

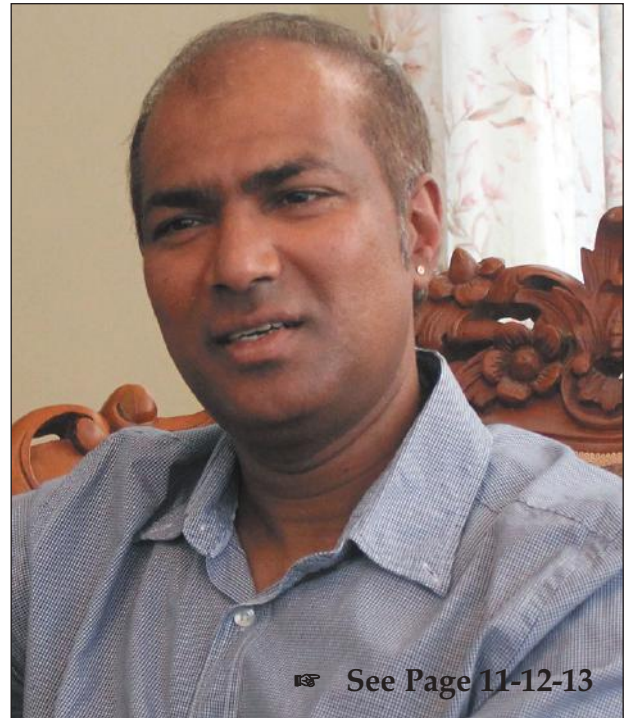
MAURITIUS TIMES

● "Always remember that negative feelings and undue grudges will swallow you up, so be ready to forgive someone who, at any point in time, angered you." — Dr Prem Jagyasi

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Whatever Happened to Accountability?

We are not concerned with the ugliness that was splashed all over during a Radio Plus debate involving the leader of the Reform Party, Roshni Bhadain, and Labour Party MP Shakeel Mohamed on the issues relating to our electoral system and during which it came out that the latter would have been dropped in favour of MMM's Reza Uteem. We trust that the respective parties to which they belong and the leaders of the LP and the 'L'Entente de l'Espoir' will have taken note of their potential value or otherwise to the alliance that would still be in the works for a united front of the Opposition. What is of concern to us is the assertion of MP Mohamed that his views regarding the role and responsibility of the Electoral Commission, in particular its Commissioner as regards the conduct of the last general elections, would be shared by the Labour Party. We need not go over the anomalies that have been mentioned in different electoral petitions, including that of no other than the leader of the LP, as well as other discrepancies revealed by the Electoral Commission itself and during the recount exercise at Constituency No. 19 conducted on February 1.

But readers will however recall that the latter recount laid bare such serious anomalies and dysfunctions that the speculations about whether irregularities would also not have been committed in other constituencies around the island in the 2019 general elections cannot be curbed. The more so since what came out went beyond simple arithmetic miscalculations: more seriously, discrepancies were revealed in the Recapitulation of Votes forms in No. 19, the discovery of counted ballot papers not bearing the official stamp of the Electoral Commission, one ballot of Constituency No.1 in the lot belonging to No. 19, and 73 ballot papers were found to be missing.

In a recent comment on the recount at No. 19, we stressed on the imperative for the Electoral Commission and the Electoral Supervisory Commission to explain those glaring discrepancies as well as the opacity surrounding Computer Rooms, and other dis-

turbing anomalies which have come to light. We are not aware if any investigation has been carried out or has even been contemplated by the electoral authorities or by the police about the missing and roving ballots. However, we doubt whether the Labour Party and the 'L'Entente de l'Espoir' would share the views of MP Mohamed that the Electoral Commissioner cannot be made to carry the can for those anomalies and that the issue, according to him, basically boils down to the mechanism employed to register electors as had been apparently highlighted by the Sachs Commission report. That's a long shot from what obviously went seriously wrong in No. 19 and possibly in other constituencies subject of electoral petitions. It is worth noting that both the Parliamentary leader of the LP, Arvin Boolell and Reza Uteem of the MMM had to restate on air that the demand for the departure of the EC Chairman and the EC himself were official positions of their respective parties.

What is at stake is obvious and very important: public trust in our public institutions. It bears repeating that the overarching feature of a functioning democracy is that it has an effective system of checks and balances in place. This system should ensure that government and related public institutions are held accountable for decisions and actions that they take and for the consequences thereof and serious deviations sanctioned. If we look back at the history of the country, it was the independence, impartiality and strength of public institutions and conscientious responsible officers and sterling qualities of governance which ensured public trust in the governance of the country. In our setting of sociological and economic diversity, there is no domain where trust, transparency and accountability are more imperative than in the very basis of our democratic functionings and constitutional rights: free, fair and credible elections. Those principles and values that functioning democracies cherish have been under siege over the organisation of the 2019 general elections. Without accountability and transparency, the chalice of suspicion can poison everything our forebears fought for in the lead-up to independence.

The Conversation

Will a surprise candidate shake up the French election?

Charles de Gaulle created a system where a surprise candidate can upend the presidential elections in France. Will it happen in 2022?



2002 was supposed to be a contest between Jacques Chirac and Lionel Jospin, but the French public had other ideas. Pic - YouTube

In the history of French presidential elections under the Fifth Republic, no candidate has ever managed to gather more than 50% of the votes in the first round of voting and accede to power without having to get through a second round.

Until recently, the vote for a new president was perceived as an expected duel between the two favourites usually representing the right and the left (De Gaulle/Mitterrand in 1965, Giscard d'Estaing/Mitterrand in 1974 and 1981, Chirac/Mitterrand in 1988, Chirac/Jospin in 1995, Sarkozy/Royal in 2007, Sarkozy/Hollande in 2012).

After departures from this norm in 1969 and 2002, the consensus was again upturned in 2017 with the victory of centrist Emmanuel Macron over far-right Marine Le Pen, neither of whom represented the two major parties who have held the presidency since 1958.

According to the current opinion polls, 2022 will be different again: alongside Macron, two frontrunner candidates representing nationalist and extreme right ideas (Marine Le Pen and Eric Zemmour) could potentially receive 30% of the votes; a traditional right-wing candidate (Valérie Pécresse) is in a position to reach the second round again; meanwhile, the left has never been so divided.

As always in France, there is the possibility of a surprise additional candidate shaking things up at the last

minute. Could that happen in 2022? A look back at history can help us understand how things might pan out this year.

De Gaulle's new republic

In 1958, thirteen years after France's liberation at the end of the Second World War, Charles de Gaulle returned to the French political stage and to power. He had been a fierce critic of the Fourth Republic, created in 1945, a regime characterised by the dominance of political parties over individual candidates. The conflict in Algeria handed De Gaulle the role of saviour of France once again.

The constitution of the Fifth Republic was inspired by his famous 1946 speech in Bayeux, and was largely written by Michel Debré, one of De Gaulle's closest aides who would become his first prime minister. Under this new constitution, the president was elected by indirect universal suffrage – that is, via an electoral college, as in the US today.

In 1962, convinced that the president's legitimacy had to be further strengthened, De Gaulle initiated a successful referendum to introduce a system of direct universal suffrage, where citizens vote for individual candidates.

Olivier Guyottot, Enseignant-chercheur en stratégie et en sciences politiques, INSEEC Grande École

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

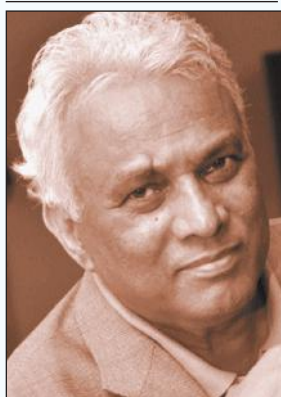
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Mrinal Roy

An Industry on Life Support

Despite the losses incurred since the 2014 crop, emergency bailouts as well increasing support from public funds have kept the industry on a tenuous lifeline. It is akin to flogging a dead horse

The December 2020 World Bank competitiveness analysis report on the sugarcane sector made public (more than a year later) recently basically confirms what has been patently evident to all but those who doggedly choose to be blind to crying commercial realities detailed in the report. Thus, 'from crop years 2005 to 2019 the ex-Syndicate price of sugar declined by 30%. Based on 2019 estimates, the sugarcane sector therefore incurs losses of Rs1.35 billion annually. With over 90% of sugar production commercialized abroad, the Mauritian sugarcane sector is highly dependent on exports and vulnerable to changes in the highly competitive world sugar market.'

In order to fill the gap caused by the drop in sugar revenues, the sugar cane sector has been receiving annual financial support since 2014. Rs1.5 billion of public funds representing 1.12% of the total Government budget and double the budget allocation in 2017 were used to support sugar producers in 2018 and provide a lifeline to the sugarcane sector.

Billions galore

It should be recalled that some Euros 260 million (Rs 10.4 billion) obtained as Accompanying Measures negotiated with the European Union were granted to Mauritius as general budget support to the government to *inter alia* implement the Multi-Annual Adaptation Strategy ten-year plan (MAAS) aimed at re-structuring the sugar industry in the context of the EU sugar regime reform. The object was to streamline the industry, reap the economies of scale and develop additional poles of revenue from cane, bagasse used in power plants to produce electricity, molasses and distilleries, etc., in sugar cane clusters to shore up falling sugar revenue. In accordance with the MAAS grid of allocations, the lion's share representing some 40% of the Accompanying Measures were disbursed to the corporate sector. It enabled the sector to significantly reduce their workforce by some 7000 workers through the various Voluntary Retirement Schemes (VRS), thus substantially pruning their operational costs.

In addition, the corporate sector has through the provisions of the various VRS schemes, measures contained in the Blue Print as well as the Illovo Deal, also obtained that a total of some 7500 acres (3035 hectares) of their land assets are exempt from the payment of the land conversion tax at the rate of Rs 3.5 million per hectare. This provides a tax-exempt land bank for diverse commercial, residential and other projects as well being an extremely valuable asset.

Government has since 2015 forfeited billions of Rupees of State revenue through extremely generous exemptions from the payment of various taxes including land transfer tax, morcellement tax and income tax for a period of eight years, VAT as well as registration duty and custom duties granted to smart city project promoters

richly endowed with land assets in prime locations. The list of smart city promoters shows that many of them are property development subsidiaries of sugar companies.

Is the continued handouts to a loss-making sugarcane sector from scarce public funds acceptable against the backdrop of the above?

Iniquitous

It is patently iniquitous and particularly galling and ironic that an industry whose history has been tainted by the excesses of slavery and the systematic watering down of the terms of employment of indentured workers leading to protests and strikes is now dependent for its survival on the handouts provided from public funds principally financed by mainstream Mauritius through the lion share of government revenue collected from VAT.

The sugarcane sector is unable to survive without financial support from taxpayer funds to the sector. A commercial venture or sector can only be viable if the prices it sells its products are competitive and remunerative. There was no lifeline from public funds when major textile companies went under in the wake of the end of the Multi-Fibre Agreement in 1994 and the cut-price competition prevailing in the market place from new lower cost producers.

When an export commodity is uncompetitive and is incurring systematic losses, it is not rocket science to decide to stop its production forthwith. However, this elementary rule of commercial savviness is obviously not

“It is only in June 2021 that government significantly raised the price paid for bagasse to Rs 3,300 per tonne of sugar... the Rs 3,300 per tonne is now also paid on 22% of the sugar milled accruing to millers for crushing planters' canes. These payments are again made from public funds by a special provision in the 2021/22 Budget. Why on earth is compensation for the value of bagasse (which belongs to the planter) used to produce electricity in lucrative power plants being funded from strapped public funds instead being paid by power producers?”



“When an export commodity is uncompetitive and is incurring systematic losses, it is not rocket science to decide to stop its production forthwith. However this elementary rule of commercial savviness is obviously not applicable to sugar. Despite the losses incurred since the 2014 crop, emergency bailouts from the reserves of the Sugar Industry Fund Board and other similar makeshift measures as well as increasing support from public funds have kept the industry on a tenuous lifeline. It is akin to flogging a dead horse...”

applicable to sugar. Despite the losses incurred since the 2014 crop, emergency bailouts from the reserves of the Sugar Industry Fund Board and other similar makeshift measures as well as increasing support from public funds have kept the industry on a tenuous lifeline. It is akin to flogging a dead horse. This cannot go on.

Seriously?

In its conclusion, the World Bank competitiveness analysis report states on the basis of simulations using their model 'that the sugarcane sector has an 80% probability of sector profits over the coming 10 years if it manages to **simultaneously** (i) increase the price paid for electricity from bagasse (ii) reduce labour costs by 40% (iii) increase the share of speciality sugars sold to 50%, (iv) increase the share of high-tech farms to 95%, and (v) save at least Rs 200 million per year on sugar export costs. This means that, even after all these tall requirements, the sector still faces a 20% chance of producing a loss.

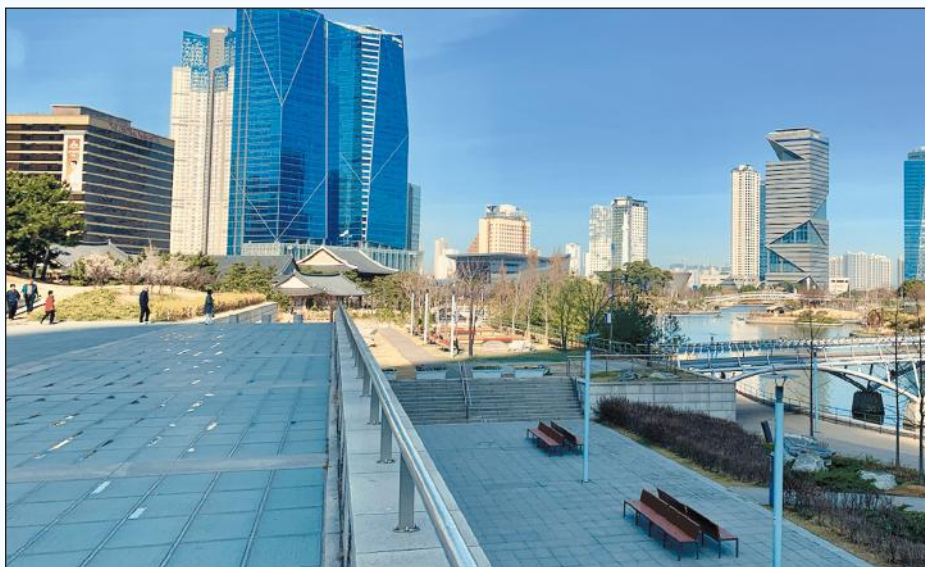
In short, are basically all and sundry to be press ganged to bend over backwards to provide a lifeline to a patently uncompetitive and loss-making sugar industry. Seriously?

The report adds: 'If no policy action is taken in the short term, with the current level of losses, the sector will continue to decline and could disappear in the next 10 to 20 years (under a pessimistic scenario).'

What about addressing a host of operational inefficiencies of the sector such as the plummeting efficiency of factories, the frequency of factory breakdowns etc. upfront?

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An Industry on Life Support



“Government has since 2015 forfeited billions of Rupees of State revenue through extremely generous exemptions from the payment of various taxes including land transfer tax, morcellement tax and income tax for a period of eight years, VAT as well as registration duty and custom duties granted to smart city project promoters richly endowed with land assets in prime locations. The list of smart city promoters shows that many of them are property development subsidiaries of sugar companies. Is the continued handouts to a loss-making sugarcane sector from scarce public funds acceptable...”

● Cont. from page 3

It should however be flagged that planters who have been receiving a pittance for their bagasse since 1985 have been clamouring for a fairer price for their bagasse used to produce electricity in lucrative power plants. However, it is only in June 2021 that government significantly raised the price paid for bagasse to Rs 3,300 per tonne of sugar. In parallel, government also amended the MCIA Act in July to include all producers (i.e., both planters and millers) as beneficiaries of this higher bagasse price. Following this government amendment, the Rs 3,300 per tonne is now also paid on 22% of the sugar milled accruing to millers for crushing planters' canes. These payments are again made from public funds by a special provision in the 2021/22 Budget.

Why on earth is compensation for the value of bagasse (which belongs to the planter) used to produce electricity in lucrative power plants being funded from strapped public funds instead being paid by power producers?

In contrast, planters producing up to 60 tons of sugar receive a capped support price of Rs 25,000 per tonne which now includes the Rs3300 received on bagasse.

“It is patently iniquitous and particularly galling and ironic that an industry whose history has been tainted by the excesses of slavery and the systematic watering down of the terms of employment of indentured workers leading to protests and strikes is now dependent for its survival on the handouts provided from public funds principally financed by mainstream Mauritius through the lion share of government revenue collected from VAT.”

This reduces the price subsidy element provided from public funds.

The World Bank report paints a grim picture. The sugarcane sector is annually running at a substantial loss and is surviving on the lifeline of annual support of some Rs 1.5-2 billion from public (taxpayer) funds. Production, which stood at some 520,000 in 2005, has been more than halved in 2021 with a crop estimated at 250,000 tonnes. The factories are running under capacity and higher cost. Sugar revenue represent less than 1% of GDP.

Statistics in the report covering the crop years 2012-2019 show that the exports of non-refined (special) sugars sold in EU countries and the US which presumably are still remunerative have declined. The share of bagasse and cane biomass in the production of electricity which is

dependent on a declining sugar cane production has fallen to 11% in 2020. This means an increasing dependence on highly polluting coal in power plants for electricity production in the teeth of COP26 commitments.

Cut the dead wood

This disconcerting situation begs so many burning questions. Why should public funds be used to annually keep the sugar sector which comprises both planters and the corporate sugar sector on life support? Should there not be a transparent costing exercise to identify all the sugars which are remunerative and those that are being sold at a loss? We should clearly distinguish between the range of highly valued unrefined special sugars because of our know-how and well-established quality standards sold in prime markets such as the EU, the US and other markets and other sugars sold overseas. Is it not simple commercial horse sense for the sugar sector to cut the dead wood and focus solely on the sale of remunerative products?

The bottom line is that the country cannot continue to throw good public money to sustain a loss-making sector. In the strapped context of public finances, these funds could be better used for the development and diversification of the economy towards new sectors of growth to provide jobs for the qualified young as well as give support to the planting community to diversify their activities into sheltered food crop production, other agricultural production or other economic activities of their choice or simply to realize their land assets. Appropriate incentives must be provided accordingly.

The World Bank report is quite explicit: 'If any of the recommended policy and sector changes is not possible, particularly the availability of direct taxpayer support, the downsizing of the sector is the only viable option. This means a "managed" downscaling of the sector to ensure its focus on speciality sugar production while ensuring appropriate support levels for the

transition of farmers and workers to other activities.'

Saving what matters

Sugar is in our DNA. Yet difficult decisions have to be taken. We need to salvage the special sugar segment of the sugar industry and the precious and highly valued know-how which goes with it in an appropriate production set-up which includes a packaging plant preferably in the free port equipped to offer the wide range of our special sugars in consumer-packaged form to our wide portfolio of buyers in countries across the world. This will further boost value addition and enhance quality assurance and norms. If we do not protect and nurture this prime asset, as has happened in the past with Lonrho through cross border investments in the sugar sector, the know-how will be blithely delocalised to our detriment.

This will also enable the country to reform and plan the intelligent use of the vast acreage of land in the country freed from the overbearing weight and shackles of sugar in national decision making. It can only open game-changing new opportunities for the common good.

Mrinal Roy

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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Flag-raising at the Chagos

What next for Mauritian diplomacy as we move forward?

Jan Arden

Nobody can doubt the mediatic impact of the emotionally charged moment, carried by all leading networks around the world, when a Chagosian delegation accompanying the Mauritian expedition ferried by the "Bleu de Nimes" yacht set foot on their ancestral lands, the singing of the national anthem and the moment our Permanent Representative at the UN, raised our own quadri-colour flag on the outer islands of the Chagos Archipelago.

The Bleinheim Reef seems to have been cleverly chosen as the initial landing point, the UK itself seeming to have never included it explicitly as part of the BIOT, while Mauritius plans to use the Reef as part of its assertions of an extended exclusive economic zone in its maritime boundary with Maldives, now at International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). It was undoubtedly a significant and astutely planned move stage-managed by the PM, Pravind Jugnauth and his team of international advisers and lawyers, adding another push in the prolonged struggle over decades and several different political dispensations, to complete our decolonization process and regaining effective Mauritian sovereignty over those islands.

There were fortunately no triumphalist tones in high-level Mauritian communiques to mark the event, but sober reminders that we are within our sovereign rights, stoutly opposed by a former colonial master and we trust such a perspective on a major national issue is not distracted or spoilt by local partisan henchmen jumping ill-advisedly into the fray. Likewise, we cannot sympathise with Paul Berenger's unwise rhetoric and demands about making public our plans, tactics, strategies as they affect our international positions either over Chagos or even Agalega.

This move has successfully cornered the UK government and its Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCO), left flat-footed and somewhat peeved, unable to either prevent the officially justifiable scientific trip to the Chagos, or concoct any storyline that holds water other than its continued dismal claim that has been repeatedly dismissed in all international fora: notably, a stern advisory rebuke at the International Court of Justice in 2019, a non-binding but overwhelming vote at the UN General Assembly in 2019 and, in 2021, the biting criticism of the UK for not abiding by that UN resolution and the confirmation of Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.



Chagos Islands: Mauritian flag raised on British-controlled islands. Pic - BBC

“Mauritius has at several times recognised the necessity of the US naval and military presence in Diego Garcia as an essential adjunct for stability and security on Indian Ocean Sea lanes and geopolitics. It has at least twice before and, we believe, continues to offer that such an imperative could be better secured by a direct 90- or 99-year iron-clad lease, finalized directly between sovereign Mauritius and the USA. Is it not in the latter's considered national security interests to kiss goodbye to the illegality of the so-called British Indian Ocean Territory...”

Our countrymen, irrespective of creed or political affiliation, would have read with some pride and satisfaction, the images and storylines condemning Britain's continued deceit and steadfast refusal of a “rules-based international order” while claiming the same elsewhere, that were flashing across the AP, The Guardian, French news outlets, the BBC, African news networks, WION and other Indian outlets, Australia, and the Middle East. Clearly Mauritius has the law on its side as the influential Aussie-based Lowy Institute, engine of the Australia's foreign policy and national security debates, recognised, and the remarkably deft planning and execution of the trip has brought home the point with

unexpected vigour.

At a time when both Australia and the Biden-Harris administration, in their separate recent National Security Policy documents claim to push, through reliable similar-minded allies and partners, a secure and reliable “international rules-based order” on the high seas with particular reference to the Indo-Pacific, the demonstrated estrangement of the FCO/UK from repeated international censure and such proclaimed ideals will be hard to ignore even in the USA. Prolonged UK/FCO obstinacy would clearly open the door to Russian and Chinese counter-narratives that international laws, regulations or con-

demnations can be regally ignored by the Western democracies when not convenient to them, weakening their moral stance in diverse hot spots such as Ukraine or the South China Seas disputes.

Mauritius has at several times recognised the necessity of the US naval and military presence in Diego Garcia as an essential adjunct for stability and security on Indian Ocean Sea lanes and geopolitics. It has at least twice before and, we believe, continues to offer that such an imperative could be better secured by a direct 90- or 99-year iron-clad lease, finalized directly between sovereign Mauritius and the USA. Is it not in the latter's considered national security interests to kiss goodbye to the illegality of the so-called British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) and prolong the Diego base legally with Mauritius and the undoubted concurrence of its Quad partners and even France, on surer and steadier footings spanning the longer and broader perspective? For how long will the FCO continue to obstruct the UK's international obligations and further embarrass that country's international standing?

We trust the same team of knowledgeable international advisers, having steered the PMO on the moral high grounds of international law, justice, equity and human rights, would have chartered out, in utmost confidence obviously, answers to the question: What next for Mauritian diplomacy as we move forward?

As we commend the PM and his international team for walking tall on these vital issues, the PMO may also figure out whether we are or should be equally adept at walking the talk on the domestic front, notably on the functionings of a democratic state with credible institutions and processes. As for the state of the economy or public debts, the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC) handouts to big corporations, the joblessness, the tracas of lower- and middle- classes with devaluation-led inflation, the excessive taxation levels in rising fuel prices or our development policies in agriculture, tourism, or services sectors, the Chagos narrative may not change matters much...

India's state elections 2022

The Electoral Commission of India and the exemplarity of Indian elections and processes have lessons for many established Western abodes and obviously for us

State elections in India's federal structure do not necessarily reflect national issues that play out in Lok Sabha general elections, but for several reasons, those underway in five states have been pitched as psychologically and politically decisive, with a potential impact running onto the 2024 elections where a third term would be at stake for the expected BJP-led NDA dispensation under PM Modi's widely assumed continued stewardship. Of the five states of diverse numerical weight and current political overlordship, Punjab stands out as the single one under prolonged INC (Congress) rule and the four others (Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur,

Goa) are ruled by BJP and its allies.

While Indian and overseas press titles have presented these as a determinant test for PM Modi's BJP regime, it seems that the real test is for the Gandhi-led INC, whose joint Rahul & Priyanka Gandhi duet have been driving the political push for retaining political strength and resilience, when anti-incumbency and some issues, notably the economy, farmer protests, joblessness, Covid's handling by the BJP in the four relevant states, could legitimately have come under some scrutiny and given the INC some desperately needed comfort.

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The Vanessa Lagesse Murder Case

“The outcome of the case will depend on the evidence produced by the police investigation”

'A number of questions remain unanswered to this day: Why was the body of Vanessa Lagesse cremated in haste? Why and who were responsible for cleaning up the scene of crime?'

The DPP announced last week the discontinuation of the case against Bernard Maigrot in the murder of Vanessa Lagesse that took place in 2001, and ordered a simultaneous re-opening of the police inquiry to confront the main suspect with genetic evidence that came to light some years ago. That twist in a twenty-year old unsolved mystery has raised some legal questions from the defense attorney and Lex provides his legal perspective on those matters.

LEX

* 21 years have elapsed since Vanessa Lagesse was murdered on 9 March 2001. This case, like a few others, has not been elucidated to date by our investigative system. Could it be due to the complexity of the case, or are there some grey areas in the investigations into this murder case?

The first question that come up is: how did the police proceeded through the investigation, which started 21 years ago? We do not know for sure if they were content with extracting confessions from different suspects through the use of violence, as alleged in the past, but a number of questions remain unanswered to this day: Why was the body of Vanessa Lagesse cremated in haste? Why and who were responsible for cleaning up the scene of crime? Why were some witnesses or potential witnesses allowed to leave the country? Will we ever get answers to these questions?

* Criminal cases have been thrown out for unreasonable delay when magistrates or judges take a long time to deliver a decision on an accused person's guilt. What happens in the case where an investigation takes an unreasonably long time - in this particular case, 21 years. Is there ground for a legal challenge there?

When cases suffer from inordinate delays, there is always the possibility for the defence to make a motion that the case should be stayed or struck out for abuse of process. It is very rare that a court will put a stop to a case on the ground of delay especially since the Privy Council has ruled that delay by/in itself is not a ground

“A number of questions remain unanswered to this day: Why was the body of Vanessa Lagesse cremated in haste? Why and who were responsible for cleaning up the scene of crime? Why were some witnesses or potential witnesses allowed to leave the country? Will we ever get answers to these questions?”



“When cases suffer from inordinate delays, there is always the possibility for the defence to make a motion that the case should be stayed or struck out for abuse of process. It is very rare that a court will put a stop to a case on the ground of delay especially since the Privy Council has ruled that delay by/in itself is not a ground for throwing out a case...”

“The DPP may at any time, as stated earlier, discontinue a case and order further investigations. There is nothing wrong with that, as it is not in breach of rules. Ultimately, the outcome of the case will depend on the evidence produced by the police investigation and submitted to the DPP and the latter's decision thereon...”

for throwing out a case.

* The Director of Public Prosecutions' decision to file a 'discontinuance of proceedings', as notified to the Court on Tuesday 8th Feb 2022, in the second case lodged against Bernard Maigrot before the Assizes would have been taken in light of new, and allegedly conclusive, evidence obtained from French forensics experts. Is that perfectly in order?

Apparently new scientific evidence that may link the suspect Bertrand Maigrot to the murder of Vanessa Lagesse has been available since some time. Though a case is discontinued, there is nothing that prevents it from being reopened if new evidence is forthcoming.

* The new evidence was apparently received from a French forensic laboratory in December 2010, and it was in May 2011 that the second case was lodged against Bernard Maigrot. What do existing procedural rules in matters of investigations dictate in such instances, and what could be the consequences of non-compliance with these rules?

The DPP may at any time, as stated earlier, discontinue a case and order further investigations. There is nothing wrong with that, as it is not in breach of rules. Ultimately, the outcome of the case will depend on the evidence produced by the police investigation and sub-

mitted to the DPP and the latter's decision thereon.

* What could have happened if procedural rules are not followed?

If you mean procedural rules at the level of the police, the result of an investigation can be disastrous if established rules like, for instance, the rights of suspects are not followed.

* How reliable is forensic evidence in criminal cases, and can it be challenged?

Forensic evidence is admissible in a court of law subject to it being tested through cross-examination. At the end of the day, it is up to the court to accept it or reject it.

* Defense counsel Gavin Glover SC, who admits that the DPP is perfectly empowered to discontinue and restart proceedings, adds that the DPP's latest decision amounts, in his view, to an abuse of process on the ground that the rights of accused parties must also be respected and protected just like those of victims. That sounds reasonable, isn't it?

It is not for us to judge the reasonableness of the stand of Mr Gavin Glover. If he feels there is an abuse, he should take the appropriate action before the appropriate forum.

* Is there a case for a “réglementation par la cour”, as stated by Gavin Glover, or by the lawmaker for a review of that particular power of the DPP to discontinue and restart proceedings as it is the practice presently?

All decisions of the DPP can be challenged, as decided by the Privy Council, before the Supreme Court through the procedure of judicial review.

Multi Billion Dollar Elections in America

It is no secret that American elections cost a lot of money. But is it really true that the role of undisclosed cash donated by the ultra rich threatens to accelerate the erosion of trust in the country's political system?



Anil Madan

About two weeks ago, at the end of this past January, *The New York Times* published an analysis of what is often referred to as "dark money" spending in the 2020 presidential election and concluded that the Democrats had managed to invade what was once the province of the Republicans and perhaps even surpassed them in dark money spending.

As the *Times* explains, "dark money" became a pejorative term as the liberal Democrats warned of the threat of corruption posed by corporations and billionaires spending unlimited sums through loosely regulated nonprofit organizations which did not disclose their donors' identities.

For decades, the Democrats proceeded on the assumption that it was commonly accepted that the Republicans were more adept at raising campaign money through corporations and nonprofit organizations. In fact, it seemed a given that businesses would tend to support Republican candidates more than Democratic candidates. Missing in this calculation was the simple fact that there are ultra rich Americans on both sides of the political spectrum.

Something else was also missing. That is the realization that elections in America, particularly presidential elections, are a national obsession falling somewhere in the confluence of a religious revival, a championship sporting event on the order of the World Series or Super Bowl, pure reality TV, and the best thing in interactive experiences since one had to use a knife to slice one's own bread.

So, *The Times* finds that in the 2020 election, "the Democratic Party embraced dark money with fresh zeal, pulling even with and, perhaps by some measures, surpassing Republicans." The key finding is that examining spending by the top 15 most politically active nonprofit organizations generally aligned with each party shows that the Democratic Party spent more than \$1.5 billion in 2020 compared to roughly \$900 million by the



US election 2020 cost a record \$14bn. Who paid for it? Pic - BBC

“It is no secret that American elections cost a lot of money. And as spending by presidential aspirants has climbed from \$500 million to \$1 billion, and spending by the major parties has approached and now exceeded \$1 billion, there has been much hand wringing. *The Times*, for example, lamented that the spending levels “reveal the growth and ascendancy of a shadow political infrastructure that is reshaping American politics.” But is it really true that the role of undisclosed cash donated by the ultra rich threatens to accelerate the erosion of trust in the country's political system?”

Republican Party for a total of \$2.4 billion. This doesn't account for the approximately \$1 billion additional that each candidate spent.

A shadow political infrastructure

It is no secret that American elections cost a lot of money. And as spending by presidential aspirants has climbed from \$500 million to \$1 billion, and spending by the major parties has approached and now exceeded \$1 billion, there has been much hand wringing. *The Times*, for example, lamented that the spending levels “reveal the growth and ascendancy of a shadow political infrastructure that is reshaping American politics.”

But is it really true that the role of undisclosed cash donated by the ultra rich threatens to accelerate the erosion of trust in the country's political system? Many point to the election processes in other countries, notably the United Kingdom where the election season is very short.

Of course, there has been a somewhat sudden surge of campaign spending by nonprofit organizations and PACs (Political Action Committees). This is, in part, the result of the Supreme Court's 2010 decision in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*. *Citizens United* was a conservative nonprofit organization that sought to advertise and promote a movie critical of Hillary Clinton who was a candidate for the Democratic Party's nomination for president in 2008. A law called the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act prohibited an “electioneering communication” within 30 days of a primary election or 60 days of the general election by any corporation, non-profit organization or labor union.

The law also prohibited such organizations from making any expenditure, at any time, from its general funds advocating the election or defeat of a candidate. The first part of the case was easy. A prior restraint on expression about elections was clearly unconstitutional and the promotion of the movie “Hillary” could not be restrained by the government. But the court went further. The Supreme Court held that the prohibition of expenditures by corporations, nonprofits and labor unions violated the First Amendment. In effect, money represents access to the media and other outlets in order effectively to express facts and opinions about elections. There is nothing more important for a Democracy that such expression be unfettered.

Is there cause for worry? In short, are the concerns about possible corruption valid? I am inclined to think not. It was reasonably clear that the Democratic Party's answer to the perceived Republican edge in donations and spending, was to harness donors on its side of the bipartisan chasm. And they have done so admirably.

I was struck by the different approaches taken by the authors of the Supreme Court's majority opinion and of the dissenting opinion.

Justice Kennedy writing for the majority stated: “Independent expenditures do not lead to, or create the appearance of, *quid pro quo* corruption. In fact, there is only scant evidence that independent expenditures even ingratiate. Ingratiation and access, in any event, are not corruption.” And he noted that independent expenditures were not the equivalent of “soft money” used to gain access.

Justice Stevens, on the other hand, wrote: “Corruption can take many forms. Bribery may be the paradigm case. But the difference between selling a vote and selling access is a matter of degree, not kind. And selling access is not qualitatively different from giving special preference to those who spent money on one's behalf. Corruption operates along a spectrum, and the majority's apparent belief that *quid pro quo* arrangements can be neatly demarcated from other improper influences does not accord with the theory or reality of politics.”

Wealth, recognition and access

I get Justice Stevens' point but perhaps the short answer is that if there is corruption, it can be handled by laws prohibiting the same. But I acknowledge that these are fine distinctions. On the other hand, there really is no practical way to keep those who have great wealth from gaining greater recognition than those who do not. And from there, access is but a short step.

We can perhaps look at the issue from a different perspective. First, the Democratic Party's success in countering Republican money-raising and expenditures shows that any relative advantage can be readily neutralized.

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Multi Billion Dollar Elections in America

● Cont. from page 7

It is also fair to ask if nearly equal levels of spending do nothing more than provide the public with access to the positions and platforms of opposing candidates and parties. After all, isn't this what Democracy is all about, having an informed electorate? One can argue that the barrage of information does not necessarily mean the electorate is more informed. But at bottom, there is at play the core truth about the notion of free speech and free expression: the way to counter one side's speech is with more speech on the other side. In this sense, the findings reported by The Times are heartening and cause for cheer rather than concern.

The truth is greater than all of this. Elections and electioneering are big business in America. The presidential campaign is effectively a four-year cycle. For example, from the time that President Obama was elected to Senator Mitch McConnell's declaration that the single most important thing the Republicans wanted to achieve was that he be a one-term president, the campaign for 2012 was on. As President Clinton's term came to an end, there was rampant speculation that Hillary Clinton would run for a Senate seat in New York—never mind that she had not once been a resident of New York State—and would eventually be the Democratic Party's candidate in 2004 or 2008. Similarly, Elizabeth Warren was touted as a Senatorial candidate while still a professor at Harvard Law School



“From campaign advisors and strategists, to pollsters, fund-raisers, communications strategists, advertising professionals, speechwriters, and media types, there is a huge swath of people earning a living off the election cycle. If it contributes a few billion dollars to GDP, that is not something to be dismissed or to be wary of. To keep all this in perspective, we might reflect on the fact that last Sunday's Super Bowl was projected to generate some \$7.6 billion worth of bets from gamblers. A gamble on our nation's future with a combined \$2.4 billion spent by nonprofits, and \$4.4 billion by them and the two major candidates combined, doesn't seem all that much in context, does it?”

and as a presidential candidate when she became Senator.

The point is that campaigns start early and aside from presidential nominees, those competing in primaries have to raise money. Even as President Biden

was inaugurated, there was speculation that Donald Trump would run a third time. And now there is talk that Governor DeSantis of Florida is a likely challenger.

But the election industry is bigger than that. The impact on television, radio, and

other media outlets is palpable from advertising dollars to content generation, talk shows, analysis, commentary, national debates, and more. From campaign advisors and strategists, to pollsters, fund-raisers, communications strategists, advertising professionals, speechwriters, and media types, there is a huge swath of people earning a living off the election cycle. If it contributes a few billion dollars to GDP, that is not something to be dismissed or to be wary of.

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A gamble on our nation's future with a combined \$2.4 billion spent by nonprofits, and \$4.4 billion by them and the two major candidates combined, doesn't seem all that much in context, does it?

It's all a part of the business of Democracy. Perhaps we should focus on whether we produce results that are any better or worse than we see around the world. Putting aside the phony “democratic” elections in places like China, Russia, Iran, Belarus, Turkey, etc., if we compare the recent Prime Ministers of England, India, Israel, Australia or Canada, or the recent presidents of France or any number of countries, we may not be getting more bang for our buck, but a lot of people make a living off this hocus pocus in the US.

Cheerz...
Bwana



India's state elections 2022

● Cont. from page 5

Latest polls from Punjab indicate that the surprise Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of Arvind Kejriwal may edge the INC out of the first spot both in popularity and seats, after a series of laughable agitations of nominees of the Gandhi duet. Failure to hold on to that Indian breadbasket state with border national security issues and an inability to dent the BJP elsewhere may spell considerable snafus in the leadership squabbles affecting the venerable INC party and more high-profile exits of staunch former cadres.

It won't have escaped notice that from the moment of Assembly dissolution, the Electoral Commission of India takes charge of the overall election process, including fixing dates, ensuring voter registration, ensuring meticulous professional conduct of voting and counting, making public binding codes of conduct for candidates/parties/alliances and establishing a fast track procedure for

handling and resolving complaints from any one party or candidate, be it from the Opposition or the ruling BJP, within days and not weeks.

Neither can we overlook the simple facts that elections are even being held under pandemic conditions in hundreds of villages and towns, or the extremely high turnouts (65 to 70% or more) in most areas. India Inc obviously considers the voting exercise, even at state levels and even more at national level, as a fundamental tenet of trust in the democratic fabric that gives meaning, substance and trust to all constituents in the most diversified and largest democracy in the world.

Walking tall with such a robust, dignified stance in the face of numerous daunting challenges, the Electoral Commission of India and the exemplarity of Indian elections and processes have lessons for many established Western abodes and obviously for us.

Jan Arden

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WHO: 19% drop in global Covid cases; deaths stable



People sleep in hospital beds with temperatures falling at nighttime outside the Caritas Medical Centre in Hong Kong. Pic - AFP

The number of new coronavirus cases globally fell by 19% in the last week while the number of deaths remained stable, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The UN health agency said late on Tuesday in its weekly report on the pandemic that just over 16 million new Covid-19 infections and about 75,000 deaths were reported world-

wide last week.

WHO said that all other variants, including Alpha, Beta and Delta, continue to decline globally as Omicron crowds them out. Among the more than 400,000 Covid-19 virus sequences uploaded to the world's biggest virus database in the last week, more than 98% were Omicron.

China's President Xi Jinping has

told Hong Kong's leaders that their "overriding mission" was to stabilise the worsening Covid-19 situation in the city as local authorities struggle to bring the worst outbreak of the disease under control. Xi's instructions were issued in the backdrop of reports from Hong Kong that talked about the health system of the financial hub being overwhelmed by Covid-19 with infected patients being forced to lie on beds outside hospitals.

Meanwhile, South Korea will distribute free rapid test kits at schools and senior care facilities starting next week as it weathers an unprecedented wave of infections driven by the fast-moving Omicron variant.

Health officials on Wednesday reported its highest daily jump in infections with 90,443 new cases, shattering the previous one-day record set on Tuesday by more than 33,000 cases. Some experts say the country could see daily cases of around 200,000 in March.

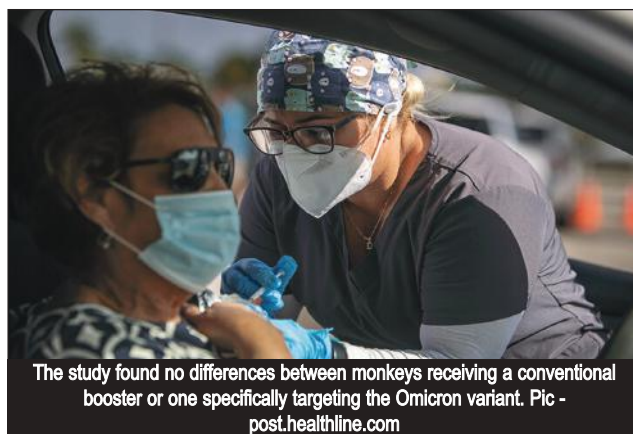
Omicron-specific vaccines better than original jabs? What early tests show

Early animal studies conducted by scientists across the world have found that Omicron-specific boosters of coronavirus vaccine do no better job than the previously available ones in preventing the infection.

A lot of research has been going on to find out if a third dose of the vaccine is good enough to build immunity against Omicron. Leading vaccine makers Pfizer and Moderna earlier also announced that they have started clinical trials of their Omicron-specific vaccine shots.

"What we're seeing coming out of these pre-clinical studies in animal models is that a boost with a variant vaccine doesn't really do any better than a boost with the current vaccine," said David Montefiori, director of the Laboratory for AIDS Vaccine Research and Development at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, reports Hindustan Times.

A report in the journal said most of the early studies involved a small batch of animals and all of them hinted that a customised



The study found no differences between monkeys receiving a conventional booster or one specifically targeting the Omicron variant. Pic - post.healthline.com

booster shot of the vaccine will not change anything against Omicron. These studies are yet to be peer reviewed.

According to the report, one study examined immune responses of rhesus macaques (a breed of monkeys), just eight primates, with two doses of Moderna's original vaccine and one booster shot of either the same dose or an Omicron-specific version.

Researchers found the monkeys boosted with either vaccine showed a broad antibody response against all variants of concern, including Omicron.

However, the study examined responses up to only four weeks, meaning it is not clear as to how long

the efficacy of the vaccine will last.

In another study, scientists examined a 'replicating RNA' vaccine in mice. They were given three doses of the replicating RNA vaccine – two doses based on the ancestral SARS-CoV-2 strain followed by a single Omicron-specific booster – made by HDT Bio in Seattle, Washington, the report said.

While the third dose of Omicron-specific vaccine did not provide better results, a response was seen in mice that were administered one dose of the vaccine based on ancestral strain, followed by two doses of the variant-specific vaccine.

"There are important questions that still need to be addressed. Hopefully Pfizer and Moderna's Omicron studies in humans will do that," Montefiori told the journal.

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New taboo -- Wordle removes 'insensitive' words

Some four-letter words are taboo, but the 'New York Times' has added a few five-lettered ones to the list -- by removing them from the hit game Wordle.

The game, which consists of guessing one five-letter word a day in just six tries, was bought by the paper last month after it skyrocketed in popularity around the world.

Users began to complain earlier this week, when the game said two different words were the correct answer. One of Wordle's much-loved features is supposed to be that everyone tries to determine the same word, reports AFP.

After the 'Times' bought the simple but captivating game from its creator Josh Wardle, internet sleuths noticed it had begun removing words from the list of possible solutions.

While the 'Times' moved the game onto its website earlier in February, some users still have access to the older version, and the older list.

The website Boingboing.net reported that words such as "pussy," "whore," "slave" and "wench" had been removed, while more obscure terms "pupal" and "agora" had also been axed.

Wordle now has millions of users around the world, and versions have sprung up in many different languages. The 'Times' said it bought the game for an "undisclosed price in the low seven figures," as it seeks to win new subscribers through non-news offerings.

Biden orders release of Trump-era visitor logs

President Joe Biden is ordering the release of Trump White House visitor logs to the House committee investigating the riot of January 6, 2021, once more rejecting former President Donald Trump's claims of executive privilege.



The records being released to Congress are visitor logs showing appointment information for individuals who were allowed to enter the White House on the day of the insurrection. Pic - AP

The records being released to Congress are visitor logs showing appointment information for individuals who were allowed to enter the White House on the day of the insurrection.

In a letter sent on Monday to the National Archives, White House counsel Dana Remus said Biden had considered Trump's claim that because he was president at the time of the attack on the US Capitol, the records should remain private, but decided that it was "not in the best interest of the United States" to do so.

*Contd on page 10



A person walks by several trucks parked near the Parliament Hill, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Pic - Reuters

PM Trudeau declares national emergency

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has declared a national emergency in response to the ongoing truckers' protests against various Covid-19 related measures including vaccine mandates.

Trudeau made the announcement invoking the Emergency Act, which was enacted in 1988, and never used before in the country's history as the agitation entered its 18th day.

"We cannot and will not allow illegal and dangerous activities to continue," he said in Ottawa. The emergency powers came into immediate effect and will last for 30 days, reports Hindustan Times.

Among the measures that will be applied will be stronger tools for law enforcement to disperse gatherings of protestors including at major border trade routes connecting Canada to the US.

In addition, the act will allow the government to go after crowdfunding platforms and payment processors that have been used by the Freedom Convoy 2022 to fund their protest, and compel financial institutions to freeze accounts of individuals or organisations linked to the agitation.

Canada's increasing its proposed intake of immigrants

Canada is increasing its proposed intake of immigrants into the country, targeting as many as 475,000 in 2024.

The new targets were announced by Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Sean Fraser. The 2022-24 Immigration Levels Plan aims to continue welcoming immigrants at a rate of about one per cent of Canada's population, including 431,645 permanent residents in 2022, 447,055 in 2023, and 451,000 in 2024. However, the high end of the range forecast for 2024 could reach 475,000.

The majority of immigration into Canada is in the economic class, with Indians making for almost 60% of those numbers, reports Reuters.

The 2021 Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration, tabled this week, showed that India remains the largest source country for immigrations into Canada. The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 reduced the intake severely, but of the 184,606 permanent residents admitted that year, Indians accounted for 42,876, or 23% of the total and almost two-and-a-half times the numbers for the next highest, China, at 16,535.

In a statement, Fraser said, "Immigration has helped shape Canada into the country it is today. From farming and fishing to manufacturing, healthcare and the transportation sector, Canada relies on immigrants. We are focused on economic recovery, and immigration is the key to getting there."

To compensate for low immigration in 2020, the government has hiked the target envisaged in its 2021-23 Immigration Levels Plan which set them at 401,000 in 2021, 411,000 in 2022 and 421,000 in 2023.

Wider ramifications of developments in Afghanistan to Central Asia: India at UN

India on Wednesday warned about the developments in Afghanistan having wider ramifications in the Central Asia region. TS Tirumurti, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, drew the UN Security Council's attention towards the threat of possible growth in international terrorism and drug trafficking following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan.

"The developments in Afghanistan will have wider ramifications to the Central Asia region, particularly the possible growth in international terrorism and drug trafficking emanating from the Afghan territory," Tirumurti said.

The Indian envoy was participating in a UNSC debate on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization". CSTO, which consists of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its establishment, reports Hindustan Times.

Tirumurti stressed that the inter-



India's ambassador to the United Nations. Pic - thestatesman.com

national community need to take cognizance of the concerns which Central Asian countries have on developments in Afghanistan.

The situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated drastically in the past few months due to a combination of international sanctions, freezing of Afghan assets and suspension of foreign aid after the Sunni Pashtun group took control of Kabul in mid-August. The Taliban, which is

looking for recognition from the international community, has repeatedly urged the US to unfreeze Afghan assets citing economic crisis.

In August, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2593 demanding that Afghan territory should not be used to threaten or attack any country. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 13 in favour and with two abstentions- Russia and China.

French bill banning hijabs in sports events moves to National Assembly

A draft bill that would ban the wearing of the hijab in sporting competitions will pass on to France's National Assembly after the Senate on Wednesday declined to vote on the legislation.

The broader bill is devoted to "democratising sport", including how the big sporting federations are governed. But it includes a clause, previously attached as an amendment by the conservative-dominated upper house, stipulating that the wearing "of conspicuous religious symbols is prohibited" in events and competitions organised by sports federations.

The move is, however, opposed by President Emmanuel Macron's centrist government and its allies who command a majority in the National Assembly, which has the final vote.

The place of religion and religious symbols worn in public is a long-running matter of controversy in France, a staunchly secular country and home to Europe's largest Muslim minority, reports Reuters.

Identity and Islam's place in French society are hot-button issues ahead of April's presidential election, with two far-right candidates whose nationalist programmes question Islam's compatibility with the



Supporters of the women soccer team "Les Hijabeuses" play soccer in front of the city hall in Lille as part of a protest. Pic - googleapis.com

Republic's values polling nearly 35% of voter support between them.

Macron's government had been swift to denounce the amendment. Given the majority wielded by his party and its allies in the lower house, the amendment is likely to be removed from the broader bill.

"Our enemy is radical Islamism, not Islam," Marlene Schiappa, junior minister for citizenship, said on

Tuesday.

France will host the Summer Olympics in 2024 and critics of the legislation have questioned how it would affect protocol at the Games, whose participants will include conservative Muslim countries, if it were adopted.

Dr Vinaye Ancharaz - International Economic Consultant

“The economy will surely pick up this year, but the question is whether it will recover fast enough”

Dr Vinaye Ancharaz, International Economic Consultant, comments in this week's interview on the rising inflation and the spiralling debt and the “colourable devices” being used to mask the real state of the economy. He is apprehensive that if this trend continues the economic situation will keep worsening and its impact and consequences borne by future generations. Only a united Opposition front can help to stop this slide, he says, provided it can wrench power from a regime that is firmly entrenched and does not hesitate to distribute freebies to lure people who are susceptible to such attractions without realizing how harmful they are to the national interest.



Mauritius Times: With one issue chasing another almost on a regular basis in different sectors, especially in the political field with talks of alliances which would be in the works, or election recounts and other headline-catching issues, would you say that the Opposition parties are missing out on the serious ones in relation to the economy and which ought to receive their full attention?

Vinaye Ancharaz: I would say no. To put things into perspective, let's recall that the Opposition literally begged the Government to keep Parliament open during the festive season and beyond. But the Ministers and MPs of the majority insisted on having a free lunch and took to holidays. Now, with Parliament closed, there is only so much that the Opposition can do.

Yet, the Opposition has been active, and it isn't just in talks of alliances or in politics as usual. The Plateforme de l'Espoir, for example, has continued to hold weekly press conferences, where they bring to light issues of national interest, and offer constructive insights to the government. Not later than last Saturday, Xavier Duval

“We thought that the fiscal space was narrow, but the government found clever, albeit controversial, ways of overcoming this constraint.

When you remove the statutory limit on public debt, the sky is the limit as to how much you can borrow. When you start ploughing into the central bank's reserves and keep replenishing them by artificially devaluing the rupee, the money pot becomes a bottomless pit because, in effect, you're printing money. When you can finance purchases of life-saving drugs by imposing a tax on petrol, and raising it at will, funding is no longer a constraint...”

spoke about the impoverishment of the population due to escalating prices and urged the government to heed a report of the Competition Commission published in June 2021, which has made a series of recommendations aimed at making medicines more affordable to the population.

At the same conference, Paul Berenger explained in great detail a strategy that the ongoing mission to the Chagos Archipelago could use to ensure an outcome favourable to Mauritius over the contested exclusive economic zone with the Maldives.

Now, if you're referring to the political match between Roshi Bhadain and Shakeel Mohamed on the radio as another headline-catcher, then that's a different story – one that didn't make anyone happy but the MSM.

*** There is in fact growing concern among different cross-sections of the population, including the middle class, about their standard of living going down due to rising prices resulting from the depreciation of the rupee, higher freight charges, etc. The Rs 500 million subsidy disbursed to importers to protect consumers against rising prices does not seem to have worked as expected. What's gone wrong with that decision?**

Inflation is on a steep ascent. The year-on-year headline inflation rate was estimated at 6.8%. For January 2022, it has gone up to 7.4%. These are official figures from Statistics Mauritius, but few people believe them. In view of the relentless rise in the cost of living, which the Minister of Labour reportedly said was pushing large swathes of the population into poverty, the inflation rate has likely entered the double-digit territory. And there are reasons to believe that it will get worse during the year.

It is no secret that the principal cause of this inflation is the continuous depreciation of the rupee. While the shortage of foreign exchange – due to low activity in the tourism sector – is a contributing factor, the real culprit is the deliberate policy by the government to let the rupee

slide. The Bank of Mauritius has discovered that a weakening rupee increases revaluation gains, which the Bank has passed on to the government to support its spending spree. The government, on the other hand, collects more taxes as prices rise while exporters make more money when they convert their foreign exchange earnings into rupees.

“As the 2024 elections come closer, the government is likely to rev up its spending engine. With new infrastructure projects, including towers at Cote d'Or, further extensions to the tramway network, new social housing projects, politically-biased recruitment in the public service and the police force, and the handing out of perks to different segments of the population, including the promised Basic Retirement Pension of Rs13,500 to senior citizens, government spending will hit the escalator. We are at the mercy of a government that will leave no stone unturned in its bid to retain power...”

The biggest losers are income earners, especially those on fixed incomes, such as pensioners, and the poor. The recent salary compensation is grossly inadequate to restore purchasing power, so most people have witnessed a decline in their standard of living while those at the bottom of the ladder have slipped into poverty.

The government, in a desperate attempt to control prices, has instituted subsidies on a range of basic consumption goods. However, the policy does not seem to have worked. There are several reasons for this. First, the subsidy applies to specific brands, usually the ones that are purchased by the average household.

● Cont. on page 12

'Everybody knows that the inflationary fire in Mauritius is being fanned by the depreciation of the rupee. Stop the depreciation and inflation will take care of itself!'

● Cont. from page 11

Superior brands are not eligible, so if you are buying such brands, you don't benefit from the subsidy. Second, and more importantly, even for brands that do get the subsidy, prices have hardly gone down a notch. This is because the prices were already high to begin with, so the subsidy had little impact. In a country ruled by cartels, this is not unexpected. Ultimately, the subsidies are being absorbed into profit margins, with little benefits passed on to consumers.

Third, the subsidies are available on a narrow range of staple products, which represent a small fraction of an

“The Plateforme de l'Espoir hopes that the Labour Party joins in, and negotiations between the two are under way. The recent exchange between Mohamed and Bhadain may complicate things a bit. However, just like birds of the same feather flock together, I believe that all those who wish to see the MSM government out, should form a united front against the common adversary...”

average household's expenditure. There are no subsidies on essential services like public transport and medical care, telephone and Internet bills, restaurant meals, school or tuition fees, and hundreds of common consumption items. Finally, I doubt that the subsidies are being effectively policed.

That said, subsidies are never among the textbook measures to control inflation. That is because they are politically motivated and are more in the nature of a second-best policy. Any good economist would tell you that, for a solution to work, it must be targeted to the source of the problem. Everybody knows that the inflationary fire in Mauritius is being fanned by the depreciation of the rupee. Stop the depreciation and inflation will take care of itself!

*** Do you find the economy picking up in the wake of the reopening of the frontiers and the easing of travel rules and other restrictions?**

The economy will surely pick up this year, but the question is whether it will recover fast enough. Having contracted by 15% in 2020, the economy grew by 4.8% last year, amid expectations of a 9% GDP growth rate. Growth after a deep slump is inevitable. Economists call it the 'dead cat bounce': when you've hit the rock bottom, the only way is up. The government is expecting a growth rate of 6.5% in 2022. This is based on recovery in tourism and the economic effects of major infrastructure spending, notably on drains, social housing and roads.

However, the tourism sector is recovering very slowly. The government had bet on total tourist arrivals of 650,000 between the opening of borders in October 2021 and the end of the financial year in June 2022. However, for the whole of 2021, tourist arrivals were a measly 180,000. The latest statistics speak of 40,000 tourists in January 2022, traditionally a peak month for tourists, compared to an average of 120,000 in the years preceding the pandemic. At this rate, Mauritius will welcome just about one-third of the usual number of tourists in

2022. This will certainly dent economic growth prospects for the year.

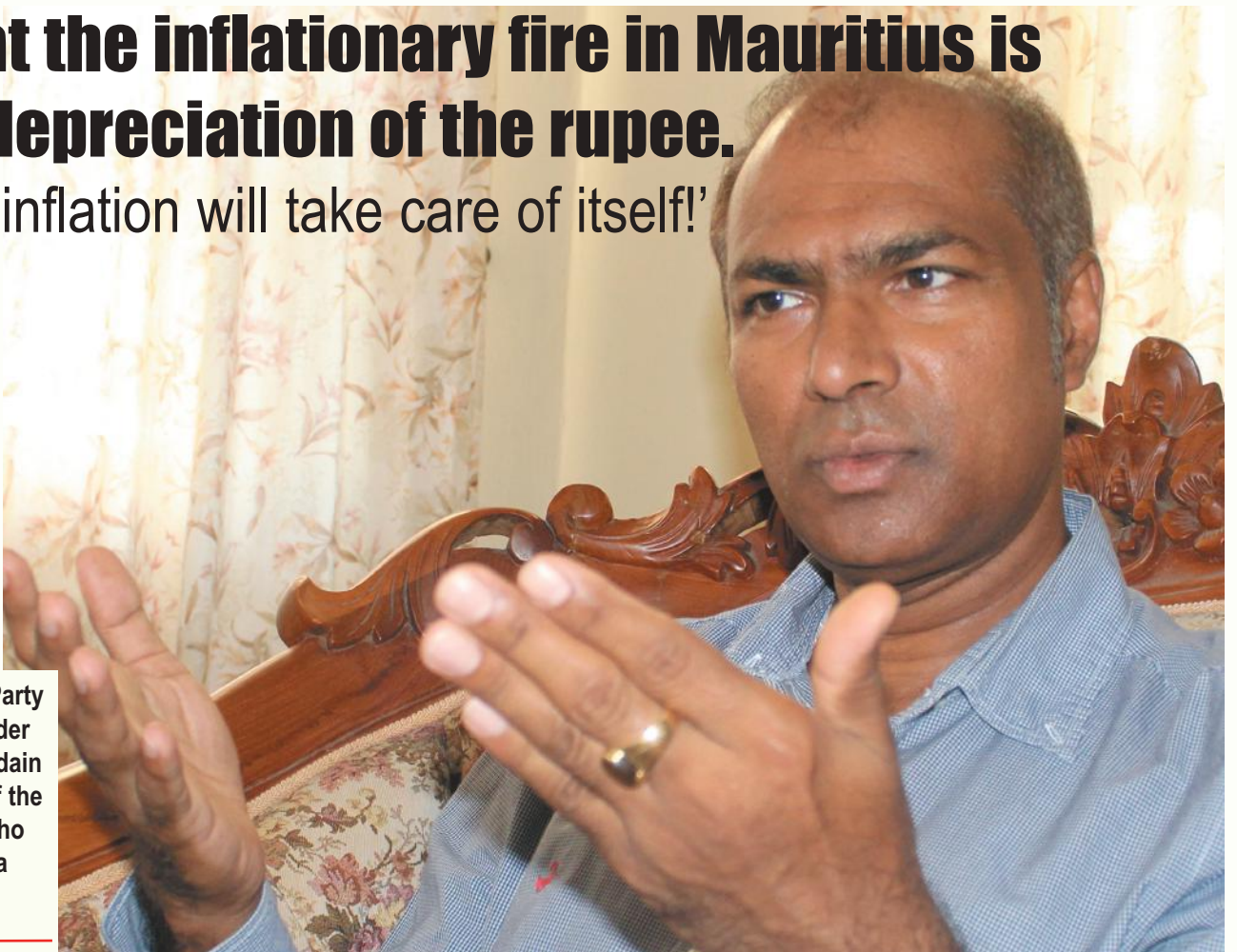
Infrastructure projects raise the growth rate mathematically since investment enters directly into the GDP equation. However, the trend in recent years has been to award large infrastructure projects to foreign contractors, who bring in their own labour, equipment and materials. This results in higher imports and a leakage of income when earnings are remitted abroad, thus reducing the multiplier effect on GDP and, eventually, the growth rate.

Finally, it is useful to point out that consumption has been the key driver of growth in recent years. Rising inflation will surely dampen consumption. For all these reasons, and more, such as the looming uncertainty about the pandemic, I expect GDP growth this year to fall short of its target of 6.5%.

*** The consensus is that Covid-19 will likely become endemic, rather than fully eradicated. However, the current Omicron's rapid rise here as elsewhere too, will certainly complicate matters. Does this mean there's still a long way to go, and that based on current trends it might become even worse for our economy in the months ahead?**

Indeed, Covid-19 is likely to become endemic but, even before that happens, we will have to deal with the socio-economic fallout of the pandemic as long as it lasts.

“Like it or not, we need the traditional parties in a new government and, in a way, they are our only hope for change. What most supporters want to see, however, is a commitment to sweeping reforms, and an action-driven agenda. The Opposition parties are all too aware of the people's expectations and demands, and once they set up a common front, they will work on an inclusive political manifesto...”



With the Omicron variant, hospitalization rates and fatalities are much lower, but we are still far from normal. In Mauritius, the number of cases is increasing rapidly, and now schools may be closed down again.

All of this will impact on the economic outlook. School closures and other partial lockdown measures may be perceived as a government's inability to get a handle on the sanitary crisis. This is what landed us into red lists for travel recently, and this threat hasn't gone away. So, yes, we may see a ray of light at the end of the tunnel, but we are not out of the woods yet.

*** To be fair, the government can only do what is possible in view of the fiscal space, which has shrunk and become narrower due to massive fiscal support to protect firms and employees, households and vulnerable groups. Is there more that it can do or should be doing?**

The government has been bragging about spending a whopping 32% of GDP in dealing with the pandemic, and this, at a time when its fiscal space was limited. However, this statement is laden with colourful lies.

First, the figure of 32% is calculated on a GDP base that shrunk by 15% in 2020, so it looks larger than what it is in absolute terms. Second, the fiscal response, as the IMF explains, is not restricted to actual spending; most of it, in fact, is in the form of equity, loans and guarantees. It therefore includes the billions of rupees of loans made by the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC). Third, we thought that the fiscal space was narrow, but the government found clever, albeit controversial, ways of overcoming this constraint. When you remove the statutory limit on public debt, the sky is the limit as to how much you can borrow. When you start ploughing into the central bank's reserves and keep replenishing them by artificially devaluing the rupee, the money pot becomes a bottomless pit because, in effect, you're printing money. When you can finance purchases of life-saving drugs by imposing a tax on petrol, and raising it at will, funding is no longer a constraint.

● Cont. on page 13

'Like it or not, the traditional parties are our only hope for change. What most supporters want to see, however, is a commitment to sweeping reforms'

● Cont. from page 12

Could the government have done more? Of course! If the Ministry of Health did not engage in dodgy procurement deals, the country could have saved billions, which the government could have redirected to the most vulnerable groups. If the MIC used its funds more judiciously, it could have given a real impetus to struggling firms and a crucial boost to the ailing economy. And if the government knew how to prioritize its spending in times of a pandemic, it would be spending more on health and education than on flashy infrastructure projects that only vent their ego.

*** Based on current trends, what do you think the economic situation will be like three years down the road, that is around the time when the people will be called to cast their votes for the next government?**

The economic situation will be alarming. Public debt has already crossed the threshold of 100% of GDP even if the official figure puts it at 80.9%. The government has announced a debt target of 80% for the end of the current financial year (i.e. June 2022). With the economy picking up, tax revenue rising, and the pandemic (hopefully) wearing out, borrowing requirements will naturally decline; hence, debt will be on a downward trend.



“The Bank of Mauritius has discovered that a weakening rupee increases revaluation gains, which the Bank has passed on to the government to support its spending spree. The government, on the other hand, collects more taxes as prices rise while exporters make more money when they convert their foreign exchange earnings into rupees. The biggest losers are income earners, especially those on fixed incomes, such as pensioners, and the poor...”

However, as the 2024 elections come closer, the government is likely to rev up its spending engine. With new infrastructure projects, including towers at Cote d'Or, further extensions to the tramway network, new social housing projects, politically-biased recruitment in the public service and the police force, and the handing out of perks to different segments of the population, including the promised Basic Retirement Pension of Rs13,500 to senior citizens, government spending will hit the escalator.

We are at the mercy of a government that will leave no stone unturned in its bid to retain power in 2024 and beyond. The harm done to the economy will be borne by the generations to come.

*** When you put your ear to the ground, tell us very objectively what do you hear about what the people generally feel about how the present government is doing and what are their expectations?**

What I hear are cries of distress from the jobless whose

“Subsidies are never among the textbook measures to control inflation. That is because they are politically motivated and are more in the nature of a second-best policy. Any good economist would tell you that, for a solution to work, it must be targeted to the source of the problem. Everybody knows that the inflationary fire in Mauritius is being fanned by the depreciation of the rupee. Stop the depreciation and inflation will take care of itself!”



live up to the expectations of their supporters?

At the moment, we do not have a unified Opposition. The Plateforme de l'Espoir hopes that the Labour Party joins in, and negotiations between the two are under way. The recent exchange between Mohamed and Bhadain may complicate things a bit. However, just like birds of the same feather flock together, I believe that all those who wish to see the MSM government out, should form a united front against the common adversary.

The over-riding goal for the Opposition should be to win the 2024 elections. Everything else should be secondary. This means that Opposition members should set their egos aside, and think and act in the national interest. That they do so is not just a political imperative, it is a moral obligation.

Now, some people believe that the old parties should make way for new ones. To them, my message couldn't be clearer: stop fooling yourself! This is not how politics works in Mauritius. By splitting up the votes of those who wish to vote against the incumbent, new parties, or a divided Opposition for that matter, will only help the MSM, whose minority voters remain loyal to their party.

Like it or not, we need the traditional parties in a new government and, in a way, they are our only hope for change. What most supporters want to see, however, is a commitment to sweeping reforms, and an action-driven agenda. The Opposition parties are all too aware of the people's expectations and demands, and once they set up a common front, they will work on an inclusive political manifesto.

*** Do you sometimes pause and reflect on where we are today and where we might have been with the right political leadership? We may win elections with higher pensions for the elderly, but we may not be doing the right things for the present and next generations. We could also be missing out on greater opportunities for placing the country on a much higher development level, don't you think?**

Oh, I reflect on it constantly! As an economist, I always say that development is felt, not seen.

With this government, since 2014, economic development has been all about big flashy projects to show. That has led the country down a dangerous path of spending and indebtedness for which future generations will have to pay. They will also moan the environmental damage that the country has suffered as trees have been replaced with infrastructure; as real estate projects continue to wreck the island's natural beauty; and as the ocean has been polluted by an oil spill than stinks of government incompetence.

Populist measures, like higher pensions, are easy and tempting to promise. If no government before 2014, did it, that's because they were economically responsible and accountable. The MSM-led government has no ethics. They would do anything to stay in power.

very means of livelihood has been quashed by the pandemic; from the elderly who can't make ends meet; from parents who bemoan an entire year wiped out of their children's life; from the youth who see little prospects for self-growth in a country where meritocracy has become a vain word.

The perception is that the government is working for a select group of people. Those who are politically close to the regime are being rewarded with juicy positions, contracts and loans. Those who are not, are being terrorized. There is also the perception that the country's most trusted institutions, including the police, the ICAC, and the Electoral Commissioner's Office, have been reduced to pawns in the hands of the government. They are sick and tired of the tactics being used by the government to weaken the Opposition. And they are scared of the MSM and its allies winning the elections again in 2024! The people are crying out for change.

*** The people in the rural areas with whom you would be quite familiar are usually reluctant to speak their minds about their political preferences, but do you get the feeling that they are not in two minds about where their support will go irrespective of how much water will flow under the bridge until 2024?**

I believe people in the rural areas and, I suppose, elsewhere too, can be separated into three groups according to their political preferences.

One group is made up of those who are clearly against the government. Most of them support a traditional party, but some are in favour of an alternative opposition.

A second group are the MSM supporters. They typically come from a given community or age group and see nothing wrong with the government's doings. Some of these people are die-hards and will openly support the government, but the majority are more reserved.

The third group includes public officers, police officers and their close relatives. Their voting behaviour is hard to predict. They may be swing-voters, who decide where to throw their weight depending on how "much water flows under the bridge", or they may have their personal interest aligned with the current regime.

In general, I believe most voters have already made up their mind.

*** What are your thoughts about how the main opposition parties are doing? Do you think they will**

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 184

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 14 February, 1958

● Swallowing angry words is much easier than having to eat them. - A. M. Schaefer

India, The First Impression

We said goodbye to Pakistan on November 20th and set off on our Indian tour. The Viscount of the Pakistan Airways dropped us at Santa Cruz Airport in Bombay two hours after taking off from Karachi.

Our hosts from the Bombay Legislature seemed to have put on an enforced smile to greet us. They looked tired. My first contact with India was not very encouraging. Subsequent experiences, however, proved that I was rash in my judgment. I learnt later that our hosts had worked till late on the previous night to see that the programme arranged for us went off without any flaw. The next morning, they had to be on their feet early and by the time we landed they were already exhausted with fatigue.

Bombay, the Hollywood of India, is a sophisticated city. The Fort Area with its imposing buildings can match in cleanliness and modernity with any European city. Forget for a while the lean swarthy Indians in their white caps and flowing shirts and you will think that you are in Mayfair. The semi-circular Marine Drive on the water part is the boast of the city. At night when the lights are on, Marine Drive from the top of the Malabar Hills looks like what has been called the Queen's necklace. But Bombay has no typical beauty of its own like Lahore. It is too modern to be so. Life in the city is too much of a rush. Nobody walks but tears along. The taxi-driver gets impatient if you make him wait for too long. There is no room for buggies, tongas or rickshaws. The stately horse-driven carriage with the coachman on the top makes its appearance only in the evening as a luxurious mode of transport for the leisurely bourgeois.

In Bombay, the white Gandhi caps were much in evidence, a sure sign that Congress stood in great favour among the teeming millions of the city. It seemed to obliterate all distinctions of class or caste. But while during the day the millionaire rubs shoulder with the coolie, at dark each comes into his own. The former settles down in a rocking chair on the terrace of his luxurious flat while the latter spreads a piece of cloth on the pavement to lie down. The use of this antithesis should not lead one to the belief that all coolies sleep on the pavements, that Bombay consists of these two categories of people only viz: millionaires and coolies. The problem of the homeless citizens of Bombay has been



Satcam Boolell

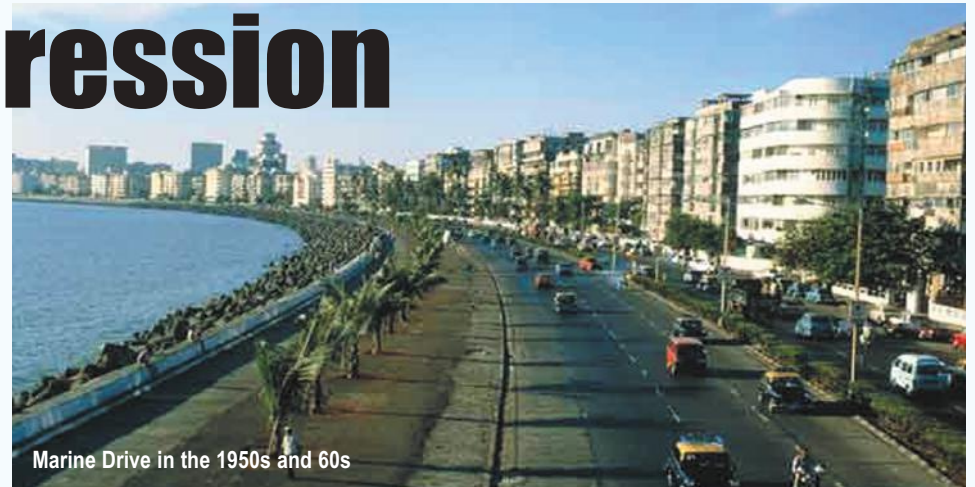
exaggerated beyond measure by foreigners. That the problem exists cannot be denied. But it would be a distortion of truth if one were to say that one has to walk cautiously at night to avoid tumbling over people. The Government of Bombay is making gigantic efforts to give a roof to each of its homeless citizens. Workers' flats are fast shooting up. But the problem cannot be solved in a day. Hundreds

of people from all over India are daily attracted to Bombay in search of work, and those who come stay for good whether they succeed in making their way or not.

Bombay is a "dry" city. There is strict prohibition on the sale of liquor to the local people. But prohibition or no prohibition the fashionable bars remain open every night till midnight with customers about whose identity there can be no mistake. Cases of drunkenness are not of infrequent occurrences.

As Bombay is the home of the Indian film industry, a visit to one of the film studios was arranged for me. A freelance photographer who had become very friendly with me accompanied me to Bandra where in Kardar Studio a shooting was in progress. My friend had already worked as assistant cameraman with Shantaram and he knew most of the people in the film industry. We drove straight into the studio yard. B.R. Chopra, was directing the film 'Sadhana' which cast Vyjayanthimala, Sunil Dutt and Leela Chitnis, etc.

Chopra greeted us with a broad grin. My friend Ajoda Singh, the delegate from British Guiana, had also accompanied me. The traditional cup of tea was immediately served and cigarettes were passed round. The set was ready, the cameraman had taken his position and the sound recordist had adjusted the microphone. In a corner of the set, I noticed a handsome looking young man with a blank face seated on a mat and eating something from a plate. He looked at us and attempted a feeble wry in the manner of a polite salutation. It was not after I had returned the salutation in the same cultivated style that I recognized in him the hero of *Mother India*. The next *dramatis persona* to make her entrance on the set was Leela Chitnis of 'Bandhan' fame.



Marine Drive in the 1950s and 60s

In spite of her age, Madam was not bad looking. She sat down on a chair, threw a shawl round her neck and with a few strokes with a tooth brush dipped into some white liquid dyed her hair near the temples and on the forehead. She assumed a calm and happy expression, joined both hands in salutation and Madam was now transformed into an Indian grandma straight from the pages of the Ramayana. In the meantime, Sunil Dutt had sat in front of her with a book in his hand out of which he was supposed to read certain passages and paraphrase them for "mother" Chitnis.

After the scene was shot, Leela Chitnis was introduced to us. My friend Ajoda Singh who is a bit blunt in his manners complimented her on her performance in a film which he had seen in his school days. I thought that his reference might be to a very old film and his compliment was turning out to be a left-handed one. I therefore immediately intervened and told Madam that she

was a very popular actress in Mauritius.

About Indian films she agreed that they were rarely good. As a matter of fact, she made it very plain that she prefers American films to Indian ones. Before Leela Chitnis made her exit, Vyjayanthimala dropped in from nowhere and flashed her radiant beauty upon us. It was time to leave, I thought. We bade Chopra goodbye and left Vyjayanthimala and Sunil Dutt to their 'Sadhana'.

The direction of a film either in India or in Pakistan is not solely the business of the director, although it is his responsibility. Everybody present can make suggestions as to which pose or gesture has the most dramatic effect. I remember in Karachi at the Eastern Film Studio where I met Meena Shorey and Charly suggestions were made by so many people as to the best manner to have a phone conversation that finally it was left to Meena to decide.



COMMUNIQUE

RELOCATION OF MRA CUSTOMS AIRPORT CARGO OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Economic operators are hereby informed that the **MRA Customs Airport Cargo Operations Administrative Office**, presently located at First Floor, Plaisance Air Transport Services Building (PATS Building), has been relocated at the **Integrated Customs Clearance Centre (ICCC)**, Le Chaland Road, Plaine Magnien as from **Wednesday 16 February 2022**.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

16 February 2022

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Will a surprise candidate shake up the French election?



Charles de Gaulle delivers his famous speech on constitutional reform in Bayeux, 1946.

● Cont. from page 2

This act thoroughly changed the political logic of France and its balance of power. Instead of voting for a party, people had to vote directly for a person. Instead of voting for a program, they had to vote for a leader. The French presidential election thus became hailed as an "encounter between a man and the people".

The potential of a third candidate

In 1965, De Gaulle became the first president of the Fifth Republic to be elected by direct universal suffrage. He had to face a second round against the left-wing candidate François Mitterrand. De Gaulle won with 55.2% of the votes to Mitterrand's 44.8%.

De Gaulle's new system also created a space for the emergence of a potential third candidate like Jean Lecanuet in 1965 or François Bayrou in 2007. These are usually symbolic, "small" candidates who have little chance of becoming president.

But the multiplication of these candidacies can still upset the battle between the two main frontrunners. In 1969, despite having five candidates out of seven in total, the left did not make it to the second round of voting. Instead, Georges Pompidou, De Gaulle's former prime minister, won against the centre-right candidate Alain Poher, the leader of the senate who was serving as temporary president following De Gaulle's resignation.

In 2002, the whole country expected a second round between the right-wing incumbent, Jacques Chirac, and the left-wing Lionel Jospin, Chirac's prime minister, whom the president was forced to appoint after losing his majority at the Assemblée Nationale in legislative elections.

Early opinion polls introduced a "third man", Jean-Pierre Chevènement a left-wing candidate who had served as a minister under Mitterrand and Jospin. He eventually received 5.33% of the votes in the first round with a modest sixth position.

Fragile legitimacy

In 2007 and 2012, presidential elections seemed to be back to normal with second rounds coming down to a contest between Nicolas Sarkozy, the right-wing candidate, and left-wing candidates Ségolène Royal in 2007 and François Hollande in 2012.

But the 2017 presidential election marked a turning point. As in 2002, the extreme right candidate, Jean-Marie's daughter Marine Le Pen, managed to reach the second round. But Le Pen's presence at this stage of the

final presidential race did not produce the national crisis witnessed by her father's success in 2002, showing how the far-right had become normalised in the intervening years. None of the traditional French political parties reached the second round and Emmanuel Macron was able to win without their support.

With four candidates (Emmanuel Macron, Marine Le Pen, François Fillon, Jean-Luc Mélenchon) receiving between 20% and 24% of the votes in the first round of the 2017 election, the legitimacy that De Gaulle wanted to give to the direct universal suffrage process appeared fragile and has been highly contested since by Macron's opponents.

The limits of direct universal suffrage

What will happen this year? It seems that 2022 might reinforce the trend set up in the last presidential election. With none of the left-wing candidates in a position to compete for the two top spots and the spread of extreme-right ideas among the voters, the traditional right v left opposition seems a distant memory. A candidate defending nationalist far-right ideas could reach the second round for the second time in a row.

On one hand, the 2017 and 2022 elections call into question the system inspired by De Gaulle and the legitimacy of the president in a system where the splintering of traditional parties has led the concept of a "third man" or "third woman" to become obsolete.

On the other, a candidate positioned outside of the main French political parties can be carried to a presidential victory and a majority at the Assemblée Nationale just as Macron did in 2017, which could be seen as the ultimate vindication of the third candidate theory.

mate vindication of the third candidate theory.

If calls for a change of the system of direct universal suffrage and for a Sixth Republic regularly bubble up, French people's aspiration to a more participatory democracy seems to show their limits when it comes to electing their president.

Ultimately, while French people may want to have their say about everything, they also want a leader who decides, takes responsibility and makes decisions. Despite the fluctuations within the political system of recent years, the tradition instigated by De Gaulle back in 1962 remains strong to this day, even if the main players are different.

Olivier Guyottot, Enseignant-chercheur en stratégie et en sciences politiques, INSEEC Grande École



Macron's 2017 victory was supposed to usher in a new politics - instead, France remains gripped by political crisis - Pic Shutterstock



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Leadership & Emotional Intelligence

Wonder what emotional intelligence looks like in everyday life?

In 1995, psychologist and science journalist Daniel Goleman published a book introducing most of the world to the nascent concept of emotional intelligence. The idea -- that an ability to understand and manage emotions greatly increases our chances of success -- quickly took off, and it went on to greatly influence the way people think about emotions and human behaviour.

But what does emotional intelligence look like, as manifested in everyday life?

For the past two years, I've explored that question in researching my forthcoming book, *EQ, Applied*. In doing so, I've identified a number of actions that illustrate how emotional intelligence appears in the real world. Here are 13 of them:

1. You think about feelings

Emotional intelligence begins with what is called self -- and social awareness, the ability to recognize emotions (and their impact) in both yourself and others.

That awareness begins with reflection. You ask questions like:

- What are my emotional strengths? What are my weaknesses?
- How does my current mood affect my thoughts and decision making?
- What's going on under the surface that influences what others say or do?

Pondering questions like these yield valuable insights that can be used to your advantage.

2. You pause

The pause is as simple as taking a moment to stop and think before you speak or act. (Easy in theory, difficult in practice.) This can help save you from embarrassing moments or from making commitments too quickly.

In other words, pausing helps you refrain from making a permanent decision based on a temporary emotion.

3. You strive to control your thoughts

You don't have much control over the emotion you experience in a given moment. But you can control your reaction



to those emotions -- by focusing on your thoughts. (As it's been said: You can't prevent a bird from landing on your head, but you can keep it from building a nest.)

By striving to control your thoughts, you resist becoming a slave to your emotions, allowing yourself to live in a way that's in harmony with your goals and values.

4. You benefit from criticism

Nobody enjoys negative feedback. But you know that criticism is a chance to learn, even if it's not delivered in the best way. And even when it's unfounded, it gives you a window into how others think.

When you receive negative feedback, you keep your emotions in check and ask yourself: How can this make me better?

5. You show authenticity

Authenticity doesn't mean sharing everything about yourself, to everyone, all of the time. It does mean saying what you mean, meaning what you say, and sticking to your values and principles above all else.

You know not everyone will appreciate your sharing your thoughts and feelings. But the ones who matter will.

6. You demonstrate empathy

The ability to show empathy, which includes understanding others' thoughts

and feelings, helps you connect with others. Instead of judging or labeling others, you work hard to see things through their eyes.

Empathy doesn't necessarily mean agreeing with another person's point of view. Rather, it's about striving to understand -- which allows you to build deeper, more connected relationships.

7. You praise others.

All humans crave acknowledgement and appreciation. When you commend others, you satisfy that craving and build trust in the process.

This all begins when you focus on the good in others. Then, by sharing specifically what you appreciate, you inspire them to be the best version of themselves.

8. You give helpful feedback.

Negative feedback has great potential to hurt the feelings of others. Realizing this, you reframe criticism as constructive feedback, so the recipient sees it as helpful instead of harmful.

9. You apologize

It takes strength and courage to be able to say you're sorry. But doing so demonstrates humility, a quality that will naturally draw others to you.

Emotional intelligence helps you

realize that apologizing doesn't always mean you're wrong. It does mean valuing your relationship more than your ego.

10. You forgive and forget

Hanging on to resentment is like leaving a knife inside a wound. While the offending party moves on with their life, you never give yourself the chance to heal.

When you forgive and forget, you prevent others from holding your emotions hostage -- allowing you to move forward.

11. You keep your commitments

It's common nowadays for people to break an agreement or commitment when they feel like it. Of course, bailing on an evening of Netflix with a friend will cause less harm than breaking a promise to your child or missing a major business deadline.

But when you make a habit of keeping your word -- in things big and small -- you develop a strong reputation for reliability and trustworthiness.

12. You help others

One of the greatest ways to positively impact the emotions of others is to help them.

Most people don't really care where you graduated from, or even about your previous accomplishments. But what about the hours you're willing to take out of your schedule to listen or help out? Your readiness to get down in the trenches and work alongside them?

Actions like these build trust and inspire others to follow your lead when it counts.

13. You protect yourself from emotional sabotage

You realize that emotional intelligence also has a dark side--such as when individuals attempt to manipulate others' emotions to promote a personal agenda or for some other selfish cause.

And that's why you continue to sharpen your own emotional intelligence -- to protect yourself when they do.

Justin Bariso, inc.com

Work Smarter

Hire and Retain the Tech Talent You Need

It's tough to hire good talent right now -- and that's especially true when it comes to employees with technical skills, who are in particularly high demand. To identify and attract top tech talent, regardless of your industry, try these three approaches:

- Take a broad view of the talent pool. Don't just stick with the typical sources of recruits. Objectively testing for capabilities and skills, rather than relying on past experience, credentials, and connections will open up



more opportunities for underrepresented candidates and widen your company's talent funnel.

- Highlight access to senior leaders. The best talent wants to work in places where they can have real impact and their voices are heard. Make clear that senior managers are visible and willing to engage directly with employees.
- Foster a culture of coaching and development. High-quality tech employees will expect opportunities to continually improve their skills, and a focus on development will allow you to bring in candidates who have the right capabilities, but not necessarily the experience. Garnering a reputation for investing in your people will bring in a high-caliber, diverse workforce.

This tip is adapted from "How to Attract Top Tech Talent," by Jonathan Frick et al - HBR

Rainy days harm the economy

Economic growth goes down when the number of wet days and days with extreme rainfall go up, a team of Potsdam scientists finds. Rich countries are most severely affected and herein the manufacturing and service sectors, according to their study published as cover story in the journal 'Nature'. The data analysis of more than 1500 regions over the past 40 years shows a clear connection and suggests that intensified daily rainfall driven by climate-change from burning oil and coal will harm the global economy.

"This is about prosperity, and ultimately about people's jobs. Economies across the world are slowed down by more wet days and extreme daily rainfall -- an important insight that adds to our growing understanding of the true costs of climate change," says Leonie Wenz from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK).

"Macro-economic assessments of climate impacts have so far focused mostly on temperature and considered -- if at all -- changes in rainfall only across longer time scales such as years or months, thus missing the



complete picture," explains Wenz. "While more annual rainfall is generally good for economies, especially agriculturally dependent ones, the question is also how the rain is distributed across the days of the year. Intensified daily rainfall turns out to be bad, especially for wealthy, industrialized countries."

"It's the daily rainfall that poses the threat"

By loading the Earth's atmosphere with greenhouse

gases from fossil power plants and cars, humanity is heating the planet. Warming air can hold more water vapour that eventually becomes rain. Although atmospheric dynamics make regional changes in annual averages more complicated, daily rainfall extremes are increasing globally due to this water vapour effect.

"Our study reveals that it's precisely the fingerprint of global warming in daily rainfall which have hefty economic effects that have not yet been accounted for but are highly relevant," says co-author Anders Levermann, Head of the Potsdam Institute's Complexity Science domain. "Taking a closer look at short time scales instead of annual averages helps to understand what is going on: it's the daily rainfall which poses the threat. It's rather the climate shocks from weather extremes that threaten our way of life than the gradual changes. By destabilizing our climate we harm our economies. We have to make sure that our burning of fossil fuels does not destabilize our societies, too."

Chewing to stay slim: How to savour your food better and dodge weight gain

That chewing food well makes a healthy eating habit is age-old wisdom. Slow eating and thorough chewing help prevent obesity and weight gain -- a view popularized a century back and tested afterward in sporadic scientific studies.

Typically, the chewing process reportedly enhances the energy expenditure associated with the metabolism of food and increases intestinal motility -- all summing up to an increased heat generation in the body after food intake, known as diet-induced thermogenesis (DIT). However, how prolonged chewing induces DIT in the

body remains unclear. Recently, Dr Yuka Hamada and Prof Naoyuki Hayashi from Waseda University, Japan, have published a study that provides a causal link between chewing and DIT.

DIT, also known as the thermic effect of food consumption, increases energy expenditure above the basal fasting level -- a factor known to prevent weight gain. Earlier, the team found that slow eating and thorough chewing not only increased DIT but also enhanced blood circulation in the splanchnic region of the abdomen.



The study highlighted that chewing well, by increasing energy expenditure, can indeed help prevent obesity and metabolic syndrome. Hayashi concludes, "While the difference in energy expenditure per meal is small, the cumulative effect gathered during multiple meals, taken over every day and 365 days a year, is substantial."

Backed by robust science, slow eating and thorough chewing could be the latest recommendations for integration into our weight management efforts.



Why can't we just build a pipe to move water to areas in drought?

Why can't we build a pipe or find some other way to move fresh water from state to state, from areas with plenty to areas that are experiencing drought?

It is true we could build a pipe or canal to move water around. In fact, a 1930s plan called the Bradfield Scheme suggested using dams, pumps and pipes to move flood waters from Australia's north to drier inland areas.

Some politicians still support this plan but some environmental experts have said it wouldn't really work and would be very expensive.

It has been reported that the NSW government is considering exploring a similar idea.

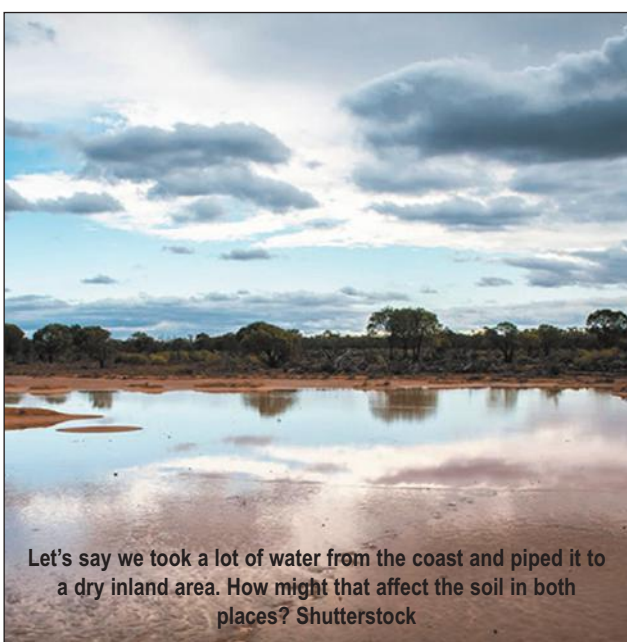
Before moving water around like this, we'd need to think really hard about whether we might be upsetting the balance of water -- both in the place of drought and the area of plenty.

The Australian landscape is very old and the soils in inland areas can be very fragile.

Moving water around can affect soil, plants and animals

Let's say we took a lot of water from the coast and piped it to a dry inland area.

Adding a lot of extra water to the dry inland area may end up damaging the soil there by upsetting the natural balance of salts and chemicals. Plants and animals that live in that area may also be affected by all the extra water



Let's say we took a lot of water from the coast and piped it to a dry inland area. How might that affect the soil in both places? Shutterstock

suddenly arriving.

And the coastal area that water is taken from? It may also suffer. Suddenly having less water in a flood plain, for example, may upset the natural health of the soil and the

environment in those places.

We also need to think about how taking water from one area might affect the agriculture and fishing industries from that place, or put extra pressure on those industries in time of drought.

Another factor is the impact the pipes or canals may have on the landscape. They can create problems for plants and wildlife.

Finally, we'd need to consider the cost of big projects like this. It would be expensive and there may be cheaper ways to help address the problems.

Working together to find solutions

Scientists think that climate change will increase how severe weather events are and make droughts worse.

Good design takes into account things that are important to the traditional owners of various places, to people who live in those places, and to the land itself.

Science, together with long-term knowledge from Aboriginal traditional owners and more recently, farmers, can help us better understand how these sorts of schemes might affect the landscape.

Ken Doust, Senior Lecturer in Engineering Management, Southern Cross University



Adulteration and Adultery

The then District Judge, Anantpur (then Madras Presidency), A.S.P. Iyer was hearing a case of coffee powder that was adulterated by adding chicory.

Madras HC Barrister Nugent Grant argued that chicory being superior to coffee in quality and taste, it cannot be said that coffee was "adulterated" with chicory.

Justice A.S.P. Iyer countered: "Mr Grant, in cases of "adulteration" and "adultery", the plea that the substitute is better than the original is not valid."

Those were the days when judges used their brains and wit.

Serious and real stress

Interviewer: Explain what is stress?

Candidate: A beautiful girl asks a lift from you. On the way she suddenly falls sick, and you take her to the hospital...

Doctor says: "Congratulations, you're gonna become a daddy."

Now you are under stress... You say, "No, I am not the father..."

But the girl insists that you are the father.

Now you're under some serious stress.

Police comes and conducts medical test.

After the test, it is proved that you are not the father and moreover you can never become a father. That's some more serious stress. But still, you thank God and walk out...

And suddenly you remember you've two kids at home, now that is real stress.

A prisoner escaped and the first place he went was home to his wife.

His wife seeing him says, "The news said you escaped at 3pm and now is 7pm. Where were you all that time?"

The prisoner handed himself back to the prison authorities.

Prof Peters and Gandhi

When Mahatma Gandhi was studying law in London, a professor named Peters had a bad attitude... but student Gandhi never lowered his head and they met very often.

One day Peters was having lunch at the university canteen, Gandhi came with his tray and sat down next to him. The very arrogant professor said to him, "Student Gandhi, you don't understand!" Pig and bird don't sit down to eat

together."

Gandhi replies, "Be calm, Professor, I will fly!"

Prof Peters, who was filled with rage, because he understood that the student had called him "Pig", decided to take revenge on the next exam.

But the student answered all the questions brilliantly.

Then the teacher asked him the following question: "Gandhi, if you walk down the street and find two bags, one with wisdom and the other with money, which of the two will you take?"

Gandhi replied without hesitation, "Probably the money, Professor."

The smiling teacher said, "I would grab wisdom in your place, don't you think?"

Gandhi replied, "Everyone takes what they don't have, Professor."

The already hysterical professor wrote "idiot" on the exam sheet and returned it to the young man. Gandhi took the sheet and sat down. After a few minutes he turned to the teacher and said, "Professor Peters, you signed the sheet, but you didn't write my grade!"

Enjoy these Punchlines!

I'm a nobody, nobody is perfect, and therefore I'm perfect.

I've got to sit down and work out where I stand.

If I save time, when do I get it back.

I am free... of all prejudices. I hate

everyone equally.

Take my advice, I don't use it anyway. Statement below is true. Statement above is false.

As I said before, I never repeat myself. Sometimes I need what only you can provide: your absence.

A conscience does not prevent sin. It only prevents you from enjoying it!

Best way to prevent hangover is to stay drunk.

Doesn't expecting the unexpected make the unexpected become the expected?

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where train stops. On my desk, I have a workstation. What more can I say!

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

How come abbreviated is such a long word?

Living on earth may be expensive, but it includes an annual free trip around the sun.

Your future depends on your dreams. So go to sleep!

Alcohol kills slowly. So, what who's in a hurry?

Can you do anything that other people can't. Sure, I can read my handwriting.

A drunk was hauled into court. The judge said: Mister, you've been brought here for drinking. Great, the drunk exclaimed. When do we get started?

Life's Lesson Dress well, but decently!

A woman came into a store wearing clothes that showed her body too well.

The store owner looked at her well, asked her to sit down, looked her straight in the eyes and told her something she will never forget in life.

"Miss, everything God has made precious in this world is well covered and hard to see, find or obtain. For example:

1. Where can you find the diamonds?
Deep in the earth, covered and protected.
2. Where can we find the pearls?
Deep in the ocean, covered and protected in a magnificent shell.
3. Where can you find gold?
Underground, covered in layers of rock and to get there you need to work hard and dig deep."

With that being said, he looked at her again and said:

"Your body is sacred and unique. You are far more precious than gold, diamonds and pearls, so you must be covered too. But if you leave your precious minerals on the surface of the earth, you will always attract a large number of illegal miners to come, explore and illegally take those riches. Dress well, but decently!"

All Time Short Stories The reflections

Once a dog ran into a museum filled with mirrors. The museum was very unique, the walls, the ceiling, the doors and even the floors were made of mirrors. Seeing his reflections, the dog froze in surprise in the middle of the hall. He could see a whole pack of dogs surrounding him from all sides, from above and below.

The dog bared his teeth and barked all the reflections responded to it in the same way. Frightened, the dog barked frantically, the dog's reflections imitated the dog and increased it many times. The dog barked even harder, but the echo was magnified. The dog, tossed from one side to another while his reflections also tossed around snapping their teeth.

Next morning, the museum security guards found the miserable, lifeless dog, surrounded by thousands of reflections of the lifeless dog. There was nobody to harm the dog.

Shark Bait

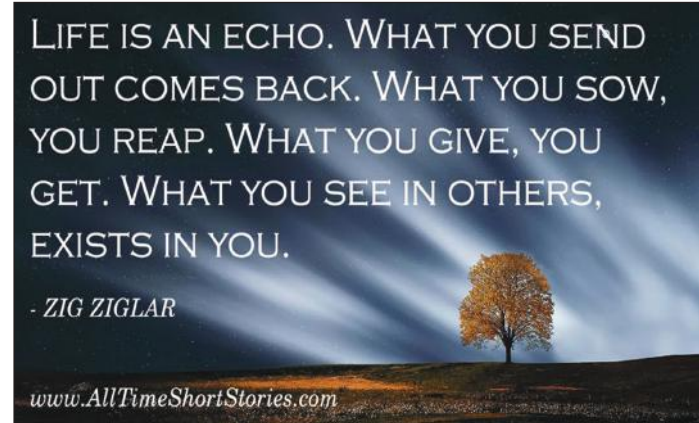
A marine biologist was involved in an experiment with a shark. He placed a shark in a tank along with other small bait fishes.

As expected, the shark ate every single fish.

The marine biologist then inserted a clear fiberglass to create two sections within the tank. He placed the shark in one section and smaller fish in the other section.

The shark quickly attacked, but then he bounced off the fiberglass. The shark kept on repeating this behaviour. It just wouldn't stop trying.

While the small fish in the other section remained unharmed and carefree. After about an hour, the shark finally



The dog died by fighting with his own reflections.

Moral: The world doesn't bring good or evil on its own. Everything that is happening around us is the reflection of our own thoughts, feelings, wishes and actions. The World is a big mirror. So, let's strike a good pose!

gave up.

This experiment was repeated several dozen times over the next few weeks. Each time, the shark got less aggressive. Eventually the shark got tired and simply stopped attacking altogether.

The marine biologist then removed the fiberglass. The shark, however, didn't attack. It was trained to believe in the existence of a barrier between it and the bait fish.

The moral: Many of us, after experiencing setbacks and failures, emotionally give up and stop trying. Like the shark, we chose to stay with past failure and believe that we will always be unsuccessful. We build a barrier in our heads, even when no 'real' barrier between where we are and where we want to go. Don't give up. Keep trying because success may be just a try away.

Healthy Aging

Scientific Secrets to Healthy Aging

The second half of your life can bring some of your most rewarding decades. You may be more confident than your younger self. You gain wisdom and patience. Sure, your hair sprouts more grays and your face sports more lines. But you can grow older with your body and mind as healthy as they can possibly be.

Here are science-backed secrets to do just that.

Take Stock

Staying on top of your health is much more than getting care when you don't feel good. See your doctor for regular checkups. (And don't forget about your dentist and eye doctor.)

These visits can help find problems early or even before they start. The tests you need depend on things like your age, gender, family history, and whether you smoke or exercise.

Your doctor may want to check for these things, among others:

- Cholesterol levels
- High blood pressure
- Cervical cancer
- Colon cancer
- Breast cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Osteoporosis

Eat whole foods

It's more a way of eating than a formal diet. You load up on veggies, fruits, whole grains, nuts, and low-fat dairy. You eat less fatty meats, butter, sugar, salt, and packaged foods.

Many studies have found that this diet can help you live longer and protects against heart disease, cancer, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's disease. Researchers believe one way it works is by physically changing parts of your chromosomes linked to age-related diseases.

Walk

Aim for 30 minutes every day. If that's too much, break it up into shorter strolls. Regular exercise -- especially if you do it briskly enough to feel a little breathless -- delivers huge health benefits. It helps keep brain cells healthy by delivering more blood and oxygen. In fact, research suggests aerobic exercise may delay or improve symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

It also helps:

- Control your weight
- Boost your mood
- Keep bones and muscles strong
- Helps you sleep better
- Makes you less likely to get heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol

Stay connected

Loneliness is harmful to your health. If you feel lonely -- whether you live alone or with someone, have lots of friends or none -- you are more likely to get dementia or depression. Seniors who report feeling left out and isolated have more trouble with everyday tasks like bathing and climbing stairs. They also die earlier than less lonely folks do. Researchers found that lonely people have higher levels of stress hormones that cause inflamma-



tion, or swelling, linked to arthritis and diabetes. Another study found more antibodies to certain herpes viruses in lonely people, a sign of stress in their immune system. So stay connected or make new friends. Do volunteer work or simply help someone in need. Just connect.

Add fibre

It's an easy way to eat your way to better health with every meal and snack. Swap out your white bread for whole grain. Add kidney beans to your soup or apple slices to your salad. Fibre fills you up and for longer. It cuts your cholesterol levels and lowers your chance of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and colon cancer.

It also helps you avoid constipation, which is more common in older adults. After age 50, men should aim for 30 grams of fiber a day and women should get 21 grams a day.

Curb bad habits

Tobacco kills. It harms almost every organ in your body. Cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and other products with nicotine cause heart disease, cancer, lung and gum disease, and many other health problems. It's never too late to quit. Your body begins to heal within 20 minutes of your last cigarette. Your chance of a heart attack goes down right away. In a year, your odds of heart disease drop by half. You'll also live longer. Ask your doctor for help.

Too much alcohol can harm your liver and cause some kinds of cancer. Men shouldn't have more than two drinks a day; women should have no more than one. If you drink more than that, talk to your doctor about cutting back.

Try Tai Chi

This gentle Chinese exercise combines slow movements and deep breathing. It's like meditating while you move.

Tai chi may help older people avoid falls, a top cause of injury among seniors. It also can:

- Ease stress
- Improve balance
- Strengthen muscles
- Increase flexibility
- Lessen arthritis pain

Select Supplements

It's often better to get your nutrients from food, not a pill. And you usually don't need special supplements

aimed at seniors.

After age 50, your body does need more of some vitamins and minerals from foods or supplements than before. They include:

- Calcium (to keep bones strong)
- Vitamin D (Most people get it from sunlight, but some seniors may not get out enough.)
- Vitamin B12 (Older people have trouble absorbing it from foods, so you may need fortified cereals or a supplement.)
- Vitamin B6 (It keeps your red blood cells strong to carry oxygen throughout your body.)

Tell your doctor about any supplements you take so you can avoid bad interactions with any medications or treatments.

Stay Optimistic

Life tests us in many ways. Loved ones die, layoffs happen, and health problems can mount. But positive thinking can be a powerful ally. When you choose to be optimistic and grateful, your mind and body respond in kind.

People with a rosier outlook live longer and have fewer heart attacks and depression than more negative people. One study found that thinking positively about getting older can extend lifespan by 7.5 years. And that's after accounting for things such as gender, wealth, and overall health.

A rosy outlook may help you exercise more and eat better. And that in turn helps you stay hopeful and happy because you feel better. You may hear that called a "virtuous circle."

If you see the glass half full, it could play an even bigger role in living better and longer than things such as low blood pressure and cholesterol, which have each been shown to increase life span by about 4 years.

You can learn to be optimistic. It just takes time and practice. Things you can do include:

- Smile, even fake smile. It can help lower stress.
- Reframe. Spin your thoughts to the good things instead of dwelling on the bad.
- Keep a gratitude journal.
- Do good things for others.
- Surround yourself with people who boost your spirits.
- Accept things you can't change.

Stick to Sleep

Insomnia is common in older adults. It's when you have a harder time falling and staying asleep. It helps to wake and sleep on schedule every day. That can help keep your body clock in sync so you get the sleep you need.

Also try and:

- Keep your bedroom dark. Turn off your TV, cell phone, and laptop.
- Avoid caffeine or alcohol in the evening.
- Don't nap longer than 20 minutes during the day.
- Ask your doctor if any of your meds might be keeping you awake.

Challenge Your Mind

Things like crossword puzzles, Sudoku, chess, or reading are all good for your brain. Keep learning and trying new things to boost your brainpower. It may help lower your chances of Alzheimer's disease.

Jennifer Robinson, MD - WebMD

Shabir Ahluwalia quits 'Kumkum Bhagya'

Shabir Ahluwalia who was seen as Abhishek Mehra in the popular TV series Kumkum Bhagya has moved on from the show. Hindustan Times reports that the actor will be seen in a new show on a different channel

"Shabir and Ekta (Kapoor, producer of the daily soap) are friends and remain cordial. Everything was done without any hassle. However, the network doesn't intend to officially talk about their exit," shares a source. Reasons behind Ahluwalia's exit is yet to be known, however, if conjectures are to be believed, makers are focussing on the newer generation of characters since a few weeks now.

Ahluwalia has been missing from the daily soap for some time. This led to a massive outcry amongst the fans asking the makers to bring back their favourite character.

The actor is in talks for another show on another channel. The yet-to-be-titled series is helmed by producer Yash Patnaik and will go on floors from March end. "Shabbir is almost finalised," a little birdie close to the actor shares.



Sanjay 'Sanju' Gagnani recalls his first Valentine's Day with 'Poonu' Preet

Every love story has a unique twist, and for actors Sanjay Gagnani and Poonam Preet Bhatia, it has to be their first Valentine's Day while they were dating. Why? Because Sanjay took his ladylove to Shirdi on the day of romance.

"Any girl would expect their boyfriend to take them for a romantic dinner or holiday, I took Poonu (his nickname for her) to Sai Baba's temple," recounts Sanjay, adding, "We wanted to begin the relationship by seeking blessings of the Almighty. She was surprised and shocked... But I wanted to be different and tell that my feelings were as pure as a devotee's feelings for the Almighty."

The couple first met virtually on social media, and went on their date when Poonam travelled to Mumbai from Delhi. But even after that, he didn't propose to Poonam straightaway, reports Hindustan Times. "Sanju (her nickname for him) used to sing songs from the film 'Bodyguard', so I got some hint. We used to stay in Four Bungalows, he would take me for coffee. He would make me laugh a lot. Once I spat out my coffee because he made me laugh so hard!" recalls Poonam.

She also remembers that he started calling her Bebo. Sanjay says: "I had a huge crush on Kareena Kapoor, and also worked with her in Heroine. So, I told Poonam that I will call her Bebo."

Does life change at all after getting married? Poonam laughs, while Sanjay answers, "I feel nothing has changed. We were in a live-in relationship, we always considered each other as friends first, before being her lover, fiancé and then husband. I still talk to her and behave like a friend with her. I am a friend when she needs one, and same for husband and boyfriend. That is the only thing, nothing has changed thankfully."



Cinema Sirsa

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NEW MOVIE: BADHAAI DO

(featuring Rajkummar Rao, Bhumi Pednekar, Chum Darang, Sheeba Chadha, Seema Pahwa, Loveleen Mishra, Nitesh Pandey, Gulshan Devaiah)



Friday	18 Feb 2022	- 20:15
Saturday	19 Feb 2022	- 13:15 / 20:15
Sunday	20 Feb 2022	- 13:15 / 16:15 / 20:15
Monday	21 Feb 2022 to	- 13:15/20:15
Thursday	24 Feb 2022	- 13:15/20:15

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You've got a lot of abilities, and you'll place them to excellent service this week. You are likely to motivate those near you to become more active. You're brimming with creativity and ideas. You could receive an opportunity in the middle of the week.

Lucky Numbers: 19, 20, 30, 34, 36, 40

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

This week, you'll be in an extremely forgiving mood. This coming week, you're likely to be busy on a few instances. By the end of the week, your family will have pleasant news for you. Your partner will prove to be the lucky charm for you.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 10, 14, 18, 23

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

You're probably going to devote most of your week focusing on yourself. You'll improve and spend much of your time establishing your objectives. You've learned valuable lessons from your blunders, and now it's time to put those lessons into practice.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 15, 20, 26, 28

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You'll be brimming with energy, and you'll have a fantastic week as a result. Someone's intentions are likely to cause you to harm this week. You will restrain yourself from getting into a relationship this week but your need to confide in someone will bring you closer to your friend.

Lucky Numbers: 27, 29, 31, 36, 39, 40

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Important family traditions are passed down to you, and this will come in handy this week. Your week will start with an already romantic vibe around, your relationship will improve and your partner will try hard to overlook your past.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 17, 20, 33, 36, 37

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

In the midst of the week, setbacks might make you quite irritated. You could lash out at someone, so it's best if you avoid engaging in fights with others. In the first half of the week, you will put financial issues under the rug.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 7, 8, 9, 14, 20

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Right now, any sort of physical exercise will benefit you greatly. You'll receive fantastic results at the end of the week because you'll be working a lot. You must get out and engage in some physical activity. You will expect a lot from your partner this coming week.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 14, 20, 21, 23, 29

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You'll emphasize spending time with the people you care about. You should be extra cautious when travelling because there's a possibility you'll get into a mishap. Don't be in a rush to be somewhere on time.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 16, 20, 21, 23, 27

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You may acquire knowledge that has a significant influence on your life. It's possible that just when things are going well, something may go wrong. However, despite the setbacks, your future appears to be bright.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 29, 30, 35, 37

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You're going to learn a lot of new stuff and learn a lot about people's whereabouts. This week, you could be asked to a social gathering and . You'll find yourself in the midst of a significant issue, and it'll be tough to get out of it. Calm down and you'll see what the best course of action is.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 19, 22, 27, 36, 39

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

This week, you'll have plenty of vitality and will be able to handle all of the tough labour. Others will be greatly influenced by your attitude. You'd be ideal for leading a company and coordinating everyone to operate together.

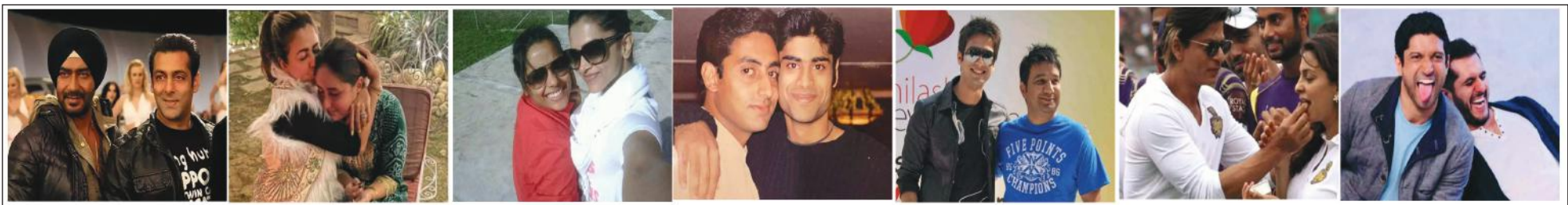
Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 16, 19, 24, 31

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Because of your actions, you will feel more hopeful than previously. This is not a good week to invest income since there is a risk you could lose wealth. Before you purchase this week, get professional advice. You are more likely to find a romantic interest in your professional circle.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 14, 18, 19, 21

7 thick pairs who define what true friendship means



There are many people who come and go in our lives. But those who stick around are usually the ones who know you inside out. Today when we have begun questioning the loyalty of everyone around, there are some people who still give us that ray of hope. Taking the film world as an example, here are 7 such pairs of best friends where the friendship has stood the test of time, define what true friendship means, as reported by Times of India...

Salman Khan & Ajay Devgn: Very few may know about their friendship because they rarely display it on social media and otherwise. Salman and Ajay have a very strong bond and to connect the dots, the latter's cameo in Salman's film "Ready" and Salman's cameo in Ajay's film "Son of Sardar", are a mild proof.

In an interview, Ajay once shared that "I guess it's because Salman and I meet often and we have worked together on quite a few projects. I can connect with him and vice versa. I can tell him anything, I can ask him anything. He also feels the same. I get along very well with him and I treasure the time I spend with him".

The two have worked together in "London Dreams" as well as "Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam".

Kareena Kapoor & Amrita Arora: This girls squad is very popular on social media. Kareena was also one of the bridesmaids in Amrita Arora's wedding. In 2006,

Kareena said in an interview about Amrita: "I really like that girl. She's fun, easygoing, hassle free and honest... just like me. Our friendship cannot be measured against other filmy friendships."

Amrita too has said in the past that she and Kareena "talk about everything under the sun and indulge in gossip from time to time. It's fun. Haha!"

Deepika Padukone & Shahana Goswami: These two women have been best friends ever since they began their careers. From partying together, to just chilling and scuba diving together, both the girls are each other's secret keepers.

"Shahana Goswami is my best friend. I have always maintained that being in this industry we cannot plan when friends will come in our life and when they will move out. And she happened to be a co-star in one of my beginner films. And before I knew it, we became good friends; she is the first person I call when I am back in Mumbai," Deepika said in an interview about Shahana.

Abhishek Bachchan & Sikander Kher: Sikander and Abhishek are childhood buddies and are more like brothers today. Abhishek treats him more like a baby brother. In fact, when Abhishek's daughter Aaradhya was born, Sikander once shared that he rejoiced as the real chachu. Once Abhishek had posted an old picture of the two together on his Instagram with a heartfelt length

caption to which Sikander replied "Rulayega kya pagle".

Shahid Kapoor & Ahmed Khan: Choreographer Ahmed Khan and actor Shahid Kapoor have been thick ever since they began their respective careers. The actor's first music video "Aankhon Me Tera Hi Sapna" was with Ahmed and they struck a chord which has stood the test of time. Reportedly, Shahid was the first to hold Khan's new-born child, even before his family.

Shahrukh Khan and Juhi Chawla: Juhi proved their bond when Shahrukh's son Aryan Khan was stuck in muddy waters. The only two people seen taking an action to help out the man were Juhi and Salman. Juhi and Shahrukh have been friends for decades and yes they did experience some rough times but until now we can see and take cues on how friends are supposed to be.

Farhan Akhtar & Ritesh Sidhwani: This duo runs a production company together and have been friends for over a decade. Ritesh told DNA in an interview that he and Farhan Akhtar "don't have egos and we have a very open mind to each other's inputs. Every decision that the company takes is always a joint one and once the decision is made, there's no blame game if it backfires."

"We don't spend much time looking behind. This is what has made us remain thick as ever. We have both seen each other grow, make mistakes and learn from it," he added.

Deepika Padukone reveals husband Ranveer Singh likes to 'hug and kiss'

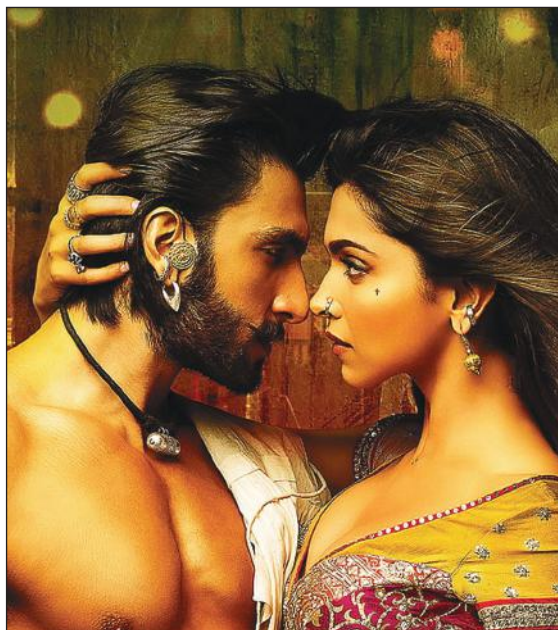
Deepika Padukone recently spoke elaborately on the difference between her husband Ranveer Singh and her family.

In an interview with a news portal, Deepika revealed that she is able to make bolder choices because she has a cheerleader in him. Although she feels the same, the actress admitted that she is less expressive. While on the other hand, Ranveer is a tactile person. He likes to hug and kiss. However, she and her family are very different. According to her, they feel a lot and are emotional people but they often find it hard to communicate or articulate how they feel.

Deepika also spilled the beans on her favourite film of Ranveer. The actress revealed that although she has seen all of his films, she loves 'Band Baaja Baraat' because there was a certain rawness and innocence in that performance which trumps all the other films he has done. Deepika also added that even 'Gully Boy' remains her all-time favourite performance of his.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Deepika and Ranveer were last seen on screen together in Kabir Khan's '83'. The movie received positive reviews from the audience and the critics alike.

Next, she is awaiting the release of her upcoming film, 'Gehraiyaan' co-starring Ananya Panday and Siddhant Chaturvedi in lead roles. The film also features Dhairya Karwa, Naseeruddin Shah and Rajat Kapur.



17 celebrities who changed their name before entering B'wood

Changing names is certainly not a new fad in Bollywood. After all, it's the artist's name that first gives them an identity and introduces them to their audience. Here's a list of Bollywood celebs who changed their names, as reported by Anjali Awasthi...

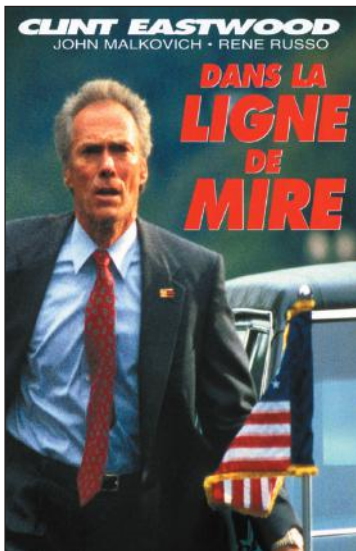
1. **Saif Ali Khan's** real name is Sajid Ali Khan. Well, no one knew this until a copy of his marriage certificate to Kareena surfaced on the internet.
2. **Katrina Kaif** was Katrina Turquotte. She used her mother's surname initially. But after moving to India, she adopted her father's surname, Kaif.
3. **Tiger Shroff's** name is Jai Hemant Shroff. His father Jackie Shroff, would call him Tiger out of affection as he would bite like a tiger when he was a kid.
4. **Kiara Advani's** real name is Aaliya Advani. It was Salman Khan who advised Kiara to change her name for better recognition.
5. **Ayushmann Khurrana** was named Nishant Khurrana when he was born.
6. **Shilpa Shetty's** original name is Ashwini Shetty. But her mother, Sunanda Shetty, changed her name to Shilpa later.
7. **Akshay Kumar** was born with the name Rajiv Hari Om Bhatia. But he was inspired by Kumar Gaurav's character, Akshay, in the film 'Aaj' and changed his

name.

8. **Ajay Devgn's** real name is Vishal Devgn. He also changed his surname spelling from 'Devgan' to 'Devgn' because of numerology.
9. **Sridevi's** original name was Shree Amma Yanger Ayyapan.
10. **Amitabh Bachchan** was named Inquilaab Srivastava. However, it was later changed to Amitabh, on the famous Indian poet Sumitranandan Pant's suggestion.
11. **Sunny Deol's** real name is Ajay Singh Deol. But the actor decided to go with his nickname Sunny.
12. **John Abraham's** real name is Farhan Abraham, and the actor later changed it to John.
13. **Rekha** was named Bhanurekha Ganesan, but before entering the industry, she decided to go with just Rekha.
14. **Preity Zinta's** name was Preetam Zinta Singh. And before entering the
15. **Govinda's** real name was Govind Arun Ahuja. But he changed it to Govinda as suggested by his numerologist.
16. **Sunny Leone's** real name is Karenjit Kaur Vohra.
17. **Tabu or Tabassum Hashmi Khan**, you just cannot unsee how adorable and talented she is.

CINE 12

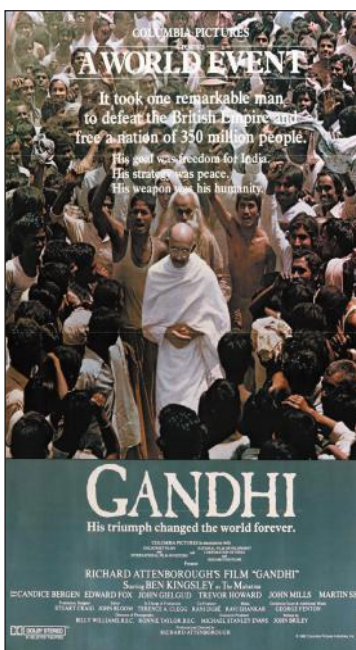
vendredi 18 février - 21.15



samedi 19 février - 21.00



dimanche 20 février - 21.15



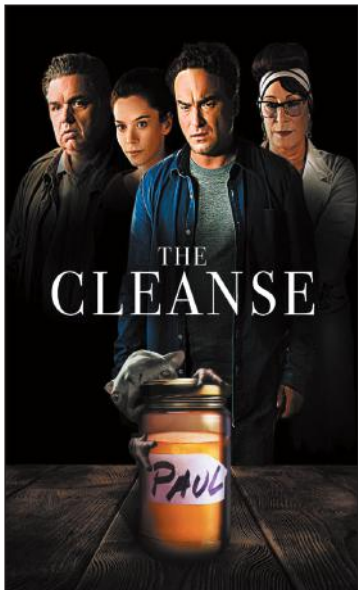
Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 18 février	07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lines 09.15 Doc: Rainforest Radio 10.15 Local: Rodrig Prog 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy 14.07 Local: MBC Production 14.30 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill 15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family 15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien 15.59 D.Anime: Gummibar & Friend 17.05 Serial: Mustangs FC 17.30 Serial: Project MC 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Surya Pura 18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.20 Local: Come On Let's Dance 21.15 Serial: Madam Secretary 23.20 Le Journal 23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Bisaat-E-Dil 11.01 Tawaan 12.00 Film: Sur Rahu De Starring: Spruha Joshi, Anshuman Vichare 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 Zournal Kreol 19.26 Serial: Radha Krishna 19.58 Serial: AAS (Urdu Serial) 21.00 Local: Urdu Programme	07.00 Mag: Border Crossing 07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today 07.46 Doc: La Route De La Soie 09.34 Doc: Great Apes 11.40 Mag: Red Carpet 14.08 Doc: Snapshots 15.13 Doc: What Did The Big... 16.02 Mag: Eco India 17.23 Mag: Tomorrow Today 18.00 Doc: In The Realm of... 18.45 Mag: World Stories 19.30 Mag: Euromaxx 20.05 Doc: Quand L'histoire Fait... 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Forces Of Nature 21.27 Doc: Innovation On Board 23.37 Doc: In The Realm Of... 00.19 Mag: World Stories 00.31 Mag: Our Voices 00.57 Mag: Euromaxx 01.23 Doc: Quand L'histoire Fait...	02.56 Serial: Imposters 03.39 Film: The Leisure Seeker 05.37 Tele: Marimar 06.04 Serial: Elementary 07.00 Serial: Island Doctor 09.00 Serial: 19-2 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Absentia 11.42 Film: The Leisure Seeker 13.45 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Serial: Island Doctor 16.39 Serial: 19-2 17.23 Serial: Pine Gap 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: Killjoys 21.15 Film: Dans La Ligne Du Mire Avec: John Malkovich, Clint Eastwood...	07.00 Film: Prince 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: Koi Aap Sa Starring: Aftab Shivdasani, Anita Hassanandani, Dipannita Sharma 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 20.00 Siddhi Vinayak 20.30 Radha Krishna
samedi 19 février	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: Akili And Me 08.18 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana 09.30 Mag: Happy Tales 10.00 Local Prod: Zanfan 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: PAF, Le Chien 16.46 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare 17.15 Serial: Creeped Out 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Taare Zameen 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 21.10 Film: Beyond White Space 23.10 Local: Le Journal	07.00 Film: Vishwasghaat 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: Geet Starring: Divya Bharti, Avinash Wadhawan, Shakti Kapoor 18.10 DDI Magazine 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 20.29 Serial: Porus - Ep 3 21.00 Film: Judgementall Hai Kya Starring: Rajkummar Rao, Kangana Ranaut	06.00 Doc: In The Realm Of... 06.42 Mag: World Stories 06.54 Mag: Our Vocies 07.20 Mag: Euromaxx 08.18 Doc: Forces Of Nature 11.10 Doc: In The Realm Of... 11.52 Mag: World Stories 12.10 Mag: Our Voices 13.33 Doc: Forces Of Nature 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 Des Montagnes Du Monde 21.27 Doc: Opaque Worlds 22.09 Doc: Congo 23.31 Mag: Future Mag 00.00 Mag: In Good Shape 00.26 Mag: The 77 Percent 00.52 Mag: Check In	01.28 Film: Dans La Ligne Du Mire 02.39 Serial: Seal Team 03.40 Beauty And The Beast 04.00 Serial: Hawaii Five-0 04.41 Tele: Tanto Amor 05.45 Serial: Killjoys 08.30 Serial: Airwolf 09.14 Beauty And The Beast 09.53 Serial: Hawaii Five-0 10.45 Film: Dans La Ligne Du Mire 12.15 Serial: Seal Team 13.30 Serial: Imposters 15.10 Tele: Muneca Brava 16.30 Serial: Killjoys 17.09 Film: L'amour A La Carte 18.35 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man 19.40 Serial: Backstage 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Series: Killjoys 21.15 Film: Born To Be Blue Starring: Ethan Hawke, Carmen Ejogo, Callum Keith Rennie	04.05 Radha Krishna 04.36 Anupamaa 05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur... 05.33 Agnihera 06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan 06.34 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: Gali Gali Chor Hai Star: Akshaye Khanna, Shriya Saran, Mugdha Godse 20.47 Serial: Motu Patlu 20.56 Serial: Namah 20.49 Serial: Naagin Season 3
samedi 20 février	06.02 D.Anime: Invention Story 06.32 D.Anime: Gon 06.56 D.Anime: Booba 07.00 D.Anime: Commic Quantum... 09.00 D.Anime: Madly Madagascar 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 11.00 Local Production: Nu Rasinn 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Tele: Teresa 14.05 Local: Elle - No 176 15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family 15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien 15.37 D.Anime: Robot Trains 16.12 D.Anime: Gummibar & Friend 17.20 Serial: Creeped Out 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Local Production 21.25 Film: Gandhi Stars: Ben Kingsley, Edward Fox...	07.00 Film: Yeh Dil Kisho Doon 08.56 DDI Magazine 11.00 Serial: Azhagu 11.23 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 12.10 Film: Kaash Stars: Jackie Shroff, Dimple Kapadia, Master Makrand 14.24 DDI Magazine 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: Zournal Kreol 20.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas... 20.48 Serial: CID 21.33 Serial: Naagin Season 2	06.00 Mag: Future Mag 06.55 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.21 Mag: Check In 09.07 Doc: Opaque Worlds 09.38 Doc: Congo 10.21 Manufacturing Ignorance 11.03 Mag: Future Mag 11.58 Mag: The 77 Percent 12.24 Mag: Check In 13.18 Les Montagnes Du Monde 14.42 Doc: Congo 16.34 Mag: In Good Shape 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: Tresors Oublies De... 22.03 Doc: The Business Of Hope 22.45 Doc: Invisibles 23.55 Mag: Future Mag 00.58 Doc: Comme Une Envie...	01.43 Film: Born To Be Blue 03.21 Serial: Dynasty 2 04.01 Film: Beyond White Space 05.31 Tele: Tanto Amor 06.18 Serial: Killjoys 07.00 Film: Signed. Sealed... 08.30 Serial: Airwolf 09.19 Film: 119 Jours 10.40 Film: L'amour A La Carte 12.16 Serial: Dynasty 2 13.23 Serial: Imposters 14.42 Serial: Absentia 17.13 Serial: Killjoys 17.55 Serial: Dynasty 2 18.36 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 19.38 Serial: Backstage 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: New Amsterdam 21.54 Film: Eaten By Lions Avec: Antonio Aakeel, Jack Carroll, Asim Chaudhry	01.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak 02.09 Bhakharwadi 03.20 Anupamaa 05.08 Pavitra Rishta 08.00 Motu Patlu 08.11 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 10.03 Jaana Na Dil Se Door 12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 14.00 Agnihera 16.29 Punar Vivaah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Film: Kyon Ki Starring: Salman Khan, Kareena Kapoor and Rimi Sen 21.00 Naagin Season 3 21.42 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 23.28 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 01.08 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
dimanche 20 février	06.27 Mag: Eye On SADC 07.00 Local Prod: Nu Rasinn 07.55 Local Prod: Music Tour 2022 08.50 Doc: Dogs & Us 09.45 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 11.00 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous? 11.30 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy 14.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 14.30 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill 15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family 15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien 15.37 D.Anime: Where's Waldo 17.00 Serial: Mustangs FC 17.25 Serial: Project MC 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Namah 19.30 Le Journal 20.40 MBC Production 21.10 Film: The Professionals	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 12.10 Film: Meera Stars: Hema Malini, Vinod Khanna, Shreeram Lagoo, Shammi Kapoor 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: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.02 Local: Programme In Telugu 20.31 Film: Maa Abbayi Star: Sree Vishnu, Chitra Shukla	06.00 Mag: Magnifique 06.55 Mag: The Inside Story 07.24 Doc: Comme Une Envie De... 08.43 Doc: Wedding The French... 11.00 Mag: Magnifique 14.38 Doc: The Business Of Hope 15.20 Doc: Invisibles 16.06 Mag: Magnifique 16.33 Mag: Future Mag 17.02 Mag: The Inside Story 18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Local: Encounter 20.30 Local Prod: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Luana's Kitchen 21.36 Mag: Global 3000 22.02 Mag: Washington Forum 22.28 Doc: Fast Fashion 23.10 Doc: Shattered Dreams 23.53 Mag: Eco@Africa	01.43 Film: Eaten By Lions 03.25 Serial: Absentia 04.05 Film: Flip That Romance 05.26 Tele: Marimar 05.48 Tele: Rubi 06.09 Serial: New Amsterdam 07.45 Film: Eaten By Lions 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Absentia 12.00 Film: Flip That Romance 13.30 Tele: Marimar 13.45 Tele: Rubi 14.45 Film: Eaten By Lions 16.32 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 20.30 Serial: Blacklist 21.15 Film: Assassin's Code	08.00 Film: Vir Ka Insaaf 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: Alag Starring: Akshay Kapoor, Dia Mirza 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi 20.01 Siddhi Vinayak
lundi 21 février					



Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 22 février

MBC 1

06.00 Local: Rodrig - D'Jam
07.03 Local: Rodrig
07.30 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
08.09 MBC Production
09.00 Doc: Dying For Gold
10.15 Local: Tous Egaux: Intiaz...
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
15.20 D.Anime: Clip
15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
15.59 D.Anime: Gummibar & Friend
17.00 Serial: Mustangs FC
17.34 Serial: Project MC²
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: The Leisure Seeker

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: CID
12.00 Film: Param Dharam
Starring: Mithun Chakraborty, Mandakini
14.00 DDI Magazine
15.00 Live: Samachar
16.25 Serial: Ode To Joy
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 Journal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Local: Tamil Programme
20.30 Film: Doli
Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Babita...

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent
07.47 Doc: Luana's Kitchen
09.29 Doc: Fast Fashion
10.11 Doc: Shattered Dreams
13.13 Doc: Builders Of The Future
14.04 Mag: Washington Forum
15.12 Doc: Shattered Dreams
16.00 Mag: Eco & Africa
16.52 Mag: Africa 54
19.00 Student Support Prog
19.30 Mag: Made In Germany
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.45 Doc: Garden Party
21.15 Mag: Close Up
21.38 Local: Rodrig
22.20 Doc: Not Quite Green
23.02 Doc: Transylvania
00.11 Mag: Healthy Living
00.26 Mag: Red Carpet
00.41 Mag: Check In

Cine 12

01.02 Film: The Professionals
02.54 Serial: Absentia
03.35 Film: Assassin's Code
05.07 Tele: Marimar
05.31 Tele: Rubi
05.58 Serial: Blacklist
09.00 Serial: 19-2
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.01 Serial: Absentia
12.00 Film: Assassin's Code
13.30 Tele: Marimar
14.05 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: The Professionals
16.40 Serial: 19-2
17.29 Serial: Blacklist
18.11 Tele: Teresa
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
21.15 Film: Dans La Ligne Du Mire
Avec: John Malkovich, Clint Eastwood

Bollywood TV

06.50 Film: Alag
Cast: Akshay Kapoor, Dia Mirza
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 Maike Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
14.53 / 22.25 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.20 Film: Hindustani Film
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
18.59 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
19.30 Bhakharwadi
20.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak

mercredi 23 février

07.20 Local: Profil
07.30 Local: Priorite Sante
09.00 Doc: Tresors Oublies...
10.15 Local: Rodrig Prog
10.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
12.00 Le Journal
12.23 Serial: Ode To Joy
13.15 MBC Production
14.07 Local: Generations J
14.30 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family
15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
15.37 D.Anime: Where's Waldo
16.01 D.Anime: Gummibar & Friend
17.05 Serial: Mustangs FC
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
18.55 MBC Production
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.30 MBC Production
21.25 Film: Beyond White Space
23.00 Le Journal

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
12.00 Film: Sasti Dulhan Mahenga
Dulha
Starring: Mahesh Anand, Arun, Beena Banerjee
14.30 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: Kulvadh
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Programme In Marathi
21.00 Film: Printemps Précocé
23.00 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 Local: Rodrig
14.03 Mag: Close Up
14.36 Local: Rodrig
15.18 Doc: Not Quite Green
16.00 Doc: Transylvania
17.11 Mag: Check In
17.41 Mag: Motorweek
19.00 Student Support Prog - G7
19.35 Doc: Tree Stories
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: Doctor Brain
21.37 Mag: Initiative Africa
22.03 Mag: Focus On Europe
22.29 Doc: Extreme Tourism
23.37 Mag: Vous Et Nous
00.32 Mag: The Inside Story
00.58 Doc: Tree Stories
01.51 Doc: Doctor Brain

01.28 Film: The Leisure Seeker
03.14 Serial: Absentia
05.11 Tele: Marimar
05.35 Tele: Rubi
05.59 Serial: Blacklist
06.41 Film: Donnie Darko
09.25 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.01 Serial: Absentia
12.00 Film: Dans La Ligne Du Mire
13.30 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: The Leisure Seeker
16.38 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
17.20 Serial: Blacklist
18.05 Tele: Teresa
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.30 Serial: Backstage
20.30 Serial: Pine Gap
21.15 Film: Poker Night
Avec: Beau Mirchoff, Giancarlo Esposito, Ron Perlman

07.00 Film: Ishq Vishk
Star: Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao, Shenaz Treasury
11.31 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 20.26 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad...
13.01 / 20.46 - Agniphera
13.29 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.51 / 21.50 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
14.47 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Fun2shh... Dubs In
The 10th Century
Starring: Gulshan Grover, Pooja Rawal, Farida Jalal
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron...
19.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi

jeudi 24 février

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
06.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem
07.15 Local: Fam Rakonte
09.00 Local: Ekir Kreol Morisien
10.55 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy
13.12 Local: Music Tour 2022
14.33 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
15.20 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
15.41 D.Anime: Where's Waldo
16.01 D.Anime: Gon
16.34 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.55 Local: Ragapriya
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
20.20 Film: Chaalbaaz
With: Sridevi, Sunny Deol, Rajinikanth, Anupam Kher.

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki
Rahasya Gatha
11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...
12.00 Film: Do Ladke Dono
Khadke
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
20.45 Local: Profil
21.09 Film: The Cleanse
With: Johnny Galecki, Anna Friel...

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
10.29 Mag: Focus On Europe
10.55 Doc: Megacity Mumbai
15.40 Mag: Business Africa
16.32 Doc: Megacity Mumbai
17.18 Mag: Motorweek
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
22.02 Mag: Nouveau Look Pour...
23.05 Doc: Great Apes
23.47 Doc: What Did The Big...
00.29 Mag: Eco India

02.20 Film: Poker Night
04.04 Serial: Absentia
04.43 Film: Love Potion No.9
06.36 Tele: Rubi
07.52 Film: Signed, Sealed...
09.15 Serial: 19-2
09.58 Tele: Teresa
10.43 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Absentia
12.00 Film: Love Potion No.9
13.31 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: Signed, Sealed...
16.40 Serial: 19-2
17.20 Serial: Pine Gap
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: Pine Gap
21.26 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man

07.00 Film: Fun2shh... Dubs In
The 10th Century
Starring: Gulshan Grover, Pooja Rawal, Farida Jalal
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 Maike Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.21 Film: Achanak
Star: Govinda, Manisha Koirala, Farha Naaz, Rahul...
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.59 Ishaaron Ishaaron



Jeudi 24 février - 15.30

Star: Vivek Oberoi, Isaiah, Aruna Shields



Jeudi 24 février - 20.20

Stars: Sridevi, Sunny Deol, Rajinikanth, Anupam Kher



Multiracism: why we need to pay attention to the world's many racisms

The west has long defined racism as a function of colonial domination and discrimination. But in a changing world this definition must be challenged



Alastair Bonnett
Professor of Geography,
Newcastle University

Racism is being called out across the world – and not just in the usual places. The word “racism” has been taken up by Yazidis in Syria, Uyghurs in China, and Papuans in Indonesia and used to describe their experience of discrimination.

Expressed very simply, racism is prejudice and discrimination by a more powerful in-group against a minority group or individual based on their ethnic background. Yet in both public and academic debate in the west, racism is routinely represented as uniquely western, European and white. It's a chain of association that reflects the history and power of western racism.

Racism in the west is an enduring and shameful problem. But in a multi-polar world, where the relationship between power and prejudice is shifting, a more universal approach is needed, too. Racism has a diverse history with multiple roots – and needs to be called out wherever it is encountered.

The past 20 years have witnessed numerous acts of mass racist violence. The recent conviction of an Islamic State fighter in a German court for genocide was welcomed by Yazidi rights advocate and Nobel peace prize winner Nadia Murad, who tells us that her community has been “subjected to ethnic cleansing, racism and identity change in plain sight of the international community”.

Re-education camps

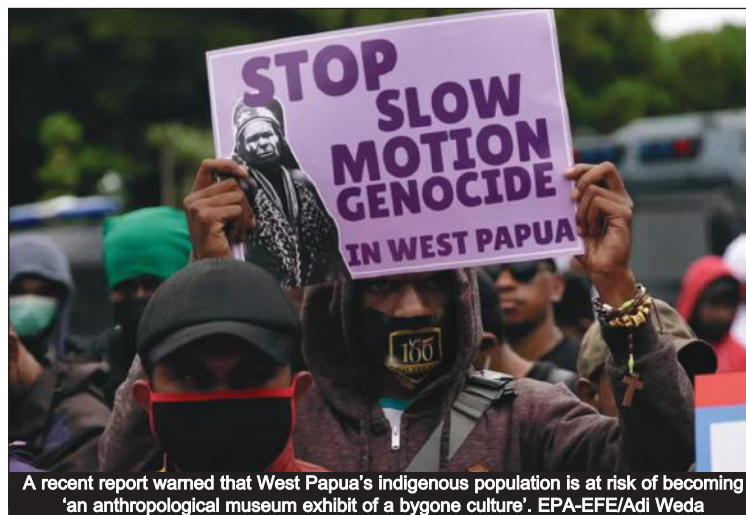
Reports of one million Muslims held in “re-education camps” in Xinjiang province in China appear credible. And in 2019, UN human rights experts, detailed “the deeply entrenched discrimination and racism that indigenous Papuans face” in West Papua from the Indonesian police and army, pointing to “numerous cases of alleged killings, unlawful arrests, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment”.

There are many such cases. In 2017, CNN aired footage of black African migrants auctioned as slave labour for as little as

US\$400 (£300) in a clandestine market outside Tripoli.

The facts are there: the racism is stark and ongoing. Yet these examples rarely feature in journals in the academic field of ethnic and racial studies. It is a typical oversight that serves the interests of those who wish to bury discussion of the topic and deny the existence of racism in their country.

A new generation of activists and many scholars across Asia and Africa don't want to forget or be silent. In part, their choice to use the term “racism” comes from the knowledge that this is a word the international community listens to. But mostly it stems from the fact that racism is an accurate description of the hatred they have witnessed. It's a hatred that leads to ethnic and racial minorities facing attack, eviction, impoverishment and – sometimes – enslavement and genocide.



A recent report warned that West Papua's indigenous population is at risk of becoming 'an anthropological museum exhibit of a bygone culture'. EPA-EFE/Adi Weda

In my book *Multiracism* I draw on these new voices to understand the diversity of racism and make the case that the modern world cannot continue to view racism in the traditional, rather monolithic, way.

Thus, for example, in 'Discourses of Race and Rising China', Yinghong Cheng depicts racism in China as “an independent variation rather than an imitation or reflection of western racism”. In 'Ethnic Nationalism in Korea' Gi-Wook Shin writes that “nationalism based on common blood and shared ancestry” has been “a key feature of Korean modernity”.

Critical studies from many different sources are opening up the question of who gets to define racism. The Indian activist for the rights of the Dalit or “Untouchable” caste, Teesta Setalvad, asks: “is it not time that we fill and feed such terminology with our own histories and thereby deepen their meanings?” She goes on to explain: “Within political science and sociology circles, racism has come to typify and describe systems of inequality and discrimination. The condition of the 160 million Dalits more than fulfils the description of the conditions

used to describe racism.’

A caste is something that one is born into and, for many, it defines pretty much all aspects of their lives. The social exclusion of Dalits in India has been depicted as a form of apartheid. But “racism” is not a fixed signifier – it is being adopted but also adapted. It is being put to work in fast-changing societies in new ways that help people organise and resist discrimination.

Speaking out

In many countries, writing about racism can result in harassment, imprisonment or worse. Disappearances of activists and scholars critical of discrimination are common, while other researchers are forced into exile. The Eritrean social critic Abdulkader Mohammad, writing in exile, explains that “speaking about ethnicity and ethnic conflicts has been a risky issue and a taboo” in his country.

The topic of racism is held by numerous governments to be a direct political challenge and an unpatriotic affront. Anti-racist scholarship can be dangerous but it is happening anyway and, despite the risks, academics and activists are asking the world to listen and learn.

If we do, we will hear a profound challenge to the idea that the history of racism can be framed solely or simply in terms of western action and non-western reaction. Chouki El Hamel in his groundbreaking *Black Morocco* shows that North African patterns of racism do not simply mirror Euro-American racism.

El Hamel's intervention, along with others, takes issue with the defensiveness and evasion that has marked debate in the past, in which the severity or importance of anti-black racism in North Africa was downplayed or simply ignored. The telling title of a report published in 2020 by the Arab Reform Initiative on anti-black racism in Morocco is *Ending Denial*.

There is a nascent debate on racism in Morocco. It is a debate that demands to be acknowledged and taken seriously, along with those many other voices from beyond the west that are today studying, challenging, and reimagining racism. Yet a final point must be made. For this is a topic where silence and denial can be more telling than public controversy. The fact that racism is now being talked about in some circles in Morocco does not mean that Morocco is “where the problem is”.

Far from it – it is where the silence endures, where it is impossible to speak out, that racism is likely to be taking its heaviest toll.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Staying on Track

In a world where we have routines to get everything done, we rarely have a routine for our spiritual self

In a world where we have routines for nearly everything -- our route to work, our physical fitness regimen, and our weekday schedule -- it's amazing how many people forget to create a routine for meeting their spiritual needs. We run around in an attempt to be at our many appointments on time and meet our many obligations. In our efforts to be as productive as possible, however, our spiritual needs tend to take a backseat. After all, taking care of our spiritual needs doesn't directly pay the bills or tone our abdominal muscles. We may even wonder who has time to meditate or write in their journal when there are more pressing matters to see to. The truth is that nurturing ourselves spiritually is what gives us the energy and grounding that we need to make sure that our lives stay on track.

How you choose to nurture yourself spiritually is a personal choice. For some people, meditating once a day may be what they need to stay centred. While spending 10-20 minutes with your eyes closed and your brain devoid of thought may seem like a lot of time doing nothing, this state of nothingness actually allows you to stay calm and focused so you can be as productive as possible. Writing in your journal everyday lets you stay in touch with yourself so that you are always tuned in to your feelings. Repeating affirmations for success, happiness, and well-being on a regular basis can help you live with optimism and enthusiasm and create what you want in life.

Having a routine for nurturing your spirit that you do each day lets you feed energy to your soul and can serve you well if your life suddenly takes an unexpected turn into a difficult period. This kind of routine grounds your spirit in your body so that you stay anchored in yourself as you move through each day. Nurturing yourself spiritually allows you to not only stay on track in your life, but it allows for your life to stay on track with what your spirit wants.