the first and only Parsi to hold this position. Being Sheriff, it was only natural that he had Mr Bandoorkwala and Mr Golimarwala as his constant companions.

Grandfather had many Parsi friends who were in politics. There was this squeaky clean khadi-clad Mr Ghandy, and the not so clean, Mr Kalaghandy — who was invariably being hounded by Mr Kotwal. But, he never left home without his friends, Mr Barrister, Mr Vakil, Mr Lawyer and their *munshi*, Mr Mehanty.

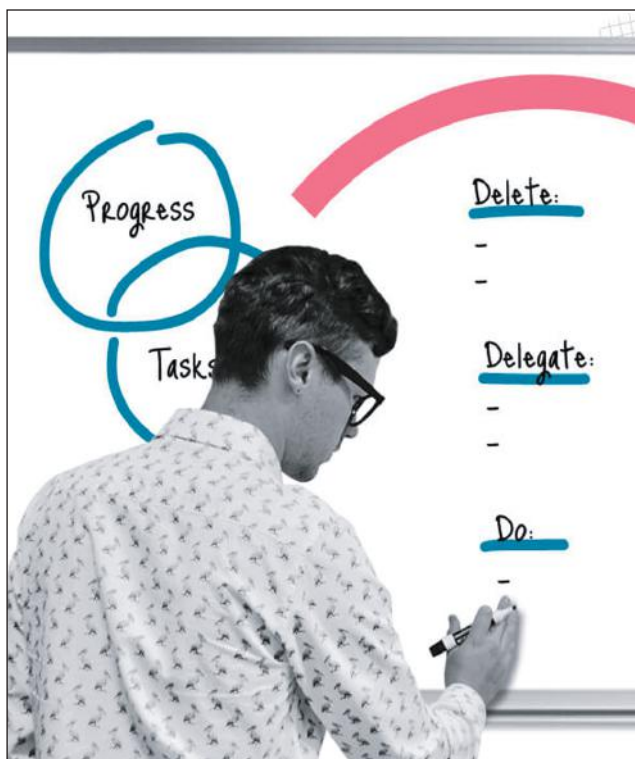
My grandfather built Hotel Waldorf on Arthur Bunder Road in Colaba. So, for this, he naturally used the services of Mr Contractor and Mr Mistry. Yet...he never went to the conservative moneylenders when short of money, but borrowed it from his Parsi friend, Mr Readymoney.

Our neighbour and family physician was Dr Adi Doctor — he was only half a doctor. He lived with his in-laws Mr and Mrs Pochkhanawala. My sister swears they ate only poached eggs for breakfast.

I remember going to Dr Doctor's sister's wedding. She married one Mr Screwala. What he did for a living, I do not know to this day.



# Experts reveal the best work advice for 2022



The beginning of 2022 has already started with a whirlwind of affairs. As the world finally thought of getting back to pre-pandemic, normal life, the omicron variant of coronavirus has once again forced the world to come to a standstill. Many people are being advised to work from home. Many employees may feel overwhelmed with this situation and so, in light of this situation, experts tell Times of India about the best work in 2022.

## Do something instead of nothing

When feeling overwhelmed, it is always better to do something than nothing. This will subconsciously keep your productivity level up even if you feel like not working at all. It can be really stressful later on to think that you did absolutely nothing.

## Take care of yourself first

All we have learnt from the past two years is that you have to prioritise your mental health first. Your workplace may need you but if you aren't in your best shape at all, then it is alright to take some time to rejuvenate yourself. You come first.

## Learn to say 'no'

Impressing your manager is one thing but always doing extra work at the expense of your boundaries is another. Learn to say 'no' when you're not physically or mentally capable of doing things.

## Organise yourself with some help

Don't think too big of yourself and end up making a hassle every time you're trying to organise your work. Invest in some organisational apps and accordingly put in your data in a timely manner so that you never forget when and what to do.

## Communicate with your seniors

Don't leave a spec of doubt in your mind. Communicate with your manager, colleagues and seniors in a transparent manner so that you are in the clear and there is no room for misinterpretation.

\*\*\*

## Simplify your life and be happy

Who doesn't want a happy, peaceful and simple life? We all have so much baggage and negativity in life today that we all want to head to the mountains and leave it all behind. What if you do not have to leave anything or anyone behind and yet have a sense of peace and sound living? Read on about simple ways which will help you simplify it all and help with that inner peace.

## Get your priorities right

The first step you must take is that of identifying your priorities in life. What is more important to you? Yes we all write diaries and make lists of what all we need but then we feel everything is important. This is where you need to work. Make time for things that matter to you first. Sometimes when we take the right first few steps, everything else tends to fall into place.

## Minimalism

Sit down with some green tea and look around your room and other parts of the house. You will find many things you have which play no role and are literally hogging that space. Get rid of them all, donate them. Decluttering is very essential. You will feel very light and good once you do that. This will also help you keep a check on your next shopping spree. You will buy only what you need and eventually save a lot of money.

## Do meaningful things

Keep yourself busy but do meaningful things, activities that make you happy, balancing it out with what is essential, prioritising it all. This can happen only when you let go of your laziness. Create space in your day.



## Routines

Make your daily routines simpler. Do as and when everything needs to be done as this gives you less stress about managing your day. Go easy on yourself, overthinking and taking tension never helps.

## Saying the word NO

It is high time that you started saying NO when you do not want to be a part of something or go somewhere. You do not have to go to all the invites. Prioritise it. You do not have to be rude, just softly say no that you will not be able to make it. Don't say no every time, because we do not want to jeopardize our relationships.

## Omitting some people from your life

We all have some negative beings that play no role other than that of giving you stress or upsetting you just like that. Either create some distance or break ties. Concentrate on the friends and family members you must have.

## Relationships

# People who've been forever single share what it's like

Some people get too comfortable with being single all their life. When they like their own company way too much, they prefer not to indulge in any kind of relationship that may bring them face to face with drama, expectations and emotions. While there are others who are simply unlucky in turns of love, these people often have interesting takes on life. Here are 5 people who never have been in a relationship share what it's like for them.



## Focusing on self

"I honestly don't feel like giving myself away to someone. I have wasted a lot of my time on useless things in my childhood. I wasted away good grades. Right now, all I want is to focus on myself and grow considerably. I have never been the one for relationships."

-- Viha, 26 years old

## Believing in destiny

"I want to believe that the right person will come along in my life when it's the right time. I don't want to force it. I think I'll recognise that person when I see them. I'm still an old-school believer but it's what I want."

-- Ash, 30 years old

## Hopeless romantic

"Well...you can call me one of the romantic ones who are purely out of luck. All I think about is meeting my soul mate in the most romantic way possible. But I just don't know why I end up falling for people who never like me back. I never have been able to get into a relationship and it's pretty heartbreaking sometimes."

-- Anonymous

## Bad experiences

"I just don't want to experience another horrible guy. It's already painful enough to deal with heartbreaks. I can't trust anyone with my heart anymore. No matter how sad it sounds, I just won't give in. I am very happy and fulfilled with my life right now. I don't want to ruin it at the moment with another relationship."

-- H., 24 years old

## Simply happy!

"I see my friends being super stressed in their relationships and it makes me relieved to know I am not in one. Being in a relationship is anyways super annoying. Tagging a person along with you all the time is something I don't look forward to. Let's just say, I'm rocking my single 30s!"

-- T., 33 years old





## Ram Kapoor, Sakshi Tanwar to Ronit Roy

*Comebacks of these popular actors most awaited on TV*

**A**fter a long wait, Ronit Roy and Sangita Gosh are finally making a comeback on TV in lead roles. The duo is all set to steal hearts with their performance in the upcoming show 'Swaran Ghar'. Their return in the lead roles has sparked a wish amongst fans of several other TV actors, who have been away from the small screen for an extended period.

### Sangita Ghosh

Remembered the most for playing Pammi in *Des Mein Nikla Hoga Chand*, Sangita Ghosh is also making a comeback on TV alongside Ronit Roy in 'Swaran Ghar'. The actress, who has essayed the lead in many popular shows, was last seen in a negative role in Divya Drishti. Now she is back to playing the protagonist in the upcoming show.

### Ram Kapoor

Kasamh Se's Jai to Ram of *Bade Acche Lagte Hain*, Ram Kapoor is spreading his charm on digital platforms and the big screen now. It was long back that he starred in a lead role on TV, long enough to make fans wonder when will they get to watch him daily. As web projects, films and a lot more keep Ram busy, fans ask when will their 'Ram' return to TV.

### Sakshi Tanwar

The beloved bahu of TV, remembered the most as Parvati and Priya, is nowadays surprising everyone with her strong roles in web shows. She was last seen on TV alongside Anil Kapoor in 24: Season 2. Ever since then, TV fanatics have been waiting for her appearance on the small screen. Over these years, Sakshi has essayed pivotal roles in some of the most loved films and web series.

### Rajeev Khandelwal

Popularly known for essaying the role of Sujal in *Kahiin To Hoga* and then surprising everything with talk shows, Rajeev Khandelwal is another actor who is missed on TV. The actor, who garnered much love and fandom for his good looks and talent, has been busy with films and web series since the past few years. It was during his show *Juzzbaat* that the actor was mostly seen on TV. Later he also featured in travel show *Rag Rag Mein Ganga*.

### Mona Singh

Remember Jassi of *Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahi?* It has been years since the gorgeous and fabulous Mona Singh, who is known for her shows like *Kya Hua Tera Wada*, *Radha Ki Betiyaan Kuch Kar Dikhayengi* was seen in a lead role on TV. Not just acting but Mona has also shown her hosting talent on TV with *Jhalak Dikha Jaa*, *Comedy Circus* and a few others. Her last stint on TV was as the host of *Mauka-E-Vardaat*.

### Sharad Kelkar

Popularly known amongst his fans for his show *Saat Phere: Saloni Ka Safar* and for hosting a few popular reality shows, Sharad Kelkar has not really been away from TV for long. However, it has been quite some time since the actor was seen playing a pivotal role in a drama show. In the past few years, Sharad has given some impressive performances in films and web shows.

### Urvashi Dholakia

If there's any vamp loved to such an extent, it is the original Komolika of *Kasauti Zindagi Kay* aka actress Urvashi Dholakia. The list of shows she has been a part of is quite long but the most she is remembered for is portraying the protagonist in Ekta Kapoor's *KZK*. Love for her amongst the fanbase was proved when she won *Bigg Boss 6*. Urvashi was last seen in *Chandrakanta* and her return on TV is eagerly awaited.

## I have not given up on Bollywood, says 'Anupamaa' actress Madalsa Sharma

**M**adalsa Sharma, who plays Kavya in *Anupamaa*, has become a household name today. But before making her debut on television, Madalsa did a few Bollywood films and many South movies. The actress, who is the daughter of actress Sheela Sharma and director Subhash Sharma, says, "Movies as a career was an obvious choice because my parents are both from a similar field. I worked with some bright South makers. Then I got married to Mimoh (Chakraborty) and I got an offer for *Anupamaa*."

So has she given up on her Bollywood dream? She tells Times of India, "I have not given up on that, but I realise that TV is not less than movies in today's world. It has given me a chance to enjoy family and professional life. It is all destiny and how you make the best of the opportunities that come your way. I am sure there must be something interesting for me in films, too. I trust the universe."

The actress also shares that she will draw a line when it comes to intimate scenes. She says, "I am not comfortable doing intimate or too many romantic scenes on screen. My husband Mimoh also feels the same. He is also not very comfortable doing intimate scenes on screen. We are both on the same page about this. Even before I got married to Mimoh, I knew that I had to draw a line when it came to intimate scenes. Things may change in the future given the nature of OTT, but currently I am doing television, so I don't have to think much about that," she says.

Currently, her TV show has progressed and



newer tracks have been introduced. Will her character be as much in focus even now, we ask. "My character Kavya will continue to be a pillar of the show. Just like in real life, people go through ups and downs, Kavya's character is also going through a phase," she says.

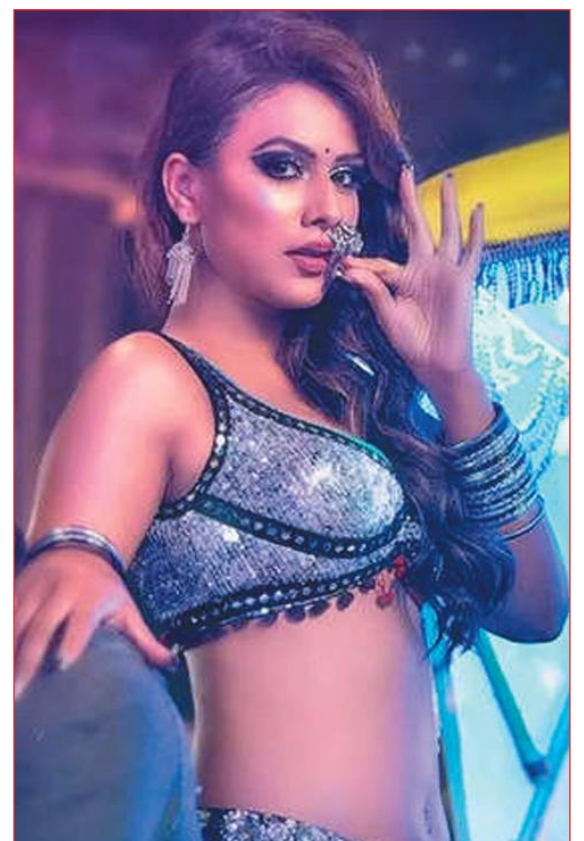
## Nia Sharma learning pole dancing

**N**ia Sharma, who is currently in the news for her dance number '*phoonkh le*' and is creating waves with her moves, is learning a new skill. The actress is learning pole dancing these days and her recent videos have left the fans stunned, reports ETimes.

Nia Sharma, who is currently in the news for her dance number '*phoonkh le*' and is creating waves with her moves, is learning a new skill. The actress is learning pole dancing these days and her recent videos have left the fans stunned.

After watching the video one can easily notice the amount of hard work the actress is putting in to learn the dance form. Especially, in the second video where she is hanging from the pole by just locking her legs and her entire weight is on her legs. In the video, Nia is seen finding it difficult to do the step but doesn't give up easily and completes it like a pro. Her efforts are earning her applause from her fans and industry friends.

Nia recently made headlines for following a diet regime to look fit for her dance number. The actress told the media that she survived on Quinoa and little food to achieve a flat belly, Nia said, "I just didn't diet, I had stopped eating to look fit for the song. It's my working style: if I take up something



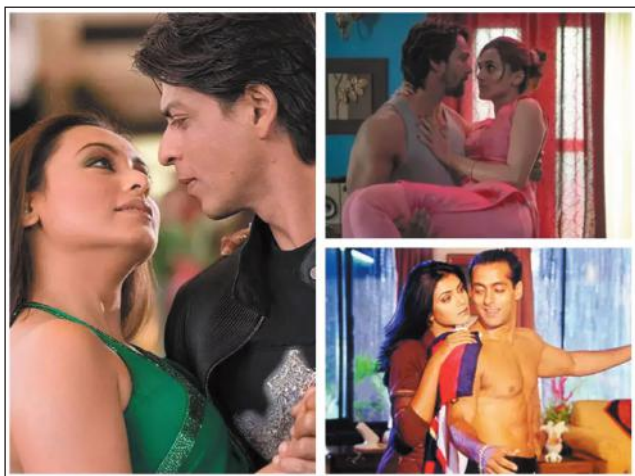
challenging, I go all out. I wanted to look fit and do full justice to the song and the outfit they had given me where I'd to flaunt my flat belly. I remember eating only Quinoa and very little food for seven days. There were times when I would faint also during rehearsals but I did not give up, I just went all out and I am very happy with the outcome of the song."



# Bollywood films that explored 'infidelity' before 'Gehraiyaan'

Shakun Batra's upcoming film, 'Gehraiyaan' starring Deepika Padukone, Siddhant Chaturvedi, and Ananya Panday has been all over the news ever since the trailer of the film was released. The film talks about complex modern relationships and highlights the issue of infidelity in marriages. However, you will be surprised to know that this is not the first time that a Hindi film has brought to light the concept of an extra-marital affair.

Here's taking a look at Bollywood films that explored the subject of infidelity as reported by Times of India and left an impression on our mind way before 'Gehraiyaan'...



'Haseen Dillruba'

The most recent film which explored the concept of infidelity was Taapsee Pannu starrer 'Haseen Dillruba'. In the movie, Taapsee's character Rani gets into an extra-

marital affair with Harshvardhan Rane's character Neel in the film after getting married to Vikrant Massey's character Rishabh. The romantic thriller was released on an OTT platform last year and had received positive reviews from the audience and the critics alike.

## 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna'

Karan Johar dealt with the delicate and most intricate topic of infidelity in his film 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna'. In the film, Shah Rukh Khan's character Dev and Rani Mukerji's character Maya get into an extra-marital affair. It also stars Preity Zinta and Abhishek Bachchan in the lead roles. The film got applauded by the critics for the diversity of the emotions.

## 'Life In a... Metro'

Anurag Basu's 'Life In a... Metro' is still considered to be one of the most loved films in Bollywood. The film touched upon various subjects that included the loneliness of the urban Indian woman, extramarital affairs, etc. The film boasts of an ensemble star cast that includes Shilpa Shetty, Konkona Sen Sharma, Shiney Ahuja, Irrfan Khan, Kangana Ranaut and others. The film garnered immense praise from both the audience and the critics alike.

## 'Murder'

Mallika Sherawat's loveless marriage in 'Murder' pushes her back to her ex-boyfriend Sunny whose char-



acter is played by Emraan Hashmi. The film is reportedly based on a 2002 American film, 'Unfaithful'. Ashmit Patel played the role of Mallika's husband in the film. The erotic thriller was a big hit at the box-office. The songs of the film were considered to be chartbusters.

## 'Biwi No 1'

David Dhawan's 'Biwi No 1' starring Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor, and Sushmita Sen in the lead role was also a film that touched upon the subject of infidelity. Salman, who is happily married to Karisma with two kids in the film, falls in love with Sushmita and starts an extra-marital affair with her. The family drama received much love and adulation from the audience.

# Why 2022 could herald the big Bollywood comeback

From S.S. Rajamouli's magnum opus *RRR* to Ayan Mukherjee's long-delayed big budget superhero flick *Brahmastra*, a string of big-banner films will mark the industry's return to form, pandemic permitting, reports India Today.

A poster from S.S. Rajamouli's magnum opus 'RRR'

2022 was supposed to be the year cinema thrived once more. Then Omicron arrived, forcing state governments to introduce new measures to curb its spread and leaving the industry disrupted yet again. Shahid Kapoor's *Jersey* was meant to be the last release of 2021 but has now been pushed to 2022 after the Delhi government declared cinemas would not be allowed to operate under the new guidelines. S.S. Rajamouli's magnum opus *RRR* initially scheduled for January 7 has also been postponed. It's likely that Prabhas-starrer *Radhe Shyam* and Akshay Kumar-starrer *Prithviraj* will also skip their intended January release dates. Many other 2022 releases are likely to be impacted too. Nonetheless, audiences will hopefully be able to see these films, most of which have opted for the theatrical-release route.

## RRR

S.S. Rajamouli's latest is a fictional take on two real-life freedom fighters, Komaram Bheem and Alluri Sitarama Raju. The action drama features two of Telugu cinema's biggest stars—N.T.R. Jr and Ram Charan—with cameos by Ajay Devgn and Alia Bhatt.

## Gehraiyaan

Karan Johar's decision to release *Gehraiyaan* via the OTT route—on Amazon Prime Video—now seems all the wiser given the threat of a third wave of Covid cases. Directed and co-written by Shakun Batra (of Kapoor & Sons fame), the modern-day relationship drama stars Deepika Padukone, Sidharth Chaturvedi, Ananya Panday and Dhairya Karwa.

## Gangubai Kathiawadi



"A celebration of mainstream cinema", "dark yet flamboyant" and "my most restrained work to date" are how Sanjay Leela Bhansali has described his latest. Featuring Alia Bhatt in the titular role of a gangster, the film will premiere at the Berlin Film Festival in its Special Gala section followed by a nationwide release.

## Jayeshbhai Jordaar

In his first Yash Raj Film since *Befikre*, Ranveer Singh plays a Gujarati for the second time after *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ramleela*. This one's a social comedy in which Singh will champion the cause of women's empowerment.

## Anek

Ayushmann Khuranna has called his second collaboration with *Article 15* filmmaker Anubhav Sinha "very, very special" and one "full of surprises" as it tackles "an untouched subject". *Anek* is an action thriller set in the North East.

## Laal Singh Chaddha

Aamir Khan leads this remake of *Forrest Gump* which

will be up against Kannada film *KGF Chapter 2* at the box office. It also features Kareena Kapoor, Naga Chaitanya and Mona Singh.

## HIT: The First Case

*Jersey* is not the only Telugu film to get a Hindi remake. Sailesh Kolanu remakes his hit investigation thriller in Hindi with Rajkummar Rao and Sanya Malhotra.

## Maidaan

*Badhaai Ho* filmmaker Amit Sharma directs this football period drama featuring Ajay Devgn as Syed Abdul Rahim, the coach who led India to two Asian Games gold medals.

## Brahmastra

Ayan Mukerji's superhero film has been gestating for four years now. It finally arrives in cinemas in September in five languages—Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. The ensemble cast includes Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Mouni Roy and Nagarjuna Akkineni.

## Tejas

After *Rani Laxmibai* and *Jayalalitha*, Kangana Ranaut is in a spirited mood again this time to play an air force pilot. The film, the four-time National Award-winning actress says, "celebrates brave men and women in uniform who make immense sacrifices in the line of duty every day."

## Bhediya

*Stree* director Amar Kaushik's VFX-laden horror film sees Varun Dhawan playing, as the title hints, a werewolf. Also starring Kriti Sanon, Deepak Dobriyal and Abhishek Banerjee, Kaushik promises *Bhediya* will be "a feast for the eyes in every aspect possible".

## Merry Christmas

After entertaining audiences with *Andhadhun*, Sriram Raghavan is back in the director's chair and he's got quite a lead pair in Katrina Kaif and Tamil star Vijay Sethupathi.

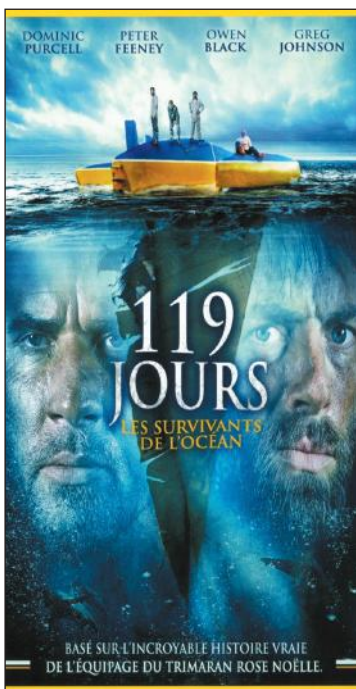




vendredi 28 janvier - 21.15



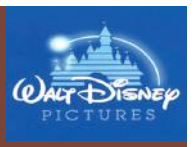
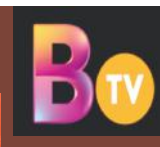
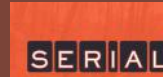
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# Programme TV



vendredi 28 janvier

## MBC 1

07.00 D.Anime: The Hive  
09.15 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer  
10.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy  
14.07 Local: Glwar Dantan  
14.30 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill  
14.52 D.Anime: Booba  
15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family  
16.29 D.Anime: Astrology  
17.05 Serial: Oh Yuck!  
17.25 Serial: Nowhere Boys  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Surya Pura  
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa  
Vaishnodevi  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.40 Local: Come On Let's Dance  
21.10 Serial: 19-2  
23.05 Le Journal  
23.40 Mag: Eye On SADC

## MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Bisaat-E-Dil  
11.01 Tawaan  
12.00 Film: Love You Baka  
Starring: Rash Kavithiya, Khyati  
Madhu, Mukesh Rao  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi  
15.42 Serial: Bommarillu  
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 Journal Kreol  
19.26 Serial: Radha Krishna  
19.58 Serial: AAS (Urdu Serial)  
21.00 Local: Urdu Programme  
22.00 DDI Live

## MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing  
07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
07.46 Doc: La Route De La Soie  
09.00 Educa Programme - G5  
11.30 Educa Programme - G8  
14.03 Doc: Comme Une Envie De..  
14.54 Doc: Snapshots  
16.45 Mag: Eco India  
17.26 Mag: Border Crossing  
18.00 Doc: Legendary Hotels  
18.51 Mag: World Stories  
19.30 Mag: Euromaxx  
20.05 Doc: Quand L'Histoire...  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: China's Mega Project II  
21.37 Doc: Innovation On Board  
23.38 Doc: Legendary Hotels  
00.20 Mag: World Stories  
00.34 Mag: Our Voices  
01.00 Mag: Euromaxx

## Cine 12

01.28 Film: Beyond Valkyrie  
02.49 Serial: Falling Water  
03.55 Film: UFO/OVNI  
05.20 Tele: Marimar  
05.44 Tele: Rubi  
06.57 Film: Beyond Valkyrie  
09.00 Serial: Gone  
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.00 Serial: Falling Water  
12.00 Film: UFO/OVNI  
13.30 Tele: Marimar  
14.45 Film: Beyond Valkyrie  
16.36 Serial: Gone  
17.19 Serial: Elementary  
18.05 Tele: Teresa  
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
19.34 Serial: Backstage  
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
20.30 Serial: Timeless  
21.15 Film: Atomic Blonde  
Avec: Charlize Theron, James McAvoy

## Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Kundali Bhagya  
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  
13.55 / 22.30 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali  
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 21.46 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.25 Film: Dil Tera Ashiq  
Starring: Salman Khan,  
Madhuri Dixit, Anupam Kher  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
19.31 Bhakharwadi  
20.00 Siddhi Vinayak  
20.30 Radha Krishna

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06.02 D.Anime: Invention Story  
06.29 D.Anime: Gon  
06.53 D.Anime: Booba  
07.01 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...  
07.52 D.Anime: All Hail King Julien  
08.14 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana  
09.30 Mag: Human Nature  
10.00 Local Prod: Zafan Nou Zil  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.35 Tele: Teresa  
14.50 Local Prod: Artizan  
15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family  
15.23 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
16.46 D.Anime: Astrology  
17.15 Serial: Creeped Out  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Entertainment: Taare  
Zameen  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
21.10 Film: Legacy  
23.20 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Aaj Ka M.L.A Ram Avtar  
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  
13.35 Anu Pallavi  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.25 Film: Tezaab  
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Madhuri  
Dixit, Anupam Kher  
18.10 DDI Magazine  
19.00 Live: Journal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki  
Rahasya Gatha  
20.29 Serial: Bitti Business Wali  
21.00 Film: Fight Club  
Starring: Sunil Shetty, Zayed Khan,  
Sohail Khan, Dino Morea

06.00 Mag: Our Voices  
06.30 Mag: Euromaxx  
06.55 Doc: Quand L'histoire Fait..  
07.26 Doc: China's Mega Project  
08.18 Doc: Innovation On Board  
10.27 Doc: Legendary Hotels  
11.04 Mag: World Stories  
11.16 Mag: Our Voices  
13.03 Doc: Innovation On Board  
15.00 Student Support Prog...  
18.02 Mag: Future Mag  
18.31 Mag: In Good Shape  
19.00 Mag: The 77 Percent  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: Secret Des Plantes  
21.37 The Language Of Whales  
22.21 Doc: Fungal Empire  
23.02 Doc: Beneath The Waves  
23.57 Mag: In Good Shape  
00.23 Mag: The 77 Percent  
00.49 Mag: Check In  
01.15 Mag: Sky Eye

01.43 Film: Atomic Blonde  
03.38 Serial: Seal Team  
04.15 Beauty And The Beast  
05.03 Serial: Hawaii Five-0  
06.06 Tele: Tanto Amor  
06.27 Serial: Timeless  
08.30 Serial: Macgyver  
09.22 Beauty And The Beast  
10.03 Serial: Hawaii Five-0  
10.45 Film: Juste Un Peu  
D'alchimie  
12.31 Serial: Seal Team  
13.16 Serial: Falling Water  
14.41 Tele: Muneca Brava  
16.40 Film: Hook Ou La Revanche..  
18.35 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man  
19.34 Serial: Backstage  
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
20.30 Series: Timeless  
21.15 Film: 119 Jours  
Starring: Dominic Purcell, Peter Feeney,  
Owen Black

04.05 Radha Krishna  
04.36 Anupamaa  
05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur...  
05.33 Agnihera  
06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan  
06.41 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: Stree  
Star: Rajkumar Rao, Shradha  
Kapoor, Pankaj Tripathi  
20.47 Serial: Namah  
21.05 Serial: Naagin Season 3

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06.02 D.Anime: Invention Story  
06.32 D.Anime: Gon  
06.56 D.Anime: Booba  
07.00 D.Anime: Rev & Roll  
09.00 D.Anime: The Adventures Of..  
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil  
11.00 Local Production: Nu Rasinn  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.40 Tele: Teresa  
13.50 Local: Elle - No 173  
15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family  
15.23 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
15.37 D.Anime: Robot Trains  
17.20 Serial: Creeped Out  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.20 Local Production  
21.15 Film: Marshall  
Stars: Chadwick Boseman, Josh  
Gad, Kate Hudson

07.00 Film: Swaha  
09.20 DDI Magazine  
11.00 Serial: Azhagu  
11.11 Jag Jaanani Maa  
Vaishnodevi  
12.10 Film: Heena  
Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Zeba  
Bakhtiar, Ashwini Bhawe  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
15.45 Serial: He Mann Baware  
16.12 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
16.30 Local: Yaadein  
17.03 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
17.43 Chacha Bhatija  
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance  
19.00 Live: Journal 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 Mag: The 77 Percent  
07.21 Mag: Check In  
09.07 The Language Of Whales  
09.51 Doc: Fungal Empire  
10.32 Doc: Beneath The Waves  
11.30 Mag: In Good Shape  
11.57 Mag: The 77 Percent  
12.22 Mag: Check In  
12.52 Mag: Sky Eye  
14.54 Doc: Fungal Empire  
16.02 Mag: Future Mag  
18.00 Mag: Magnifique  
19.00 Mag: The Inside Story  
19.33 Doc: Comme Une Envie...  
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: Paradis Perdue  
21.28 Doc: The Long Way Home  
23.35 Mag: Magnifique  
00.03 Mag: Future Mag  
00.58 Doc: Comme Une Envie...

01.29 Film: 119 Jours  
02.56 Serial: Dynasty 2  
03.36 Film: Legacy  
05.06 Tele: Tanto Amor  
05.48 Serial: Timeless  
06.30 Film: Juste Un Peu  
D'Alchimie  
08.30 Serial: Macgyver  
09.19 Film: 119 Jours  
10.39 Film: Legacy  
12.15 Serial: Dynasty 2  
13.01 Serial: Falling Water  
15.08 Tele: Muneca Brava  
17.02 Serial: Timesless  
17.42 Serial: Dynasty 2  
18.30 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami  
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
20.30 Serial: New Amsterdam  
22.00 Film: The Throwaways  
Avec: Peter Brooke, James Caan,  
Noel Clarke

01.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak  
02.09 Bhakharwadi  
04.31 Anupamaa  
06.15 Pavitra Rishta  
08.00 Motu Patlu  
08.11 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
10.21 Jaana Na Dil Se Door  
12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
14.00 Agnihera  
16.29 Punar Vivaah  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Film: Tutak Tutak Tutiya  
Starring : RJ Balaji,  
Tamannaah Bhatia,  
Prabhu Deva, Sonu Sood  
20.27 Motu Patlu  
20.39 Naagin Season 3  
21.20 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
23.11 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein

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06.27 Mag: Eye On SADC  
06.55 D.Anime: The Hive  
07.17 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...  
08.01 D.Anime: Cat & Keet  
09.50 Local: Fam Model: Melissa  
11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.30 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy  
14.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil  
14.30 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill  
15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family  
15.23 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
17.00 Serial: Oh Yuck!  
17.25 Serial: Nowhere Boys  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Namah  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.40 MBC Production  
21.10 Film: Riot  
Avec Matthew Reese, Dolph Lundgren

07.00 DDI Live  
08.00 Educational Prog: G3  
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya  
12.10 Film: Poonam  
Stars: Poonam Dhillon, Raj  
Babbar, Shakti Kapoor  
14.18 Magazine: DDI  
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  
17.14 Kullfi Kumarr Bajawala  
17.34 Serial: Vandhal Sridevi  
18.03 Serial: Colourful Bone  
19.00 Live: Journal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.31 Film: Pataas - Telugu  
Star: Nandamuri Kalyan Ram,  
Shruti Sodhi

06.00 Mag: Magnifique  
06.55 Mag: The Inside Story  
07.24 Doc: Comme Une Envie De..  
09.00 Educa Programme: Grade 5  
11.00 Educa Programme: Grade 8  
14.00 Doc: The Long Way Home  
14.43 Doc: The World's Biggest...  
16.10 Mag: Magnifique  
17.38 Mag: Future Mag  
18.03 Mag: Eco@Africa  
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape  
20.01 Local: Encounter  
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)  
21.37 Doc: Builders Of The Future  
22.27 Mag: The Global Auto And...  
22.53 Mag: Washington Forum  
23.20 Doc: The Volcano That...  
00.02 Mag: Eco@Africa  
00.28 Mag: The 77 Percent

02.33 Film: Marshall  
04.26 Serial: Falling Water  
04.18 Film: Puzzle  
05.07 Film: The Throwaways  
06.39 Tele: Marimar  
07.01 Tele: Rubi  
07.25 Film: Marshall  
09.19 Mag: Cinemag  
09.50 Tele: Teresa  
10.39 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.00 Serial: Falling Water  
11.51 Film: The Throwaways  
13.30 Tele: Marimar  
13.54 Tele: Rubi  
14.45 Film: Marshall  
16.25 Serial: New Amsterdam  
18.08 Tele: Teresa  
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
19.38 Serial: Backstage  
20.05 Les Trois Visages D'Ana  
21.15 Film: Boundaries

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  
15.21 Film: Veer  
Starring: Salman Khan, Zarine  
Khan, Mithun Chakraborty,  
Sohail Khan, Jackie Shroff  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
20.01 Siddhi Vinayak



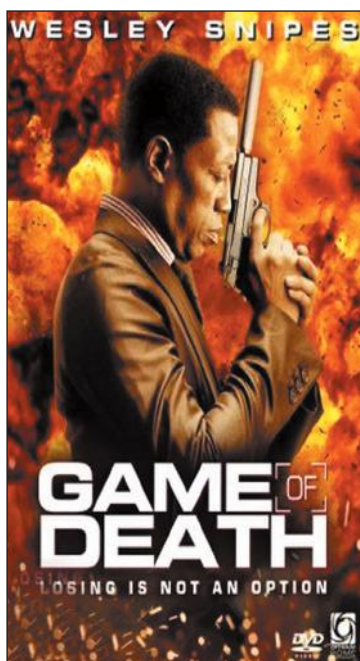
## CINE 12

mardi 1 février - 21.10



## mhc-1

mercredi 2 février - 21.15



## mhc-2

jeudi 3 février - 21.15



## Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 1 février

## MBC 1

06.00 Local: Rodrig - D'Jam  
07.03 D.Anime: The Hive  
07.30 D.Anime: Gon  
08.09 D.Anime: Cat & Keet  
08.34 Film: Bobby The Hedgehog  
10.00 MBC Production  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Serial: Ode To Joy  
13.10 Local: Come On Let's Dance  
14.30 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill  
14.55 D.Anime: Booba  
15.25 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien  
15.41 Film: Monsterville: Le Couloir  
17.00 Serial: Oh Yuck  
17.34 Serial: Nowhere Boys  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
18.55 MBC Production  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
21.10 Film: Little Kingdom

## MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: CID  
12.00 Film: Do Dil  
Starring: Biswajeet and Rajshree  
14.00 DDI Magazine  
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: Dhoop Chhaon  
Starring Sanjeev Kumar, Hema Malini, Yogeta Bali

## MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent  
07.47 Doc: Global Drinks  
09.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...  
10.41 Mag: Eco@Africa  
14.11 Mag: Washington Forum  
14.37 Doc: The Volcano That...  
15.48 Mag: The 77 Percent  
16.14 Mag: Africa 54  
17.06 Doc: Global Drinks  
19.00 Student Support Prog  
19.30 Mag: Made In Germany  
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: Garden Party  
21.11 Mag: Close Up  
21.43 Local: Klip Seleksion  
23.01 Doc: Coding Art  
23.48 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...  
23.58 Mag: Healthy Living  
00.13 Mag: Red Carpet  
00.28 Mag: Check In

## Cine 12

01.02 Film: Boundaries  
02.46 Serial: Falling Water  
03.26 Film: Monster Hunt  
05.26 Tele: Marimar  
06.14 Serial: Blacklist  
06.53 Film: Boundaries  
09.00 Serial: Gone  
09.45 Tele: Teresa  
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.01 Serial: Falling Water  
11.41 Film: Monster Hunt  
13.41 Tele: Marimar  
14.05 Tele: Rubi  
14.45 Film: Boundaries  
16.34 Serial: Gone  
17.15 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: Django Unchained  
Avec: Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz...

## Bollywood TV

06.50 Film: Veer  
Cast: Salman Khan, Zarine Khan, Mithun Chakraborty  
11.38 / 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 Maikhe Chali  
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
14.53 / 22.25 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.20 Film: Hello  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya  
18.59 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
19.22 Bhakharwadi  
19.45 Serial: Susural Simar Ka 2  
20.00 Siddhi Vinayak

mercredi 2 février

06.00 Local: Rodrig - South East...  
07.17 D.Anime: The Hive  
07.24 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...  
07.55 D.Anime: Cat & Keet  
09.45 Local: Rodrig Prog  
10.30 MBC Production  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.23 Serial: Ode To Joy  
13.15 MBC Production  
14.30 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill  
15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family  
15.23 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
15.37 D.Anime: Sabrina  
16.01 D.Anime: Booba  
17.05 Serial: Oh Yuck  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
18.55 MBC Production  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.30 MBC Production  
21.10 Film: Game Of Death  
Starring: Wesley Snipes, Zoë Bell

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha...  
12.00 Film: Abhimaan  
Starring Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan, Bindu  
14.04 DDI Magazine  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.23 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: Kulvadhu  
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone  
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Programme In Marathi  
21.01 Film: Marathi Film  
22.23 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...  
06.26 Mag: Healthy Living  
07.25 Mag: Made In Germany  
08.19 Doc: Garden Party  
09.15 Educa Programme: Grade 5  
14.03 Mag: Close Up  
14.29 Local: Klip Seleksion  
15.10 Doc: Globesity  
16.21 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...  
17.17 Mag: Check In  
18.00 Mag: Motorweek  
19.00 Student Support Prog - G7  
19.30 Doc: Tree Stories  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: Global Food  
21.37 Doc: Olivia's Garden  
22.29 Mag: Business Africa  
22.55 Mag: Focus On Europe  
23.20 Doc: Colonia Dignidad  
23.46 Mag: Motorweek  
00.12 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
00.39 Mag: Arts.21

01.28 Film: Django Unchained  
03.59 Serial: Falling Water  
04.40 Film: Little Kingdom  
06.18 Tele: Marimar  
06.42 Tele: Rubi  
07.00 Film: Hook Ou La Revanche  
09.25 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami  
09.45 Tele: Teresa  
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.01 Serial: Falling Water  
12.01 Film: Little Kingdom  
13.38 Tele: Marimar  
14.32 Film: Hook Ou La Revanche  
16.17 Serial: Blacklist  
16.48 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami  
17.34 Serial: Blacklist  
18.16 Tele: Teresa  
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
19.30 Serial: Backstage  
20.30 Serial: Elementary  
21.15 Film: Comanche Station  
22.29 Tele: Marimar

07.00 Film: Hello  
Star: Salman Khan, Sharman Joshi, Sohail Khan  
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 Maikhe Chali  
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
14.47 / 21.46 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.25 Film: Main Aur Right  
Starring Barun Sobti, Shenaz Treasurywala, Kavi Shastri  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron...  
19.22 Serial: Bhakharwadi

jeudi 3 février

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion  
06.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
07.15 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL  
09.10 Local: Ekir Kreol Morisien  
10.34 Mag: In Good Shape  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Serial: Ode To Joy  
13.12 Local: Varietes Avec Robert...  
14.33 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill  
15.20 D.Anime: Akili Family  
15.39 D.Anime: Sabrina  
16.01 D.Anime: Booba  
16.51 Mag: Happy Tales  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.55 Local: Chaar Dham Tirth  
Yatra  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
20.30 Film: Bhagwan Bhag  
Cast: Govinda, A. Kumar, Paresh Rawal, Lara Dutta

07.00 DDI Live  
10.10 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki  
Rahasya Gatha  
11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...  
12.00 Film: Shaque  
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  
20.48 Local: Profil  
21.09 Film: Legacy  
With Justin Chatwin, Peter Stormare

06.00 Mag: Motorweek  
06.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
06.52 Mag: Arts.21  
07.49 Doc: Tree Stories  
09.33 Doc: Olivia's Garden  
09.59 Mag: Business Africa  
14.55 Doc: Olivia's Garden  
15.25 Mag: Focus On Europe  
16.27 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
17.21 Mag: The Inside Story  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
19.00 Student Support Prog - G7  
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 Comme Un Envie De  
Jardins  
21.36 Doc: Snapshots  
22.03 Doc: Once Upon A River  
22.44 Doc: Guinea-Bissau  
23.25 Mag: Eco India  
23.51 Mag: Shift

01.28 Film: The Throwaways  
02.51 Serial: Falling Water  
03.32 Film: Comanche Station  
04.46 Tele: Marimar  
05.34 Serial: Elementary  
06.42 Film: The Throwaways  
09.00 Serial: Gone  
09.45 Tele: Teresa  
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.00 Serial: Falling Water  
11.52 Film: Comanche Station  
13.30 Tele: Marimar  
14.45 Film: The Throwaways  
16.40 Serial: Gone  
17.20 Serial: Elementary  
18.05 Tele: Teresa  
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
19.36 Serial: Backstage  
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages  
D'Ana  
20.30 Serial: Elementary

07.00 Film: Main Aur Mr Right  
Barun Sobti, Shenaz Treasurywala, Kavi Shastri  
11.27 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna  
11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa  
12.25 / 20.32 - Mere Sai  
13.13 / 21.09 - Agniphera  
13.42 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
13.54 / 21.50 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali  
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 21.46 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.21 Film: Shaadi Ka Laddoo  
Star: Sanjay Suri, Mandira Bedi, Aashish Chaudhary  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.55 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
19.19 Bhakharwadi



Jeudi 3 février - 15.30

Star: Sanjay Suri, Mandira Bedi, Aashish Chaudhary



Jeudi 3 février - 20.20

Stars: Govinda, A. Kumar, Paresh Rawal, Lara Dutta







Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Compte tenu des dégâts sur la santé mentale et physique des amateurs de substance illicite dans la société, chaque saisie de drogue suscite un espoir quant au sérieux accordé par les autorités chargées de combattre ce fléau. Des années de laxisme ont permis aux parrains, trafiquants et petits revendeurs de dormir tranquillement pendant que les clients somnolent dans un paradis artificiel au grand dam des parents, des proches et des habitants du quartier.

Une véritable politique de tolérance zéro s'est déployée depuis quelques années par une vigilance accrue aux frontières, ce qui a permis d'accueillir les passeurs fraîchement débarqués à l'aéroport et aussi ceux qui pensaient naviguer sur les flots au large des côtes sans être inquiétés.

Nouvelle arrestation ? Bonne nouvelle ! Enquête, interrogation, l'ADSU, le CID, démantèlement d'un nouveau réseau, énième commission, juge intègre, le tribunal, magistrat, et finalement, un long séjour derrière les barreaux aux frais des contribuables pour les coupables : voilà ce qu'attend le public des autorités compétentes. Une procédure qui devrait normalement renforcer la confiance du public par rapport à toute la chaîne des défenseurs de la loi. Mais est-ce vraiment le cas ?

#### Qu'est-ce qui cloche ?

Ce qui intéresse le grand public, c'est l'aboutissement de tous les procès des individus attrapés dans le filet de l'ADSU, et dont la médiatisation ne devrait pas être qu'un effet d'annonce. Y a-t-il un manque de communication par voie de presse ? Ou, tout simplement, certains dossiers sont-ils classés sans suite ?

Vu que les noms des parrains, ceux qui financent et organisent toute une filière de contrebande, sont rarement dévoilés, le bon peuple est en droit de s'interroger sur ce qui cloche dans la stratégie de tolérance zéro martelée avec fermeté à l'encontre des coupables.

Depuis quelques années, l'étau s'est effectivement resserré autour de certains qui se la coulaient douce, et se sont mis à trouver une activité professionnelle pour gagner leur vie honnêtement comme la majorité de leurs concitoyens. D'autres n'ont pas tardé à jouer au plus malin pour déceler les failles du système de traque et éviter de se faire prendre...



Au vu du nombre d'arrestations des passeurs et trafiquants dont les noms sont étalés dans la presse, qu'est-ce qui entraverait donc la remontée vers la source de tout un trafic ?

#### La nouvelle vague

A l'instar de tout autre secteur lucratif, celui qui envoie les consommateurs dans les bras de Morphée est doté d'une capacité d'innovation et de restructuration qui n'a rien à envier aux autres. On était habitué aux cargaisons cachées sous d'autres marchandises dans le commerce maritime, aux petits emballages dans la doublure des valises à l'aéroport, d'autres qui ressortent par voie anale des passagers, et encore plus astucieux, quand la voie vaginale s'offre comme transit presque sûr de jouissance...

On n'arrête pas le progrès. La gente féminine se prête volontiers au jeu de cache-cache piloté par le mâle. La libération de la femme version #Metoo a des beaux jours devant elle. Pour peu qu'elle se lance dans un discours victimaire, on aura tout vu ! Cover-up parfait, employée normale sans histoire acceptant d'héberger sous son toit les colis suspects. « Pas de vague ainsi », croyait le petit ami. Et encore mieux, innocence virginale (?) d'une ado de quinze ans, dont la candeur ne surprend pas, qui se plie à la volonté de son prince du cœur en s'offrant comme couverture immaculée. L'honneur de la gente féminine (on ne peut dire 'femelle' au risque de s'attirer la foudre des détenteurs de la bien-pensance chez les Amazones libérées et les alliés mâles parmi les plumitifs) est sauvé par l'intervention sans concession d'une grand-mère qui a lâché le morceau illico presto chez les gabelous du quartier.

Autre nouveauté : à force de regarder les films américains, les jeunes suspects réclament maintenant le droit au silence en l'absence de leur avocat. Bien joué. Fini le temps des interrogatoires musclés de la police si cela continue, et puis, les réseaux sociaux sont là, prêts à s'enflammer à la moindre bavure.

Forte est la tentation de surfer allègrement sur une vague où on se laisse glisser sans entrave, où il n'est pas question

de s'arrêter en si bon chemin. Pensez donc ! Vous pouvez vivre sans grand effort sauf celui de récupérer le colis du bonheur, et de dépenser sans scrupules. L'argent facile, le quick buck, et la vie facile... Voiture neuve, rave party, et - au diable ! ces adolescents défoncés en bordure des routes. Avec la réouverture du tourisme, certains font la manche en plein jour auprès des touristes dans les rues de Grand Baie. Phénomène nouveau, les automobilistes sont sollicités par les jeunes en état de manque à l'arrêt des feux. La police intervient, paraît-il ; il n'est pas question de ternir l'image du paradis réouvert aux visiteurs venus des pays riches. Tant mieux !



#### Le maillon faible

Que se passe-t-il quand les habitants sont au courant d'un trafic de drogue bien huilé qui n'a souffert ni d'usure ni de rouille depuis 25 ans, c'est-à-dire, un quart de siècle dans le quartier d'une ville ou dans un village ? Surtout le vôtre. Comment arrive-t-on à une situation qui renforce l'impunité des marchands de la mort ?

Selon les soupçons et les dires, toute la chaîne de commanditaires, passeurs, forces de l'ordre, certains hommes de loi (voire hommes de foi prêchant la bonne parole dans les prisons), pourrait être gangrenée par la tentation forte de l'argent facile.

Parfois, c'est le travail des forces de l'ordre qui est entravé par les ordres venant d'en-haut pour épargner les coupables. Dans d'autres cas, certains se rendent complices du crime en acceptant quelques centaines de milliers de roupies des commanditaires des réseaux. Ce grand désordre est amplifié par l'entrée

dans la danse de certains hommes de loi, comme l'a souligné le dernier rapport sur le trafic de drogue, dans ce fléau criminel si dévastateur.

L'île, étant un grand village, tout le monde raconte ce qu'il sait à quiconque veut écouter. Ce qu'on appelle des exemples concrets, surtout dans votre quartier où certains se sont livrés sans être inquiétés à ce commerce lucratif sous l'apparence de commerce florissant affiché par le nombre de quincailleries, boutiques de vêtements, boulangeries, snacks, etc... Train de vie suspect, voiture de sport à un million pour le fils de 20 ans, plusieurs achats de terrains et de maisons, ouverture de commerce ça et là pour ne citer que quelques exemples.

La faiblesse de ces veinards, c'est que fiers de leur intouchabilité, du pouvoir financier, les contrats juteux octroyés par leur protecteur, ils s'en vantent auprès des autres. Difficile de se taire lorsque la chance vous sourit depuis des lustres.

#### Solution

Faut-il tout laisser aux mains des autorités concernées ? Manifestement non. Il s'agit des vies gâchées de milliers de jeunes gens, d'une économie parallèle illicite, de meurtre de pères et mères et d'autres règlements de compte. Quand des cas n'aboutissent à rien et qu'une certaine opacité et un silence des médias nourrissent un sentiment d'impuissance dans la population, les habitants gagneraient à se mobiliser dans un 'Drug Watch' dans chaque région pour collecter les données et les dossiers de chaque cas, et réclamer des comptes aux gouvernants. Ceci afin que toute la chaîne des fournisseurs jusqu'au revendeurs et autres complices soit tenue à s'expliquer sur l'échec de certains cas, et que toute corruption soit dévoilée au grand public.

La délation étant une vilaine affaire, il faudrait envisager un autre mode de coopération du public avec les autorités pour une meilleure efficacité dans le combat contre les architectes du paradis virtuel.