

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "These so-called bleak times are necessary to go through in order to get to a much, much better place." — David Lynch

Interview: Dharam Gokhool

«More irregularities cannot be ruled out. Constituency No 19 is an eye-opener»

If other petitions reveal a pattern, the tide will start turning against the government»

☞ See Page 9-10-11

Kistnen Case & The Judicial Inquiry Report

‘Hearing no evil and seeing no evil...can encourage a lot of evil’

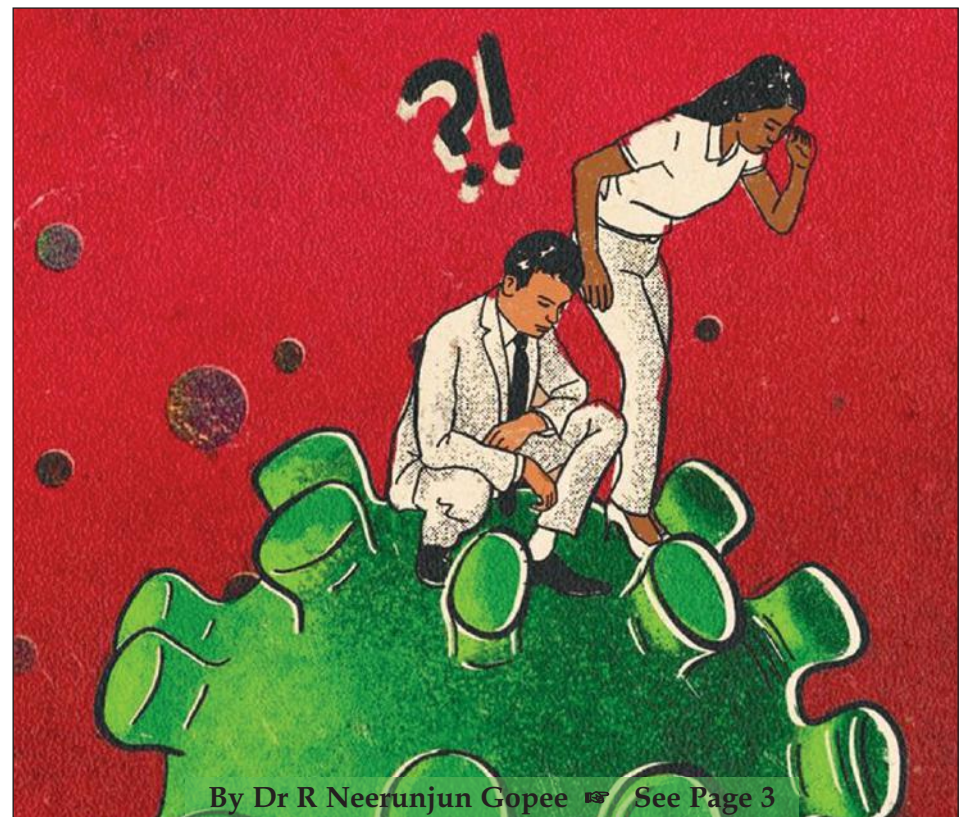
-- Justice Sik Yuen



By LEX ☞ See Page 5-6

Public Health

We must be ever ready for pandemics



By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee ☞ See Page 3

Electoral Discrepancies and Institutional Failures

MMM candidate Jenny Adebire's bid for a recount at Constituency No.19 has produced two results: first, the confirmation of Ivan Collendavelloo's election, on the basis of valid votes. More importantly, though, it has laid bare serious anomalies and dysfunctions which casts even more doubt than it dispels on the integrity of the election process. The fallout is that now it becomes reasonable to speculate whether irregularities would also not have been committed in other constituencies around the island in the 2019 general elections. The more so since it has come out only this week that there would also be the same issue of the figures in the Recapitulation of Votes form not adding up in Constituency No. 15, similar to what happened in No. 19. If that were to be the case, another recount in No. 15 would be perfectly in order, but that will be for the Court to determine.

The offices of the Electoral Commissioner, Electoral Supervisory Commission and Electoral Boundaries Commission receive an annual allocation from the government earmarked and voted for in the budget. Moreover, a special fund is made available during an election year. The latest information available online indicates that the organisation of the 2005 general elections cost taxpayers a total of Rs 128,466,059, including Rs44 M for 'Election Fees', and one can well imagine how much more had to be earmarked and indeed spent in 2019. That is the price that taxpayers are willingly prepared to pay so that a democratic state and the democratic ethos should always prevail, and that the country's leaders and its institutions will deliver good governance when the people demand it.

Barring an element of mischief involving at times minor electoral trickeries to win an edge over the adversary, and the generalised electoral expenses above the ceiling authorised by the law by most if not all parties, it would now seem we may have hit the bottom insofar the organisation of free and fair elections is concerned. Unless the Electoral Commission takes the necessary steps to convincingly demonstrate to the electorate that it could be trusted to provide "independent, impartial, ethical and professional electoral service to all stakeholders in the electoral process and to maintain strong public confidence", as advertised in its Vision statement. The more so given that the Court-supervised recount of last Tuesday has opened a Pandora's box. It goes beyond simple arithmetic miscalculations - as evidenced from Recapitulation

of Votes forms (in No. 19, and possibly in No. 15 as well) - to depict a sorry spectacle of failures, to say the least, that have marred the organisation of the 2019 elections with the discovery of ballot papers not bearing the official stamp of the Electoral Commission, one ballot of Constituency No.1 which has found its way into the lot of No. 19, and 73 ballot papers found to be missing - all of which are sufficiently serious to warrant a proper and objective police investigation.

Dharam Gokhool hit the nail on its head in this week's interview when he states: 'In our electoral system based on the principle of First Past The Post, **every single vote counts**. Is not 73 one too many? Such unresolved discrepancies will not only make people lose confidence in our democratic institutions, if allowed to go unresolved; they will simply destroy the very foundations of these democratic institutions and our Republic.' He adds: 'If anything, the recount and its sequel have further thickened the veil of mystery around the electoral processes in Number 19 and, by extension, in the 2019 general elections. Trust in our electoral processes has been seriously undermined.'

From the glaring discrepancies found in the Recapitulation of Votes form in possession with the Electoral Commission since counting day and results were proclaimed two years back, the opacity surrounding Computer Rooms, and now with the discovery of more serious discrepancies brought to light during this week's recount -- all this means is that there are some serious questions to be asked, and the Electoral Supervisory Commission had better come out of it unscathed by doing the right things - for its own and the country's reputation.

One recurrent observation made in the columns of this paper and in other forums, political and civic, is that the real danger facing Mauritius is when politicians use their parliamentary position/majority to intrude and pervert the institutional set-up. Anybody who has good sense and cares deeply about the future of Mauritius should spurn the way these politicians have been emptying our various institutions - Parliament, Police, ICAC and other financial regulators and certain key public offices - of the real contents that have actually made them credible in the eyes of the public and internationally in our past history. Shorn of their essential contents, several institutions have been devalued, thereby undermining the very foundation on which the country rests. We simply cannot give up these values.

The Conversation

Life after Covid: Most people don't want a return to normal

They want a fairer, more sustainable future



Pic - yahoo.com

We are in a crisis now – and omicron has made it harder to imagine the pandemic ending. But it will not last forever. When the Covid outbreak is over, what do we want the world to look like?

In the early stages of the pandemic – from March to July 2020 – a rapid return to normal was on everyone's lips, reflecting the hope that the virus might be quickly brought under control. Since then, alternative slogans such as "build back better" have also become prominent, promising a brighter, more equitable, more sustainable future based on significant or even radical change.

Returning to how things were, or moving on to something new – these are very different desires. But which is it that people want? In our recent research, we aimed to find out.

Along with Keri Facer of the University of Bristol, we conducted two studies, one in the summer of 2020 and another a year later. In these, we presented participants – a representative sample of 400 people from the UK and 600 from the US – with four possible futures, sketched in the table below. We designed these based on possible outcomes of the pandemic published in early 2020 in *The Atlantic* and *The Conversation*.

We were concerned with two aspects of the future: whether it would involve a "return to normal" or a progressive move to "build back better", and whether it would concentrate power in the hands of government or return power to individuals.

Four possible futures

Back to normal – strong government

"Collective safety"

- We don't want any big changes to how the world works.
- We are happy for the government to keep its powers to keep us safe and get back on economic track.

Back to normal – individual autonomy

"For freedom"

- We don't want any big changes to how the world works; our priority is business as usual and safety.
- We want to take back from governments the powers they have claimed to limit our movements and monitor our data and behaviour.

Progressive – strong government

"Fairer future"

- What we want is for governments to take strong action to deal with economic unfairness and the problem of climate change.

Stephan Lewandowsky, Chair of Cognitive Psychology, University of Bristol & Ullrich Ecker, Professor of Cognitive Psychology, University of Western Australia

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• Cont. on page 14

We must be ever ready for pandemics



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

The cumulative number of deaths due to Covid-19 that have occurred in Mauritius stands at 786 on February 1. What is noteworthy is the rapid increase between October to December 2021, extending to January 2022 though it has slowed down. As is known already, this surge was associated with the Delta variant which swept the world and caused similar upshots in total cases and deaths in all countries. This, however, is neither cause for pretext nor complacency. In a certain number of deaths, no doubt co-morbidities contributed, but when we consider the relative number of deaths in younger patients without any other contributory factor, we have to deepen our analysis. Because for the health and medical professional, every death resulting from a preventable and potentially treatable infection is one too many.

The question we have to ask ourselves is, therefore: could we have done better? If so, how? This number of deaths in such a short time should be a matter of grave concern to all clinicians, both nurses and doctors, who were and are directly involved in the care of such patients. At this stage, it is immaterial to us whether these patients did or did not abide by the sanitary precautions. When the patient presents to us suffering from the infection, we are not to judge their conduct: our sole focus at this stage – like for all acute cases, for example road accident victims – is how to best treat the disease and to save life. Especially for doctors, if we do not do that, we would be failing in our duty.

“Under normal circumstances we proceed according to our established best practices. However, when an epidemic strikes, we are overwhelmed, and have to shift focus and rapidly learn the newer ‘best practices’ which keep changing or evolving according to latest studies based on limited data available. We are thus on a new, continuous learning curve and have to quickly adopt and adapt – otherwise our patients may perish. That is the burden of heightened responsibility that such an acute situation places on all of us...”

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When I started to write this article, I titled it ‘We must be ready for future pandemics.’ On second thoughts I told myself that given the rapidity of global spread of infection as Covid-19 has demonstrated, and the probability of mutants equally rapidly emerging – and not only coronavirus – it looks ever more likely that we may well be in continuous pandemic mode for an indeterminate period of time, if not permanently from now on. So just as we have a well-established standard procedure to deal with any cyclone which we accept as a ‘normal’ even if infrequent occurrence, so too must we be ever prepared and ready to deal with this pandemic ‘new normal’ – and hence the changed title.

In the Australian online publication, *The Conversation* of January 27, 2022, there’s an article by Michelle Grattan, Professorial Fellow, University of Canberra: ‘A royal commission into Covid’s handling would serve us well for the future.’ She writes, ‘This month about as many people have died with Covid in Australia – more than 1000 – as die in the whole of a bad year from influenza. On a seven-day average, we are now seeing more than 60 deaths every day, with no sign yet of a decline. Lessons from the UK and US are that without effective controls we may settle on a high baseline toll beyond the Omicron peak that is not much below this.’

And the telling comment that follows is: ‘Yet as deaths suddenly spiked in the last few weeks, attention on them doesn’t seem to have spiked proportionately.’

Further, ‘On various fronts, Australia’s journey through Omicron has not been managed effectively, which reinforces the already **strong argument for a royal commission into how the pandemic in general has been handled.**’

And more: ‘...the case for a commission is overwhelming, **especially to inform us about what needs to be done to ready for pandemics in the future. It is needed to investigate all fronts: health, economics and governance.**’ (bold added in both paragraphs)

However, there have been some criticisms about the idea of setting up a royal commission, as one commentator underlined: ‘... the usefulness of RCs are dependent upon **willingness to implement recommendations which is entirely dependent upon political will.** Again, politics is the reason for failure and thus it will always be.’

Unfortunately, it would seem that the same mindset prevails across countries at political level about implementing the recommendations of commissions of enquiry, royal or non-royal.

But as far as we clinicians are concerned, we don’t need to go down this road. There are already well-esta-



Pic - Wall Street Journal

“Given the rapidity of global spread of infection as Covid-19 has demonstrated, and the probability of mutants equally rapidly emerging – and not only coronavirus – it looks ever more likely that we may well be in continuous pandemic mode for an indeterminate period of time, if not permanently from now on. So just as we have a well-established standard procedure to deal with any cyclone which we accept as a ‘normal’ even if infrequent occurrence, so too must we be ever prepared and ready to deal with this pandemic ‘new normal’...”

blished procedures of **clinical audit** – which in any case we keep doing subconsciously when we review our own cases at individual level, trying to make out where there may have been gaps in management and what to do to avoid them in future cases.

In the case of the Covid-deaths, especially those that took place at the ENT Hospital, everyone who has been involved in one way or the other that I have spoken too has said that there were *systemic deficiencies* that needed to be addressed: number of personnel (in particular nursing), training requirements in particular the total lack of intensivists, adequacy and continuity of monitoring of oxygen levels, faulty ventilators that therefore reduced availability to only the ten existing ‘McKay’ ones, the management of patients on ventilators, specialists working in silos rather than in coordination, lack of proper guidelines about the roles of each level and category of personnel (**Who does What**) – these have been major issues of worry and concern which need to be urgently addressed.

What is required is for a team of clinicians, comprising both nursing and medical staff to be put together by the DG Health Services and the Chief Nursing Officer, to carry out a structured **clinical audit of practices and procedures at the ENT Hospital ICU**, followed by making prompt and actionable recommendations. This is not rocket science, and can be completed within a week. I am absolutely certain that there is enough local experience and expertise to carry out such an exercise, with quick results to follow so that we don’t have to lament more deaths and save more lives.

As health professionals, we owe it to our fellow citizens. Such an enquiry, unlike commissions, is not about witch-hunting or playing the blame-game. It is a dispassionate, scientific exercise with the welfare and life of the patient as its sole and unique focus. No more time should be wasted if we do not want another surge in deaths.

Electoral Recount

The Unabated Storm

The question today is what stance the EC/ESC will take on petitions elsewhere coming up for Court hearings after two years of constant denegations

Jan Arden

We will recall that after two years of steadfast denegations by the Electoral Commission/Electoral Supervisory Commission and the opposition of the returned candidate for a recount in Constituency No19, the Supreme Court, in the light of “glaring discrepancies” ordered a recount under Court supervision between elected MP Ivan Collendavelloo and fourth candidate Jenny Adebire.

The outcome of that recount has confirmed the election of the MP and leader of the *Muvman Liberator*, in what should have been a huge relief for him but seems to have left a very sour aftertaste. An unabated storm about the overall conditions and numerous anomalies, grave according to his own post-recount statement, that have marked voting or counting both in the No 19 constituency and somewhat more generally in several constituencies where appeals have been lodged, has been fuelled further one might say by anomalies cropping up at recount.

In short, MP Ivan Collendavelloo was returned with a diminished margin (from 92 to 80 vote difference) but at least three controversial elements hogged the limelight in this Tuesday’s Court recount, namely, (a) a valid bulletin from another constituency (No.1) being found in sealed ballot box of No19 brought to the Court Master, (b) two, maybe more, unembossed and counted voter bulletins inside the boxes that have remained under SMF guard after the 2019 elections, with three access keys as pointed out by the Electoral Commissioner himself.

To be fair to the Electoral Commission (EC), human error could explain the latter while the former incident, referred as several others by the EC to the Police Force sleuths, may not yield any worthwhile outcome, taking account of several other cases of mysteriously wandering bulletins referred to the police since 2019.

What was however far more disturbing for election matter watchers was the third unexplained incident: a difference of 73 bulletins between valid and certified bulletin returns as boxes were sealed at close of voting day and those brought to Court for recount. No human error happenstance would hold water for such high numbers of missing bulletins under the trusted tight supervision of the ESC/EC and the latter need not pass the buck down the line to his trusted officers.

The addition of more such “glaring anomalies” to the original serious discrepancies the Supreme Court had recognised in the Recapitulation of Votes tallies that should have been in possession of the Electoral Commission since two years, has prompted both Ms Adebire and returned MP Collendavelloo to condemn these serious “failures of our institutions”. The latter also called for a thorough review of how such discrepancies and anomalies have marred and tainted our once uncontroversial elections, barring the odd challenge, an unabated storm that looks set to continue over all constituencies where narrow wins have been recorded

and proclaimed.

The credibility of the 2019 elections and the “failures” of the supervisory process, from voter registration, through selection of officials, through alleged “bussing” of Commonwealth immigrant voters, to computer rooms, voting and counting have been the object of continuous controversies between political parties, media watchers and ordinary citizens. The recount, which should have allayed all fears and allegations of unusual impropriety, have for many left a bitter taste.



The question today is what stance the EC/ESC will take on petitions elsewhere coming up for Court hearings after two years of constant denegations and what would be the modalities of the urgent thorough review of the electoral failings demanded even by the declared winner of the recount, Ivan Collendavelloo.

The PM in a Tuesday impromptu comment said that allegations of a rigged election were far-fetched and if he indeed believes that to be the case, he could consider some all-party conference or round-table, if not a commission of inquiry, so as to propose revamping of this fundamental tenet of our democracy, general elections, and strengthen the foolproof manner in which they should unambiguously be conducted and supervised.

During the fateful drift of MV Wakashio towards our Pointe d’Esny coral reefs, it will be recalled that neither our coastline radars, nor any of our maritime detection and monitoring mechanisms, nor the National Coast Guard (NCG), were of any effectiveness, some under routine maintenance, others berthed and awaiting instructions from higher quarters.

The court of investigation appointed in Aug 2020 has recommended charges against the ship captain and his second, who having served their terms have left our shores.

Writing in February last year, we asked: “Were the considerable resources (some seven vessels in the harbour, the Dornier aircraft and the helicopters based in Plaisance airport) under the NCG command paralyzed or awaiting instructions that never came or came too late?” We also do not feel that the Court has yet completed this side of its main mandate, which we reproduce here:



- (i) To investigate into, and report on, the circumstances leading to the grounding of MV Wakashio off the coast of Pointe d’Esny on 25 July 2020 and breach of hull of the said vessel, including whether in regard to the shipping casualty that occurred on 25 July 2020 involving MV Wakashio, the standard practice and procedures for the tracking and monitoring of vessels in our territorial waters have been followed.

Meantime we understand that

Minister Anwar Husnoo may now be in possession of a port-mortem report identifying key measures and recommendations to strengthen such notorious failures so close to our coastline, at a time when it should be noted, we rightfully claiming the ability to patrol and safeguard millions of sq kms of our maritime economic zone.

That report, if indeed there is one, should be made widely available for informed public input by all those concerned that our best facilities, resources, chain of command and trained man-

power are in a state of professional vigilance to avoid any future recurrence of what was, at best amateurism, at worst, gross incompetence.

Meantime it has been announced last week that the PM has proceeded with the direct purchase of a more sophisticated variant of the Dhruv from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), probably the well-equipped marine version, Mark III. From local press reports this would burden us by some Rs 1.2 billion although the same copter has recently been made available to the Philippines at some US\$ 18m (closer to Rs600), and we expect the PMO to clarify specifications and actual payment agreed.

Notwithstanding such necessary clarification, we all hope that it won’t be caught napping on the airport tarmac for maintenance or administrative malfunctions should we need its considerable monitoring and sea rescue capacities in a future unwelcome emergency.

Jan Arden

Kistnen Case & The Judicial Inquiry Report

'Hearing no evil and seeing no evil... can encourage a lot of evil'

-- Justice Sik Yuen

Following the report of the judicial inquiry into the mysterious circumstances of the death of former MSM activist Soopramanien Kistnen which has attributed the cause of death to foul play, Magistrate Mungroo-Jugurnath has recommended a full investigation into what appears to be a murder case. Lex analyses the various aspects of this investigation, in particular the boundaries between the mandates of the DPP and the police, and cites a judgement of former Justice Bernard Sik Yuen which advocates a more proactive role for the former.

LEX

* Recent press reports indicate that the report of the judicial inquiry into the mysterious circumstances of the death of former MSM activist Soopramanien Kistnen, initially deemed to be a case of suicide by the police, has attributed the cause of death to foul play. In the normal course of things, what is to be expected as follow-up to the report of the judicial inquiry?

Magistrate Mungroo-Jugurnath has recommended a full investigation into what appears to be a murder case. She has also recommended that former minister Sawmynaden be interrogated anew and light be shed on the electoral expenses at the 2019 elections. As the law requires, she has sent the file with her conclusions to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), who has subsequently requested the police to investigate the case further.

* We understand that the purpose of a judicial inquiry is to establish the facts, find out what happened and who may be accountable. It seems that no suspect has been identified by Magistrate Mungroo-Jugurnath in her report. Does this mean that the Magistrate did not or could not find reasonable cause to suspect any person or group of persons who might have committed the crime?

Yes, the Magistrate could not on the basis of the evidence presented to her pinpoint any suspect. This is why she has requested a full-fledged investigation into the circumstances of the murder.

* The DPP has instructed the police to probe further into specific and new

angles of this murder case. Is the police bound to, first, comply with the instructions of the DPP, and second do so within a reasonable timeframe?

This is a tricky but very pertinent question.

According to a press report published in last Sunday's edition of *l'express*, a police officer would have expressed the view that the DPP cannot tell the police how to investigate a case. In other words, the investigation is not within the purview of the DPP.

Neither the DPP nor his Office is equipped for that purpose. Such investigations fall within the mandate of the police and are therefore carried out under the responsibility of the latter. However, if an investigation appears to have been not properly done and the DPP requests a further investigation, are not the police bound to comply? What if the police do not comply or drag the investigation for months or years?

* How do you react to comments made on social media and in the press

“Suren Dayal must have lodged a private prosecution against the Prime Minister for alleged unlawful electoral expenses on the premise that nothing substantial will come out of a police investigation. This is indeed 'hot stuff', and only time will tell whether a new investigation as recommended by the Magistrate will produce any concrete results...”



“Neither the DPP nor his Office is equipped for that purpose. Such investigations fall within the mandate of the police and are therefore carried out under the responsibility of the latter. However, if an investigation appears to have been not properly done and the DPP requests a further investigation, are not the police bound to comply? What if the police do not comply or drag the investigation for months or years?”

that common sense would dictate that a different team of investigators should be tasked to undertake this assignment?

The Commissioner of Police should live up to his constitutional mandate that guarantees the independence of his office and appoint without hesitation a new team of investigators for this task. This in light of the inconsistencies and half-truths that came out during the judicial inquiry.

* It appears the current DPP's term of office will come to an end within the next 12 months. The Office of the DPP and its next director will surely follow up on this particular case, isn't it?

We all know that the present regime tried to bring the Office of the DPP under political control through the Prosecution Commission Bill or even going to the extent of the (failed) attempt to get him arrested.

Would it be reasonable to wonder whether the police investigation could drag on? What will happen when the cur-

rent DPP's term come to an end? We'll hopefully see a new incumbent, who will live up to the mandate of the Office, as provided for by section 72 of the Constitution, which also guarantees its independence.

* We also learn from press reports that the Magistrate has called upon the police to investigate further into the alleged “emploi fictif” (fictitious employment) of Simla Kistnen, widow of the victim, as well as into the contracts allocated in the context of the emergency procurements of drugs and medical equipment during the first wave of the Covid pandemic, and also for cleaning services in parastatal institutions, etc. Would it again be reasonable to wonder that we might end up with the same results following a re-examination of different aspects of the case?

It all depends on which institution will conduct the investigation? ICAC? The police?

● Cont. on page 6

'The Magistrate could not on the basis of the evidence presented to her pinpoint any suspect.'

This is why she has requested a full-fledged investigation'

• Cont. from page 5

They'll hopefully deliver on that recommendation of Magistrate Mungroo-Jugurnath.

* Another "hot potato" in this saga relates to the so-called 'Kistnen Papers', which point to alleged illegal electoral campaign financing/illegal cash payments in excess of that permissible by law at the last general elections in Constituency No. 8. Magistrate Mungroo-Jugurnath has apparently recommended that the police, which had already started an investigation into these allegations, should go deeper into this matter. What's your take on that?

Suren Dayal must have lodged a private prosecution against the Prime Minister for alleged unlawful electoral expenses on the premise that nothing substantial will come out of a police investigation. This is indeed 'hot stuff', and only time will tell whether a new investigation as recommended by the Magistrate will produce any concrete results.

* Mr Dayal's case is built on the basis of informa-

“Would it be reasonable to wonder whether the police investigation could drag on? What will happen when the current DPP's term come to an end? We'll hopefully see a new incumbent, who will live up to the mandate of the Office, as provided for by section 72 of the Constitution, which also guarantees its independence...”

tion contained in the 'Kistnen Papers', which were in the custody of the late Soopramanien Kistnen. Whose responsibility is it to confirm the veracity or otherwise of those documents?

It will be up to forensic and handwriting experts, who fall under the authority of the police force, to verify the authenticity of the papers. They'll hopefully carry out an objective examination within a reasonable time frame. It seems however those papers had been sent to the police a long time back, and it's not known what came out of their investigation.

* Could it be envisaged that the DPP, who under section 72 of the Constitution alone is responsible for advising prosecutions, might at some point in time step in and take over the case in relation to the Kistnen Papers?

Here an observation made by Justice Sik Yuen in the Bacha case in 1996 on the powers of the DPP comes to mind. His comments on the powers of the DPP are as follows:

'I am afraid that the policy, if there had ever been one, whereby the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions would see no evil and hear no evil until a declarant has come forward either to force open its eyes or to blare out in its ears open secrets, is not consistent with the ideals of upkeeping the rule of law. Hearing no evil and seeing no evil by persons occupying responsible posts can encourage a lot of evil.'

In other words, Justice Sik Yuen is urging the DPP to be proactive in matters of investigations by the police.



VACANCY NOTICE

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), established by the MRA Act 2004, is a body corporate and acts as an agent of the State for revenue collection, management of the Revenue Laws and the provision of an enhanced service to the business community and taxpayers. As an equal opportunity employer, the MRA endeavours to attract and retain the services of high calibre employees to attain its objectives.

The MRA is looking for qualified and experienced candidates, with proven integrity, for the post of:

Section Head, Internal Audit Division (on a 3-year performance contract basis)

Mode of Application:

Interested candidates are requested to submit their application, **online**, together with all relevant scanned documents, through the MRA Website www.mra.mu under the "Careers" tab, where all information is available. Candidates are also advised to read the **Instructions to Candidates** posted on the same platform.

Closing Date: 17 February 2022

MRA reserves the right:

- to call only the best qualified and experienced candidates for the selection exercise; and
- not to make any appointment as a result of this advertisement.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

03 February 2022

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The Livestock & Allied Industries Workers' Union

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Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of The Livestock & Allied Industries Workers Union to be held on **Friday 11 March 2022** at Bambous Village Hall at 4.00 pm.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Executive members for years 2022-2024
6. Appointment of two Auditors for years 2022-2024
7. A.O.B

Any member who wishes to stand as candidate in the election should forward his/her letter of candidature to the Secretary on the above address by registered post by Wednesday 9th of March 2022 at latest.

Christophe Colfir
Secretary

After Iron Dome, Israel plans 'laser wall' to intercept missiles: What is it?

Israel's prime minister Naftali Bennett announced a major technological shift in its security when he said that the country's will surround itself with a "laser wall", a new way to intercept missiles.

Bennett was addressing a security conference on Tuesday where he said that Israel is speeding the rollout of laser technology to help protect it from rocket attacks. The "laser wall" will be unveiled within a year in southern Israel, reports Hindustan Times.

The Israeli PM also acknowledged that its Iron Dome defence system is too expensive.

What is the 'laser wall' technology?

Little is known about the system's effectiveness, but it is expected to be deployed on land, in the air and at sea and send a deterrent message to archenemy Iran and its proxies.

The lasers are designed to complement Israel's multi-layered defenses - which include the Iron Dome and other systems capable of intercepting long and medium-range missiles and drones.

Israel's defence forces have been testing the 'laser wall' technology since June last year. It installed the powerful laser on an aircraft and it downed several unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) within a range of one kilometre. The ministry said that the system had a success rate of 100 per cent.

The Israeli government now wants to install a laser



The Iron Dome air defense system launches a missile to intercept a rocket from the Gaza Strip, in Ashkelon, southern Israel. Pic - AP

with a power of 100 kilowatts and a range of 20 kilometres.

What is the Iron Dome system?

It was unveiled by Israel a decade ago. The mobile missile interceptor system is designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells.

The Iron Dome system has been constructed by top Israeli defense contractors Elisra Group, Israel Aerospace Industries and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

Rafael Advanced Defense Systems said that Iron Dome uses radar to identify and destroy incoming threats before they can cause damage.

The all-weather Iron Dome system consists of three parts - a radar, a control system and a launcher - all working in tandem. As soon as a rocket is fired, the radar system detects it and tracks the trajectory. The control system estimates the impact point and an integrated launcher fires missile to intercept it.

The Iron Dome system has an accuracy of 90 per cent, and since becoming operational in 2011, has shot down thousands of rockets fired from Gaza.

Though it is one of the most advanced defence systems in the world, the Iron Dome is proving to be costly, said Bennett.

'Illogical equation'

The Israeli PM said that someone in Gaza can fire a rocket toward Israel for a few hundred dollars, but it costs tens of thousands of dollars to intercept it. He spoke from Israel's recent experience: In May, Hamas fired more than 4,000 rockets toward Israel.

The new laser system has been described as having the ability to address longer-range threats at high altitudes regardless of weather conditions.

Queen Elizabeth II, world's longest-reigning living monarch, to mark 70 years on throne



Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth II. Pic - Reuters

Queen Elizabeth II, 95, will celebrate her platinum jubilee on February 6, 2022. She took over as the head of the state at 25.

Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday becomes the first British monarch to reign for 70 years, heralding the start of her Platinum Jubilee year despite her retreat from public view.

But the landmark date this weekend will see little fanfare, as the 95-year-old monarch traditionally spends the anniversary of the death of her father in private, reports AFP.

The sovereign's record-breaking reign

as head of state began when she was aged 25 and watching wildlife in a remote part of Kenya with her husband, Prince Philip.

She has since become the one constant in an era of rapid social and political change, a figurehead of modern Britain and a living link to its post-war and imperial past.

No public engagements are expected on Sunday, in keeping with previous years. But four days of festivities are planned for early June, including a military parade and a music concert, street parties, a mass attendance picnic and a "Platinum Pudding Competition".

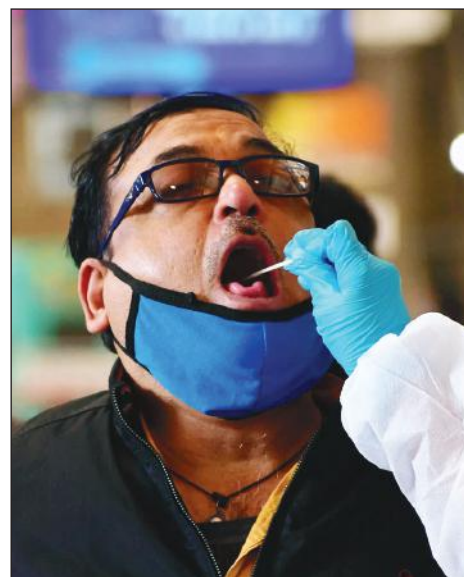
Commemorative coins have been minted to mark the unprecedented milestone.

Only three monarchs in global history have reigned for more than 70 years.

France's Louis XIV reigned for 72 years, 110 days from 1643 to 1715. Thailand's king Bhumibol Adulyadej was on the throne for 70 years and 126 days from 1946 to 2016.

Johann II, prince of Liechtenstein, ruled for 70 years, 91 days from 1858 to 1929.

Highly transmissible Omicron sub-variant now in 57 countries, warns WHO



Omicron now accounts for over 93 per cent of all coronavirus specimens collected globally in the past month. Pic - HT

A sub-variant of the fast-spreading and heavily mutated Omicron strain of the coronavirus has now been detected in as many as 57 countries, warned the WHO on Tuesday. In what comes as a key cause for concern, some studies have indicated that this Omicron sub-variant could be even more infectious than the original version, which has rapidly become the dominant variant worldwide in only 10 weeks from when it was first detected in southern Africa.

The WHO, in its recent weekly epi-

miological update, explained that Omicron, accounting for over 93% of all coronavirus specimens collected in the past month, counts several sub-lineages: BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2, and BA.3, reports Hindustan Times.

The BA.1 and BA.1.1, the very first Omicron sub-variants that were identified, still account for over 96 per cent of all the Omicron sequences uploaded to the GISAID global science initiative. However, there has since then been a clear rise in cases involving the BA.2 sub-variant, which counts several different mutations from the original - including one on the spike protein that dots the virus's surface and is key to entering human cells.

WHO admits that little is known right now about the complete extent of differences between all the sub-variants; however, detailed studies can reveal their characteristics - including transmissibility, immune evasion, and virulence.

Several recent studies have hinted that BA.2 is more infectious than the original Omicron.

Omicron, in general, is known to cause less severe disease than previous coronavirus variants, like Delta, that has wreaked havoc before. So far, there has been "no indication that there is a change in severity" with the BA.2 sub-variant, said Maria Van Kerkhove, one of the WHO's top experts on Covid-19.

*Contd on page 8

On Rahul Gandhi's 'China-Pakistan are closer' remarks, US says 'won't endorse'



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi speaks in Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament on Wednesday. Pic - ANI

A day after Congress president Rahul Gandhi said in his Parliament speech that China and Pakistan are closer because of the policies of the BJP government at the Centre, US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said he "won't endorse" those remarks.

"I'll leave it to Pakistanis and PRC to speak to their relationship," Price further said at a press briefing.

Gandhi's remarks were slammed by Union ministers, with External

Affairs minister S Jaishankar saying he needs some "some history lessons". Jaishankar also said that Pakistan illegally handed over the Shaksgam Valley to China in 1963, when a Congress government was in office.

"Rahul Gandhi alleged in Lok Sabha that it is this Government which brought Pakistan and China together. Perhaps, some history lessons are in order: In 1963, Pakistan illegally handed over the Shaksgam

valley to China. China built the Karakoram highway through PoK in the 1970s," Jaishankar said in a tweet on Wednesday.

Taunting Gandhi over his frequent foreign visits, Jaishankar further said that "those who live in India know we were in the midst of a corona wave" and added that India held a virtual summit with presidents of five central Asian countries, reports Hindustan Times.

Jaishankar asked if Rahul Gandhi also missed the India-Central Asia Summit held on January 27.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi called Gandhi a "confused and mindless" leader who is all "praise" for China.

While replying the debate on President Ram Nath Kovind's address to Parliament, Rahul Gandhi said in his speech on Wednesday: "The Chinese have a very clear vision of what they want to do. The single biggest strategic goal of India's foreign policy has been to keep Pakistan and China separate. What you have done is, you have brought them together," he said.

Too early to declare win over Covid, warns WHO as nations eye relaxations in curbs

As countries begin to ease restrictions imposed to contain the spread of the Omicron variant, the World Health Organisation said on Tuesday that it was too early to either declare victory over Covid-19 or give up attempts to halt transmission.

The world health body said that while the Omicron variant might be known as a milder one as compared to other strains of Covid-19, a worrying increase in deaths in most regions of the world is being noticed, reports Hindustan Times.

The remarks came after Denmark lifted all of its pandemic-related curbs despite record numbers of cases of the milder Omicron variant, becoming the first EU country to do so. A number of other countries are also eyeing similar moves.

"We're concerned that a narrative has taken hold in some countries that because of vaccines and because of Omicron's high transmissibility and lower severity, preventing transmission is no longer possible, and no longer necessary," Tedros said.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," he said, adding "more Covid-19 transmission means more deaths".

The UN health agency chief said that since Omicron was first spotted in southern Africa 10 weeks ago, nearly 90 million cases have been reported to the WHO -- more than in all of 2020.

It is vital, he said, to keep striving to halt transmission of the virus. "We are not calling for any country to return to so-called lockdown," Tedros said, adding though that "we are calling on all countries to protect their people using every tool in the toolkit, not vaccines alone".

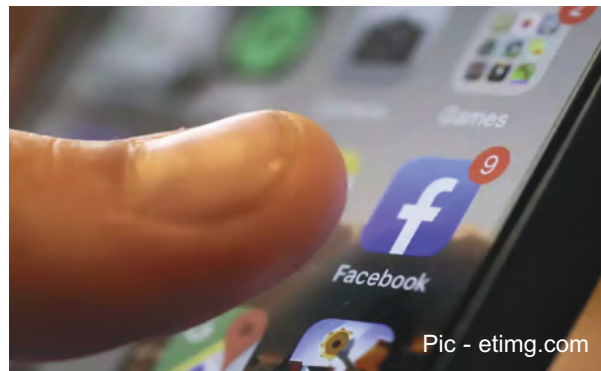
India seeks strict action from Twitter, Facebook on fake news

Indian officials have held heated discussions with Google, Twitter and Facebook for not proactively removing what they described as fake news on their platforms, sources told Reuters, the government's latest altercation with Big Tech.

The officials, from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), strongly criticised the companies and said their inaction on fake news was forcing the Indian government to order content takedowns, which in turn drew international criticism that authorities were suppressing free expression, reports Reuters.

The sources, who were familiar with the proceedings at the virtual meeting on Monday, described the conversation as tense and heated, signalling a new low in ties between American tech giants and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration.

The officials did not issue any ultimatum to the companies at the meeting, the sources said. The government has been tightening tech sector regulations but wants companies to do more on content moderation.



The meeting was a follow-up to the I&B ministry's use of "emergency powers" in December and January to order the blocking of 55 channels on Google's YouTube platform, and some Twitter and Facebook accounts.

The government had said the channels were promoting "fake news" or "anti-India" content and that the disinformation was being spread by accounts based in neighbouring Pakistan.

Strained Ties

During the meeting, senior tech executives told the officials that they take adequate measures to remove or curb the spread of misinformation on their platforms, and act on legally-valid content removal requests, said the sources.

The officials told Google to review its internal guidelines to remove fake content automatically, said the sources. The officials also said the government was disappointed that big social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter, weren't detecting and removing such content on their own.

Executives from Google told the I&B officials that one way to resolve that was for the ministry to avoid making takedown decisions public. The firms could work with the government and act on the alleged fake content, which could be a win-win for both sides, Google said, according to one of the sources.

The idea was summarily rejected by the government officials, who said the takedowns also publicise how the companies weren't doing enough to tackle fake news on their own, the person said.

While ordering takedowns of certain online accounts in January, the government said it was doing so to "secure the overall information environment in India", adding that such fake content was on "sensitive subjects" such as the Indian Army, India's foreign relations and local state elections.

Myanmar's deposed leader Suu Kyi to face new trial for poll fraud

Myanmar's junta has charged Aung San Suu Kyi with influencing election officials during 2020 polls, a source said on Monday, a year after it staged a coup alleging massive voter fraud. Suu Kyi, 76, has been detained since the February 1 coup last year that triggered protests and a bloody crackdown on dissent with nearly 1500 civilians killed, according to a local monitoring group.

The Nobel laureate is facing a raft of charges - including violating the country's official secrets laws - and if convicted of all of them could face sentences tallying more than 100 years in prison, reports agencies.

She will face a further trial on charges of influencing the country's election commission during the 2020 polls that saw her party defeat a military-aligned rival, a source with knowledge of the case said. The case will be wrapped up within six months, the source added.

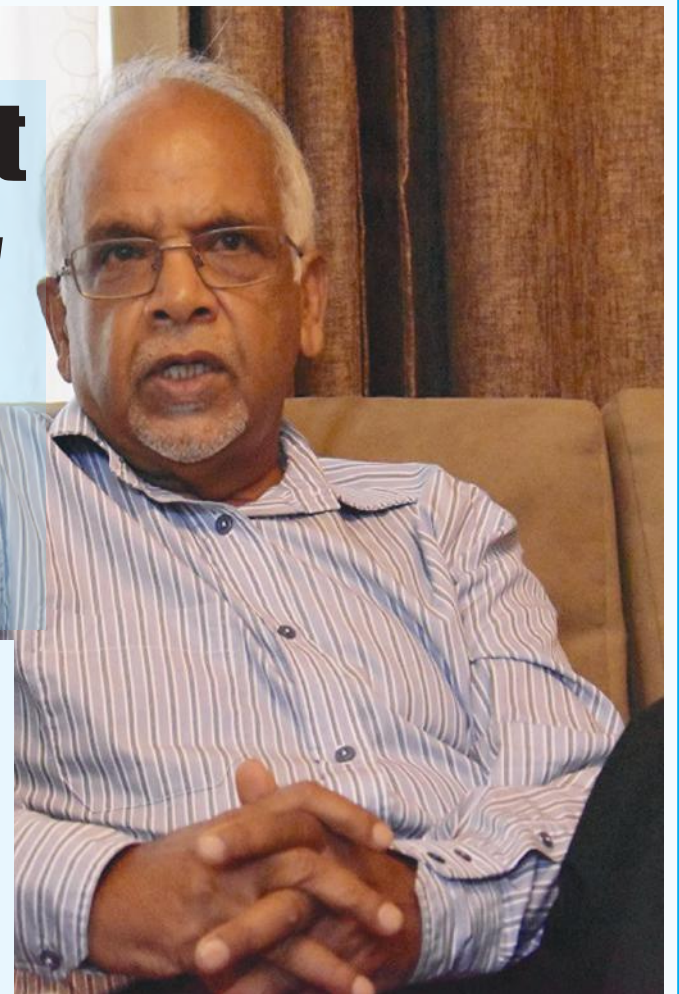
Former president and stalwart of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party Win Myint will face the same charge, the source said.

Several senior members of the national electoral commission have also been arrested since the coup, accused of masterminding the NLD's landslide victory. The junta cancelled the results of the 2020 election in July last year, saying it had found some 11.3mn instances of fraud.

Interview: Dharam Gokhool

“More irregularities cannot be ruled out. Constituency No 19 is an eye-opener

If other petitions reveal a pattern, the tide will start turning against the government”



The recount ordered by the Supreme Court in view of “the glaring and unexplained discrepancies in the Recapitulation of Votes form that are on record and point *prima facie* to mistakes in the counting process” in Constituency No 19, has revealed other discrepancies and what seem to be irregularities : missing ballots, the mysterious presence of a ballot of Constituency No.1 amongst those of No.19, the absence of the official stamp of the Electoral Commission on two ballots. If these elements may not constitute evidence of tampering at this stage, they are sufficiently serious to cause a police investigation to be carried out and will likely rekindle speculations about the validity of the whole electoral process. Who should be held accountable for these discrepancies qualified by the Electoral Commissioner himself as “*graves et très sérieux*” and as an “*acte illégal et malveillant*”? And why is the Electoral Supervisory Commission, which after the 2019 general elections vigorously denied any irregularities surrounding the organization of these elections, is now keeping quiet? Dharam Gokhool, former Education minister, shares his thoughts on these issues in today’s interview. Read on...

Mauritius Times: Muvman Liberator leader Ivan Collendavelloo’s electoral victory over the MMM candidate Jenny Adebire has been confirmed, though by a narrower majority, following the Tuesday’s recount. Does this bring a closure to the controversies surrounding the organisation of the last general elections, or does it raise more questions?

Dharam Gokhool: The decision of the Supreme Court for a recount in Constituency No 19 resulted from a petition filed by the legal team of Jenny Adebire to contest the results obtained by Ivan Collendavelloo, due to alleged irregularities in the electoral processes. These irregularities were qualified by the judges as “*glaring and unexplained discrepancies*”.

The recount was supposed to provide answers and explanations to these highly disturbing “discrepancies”. Has it? Not at all. The 73 missing ballots, the unexplained, mysterious and coincidental presence of a ballot of Constituency No.1, the absence of the official stamp of the Electoral Commission on two ballots are sufficient tangible evidence to rekindle the wildest speculations about the validity of the whole electoral process.

What if instead of 73 missing ballots there were 500, would the recount still have gone ahead?

The recount exercise was precisely to correct the discrepancies found by the Supreme Court earlier due to the lack of reconciliation of the figures in the counting exercise in 2019. When the number of declared valid ballots did not tally with the number of ballots found in the sealed ballot

boxes during the recount exercise, clearly a new discrepancy was found. Should not this new discrepancy have been resolved before proceeding with the recount?

We understand from press reports that the Jenny Adebire legal team would be contesting the recount exercise and in fact they refused to attend the official declaration of the results of the recount. It is also noteworthy that the Judges mentioned in their judgement that “*candidates or their election agents may, on completion of the counting, require the returning officer to have the votes recounted, or again recounted, and need in fact to be given a reasonable opportunity to exercise that right in between completion of the counting and declaration of the poll.*”

“The Returning Officer is certainly accountable for the discrepancies that have come to light, but that does that absolve Irfan Raman from his duties, functions and responsibilities under the Constitution as Electoral Commissioner. Should he not come out clean? He has now an opportunity to do so as Electoral Commissioner in forthcoming electoral petitions for Constituencies Nos: 1, 15 and 17...”

Would anyone be surprised if a ballot of No 19 were to be found among the ballots of No1? Who knows what could have emerged from the Pandora’s Box if a full recount had taken place? Irfan Raman, the Electoral Commissioner, has himself deemed it fit and proper to label the new “discrepancies” as “*graves et très sérieux*” and as an “*acte illégal et malveillant*”. This one is worse than “*la règle magique*”!

The content of his statement to the media, his evasive replies to crucial questions, his body language and his fumbling of his papers all indicate a terribly disturbed state of mind.

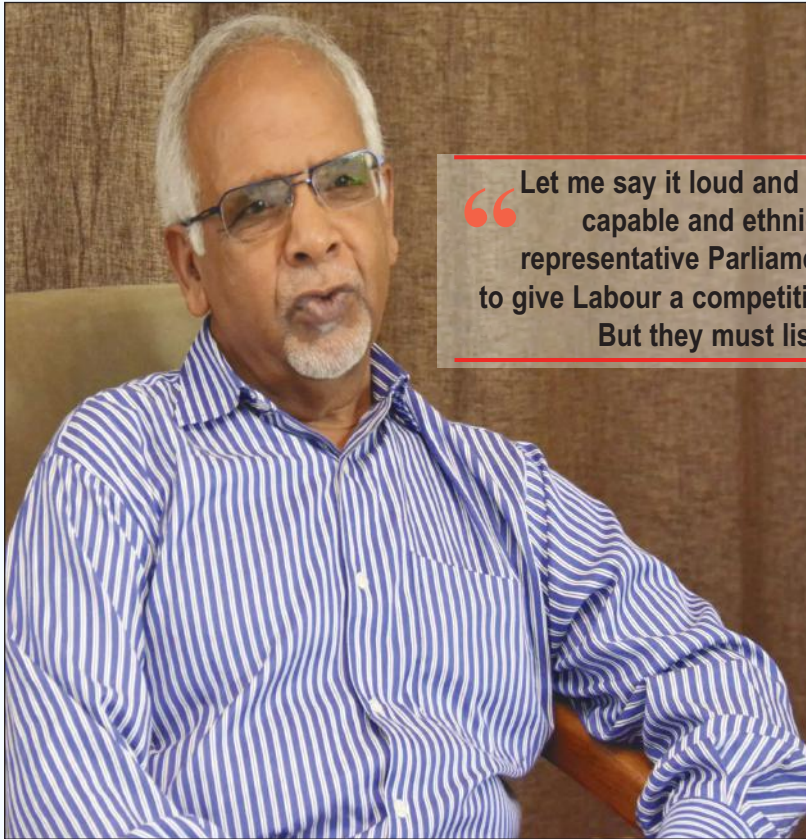
If anything, the recount and its sequel have further thickened the veil of mystery around the electoral processes in Number 19 and, by extension, in the 2019 general elections. Trust in our electoral processes has been seriously undermined.

* It appears that Hon Collendavelloo himself would have expressed his disappointment at the twilight of his political career regarding the dysfunctions that exist at the level of our institutions. Coming from a former DPM, who has been at the job until the St Louis controversy and seen from within how things operate, he should know better, don’t you think?

I have personally known Ivan for many years. He was my “*colistier*” in the 1982 general elections for Constituency No. 15. He has a solid track record as a barrister. As an experienced and astute politician, he has his own credentials. I may not be in agreement with all his views and options, and I do hold my own opinion about the St Louis Gate alleged scandal, but I must single out Ivan’s seemingly principled stand in the Supreme Court not to oppose the recount and also his tactful and gentlemanly attitude towards Jenny and, last but not the least, his no-nonsense public statement with regard to the dysfunctioning of such important institutions as the Electoral Commission and the Electoral Supervisory Commission.

☞ Cont. on page 10

'In our electoral system based on the principle of First Past The Post, every single vote counts. Is not 73 one too many?'



Cont. from page 9

But let us not forget that Ivan is a lawyer/politician and has his own repertoire of theatricals to suit different circumstances and we need to guard ourselves from jumping to conclusions about his real motivations in agreeing to the partial recount.

However, it is to be noted Ivan's seemingly principled stand was in sharp contrast to the partisan political statement of the Leader of the MSM, who missed a golden opportunity to remind those same institutions of their duties and responsibilities to the nation in matters of conducting elections in a **transparent, fair and unblemished manner**. He chose to take the posture of the leader of a political party rather than that of the Prime Minister of a Republic.

*** Electoral Commissioner Irfan Rahman, who has enjoyed for most of his professional career an unblemished track record until the 2019 general elections, will call upon the police to investigate into the anomalies that have come to light during last Tuesday's recount. Our understanding is that he wants the Returning Officer to be accountable for those anomalies. How do you react to that?**

Just like in the Molnupiravir case, civil Servants are being targeted as scapegoats. Certainly, those found to be at fault must be taken to task. But why spare the political head?

The Returning Officer is certainly accountable for the discrepancies that have come to light, but that does that absolve Irfan Raman from his duties, functions and responsibilities under the Constitution as Electoral Commissioner. Should he not come out clean? He has now an opportunity to do so as Electoral Commissioner in forthcoming electoral petitions for Constituencies Nos: 1, 15 and 17.

Institutional integrity, which Irfan Raman seems to be concerned about, is important. Indeed, he is right to be concerned about institutional integrity of

“Let me say it loud and clear, the Labour Party has a strong, capable and ethnically diverse and geographically representative Parliamentary Group which can be leveraged to give Labour a competitive edge over other political forces. But they must listen to the right voices...”

which there seems to be a terrible deficit in many of our leading and strategic national institutions. But it is the lack of personal integrity that erodes institutional integrity. Institutional integrity cannot be dissociated for personal integrity; it is as simple as that!

In the same breath, there are many, like me, who are perplexed at the **pin-drop silence** of the Electoral Supervisory Commission (ESC). We still remember how members of the ESC at the press conference held just after the 2019 general elections vigorously denied any irregularities surrounding the organization of these elections. They even went to the extent of criticizing the opposition parties saying they were looking for lame excuses to challenge the elections and bring disrepute to the Electoral Commission and the ESC. Don't they have anything to say about the recent anomalies found during the recount exercise?

*** We now learn that there would also be the same issue of the figures in the Recapitulation of Votes form not adding up in Constituency No. 15, similar to what happened in No. 19. Another recount here, if ordered by the Court, might reveal even more anomalies. What's your take on that?**

It was the British philosopher David Hume who propounded the Law of Causality or Cause and Effect. He has argued that “every course of action has a specific and predictable effect.” And if we take into consideration that similar causes may result in similar effect, it stands to reason to assume that discrepancy in the recapitulation sheet and the revelations in the recount of Constituency No 19, may provide solid grounds for a recount in Constituency No 15.

But more significantly, since all the facts and figures relating to the general elections are in the knowledge of the Electoral Commission, and the Electoral Supervisory Commission, should they not come forward and help the cause of justice and allow **truth** to prevail?

I am always impressed by the Indian judicial system where Judges are known to walk the extra mile in the name of truth and justice. Like many, I have faith in the integrity of our judicial system. Let us put our faith and trust in our Honourable Judges.

*** If some of the anomalies might appear small due to human error and/or are technical, there are others however that give rise to suspicions of mischief at some point in the election process. But wouldn't it be**

dangerous if we were to lose confidence in the integrity of the election process and the related institutions?

The narrative of Irfan Raman is that the discrepancies may well be due to *human error* or technical error resulting out of human error. He has also argued that since the results of Constituency No 19 have not been altered substantially as a result of the recount, implicitly there is no need to be unduly worried. But he then goes on to concede that the discrepancies are “*graves et très sérieux*” and constitute an “*acte illégal et malveillant*”. Very strong words indeed!

The **null hypothesis** relate to the possibility of human error. Fair enough. But Irfan Raman should not discard the **alternative hypothesis** about the possibility of **human intervention**.

One of the queries that remains and will remain in the minds of many is about the 73 missing ballots. In our electoral system based on the principle of First Past The Post, every single vote counts. Is not 73 one too many?

Such unresolved discrepancies will not only make people lose confidence in our democratic institutions, if allowed to go unresolved; they will simply destroy the very foundations of these democratic institutions and our Republic.

*** But it would take more anomalies to be detected in several other constituencies to point to a definite trend in how the last general elections were conducted or misconducted. We are not yet there, isn't it?**

“The recount exercise was precisely to correct the discrepancies found by the Supreme Court earlier due to the lack of reconciliation of the figures in the counting exercise in 2019. When the number of declared valid ballots did not tally with the number of ballots found in the sealed ballot boxes during the recount exercise, clearly a new discrepancy was found...”

There is a saying in Latin “*veritas semper praevalet*” meaning *Truth Always Prevails*. More irregularities cannot be ruled out. Constituency No 19 is an eye-opener. If other petitions reveal a pattern, public pressure will mount and the tide will start turning against the government. There is already a lot of rampant and palpable frustration building up in our society, politically, socially and economically.

But all this can be avoided if our Institutions wake up and our politicians show statesmanship. The ethos of professionalism in all our institutions, public and private, and an authentic political *renaissance* are the two important and essential pillars for a turnaround.

Our Courts of Law should avoid inadvertently reinforcing public perception of Justice being delayed. This feeling is very much present and quite strong. Undue delays will be tantamount to a denial of justice.

Cont. on page 11

'There are many, like me, who are perplexed at the pin-drop silence of the Electoral Supervisory Commission.

Don't they have anything to say about the recent anomalies found during the recount exercise?'

☞ Cont. from page 10

We should avoid a social explosion coupled with violence.

*** Do you think the people really care about issues such as anomalies in the electoral process or electoral fraud, alleged scandals of various types, absence of good governance in the affairs of state? They might have more on their plate to care about than what the opposition would like to believe, don't you think?**

In a functioning democracy, people would voice out their grievances and dissatisfactions through different channels. They are not doing so for valid reasons. We have a government with a comfortable majority with a strong grip on most of our institutions. There is a fear factor.

The Opposition which should normally pose as an alternative to the Government in a democracy is scattered and does not yet present itself as a credible alternative and challenger.

Covid and Covid-related and inspired laws have seriously curtailed freedom of expression, gatherings and movements, and street demonstrations are fewer.

Social media and private radios have taken the relay for the expression of public grievances, but they are not representative of the full spectrum of public opinion and are therefore limited in their impact.

our electoral system need a revamp. Many of the constraints towards nation building are to be found in these two political instruments.

We have all the ingredients to emerge as a vibrant, peace-loving, forward-looking, modern nation state. Very few realise the full potential of a genetically and culturally rich diversity which history and nature has bestowed upon us. Very few realise that the emerging challenges such as food security, climate urgency and sustainable development for a small island state depends upon the creativity and energy of one and all. But our present electoral system has an in-built divisive algorithm.

Time now to start a virtuous, transformational political cycle which will translate into reality the dream of the founding fathers of our freedom. It was their dream that we should live as **"one people, as one nation, in peace, justice and liberty."**

The realization of that dream depends a lot upon a viable, robust, progressive and inclusive electoral system.

*** As regards the Opposition, it's not known whether the Labour Party-L'Entente de l'Espoir alliance is still on the cards; the leaders might have had second thoughts about it, but that leaves the field open for the MSM. What's the best way forward for the Labour Party, according to you?**

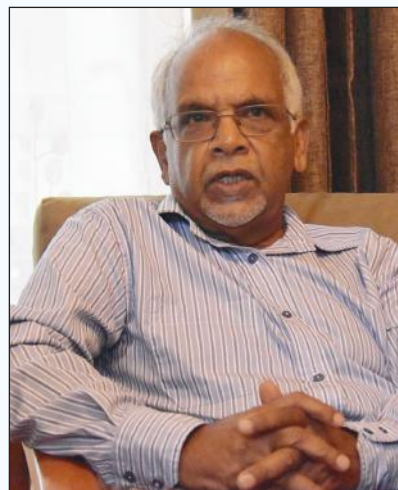
If I were to tender an advice to the protagonists in the scattered Opposition who are aiming to dislodge the present government, they must always keep in mind that our electoral system is based on the First Past The Post principle and a three- or four-cornered fight will benefit the outgoing government on many counts. MSM is betting on the division within the Opposition to remain in power.

Secondly, people especially the younger voters, are extremely allergic to politicians who squabble about positions and privileges before elections. This is a toxic and corrosive political message out of sync with current political discourse. Politicians need to get their act together and focus on people and their priorities. And lastly, they must start to win the hearts and minds of the people by taking firm commitments on issues that they will tackle as priorities once in power.

As regards the way forward for the Labour Party, let me say it loud and clear, Labour has a strong, capable and ethnically diverse and geographically representative Parliamentary Group which can be leveraged to give Labour a competitive edge over other political forces. But they must listen to the right voices.



“People especially the younger voters, are extremely allergic to politicians who squabble about positions and privileges before elections. This is a toxic and corrosive political message out of sync with current political discourse. Politicians need to get their act together and focus on people and their priorities...”



“Irfan Raman has also argued that since the results of Constituency No 19 have not been altered substantially as a result of the recount, implicitly there is no need to be unduly worried. But he then goes on to concede that the discrepancies are “graves et très sérieux” and constitute an “acte illégal et malveillant”. Very strong words indeed!”

Lastly, people are resilient, but they do keep an account of government's promises and track record. Whatever they have to express, they do it through the ballot box and they do know that general elections are not near.

Either by design or by default, they know what they have to do when the time comes. They have done it in the past and they will do it over again.

*** In view of all these irregularities/discrepancies revealed in the election process, don't you think it is high time to put the agenda of electoral reform back on the table?**

Independence came in 1968 and then came the Republic in 1992. As a population we have travelled a long way, but not always together. Both our Constitution and

MAURITIUS TIMES To Our Readers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The science of weather forecasting: what it takes and why it's so hard to get right

Weather forecasting is complex and challenging. The process entails three steps: observation, analysis and communication



Victor Ongoma

Assistant Professor, Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique

Weather forecasting is an important science. Accurate forecasting can help to save lives and minimise property damage. It's also crucial for agriculture, allowing farmers to track when it's best to plant or helping them protect their crops.

And it will only become more vital in the coming years. Severe weather events are becoming more frequent and more intense because of climate change and variability.

I am a meteorologist with specialities in forecasting weather and climate change – who wants to improve the quality of weather products and their applications to spur socioeconomic development across Africa. Doing so matters: the World Bank has pointed out that better weather forecasts can bolster the continent's development.

So, how does forecasting work? What does it take to produce accurate, reliable and timely forecasts? And how can African countries do better on this front?

A complex process

Weather forecasting is complex and challenging. The process entails three steps: observation, analysis and communication.

For observation, forecasters work with atmospheric models. These are sets of equations that depict the state of the atmosphere. The models use information on the initial state (observations) of the atmosphere, land and ocean to forecast weather. Data from the models is combined with information drawn from weather stations which are set up at key points across a region or country to give the actual state of the atmosphere. This data assimilation produces a better forecast since it optimises forecasters' understanding of the evolving weather system.

It's easier to be accurate when giving a short-range forecast – one that covers hours to days – than it is when interpreting

long-range (months or seasons) data. The atmospheric system is dynamic; the more time that passes, the less certain forecasters can be of its state.

Technological advances have greatly improved the general quality of weather forecasting. For instance, more observations are possible because of automated weather stations. There's also been an increase in the use of high performance computing. This allows for more data storage, faster processing, analysis, and visualisation of incoming data.

These datasets are key in diagnosing past and current weather to create a forecast. Unfortunately, the data observation network (both manual and automated stations) is still poor, especially in developing countries. That's the result of limited investment into the sector. Forecasters in these countries are forced to use alternative datasets that are not very accurate.

One such alternative dataset is Numerical Weather Prediction. It uses global deterministic models that are normally not detailed enough to realistically represent convection at a local or regional level; forecasters using this data often can't accurately predict rainfall, especially heavy rain. A lack of access to better historical data also means forecasters struggle to identify when an area's seasonal rainfall will start and end because they can't examine trends over years or decades.



It's these variations in access to data and technology that mean some forecasts are more accurate than others.

Once forecasts have been collated, they are released in various forms. The way that weather products – apps, TV and radio bulletins or website updates – are packaged will differ depending on end



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users' needs. Some people, like farmers, may be especially interested in seasonal forecasts and will seek these out. Athletes, for example, are more likely to use portals or services that focus on hourly and daily forecasts.

I would recommend that, whoever you are, you consider seasonal forecasts general information for broad planning purposes. But this should be interpreted together with monthly, weekly and daily forecasts for accuracy's sake.

Indigenous knowledge

Some African countries also use another kind of data for their forecasts: indigenous ecological knowledge. This entails drawing from communities' long held knowledge about their environments, and especially about long-term trends and shifts. Such knowledge can be blended with scientific processes during forecasting.

The "rainmakers" from the Nganyi community in western Kenya are a good example. These residents have deep historical knowledge about the area's climate and weather patterns. They use plants and animals to understand what the weather is doing. They now work with meteorologists from Kenya's Meteorological Department to produce seasonal weather forecasts.

Indigenous knowledge is under threat as the elders who are its custodians are perishing. Vital plants and animals used in their processes are going extinct, too. It would be a great pity if this resource were lost to forecasters. This knowledge plays an important role in local livelihoods and it supports efforts to forecast and make sense of seasonal climate state at local

scale.

Changes coming

Some of the ways that weather is forecast today may change in the coming years. The World Meteorological Organisation is encouraging national meteorological services to move from what the weather will be (forecasting weather) to what the weather will do – impact based forecasting-and-warning.

There's also a push to ensure forecasts reach the people who need them. A number of African countries, among them Malawi and Chad, have adopted what's known as Participatory Scenario Planning. This collaborative approach designs and delivers user focused climate information services by taking the co-production process down to the sub-national level. It brings together producers and users of weather and climate information – meteorologists, indigenous knowledge experts, researchers, various sectors of local government, farmers, as well as NGOs and journalists.

Private firms that provide global weather forecasts are also emerging. This is commendable given that they supplement the services of countries with limited resources. But my advice is that, where the national meteorological and hydrological centres have capacity to produce weather forecasts, theirs should be considered first, ahead of those generated by private firms. This is because national bodies' forecasts are based on the observed historical and observed data which they are custodians of rather than private institutions that rely mainly on model data.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 182

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 31 January, 1958

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



Satcam Boolell

Political Pakistan

The Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah had staked his vast prestige on a separate homeland for Indian Muslims. His demand for Pakistan took real shape after 1940. From then onwards there was no looking back and Pakistan became a reality in 1947.

But the creation of the state brought in its train so many problems. The division of Punjab and Bengal far from facilitating an exchange of population resulted into a genocide such as the world had never witnessed before. Both in India and Pakistan frenzy and passion were let loose. Another tragic page was added to the sad tale of humanity. It was at that juncture that the Quaid-i-Azam, in his usual wisdom, rose up in the Constituent Assembly and made the historic pronouncement that Pakistan was the homeland not only of the Muslims but also of the millions of the non-Muslims and that they all belonged to one people. Confidence was restored among the minorities and the exodus of population slowed down.

The myth of the two-nation theory was exploded by the very man who originated the idea. It is against this background that we must study the political situation in Pakistan today.

According to its Constitution, Pakistan is an Islamic Republic. While the prime ministership is open to any citizen, Muslim or non-Muslim, the presidentship is reserved for Muslims only. Here we came across a contradiction in the Constitution. During the absence of the President, the Speaker of the National Assembly acts in his place. Now the Speaker should not necessarily be a Muslim. As a matter of fact, the present Deputy Speaker, Mr Gibbons, is an Anglo-Indian. Theoretically he may one day be called upon to act as the Head of the State.

There is a common electoral roll for the electors. The last election was held on a joint electorate. Political parties evolved on national lines. As the example of India next-door was bound to have repercussions in Pakistan, those who still believed in the exploded myth of Muslims belonging to a separate nation began to lose ground. The Muslim League was returned to the National Assembly with only 15 members. Its policy began to be repudiated by its staunchest supporters who transferred their allegiance to new political parties.

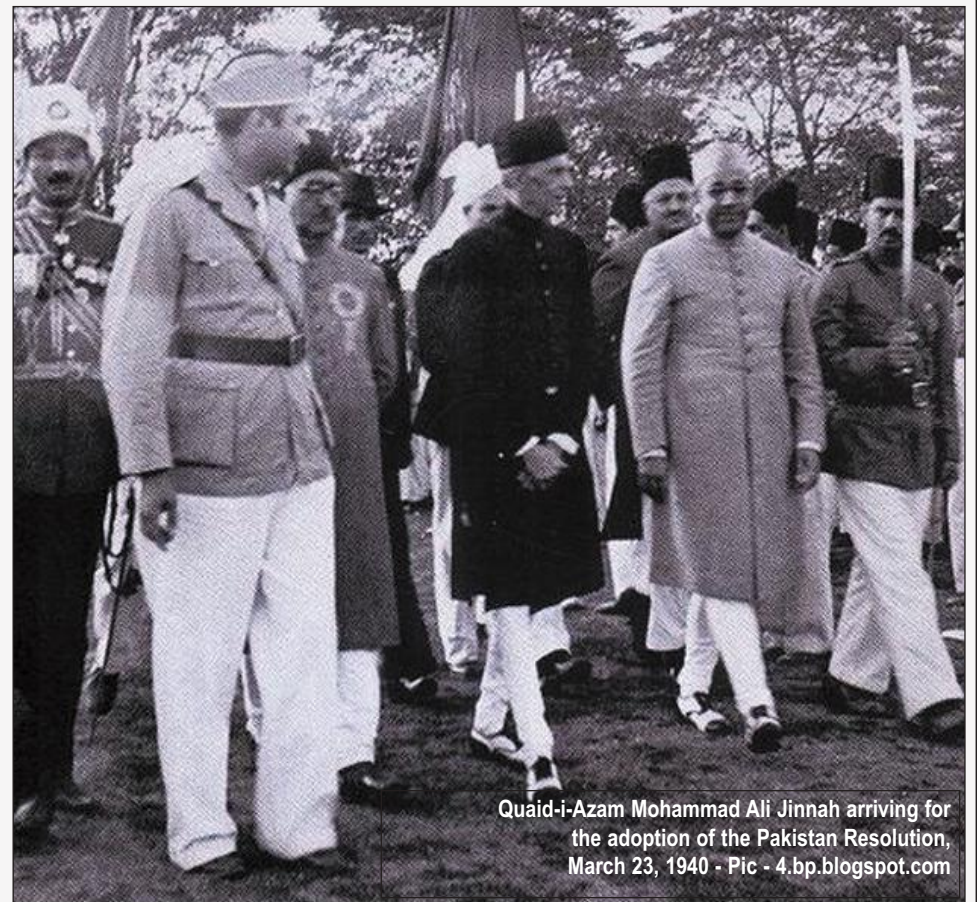
Feroz-Khan Noon and Dr Khan Saheb in the West started the Republican Party and Mr Suhrawardy in the East his Awami League. There were also the Congress and the Democratic parties. All these parties returned members to the National Assembly, but none with a clear majority. Government became a coalition. Pakistan obtained prominence as a rival of France. The country marched from one political crisis to another and the Prime Minister temporarily in power became the most harassed individual in the State.

This was the situation which I found when I arrived in Karachi. Mr Suhrawardy had just been forced down from his prime ministerial chair and Mr I.I. Chundrigar precariously seated in his place. An ex-barrister of Bombay, he is the leader of the Muslim League. Many people in Pakistan do not consider him a top-ranking leader but they pay homage to his honesty. He had formed a coalition government with the Republican Party. But the support of the Republican Party, which was already tenuous, was withdrawn as soon as the Muslim League tried to put through a Bill asking for separate electorate for each of the different communities in Pakistan. The Muslim League had to resign and hand over the government to a coalition of the Republican and the Awami League. Feroz-Khan Noon became the Premier. He still is.

If we follow the political evolution of Pakistan from the time of its inception to the present day, we shall be forced to the inevitable conclusion that she is moving away from theocracy, its first aim, towards democracy.

The Muslim League which is losing ground everyday made a last bid under the premiership of Chundrigar to recapture its hold over the country. It reverted to its obsolete pet theory of Muslims as a separate nation. Chundrigar hoped to rally support by raising the slogan of Pakistan for the Muslims. 'Dawn' gave the League its blessings and everyday carried big headlines about the "huge" attendance at the League meetings. One afternoon in Lahore I saw a small procession preceded by music moving towards the Railway Station. A blaring noise from a loud-speaker fitted in a car was renting the air. The terrific noise to which the promenader paid little attention was an appeal to the citizens of Lahore to meet Mr Chundrigar at the Railway Station where he was to stop on his way to Peshawar. Unfortunately for the League its appeal did not carry conviction. The old fire had died down. The slogan which fired the imagination of the people was Pakistan for Pakistanis.

The Muslim League is today in the position of a reactionary party. Whereas all other parties stand for a joint electorate, it is the only party which is still shouting its head off for a separate electorate. The forecast for the next election due to be held in November is that the



Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah arriving for the adoption of the Pakistan Resolution, March 23, 1940 - Pic - 4.bp.blogspot.com

Muslim League will just be swept aside.

It is too early to speculate about the next phase in the political development in Pakistan. As politics is bound up with economics, much will depend on the trend of the economic development of the country. America is pouring huge sums of money in Pakistan to build up another spearhead against Communism. So far, a large proportion of the money has seeped through the State coffers into the pockets of Government contractors. The buildings that are shooting up in fast expanding Karachi are mostly meant for high government officials. The refugees are still waiting at the extreme end of the queue to be settled in decent houses. Half of West Pakistan cannot yet be cultivated for lack of water. The peasant is as badly off as before Partition. The semi-skilled workers in the City hardly gets Rs 50 to Rs 60 per month. A Government clerk after 10 years service is still paid Rs 150 per month. The Rupee has been devalued and in consequence imported articles have gone up in prices. Fortunately for the powers that be, the complaints are few. Whatever discontent there is, it is not given much expression. People seem resigned to their fate.

So long as this attitude will persist, the ruling power will not be put to any severe test. But the real challenge will come when the man in the street realises that fate is not always something that is always ordained by the Invisible Power, but it is also in a large measure shaped by the visible hand that holds the reign of Government.

Life after Covid: Most people don't want a return to normal

● Cont. from page 2

- We are happy for the government to keep its powers if it protects economic fairness, health and the environment.

Progressive – individual autonomy

"Grassroots leadership"

- What we want is for communities, not governments, to work together to build a fair and environmentally friendly world.
- We want to take back from governments the powers they have claimed to limit our movements and monitor our data and behaviour.

In both studies and in both countries, we found that people strongly preferred a progressive future over a return to normal. They also tended to prefer individual autonomy over strong government. On balance, across both experiments and both countries, the "grassroots leadership" proposal appeared to be most popular.

People's political leanings affected preferences – those on the political right preferred a return to normal more than those on the left – yet intriguingly, strong opposition to a progressive future was quite limited, even among people on the right. This is encouraging because it suggests that opposition to "building back better" may be limited.

Our findings are consistent with other recent research, which suggests that even conservative voters want the environment to be at the heart of post-Covid economic reconstruction in the UK.

The misperceptions of the majority

This is what people wanted to happen – but how did they think things ac-



We think we know what other people think – but often we're wrong. Pic - dekazigzag/Shutterstock

tually would end up? In both countries, participants felt that a return to normal was more likely than moving towards a progressive future. They also felt it was more likely that government would retain its power than return it to the people.

In other words, people thought they were unlikely to get the future they wanted. People want a progressive future but fear that they'll get a return to normal with power vested in the government.

We also asked people to tell us what they thought others wanted. It turned out our participants thought that others wanted a return to normal much more than they actually did. This was observed in both the US and UK in both 2020 and 2021, though to varying extents.

This striking divergence between what people actually want, what they expect to get and what they think others want is what's known as "pluralistic ignorance".

This describes any situation where people who are in the majority think they are in the minority. Pluralistic ignorance can have problematic consequences

because in the long run people often shift their attitudes towards what they perceive to be the prevailing norm. If people misperceive the norm, they may change their attitudes towards a minority opinion, rather than the minority adapting to the majority. This can be a problem if that minority opinion is a negative one – such as being opposed to vaccination, for example.

In our case, a consequence of pluralistic ignorance may be that a return to normal will become more acceptable in future, not because most people ever desired this outcome, but because they felt it was inevitable and that most others wanted it.

Ultimately, this would mean that the actual preferences of the majority never find the political expression that, in a democracy, they deserve.

To counter pluralistic ignorance, we should therefore try to ensure that people know the public's opinion. This is not merely a necessary countermeasure to pluralistic ignorance and its adverse consequences – people's motivation also generally increases when they feel their preferences and goals are shared by others. Therefore, simply informing people that there's a social consensus for a progressive future could be what unleashes the motivation needed to achieve it.

Stephan Lewandowsky, Chair of Cognitive Psychology, University of Bristol & Ullrich Ecker, Professor of Cognitive Psychology, University of Western Australia

Salt Pan Workers' Union

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Salt Pan Workers Union to be held on **Saturday 5 March 2022** at Rivière Noire Village Hall at 3.00 pm.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Executive members for years 2022-2024
6. Appointment of one Auditor for years 2022-2024
7. A.O.B

Any member who wishes to stand as candidate in the election should forward his/her letter of candidature to the Secretary on the above address by registered post by Wednesday 2nd of March 2022 at latest.

Marie France Dumatin
Secretary

Local Authorities Workers' Association

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Local Authorities Workers' Association to be held on **Sunday 12 March 2022** at Rose Belle Village Council at 2.00 pm. In case of lack of quorum, the AGM will be held on Saturday 26 March 2022 at same place at 2.00 pm.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Executive members for years 2022-2024
6. Appointment of two Auditors for years 2022-2024
7. A.O.B

Any member who wishes to stand as candidate in the election should forward his/her letter of candidature to the Secretary on the above address by registered post by Wednesday 9th of March 2022 at latest.

Sutyandarsing Runglall
Secretary

GENERAL TRADE UNIONS FEDERATION

1st Floor Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the General Trade Unions Federation (GTUF) to be held on **Sunday 3 April 2022** at its registered seat – 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 10.00 am.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. A.O.B

D. Ramjuttun
Secretary

Building & General Construction Workers' Union

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Building & General Construction Workers' Union to be held on **Saturday 26 February 2022** at its registered seat – 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 3.00 pm.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. A.O.B

Devanand Kodai
Secretary



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Does size matter when it comes to health?

Some obese people lack the classic metabolic risk factors of high blood pressure, high cholesterol and high blood sugar linked with obesity. But are they still at risk for heart disease and diabetes?

There is a growing global body positivity movement to combat the stigma and prejudice that overweight and obese individuals face. Some of this stigma arises from the perception that obese individuals are unhealthy.

However, weight is only one of the metrics that medical professionals use to assess overall health. In fact, some studies have demonstrated that a significant number of obese people are metabolically healthy, leading to the contention that one could be healthy at any size. This phenomenon is referred to as metabolically healthy obesity (MHO). Research is now starting to explore what this means.

A person who is MHO has healthy blood pressure, normal levels of blood lipids (cholesterol and triglycerides) and normal blood sugar. Having high values of one or more of these measures significantly increases one's risk for cardiovascular disease.

It has been proposed that metabolically healthy obese individuals might be protected against obesity-related diseases. The extent of this protection has been controversial within the scientific community, and this is partly because we still don't have a standardized definition of MHO.

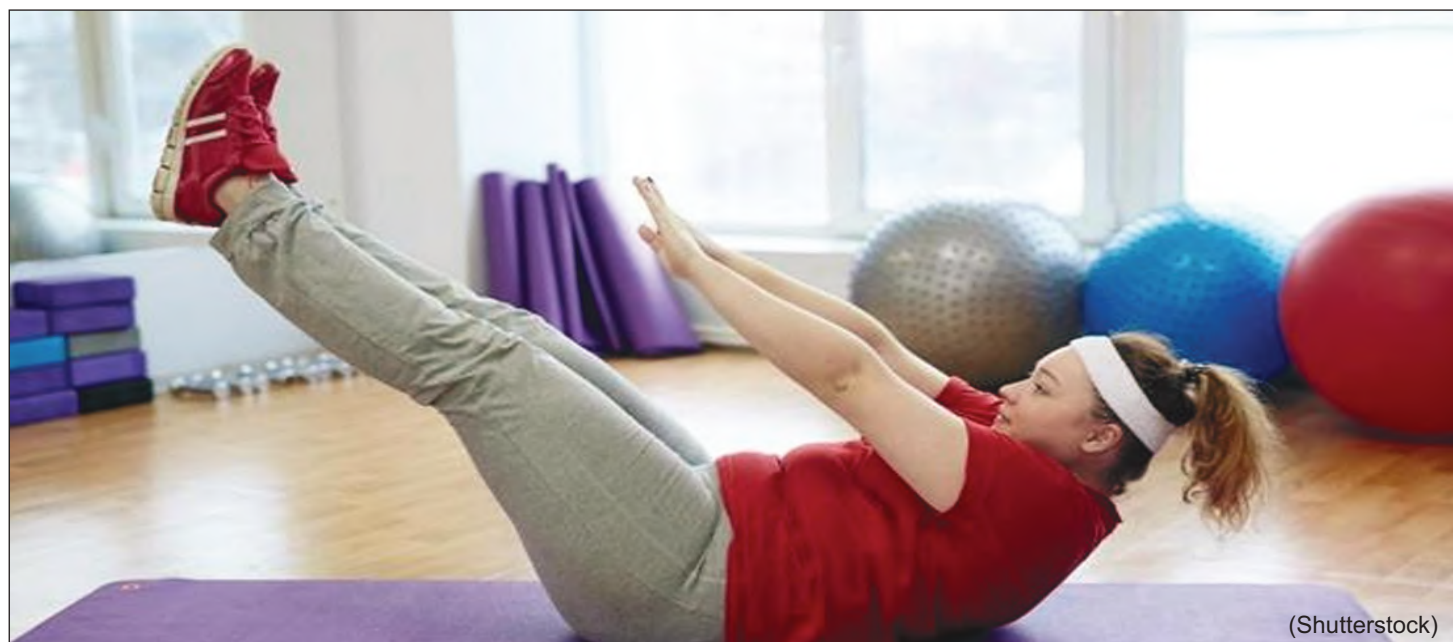
So, over the past few years, researchers have gone to work to find out who can be defined as MHO, and to what extent people with MHO are protected from chronic disease.

Emerging consensus

Several large population studies have been initiated towards this end. So far, results show that, indeed, more rigorous definitions of MHO are needed. This can be achieved by including other measures of health such as insulin resistance and blood markers of inflammation. Insulin resistance is when the body does not respond well to the insulin hormone that helps to take up sugar from the bloodstream for use as a fuel for energy. This leads to elevated blood sugar and the consequent health complications.

An emerging consensus has been that although MHO individuals show some protection from chronic disease, they still seem to be significantly less protected than those who are metabolically healthy and lean.

The fact that people with MHO still have a relatively higher disease risk led some researchers to suggest that the term "metabolically healthy obesity" could be a misnomer. Moreover, a majority of the MHO population tends to progress towards "metabolically unhealthy obesity" or MUO over a number of years, leading to enhanced risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and other disorders linked with obesity.



(Shutterstock)

This leads to another question: is MHO truly protective over an entire lifetime, or is it just a question of time before MUO sets in, making MHO a transient state?

Protective factors

One factor to consider that might differentiate metabolically healthy versus unhealthy obesity is how fat is distributed in the body. A genetic predisposition for depositing fat under the skin, called subcutaneous fat, seems to play a protective role.

People with this predisposition are mostly premenopausal women who accumulate subcutaneous body fat in the hips rather than the waist (pear-shaped). They are better protected against diabetes and cardiovascular disease compared to people whose body fat is located more in the abdomen (apple-shaped).

In contrast, obese individuals with a high waist circumference show excessive fat deposition in the abdomen and a pro-inflammatory state that leads to insulin resistance, which can be a precursor to Type 2 diabetes.

Researchers have also looked at the lifestyle habits that differentiate MHO from MUO individuals to see if development of metabolically unhealthy obesity can be prevented.

One factor is exercise. People with MHO are involved in regular physical activity to a greater extent than MUO individuals. The other is diet. Although dietary studies show mixed results, it seems that MHO people consume healthier diets such as the Mediterranean diet, which is rich in fish, fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, legumes, extra virgin olive oil and nuts.

Healthy diets provide anti-inflammatory and antioxidant benefits that help achieve a healthy metabolic profile. Indeed, of the MHO population, those who

follow the Mediterranean diet seem to have lower mortality rates. Adopting these healthy lifestyle habits could help prevent the trajectory of metabolically healthy obesity moving towards metabolically unhealthy obesity over the course of a lifetime.

Is metabolically healthy obesity real?

So is MHO real and does it protect against disease? There isn't a yes or no answer yet. The more we learn about it, the more nuance is injected into the concept that one can be perfectly healthy at any size. Based on the information we have so far, only a narrow segment of obese individuals are without risk of developing obesity-related chronic diseases.

We also know a lot more about their characteristics. They have less abdominal fat and more subcutaneous fat. They have less insulin resistance, less inflammation and a metabolically healthy cardiovascular profile. They also have healthy lifestyle habits such as regular exercise and a healthy diet. It seems that genetics play a role as well.

We can expect more insight from major international population studies and clinical trials that are currently underway.

But in the meantime, the age-old advice holds truer than ever: regular physical activity and a healthy diet are crucial to maintain health and longevity.

Stan Kubow & Michele Iskandar
School of Human Nutrition, McGill University

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Entrepreneurship

The Best Small Businesses to Start in 2022

If you're looking to start your own business, it's important to consider the current landscape to choose a business with a decent chance of success. In the current period of lockdowns and restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many businesses have closed down, and others have moved online.

However, a range of fresh concepts has cropped up due to the demands of the time. Since public gatherings and outdoor activities are restricted, most small business ideas today revolve around online possibilities. Of course, certain indispensable services must continue during the pandemic, even if they are offline.

Online teaching small businesses to start in 2022

Education is one area that stays a priority even during a crisis like the Covid pandemic. Hence, a lot of learning has moved online, which has opened up vast opportunities for tutors globally as many students have become accustomed to learning things online. The advantage for educators is that you can impart knowledge on any subject to anyone sitting in a different corner of the world.

Whether it is maths, the arts, science, business, management, IT, or design, there are as many students available as you need. Another option is to teach English as a second language because the demand for English language skills is only increasing. You can easily find clients using several websites that act as a hub for tutors and students.

Cleaning and waste management consultancy

Cleaning and waste management services, especially for commercial organizations, have always been indispensable, and with the onset of Covid-19, these services have been more in demand than ever.

Many organizations, even those outside the healthcare sector, have to observe a range of new regulations for health and hygiene due to Covid protocols.

Now is a great time to launch a business offering professional cleaning services and advise businesses on managing their waste disposal systems. You can also offer training on using waste management equipment like balers, compactor bins, and auditing.

Digital marketing

Regardless of the pandemic, digital marketing is an ever-growing



sphere continually creating new opportunities for talented individuals. Many companies prefer to outsource their digital marketing needs instead of doing things in-house, opening up great potential for new businesses.

Digital marketing is a vast world encompassing many diverse elements, including email marketing, copywriting, content writing, composing commercial blogs and product descriptions with SEO, and more – all of which are in high demand today.

Additionally, many companies require social media management services that help maintain their online presence around the clock to reach more potential customers. This presents many options to offer services such as virtual assistance, affiliate marketing, and social media influencing.

Translation services

Translation is another area that has boomed during the pandemic. Many local businesses and activities have moved online and have therefore started making an international presence. Companies that aim to do business with global clientele need translators to convert their web content into other languages.

There is also a need to translate different kinds of business documents. Furthermore, translation services can be conducted entirely online. If you are interested in languages and are multilingual, this could be a good business opportunity.

Digital event planning

Today, many meetings and conferences take place online in the business, education, and government sectors. There are various platforms today to facilitate webinars and online meetups, so it is a good time for organizing and managing such events. Many companies need pro-

fessionals who can bear the burden of conducting their many online events.

If you have any experience in event management and understand its nuances, you can do well in this area. Even if you lack the first-hand experience, your knowledge of online systems helps a lot. On the side, you can also earn additional income by selling sponsorships to different brands and organizations.

Cybersecurity consultancy

A cybersecurity consultancy could be a profitable venture if you have expertise in the IT realm, especially its security aspects. It is a lucrative job as many companies are ready to spend huge sums of money on cybersecurity, knowing they risk spending much more if they face an undesirable cyber incident like hacking, phishing, ransomware attacks, or any other similar attack.

Hackers and cybercriminals are now highly sophisticated and are capable of infiltrating the networks of even large and formidable organizations, like Google and Facebook.

Many activities around the world slumped during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, online fraud, scams, and phishing activities increased many times over as online activity soared during the pandemic. Therefore, it's unsurprising that companies are paying more attention to cyber security.

The above list is not exhaustive. There are many more exciting possibilities for small businesses at the moment. Many core business activities can be carried out using a computer and an internet connection. This means that the world is full of possibilities even during a crisis!

Alla Levin - InternetVibes

Work Smarter

Pursue Your Entrepreneurial Dreams — No Matter Your Age

There's no "right" age at which to become an entrepreneur. Of course, having experience helps, but what matters more than age is your team, your idea, and your ability to advocate for yourself. So, first, assemble a team with a diverse set of skills. This might include mentors, advisors, or people who have experience growing companies from the ground up. Include someone who knows how to manage people, as well as someone with the technological skills needed for development and operations, and so forth. Next, identify a problem you're truly passionate about solving. Find investors who are equally excited about addressing the pain points you care about, and convey your passion in a succinct, clear story to help rally others. And finally, be your own best advocate. If you do encounter age bias, or other forms of discrimination, be prepared to address those concerns head on by demonstrating your competence, confidence, and care. With the right idea, attitude, and people behind you, you can turn your idea into a reality — at any point in your career.

This tip is adapted from "Don't Let Age Get in the Way of Entrepreneurship," by Emma Waldman - HBR

Cleaning Enterprises Workers' Association

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Cleaning Enterprises Workers Association to be held on Sunday 6 March 2022 at its registered seat – 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 10.00 am.

Agenda:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. A.O.B

Julmain Dalambé
Secretary

Beverages Industry Workers' Union

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Beverages Industry Workers' Union to be held on Sunday 27 February 2022 at its registered seat – 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 10.00 am. In case of lack of quorum, the AGM will be held on Sunday 13 March 2022 at same place at 10.00 am.

Agenda:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Executive members for years 2022-2024
6. Appointment of two Auditors for years 2022-2024
7. A.O.B

K. Teeluck
Secretary

Readiness to change is vital

Wanting to lose weight or quit smoking are often resolutions made at the beginning of the New Year. One University of Alabama at Birmingham wellness expert says there is a key ingredient to being successful health-wise in the coming year.

Meg Baker, director of UAB Employee Wellness, says while the focus on self-improvement is good, an individual must be ready to make a change in order to actually do so.

"Readiness to change is a big factor," Baker said. "Based on the stages of change model: precontemplation (unwilling to make a change), contemplation (considering lifestyle change) and action, you have to want to change your lifestyle to successfully improve your health."

To help prepare for any lifestyle change, Baker offers



some tips:

- Develop small, short-term goals that will fit into your schedule; these should be realistic.
- Consider the benefits and reasons for the change.

- Talk to a family member, friend or co-worker about goals; this accountability will increase the likelihood of your staying committed to a new gym regimen or smoking cessation plan, and they may want to join you.

Baker says starting small increases the likelihood of success. Find a form of exercise that you love, make small nutritional changes like packing a lunch or cooking dinner at home, and get digital reinforcements by using tracking systems and apps like those offered by the American Heart Association, Smokefree.gov, etc.

If after a while old habits start to creep up again, think about why the change was sought.

"Whether it is to boost your energy level, improve mood, combat health conditions and disease, or to be there for your kids' future, there's always a reason that a resolution was made," Baker said. "So when the going gets tough, remind yourself of why you're making a lifestyle change, and this will keep you motivated." Also, consider modifications to the new plan.



Could the Earth ever stop spinning, and what would happen if it did?

Only a planet crashing into it might stop the Earth's spin

The Earth has been spinning since its birth, four and a half billion years ago.

The Earth was made from rubble that was left over when the Sun formed from the collapse of a huge cloud of matter. The rubble that went on to become the Earth circled around the Sun like water does around the plughole when you empty a bathtub, spinning as it went.

The Earth continued to circle the Sun and spin after it was formed and is going to spin like this for a long while to come.

The Earth spins steadily, once every 23 hours and 56 minutes. During this time, the Earth also moves a little further on its orbit around the Sun, which takes one year to complete. This means it needs to turn a bit more – for four minutes – until it faces the Sun again. This means that one day on Earth lasts 24 hours.

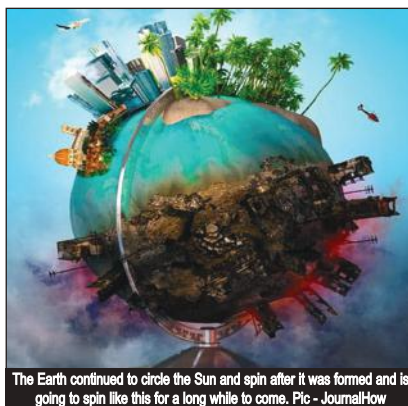
Moving in space

The reason the Earth keeps spinning is because there is hardly anything to stop it. If you spin a roundabout in a playground and let go, eventually it will come to a stop. This is because as it spins, the air and the surface of the playground are pushing against it, causing friction and slowing it down.

The Earth is spinning in space, which is pretty much empty. In space, there is not even air to push against and slow down the Earth's spin.

However, there is one thing that slows down the Earth's spin: the Moon.

The motion of the side of the Earth facing the Moon is not balanced



perfectly by gravity, and neither is the side of Earth facing away from the Moon. This imbalance creates the ocean tides, which make the oceans bulge out on either side of the Earth.

As the Earth spins, these bulges move across the Earth's surface like a wave, pushing against the Earth's spin. This slows down the Earth's spin. It means that Earth's day lengthens by one second every 50,000 years.

The only thing that could stop the Earth's spin would be if another planet crashed into it. Even if this happened, it is more likely that it would change the way Earth spins, not stop it altogether.

A six-month day

If the Earth stopped spinning, you wouldn't suddenly be launched off into space. Gravity would still keep you firmly on the ground.

There would be lots of changes, though. If Earth were to stop spinning but continue to orbit the Sun, a "day" would last half a year, and so would the night. It could warm up much more during the day and cool down much more during the night. This would affect the climate on Earth.

A large temperature difference between day and night would cause strong winds, which would move warm air towards the cooler, night-time side of the Earth. Wind would also blow from the warm regions around the equator to the cold polar regions. On a spinning Earth, this does not happen because the wind is deflected sideways.

The eastwards and westwards winds, and the winds towards the poles, would meet. They could possibly create huge swirls of wind the size of entire continents.

The core of the Earth is partly molten iron. The spinning motion of the Earth turns this molten iron into a magnet and gives the Earth a magnetic field.

This protects us against harmful radiation, which comes from particles from the Sun and cosmic rays from outside the solar system. While the magnetic field stops the radiation from reaching us, it hits the Earth's atmosphere, and we see it as the aurora – the northern or southern lights.

Without the magnetic field, this radiation would reach the Earth's surface and make people ill. Some birds use the magnetic field to find their way, so without the Earth spinning, they would get lost.

If the Earth didn't spin, the night sky would always show the same constellations of stars, because you would always be looking out into space in the same direction. This is very different from seeing the stars rise and set during the night, and seeing different constellations at different times of the year.

Jacco van Loon

Astronomer, Keele University

Sugar Industry Labourers' Union

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Sugar Industry Labourers' Union to be held on Saturday 26 February 2022 at its registered seat – 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 10.00 am. In case of lack of quorum, the AGM will be held on Saturday 19 March 2022 at same place and time.

Agenda:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Executive members for years 2022-2024
6. Appointment of two Auditors for years 2022-2024
7. A.O.B

Any member who wishes to stand as candidate in the election should forward his/her letter of candidature to the Secretary on the above address by registered post by Wednesday 23rd of February 2022 at latest.

P. Sydamah
Secretary

Union of Workers of Animal Farms

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Union of Workers of Animal Farms to be held on Wednesday 9 March 2022 at Flic en Flac Village Hall at 4.00 pm.

Agenda:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. A.O.B

Suresh Dhunnoo
Secretary



Elle est trop bonne

Un homme va chez son médecin: son testicule gauche est enflammé. Le médecin l'examine et lui dit d'un air assuré:

- C'est une inflammation, assez sévère, du testicule gauche. Ce n'est pas grave, je vous donne le téléphone d'un ami urologue.

Mais le docteur se trompe et lui donne le numéro de son avocat. Le patient prend rendez-vous et part voir le so-disant spécialiste.

L'avocat lui demande:

- En quoi puis-je vous être utile, Monsieur?

Illico le patient baisse son pantalon et lui montre son testicule:

- Je viens de la part de mon médecin traitant. Comme vous pouvez le constater, docteur, j'ai le testicule gauche enflammé.

L'avocat le regarde hébété. Après un silence il lui dit:

- Cher ami, excusez-moi, mais ma spécialité, c'est le droit!

- P....n, c'est vraiment devenu un pays de cons, maintenant il y a un spécialiste pour chaque couille!

One day a little girl was watching her mother washing the dishes at the kitchen sink. She noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast with her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively

asked: "Why are some of your hair white?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do not listen to my instructions and make me shout, one of my hair turns white."

The little girl meditated for a while and then said: "Mom, how come all of grand-ma's hairs are white?"

A boy was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said that it was physically impossible for whales to swallow a human being because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The kid stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale cannot swallow a human.

The kid said: "When I get to heaven, I will ask Jonah."

The teacher asked: "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The boy replied: "Then you can ask him."

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture.

"Just imagine how nice it will be to look at it when you are grown up and say, there's Rita, she is a lawyer or that's Michael, he is a doctor."

A small voice at the back of the room rang out: "And there's the teacher Smith, he died so young."

- Docteur, tout le monde dit que je sens mauvais!

- Vous avez déjà essayé de vous laver?

- Oui, mais au bout d'un mois ça recommence!

Un médecin se plaint auprès d'un patient :

- J'attends toujours mes honoraires, votre chèque m'est revenu impayé!

- C'est logique, répond le patient, j'ai rechuté!

Une dame va voir son docteur:

- Docteur! J'entends des voix!

- Et qu'est ce qu'elles vous disent ses voix?

- C'est ça le problème! Je suis dure d'oreille!

Une femme affolée :

- Docteur, docteur! Ce n'est pas chez vous que j'ai oublié ma petite culotte?

- Non madame, désolé.

- Ah bon, ben alors ça doit être chez le dentiste!

Un type qui a des incontinences d'urine terribles va voir un psy sur le conseil de ses amis.

Ceux-ci le retrouvent 3 mois plus tard et lui demandent des nouvelles.

Le type répond :

- Cela va beaucoup mieux!

Ses amis lui demandent :

- Tu n'as plus d'incontinences?

Il répond:

- Si, mais maintenant je m'en fous!

- "Docteur, j'ai un problème, quand je monte les escaliers, je pète a chaque marche!"

Le toubib :

- "OK, allez-y montrez-moi : voilà des escaliers ..."

Change Your Life In One Year



Le type monte les marches et en effet à chaque marche: Pfout Pfout, pruuuu, pfou...

Arrivé en haut, le type se retourne et ajoute :

- "Encore heureux, ça ne sent pas mauvais!", et après être redescendu :

- "Alors toubib, votre diagnostic???"

- "Bien, faudra vous faire opérer du nez!"

Un patient déclare à son médecin au moment de régler la consultation:

- Vous m'accorderez bien une petite ristourne, docteur? C'est tout de même moi qui ai refilé la grippe à tout le quartier!

Un homme inquiet demande à son médecin:

- Comment se fait-il que ma femme attende des jumeaux?

- Dans ce cas, deux facteurs entrent en jeu...

- Ah! Le facteur?! Je m'en doutais!

That's Life

Sex - The hard way!

US Astronaut Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon, on 20th July 1969, 52 years ago. As Commander of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module, when Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, his first words were:

"One Small Step for Man, One Giant Leap for Mankind!"

That was televised all over the world, and millions heard it.

But just as he re-entered the Lunar Lander, he made the enigmatic remark: "Good luck, Mr Gorsky!"

Many people at NASA wondered who that casual remark was directed at. Upon checking, it was found that there was no Mr Gorsky in either the Soviet or the US Space Programs.

Over the years, Neil Armstrong was repeatedly asked the background to that remark about Mr Gorsky.

In response, Armstrong only smiled but never gave any explanation.

Finally, on July 5, 1995, in Tampa Bay, Florida, a reporter once again asked Neil Armstrong the 26-year-old question about Mr Gorsky.

By this time, Mr Gorsky had passed away, so Neil Armstrong felt able to answer the question.

In 1938, when Neil Armstrong, as a kid in a small mid-western town, was playing baseball with a friend in his parents' backyard, they hit the ball into their neighbours' backyard, below their bedroom window.

Neil Armstrong went to fetch the ball and heard the neighbour's wife Mrs Gorsky, yelling at Mr Gorsky: "Sex! You want sex!? You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!"

Neil Armstrong's family have subsequently verified this story as being true.

Women's anger can change the history of mankind.

KYP - Know your Parents

One who loves till her eyes close, is a mother.

One who loves without an expression in the eyes, is a father.

Mother: Introduces you to the world.

Father: Introduces the world to you.

Mother: Gives you life.

Father: Gives you living.

Mother: Makes sure you are not starving.

Father: Makes sure you know the value of starving.

Mother: Personifies care.

Father: Personifies responsibility.

Mother: Protects you from a fall.

Father: Teaches you to get up from a fall.

Mother: Teaches you walking.

Father: Teaches you walk of life

Mother: Teaches from her own experiences.

Father: Teaches you to learn from your own experiences.

Mother: Reflects ideology.

Father: Reflects reality.

Mother's love is known to you since birth.

Father's love is known when you become a father.

Mother loves from heart.

Father loves from brain.



Healthy Living

Steps to Take Stock of Your Health

Before you start working toward a health resolution, figure out where you stand in these seven areas

Whether you're hoping to get stronger, lose weight, or lower your odds of disease -- or all of the above -- you ought to take a moment to establish your baseline. You won't be able to track your progress unless you know where you're starting from.

Before you dive in, take a look at these measurements and circumstances. They'll help you get a handle on your current health status so you can confidently move forward knowing what's what.

Weight and Waist

What the scale says is hardly the only thing that matters when it comes to being healthy, but it gives important clues about your risk for many conditions, including heart disease, cancer, arthritis, and much more.

To figure out if your weight is in the healthy zone (or how much change is in order), step on the scale. Then use a calculator to find your BMI (body mass index), which takes into account your height as well as your weight: 150 pounds means something very different on someone who's over 6 feet tall vs. barely 5 feet. A BMI of 18.5-24.9 is considered "normal."

Next, grab a tape measure. Even if your BMI is normal, extra fat around your midsection (abdominal obesity) means you're more likely to get type 2 diabetes and heart disease. A healthy waist circumference for a man is 40 inches or less; for women, it's no more than 35 inches.

Blood numbers

If you don't know your cholesterol (including the breakdown of LDL and HDL), blood pressure, and blood sugar, it's time to see your doctor. Generally speaking, for a healthy adult they should be:

Blood pressure: less than 120/80

Total cholesterol: less than 200 mg/dL

Fasting blood glucose (or blood sugar): less than 100 mg/dL

Your doctor may have different target numbers for you depending on your current medical situation and any life-long conditions you have.

Exercise

While any activity you do is better than nothing, guidelines suggest that most adults aim for at least 2 1/2 hours



of moderate-intensity activity each week.

If you tend to rack up your exercise in small spurts rather than a long workout at the gym, that's OK, but consider wearing a pedometer for a week so you can get a better sense of your typical activity level. Many experts recommend at least 10,000 steps per day, which is about 5 miles.

Diet

Those little bites -- the leftovers you swipe from your child's plate, or an extra cookie at your weekly meeting -- are easy to forget. Yet over time they can add up.

To make sure you're paying close enough attention to what's going into your mouth, spend at least a few days

recording every single morsel. You can use a smartphone app, or a simple pad and pen will work. Be as specific as possible. You could also add notes about what you were doing, where you were, who you were with, or how you were feeling to help you see patterns.

While you're at it, don't forget about what you're sipping. Sugary soft drinks and energy drinks are a major source of empty calories (with few or no nutrients) and can lead to obesity.

But don't go thirsty: Most adults need about 8 cups of water a day to stay well-hydrated. If you have trouble drinking enough, track water (even though it's calorie-free) in your food diary as well.

Don't forget about alcohol, either. Women who drink should have no more than one drink per day. For men, it's two max.

Sleep

Most adults need about 7-9 hours of sleep each night, though everyone is different. If you feel sleepy while driving or doing other daily tasks, or if you need to rely on caffeine to power you through the day, you may not be getting enough.

Tracking your sleep is a good first step. Devices and apps may give you more data than a log or journal.

Mood

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health, and the two often go hand-in-hand. Poor mental health can sap your energy and focus and even raise your chance of heart disease.

Can't figure out how to remedy feeling stressed, down, or overwhelmed? It may be time to reach out to a mental health professional for help.

Partners

You should have a doctor who you feel comfortable seeing for checkups and contacting whenever you have a specific concern about your health. If you don't, make finding one a priority. Your primary care provider should help keep you up-to-date on important vaccines and screening tests like cholesterol checks, mammograms, and colonoscopies, too.

You may also need to see one or more specialists -- perhaps an endocrinologist, cardiologist, or allergist -- regularly for long-term, ongoing health issues.

Barbara Brody - WebMD

I check my husband's phone without his knowledge. Am I wrong?

This is one of the burning questions all women have in their minds when they begin doubting their husbands. Just when the thread of trust tears off in a relationship, it is almost next to impossible to repair this thread. Like all other relationships, love and marriages are built on trust and understanding. So, when women feel their gut screaming out to them to check their husband's phone, they go for it. And without any question, a person's phone holds a mystery and plethora of secrets, including the ones that suggest if they are cheating or not.

Eventually, it becomes a habit for these women to check their husbands' phones even when nothing is really wrong. But is this right? There lies the universal question. "Am I wrong to check my husband's phone every time, especially without his knowledge?"

One of our readers has raised this



question that begs an answer, for the sake of honesty and loyalty. And so to respond to this, we asked an expert, Shahzeen

Shivdasani who is a Relationship Expert & Millennial Author of the book 'Love, Lust and Lemon' and one of our readers, Varsha to debunk this mystery. Let's check it out:

Shahzeen Shivdasani: Yes, technically checking your partner's phone without their permission is a breach of privacy. However, in a relationship, if trust has been broken and your significant other is trying to make you trust them again, then with their permission for a short period of time, it is okay to check their phone. This way trust and safety can be rebuilt. However, this should not become a habit. In relationships where trust has never been broken, if one partner decides to sneakily check the other partner's phone then this could be an indication of past trauma with trust, or that the current partnership never had it in the first place.

Varsha: it is hard to understand men

sometimes. No matter how closely you try to analyse your husband, you just can't figure them out. And when you have that feeling hitting your heart every time about whether your husband is cheating on you or not, then it becomes difficult to resist the urge to look for every possible evidence of this infidelity. So, when it comes to women checking their husband's phones, I feel it is absolutely alright.

In a marriage, two people have sworn themselves to each other, so it shouldn't be a problem when a wife is willing to check her husband's phone without his knowledge. It shouldn't affect him because he has nothing to hide, right? Unless he is hiding something. A woman has many things to take care of in life, and if this doubt is subconsciously forcing her to check her husband's phone, then so be it. I don't think it's wrong if you are only trying to look for the truth.

Shweta Tiwari on her weight loss and transformation

'The pain in my shoulders pushed me to take fitness seriously'

Shweta Tiwari has become a fitness inspiration for many after her weight loss journey and is ageing in reverse. The actress recently spoke to ETimes TV exclusive and opened up about her transformation and fitness journey. She also talked about how much she has changed as a person in the last few years. Shweta stated that she has become more mature, less sensitive and a person who doesn't give a sh** to anything anymore.

"I had never imagined in my life that my fitness would become such a hot topic. I started my fitness journey because of health reasons. Before I started working out I'd never exercised in my life or had done any kind of workout. I am amazed and surprised that actually people are talking about my weight loss. I am happy about it."

She further revealed that it was due to pain in her shoulders that pushed her towards taking fitness seriously, "To be honest, my bad shoulders or you can say pain in my shoulders pushed me to take fitness seriously. It has still not fully recovered."

Sharing her personal inputs, Shweta said that it is not necessary to starve to lose weight and one can achieve a fit body by regularly exercising, "I feel you cannot become fit just by thinking, you have to work towards it. But you don't need to starve, eat whatever you want to and along with it make sure to workout everyday at least for an hour. But people don't want to do that as well because it needs determination," she said.



Shweta revealed the changes she has seen in herself over the few years, she said, "I've become more mature, less sensitive, a person who doesn't give a sh** about anything anymore. I've become a stronger woman now and I don't cry easily anymore, I don't get hurt easily anymore."

Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya: 'Actors are like warriors'

For actor Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya, venturing out to shoot throughout the Covid-19 pandemic has not been very scary. In fact, she not only shot in India, but also travelled abroad for a reality show.

"When you are an actor, you are almost like a warrior or soldier during this pandemic. We work in very difficult and different circumstances. I am generally born with that mentality, *main darti nahi* hoon. I don't say no because I am scared of any situation, that's a personal thing. *Main darr ko apne upar haavi nahi hone deti* hoon," says the 37-year-old, who recently also shot for the music video *Babul Da Vehra* in Punjab.

Dahiya, however, adds that her decision to shoot out amid the pandemic wasn't without its share of apprehensions, on her family's part.

She says, "*Family ke liye difficult tha*, letting me go, especially for my reality show in South Africa. Everyone said go, but after a point of time, including my husband Vivek (Dahiya), *sabko darr lag raha tha ki 'humne galti toh nahi kar di'*" The cases were coming up in the country and in Africa. We kept very safe. It is important to remember this condition amid the pandemic is similar for everyone. You can't sit at home scared, and not do what you are supposed to do. Otherwise, both personal and country's development will lag."

Thankfully, while shooting in December for her music video, the actor says it was not a pandemic



like situation there.

"We were on the outskirts of Patiala; we were wearing our masks. It was very secluded, I don't think Covid will be able to reach there. The air was so clean, the food was the purest. My reality show a danger. I have shot a lot," she signs off.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Throughout the week, begin each day by praising God. Your days will be cheerful and overflowing with hope. This is the first step in improving yourself. Your hubris appears to be ebbing away from you. Your love life will be on the right track and this will bring you peace and harmony.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, 26

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

All of your training to improve your presentation and rhetorical skills will put you in a wonderful position to demonstrate your abilities. Your hard effort will pay off this week in the shape of a decent career. Someone will be drawn to your kindness which will surely give rise to a new romantic connection.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 15, 19, 20, 23, 28

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

It appears like your financial position is at an all-time high. On the educational front, you appear to be doing remarkably well. People trying their luck in share market we'll have a very fruitful week. You're less likely to focus on your romantic life this coming week.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 20, 23, 26, 36, 38

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your in-depth knowledge and ability to deal with any circumstance can assist you in resolving some troubles at work. You will lend a helping hand to your friends and co-workers as they deal with their problems. Your very close friendship will take a romantic tone this week.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 20, 24, 30, 31

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

You will have to go through minor financial strain, but things will soon improve. Your romantic life will be all well settled this week. People looking for the right match will meet someone with similar interests this week.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 9, 11, 18, 21

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Your nature of giving your best will certainly bring you closer to your success on your professional front. If you are dealing with new client, try to be more personal and use the common link you share with them as this will help you close the deal in your favour.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 4, 16, 17, 20, 21

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You're prepared to face any challenge that comes your way. Your main objective is to be successful. Your productivity was hampered by procrastination, but this coming week you will put everything away and get to work. Patience and perseverance are essential.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 11, 17, 20, 39

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You'll soon start your ideal job. All of your efforts to get there will pay off, and you will make your parents and yourself proud. You have been lacking companionship in your life since a long duration, but Venus will help you draw someone closer and build a romantic connection.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 20, 33, 35, 39, 40

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

This coming week, your workplace will be intriguing and lively, but you'll also stand out as a model of hard effort. Your subordinates will begin to look up to you and consider you to be a role model for them. This week will provide you joy and tranquillity on a personal level.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 19, 20, 27, 30

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Whatever you have in your life will make you feel happy and appreciative. Your family will help you realise how fortunate you are to have them in your life. Your partner and you will be too busy fulfilling your family obligations and responsibilities.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 13, 17, 20, 22, 33

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You will make the decision to take control of your life and become your own boss. You'll take small steps toward your autonomy, and your desire to succeed will appear to be attainable. Entry of very positive person on your romantic fronts will change a little bit this week.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 17, 20, 30, 31, 34

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You'll have a fantastic chance to make vital relationships with future clients if you take advantage of this opportunity. The coming week is really fortunate for the people who are already married and engaged.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 12, 13, 20, 24

Katrina Kaif to Shilpa Shetty: Bollywood actresses and their fancy mangalsutras

Mangalsutra is the most important piece of jewellery that a female wears post her marriage. The word mangal means auspicious and sutra means thread – together mangalsutra means an auspicious thread uniting the souls. Mangalsutras no longer have the traditional design. Our young actresses have shown their love to wear fancy mangalsutras that have a contemporary and modish vibe to them. Here is a list of B-town actresses who own the fanciest mangalsutras, as reported by Rishika Shah of Pinkvilla.

Patralekha Paul

Patralekha Paul tied the knot with her long term boyfriend, Rajkumar Rao on 15th November 2021. When the actress made her first appearance as Mrs Rao at the airport, she donned a bright red saree. But what caught everyone's attention was her unique mangalsutra. Patralekha's mangalsutra is from Sabyasachi Mukherjee's intimate fine jewellery collection. According to reports, this is a Royal Bengal Mangalsutra which is made in 18 carat gold. This mangalsutra is threaded in black onyx and pearls, and is said to be priced at about Rs 165,000.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas

Priyanka Chopra got married to Nick Jonas on 1st December 2018. The couple had a white wedding as well as a traditional Indian wedding. The actress fulfilled her wedding traditions with a Sabyasachi mangalsutra that features a big tear drop solitaire diamond and three small diamonds around. The piece is said to be priced in millions of rupees. She even owns a Bvlgari Mangalsutra in 18 carat yellow gold adorned with round black onyx inserts and paved diamonds. The pricing obviously is



Katrina Kaif to Shilpa Shetty: Bollywood actresses' fancy mangalsutras

steep, and the official website says it costs around Rs 349,000.

Anushka Sharma

Actress Anushka Sharma got married to the Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli on 11th December 2017. Although the actress is hardly ever seen flaunting her mangalsutra she usually makes sure to wear it during

special occasions like Karwa Chauth along with her traditional wear. The statement piece is with beads of diamond and a floral design right in the middle. It's reported that the cost of the mangalsutra is about Rs 5.2 M.

Shilpa Shetty Kundra

Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty got married to London-based businessman Raj Kundra. The actress' mangalsutra is decked in two lines of short black beaded mangalsutra necklace with a diamond pendant, paired with diamond studs. The jewellery piece is reportedly worth around Rs 3M.

Katrina Kaif

Katrina Kaif has been giving a glimpse of her married life to her fans and we are all going gaga over it. The actress got married to Vicky Kaushal last month and has been making headlines ever since then. Katrina shared a few pictures of herself on her Instagram flaunting her beautiful mangalsutra. Decked in black onyx and pearls along with two huge diamonds, the mangalsutra is a Sabyasachi creation and costs about 5 lakh rupees.

Sonam Kapoor Ahuja

Sonam Kapoor tied the knot to her businessman beau Anand Ahuja in a traditional Sikh ceremony. Sonam gave a contemporary twist to the traditional mangalsutra and added a personal touch to it by getting her and Anand Ahuja's star signs embedded by the sides of a solitaire in between. The mangalsutra also has traditional black beads and was designed by Usheeta Rawtani. It has Sonam's star sign Gemini on the left and Anand's star sign Leo on the right of the solitaire in the sacred thread.

Bollywood and TV producer Ekta Kapoor lines up 23 projects for 2022



After a successful 2021 marked by a string of projects and a Padma Shri (India's fourth highest civilian honour) win, Ekta Kapoor is all set to crank things up a notch in 2022 with more than 23 projects in the pipeline.

Some of the projects have been shot and are ready for release while others are still in the development stage under her companies Balaji Motion Pictures, Balaji Telefilms and AltBalaji.

"I am very excited to announce that my team and I are all set to release more than 23 projects in 2022. We have some amazing content ready to release across various platforms be it theatres, web shows or TV channels," Kapoor said in a statement.

"We at Balaji have always believed in experimenting when it comes to providing entertainment to the audiences and with our upcoming projects we have tried to take the level a notch higher," she continued.

ALTBalaji, which is the digital arm of Kapoor's production house, is working on projects that include '#hashtag-warss', 'Verdict 2', 'Mentalhood S2', 'Apharan 2', 'Bois Locker Room', 'Class of 2021', 'A Cold Mess' and 'Farrey'.

In the TV space, shows like 'Naagin 6', 'Kasam Tere Pyaar Ki 2', 'Kahan Hum Chale', 'Itna Karo na mujhe pyaar 2' will be broadcast soon.



Coming to films, Balaji Motion Pictures's slate looks packed with interesting projects like 'Ek Villain Returns', 'Freddy', 'U turn', Hansal Mehta's untitled thriller, 'Jersey',



'Goodbye', 'KTina', 'Dobaara' and 'LSD 2'.

Kapoor is set to work with some of the biggest names in the industry such as Amitabh Bachchan, John Abraham, Neena Gupta, Disha Patani, Kareena Kapoor, Hansal Mehta and many more in the coming year.

The Livestock & Allied Industries Workers' Union

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of The Livestock & Allied Industries Workers Union to be held on Friday 11 March 2022 at Bambous Village Hall at 4.00 pm.

Agenda:

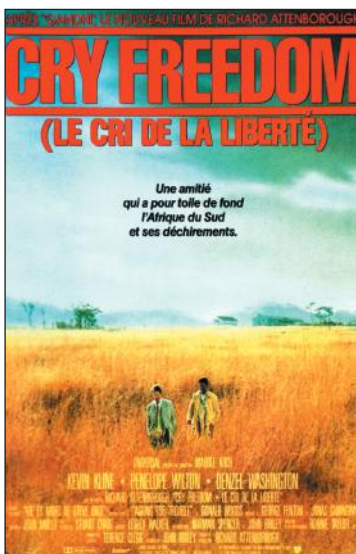
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Any member who wishes to stand as candidate in the election should forward his/her letter of candidature to the Secretary on the above address by registered post by Wednesday 9th of March 2022 at latest.

Christophe Colfir
Secretary

CINE 12

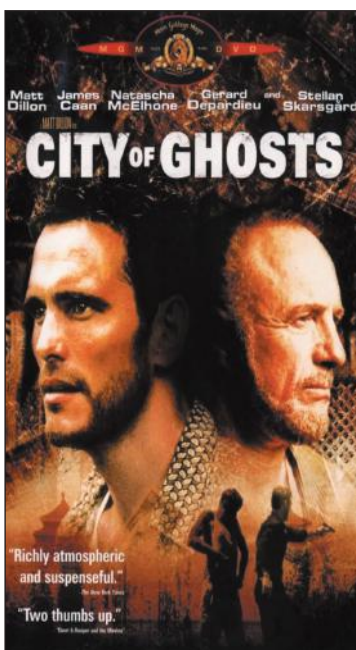
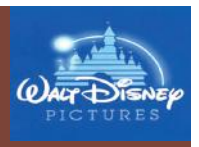
vendredi 4 février - 21.15

**CINE 12**

samedi 5 février - 21.00

**mbc 1**

dimanche 6 février - 21.15

**Programme TV****SERIAL**

vendredi 4 février

MBC 1

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lines
09.00 Doc: My Family War And I
10.15 Local: Rodrig Prog
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy
14.07 Local: Glwar Dantan
14.30 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
14.54 D.Anime: Booba
15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family
16.29 D.Anime: P'tit cosmonaute
17.05 Serial: Oh Yuck!
17.25 Serial: Nowhere Boys
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Surya Pura
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.20 Local: Come On Let's Dance
21.10 Serial: Madam Secretary
23.05 Le Journal
23.40 Mag: Eye On SADC

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Bisaat-E-Dil
11.01 Tawaan
12.00 Film: Achari America Yatra
Starring: Vishnu Manchu, Pragya Jaiswal, Brahmanandam
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
22.00 DDI Live

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today
07.46 Doc: La Route De La Soie
09.00 Doc: Snapshots
11.30 Mag: Shift
14.03 Doc: Comme Une Envie De..
14.07 Doc: Snapshots
16.45 Mag: Eco India
17.26 Mag: Border Crossing
18.00 Doc: Opaque Worlds
18.45 Mag: World Stories
19.30 Mag: Euromaxx
20.05 Doc: Quand L'Histoire...
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: China's Mega Project II
21.37 Doc: Innovation On Board
23.22 Doc: The Internet Of Everthing
00.04 Doc: Opaque Worlds
00.46 Mag: World Stories
00.58 Mag: Our Voices

Cine 12

01.28 Film: Falling Water
02.11 Serial: Island Doctor
03.39 Film: Legacy
05.37 Tele: Rubi
06.01 Serial: Elementary
06.43 Serial: Island Doctor
09.00 Serial: Gone
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Imposters
12.00 Film: Legacy
13.30 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Serial: Island Doctor
16.43 Serial: Gone
17.23 Serial: Elementary
18.05 Tele: Teresa
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.34 Serial: Backstage
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Timeless
21.15 Film: Le Cri De La Liberté
Avec: Kevin Kline, Penelope Wilton

Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Setters
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: Isi Ka Naam Zindagi
Starring: Aamir Khan, Farha Naaz, Pran, Shakti Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
19.47 Sasural Simar Ka 2
20.00 Siddhi Vinayak
20.30 Radha Krishna

samedi 5 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: All Hail King Julien
08.14 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana
09.30 Mag: Human Nature
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: P'tit Consmonaute
16.46 D.Anime: Astrology
17.15 Serial: Creeped Out
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Entertainment: Taare Zameen
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
21.10 Film: Memories Of War
23.05 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Ustaad
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.03 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya 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: Ammaa Ki Boli
Starring: Sanjay Mishra, Hrishitaa Bhatt, Zakir Hussain
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
21.00 Film: Aankhen
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar, Sushmita Sen

06.00 Doc: Opaque Worlds
06.42 Mag: World Stories
06.54 Mag: Our Vocies
07.20 Mag: Euromaxx
08.18 Doc: China's Mega Project II
10.52 Doc: The Internet Of...
11.37 Doc: Opaque Worlds
12.19 Mag: World Stories
13.23 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait..
15.00 Student Support Prog...
18.02 Mag: Future Mag
18.31 Mag: In Good Shape
19.00 Mag: The 77 Percent
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: L'evolution En Marche
21.37 Doc: Child Slavery In...
23.02 Doc: Be Afraid
23.44 Mag: Future Mag
00.39 Mag: The 77 Percent
01.05 Mag: Check In
01.31 Mag: Sky Eye

01.02 Film: Le Cri De La Liberté
03.38 Serial: Seal Team
04.15 Beauty And The Beast
04.56 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
05.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.18 Serial: Timeless
08.30 Serial: Macgyver
09.22 Beauty And The Beast
10.03 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
10.45 Film: Le Cri De La Liberté
13.11 Serial: Seal Team
13.49 Serial: Falling Water
15.10 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.27 Serial: Timeless
17.09 Film: Juste Un Peu D'Alchimie
18.35 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
19.34 Serial: Backstage
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Series: Timeless
21.15 Film: Isle Of The Dead
Starring: Joey Lawrence, Maryse Mizanin

04.05 Radha Krishna
04.36 Anupamaa
05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur...
05.33 Agnihera
06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan
06.25 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: Golmaal Returns
Star: Ajay Devgan, Kareena Kapoor, Arshad Warsi, Amrita Arora, Celina Jaitley
20.47 Serial: Namah
21.05 Serial: Naagin Season 3

dimanche 6 février

06.02 D.Anime: Invention Story
06.32 D.Anime: Gon
06.56 D.Anime: Booba
07.00 D.Anime: Rev & Roll
09.00 D.Anime: The Adventures Of..
10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
11.00 Local Production: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Le Journal
12.40 Tele: Teresa
14.05 Local: Elle - Link To Life
15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family
15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
15.37 D.Anime: Robot Trains
17.20 Serial: Creeped Out
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Local Production
21.15 Film: City Of Ghosts
Stars: Matt Dillon, James Caan, Natascha McElhone

07.00 Film: Ghar Ka Chiraag
09.36 DDI Magazine
11.00 Serial: Azhagu
11.11 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
12.10 Film: Thappad
Stars: Taapsee Pannu
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
22.19 Serial: Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki

06.00 Mag: Future Mag
06.55 Mag: The 77 Percent
07.21 Mag: Check In
09.07 Doc: Child Slavery...
09.49 Doc: Screen Generation
10.32 Doc: Be Afraid
11.17 Mag: Future Mag
12.12 Mag: The 77 Percent
12.38 Mag: Check In
13.04 Mag: Sky Eye
14.24 Doc: Child Slavery...
16.34 Mag: Future Mag
18.00 Mag: Magnifique
19.00 Mag: The Inside Story
19.33 Doc: Comme Une Envie...
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.45 Doc: Paradis Perdue
21.28 Thank You For The Rain
23.35 Mag: Magnifique
00.03 Mag: Future Mag
00.58 Doc: Comme Une Envie...

01.34 Film: Isle Of The Dead
03.04 Serial: Dynasty 2
03.43 Film: Memories Of War
05.28 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.10 Serial: Timeless
06.30 Film: Little Kingdom
08.30 Serial: Macgyver
09.19 Film: Memories Of War
11.03 Film: Juste Un Peu D'Alchimie
12.49 Serial: Dynasty 2
13.29 Serial: Falling Water
14.53 Serial: Imposters
15.36 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.02 Serial: Timesless
17.42 Serial: Dynasty 2
18.30 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: New Amsterdam
22.00 Film: Django Unchained
Avec: Jamie Foxx, Christoph...

01.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
02.09 Bhakharwadi
03.55 Anupamaa
05.55 Pavitra Rishta
08.00 Motu Patlu
08.11 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
10.21 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
14.00 Agnihera
16.29 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Film: Amar Akhbar Anthony
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor
20.27 Motu Patlu
20.39 Naagin Season 3
21.20 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
00.02 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein

lundi 7 février

06.27 Mag: Eye On SADC
07.00 Local Prod: Nu Rasinn
07.55 Local Prod: Music Tour 2022
08.50 Doc: Plague Island
09.35 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
17.00 Serial: Oh Yuck!
17.25 Serial: Nowhere Boys
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Namah
19.30 Le Journal
20.40 MBC Production
21.10 Film: The Love Of Drum

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
12.10 Film: Anjaana
Stars: Rajendra Kumar, Babita Kapoor and Pran
14.18 Magazine: DDI
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.52 Serial: Bommarillu
16.15 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.34 Serial: Juda Na Hona
16.56 Serial: Imtihaan
17.14 Kullfi Kumarr Bajawala
17.34 Serial: Vandhal Sridevi
18.03 Serial: Colourful Bone
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.31 Film: DEV - Telugu
Star: Karthi Rakul, Preet Singh, Prakash Raj, Ramya Krishnan

06.00 Mag: Magnifique
06.55 Mag: The Inside Story
07.24 Doc: Comme Une Envie De..
09.00 Thank You For The Rain
11.00 Mag: Magnifique
14.00 Thank You For The Rain
14.52 Doc: Muay Thai
16.20 Mag: Magnifique
16.48 Mag: Future Mag
18.03 Mag: Eco@Africa
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
20.01 Local: Encounter
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
21.37 Doc: Builders Of The Future
22.27 Mag: Global 3000
22.53 Mag: Washington Forum
23.20 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail
00.02 Doc: Frozen Requiem
00.45 Mag: Eco@Africa

02.13 Film: Django Unchained
04.26 Serial: Imposters
05.34 Film: Little Kingdom
07.05 Tele: Marimar
07.27 Tele: Rubi
07.49 Serial: New Amsterdam
09.13 Film: Comanche Station
10.27 Tele: Teresa
11.11 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.34 Serial: Imposters
12.16 Film: Little Kingdom
13.47 Tele: Marimar
14.11 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: Comanche Station
16.25 Serial: New Amsterdam
18.08 Tele: Teresa
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.38 Serial: Backstage
20.05 Les Trois Visages D'Ana
20.30 Serial: Blacklist
21.15 Film: Eaten By Lions

08.00 Film: Vir Ek Rakshak Returns
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: Falak
Starring: Rakhee Gulzar, Jackie Shroff, Madhavi, Shekhar Kapur, Supriya Pathak
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi
20.01 Siddhi Vinayak

CINE 12

mardi 8 février - 21.10



mardi 8 février - 21.15



jeudi 10 février - 21.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
mardi 8 février 06.00 Local: Rodrig - D'Jam 07.03 Local: Rodrig 07.30 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison 08.09 MBC Production 09.00 Doc: The Forgotten Temple 10.15 Local: Tous Egaux 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: Booba 17.00 Serial: Oh Yuck 17.34 Serial: Nowhere Boys 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 21.10 Film: Boundaries	mardi 8 février 07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: CID 12.00 Film: Saath Saath Starring: Farooq Shaikh, Deepti... 14.00 DDI Magazine 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Bommarillu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.25 Juda Na Hona 16.49 Serial: Imtihaan 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Jab Jab Phool Khile Starring Nanda, Shashi Kapoor	mardi 8 février 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.47 Doc: Global Drinks 09.29 Mag: Global 3000 10.24 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail 14.28 Doc: Builders Of The Future 14.56 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 15.48 Mag: Washington Forum 16.14 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail 17.06 Doc: Forzen Requiem 19.00 Student Support Prog 19.30 Mag: Made In Germany 20.30 Local Prod: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Garden Party 21.15 Doc: Les Grand Mythes 21.43 Mag: Nouveau Look Pour... 23.12 Local: Rodrig 23.48 Doc: Antarctica 00.32 Doc: Our Friend The Atom 01.14 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 01.40 Mag: Healthy Living	mardi 8 février 01.28 Film: Eaten By Lions 03.07 Serial: Imposters 03.48 Film: Xtinction 05.14 Tele: Marimar 06.38 Tele: Rubi 06.53 Film: Eaten By Lions 09.00 Serial: Gone 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: Imposters 12.00 Film: Xtinction 13.30 Tele: Marimar 14.05 Tele: Rubi 14.45 Film: Eaten By Lions 16.50 Serial: Gone 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: 119 Jours Avec: Dominic Purcell, Peter Feeney...	mardi 8 février 06.50 Film: Falak Cast: Rakhee Gulzar, Jackie Shroff, Madhavi, Shekhar Kapur, Supriya Pathak 11.38 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna 11.59 / 20.57 - Anupamaa 12.30 / 21.27 - Mere Sai 13.09 / 22.07 - Agniphera 13.30 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.00 / 23.07 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 14.53 / 22.25 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.20 Film: All Rounder 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.30 Bhakharwadi 20.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
mercredi 9 février 06.00 Local: Rodrig Sa 07.20 Local: Profil 07.40 Local: Priorite Sante 09.00 Doc: Innovation On Board 10.15 Local: Rodrig Prog 10.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 12.00 Le Journal 12.23 Serial: Ode To Joy 13.15 MBC Production 14.30 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: Booba 17.05 Serial: Oh Yuck 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 MBC Production 21.10 Film: City Of Ghosts Starring: Matt Dillon, James Caan...	mercredi 9 février 07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha... 12.00 Film: Zindagi Zindagi Starring Sunil Dutt, Deb Mukherjee, Waheeda Rehman 14.04 DDI Magazine 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.23 Aamhi Doghi 15.46 Bommarillu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.25 Juda Na Hona 16.49 Serial: Imtihaan 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Kulvadhu 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Programme In Marathi 21.01 Film: Mission Thunderbolt 22.33 DDI Live	mercredi 9 février 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 14.29 Local: Rodrig - 15.10 Doc: Antarctica 16.35 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 17.01 Mag: Check In 17.37 Mag: Motorweek 19.00 Student Support Prog - G7 19.35 Doc: Tree Stories 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Global Food 21.37 Doc: Olivia's Garden 22.03 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.29 Mag: Focus On Europe 22.55 Doc: Losing Sleep 23.37 Mag: Motorweek 00.32 Mag: Vous Et Nous 00.32 Mag: Arts.21	mercredi 9 février 01.28 Film: 119 Jours 03.30 Film: Boundaries 05.11 Tele: Marimar 05.35 Tele: Rubi 05.59 Serial: Blacklist 06.41 Film: 119 Jours 09.25 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: Imposters 12.01 Film: Boundaries 13.41 Tele: Marimar 14.32 Film: 119 Jours 16.34 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: Elementary 21.15 Film: Gandhi Avec Ben Kingsley, Edward Fox 00.15 Tele: Marimar	mercredi 9 février 07.00 Film: All Rounder Star: Kumar Gaurav, Rati Agnihotri 11.31 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna 11.51 / 20.26 - Anupamaa 12.23 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad... 12.47 / 20.46 - Agniphera 13.29 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.51 / 21.50 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 14.47 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.25 Film: Main Aur Right Starring Barun Sobti, Shenaz Treasurywala, Kavi Shastri 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron... 19.22 Serial: Bhakharwadi
jeudi 10 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: Clip - Ubongo... 15.39 D.Anime: Where's Waldo 16.01 D.Anime: Gon 16.34 D.Anime: Tempete De... 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.55 Local: Chaar Dham Tirth Yatra 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 20.20 Film: Dus Cast : Sanjay Dutt, Sunil Shetty and Abhishek Bachchan	jeudi 10 février 07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas... 12.00 Film: Jeevan Dhaara 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: Isle Of The Dead With Joey Lawrence, Maryse Mizanin	jeudi 10 février 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: Losing Sleep 15.40 Mag: Initiative Africa 16.32 Doc: Losing Sleep 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 Doc: Lords Of Water 22.44 Doc: Raqqa 23.25 Mag: Eco India 23.51 Mag: Shift	jeudi 10 février 04.25 Film: Les Guerriers De L'empire Céleste 06.20 Tele: Marimar 06.42 Tele: Rubi 06.57 Serial: Elementary 09.15 Serial: Gone 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Imposters 11.52 Film: Les Guerriers De L'Empire Céleste 13.41 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Film: Signed, Sealed... 16.40 Serial: Gone 17.20 Serial: Elementary 18.05 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.36 Serial: Backstage 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'Ana 20.30 Serial: Elementary	jeudi 10 février 07.00 Film: Main Aur Mr Right Barun Sobti, Shenaz Treasurywala, Kavi Shastri 11.27 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna 11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa 12.25 / 20.32 - Mere Sai 13.13 / 21.09 - Agniphera 13.42 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.54 / 21.50 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.21 Film: Pyare Mohan Star: Fardeen Khan, Vivek Oberoi, Esha Deol, Amrita Rao 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.29 Bhakharwadi



Jeudi 10 février - 15.30

Star: Taapsee Pannu, Akshay Kumar, Manoj Bajpayee



Jeudi 10 février - 20.20

Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Sunil Shetty and Abhishek Bachchan





Protection of vulnerable groups

HEALTHYPLACE.COM



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

A series of laws and a specific court dedicated to settle child-related issues mark a significant step forward in the protection of minors against social ills and against themselves.

The psychological and sociological aspects of issues relating to youngsters, both as victims and perpetrators of violence, are taken into account as well as the need for a proper training of all officers and carers who handle such issues. Cooperation of the University of Mauritius in a deeper analysis of the laws and their implementation send a positive message of different protagonists working together for a more understanding, inclusive and harmonious approach to social ills which concern all segments of society.

Breaking silence over harsh corporal punishments, physical violence and sexual abuse of minors they have been subjected to for decades within the precincts of their homes more often is, in itself, a long-awaited stance, and provides the basis for the elaboration of an effective policy to protect young victims. About 18 years ago the horrendous rape and killing of a seven-year-old girl by a drunk uncle at Grand River North West sent shockwaves across the country. There was also the case of a man slitting the throat of his neighbour's son for allegedly bullying his son at school. A mother flew into a rage and thrashed her ten-year-old daughter to death for spending too much time over her meal during the lockdown in 2020. A few months later, a five-year old boy died from the blows inflicted on him by his mother and stepfather. The latter would have got away with it if a relative had

not alerted the police.

There is no denying that lifting the veil over taboos starts with acknowledging verbally that something wrong is happening around you, and you should name and divulge it to the public. Is it not also a moral duty to pay tribute to past victims, men, women and children whose murder went unreported?

The authorities must be fully aware that it is going to be an uphill battle to have children speak out on sexual abuse or attempts of sexual assault by adults amongst close relatives. Since the early years of infancy, the crucial formative years, children grow up to trust adults as fatherly figures, protectors and righteous persons. Hence, their confusion and silence on physical abuse in the form of corporal punishments and sexual offences which they submit to in a spirit of obedience and submission.

An awareness campaign aimed at sensitizing one and all on social ills children are victims of and cooperation with the authorities to identify perpetrators of violence and alerting the police is indeed indispensable to create a child-friendly environment for youngsters' rights to security and dignity.

Teen pregnancy and its disastrous impact on the lives of girls, and what it costs in terms of public funds in terms of aid should be everyone's concerns. In some cases, it is not only a matter of unsupervised teens who need parental guidance, but largely of how much coaching their parents need before starting a family and taking responsibility for the well-being of their children, instilling values and discernment on what is acceptable or not in society, and empowering them to be responsible as future young adults.

In other words, how do you try to address the fact that 40–50-year-old parents, and much beyond that age, who deeply lack maturity and so-called 'values' replicate the same pattern in their families? Real examples of fish rotting from the head, if anything!

Protecting minors from themselves is the other key objective of the series of new laws. Teens who display anti-social behaviour, commit offences and are prone to violence have come in the limelight during the past fifteen years or so. Needless to remind

folks that children as victims and also as perpetrators of violence is a global phenomenon which affects advanced and developing countries, where lots of barriers are broken on the road of emancipation of the individual citizens from the restrictions enforced upon them in traditional societies. It is nothing specific to the local situation in Mauritius however much the same discourse on ethics, morals and capacity for discernment is observed in official circles, repeated and aired in the media, and sometimes noisily politicized on private radios which are addicted to spreading blame and self-flagellation.

Poetic tribute to children's purity in the *'Songs of Innocence'* written by William Blake reflected the genuine belief of society at large in the unsullied image of children. The well-entrenched vision took a severe blow with William Golding's *'Lord of the Flies'* which depicts how a group of children who get strayed in an uninhabited island, away from society's laws, evolve into bullies and aggressors, and finally commit a series of crimes on their peers. The novel shocked British society at large and raised an outcry. The writer was sent to jail for some time in the 1950s, about 70 years ago. Not a far-away past. About two decades ago we had our first Lord of the Flies scenario in a village with two or three boys who tied up a poor boy from their neighbourhood to a tree and burnt him.

'Insultes à caractère sexiste' is part of the package that aims to drag minors to the Children's Court. We are just wondering if these insults are going to be spotted on social media networks or everywhere in public places. As things stand, you hear adults, not only teens, pour out such insults without any restraint on their phones at bus-stops, in buses and in the streets. If the authorities were to go after every citizen for insulting others, there would be quite a pretty crowd at the Court!

What matters is that despite the awareness that the root of the evil requires an all-encompassing study of the issue. The new laws lay out the diagnosis and solutions and constitute a major breakthrough in the policy of promoting understanding and tackling social evils from all angles, using modern psychology and sociology in a society with a high propensity for being judgmental.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Surround Yourself With Love

One of the easiest and nicest gifts you can give to yourself is surrounding yourself with loving and kind people whenever possible.

In our everyday life we are surrounded by a variety of people. Some of the people we deal with on a daily basis are a joy to be with, and their loving presence nurtures and encourages us. Others may have the opposite effect, draining us of our energy, making us feel tired and exhausted. Our well-being can be easily influenced by those around us, and if we can keep this in mind, we will have greater insights into the quality of our social interactions and their energetic effect on us.

Once we think more deeply about the people we interact with, it becomes easier for us to work toward filling our lives with people who help us cultivate healthy and positive relationships. Even though it might not always seem like we have much control over who we are with, we do. The power to step back from toxicity lies within us. All we have to do is take a few moments to reflect on how another person makes you feel.

Assessing the people we spend the most time with allows us to see if they add something constructive to, or subtract from, our lives. Should a friend sap our strength, for example, we can simply set the intention to tell them how we feel or simply spend less time with them. We will find that the moment we are honest with ourselves about our own feelings, the more candid we can be with others about how they make us feel. While this may involve some drastic changes to our social life it can bring about a personal transformation that will truly empower us, since the decision to live our truth will infuse our lives with greater happiness.

When we surround ourselves with positive people, we clear away the negativity that exists around us and create more room to welcome nurturing energy. Doing this not only enriches our lives but also envelopes us in a supportive and healing space that fosters greater growth, understanding, and love of ourselves as well as those we care about.